



Overcoming Obstacles In and Out of the Shipyard

I have not penned an article for a WIB since 2019. Although we have had some recent challenges on the COVID front, I am glad that the WIB is returning.

Regarding COVID, you are all aware that there has been a resurgence in New London County and a return to indoor face covering use here at Electric Boat and several of the local communities. It may be discouraging that we have to return to these measures but it is necessary and hopefully will be short in duration. I would like to thank all of our Shipbuilders who have continued to support the mission of Electric Boat since the beginning of this pandemic; it has not been easy but through the cooperation and efforts of our Shipbuilders we have been able to continue delivering our essential product.

I would like to spend a moment reflecting on where we currently are with respect to SSN 795, PCU Hyman G Rickover. Thursday, August 26th was a great day on the Groton waterfront as SSN795 achieved float off around 18:00 that evening. As is tradition a bottle breaking ceremony was conducted and Mr. Steve Giesing, D242 Operation Supervisor was given the honor and is well deserved. Steve has over 51 years of service at EBC. I spent the majority of my career in D242 and can personally attest to Steve's dedication and passion that is frankly unparalleled. Achieving float off is a significant milestone and an exciting event to achieve.

However, one of Hyman G. Rickover's principles is to face facts brutally. And the fact is we are behind schedule on SSN 795, float off should have been achieved several months ago. There are many contributions to this schedule variance but for the purpose of this article, I would like to focus on first time quality. It may seem counterintuitive to focus on quality when discussing schedule performance. Many believe that to 'go fast' quality must be sacrificed. In the submarine program this certainly is not true. The submarine program has strict quality requirements that not only must be adhered to, it needs to be part of our DNA as participants in the program. When we do not

perform 1st time quality work various things occur including bounding the problem, performing inspections, work stoppages, and of course performing rework. The schedule impact of these occurrences is often dramatic.

Without going into the details for the purpose of this article, on SSN795 an incorrect installation of a sealing washer on the top of the EPCP resulted in the intrusion of material into the panel that it was designed to reject. The rework and retest resulted in several weeks of delay to the land based steaming (LBS) event. Something as basic as the installation of a simple washer, performed incorrectly had a significant impact to schedule. It is imperative that we take the time to prepare to ensure all tasks small and large are performed with 1st time quality. This is critical in all aspects of submarine construction from our vendors, machine shops, QP manufacturing and outfitting, and of course Groton final assembly & test.

All is not lost, however – we also have many first time quality successes on SSN 795. Following challenges on the SSN 793 RPM end load, corrective actions were taken that led to a very successful evolution on SSN 795. D241 OSE Supervisor David Rockwell led a team of Outside Electricians that accomplished 1st time quality in the installation of critical head area cables. Additionally, D272 STO led a very successful land based steaming evolution.

The common theme with these successes is that the work team invested the time to plan and prepare prior to the execution of work. The bottom line, we always have the time to do it right the first time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Monaco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher Monaco
Director of Operations - D200



Electric Boat Veterans Network

In light of recent world events, the Electric Boat Veterans Network (EBVN) would like to share a message of support and encouragement to Electric Boat employees. **To our fellow Veterans, active and reserved military members: we thank you for your service – your service matters.**

We would like to remind everyone that through your employee benefits, you and all members of your household are eligible for eight free counseling sessions, per person, per year, through the Employee Assistance Program. Please reach out to your site's EAP if you are looking for counseling (either in person or through video chat):

- **All sites:** Optum, 866-743-6551 | www.LiveAndWorkWell.com (access code 11060).
- **CT residents and employees:** Solutions, 800-526-3485.

Our organization is here to support you. Below is a list of additional resources available to our Veterans, active and reserved military members.

Available Resources:

- **Veterans Crisis Line** – If you are having thoughts of suicide, call 1-800-273-8255, then PRESS 1 or visit www.veteranscrisisline.net/.
- For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.
- **Vet Centers** – Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. **70% of Vet Center**
- [VA Mental Health Services Guide](#) – This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.
- [MakeTheConnection.net](#) – information, resources, and Veteran-to-Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.
- **RallyPoint** – Talk to other Veterans online. Discuss: [What are your feelings as the Taliban reclaim Afghanistan after 20 years of US involvement?](#)
- [Download VA's self-help apps](#) – Tools to help deal with common reactions like stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.
- **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)** – [Request a Peer Mentor](#).
- **VA Women Veterans Call Center** – Call or text 1-855-829-6636 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 6:30PM ET).
- **VA Caregiver Support Line** – Call 1-855-260-3274 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 5PM ET).



Workplace Cleaning and Vaccine Availability

Due to the increases in COVID cases from the Delta variant among both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, we are again increasing cleaning and disinfecting across all of our facilities. Please be aware that high-touch/contact surface cleaning is being performed on a regular basis by our janitorial staff, but we need help from each work center with this effort. To accomplish this, please ensure that each work area has all the necessary cleaning and disinfecting supplies. As a reminder, please ensure that you use the appropriate cleaning products for your work area, i.e., shipboard or non-shipboard.

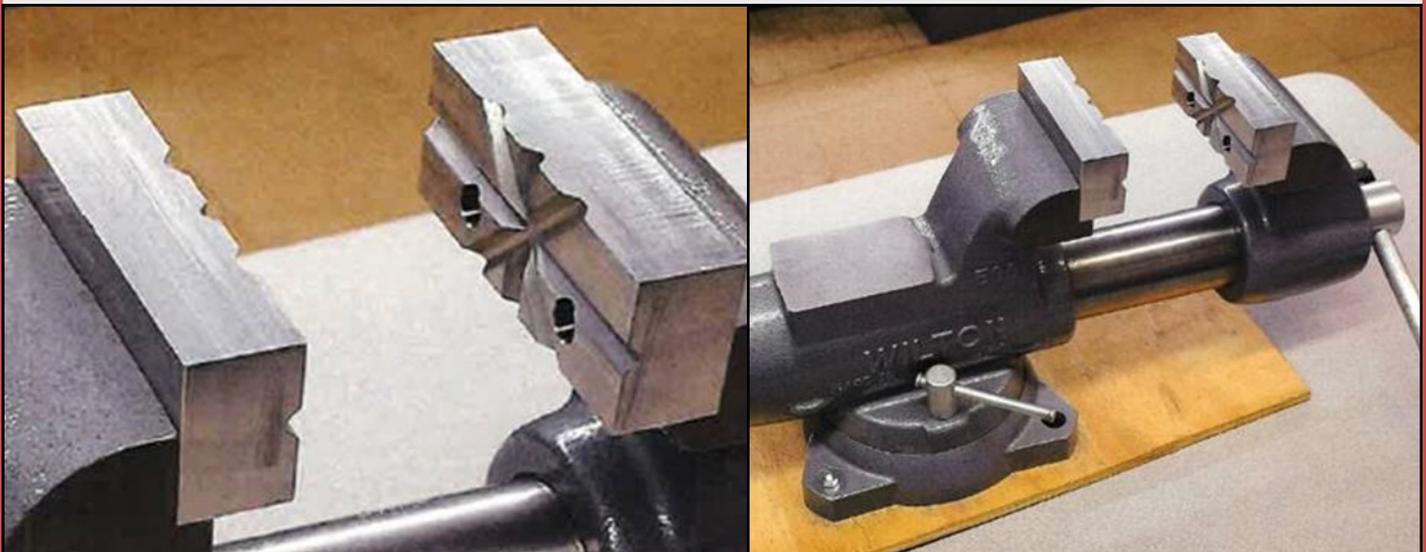
For hand sanitizer station refills or additional cleaning supplies, please submit a request to EB Facilities by [visiting the Facilities page on Homeport](#). If you need a dispenser in your area, please follow the same method to request one.

COVID vaccines are available at the Groton and QP EB Pharmacies. Employees and their eligible dependents who are immunocompromised can now get their COVID booster at the EB Family Wellness Center, provided they sign a form attesting to their eligibility.

Process Improvement - Modified Vice Clamps

Traditional vice clamps have a flat face that hold an object in place. While this tool works well for many parts, it is not ideal for rounded parts like piping. Our trades were losing efficiency in our ability to fit-up, weld, and inspect pipe due to the way this vice is setup for holding flat-surface parts. Before, the pipe would slip out of the jaws, or due to over-tightening, could damage the part. We modified the jaws to include grooves, which better hold and secure pipe during the numerous activities of the part lifecycle.

An additional benefit from this improvement was made to the way part are grounded. One of our employees was shocked due to the poor ground in the prior assembly of vice and ground wire. Now, the ground wire is directly attached to the vice body, establishing a safe work station.





Columbia ship's coins back in stock soon!!



Short sleeves in stock! We Build Freedom, USS Iowa, Seawolf, and more coming soon! Tons of boots! Carhartt & Timberland apparel! Custom Order Jackets, Rainwear, Boots, etc !

Hours of Operation

Bldg 88: 8am to 4pm

Bldg 104: 8am to 4pm

(1pm to 4pm Wed)



EB Weekly Safety Briefing
08/29/21 – 09/04/21



Using the machine safety measures, could be the deciding factor on whether you leave work with all your fingers, or not.



GENERAL DYNAMICS
Electric Boat

SAFETY MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

“Always follow proper procedures for operating tools/machinery”

MASKS REQUIRED INDOORS WHERE SOCIAL DISTANCING ISN'T POSSIBLE

DIRECTORY

When calling from an outside line, remember to dial 433 and the last four digits of the numbers below.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| EMERGENCY | 3-3333 |
| Ambulance..... | 3-3344 |
| Fire Department..... | 3-3617 |
| EEO Officer..... | 3-4167 |
| Benefits..... | 3-4201 |
| Employment..... | 3-7386 |
| Environmental..... | 3-2791 |
| Ethics Hotline..... | 1-800-433-8442 |
| Payroll..... | 3-3702 |
| Safety..... | 3-2811 |
| Security..... | 3-5530 |
| Van Tran..... | 3-7603 |
| Timekeeping..... | 3-6604 |
| Training..... | 3-0591 |
| Yard Hospital..... | 3-3470 |
| Rad Con..... | 3-5019 |

The Groton WIB is produced by EB Communications.
To submit ideas, contact rmarques@gdeb.com

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EB Landing:
www.EBlanding.com

No Current Traffic/Parking Announcements