Changing the Way Shipbuilders Work

Once Newport News Shipbuilding began encouraging employees to practice social distancing or to work from home – if possible – to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the IT Division went into overdrive.

Within a week, thousands of laptops – the amount IT usually distributes in a two-month period – were distributed to employees. As employees make plans to work from home, IT continues to work to accommodate everyone who needs remote access by increasing bandwidth and adding capacity for tools like WebEx.

“The response has been fantastic. Staff worked around the clock to get laptops imaged and ready for distribution. Access Control is also putting in a tremendous effort to get users the access they need,” said IT Manager Susan Dewing (T54).

Demand for remote access has increased across the board. In Engineering and Design, for example, IT deployed an additional 350 laptops as management teams developed and implemented plans for employees to work from home.

“In general, we are remaining positive about the experiences we will gain from this by becoming more agile and mobile in the future. We are appreciative of the flexibility of our work teams in these challenging times,” said Director Jenifer Solomon (E01).

Dewing said IT is doing everything it can to support employees – whether they’re working onsite or from home. “We have staff working many hours to ensure your success. Please thank them for their hard work,” she said.

Employees working remotely are encouraged to view a list of frequently asked questions about working from home on MyNNS. Employees should also disable microphones and cameras on all smart devices – including mobile phones, video security devices, smart TVs, Google Home, Alexa-equipped devices and many other voice command or motion-based intelligent devices – near their workspace.

The company is also exploring options for employees who can’t work from home. The Trades Business Office has created a temporary process for hourly employees to have work environments evaluated based on COVID-19-related concerns, to share other related concerns, and to review options for flexible work arrangements. Visit nns.huntingtingalls.com/411 for more information.

COVID-19 Updates

Newport News Shipbuilding President Jennifer Boykin announced March 29 that she will share a weekly status report each Friday summarizing all positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases at NNS. New cases are posted once a day, before noon, including Saturdays and Sundays at nns.huntingtingalls.com/411-updates.

Boykin also announced changes to the company’s liberal leave policy that take effect April 1.

Visit nns.huntingtingalls.com/411 to view the updated policy. As a reminder, the website includes all updates about COVID-19 and company operations. The Employee Information Phone Line (1-877-871-2058) also provides up-to-date information about shipyard operations. Employees can call the Human Resources and Labor Relations Hotline (1-844-243-8749) or email COVID-19@hii-nns.com for questions or concerns.
Hampton Roads Transit will begin an “essential service plan” Tuesday, March 31, in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Under the plan, many routes will be suspended and others will start later and end earlier. For more information, call (757) 222-6100 or visit gohrt.com.

Shipbuilders produced the first large castings for Enterprise (CVN 80) in the Foundry on March 12. The two-furnace pour included about 35 tons of molten metal filling molds of the aircraft carriers’ intermediate struts. The struts support the weight of the shafts and propellers on the outside of a carrier.

The same patterns for the molds were used on Enterprise (CVN 65), which was christened in 1960. About two months ago, molders strategically compacted sand around the patterns to make molds.

“Seeing the pour today is a big deal,” said Shawn Hunt, a lead mechanic. “I go home every day knowing I’m casting America’s freedom. It’s an awesome feeling. You take pride in your work knowing you keep America safe.”

Moving forward, the castings will cool, leave the sand pit and spend time in ovens for heat treatment.

Employees who need to leave work due to COVID-19 symptoms can walk out of shipyard gates or call a shuttle to pick them up. To best accommodate all shipbuilders and for efficiency, this shuttle service is only available to transport employees from their work site to the gate or an NNS shuttle stop – not to their personal vehicles.

Shuttle service is available from 4:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling (757) 621-6067 or (757) 262-6191, and from 4:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. by dialing (757) 375-5481. The shuttle is disinfected frequently and power washed every weekend.

The governors of Virginia and North Carolina have issued stay at home orders to protect residents as COVID-19 spreads throughout the country.

Newport News Shipbuilding has been deemed a business operating in a federal critical infrastructure sector by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This means that NNS operations – delivering and redelivering ships to the U.S. Navy’s fleet – is a national need, critical to national defense. Therefore, employees are allowed to leave their homes to travel to and from the shipyard.

NNS employees who are questioned by law enforcement during their commute can show their company badge to the authority and should not be penalized for being on the road.

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HERO Can Help Calm Fears in a Crisis

The world’s current Coronavirus crisis has left many feeling anxious, worried and afraid. Shipbuilders are no exception.

Huntington Ingalls Industries Employees Reach Out (HERO) offers emotional support and can help find resources to alleviate employees’ stress. Martin Phillips, a clinical therapist at the HII Family Health Center, offered ways to cope during the Coronavirus outbreak. “Get your information from reliable sources. Misinformation and speculation can feed into our fears,” he said.

Limiting exposure to news stories and even taking a break from social media will help manage feelings of anxiety and worry. “You don’t have to watch the press conference from the White House everyday nor do you need to constantly check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website,” he added. Phillips said putting too much energy into fear will only feed it instead of helping it go away. Instead, acknowledge it and channel the energy in a more positive direction. “You can be concerned and still know that it will be OK,” he said.

All HII employees and their household family members are eligible to use the program. Employees can meet with HERO counselors over the phone or online. Counselors are experienced and licensed and calls and visits are confidential. Call 1-855-400-9185 or visit www.hiihero.com and use code “Huntington Ingalls” to take advantage of HERO.

NNS Commuters Exempt from Stay at Home Orders

Shuttle Service Available for Employees with COVID-19 Symptoms

HRT Adjusting Bus Routes

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Congratulations to all first quarter Excellence in Action honorees. These individuals are leading the way in customer satisfaction, leadership, continuous improvement and operational excellence across all areas of the company.

Through efforts of employees like those listed below, Newport News Shipbuilding will achieve its goal of transforming the business for the next decade and beyond to be the safest, most efficient and innovative workplace possible. Well done honorees!
Implementation of Shipyard AI Software

Team: William Puryear, X44; James Holland, X44; David Powell, X44; Troy Hudgins, X44; Tod Scarborough, X44; David Huey, X44; Michael Jones, X44; Angel McCoy, X44; Holley Moore, X44; Jacob Diggs, X44; Zachary Ray, X44; Casey Rolina, X44; Frederick Boyd, X47
Nominator: John Glenn

Change Order Process Improvement

Team: Richard Boone Jr, X47; Jesse Johnson, X47; Lucinda Connelly, E49; Christopher Sewell, X44; George Huang, X44; John Chappell, X47; Christopher Ahlert, X47
Nominator: John Glenn

Heat Damageable

Team: Patricia Holben, T55; Brian Johnson, E15; Alvin Powell, T55; Robert Tristani, X51; Robin Lyons, T55; Vijay Patel, T55; Robert Teel, M30; David Goeger, X47; George Catherines, E15; Teresa Popik, T35; Ivory Williams, X47; Louis Leonaux, X36; Justin Davis, T55
Nominator: Letitia McDonald

6850-FWT Record Breaking Performance

Team: Raquene Price, X11; Jahkari Vinson, X11; Aaron Brassew, X11; Jason Vermillion, X11; Darrell Smith, X11; Keith Melton, X63; Jerry Draughan, X11; Charles McElrath Jr, X63; Michael Birdsong, X11; Anthony Phillips, X11; Anthony Roberson, X11; Anthony Richley, X18; Charles Morris, X63; Gary Coffey, X63; Michael Smith, X63; Sonya Todd, X11; Joshua Brakefield, X18; Tyler Williams, X18; Sean Dooley, X18; James Elder Jr, X18; Brandon Lewis, X63; Timothy Gibson, X11; Timothy Newman, X21
Nominator: Michael Lowers

X43 Craft Learning Centers

Team: Emily Comardelle, X43; Aidan Baldwin, X43; Trevor Gaut, X43; James Butler, X43; Patrick Brown, X43; Merril Jennings, X44; Gary Schuler, X43; Jeffery Coffey, X43; Jerry Snow, X43; Rhonda King, X43; Brian Johnson, X43; Amanda Yoder, X43; Dennis Reynolds, X18; Dana Gayle, X36; Shane Kelly, X43; Michael Trussell, X43; Frank Rivera, X43; Samuel Garst, X43; Tanya Saylor, X18; Sabrina Werth, X42
Nominator: David Horne

SFA Lean Development Workstream Team

Team: Kendall Blackston Jr, X15; William Trevathan, O63; Bailey Vogt, X51; Larry Darden, X10; Spencer Jenkins, X63; Samuel Dunn III, X11; Phillip Gillispie, O63; Brian Tapajna, X51; Daniel Greer, X36; Chris Lussier, X10; Ronald Martin, O63; Andrew Fletcher, O63; Darnell Prigmore, X18; Fabian Taylor, X11; Felicia Ceasar, X51; William Philpott Jr, X63; Taylor Anderson, X51; Adam Hedrick, X51
Nominator: Jason Sutton

Reactor Services First Time Use of Visual

Team: Kayla Kennedy, X43; Joseph Stumpo, E82; Rebecca Johnson, K46; Jason Hoegerl, X43; Samuel Garst, X43; Adam Hoegerl, X18; Shawn Timm, O43; William Schleeper, M21; Rhonda King, O43; Christopher Davis, X43; Gary Schuler, X43; Jeffery Coffey, X43; Jerry Snow, X43; Dennis Reynolds, X18; Dana Gayle, X36; Shane Kelly, X43; Michael Trussell, X43; Frank Rivera, X43; Samuel Garst, X43; Tanya Saylor, X18; Sabrina Werth, X42
Nominator: David Horne

Montana (SSN 794) Testing Excellence

Team: Marshall Jacobs, X31; David Jones, X31; Adam Madison, K46; Sophak Nou, X31; Philip Sawyer, K45; Robert Thomas, X31; Thomas Harris, E84; Nehemiah Prince, E84; Jessica Rospensdowski, X82; Jered Wright, K46; Wayne Evans, K47; Carl Norman, X82; Christopher Kimberlin, E84; Nicholas Stidham, E84; Mark Byerly, E63; Bryan Janke, K46; Jake Kirkwood, E84; Sean James, E84; Clinton Caudill, E84; Anthony Cook, X03; Stephen Arzoo, E61; Etroco Joyner, E61
Nominator: Kael Murphy

COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Team: Ashley Reams, O55
Nominator: Katy Adams

YouCause Implementation

Team: Michele Isaacson, K18; Constance Massenburg, O95; Darlene Woodall, O95; Jamie Huggins, T55; Kathleen Wilkins, T54; Jeremy Sciolchitto, T35; Bruce Kuck, T55; James Husi III, T55; Jason Perry, T54; Russell Anthony, T55; Steven Cherry, T55; Willa Williams, O95; Andrea Taylor, O36; Jasmin Williams, T33; Emily Fund sle, K18; Charles Thompson, T55; Stephen Correia, T54; Tammy Gorbett, T55; Karen Holloway, T56; Ann Barber, T56; Melody Turlington, T55; Edward Hawver, T55; Cory Morewitz, T56; Charlie Pearson, O13
Nominator: Tom Cosgrove