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## Northrop Grumman Participates in Ceremonial Christening of Full-Scale USS *Monitor* Replica

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – June 12, 2006 – Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC) partnered with the Mariners’ Museum, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Navy to christen the full-scale replica of the Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* on June 11.

More than 100 Northrop Grumman Newport News employees were involved with the design and construction of the 173-foot-long replica. Apprentices from the sector’s Apprentice School built it in 22 steel sections using data provided by engineers from the CVN 21 aircraft carrier program. The Navy donated the structural material for the project.

In keeping with the time-tested shipbuilding tradition, Nancy Petters, the ship’s sponsor and wife of Northrop Grumman Newport News President Mike Petters, broke a bottle of American sparkling wine across the ship’s hull. She also spoke about the important lessons the ship has provided and will continue to provide.

“As an exact replica, she provided the shipyard apprentices with the perfect teaching tool,” Nancy Petters said. “One where engineers learned how to calculate, designers learned how to draw, fitters learned how to piece materials together, and welders learned how to make it all permanent. And now she stands completed before us, ready to continue to reach out to generations of people to help them learn, not only about the Civil War, but also about a turning point in the history of shipbuilding itself.”

American action-adventure novelist Clive Cussler was the keynote speaker for the ceremonial christening. Other speakers included Newport News Mayor Joe Frank; Capt. Craig McLean, NOAA corps officer; Rear Adm. Frederic R. Ruehe, commander, Navy region, mid-Atlantic; Mariners’ Museum President and CEO John B. Hightower; and Mike Petters.

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### Full-Scale USS *Monitor* Replica

“Watching the hard-working men and women of Northrop Grumman and its Apprentice School construct this full-scale replica of the USS *Monitor* has been nothing short of amazing,” Hightower said. “The replica will provide future generations a unique experience unmatched anywhere – a chance to imagine first-hand what standing on board one of this country’s greatest warships of all time must have been like. This replica is truly an icon of the USS *Monitor* Center, the City of Newport News, the state and of America’s history.”

Since 2000, Northrop Grumman Newport News employees have volunteered their help and expertise to the USS *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. Northrop Grumman Newport News has donated \$1 million in financial and in-kind support to the USS *Monitor* Center Capital Campaign. For more information, visit [www.nn.northropgrumman.com/USSMonitor](http://www.nn.northropgrumman.com/USSMonitor).

Mike Petters spoke about the company’s long history with the museum and the importance of preparing for the future by understanding the past. “We are a company dedicated to learning,” he said. “And we pass this knowledge from one ship to another – from one generation to the next. Our Apprentice School provides for that path at Newport News.”

Launched on Jan. 30, 1862, the ironclad USS *Monitor* featured some of the latest advancements in ship propulsion, vessel construction and weaponry. The *Monitor’s* designer, John Ericsson, produced an ingenious ship with a low freeboard and ship silhouette, primary iron ship construction, below-the-waterline operating systems, and a rotating gun turret. Though revolutionary in design, its exterior was so simplistic it was often referred to as a “cheese box on a raft.”

Northrop Grumman Corporation is a global defense company headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif. Northrop Grumman provides technologically advanced, innovative products, services and solutions in systems integration, defense electronics, information technology, advanced aircraft, shipbuilding and space technology. With approximately 125,000 employees and operations in all 50 states and 25 countries, Northrop Grumman serves U.S. and international military, government and commercial customers.

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