

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 7**

A Community Relations publication produced by Community Relations and Communications will be inserted into the Daily Press. The report highlights employees who make the community a better place. The publication will also be mailed to employee homes.

**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.

**May 27**

Bloodmobile  
Building 103  
7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Appointments: 8-9191

Currents is a weekly publication for employees of

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**  
Newport News

Please send information for Currents to  
Stephanie McCall, 8-4962  
Dept. O29; B520/1  
Stephanie.McCall@ngc.com

 **Key message:** *We must perform well on our contracts.*

### ✳ **USS Ronald Reagan departs after post shakedown availability success**

Northrop Grumman Newport News has redelivered the nation's newest and most advanced nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), to the U.S. Navy after a successful post shakedown availability (PSA). *USS Ronald Reagan* pulled away from pier two the morning of May 1 for post shakedown availability sea trials and then headed to Norfolk Naval Shipyard May 3. Later this month, the carrier is scheduled to head to its West Coast homeport. *Ronald Reagan* returned to the shipyard in December for the PSA, which takes place in the early life of a carrier to allow the Navy and Newport News team to make various electronic system upgrades and quality of life improvements. Twenty-five years will pass before the *Reagan* is scheduled to return to Newport News for refueling and complex overhaul work. Valued at \$53 million, the work done under the PSA contract included upgrades for the new F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet aircraft, a third physical fitness center for sailors, combat system and radar equipment upgrades, and minor repairs. "The completion of this work symbolizes a new chapter in the life of the *Ronald Reagan*," said **Bob Gunter**, senior vice president of Aircraft Carrier Programs, Northrop Grumman Newport News. "Hundreds of shipbuilders worked hand-in-hand with *Ronald Reagan* sailors to make this PSA a success, bringing this great ship one step closer to her voyage home to the West Coast." Capt. Jim Symonds, the carrier's commanding officer, said, "The PSA was a tremendous success for both the Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard workers and the *Ronald Reagan* crew. The work that was poured into this carrier, preparing it for a lifetime at sea, is a testament to the quality of people that make up the Northrop Grumman Newport News team. It will be put to the test later this month as we say farewell to the Hampton Roads area and sail around South America to bring this great ship to our new homeport in San Diego."

As *Reagan* departed the shipyard May 1, X31's **Linwood Fulgham** (below) saluted the carrier and said, "She was a good ship to work on. I hate to see her go."



Photo by John Whalen

Photos by John Whalen



X36's **Edward Garrett** worked with crane operators and other X36 employees as the *Reagan* departed from the shipyard on May 1.



From left: **Ken Mahler**, **Bob Gunter**, **Rich Coleman** and **Kent Williams** watch the *Reagan* head down the James River after the successful post shakedown availability.

# Currents continued

## ☛ Sen. Jim Talent visits Northrop Grumman Newport News

U.S. Sen. Jim Talent spent the morning of April 30 at Northrop Grumman Newport News, getting a look at the range of work underway at the company. Talent is a freshman senator from Missouri. He previously served eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives (1993-2001) and eight years in the Missouri House (1985-1992). He holds numerous Senate leadership positions, including chairman of the Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee. In addition, Sen. Talent is a member of President Bush's Export Council and he was selected to serve as a deputy whip. His visit included a company overview at the Herbert H. Bateman Virginia Advanced Shipbuilding and Carrier Integration Center (VASCIC) and a tour of the submarine Modular Outfitting Facility. In addition, he saw work being done on the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and *George H. W. Bush* (CVN 77) aircraft carriers and learned about CVN 21.



From left: *Eisenhower* Command Master Chief Ronnie Moore; CVN 69 Program Director **Tim Racz**; CVN 69 Commanding Officer Capt. Charles "Grunt" Smith; Deputy, Fleet Forces Command Vice Adm. Al Konezni; Sen. Jim Talent; Tom MacKenzie, staff Senate Armed Services Committee; and shipyard President **Tom Schievelbein**. Racz is pictured briefing Sen. Talent on the *Eisenhower* work.



From left: Shipyard President **Tom Schievelbein** talks with Sen. Jim Talent, and CVN 77 Vice President **Scott Stabler**, about work on the *George H. W. Bush*.

Photo by Stu Gilman

## ☛ "Northrop Grumman" to appear on 310-ton crane

Last week, work began to replace the lettering on the 310-ton crane. Paint scaffolding was erected on the crane April 29 (*right*). Work continued over the weekend with paint scraping and spot painting. A green coat will be applied along both sides of the top girder in the vicinity of the old letters and logo. The new "Northrop Grumman" 16-foot lettering will be stenciled and painted on both sides using white paint.



## ☛ OFI first quarter award winners recognized

Hats off to employees whose ideas for the Opportunity for Improvement program were approved and implemented. The latest OFI quarterly newsletter highlights first-quarter award recipients. Check them out at <http://yardnet/divisions/qualtech/OFI/Quarterly%20Newsletter.pdf>.

## ☛ Security Department's Yardnet site earns "Site of the Month" recognition

The Security Department (O15) learned on April 30 that its Yardnet site ([http://yardnet/divisions/humres/O15/Security\\_homepage.stm](http://yardnet/divisions/humres/O15/Security_homepage.stm)) earned the new Yardnet "Site of the Month" honor. Described as user-friendly, a great resource and up-to-date, the O15 Yardnet site meets the variety of checklist items that are explained on the recently redesigned Yardnet home page at [http://yardnet/site\\_of\\_the\\_month/siteofmonth.html](http://yardnet/site_of_the_month/siteofmonth.html).



# Currents continued

## ✿ Shipyard earns Hampton Roads Sanitation District awards again

Northrop Grumman Newport News received two Gold Pretreatment Excellence Awards for 2003 from the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) on April 28. The company was recognized for its exemplary environmental compliance record and for demonstrating a commitment to environmental excellence. These awards signify perfect compliance in 2003 for the main and north yard permits. The company achieved this by performing the monitoring and reporting requirements of the permits and meeting the discharge limits mandated by HRSD. The company also met all technical and administrative requirements set by HRSD. To protect the environment and facilities, HRSD issues permits and monitors wastewater discharged from businesses and industries. The businesses pretreat their industrial wastewater before discharging it to HRSD's system, helping to protect waterways and other natural resources. Northrop Grumman Newport News was among various companies recognized by HRSD in May 3 local newspaper advertisements for earning exemplary permit compliance. The sector has now achieved six years of perfect compliance for the north yard permit and four years of perfect compliance for the main yard permit.

## Great People



Pictured are employees who helped earn the shipyard the HRSD awards. From left: **Randall Hull** of 047, **Ivy Hopkins** of 047, **Amy Bradley** of 031, **Keith Ogburn** of 047, **Hogie Thorn** of 027, **Lennie Routten** of 031, and **Steve Bulleigh** of 027.

## ✿ Nautilus Society of Reactor Test Engineers sponsoring King and His Court softball game

The shipyard's Nautilus Society of Reactor Test Engineers, in conjunction with the Peninsula Pilots, is sponsoring a softball game this summer with the King and His Court four-man team for the benefit of Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters. The game is scheduled for July 25 at 4 p.m. at War Memorial Stadium. Tickets will be available in the near future. Contact **Mike Cohen** at 8-6546 for details. More information about King and His Court is available at <http://www.kingandhiscourt.com/>. The Nautilus Society of Reactor Test Engineers is a shipyard social club that sponsors community work and includes qualified reactor plant shift test engineers or those who have held that position in the past. Members of the society and the Peninsula Pilots are forming a team to play against the King and His Court.

## ✿ Point, click — and find free funds for college

Northrop Grumman employees and family members are eligible to take advantage of the Wells Fargo ConSern Education Program's scholarship search engine, an online research tool powered by Peterson's Colleges & Universities Search. With the ConSern Program's scholarship search, employees and family members have free access to one of the largest undergraduate scholarship databases available — offering information on more than 1.6 million scholarships, grants, and awards worth nearly \$5 billion. Employees can use the scholarship search to learn the basics of financial aid and find scholarships, grants, and awards. The ConSern Education Program is a full-service education and financial resource designed to help students prepare for — and pay for — a college education. The program comes equipped with a complete line of flexible, affordable student loan options designed to help employees and their family members reach their goals. To use the college search engine and learn more about ConSern, visit [www.consern.com](http://www.consern.com) (Password: SOSLOAN) or call 800-SOS-LOAN (1-800-767-5626).

