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## National Surface Treatment Center Delivers "Preservation Quality Assurance Tool Kit" to U. S. Navy

The National Surface Treatment Center wrapped up its joint venture, development of the Quality Assurance (QA) Tool Kit development for the Naval Sea (NAVSEA) Systems Command at a Navy/industry meeting held at Naval Station Mayport on 09 August 2007. The National Surface Treatment (NST) Center received accolades from the Navy Regional Maintenance Centers and contractors for this system, which is designed to eliminate preservation in-process paperwork.

Preservation Technical and Quality Assurance Assessments conducted by NAVSEA and the NST Center identified paper record keeping as a cumbersome, time consuming and costly process that rendered valuable data relatively useless in the area of process improvement. Based on this finding NAVSEA asked the NST Center to help find a viable solution.

After looking into what was currently available in the commercial sector and determining the Navy-specific needs, the NST Center developed what is currently called the "NAVSEA/NST Center QA Tool Kit". This system is designed to provide real-time preservation Quality Assurance data collection, recording, storage, and analysis tools for Naval Shipyards and Regional Maintenance Centers.

The system utilizes currently available preservation measurement tools with recording capability, and NST-Center-developed interface software, to enable rapid upload via the Web to an Oracle database, also designed by the NST Center. Data fields not captured by instrumentation are simply entered into the system directly from the field.

This system not only allows instant access to inspectors during in-process work but also provides the data and automatically generated reports to decision makers, as well. Historical files will provide the Navy with easily accessible preservation quality data for future planning and failure analysis.

One key feature of this development effort is to provide instant feedback when data entered does not meet the specification requirements. Not only is the inspector alerted but the item is also automatically tagged and an adjudication response is triggered.

**Operational testing** of this "paperless" preservation quality assurance system was conducted at the Southeast Regional Maintenance Center (SERMC) from January thru July, 2007, during two distinct ship availabilities at Naval Station Mayport. Over 85 jobs were tracked on a variety of critically coated areas on the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) and the USS BOONE (FFG-28). The purpose of this Operational Test was to conduct a full scale system check out

on a complete preservation package to identify any outstanding issues, obtain end user feedback and integrate required changes into the software.

Over 22,000 data sets were recorded and stored and an estimated 7,200 pages of paper data eliminated.

The QA Tool Kit Operational Testing was considered by the Navy to be a huge success and has paved the way for fleet implementation starting in FY 2008.

The NST Center QA Tool Kit Project manager, Lynn Hagan, stated that she was sorry to see the project come to a close but was proud of the product she delivered to the Navy and was elated by the positive comments from the field. "Lab development of the tool kit was the easy part; field testing and modifying the software to better accommodate the end user is where the rubber really meets the road. It was a rewarding experience to see this tool evolve based on waterfront recommendations."

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