

# NEWS

***NORTHROP GRUMMAN***



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For Immediate Release

Northrop Grumman Employees

Help Identify USS *Monitor* Artifacts

Newport News, Va. -- Nov. 19, 2003 -- Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC) employees recently provided X-ray services to identify artifacts recovered from the wreck of the USS *Monitor*. Northrop Grumman's Newport News sector provided the service at the request of conservators from The Mariners' Museum to help identify a dozen small artifacts recovered from the Civil War ironclad, which sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C. in 1862 and is now protected by a national marine sanctuary managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The equipment used in this effort was a linear accelerator high-energy X-ray machine. Northrop Grumman Newport News is the only shipyard to own such a machine, which is normally used to inspect heavy metallic castings poured in the shipyard's foundry before they are used for ship construction. Shipyard employees X-rayed artifacts that were beneath decades of marine growth and encrustation. The X-rays revealed a shoe, a valve handle, a piece of the *Monitor's* hull, a piece of chain and a tread from the engine room floor. "We are happy to be part of this ongoing project with The Mariners' Museum and NOAA," said Ike Isenhour, senior project

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engineer, Newport News Nondestructive Testing unit, who helped coordinate the X-ray efforts. "As shipbuilders, we take special pride in helping to preserve such an important part of naval history."

Since 2000, Newport News employees have volunteered their help and expertise to the *Monitor* recovery project by off-loading artifacts at shipyard piers and docks, constructing conservation tanks at The Mariners' Museum, and performing topographical ultrasonic inspections and X-rays of the recovered items. The *Monitor* was the U.S. Navy's first ironclad and is known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia*, which ended in a draw in Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862.

"Northrop Grumman Newport News has played a major role in the history of The Mariners' Museum. More recently, the company's vital role in the movement, conservation and exhibition of artifacts from the *Monitor* has been both critical and invaluable," said Museum President and CEO John Hightower. "Northrop Grumman's efforts with The Mariners' Museum, especially in terms of volunteers in the Apprentice Program and hosts of other employees, have been extraordinary."

"NOAA and The Mariners' Museum are fortunate to have Northrop Grumman Newport News for a neighbor and partner," said Dr. John Broadwater, manager, NOAA Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. "The company's cutting-edge technologies and engineering expertise have been invaluable in the complex process of analyzing *Monitor* artifacts. Thanks to their enthusiastic assistance, we have been able to examine and analyze objects from the *Monitor* and determine the best methods for handling and treating those often fragile artifacts to ensure that they will be preserved for future generations."

Northrop Grumman Newport News, headquartered in Newport News, Va., is the nation's sole designer, builder, and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one of only two companies capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines.

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Newport News also provides after-market services for a wide array of naval and commercial vessels. The Newport News sector employs about 18,000 people.

In 1987, The Mariners' Museum was designated by NOAA, on behalf of the federal government, as the repository for artifacts and archives from the USS *Monitor*. Working hand in hand with NOAA and the U.S. Navy, the museum has received over 1,100 artifacts from the *Monitor*, including the steam engine, propeller and revolving gun turret. The Mariners' Museum is currently underway with a \$30 million national capital campaign to construct the USS *Monitor* Center addition to the Museum. With funding from both public and private sources, the Center will open in 2007. Developed in collaboration with NOAA, the USS *Monitor* Center will serve as the definitive national authority and repository for materials, research and programming related to the history of the *Monitor*—and the larger, and lesser known, story of the naval history of the Civil War.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, which manages the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary, seeks to increase the public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, 13 national marine sanctuaries encompass more than 18,000 square miles of America's ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

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Visit The Mariners' Museum at [www.mariner.org](http://www.mariner.org)