NAVSEA commander visits TRFB during visit to Pacific Northwest

SILVERDALE, Wash. - Vice Adm. William J. Galinis, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (right), speaks with Capt. Robert Figgs (left), Commanding Officer, Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) and Ed Ingles (center), Executive Director, TRFB during a tour of TRFB on April 23, 2021. Galinis visited TRFB and other commands in the Northwest region to learn about the status of various maintenance availabilities and to discuss process improvement and transformation efforts.
Team TRF Bangor,

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in this year’s Defense Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (DEOCS). One of our main objectives for the TRFB Strategic Plan CY2021-2024 is to make TRFB the most desirable place to work. The most effective way to achieve that goal is to work together and maintain a dialogue about what we do well and what we can improve.

The results of the survey suggest that leadership is doing a great job fostering trust among their teams. We are also seeing that people are satisfied with their jobs and support the command’s mission. Make no mistake, these wins are intertwined. To be satisfied with our work, we must feel secure and confident in our leaders and our mission. I am deeply grateful for the work you all have done, for the trust you’ve built with each other, and the trust you give me as your commanding officer.

You have also shared with us opportunities for improvement, and I want you to know you have been heard. In the face of the pandemic, we have struggled with maintaining good lines of communication, and morale has also taken a hit. We need to do a better job calling out performance, both good and bad. Our high achievers need to see more recognition for their outstanding efforts. When standards aren’t reached, we need to be addressing that with clear expectations and a path forward to bring everyone back in line.

A number of our teammates have recently been recognized for their exceptional efforts and dedication, and it is my honor to extend a Bravo Zulu to these outstanding professionals. More information about their achievements and awards can be found on pages 3-5.

Thank you for all you do.

Warm regards,
Capt. Robert D. Figgs
Commanding Officer
TRF Bangor
The tragic loss of USS Thresher remains a pivotal moment in U.S. submarine operations, safety and culture. USS Thresher (SSN 593) got underway with 129 crew and shipyard personnel aboard for her post availability sea trials from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on April 9th, 1963, accompanied by the Submarine Rescue Ship Skylark (ASR-20). The first day of trials, she submerged and completed her initial shallow trim dive test, surfaced, then performed a second dive to one-half of test depth. She remained submerged overnight, per standard practice, and the following morning she commenced her test depth trials.

When a casualty occurs, such as flooding, or other system failures, a submarine needs the ability to reach the surface. Unfortunately, Thresher did not have a reliable emergency de-ballasting system in place. As the first in her class, the high-pressure air system had not been tested at full blow conditions from test depth. Follow-on testing on active submarines showed that ice would form in the air piping when the ballast tank was fully blown, preventing airflow to the ballast tanks, and thus preventing the means to emergency surface. Compounding the problem, there was no required air dehumidification to ensure the air was dry and could not ice over. Additionally, Thresher did not have an emergency flood-control system to allow for quick and remote isolation of all sea connected systems during a flooding casualty. Not all emergency equipment was readily accessible, and in some cases, required unbolting of deck tiles to gain access.

As a result of the Court of Inquiry findings and recommendations, the Submarine Force implemented extensive changes to ensure the submarines and their crews’ safety. The newly created Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) program created strict requirements for the design and construction of all future submarines, and the retrofit and maintenance of existing submarines. Seawater connected systems now require welded joints. Emergency blow systems are required and must function at all depths. Hydraulically operated emergency flood-control systems were installed on all hull openings for seawater connected systems. All emergency equipment storage was redesigned for quick access and requires periodic verification that all equipment can not only be freely accessed but in a specific amount of time to ensure access availability in case of a casualty. For the crew, the Submarine Force increased its emphasis on training requirements and operating procedures.

While the SUBSAFE Program specifically addressed prevention of uncontrolled flooding and the submarine’s ability to return to the surface following a flooding casualty, the Navy wanted one final option to rescue a disabled submarine’s crew in the form of a deployable deep-sea submarine rescue capability. Thus, the Navy created the Deep Submergence Systems (DSS) Project to research and develop two deep submergence rescue vehicles, the Mystic (DSRV-1) and the Avalon (DSRV-2). The two technologically advanced rescue vehicles had a control system twice as complex as NASA’s that landed Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969. Operated by the Deep Submergence Unit, renamed Undersea Rescue Command (URC) in 2008, the DSRVs could deploy anywhere in the world by sea, land and air to reach a disabled submarine. In 2008, the DSRVs were retired and replaced with the Pressurized Rescue Module (PRM) Falcon that can reach a submarine up to 2,000 feet deep and rescue 16 people at a time. URC continues their commitment to worldwide submarine rescue through continuous training and active participation in exercises with the international submarine rescue community.

Thresher lies in six major sections on the ocean floor, with the majority in a single debris field about 400 yards square. The major sections are the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces, operations spaces, and the tail section.

Since the implementation of the SUBSAFE Program, not one SUBSAFE-certified submarine has been lost. While the 129 crew and shipyard personnel onboard the Thresher remain on eternal patrol, their legacy reverberates throughout the U.S. Submarine Force to this day.

TRFB employees receive USS Thresher Memorial Awards

Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) employees Charles Butler, Supervisor, Quality Certification Division, and Joseph Wallace, Mechanic, Marine Machinist Shop, received both the Civilian Service Achievement Medal, and the USS Thresher Memorial Award April 27 at TRFB. Butler and Wallace received the awards for their outstanding contributions and positive influence on the culture, processes and execution of the SUBSAFE program at TRFB.
TRFB Hull Maintenance Technician 1st Class Audon Ariasmartinez was recognized as TRFB’s Sailor of the Year on March 30. Ariasmartinez is from San Antonio, Texas, and is the Leading Petty Officer for the Operations Department. He was presented an award by TRFB’s Command Master Chief T.R. Glazner from the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, Navy League of the United States.

TRFB’s Command Career Counselor Machinist’s Mate (Auxiliary) 2nd Class Leo Zhang was recognized as TRFB’s 2020 Junior Sailor of the Year on March 30. Zhang is from Monterey Park, California. He was presented an award from the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, Navy League of the United States by TRFB’s Command Master Chief T.R. Glazner.

Dawn Wilkie, Labor and Employee Relations Specialist, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Human Resources Office Northwest (HRONW), was presented with the Civilian of the Quarter award for superior performance by Rita Birang, HRONW Director, at Trident Refit Facility Bangor on April 12. Wilkie was also recognized for 30 years of federal service during the award presentation.

Capt. Robert Figgs, Commanding Officer, Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) presents Mr. Ron Newton, Rigging Supervisor, Lifting and Handling Department, with a pin recognizing his 40 years of federal service. Mr. Newton has served at TRFB since 1999, starting as a mechanic work leader and later as a supervisor, where he has consistently led his team from the front with hard work, reliability, and dedication to duty.

38 Time-off awards, totaling 314 hours
273 Special Act Awards in the amount of $228,877
382 Thank You Bucks worth $2,994.35
55 people recognized totaling 1,195 years of Service
Hull Maintenance Technician 1st Class Jesus Paredes, a SurgeMain Sailor attached to Trident Refit Facility Bangor’s (TRFB) air conditioning and refrigeration shop (Shop 38B) and a native of Houston, Texas, received his Navy Afloat Maintenance Training Strategy (NAMTS) certificate for valve repair by TRFB’s Executive Officer Capt. Kenneth Holland in a graduation ceremony on April 2. TRFB is one of seven shore locations where Sailors can qualify as journeyman under the NAMTS program. NAMTS was established in 1998 by the CNO to improve battlegroup organic maintenance capability and material self-sufficiency.

Chief Machinist’s Mate Noel Gonzaga, a SurgeMain Sailor attached to Trident Refit Facility Bangor’s (TRFB) tool room (Shop 31s) and a native of Manila, Philippines, received his Navy Afloat Maintenance Training Strategy (NAMTS) certificate for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (AC&R) by TRFB’s Executive Officer Capt. Kenneth Holland in a graduation ceremony on April 2.

Electrician’s Mate 1st Class Nestor Leynes, a SurgeMain Sailor attached to Trident Refit Facility Bangor’s (TRFB) inside electrical shop (Shop 51a) and a native of Delano, California, received his Navy Afloat Maintenance Training Strategy (NAMTS) certificate for inside electrical by TRFB’s Executive Officer Capt. Kenneth Holland in a graduation ceremony on April 2.

Thomas Noel, training instructor, Lifting and Handling Department receives a Special Achievement Award from Jesse Chapman, Regional NAMTS Coordinator (RNC), NAMTS Program Division at Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB). Noel was recognized for providing outstanding rigging fundamentals training for all TRFB NAMTS Sailors, ensuring they fully understand the procedures and safety requirements.
commercial virtual remote (CVR) Decommissioning, June 15

Commercial Virtual Remote (CVR) will be decommissioned on June 15, 2021. CVR was designed as a temporary solution to support collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the combined DoD365 Impact Level 5 environment as the long-term capability. DoD365 has the required cybersecurity protections to be the enduring solution for DoD’s remote work capability, which are not available in CVR.

You are responsible for moving your data off the CVR platform before June 15, 2021. Data, such as files, calendar entries, chats, recordings, planner boards, etc. You are responsible for your data retention requirements.

Waterfront Fitness Center

The Waterfront Fitness Center (Lower Base Gym) is now open for ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS ONLY. The gym will be available Monday-Friday from 0530-2000. Showers are available. Leadership is actively working to allow gym access for civilian personnel. Updates to follow.

FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide United States citizens financial assistance for funeral costs specifically related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) for funeral expenses up to $9,000.00.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

We all face trauma, adversity and other stressors throughout our lives. When people think of trauma, they often think of thing like abuse, terrorism or catastrophic events. Trauma can also be caused by events that are less obvious, but still overwhelm our ability to deal with them, such as frequent arguing at home or losing a job. Our mental health can be affected by trauma of any kind.

For more information, visit MagellanAscend.com or call your DONCEAP at 1-844-366-2327 (TTY 711) for compassionate and caring support.

Military Exchanges Open to DoD Civilian Employees

As of May 1, 2021, DoD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees are authorized to shop at military exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions. Online exchange access will also be available for active and retired DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees by mid-October. This shopping access does not include the purchase of military uniforms, tobacco products or alcohol.

Navy Begins Transition to New Cloud Environment – Flank Speed, June 1

Flank Speed is an extreme order that sets the foundation for the new way of working that modern operations in a future operational environment demand. The full suite of capabilities will take time to deliver, however a subset of tools will be available on day one.

SAFETY BULLETIN

Your Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Department is here to help you and your fellow employees return home each day in the same condition you arrived. We accomplish this through your cooperation and assistance by upholding OSHA and NAVSEA safety requirements to prevent workplace mishaps from occurring. In addition to providing safety and occupational health oversight, each of our OSH specialists manages specific occupational OSH programs. If you have any questions about a specific program, obtain the fastest results by consulting the Code 08 Hotline: 315-0808 Swing Shift: 315-1415

Everything you need to know about us is captured on our SharePoint page! Follow this link: https://homeportnw.psns.navy.mil/sites/safety/Pages/Who-We-Are.aspx
TRFB employees donate their time and blood on Earth Day 2021

ABOVE: Electroplaters (left to right) Josh Solada, Jun Patterson, Isaac Solaita and Dennis Naserowski from the Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) Plating and Engraving Shop, pick up trash and recyclables during the Fresh Start Earth Day Cleanup on April 22 at TRFB. Employees were given the opportunity to volunteer for the cleanup exercise in support of Earth Day 2021.

RIGHT: Electronics Technician, Submarine, Navigation 1st Class Elliot Handley, assigned to the Electronics Surveillance Monitoring Shop at Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB), donates blood during a blood drive April 22 at TRFB. Handley said that he donates blood whenever he has the opportunity because he likes helping people.
WRC BURGER BURN
Bldg 7000 - S. Roll Up Doors

Every Other Thursday!!!

1/3 lb. Burger $5 or Double $7
Beef Hot Dog $5 or Double $7

Includes Chips & Soda

Social Distance In Line
Extended Hours (10-11)
Mask Is A Must

Contact - WRC President
GSM1 Wallace at 5-1302
chase.wallace@navy.mil

All Welfare & Recreation Committee proceeds fund three annual events for all military & civilian TRFB personnel.
Family Day - Kids Holiday Party - Adult Holiday Party

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