

Conference Focuses on Getting Materiel

By Doris Dawkins-Richardson

The Defense Contract Management Agency held its Navy Special Emphasis Operations conference, Oct. 29-31, 2007, at the Virginia Advanced Shipbuilding and Carrier Integration Center in Newport News, Va. NSEO is the frontline interface between the government and naval contractors, bringing both together to strengthen the nation's naval industrial base.

The focus of the conference was "Ensuring Materiel Readiness for the Fleet," and it was a joint effort between DCMA and its naval customers, including the DCMA NSEO contract management office, Naval Sea Systems

Command and Naval Inventory Control Point. The conference provided a forum for NSEO managers and staff to interact with key customers and suppliers. NSEO Commander Navy Capt. Dennis Gannon and Deputy Director Robert Kennedy discussed the status of the organization, its partnership with the Navy, supplier performance and performance-based management. Steve Bogusz, DCMA Naval Sea Systems Division executive director, gave an update

on how his organization ensures materiel readiness.

NSEO customer presenters included John Butler, command director, Naval Sea Systems Command, Supplier Product Quality Group, who gave presentations titled "Impact of Quality Lessons Learned" and "Enterprise Approach to Supplier Oversight." Butler stated, "The culture of the new NSEO is setting the tone between government

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(Background) The USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN-77) is the tenth and final Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. This evolutionary ship will pave the way to a new class of carriers. Named after the nation's 41st president, this powerful warship of the 20th century features numerous improvements and modernizations. Attendees at the NSEO Conference got to see the ship under construction at Northrop Grumman's Newport News Shipbuilding. (U.S. Navy photo)

Material to the Fleet

and the supplier. NSEO is the Navy's eyes and ears for the supplier." Additional presentations included "Characteristics of High Performing Organizations" by John Koury, director, Naval Sea Systems Command Technical Representative, and "Joint Supplier Audit and Supplier Initiatives" by Brian Hughitt, quality assurance manager, NASA.

Other presenters at the conference included: Special Agent Alisa Lanier, Navy Criminal Investigative Service; Navy Cmdr. Michael Temme, project superintendent, Norfolk Naval Shipyard; Wayne Utley, manager, supplier quality and engineering, Northrop Grumman Newport News; Mark Hopkins, quality assurance

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engineering manager, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton, Conn.; Dale Apicelli, nuclear quality assurance division manager, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton; Hillie Harris, quality assurance team leader, supplier quality and procurement, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Newport News; Dennis Moran, product manager, Naval Sea Systems Command Logistics Center – Portsmouth; Brian Persons, executive director, Naval Sea Systems Command Logistics, Maintenance

and Industrial Operations (Naval Sea Systems Command 04B); Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Chavis, Naval Inventory Control Point Mechanicsburg, Pa.; and Charles Brader and Tom Merten, Naval Sea Systems Command.

The final day of the conference allowed suppliers from the shipyard and fleet to address and discuss how poor quality and late shipments affect fleet readiness in terms of dollars, mission success and crew safety. Naval Sea Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. Paul Sullivan closed the conference with his presentation, "Navy Big Picture," which discussed the present status of the U.S. Navy and the important function of NSEO. Everyone had an opportunity to tour America's newest aircraft carrier, USS *George H. W. Bush* (CVN-77), and the submarine mock-up at the Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard.

Conference participants and customers stated they were very pleased with the progress DCMA NSEO has made over the past year in supporting their needs. **C**



From left: Steve Bogusz, director, DCMA Naval Sea Systems Division; Navy Capt. Dennis M. Gannon, director, DCMA Navy Special Emphasis Operations; Navy Vice Adm. Paul Sullivan, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command commander; John M. Butler, director, Supplier Product Quality Group, NAVSEA; and John Koury, technical representative, Naval Reactors Program, Naval Sea Systems Command.