

# Currents

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April 14 – April 18, 2003

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April 22-23

Earth Day activities

The company participates in several activities to show a commitment to the environment. April 22: Northrop Grumman Newport News volunteers will hand out tomato seeds. April 23: The company holds its annual Earth Day cleanup at Christopher Newport Park. There are other activities, too, including a coloring contest for children ages 1-15. To learn more, go to:

<http://yardnet/divisions/humres/O27/index.stm>

### April 24

Red Cross Bloodmobile

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Mobile Unit

East of B 103

Appointment: 8-9191, select option 9

Questions: 0-3011

### April 24

Northrop Grumman Newport

News Annual College Day

2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

B 520, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

College and university counselors, professors, and others will provide information and materials.

*Currents is a weekly publication for employees of*

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**  
Newport News

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### ✳ Secretary of the Navy visits shipyard

H.T. Johnson, secretary of the Navy (acting), visited the shipyard April 14. He toured the *Ronald Reagan*, (CVN 76) the ninth *Nimitz*-class carrier and first carrier named after a living president. Capt. Bill Goodwin, *Reagan's* commanding officer, presented Johnson with a *Ronald Reagan* hat on the quarter deck during lunchtime. Pictured clockwise is Johnson; Rear Adm. James Zortman, commander, COMNAVAIRLANT; Rear Adm. David Architzel, COMNAVREGMIDLANT; shipyard President Tom Schivelbein and Goodwin.



### ✳ Welding school host of welding competition

The Welding School (026 training services) recently hosted the annual SKILLS USA State welding competition in building 1768. The competition involved high school students from school systems across the state. The students are active members of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) and are pursuing welding as their occupational objective. To qualify, they must have participated and won their local district welding competitions, which were held earlier in the year. The main purpose of the event was to evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment within the industry and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of welding. Contestants were evaluated on

Below from left: David King (026); Jack Wright (026); Biazio Giordana (Maryland Tech. welding instructor); Mike Miller (X18); Paul Beck (AWS Tidewater section); Maurice Jordan (026); George Ekstrom (Richmond Technical Center welding instructor); John Gomez (AWS Tidewater section); Glenn Muhle (T.H. Badger Technical Center welding instructor)



safety, professionalism, ability to read basic blue prints and welding symbols as well as on their skills and ability with regards to fitting, welding and burning. The Welding School has been involved with SKILLS USA periodically for many years. The school hosted the District IV competition in 2001 and 2002. Hosting the competition allows the welding school to proactively support and recognize welding students and the welding industry and to identify potential prospects for the company. The Welding School created the requirements of the competition based on a list of competencies as determined by the SKILLS USA Championship Committee. Department O26 Technical Instructor David King -- along with technical instructor coworkers Corky Robbins, Jack Wright and Maurice Jordan -- developed the project that each student had to build and weld from scratch. They also helped during the competition to ensure it ran as smooth and safely as possible. Among the five judges was X18 Supervisor Mike Miller (pictured above left evaluating a contestant). Other judges were from different organizations. Other employees who helped ensure the event was a success included Bob Leber, manager of training services; Larry Koech of the Apprentice School; Doug DeMoss of Legal; and Rob Robertson of Training Modernization Group. All employees involved volunteered their time to make the event a success.

# *CURRENTS* continued

## ✿ **Shipyard begins pursuit of ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification**

Northrop Grumman Newport News is committed to receiving ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) certification by the end of this year. An Environmental Management System is a proactive program for managing shipyard activities so that impacts to the environment are minimized or eliminated. Most environmental procedures and pollution prevention programs are currently in place. However, ISO 14001 certification will provide a more effective structure to manage, measure and communicate these procedures and programs. "We have an excellent environmental management system here and feel that with a small amount of enhancements, we will meet certification requirements," said Jim Thornton, director, Environmental, Health and Safety. This is important for a number of reasons, including enhanced public image as a corporate leader, reduced environmental risks and cost savings from pollution prevention projects. One of the primary requirements for certification is to have a comprehensive list of environmental impacts or "aspects" associated with the shipyard and identify which ones can cause the most significant impacts to the environment. One aspect, for example, might be the energy usage throughout the entire shipyard. Procedures must be in place to define how their impact to the environment can be controlled or minimized. The ISO program will require that additional objectives be set to further demonstrate the shipyard's commitment to continually improve in the areas of environmental compliance and pollution prevention. As part of the process, all employees will receive additional general awareness training of the company's environmental program and ISO 14001. Certain employees will have more specific training related to operations in their work areas that can impact the environment. Representatives from various departments will serve on a cross-functional team to help develop the program and set the appropriate environmental objectives. April 15 and April 16 mark the team's initial meetings. In addition to the team, it will take everyone's cooperation and participation to reach certification by the end of this year. For more information, call Hogie Thorn at 8-9247.

## ✿ **Absence Awareness Handbook on Yardnet**

To assist supervisors of salaried employees, an Absence Awareness Handbook has been designed to aid in managing issues and answering employee questions concerning attendance. Basic information on attendance management measures is provided with important links to related policies, procedures, benefit descriptions and useful forms. Go to the following site:

[http://wwwis/divisions/humres/O20/Operations/Absence\\_Awareness\\_Handbook.stm](http://wwwis/divisions/humres/O20/Operations/Absence_Awareness_Handbook.stm)

## ✿ **Northrop Grumman Women Engineers**

In March, four Northrop Grumman women engineers participated in a lunchtime panel discussion that focused on their background, interests and work environment. The special event was held in recognition of National Women's History Month. The four were (*pictured from left to right*) Erin McGinnis of Integrated Systems; Michelle Hazard of Space Technology; Mary Mahler of Integrated Systems; and Alma Martinez Fallon of Newport News. Following is a summary of Martinez Fallon's remarks: At age 25, she returned to school at the



encouragement of someone who told her she should go into engineering with her good math skills. She chose mechanical engineering as her specialty because she thought it offered the broadest range of job possibilities. Martinez Fallon, who now has more than 15 years of experience in design engineering and manufacturing management, serves as the manager of planning and manufacturing engineering for the Structural Fabrication and Assembly division at Newport News. She's responsible for leading an organization of engineers, planners and analysts. About her career, she said, "I have received recognition for my results and therefore I have always been assigned to challenging projects." She later added, "What sets an engineer apart from others is flexibility, business sense and the ability to communicate across the organization." Like the other panelists, Martinez Fallon has been active in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She will become the national president on July 1.