

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20, April 22

Earth Day events. April 20: Seed handout. April 22: A cleanup at Christopher Newport Park. For more information, go to the Environmental, Health and Safety Yardnet site.

April 22

Bloodmobile
Building 103

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Appointments: 8-9191

May 10

Bloodmobile
Building 600

8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Appointments: Call 8-8939.

May 11

Bloodmobile
Building 902

8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

902-903 employees call John Whitsel at 8-4792. 901-905 employees call Andrew Cirrincione at 8-0308.

Currents is a weekly publication for employees of



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 **Key message:** *We must focus on our leadership and employees.*

In-service Carrier Program director earns “Hall of Fame” award

Great People

Ben Robison, director of the In-service Carrier Program, recently earned a 2004 AMSEC Hall of Fame award. AMSEC is a partnership between San Diego-based Science Applications International Corp. or SAIC and Northrop Grumman Newport News that provides services such as naval architecture and marine engineering as well as combat and electronic systems engineering. Hall of Fame honorees are recognized for sustained superior performance over several years of employment or association with AMSEC LLC. It recognizes results achieved which directly contribute to AMSEC’s success. It highlights the few whose contributions stand well above the rest. Robison began his shipyard career in 1962 as a shipfitter at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and in 1970 he became a Newport News shipbuilder when he joined the Engineering Technical department. He held positions of increasing responsibility over the years and in 1998 he established the In-Service Carrier Program by initiating an unsolicited proposal and receiving an award for a multi-year/multi-ship contract for nuclear carrier maintenance and modernization in San Diego. His technical expertise and commitment to success were instrumental in the acquisition of Continental Maritime of San Diego. In addition, he was the principal advocate in the formation of AMSEC LLC. His award recognizes him for being invaluable to AMSEC’s growth. Robison is pictured above in the middle next to his wife, Michele Robison, as AMSEC LLC Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board Carl M. Albero inducts Robison into the Hall of Fame.



 **Key message:** *We must drive costs out of our processes and improve efficiency.*

Team meets goal to seek ways to improve business processes

At the start of the year, **Neal Jones**, an inspection supervisor at Dry Dock 12, and his five inspectors set a goal to write 100 OFIs by the end of the first quarter. This O39 Quality Inspection group met regularly to discuss better ways of doing business. The team documented these ideas and by March 31, Chief Inspection Supervisor **Bill West** had received the group’s 100th idea for the Opportunity For Improvement program. “Many of their ideas have been implemented and they are to be congratulated for meeting their aggressive goal,” West said. For example, the safety department approved one of the OFIs, which led to Facilities marking off an area to park bikes near the entrance of building 1737 to address safety concerns. The members of the team are pictured above holding their OFIs. In the back row from left are **Bill West, Jesse Black, Meredith Taylor, and Tim Moody**. In the front row are **Neal Jones, George Cofield and Glenn Hunter**.

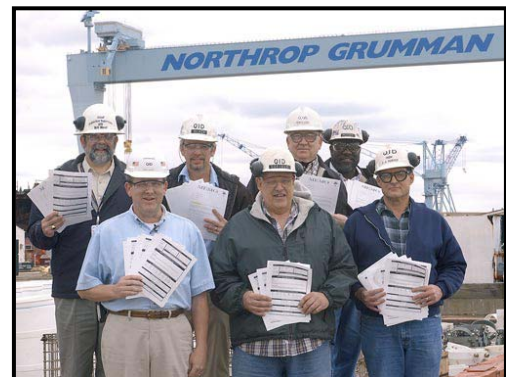


Photo by Chris Oxley

☛ Apprentice School Builders baseball news: Two throw five inning no-hitters

In a busy stretch that saw the Builders go 3-1, a rarity highlighted the week as senior **Kellyn Johnson** and freshman **Ryan Scott** each threw five inning no-hitters on April 7 against Maine-Presque Isle in a 12-0 and 14-0 win. Johnson, an M53 inside machinist, faced one batter over the limit and struck out four. He ended the game with three straight strikeouts, allowing only one walk and four balls out of the infield. Scott, an X32 Sheet Metal worker, broke the first inning open with a two-run single to highlight a six-run first inning. This was Johnson's second career no-hitter as he threw a seven inning no-hitter on April 17, 2003 against Columbia Union College. In the second game, Scott faced two batters over the limit while walking three and striking out eight. Scott also struck out three in the fifth inning while allowing one of his three walks. He only allowed two balls out of the infield. This week the Builders will play at home in doubleheaders on Saturday against Christendom College (1 p.m.) and Sunday against Lincoln University (noon). For more Apprentice School Athletics news, go to www.gobuilders.com.



Ryan Scott



Kellyn Johnson

☛ Become a Sea Power Ambassador

Earlier this year, Northrop Grumman Newport News President Tom Schievelbein wrote to shipbuilders calling on them to join in the Sea Power Ambassadors program. Remember, he said, this online volunteer program plays an important role in the future of the company and industry. The future strength of the company and nation's shipbuilding industry depends on a renewed commitment to naval shipbuilding. Employees can show their commitment by becoming a Sea Power Ambassador. Click on www.seapowerambassador.com. Click on "Become an Ambassador." Complete the brief form and click on "Register Now." "If our government leaders do not begin now to invest in our naval fleet, we may never be able to overcome more than a decade of underinvestment," Schievelbein wrote. "Together we can reverse the downward trend of Navy ship construction through Sea Power Ambassador, which has a mission to educate the American public and elected officials on the need to rebuild the U.S. Navy fleet to meet America's security requirements in the 21st century. Schievelbein's letter is available on the home page of Yardnet.

☛ Reminder on the new ethics and business conduct training system

Employees will soon receive a letter at their home address instructing them on how to access and use a new system, called eSources. The system allows salaried employees to complete the required Conflict of Interest (C-196) form online. The letter will include a special PIN that will be required to register on the system. The system automates completion of the form — storing the data, flagging areas where more information is needed and reducing much of the time now spent administering this process. In addition, the system includes nine business conduct training programs, which will be available to salaried employees. Some of these programs are required training.

☛ Steam supply to be reduced to buildings

The main power house will begin reducing steam supply to buildings for heating purposes starting April 16 and should be completed no later than April 23. This will not affect buildings/facilities requiring steam to support a process or hotel steam for shipboard service. If there are special heating needs for a building/facility, call the Facilities Service Desk at 8-9888. For other energy or utility related issues, call **Larry Blanchfield** at 688-8312.

☛ Save the new 800 emergency information phone line number

Last week, it was announced that there has been a change to the 800 emergency information phone line number, which is available for employees to call to hear a recorded message that warns of impending weather or other emergencies that may affect work at the shipyard. On April 12, Northrop Grumman launched a process to standardize the 800 emergency information phone line for U.S. facilities. Whether employees are at their homes or visiting another work site, they will only need to call one number: **1-800-995-4318**. The message about this change is available on the home page of Yardnet.



What's New at Northrop Grumman?

Northrop Grumman Newport News is one of seven sectors of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. Currents periodically provides a look at some of the recent top news at the other Northrop Grumman sectors.

✿ **Electronic Systems**

Aerial common sensor team selected

Northrop Grumman has selected key team members and assigned roles to four of its sectors to create a best-of-industry team in the competition for the Aerial Common Sensor, the U.S. Army's and Navy's next-generation airborne multi-intelligence collection system. As the prime contractor, Electronic Systems will provide image intelligence and mission-computing expertise. BAE Systems North America will also collaborate to form a signals intelligence team of national scale. BAE will bring its proven Diamond open-system architecture to the effort.

✿ **Information Technology**

IT sector wins Army follow-on contract

The IT sector's \$101 million follow-on contract provides for information systems integration for the U.S. Army's Personnel Electronic Records Management System (PERMS). PERMS uses new Web technology that saves time, reduces costs and improves services. The system holds about 140 million record pages and stores them for at least five years after a soldier's military service obligation ends. The PERMS user base exceeds 600,000 worldwide. IT's program management, processes, systems integration and Web services expertise contribute to its ongoing PERMS success.

✿ **Mission Systems**

Sector to continue providing linguist support

The U.S. Army, Europe, has awarded Mission Systems a contract to continue providing linguist support services in Europe. The 42-month contract has a total potential value of \$97 million. Under this contract, the sector will recruit, screen and train translators fluent in Serbo-Croatian, Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Russian and Slovenian to serve as interpreters for commanding officials, military intelligence units, political advisors, military patrols and police units.

✿ **Integrated Systems**

F-35 team assembles first production part

Integrated Systems has achieved an important milestone as the sector starts assembling the first production part for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. An official ceremony, held March 2 at the Composite Center in El Segundo, commemorated the culmination of a three-year effort in composites manufacturing put forth by the F-35 team. The assembly of a left-hand composite engine inlet duct marks a critical first step in the building of the center fuselage.

✿ **Ship Systems**

Keel laid for Makin Island (LHD 8)

Ship Systems authenticated the keel of Makin Island (LHD 8), the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps team's newest multipurpose amphibious assault ship, during a ceremony in Pascagoula in mid-February. The ship's name commemorates the daring raid carried out in August 1942 by Marine Corps companies A and B, second raider battalion, on Japanese-held Makin Island, in the Gilbert Islands. The raid was launched from the submarines *USS Nautilus* and *USS Argonaut* and succeeded in routing the enemy forces based there, gaining valuable intelligence.

✿ **Space Technology**

Sector earns company's 11th CMMI Level 5

Space Technology attained a CMMI Level 5 maturity rating for software against the latest Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) standard. To date, with 11 CMMI Level 5 ratings, Northrop Grumman has earned more than any other company in the defense and information technology industries. Fewer than 20 companies worldwide have achieved CMMI Level 5. The CMMI standard was developed by a coalition of industry, government and the SEI to objectively assess the full range of an organization's software and systems engineering, program management and organizational management capabilities.