



June 2024

Trident Refit Facility, Bangor Refit Review

Volume 35, Issue 6

**TRFB TEAMS
UP WITH
PORTSMOUTH** Two Teams of
Shipwrights
Work Together
to Accomplish
One Goal

+PLUS

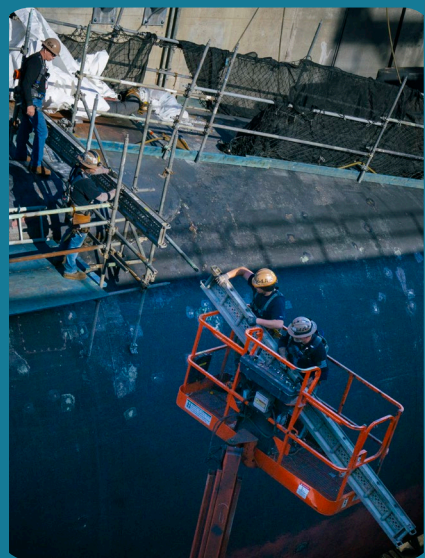
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Lab Offers Sailors
Key Submarine
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Trident Refit Facility, Bangor (TRFB) shipwrights build scaffolding in the dry dock at TRFB. Shipwrights erect, maintain and remove scaffolding in both nuclear and non-nuclear applications. U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Sarah Christoph.

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Commanding Officer.....Capt. Michael D. Eberlein
Executive Director.....Mr. Edgar Benson
Executive Officer.....Cmdr. Zachary D. Harry
Command Master Chief.....CMDCM Chase M. Krause
Public Affairs Officer.....Mr. Lonnie Collier



Public Affairs SpecialistMr. Nicholas Scott
Public Affairs SpecialistMr. John Wayne Liston
Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Adora Okafor
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sarah Christoph

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Team TRFB,

I want to start off by recognizing Pride Month, Men's Mental Health Awareness Month and PTSD Awareness Month among other important observances. As I emphasized in the last CO Call, diversity is our strength and it is what makes TRFB a great place to work. I ask that you continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect in all things. Change is not always easy, and as we work through some challenging issues it's good to remember that we all share a common goal of protecting our Nation by being the best in the world at fixing submarines.

Another holiday we celebrated in June was Juneteenth. Specifically, this holiday commemorates, June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas and announced that more than 250,000 enslaved people in the state were free. More broadly, it is the recognition of the freeing of enslaved peoples in the United States as a whole. The observance first became a federal holiday in 2021.

As July gives us a chance to celebrate and reflect on our Nation's Independence Day, I encourage everyone to practice good risk management, not just on the Fourth of July, but all summer long. Please take into consideration steps that could mitigate the impact to your well-being, while you are out enjoying the nice weather, such as fire safety, hydration, sun exposure etc. Have a plan to make it back to work so that we can continue to perform our important strategic deterrence mission.

In that same vein, as you have no doubt seen and are aware, our workforce is accomplishing some amazing things with our SSBN fleet. We have moved mountains to get boats out on time and on schedule



and those efforts have not gone unnoticed. While our OPTEMPO will continue to remain high, I wanted to personally thank you for all that you have done for our nation. RDML Tilbrook was out visiting our workforce just a few days ago to thank some of you for your work, but he was also adamant that he understood the importance of the TRFB team in deterrence operations both now and in the future. I am proud of our TRFB TEAM and you making coming to work each and every day an honor.

As usual please continue to exercise the good decision-making skills I have come to expect from such an exceptional team, stay safe and I'll see you on the "deckplates"!

V/R,

CAPT Mike Eberlein

TRFB Teams Up With Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sarah Christoph



Trident Refit Facility, Bangor's shipwrights pose for a photo in the dry dock at TRFB. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah Christoph.

Trident Refit Facility, Bangor (TRFB) is just one of many integral elements that make up the well-oiled machine that is the United States Navy. These smaller elements are what makes the Navy reach its overarching goal of defending America. Like many machines, the smaller parts must work in tandem in order to accomplish a goal. When assistance is needed from one part within the U.S. Navy, another answers the call.

With round-the-clock work at TRFB, additional assistance was needed in order to accomplish a task within its timeline. Dustin Noah, TRFB's Shipwright Supervisor, asked for assistance from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Portsmouth

responded enthusiastically.

"Our task required a lot of paint preservation to get the ship back to sea," said Noah. "Our shop, shop 64A, builds the scaffolding and blast containments for this work. TRFB did not have the proper manning to accomplish these tasks within the timeline provided by the command. We needed help, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard answered our request."

There were two two-month-long phases needed in order to accomplish shop 64A's goal. Portsmouth sent some of their employees and supervisors across the country to help support these phases.

"They came ready to work, and they have

supported working lots of overtime, which provided a much-needed relief for our guys that have been working every single weekend this year," said Noah. "The two Portsmouth Supervisors have been assisting Shop 64A Supervisors with job assignments, manning, advice, oversights, and planning."

Although the Portsmouth workers who helped the shop are shipwrights as well, Noah noticed a difference in how TRFB operates in comparison with Portsmouth.

"Our shop learned that the Portsmouth shipwrights do not have as much responsibility as TRFB shipwrights," said Noah. "Our shipwrights are responsible for sound damping tile work, hull insulation work, and blast containments. Portsmouth shipwrights do not have to that kind of work. Portsmouth shipwrights than TRFB, and they travel to various shipyards to support

projects, while Bangor shipwrights stay at Bangor. Portsmouth shipwrights use a different type of scaffolding compared to TRFB scaffolding, but it's similar and easy to understand and use."

Despite the differences in the way the two shipyard's shipwrights operate, the task was completed within the given timeline, thanks to the help of Portsmouth.

"With their help, everything was a success," said Noah. "The experience TRFB had working with Portsmouth has been incredible!"



An aerial view of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.



Trident Refit Facility, Bangor shipwrights erect scaffolding in the dry dock at TRFB. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah Christoph.

Through the Lens

U.S. Navy Photos by MC2 Sarah Christoph and Lonnie Collier, TRFB Public Affairs.



Above:
TRFB's Autry Watts retires on 28 June 2024. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah Christoph.



Below:
Captain Michael Eberlein attends a gemba in the Sign Shop at TRFB. U.S. Navy photo my MC2 Sarah Christoph.



Mobile Training Lab Offers Sailors Key Submarine Navigation Experience

Story by John O'Neill
Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic

More than 70 Sailors and civilians from 10 submarine commands received hands-on submarine experience using Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic's Mobile Training Lab (MTL), June 24-28, onboard Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia.

The training opportunity was the first East Coast use of the MTL, which is custom built from a reused shipping container and mimics the setup of a submarine navigation suite.

The lab can be customized with a submarine's specific equipment and then transported anywhere to provide training world-wide. The goal is to grow the number over time so more Fleet concentration areas have direct access to them. While the MTL is set up for fast attack boats currently, it can be setup for other configurations as well dependent upon the demand signal and funding.

"We have wanted to do this for some time. I realized we had an old container not being used, so we set up a navigation space," said Matthew Daniels, NIWC Atlantic Mobile Navigation Training lead.

Earlier this year, Daniels and his training team took the lab on the road to Hawaii where they first brought 85 Sailors through training via the MTL in a week.

"We are finding that there is a variety of experience levels coming through. A few of these Sailors have not had a chance to operate some of this gear, so the MTL becomes a force

multiplier in terms of growing Sailor readiness," said Daniels.

During the training, the Sailors get an understanding of the systems and the importance of maintaining them while they work through sets of breakdowns on the equipment. They also have

the opportunity to investigate and troubleshoot the problems and then physically make repairs. This enhances their readiness for when they get underway.

"This mobile trainer is a brilliant idea," said USS Montpelier SSN-765, Electronics Technician (Navigation) 3rd Class Wyatt Cosat from Canyon City, Colorado. "We are in the shipyards now, so it is hard to get hands on the equipment. You can read all the manuals you want, but it doesn't make up for the hands-on experience. I would definitely recommend this to other commands."

Electronics Technician (Navigation) 2nd Class Patrick Powers, a Brookings, South Dakota native assigned to USS Montana (SSN 794), said, "We were able to take apart and put back together a gyro compass, something unheard of on a boat! I love the hands-on training over the classroom. We absolutely need to see more of this."

This week's training was at the NIWC Atlantic site but since the MTL can be loaded onto a flatbed and taken directly to the Fleet, the consensus from participants is that they would like to see the lab brought to the pier for a day of training. "An entire division or department could get the same training in one day," said Electronics Technician (Navigation) 2nd Class James Donahue of

USS John Warner (SSN785), a Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania native. "I would like to do this more than just this time, because you learn something new every time you go through it."

While this is only the second use of the mobile trainer, there has been positive feedback from Sailors and civilians who have participated that will shape future iterations of training and how the MTL is used.

"The feedback we have received from the Sailors after the training state that they have received more training in eight hours in the MTL than from a six to eight-week classroom course," said Daniels. The MTL team is looking to host a training week in Hampton Roads again in the fall and are targeting one in Guam next spring.

"We are incredibly proud of the work the team has done," said Jared Judy, Position, Navigation and Timing Engineering Integrated Product Team Lead. "This work will definitely improve the readiness of submarine crews who attend the training. Former CNO, Admiral Michael Gilday, spoke about being 'ready to fight tonight.' The timeliness and success of this training evolution better prepares our Sailors and ultimately the fleet for meeting that intent." 🇺🇸



Hampton Roads Sailors and government civilians attend training in the NIWC Atlantic Mobile Training Lab (MTL), part of a week of training for fast-attack submarines, June 24-28, 2024. Photo by Jerry Sekerak, NIWC Atlantic Public Affairs.

BRAVO ZULU!

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Sarah Christoph

OBSERVANCES



Above: Congratulations to Eric Williams, Orlando Romero, Joseph Miller, and Louis Cox for their outstanding contributions in making TRFB successful!

Right: Congratulations to Commander Jesse Gaskell for receiving a Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional work while stationed at TRFB!



July 4th is Independence Day. Independence Day celebrates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration announced the political separation of the 13 North American Colonies from Great Britain.

Looking for portrait or photo support, public affairs guidance, graphic or flyer design, or other command-related media requests? Stop by the Public Affairs office to make a request or appointment today!

Studio portrait walk-ins are held on Wednesdays from 0800-0900. Studio times may be adjusted to suit your schedule. Remember to bring the prescribed uniform, cover, and package instruction for the specific type of studio portrait requested.

July is Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)
Mental Health Awareness Month

**Mental health conditions do not discriminate
based on race, color, gender or identity.**

**YOU ARE NOT
ALONE**



Find additional information and resources at
MagellanHealthcare.com/BIPOC-MH.

Sources: NAMI

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