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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 16 – 27

School Tools Drive  
See page 3 for details

### August 24

Shipyard's New Hire Community of Practice fundraiser for pediatric cancer August 24 from 12 - 12:30 p.m. outside of Building 520 (41st and Washington).

### August 24

Strayer University will visit the shipyard from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. in building 500/2 (training conference room) for information and to register students for the fall semester.

### August 25

Averett University will visit the shipyard from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. in building 500/2 (training conference room) for information and to register students for the fall semester.

### August 26

Bloodmobile  
Building 103  
7:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.  
For appointments, call 8-9191,  
Option 9. Questions: 0-3011

Currents is a weekly publication for employees of



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## ✿ Senator Allen Visits the Shipyard

Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) visited the shipyard last week and toured the construction sites of both the *George H. W. Bush* (CVN 77) aircraft carrier and the *Virginia*-class submarine *Texas* (SSN 775). The visit was part of his annual summer "listening tour." In a letter posted on his web site, the senator said the following about his visit to the shipyard:

"It was invigorating to meet the hard working men and women helping to keep our nation strong by building the next generation of ships and submarines. I will never forget standing underneath the newest submarine dry docked in Newport News, the *Texas* and being able to walk on what will eventually be the flight deck of the *USS George H.W. Bush*. Both of these vessels are great sights, but to see inside an aircraft carrier before it is fully enclosed is truly awe-inspiring! Virginia's shipbuilders have a long legacy of building the finest sea craft in the world and it's clear that this continues today."



Scott Stabler, vice president for the CVN 77 Program (in blue shirt), showed Sen. Allen around the north yard, where the *George H. W. Bush* is under construction.



Sen. Allen met employees who are building the *Virginia*-class submarines. The employees pictured from left to right are Marvin Taylor (X11), Joseph Verville (X18), Al Parker (X42), and Jason Daniels (X42).

Photos by Chris Oxley

## ✿ Change of Command Held for Newport News Supervisor of Shipbuilding

A Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair (SUPSHIP) Change of Command ceremony was held August 18 on board the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* at Pier 2. During the ceremony, Captain Michael McMahon relieved Captain Thomas Violette, who is retiring from the U.S. Navy after 29 years of service. Capt. Violette has been the Supervisor of Shipbuilding at Newport News since 2001.

**Pictured:** Bob Gunter, Newport News senior vice president for Aircraft Carriers (on right), attended a retirement dinner for Capt. Violette on August 14 and made a special presentation on behalf of the company, giving him a framed picture of the *USS Ronald Reagan*.



## ❁ **Northrop Grumman to Donate \$100,000 to Aid Victims of Hurricane Charley**

Northrop Grumman is donating a total of \$100,000 to the American Red Cross and the United Way of Florida's Hurricane Charley Response Fund to benefit Floridians impacted by Hurricane Charley.

"This gift is intended to provide hurricane victims with a measure of relief to help them as they put their lives back together," said Sandra Evers-Manly, director of diversity, equal employment opportunity and contributions for Northrop Grumman Corporation. "We hope this contribution in some way will help our employees, their families, and their neighbors during this difficult time."

Northrop Grumman employs more than 4,700 people in the state. Each organization will receive \$50,000 to support relief efforts.

## ❁ **Environmental Engineering Holds Apprentice Luncheon**

On August 17, an appreciation luncheon was held in recognition of the fourth year anniversary of the Surface Preparation and Treatment (X33) apprentice rotations with Environmental Engineering (027). Since 2000, Bennie Steele (X33), Joyce Wright (022), and Frank Thorn (O27) have worked together to ensure apprentices are familiar with environmental policies and procedures in the shipyard. During their rotation, apprentices learn about hazardous waste, dry dock discharge operations, best management practices and spill response. As Frank Thorn said during the luncheon, "this program is a win-win-win arrangement," providing benefits to the apprentices, Environmental Engineering and the company as a whole. Apprentices said they appreciated being able to rotate through the environmental department and now have a deeper understanding of environmental issues, an increase in personal confidence levels, and an improvement of communication skills. Pictured below are the employees who attended the lunch.



Photo by John Whalen

Front row kneeling left to right: Dameon Walker, Lawrence Slaughter, In-Beak Park, Page Ayres, Shaun Riley, Donna Watkins, Middle row left to right: Tiffany Ronsonet, Bob Leber, Danny Hunley, Bennie Steele, Joyce Wright, Frank (Hogie) Thorn, Jim Thornton, Paul Saunders, Terry Benthall; Back Row left to right: Ronnie Stevens, Daryl Stackhouse, Jack Heald, Mark Wilson, John Quent, David Jennings, Steven Bulleigh, Terrence Patrick, Danny Brookman, and Jacob Noble

## ❁ **Shipyard Employee Angela Owens Elected SWE President**

Angela Owens, an associate engineer in E23 Interior Communications, was elected President of the Society of Women Engineers - Hampton Roads section in July for the 2004-2005 term. The Society of Women Engineers is the largest non-profit educational and service organization representing both student and professional women in engineering and technical fields. In this role, Owens will strive to promote professional development and personal growth of women in science and engineering.

## ❖ **Virginia Symphony Orchestra Performs Free Outdoor Concert this Weekend**

The Virginia Symphony Orchestra will perform a free outdoor concert on Friday, August 27 at 7p.m. at Town Center Dr. off Thimble Shoals Blvd. The program, called "Score One for Hollywood," will feature classical music scores used in movies – from An American in Paris to the Phantom of the Opera. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets and enjoy the evening breeze while you listen to the concert. For more information, call 892-6366. *RAIN LOCATION: HAMPTON ROADS ACADEMY.*

## ❖ **School Tools Drive Underway**

The shipyard's 2004 "School Tools Drive" runs through August 27. Employees are asked to donate new school supplies to help less fortunate children make preparations for going back to school. Supplies needed include pens, pencils, pencil boxes, calculators, erasers, notebook paper, glue, markers, highlighters, Kleenex, backpacks, scissors and crayons. These items may be dropped off in any of the specially marked collection boxes at many buildings and shops throughout the shipyard. For additional information, contact Brenda Roth at 0-3011.



## ❖ **SS United States Shipbuilders Wanted**

Susan Gibbs, the granddaughter of naval architect and marine engineer William Francis Gibbs, is researching and writing a book about her grandfather, who was the chief designer of the Newport News-built SS *United States*. Gibbs is trying to locate former Newport News workers who are willing to share their memories about the ship and/or her grandfather. In addition, the *United States* Conservancy is planning a *United States* celebration and reunion. This event will take place on Saturday, October 2 at the Windmill Point Restaurant and United States Lounge in Nags Head, North Carolina. The planning committee is interested in including shipyard workers who built the *United States* in the celebration. For more information about the celebration and the book project, please contact Susan Gibbs by email at [sgibbs@starpower.net](mailto:sgibbs@starpower.net) or home phone (202) 337-5767.



## ❖ **Currents Correction**

In the last issue of *Currents*, it incorrectly stated the OFI program was honored as a "Best Practice" by the Employee Involvement Association (EIA), a non-profit service organization composed of members from finance, commerce, industry and government, dedicated to the contributions and benefits of employee suggestion systems. The Newport News OFI Program was named "Best Practice" by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems after reviewing data from the EIA and comparing the Newport News OFI program against the programs of 14 EIA participating companies.

## ❖ **Builders Football Starts Saturday, September 4**



Builders football begins September 4 at Apprentice Field. Watch the Builders in their season opener as they take on Kean University. The game starts at 1 p.m.



Employees of Northrop Grumman Newport News can now save money on products and services offered by many businesses in the area like Busch Gardens, Barnes & Noble and General Motors. For a complete list of discounts currently available, please visit the employee discount web site at [www.nn.northropgrumman.com/discounts](http://www.nn.northropgrumman.com/discounts). New discounts will be added as they become available, so be sure to visit the web site regularly.

## Around Northrop Grumman

### Electronic Systems

#### *Sector To Lead Chemical Agent Detector Contract*

The U.S. Army selected Electronic Systems to lead a team to provide a chemical-agent threat-warning system officially known as the Commercial Joint Service Lightweight Standoff Chemical Agent Detector. The sector will produce six standoff detection units, which are designed to aid military and civilian first responders in locating, identifying and warning of chemical-agent threats. This chemical-agent detector initiative builds on similar successful chemical and biological detection programs already under way at the company.

### Information Technology

#### *IT Selected as E-3D AWACS Preferred Bidder*

Northrop Grumman is the "preferred bidder" for a contract, valued at approximately \$1.9 billion, to provide maintenance and design engineering support services for the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force fleet of E-3D Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. A contract award is anticipated in January. Under the contract, IT would support AWACS aircraft's maintenance schedule, ensuring that only one aircraft, out of a fleet of seven, is in scheduled maintenance at any given time.

### Mission Systems

#### *Sector Wins \$400 Million U.S. Army Contract*

The U.S. Army selected Mission Systems as prime contractor for the Command Post Platform (CPP) Development and Integration Program. Valued at up to \$400 million over the next five years, the award includes an initial \$26 million contract for the design and construction of 10 prototype command posts. Mission Systems will develop and field Army command posts, which are employed for directing operations and controlling forces. CPP provides common command centers with advanced command-and-control hardware and technology to give the Army improved control over its digital forces.

### Integrated Systems

#### *EA-6B Prowler Delivery Ahead of Schedule*

Integrated Systems delivered the 75th EA-6B Prowler aircraft wing center section to the U.S. Navy July 30, five months ahead of schedule. The wing center section is the assembly of the aircraft that extends from wing-fold to wing-fold, allowing the Prowler's wing tips to be folded so that the aircraft can be stored close together on carrier decks. The Prowler is the only tactical electronic attack plane in the U.S. inventory. Identified as a national asset, it is in high demand worldwide. Prowlers will continue to be a key node in the Navy's network-centric warfare architecture until they are replaced by the EA-18G in 2009.

### Ship Systems

#### *Phil Dur Introduces DD(X) To Navy Officers*

Ship Systems president Phil Dur recently unveiled a DD(X) mission effectiveness demonstration to a group of Navy lieutenants in the current Department Head Class at the Surface Warfare Officers' School in Rhode Island. The young officers were exposed to the futuristic and transformational capabilities of DD(X) through a 45-minute video that detailed the capabilities of DD(X), featuring three operational scenarios that pit the ship against a wide variety of threats. The presentation centered on 10 critical engineering development modules that comprise the heart of the DD(X) sea-power revolution.

### Space Technology

#### *Aura Spacecraft Successfully Launched*

NASA's Aura Earth Observing System spacecraft, built by Space Technology, was successfully launched on July 15 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Aura will provide the most comprehensive space-based measurements of atmospheric gases ever taken, revolutionizing the way scientists study and understand changes in the Earth's climate, air quality and ozone layer. The four newly developed state-of-the-art instruments aboard Aura will become operational in stages over the next six months.

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