

THE PERISCOPE

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard news and information since 1942

April 2026



Albany Undocks Ahead of Schedule

From the Commander

Commander's Top 3



Here at Portsmouth, USS Thresher (SSN 593) represents more than just a memory; it is a solemn and enduring reminder of our commitment to excellence and safety. Portsmouth built it as the most technologically advanced submarine of its day, a testament to our nation's skill. The pride we felt in its launch was matched only by the profound sorrow of its loss on April 10, 1963, a day that is forever etched into the heart of this shipyard and the entire submarine community. The loss of the 112 crew members and 17 civilians aboard was a devastating tragedy that forced a difficult but necessary reckoning. The legacy of Thresher is the unwavering foundation of the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) Program, a rigorous quality assurance protocol that was born from the lessons learned from that disaster. The SUBSAFE standard of "maximum reasonable assurance" can only be achieved with the highest of standards and adhering to the requirements of our work. The sea is utterly unforgiving, and an honest mistake can have the deadliest results for a submarine and its crew. The SUBSAFE Program continues to evolve even to this day to better meet the needs of our work. You may have the idea that it will make it even stronger — raising the bar for Portsmouth quality, as we do with every endeavor. Thresher is a constant reminder of the immense responsibility we carry. Lest we forget...



The successful undocking of USS Albany (SSN 753) from the floating dry dock in Groton, Connecticut, is a milestone long in the making for our entire shipyard. This achievement is a direct result of the relentless dedication and personal sacrifice of our Portsmouth teammates who are on station in Connecticut, spending extended time away from their homes and families. Your commitment to the mission does not go unnoticed! The hard work and expertise being poured into its availability are a testament to your spirit and determination. We eagerly look forward to the day we can celebrate with the entire project team as you deliver Albany back to the fleet. This undocking milestone brings us one step closer to our North Star goal of delivering assets ready for tasking and ahead of schedule!



THE PERISCOPE



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On the cover:
USS Albany (SSN 753) undocks early
from SUBASE New London March 26,
2026.

Photo by:
Neil Boorjian

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We are seeing real results across this shipyard, safely getting more done, which opens opportunities to get other jobs and tests completed earlier, and ultimately delivering our boats to the fleet sooner. This progress is not happening by chance — it is the result of deliberate decisions in how we execute work. At the center of this improvement is a simple principle: expertise and authority exercised by the work team at the working level. When authority is aligned with expertise, we improve safety, make better decisions, execute faster and achieve stronger outcomes. For 2026, we have the following North Star goals to move the needle further: we will reduce deficiency forms (DFs) written by 25%. Every DF is causing a work stoppage somewhere on the shipyard. Production and Engineering will revise the technical work documents (TWDs) in our top five controlling paths, both nuclear and non-nuclear to be less prescriptive. PNSY Detachment-San Diego will develop shop planners to author TWDs for more than 50% of assigned Planned Maintenance Requirements (PMRs). We will continue to support the execution of Model Lines across the shipyard to help remove unnecessary processes and return to common-sense, expertise-driven problem solving — allowing our teams to shift their focus from navigating overly-complicated processes, to actually executing their work. To the workforce of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard — lean into your expertise and act with confidence in your authority, because you are at the helm of mission success!

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Ahead of Schedule:

USS Albany Undocks from SUBASE New London

Article by Hanna Lanoie

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard safely undocked Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 753) ahead of schedule March 26 at Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London, marking a significant milestone in its maintenance and modernization availability.

Albany arrived at SUBASE New London in summer 2025, and has since undergone repairs, structural inspections, and replacements of mechanical and electrical systems. This extensive work enhances the submarine's capabilities, modernizes critical systems and equips Sailors — the engine that powers the fleet — with the most advanced undersea platform possible, ready to meet operational demands.

To support the availability, an advanced team of PNSY personnel spent much of 2025 coordinating with SUBASE New London to prepare facilities and support a large temporary duty workforce. At peak manning, more than 400 PNSY personnel were deployed to New London to execute the effort.

“Despite the inherent challenges of executing an off-yard availability, compounded by multiple winter storms, the teaming demonstrated by the crew of Albany and the shipyard workforce drove through every obstacle, completing Albany's docking period ahead of schedule,” said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. “This speaks to the resilience of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard team and the impact that a focused team of experts can have to safely accomplish great things at the pace the nation needs.”

Completion of a submarine's docking period is a critical first step in its return to the fleet and directly supports the Navy's focus on combat-ready platforms, increasing operational availability and contributing to credible, sustained deterrence.

“The early undocking of Albany is a significant accomplishment and a direct result of the one team, one fight mentality of my crew and our Portsmouth teammates,” said Cmdr. Adam Nebenzahl, commanding officer. “This milestone puts us one step closer to rejoining the fleet. We are eager to get back to sea and contribute to our nation's defense.”

As America's leader in attack submarine maintenance, repair, and modernization, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard delivers the decisive edge required to master an era of evolving threats. It stands at the forefront of America's commitment to peace through strength, delivering combat-ready submarines that are lethal, resilient, and prepared to win. Through a focus on innovation, accountability, and fostering a culture of warfighting excellence, PNSY strengthens the maritime industrial base and invests in its highly-skilled workforce. The work done at the shipyard is a direct contribution to national security. Submarines leave the shipyard more capable than ever before, ensuring the U.S. Navy remains the most dominant maritime force and that the nation's warfighters are prepared for any mission, anywhere in the world.



Photo by Neil Boorjian



“The early undocking of Albany is a significant accomplishment and a direct result of the one team, one fight mentality of my crew and our Portsmouth teammates.”

~Commanding Officer Cmdr. Adam Nebenzahl



Photos by Neil Boorjian

Reforging an Undersea Predator **—USS New Mexico Begins Wartime Upgrade—**

Photo by Branden Bourque



The Virginia-class attack submarine USS New Mexico (SSN 779) entered Dry Dock 2 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to begin a major overhaul March 25. This crucial work will ensure it remains a capable and deadly warfighting asset, fully prepared to defend our homeland, deter our adversaries, and prevail in war.

As America’s leader in attack submarine maintenance, repair, and modernization, PNSY delivers the decisive edge required to master an era of evolving threats. The shipyard and its skilled workforce stand at the forefront of America’s commitment to delivering combat-ready submarines that are lethal, resilient, and prepared to win.

REMEMBERING THE THRESHER 13

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD EMPLOYEES LOST AT SEA

Article by Joseph Gluckert

USS Thresher (SSN 593) cast off its mooring lines at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard April 9, 1963, and departed for sea trials following an eight-month post-shakedown availability. Thresher was lost during a deep dive test April 10, 1963 and the shipyard, the Navy, and the nation grieved for the 129 souls on board, including 13 PNSY employees.

Fred P. Abrams worked as a civilian inspector. From Kittery, Maine, he inspected ship's mechanical systems in the Quality Assurance branch of the Production Department. *Photo 1.*

Daniel W. Beal Jr., 31, was an electronic engineer. Born in Columbia Falls, Maine, he contributed to the Polaris submarine program in the Combat Systems Division, focusing on sonar. *Photo 2.*

Robert E. Charron, 43, was an electronic engineering technician at PNSY. Raised in Haverhill, Massachusetts, he was part of the Test Department of the Planning Division. *Photo 3.*

Kenneth J. Critchley, 44, was a ship progressman machinist. A native of Saco, Maine, he worked in the Progress Branch of the Production Department. *Photo 4.*

Paul C. Currier, 40, Originally from Manchester, New Hampshire, he worked as a ship progressman machinist. *Photo 5.*

Richard R. Des Jardins, 32, was a supervisory mechanical engineer. The Kittery, Maine, native served as a branch head in the Combat Systems Division's Missile Handling and Launching section of the Planning Department. *Photo 6.*

George J. Dineen, 42, was an electrician. A native of Biddeford, Maine, he worked in the electrical shop of the Planning Department. *Photo 7.*

Richard K. Fisher, 29, spent his childhood in New York before serving as a mechanical engineer and test engineer in the Design Section. *Photo 8.*

Paul A. Guerette, 24, was a marine engineering technician. From Nashua, New Hampshire, he began as an apprentice marine machinist, was promoted to draftsman, and later graduated from PNSY's subprofessional engineering training program. *Photo 9.*

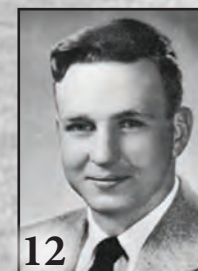
Henry C. Moreau, 55, worked as a leading man in air conditioning. A native of Biddeford, Maine, he worked in the Pipe and Copper Shop of the Production Department for 23 years. *Photo 10.*

Franklin J. Palmer, 42, was a leading man machinist and a hydraulics specialist who grew up in Durham, New Hampshire. He began his career as a machinist operator. *Photo 11.*

Robert D. Prescott, 28, was a marine engineer. The Sanford, Maine, native was on board Thresher as a representative of the Noise Project Branch of the Planning Department. *Photo 12.*

Lawrence E. Whitten, 33, was an electronic engineer. He grew up in Waterboro, Maine, and served in the Sonar Section of the Combat Systems Division. *Photo 13.*

Historical Photos.



From 1915 to 1963 the U.S. Navy lost 16 submarines to non-combat related causes — an average of one submarine every three years. The loss of Thresher led to the development of the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) Program which ended that cycle of loss.

This year marks the 63rd Anniversary of the tragedy, serving as a solemn reminder that the work done at PNSY is a matter of life and death — and that safety is not just a requirement, but a culture and a commitment to the submarine force and their families.

A message from President John F. Kennedy was published in *The Periscope* April 17, 1963. He wrote in tribute, “These brave men have joined their comrades, [more than 3,500] of whom were lost in submarines in the fight for freedom in World War II. The future of our country will always be sure when there are men such as these to give it their lives to preserve it.”



LEGACY OF THE UNSEEN SHIELD

OP ED: THE FORGING OF THE SUBSAFE PROGRAM

Every day at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, a quiet, meticulous process unfolds, touching nearly every aspect of submarine work. It is a program born from tragedy, with a solemn mission — to provide maximum reasonable assurance of the submarine’s watertight integrity and assured capability to recover from a flooding incident.

The story of the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) Program — a story of remembrance, resolve, and an unwavering commitment to our Sailors and their families, began April 10, 1963, when the U.S. Navy faced its greatest peacetime tragedy; the nuclear submarine USS Thresher (SSN 593) was lost at sea with all 129 souls aboard during a deep test dive. In the wake of this devastating loss, the Navy resolved that such an event would never happen again. On June 3, 1963, the SUBSAFE Program was established.

The loss of the Thresher is not a single event, but the sum of 129 individual tragedies, each involving a family whose lives were changed forever. The bond with the crew and the weight of their sacrifice endures to this day in personal and poignant ways.

Today, the SUBSAFE Program is woven into the very fabric of submarine design, construction, and maintenance. Here at PNSY, and PNSY Detachment-San Diego, the SUBSAFE Program Office serves as the dedicated focal point for all SUBSAFE matters.

Led by the SUBSAFE Program director and supported by a dedicated team of four full-time deputies, the office is accountable and responsible for the implementation of the rigorous requirements outlined in the Navy’s SUBSAFE Requirements Manual. The responsibility spans the entire life cycle of submarine work performed by the shipyard and culminates during the certification process.

While the responsibility for proper implementation of the SUBSAFE Program lies with the program office, responsibility for the proper execution, management, and certification of SUBSAFE work lies with all of us. No single person, nor individual code, can independently ensure the safety of those submariners volunteering to go in harm’s way on PNSY-maintained submarines. It takes an entire shipyard; a collective, group effort to maintain a SUBSAFE culture and a keen, unwavering eye searching for the three greatest enemies of the SUBSAFE Program: ignorance, arrogance, and complacency.

From the tragic loss of the Thresher, a powerful safety culture was born. The SUBSAFE Program is the embodiment of that culture. It is a methodical and disciplined system that ensures the materials, designs, and workmanship of our submarines are second to none.

Why does it matter? It matters because every single component certified under the SUBSAFE Program — every valve, fastener, and weld — is a link in a chain of trust. It is the unseen shield that protects submariners as they operate in the unforgiving deep. The program’s philosophy is simple: technical rigor, ownership of the work, and unwavering compliance.

The legacy of Thresher is a solemn reminder of the stakes involved in our work. The SUBSAFE Program is the Navy’s enduring promise to the crew of Thresher, their families, and every submariner who serves today. We will never forget, and we will never falter in our mission to bring them home safely.

Article submitted by Matthew Wooldridge, SUBSAFE program director

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD HOSTS COMMANDER, SUBMARINE FORCES

Article by Alana Demo
Photos by Branden Bourque

Vice Adm. Richard Seif, commander, Submarine Forces, visited Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to engage with shipyard leadership regarding ongoing submarine modernization efforts, technological innovation and quality-of-service initiatives March 26.

Marking his first visit to the shipyard since assuming his command in February, Seif met with Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander; Capt. Zachary Harry, officer in charge of Naval Support Activity Maine; Capt. Jason Deichler, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO; and Stephen Fahey, senior executive service, nuclear engineering and planning manager to discuss critical capability upgrades on current PNSY submarine availabilities.

"Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is setting the standard for innovation, from modernizing our submarines to pioneering advanced manufacturing," said Seif. "This shipyard team delivers unmatched dedication to the mission, delivering battle-ready submarines, while providing outstanding support to our Sailors and families."

The tour focused on the shipyard's core mission of delivering combat-ready submarines and the welfare and training of personnel including a tour aboard USS North Dakota (SSN 784). Seif visited the Inside Machine Shop where he received an overview of additive manufacturing and cold spray technologies being leveraged to advance repairs capabilities. Concluding

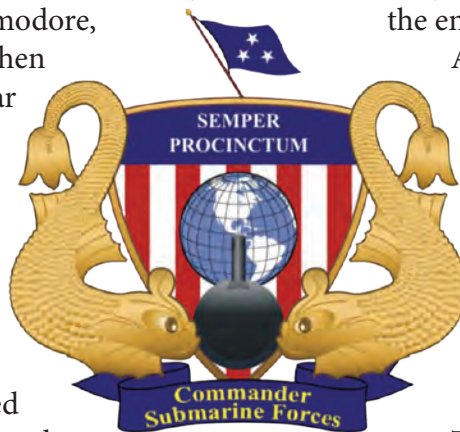
the visit, Seif received a brief on current training efforts and quality-of-service improvements.

"Hosting Vice Adm. Seif was a prime opportunity to demonstrate how our expert teams are honing their skills to deliver unmatched naval power back to the fleet," said Nice. "As the Navy's leader in submarine maintenance, we are developing our people, empowering them to execute safely and swiftly, and continuously innovating to be a force multiplier for the entire submarine enterprise."

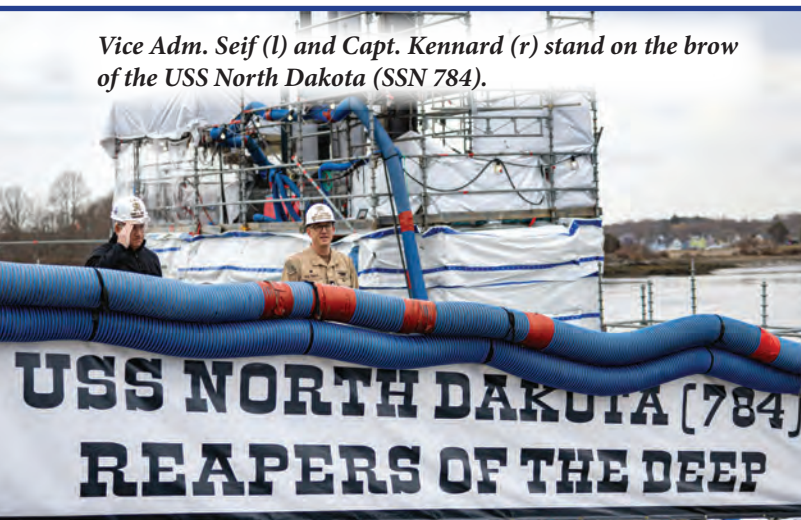
As America's leader in attack submarine maintenance, repair, and modernization, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard delivers the decisive edge required to master an era of evolving threats. It stands at the forefront of America's commitment to peace through strength, delivering combat-ready submarines that are lethal, resilient, and prepared to win.

Through a focus on innovation, accountability, and fostering a culture of warfighting excellence, PNSY strengthens the maritime industrial base and invests in its highly skilled workforce. The work done at the shipyard is a direct contribution to national security.

Submarines leave the shipyard more capable than ever before, ensuring the U.S. Navy remains the most dominant maritime force and that the nation's warfighters are prepared for any mission, anywhere in the world.



Vice Adm. Seif (l) and Capt. Kennard (r) stand on the brow of the USS North Dakota (SSN 784).



Vice Adm. Seif touring the waterfront with shipyard leadership.



⚓ Taking the Helm ⚓

NSA Maine Assumption of Command

Article by *Hanna Lanoie*

Photos by *Branden Bourque*

Capt. Bryan Kuyyar relieved Capt. Zachary Harry and assumed command of the newly established Naval Support Activity Maine (NSA Maine) during an Assumption of Command ceremony held at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard March 31.

Officially established at the beginning of fiscal year 2026, NSA Maine was formerly part of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. NSA Maine now aligns with similar installations under Commander, Navy Installations Command. All installation responsibilities now fall under Kuyyar, while leadership of submarine repair, maintenance and modernization remains under Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander.

“NSA Maine’s establishment will provide a great partnership opportunity here on Seavey Island to support our Sailors, our shipyard workforce and open up additional bandwidth for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to focus directly on our core mission — delivering combat-ready submarines to the Fleet,” said Nice.

NSA Maine has assumed management of several critical functions previously handled by the shipyard. These include parking and traffic, port operations, fire and emergency services, and force protection. The command also oversees utilities, unaccompanied and family housing, child and youth programs, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) functions, Fleet and Family Support Center, as well as many other core programs.

“Chief of Naval Operations talks at length about the Foundry and emphasizes that ‘shore platforms generate naval power;’” said Capt. Bryan Kuyyar, commanding officer NSA Maine. “In my opinion, he was talking directly to, and about, us. Our installation is more than just a base; it is a key component of the



Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, left, salutes Capt. Bryan Kuyyar, commanding officer NSA Maine, right, during an assumption of command ceremony.

Foundry — vital to our fleet’s readiness. Together, with our tenant commands and community partners Naval Support Activity Maine will provide the bedrock of support that enables our operational units to project naval power on a global scale.”

Naval Support Activity Maine is dedicated to providing world-class shore support and essential services to our tenant commands, ensuring peak operational readiness for the Fleet. NSA Maine fosters a safe, sustainable and resilient environment for our Sailors, civilian workforce and their families. Through excellence in logistics, infrastructure management and community partnership, NSA Maine will embody the Foundry for those who defend our nation. NSA Maine maintains the highest standards of integrity and innovation, securing the tactical advantage for the Navy’s missions across the North Atlantic and beyond.



Seacoast SeaPerch Regional Competition 2026

Students from across the seacoast areas of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts joined together in friendly competition at the 2026 Seacoast SeaPerch Challenge March 31, as they strived for three invitational spots to the International SeaPerch Competition.

Commander Eric Thurkins, engineering and planning officer, welcomed the students as they geared up for the day's events and highlighted the practical application of this skillset in the real world, particularly at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Seacoast SeaPerch Challenge is an annual competition held at the University of New Hampshire

every spring for youth to navigate their SeaPerch remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) through various pool challenges. The competition includes an obstacle course and a mission involving finding and moving objects. This year's mission — Storm Response: Technology in Action for Recovery and Relief — incorporated environmental monitoring simulated tasks that a ROV might encounter while working to recover and restore coral reefs.

SeaPerch is run nationally by RoboNation and locally by UNH Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, PNSY STEM Outreach Program, and UNH Extension Program.



*Article by Libby Hite
Photos by Neil Boorjian*



MORE THAN ROBOTS UNH Hosts FIRST Robotics District Qualifier

Article by Alana Demo

Photos by Branden Bourque

Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice kicked off the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) qualifier with opening remarks as robotics teams geared up for an exciting second day of events at the University of New Hampshire's Whittemore Center Arena in Durham, New Hampshire.

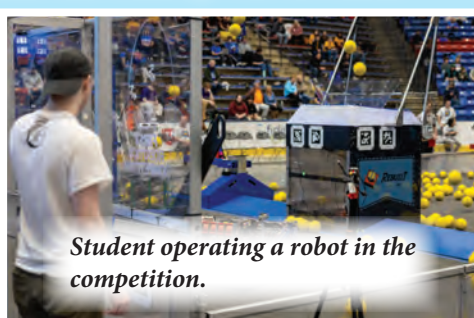
In a powerful demonstration of community and educational partnership, teams from across New England, including PNSY-coached teams, came to compete in hopes of moving forward to district championships.

"As you all know, FRC is more than robots," Nice said. "The skills you're learning here will set you up for success far beyond any competition. You're learning how to think critically, solve complex problems, and work together as a team. These are lifelong skills that you can take with you into the future — your future."

Events like this do more than just provide an exciting day of robotics; they are instrumental in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Participants in FIRST and similar programs hone heavily sought-after skills such as teamwork, collaboration, networking, and problem-solving. These abilities are essential for success as they transition from the classroom to the workforce, ready to tackle any challenge that lies ahead.



Shipyard Commander Capt. Nice offering opening remarks.



Student operating a robot in the competition.



Shipyard Commander Capt. Nice talking to students.



Champion your Future

A Career Pathways Initiative

Article by Kellen Brown

Photo courtesy of Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School (Whittier Tech) and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard have joined forces and offered the first-ever student-led career pathway event entitled “Champion Your Future.” This event was inspired by a need to define career pathways for middle school students, guide them through high school technical programs, and support their entry into the workforce.

Inspired by PNSY’s STEM Outreach pop-up at Whittier Tech in 2022, a student team invited seventh graders from the district’s eleven sending schools to get hands-on experiences exploring technical programs at Whittier Tech and connect with professionals from PNSY.

During his opening remarks, Student and career pathway event lead Adrian Angeloni shared how this is the perfect time for middle school students to attend this event. “You may be thinking that it is a little early to be even thinking about a career pathway,” Angeloni said. “Believe it or not – this is exactly the right time to start thinking about what direction you might want to take.”

The impact STEM Outreach has on surrounding schools like Whittier Tech is a driving force for future employment at PNSY. Technical schools offer an

introduction to many well respected careers at PNSY such as engineering, welding, electronics, business and marketing, and many more.

Whittier Tech is leading the charge in preparing students for success in technical programs, and this event allowed students the opportunity to get a head start and champion their future.



Whittier Tech students and PNSY Staff welcome attendees to career pathways event.

WORK SAFE. GET REWARDED.



The Safety Award is an award designed to recognize and reward those who have taken positive actions to improve health and safety at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for themselves or their co-workers. All PNSY employees are eligible.

Some examples of actions that would garner a safety award are:



Significant revision of a technical work document to include, or improve upon, existing OSHE controls.



Identification of a major safety or health hazard and implementation of effective corrective action(s) to mitigate the hazard.



Exercising “Stop Work Authority” to address a significant safety related concern with co-workers or supervision before progressing the work.

**CONTACT CODE 1102.32 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE \$250 OSHE SAFETY AWARD**

PNS1102AWARDS@US.NAVY.MIL



Maritime Plastic Works Making Waves

Article by Rob Peterson
Courtesy photos

A new STEM outreach initiative is taking shape at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard called Maritime Plastic Works (MPW). Through MPW, middle and high school students learn about naval vessels through the construction of 3D-printed, remote-controlled surface boats.

The shipyard's STEM Outreach Program has partnered with State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College, Maine Maritime Academy and Massachusetts Maritime Academy to pilot this initiative in their local areas. To kick start this exciting endeavor, SUNY Maritime College successfully secured \$540,000 in grant funding from the Office of Naval Research with PNSY serving as the primary naval partner.

"We're so excited to introduce middle and high school students to the maritime industry through Maritime Plastic Works," stated Katie Donahue, waterfront program director and STEM coordinator for SUNY Maritime College. "Despite the abundance of shoreline, people generally do not associate New York City with the water. This is an opportunity to connect students with their local environment and share the variety of career paths."

The goal of the three maritime academies is to introduce nearby students to maritime careers through hands-on learning. Students gain experience "welding" their 3D-printed hull pieces together with a 3D printer pen and constructing an electric propulsion system.

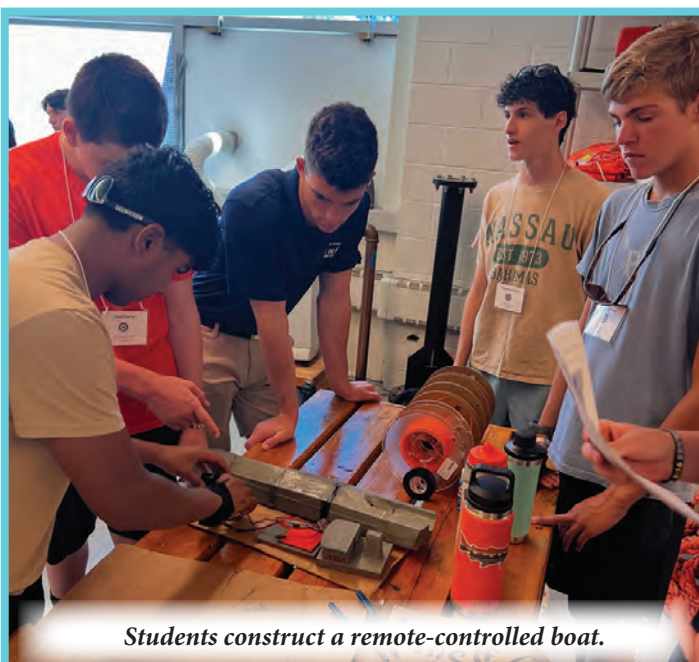
"Given the space to build, test, and tweak their designs, students take on all of these roles and begin to see themselves as engineers, designers, and problem-solvers," said Donahue.

In addition to hands-on building, students design components in computer-aided design programs and learn about basic computer programming. Once a team completes their boat, they follow the naval tradition of christening and commissioning it before competition.

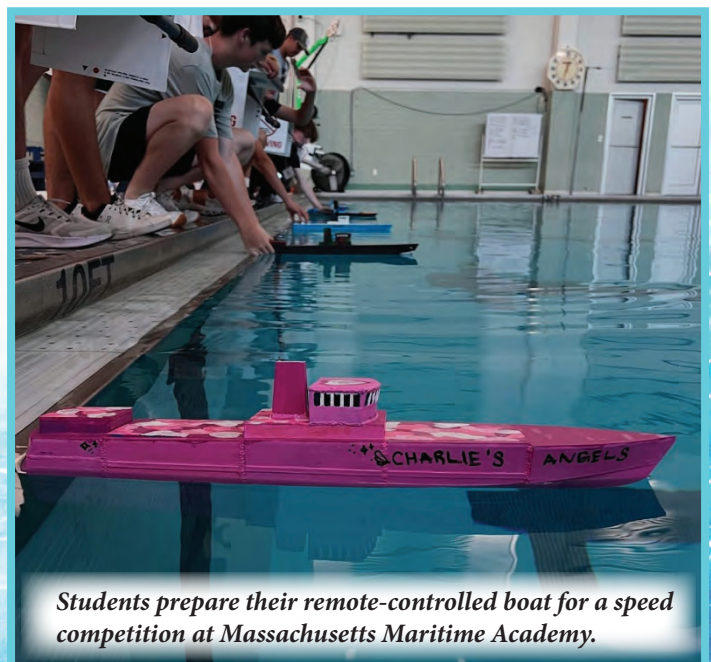
Competitions through MPW include speed and maneuverability challenges, guiding their boats through a course of "icebergs" and escorting an aircraft carrier in a task force formation. On top of the standard surface boat program, PNSY is developing a submarine program where students will be able to compete in more complex challenges.

Through every step of MPW, students learn about real-world shipyard jobs with guided lesson plans and guest speakers. Having a painter or an engineer speak with students in person or virtually brings classroom material to life. With the launch of the new grant, MPW needs shipyard personnel — including mechanics, engineers, Sailors, and supervisors — to get involved with boat builds and as guest speakers.

To get involved, reach out to PNSY STEM Outreach Program Manager Tiffany Towning at ext. 3451.



Students construct a remote-controlled boat.



Students prepare their remote-controlled boat for a speed competition at Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

TDY TO THE WATERFRONT SUPPORTS SECOND SHIFT

Article by Alana Demo
Photos by Branden Bourque

As part of a strategic effort to enhance operational efficiency, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard utilizes the 'TDY to the Waterfront' program to build stronger communication channels with its production workforce.

The most recent session in March was the first time the program took place during second shift. The volunteers who participated in the program were Cmdr. Eric Thurkins, engineering and planning officer; Aaron Economou, nuclear facility equipment manager; Sarah Knowlton, engineering and planning manager; and Anthony Oddi, network management branch head.

The TDY to the Waterfront program was created by Kurt West, production operations manager, in 2024. West describes it as the next phase in having a meaningful engagement with our workforce. This TDY program, TDY meaning “temporary duty,” consists of fully integrating select managers into work crews as general helpers for a period of at least one week.

“Some of the positive outcomes that have come out of the program include the identification and procurement of improved tooling, mentoring of the workforce on job preparation techniques, and identification of improvements in technical direction,” said West. “The program has also helped identify model line opportunities and workload versus workforce imbalances, contributing to a more efficient and balanced operation.”

Selected managers participate in all aspects of the workday to the maximum extent but do not perform work they are not qualified for. The program provides a firsthand experience of the daily challenges, environment, and culture faced by work teams. Additionally, TDY to the Waterfront builds strong working relationships, creates new mentoring opportunities, and provides a clearer understanding of each crew's productive capacity.

Economou joined the production machinery air conditioning and refrigeration shop and thought the overall experience was great, particularly working on second shift. “The crew, supervisor, and others I interfaced with were awesome people with good attitudes, high work ethics, and of high character,” said Economou. “It was a

refreshing, fun week and in some ways I wish I could start my career over again as a worker on this team.”

Oddi, who supported the inside machine shop, enjoyed seeing how smoothly the shop operates during a lighter workload period because it highlighted the team's natural strength. “Second shift showed me that pride and professionalism aren't tied to the clock—this team delivers quality because it's part of who they are,” said Oddi.

Assigned to USS Hampton (SSN 767) non-nuclear production pipefitters, Knowlton was struck by the mechanics' diligence, noting their proactive approach to job execution through ship checks and teaming. “I was fortunate to be with a tight-knit and cohesive team that genuinely cared about one another and demonstrated pride in their work,” said Knowlton. “I walked away from the week thinking about how we can replicate the teaming and sense of belonging to other areas of the shipyard. I think all our upper management should participate at least once in this program.”

Pairing upper-level management with the workforce on the deckplates has proven to be impactful. “Since its inception, TDY to the Waterfront has yielded several positive outcomes,” said West. “Crucially, it has fostered improved relations between management and the workforce, building trust and understanding across different levels of the organization.”



Anthony Oddi, IT waterfront support, Sarah Knowlton, engineering and planning manager, Cmdr. Eric Thurkins, engineering and planning officer, and Aaron Economou, structural shop superintendent.



EXPERTISE AT ALL LEVELS

NEW NUCLEAR WELDERS SPARK MISSION SUCCESS

Article by Jim Laurin

For years, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has accomplished its mission by utilizing a highly experienced and skilled workforce. As many employees have retired in recent years, resulting in a mass exodus of valuable experience, PNSY has increasingly turned to a younger workforce to carry its mission forward.

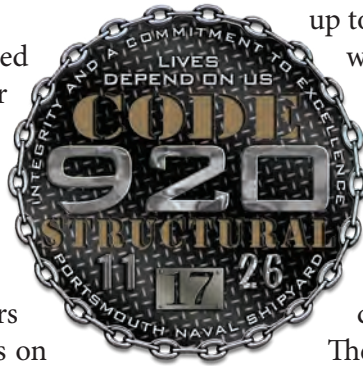
While this shift has presented challenges, the welding shop's nuclear welders have demonstrated that a new generation of skilled professionals — supported by strong training and mentorship — is sustaining momentum in supporting the Navy's fleet.

The current crew of nuclear welders are all less than five years into their careers on the shipyard — a representation of the new norm for the shipyard production workforce.

Recently, the team successfully and safely completed critical service life extension work aboard USS Hampton (SSN 767). In preparation for this work, each new member completed a variety of training courses and gained a strong understanding of many new procedural

concepts. They quickly gained technical proficiency in their work to qualify and execute one of the most critical service life extension evolutions without much prior experience. "Every younger member of the team performed every task that was asked of them leading up to the [evolution] and during execution of the work. They each performed critical roles that were vital to the team's success," said Ben Day, nuclear welding shop supervisor.

The group's ability to adapt and improve skills and knowledge was evident throughout the projects. Their improvements to schedule, safety and quality set a high standard for future work. The efforts and dedication to excellence by the nuclear welding team is an example of the bright future ahead for the Service Life Extension Program across all trades at PNSY. This high level of experience so early in their careers highlights the exceptional capabilities emerging in the new generation of the shipyard's workforce.



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Go to <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/care-options>, for more information.

For more DONCEAP information or resources call ext. 2672



Shipyard 101

Supplying the Mission

Article by Cat Davis

The supply department has a large organizational structure that has changed over the years at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. One thing that hasn't changed is their fundamental role in achieving the U.S. Navy's maintenance objectives to ensure the PNSY workforce has material required to complete production work on time.

Beginning in December 2019, the supply department was implemented at all four public shipyards. The primary objective of establishing the supply departments was to improve the delivery of maintenance and modernization of ships and boats by bringing all non-nuclear material functions under the responsibility of a single organization. This creates better clarity of roles and responsibilities and improves the material handoffs between departments.

Over the next few years, the supply department worked to consolidate several key functions from other departments to better align resources and capabilities with production shop requirements. Material control mechanics were repositioned from the production department to the supply department's procurement division. This change streamlines material control and expedites the delivery of necessary parts and services to projects and shops across the waterfront.

Additionally, the Government Purchase Card program was transferred from the comptroller department, centralizing purchasing functions. The supply department also developed the capability to kit both nuclear and non-nuclear materials, a move designed to provide more efficient and comprehensive support to production shops and ensure all mission-critical materials are readily available.

Photo by Neil Boorjian

The supply department is the logistical backbone of this critical operation, empowering the shipyard's workforce to return these complex vessels to service and ensuring submarines are prepared to defend our homeland and deter adversaries. As Shawn Blount, USS New Mexico (SSN 779) project planner said, "we provide overall support for national defense in the world of logistics."

The supply department is considered an assist-trade, those who support the trades with the supplies necessary to do the work. "It's like being a parent —taking care of others, ownership of mistakes, customer service, making sure everyone has what they need to get the job done," said Bailey Lincoln, material control specialist.

The supply department is much more than delivering material. Waterfront experience, critical thinking, problem solving, coordination and strong communication skills are advantageous when executing these functions. "I have been able to excel in areas critical to the modern supply chain, such as communication, collaboration, and strategic problem-solving because of my experience working in the supply department," said Nira Young, material control specialist supervisor. "The industry is evolving, and that's where the opportunity lies."

The readiness of our nation's defense hinges on the U.S. Navy's formidable fleet, and PNSY is at the forefront of ensuring that readiness.

Photo by Branden Bourque



SHAFTS' TEAM FORGES A SAFER FUTURE

The shafts section of the inside machine shop at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has made one thing clear over the past two years: employee safety is non-negotiable. Through the strategic implementation of new systems, they have sent a powerful message that the health and security of their workforce is the top priority.

A major safety improvement, led by Shafts Supervisor Casey Cook, reflects a commitment to naval priorities at every level. Cook's dedication to creating a safe environment for his team by creatively designing equipment to prevent injury aligns with shipyard commander Capt. Jesse Nice's line of effort of "deckplate-led innovation" and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle's focus on an innovative culture, all aimed at enhancing efficiency and fleet readiness.

As part of his commitment to safety, Cook engineered a new aluminum platform that incorporates caution-colored grip tape, which provides a much safer, more secure surface for the mechanics. This new design replaced the previous wooden platforms, which became slippery and hazardous when exposed to oil.

Safety Manager Matt Allen approved the design for manufacturing, and its success quickly drew widespread interest. Other public shipyards and the company that manufactures the large lathe requested the blueprints to

create their own versions. "Now the machine company sells their machines with the safety platform included," Cook said.

To further boost efficiency and safety, Cook and his team developed mobile cleanliness and pressure testing carts. The carts eliminate the need for mechanics to walk to stationary supply pallets, saving time and reducing the risk of accidents. By bringing tools directly to the job, the carts streamline production and allow messes to be cleaned up faster.

Further efficiencies include modular jack stands designed to be stackable, various-sized steel bases that interlock through customized grooves providing a sturdier, durable, and significantly safer system to prop up the shafts. Additionally, a whiteboard to provide shift turnover was introduced on the floor, allowing managers to get updates without interrupting mechanics. The workflow was also improved by reorganizing machinery and clearing out unneeded parts to free up valuable space.

The shafts team coming together to create and implement a safer work environment has cultivated the powerful "start to finish" ownership that PNSY is renowned for. This dedication further cements its reputation as the gold standard of excellence to send submarines back to the fleet to defend our nation.



Article by Alana Demo
Photo by Neil Boorjian

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Article by Alana Demo

April is the Month of the Military Child, a time dedicated to honoring the resilience and unique contributions of children in military families. The Navy Child and Youth Program (CYP) organizes various events throughout the month to celebrate these young heroes.

The Month of the Military Child shines a spotlight on the often-overlooked sacrifice of children — who move every two to three years on average — to support their service-member parents and recognizes the resilience of military-connected children.

The dandelion is its official flower. “Dandelions represent these children because they put down roots almost anywhere, resilient and able to bloom wherever they land — symbolizing strength and adaptability to constant change,” said Channette Ingram, CYP child development center director with oversight. The color purple is also used to represent military children, as purple is made when all the military branch colors are combined.

CYP children and families have the opportunity to participate in a variety of exciting activities throughout the month, including: Snack with a Sailor, Tie Dye Tuesday, Purple Door Decorating Contest and Parade on the Yard. These events are designed to recognize, honor and celebrate the important role military children play in supporting their families and our mission every day.

Among the events held in April, the program encourages “Purple Up” days, which invites schools and organizations to wear purple every Friday to show support for military children.

For more information on these activities, contact the NSA Maine CYP office at ext. 2083.



Commitment to Prevention



Former Officer in Charge, Naval Support Activity Maine Capt. Zachary Harry signs the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamations.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month sets the tone for the ongoing prevention of and response to sexual assault within the naval enterprise.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is intended to emphasize the importance of healthy parenting skills and safe environments to foster optimal development of children and prevent abuse and neglect that negatively impacts the child's development and safety; the family's readiness and the community's prosperous future. *Photo by Branden Bourque.*

VANPOOL LISTINGS

All advertisers listed take part in the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP).

Alfred/Lyman/Kennebunk/Sanford/Wells - CUNNINGHAM VAN, 10-hour van, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Contact Ken Cunningham: Call or text (207) 608-9402 or CunninghamVan@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/S. Berwick - AT BUS 1: Lebanon, ME (Upper Cross Road), Berwick (via Long Swamp Rd), Berwick, Berwick Park & Ride, South Berwick (via Rte. 236) 0600-1430, M-F (8 hour day shift).
AT BUS 2: Lebanon, ME (Town Hall Park & Ride), Berwick via Long Swap Rd & Berwick (Park & Ride), South Berwick (Rte. 236) 0600-1530 5/4/9 shift
Call Lee for details: ext. 4531, daytime cell (207) 703-3769, evening cell (603)312-7956

Biddeford - O'BRIENS VANPOOL: 0700-1530, Two vans, 1st picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride; 2nd picks up at Five Points Shopping Center in Biddeford. Pickups also available at homes on Village Lane, Westmore Ave. or near this area. Registered with TIP. Contact Mike: ext. 3737 or (207) 590-0546.

Biddeford/Saco - ACIN VANPOOL: 1st shift. Picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride, 10 passenger limit. Arrives on-yard by 0615. Contact Phil: ext. 1682 or (207) 423-6142.

Biddeford/Saco area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift, (2) vanpools. Meet at Biddeford Park & Ride. Second vanpool meets at Saco Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Portland/Saco - CHURCH VANPOOL: 1st shift, reliable drivers. Space available. Contact Randy: ext. 4790 or (207) 450-5824.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VAN POOL: (4) 15-Passenger vans with seats available. Can accommodate first shift 0600-1430 or 0630-1500. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in TIP. Contact Tyler: (207) 590-3279.

Biddeford - SWANK VANPOOL LLC: Two 15-passenger vans from Biddeford (1) 0600-1500 leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500, (2) 0600-1530 5/4/9 Friday SDO leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500. Please contact Kevin Swank 207-205-1311

Brunswick/Topsham/Yarmouth/Portland/South Portland - CRONIN VANPOOL: 1st shift 0600-1430. Reliable drivers, newer 12-passenger Chevrolet van. With Transportation Incentive Program, \$0 out-of-pocket cost. Space Available. For more info, call Kevin ext. 2531 or (207)837-3561.

Hollis/Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - MADORE VANPOOL: 1st shift, via Rt. 117/202/4/109/I-95. Non-smoking. Riders wanted. Contact Cory: (207) 752-6019 or (207) 423-3774.

W. Newfield - NEWFIELD EXPRESS: 1st shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger. Multiple pickup spots include W. Newfield, Shapleigh, Springvale, Sanford, N.Berwick, Berwick, Contact Ben x5873 or sign up on TIPS directly. newfieldexpress@gmail.com, (207) 806-7043

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - POPLAR HILL TRANSPORTATION LLC: 1st shift. Picks up at Lebanon Park & Ride, Berwick Park & Ride, and South Berwick Park & Ride. Contact Jake: (207) 608-3879 or email at poplarhillllc@yahoo.com.

Lebanon-North Berwick/Berwick/South Berwick/Eliot/Kittery - FARREN TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift; On schedule means on yard by 5:40. 15-passenger van. Berwick, South Berwick Park & Rides. Will pick up along Little River Rd., or Rt. 236. Contact Dan: (207) 451-7092, (207) 475-6325, email RidewithFT@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - CRASHIN' BURNS TRANSPORT: 0630-1500/0645-1515 shifts. Free for TIPS participants. 10 passenger van. Space available, contact Ryan Burns: ext. 2786.

Springvale/Sanford/Berwick - MATHIEU VANPOOL: 1st shift. No overcrowding, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Dependable drivers, no out-of-pocket expense with TIP. 2 openings available, call Shawn: (207) 651-4975.

Gray - BENNER'S VANPOOL: 1st shift, (no stops). Accommodates 0600-1500 shift. Registered with TIP, no out of pocket expense. Contact Jason (207) 590-1955. Call or text.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DEVOLL'S VAN POOLS: 1st shift, non-smoking, 15 passenger van that only takes 12 passengers, TIP participant, Lebanon Park & Ride, Little River Road, Lebanon Road, Beach Ridge Road, Rt 9 to Berwick, Rt 236 to shipyard. Contact Kip (H) 457-1241, (C) 451-3257.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VANPOOL: 15-passenger OVERTIME van with seats available. Accommodates 0530-1530 shift. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in the TIP program. Contact Tyler: (207)590-3279.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DK TRANSPORTATION: 15 passenger van. Plenty of seats available! 10-hour shifts. 0600-1630. TIP participant. 1st pick up at Lebanon Park & Ride, into Berwick via Long Swamp Rd., stop at Berwick Park & Ride, into South Berwick via 236. Multiple stops along the way. Call or text Drew: (978)305-0537

Wells area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift. Meet at Wells Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Farmington, NH - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 25- Passenger, leaves daily from old Fire Station downtown 0515, leaves from Shipyard Mall 1500. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Lebanon, ME - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 32-Passenger, 3 pickup locations: Lebanon corner of Depot Rd. and Rt. 202, Berwick Park & Ride - corner of Sullivan St. and Wilson St., bus stop - corner of Norton St. and Main St., (across from B&T Bank) South Berwick. Leaves from Shipyard parking garage 1500. Contact Lee: Personal (603) 781-3402, Work (207) 451-7497. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Rochester/Milton/Farmington/Barrington - SEACOAST EXPRESS: 3 buses running daily covering 0500-1530, 0600-1430, 0600-1530, 0700-1530 and "5/4/9" shifts. Seacoast Express users can switch buses at any time throughout the month if they would like to work overtime, switch shifts or leave early. All buses leave from Rochester Home Depot parking lot. Vehicle available at shipyard if passengers have an emergency situation and need to leave early. For more information, contact Aaron: (603) 337-5137.

Sanford/Wells/Kittery - CCR EXPRESS: 1st shift (0630-1500) pickup at Hannaford-Sanford (0445), Mardens-Sanford (0455), Hannaford-N. Berwick (0505), Aroma Joes-S. Berwick (0515), Kittery Masonic Lodge #184(0600). Either snooze or watch a movie on the way to work. Come give it a try. 100% Free ride to work with TIP. Contact Milton: (207) 604-4936.

Sanford/Springvale/points south - TURNER VAN POOL: Arrives 0545 am, departs 1500, 8-hr shift. Contact Herv: cell (207) 432-3779, email herveyturner@gmail.com

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

Dover - J.R.'s VANPOOL: 1st shift. Departs from Exit 9 Park & Ride at 0540. Large comfortable van, space available. Contact J.R.: ext. 1123 or (603) 749-1409.

Manchester/Epping - QUEEN CITY AND EPPING VAN POOL: Commute for free, picks up in Manchester and the Epping Park & Ride (Exit 7, Rt-101) First shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger van. No smoking or out-of-pocket costs, fees covered by TIP program. Call or text Pete, cell (603) 505-5508, home (732) 397-0429.

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

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Rochester/Somersworth/Dover - PLATT VANPOOL: 1st shift 4/10s, 0600-1630. Main pickups are Rochester Park & Ride and Tuckers off Exit 9 in Dover/ Somersworth. Route starts from Parsonsfield, ME; Newfield, ME; and Wakefield, NH; so if you are in the north country, call for details. Contact John Platt ext. 2912; text or call (603) 923-3979; email jpe.john@gmail.com.

Rochester/ East Rochester - COPPS TRANSPORTATION 1st Shift 0630-1500. Leaving out of Rochester, stops in East Rochester and Lowes. Arrive on yard 0550, home by 1545. No out-of-pocket cost. Call Jesse: 207-451-0973.

Saco/Biddeford/Wells - WISE MAN TRANSPORTATION: 10-hour days, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, non-smoking, 25-passenger limo bus from the Park & Rides with no out-of-pocket fee after TIP reimbursement. Pick up **Saco-0450**,

Biddeford-0457, Kennebunk-0505, Wells-0515 arrive at shipyard-**0545**. 2nd bus running 8-hour shift, 0630-1500, in a non-smoking 32-passenger bus with no out-of-pocket fee if signed up on TIP. Pick up at Park & Rides **Saco-0520** and **Biddeford-0530**. Contact Brad: ext. 1228, (207) 219-2474 or nascardriver_39@hotmail.com

Shapleigh/Sanford/Wells -TRIPLE C&K TRANSPORT: 1st shift. No out-of-pocket expense for riders once enrolled in TIP. For more information contact Darrell: (207) 752-7886.

Hooksett/Candia/Epping/Exeter - CAPITAL CITY TRANSPORTATION: Commute for FREE with TIP debit card, servicing I-93, exit 11 and Rt. 101, exits 7 & 11, 1st shift (0600-1500) no overcrowding, 15-passenger van with bench seats, non-smoking. For more information call, text or on Facebook - Jeff (603) 682-6124.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - FROMMIES FREIGHT LLC: 15-passenger van, 8-hour work days 0600 to 1430. Clean, comfortable and reliable. No out-of-pocket expenses once enrolled in TIPS program. Contact Mike: 207-608-9964 and/or frommiesfreightllc@gmail.com.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - DAVID BOMBARO TRANSPORTATION: 1ST shift. Departs Springvale Public Library 0505, Guerrero Maya (formerly Back Street Grill) 0515, Wells Park 'n Ride 0530. Will pick up anywhere along Rt. 109. No more than 2 riders per seat. Nothing out of pocket when registered with the TIP. Seats available. Call or text David: 207-210-2626

Shapleigh/Springvale/Sanford/South Berwick - S.S. TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift. 15-passenger van. 1st pickup at Pine Springs, Shapleigh 0445; Boonies 0500; foot of Mousam 0506; stops at Springvale Courthouse, Sanford Hannaford, Mardens, North Berwick Hannaford, South Berwick Town Hall. Contact Shawn (207) 459-9536.

Southern NH/Berwick/Kittery - COAST Bus- Public Transit Bus System - First arrival Gate 1 is at 0600, then 45 minutes past the hour every hour from 0745-2045. TIP-registered. Contact: COASTBUS.ORG, or call/text (603) 743-5777.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - YCCAC Shipyard Sprinter
Serving 2 shifts (0600-1430 and 0630-1500)
For questions or driver qualifications, contact Kim at 207-459-2928 or email kim.engel@yccac.org

For more commuter information or information on the TIP, or to add, remove, or edit an ad, check out the "TIP Transportation Incentive Program" section under the resources tab on the PNSY Intranet or contact the TIP coordinator at ext. 3551 or 6335, or via email at: PNS_TIPS@us.navy.mil.

AWARDS

During the month of February, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard issued 1953 awards:

1716	On The Spot Awards
118	Time Off Awards
95	Special Act Awards
8	Special Act Awards for Qualifications
16	Safety Awards

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

During the month of February Portsmouth Naval Shipyard issued 45 disciplinary actions including:

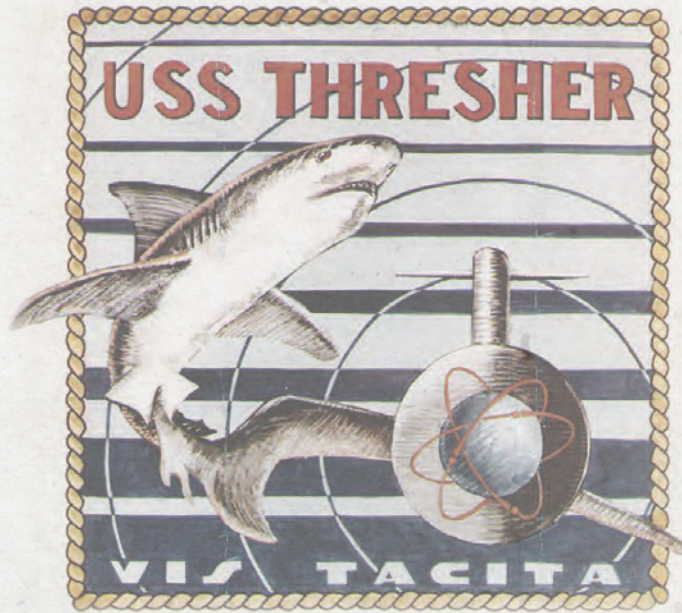
Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Supervisors)

1	Letter of Reprimand
3	Suspension (14 days or less)

Bargaining Unit Employees (Non-Supervisors)

15	Letters of Reprimand
18	Suspensions (14 Days or fewer)
8	Terminations/ Removals

*Never Forget
USS Thresher (SSN 593)*



*Thresher Memorial Service, April 15, 1963.
Historical photo.*

