



## Evergreen Topic - NAVSEA Audit Results

During the week of May 6th, a cross functional NAVSEA audit team was onsite at Quonset Point to evaluate one of the company's most critical core competencies, which is Electric Boat's adherence to processes, procedures, and practices exercised in performance of SUBSAFE, Deep Submergence Systems Scope of Certification (DSS-SOC), and Fly-By-Wire Ship Control Systems (FBW SCS) work. This audit was the first functional audit focusing primarily on the Quonset Point facility, as typically these audits focus on work performed at the Groton shipyard.

The NAVSEA team focused their attention on functional areas such as management, material control, quality assurance, and re-entry control. The audit team inspected work sites, observed work in-process, evaluated the EB Quality Management System, which included training, qualification, problem reporting, process improvement, surveillances, audit and assessment, commitment tracking, self-assessments, and metrology/tool room management. Additionally, the audit team assessed SUBSAFE, DSS-SOC, and FBW SCS level of knowledge with informal interviews of randomly selected QP management, quality assurance, and production personnel. NAVSEA's thorough functional audit is extremely important and provides the government maximum assurance with Electric Boat's ability to adhere to all special emphasis program requirements, which must be satisfied prior to certification of all submarines for Fast Cruise, Sea Trials, and Unrestricted Operation and Use. Feedback from the evaluations team's interactions with Electric Boat's employees at Quonset Point was very positive. NAVSEA was impressed and appreciative with your willingness to be open, self-critical, share information, and to learn and improve where possible.

Although the NAVSEA functional audit team of approximately 20 subject matter experts was onsite for one week, the inspection began several months prior with an extensive preparation program that involved weekly management level touchpoints, area surveillances, diagnostic quizzes, correcting department training delinquencies, and a completed internal audit conducted by D320 special emphasis program deputy directors. Performing the internal functional audit ahead of the formal

NAVSEA functional audit is a relatively new program that has proven to be successful in identifying and fixing issues ahead of an external organization audit. The EB auditors were onsite at Quonset Point, and similar to NAVSEA, reviewed local instructions, policies, and procedures. The team reviewed completed re-entry control paperwork, observed in-process work, toured material and X-ray storage locations, and reviewed a 2-year history of completed unplanned events. The EB auditors issued 13 cards that were all adjudicated prior to the NAVSEA functional audit team stepping foot on the facility. The internal audit bolstered the readiness of the facility and resulted in a completed NAVSEA functional audit in which no certification cards were issued to Electric Boat.

The NAVSEA audit team voiced plenty of praise for the support received by the Quonset Point facility throughout the functional audit and were especially impressed with the quality of in-process work that was observed, which included shipboard structural and pipe welding, and system testing evolutions. NAVSEA performed the functional audit to assess Electric Boat's compliance with the requirements of the SUBSAFE, DSS-SOC, and FBW SCS programs. Successful completion of these audits are critical so that Electric Boat remains qualified to perform special emphasis program related work, and certify submarine ships for at-sea operations. Although the functional audit did result in several low level findings, these findings provide an opportunity for the facility to reflect upon our work, and identify areas for improvement, which will make us all better shipbuilders. The importance of this job cannot be overstated as our work as shipbuilders are critical to the sailors who operate our ships, and the freedom that our ships are bound to protect. It is mission critical that the Quonset Point facility remains audit ready at all times.

The recently successfully completed NAVSEA functional audit speaks highly to the quality of work completed by the Quonset Point operations and service and support staff, and keeps with the highest tradition of Electric Boat's shipbuilding excellence.

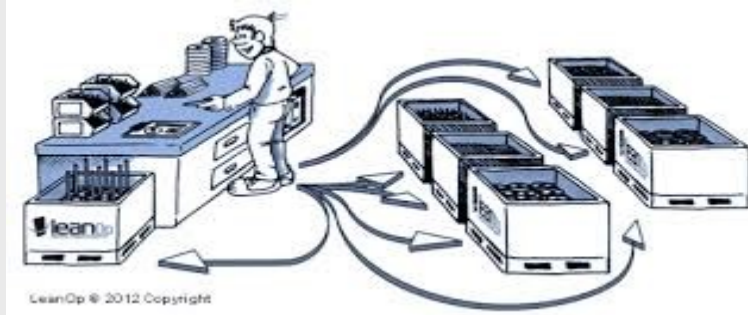
**The QP WIB is produced by EB Communications.**

**To submit ideas, contact [rmarques@gdeb.com](mailto:rmarques@gdeb.com)**



## Continuous Improvement

### TRANSPORTATION



***Transportation* refers to the unnecessary movement of people, tools, inventory, equipment, or products**

Say you hire a plumber to fix a leaky pipe. You provide the plumber the all the necessary pipe specifications prior to arrival. Upon inspection of the job the plumber informs you that all his materials are at his shop and he must return there to procure them. The plumber returns to your house 1 hr later with materials that match the specifications provided prior to arrival at the job. The plumber finishes the job and bills you from the initial arrival time to when the job is completed. Would this be acceptable to you, the paying customer? You just wanted the plumber to fix the pipe as quickly as possible.

The same logic applies in our business. Our customer will not pay for the movement of products and people which goes beyond what they expect or need. Of the eight types of waste, transportation is one simple to recognize. Sometimes we may see obvious examples like that of the driving plumber. This is likely due to this extra work, still being just that, work. We may find ourselves feeling busy, which leads us to believe we're adding value to the product.

While you're going about your jobs, always keep in mind whether what you're doing involves excess transportation of yourself or your product.

For example:

- Movement of modules between QP and Groton.  
Ideally all of the build components would be manufactured in the same location facilitating flow. The Groton Shipyards size constraints do not allow for that. The company addressed this by shipping modules in the largest and most complete form, minimizing the number of barge trips.
- Due to a backlog in QP, joints were shipped to Groton for inspection supporting the build schedule. After inspection the joints are returned to QP for installation in the modules.  
This provides opportunity for lost and damaged material. This was addressed by adding inspection capacity, reducing the transportation to and from Groton.

**Have a process improvement idea, or simply just want a board to bounce ideas off? Discuss your idea with your Supervisor. If additional resources are required for implementation, your Supervisor can contact Process Engineering.**

The Naval Reactors team not only evaluated our core nuclear and radiological programs but also extended across all facets of our business including operations, facilities, safety, supply chain, test programs, quality and engineering. The team inspected work sites, observed work-in-process, and interviewed employees to evaluate the company’s performance to Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program standards and improving our overall performance. Naval Reactors’ thorough inspection is extremely important and helps validate our procedures, processes, training and quality of the work done by the men and women of Electric Boat. Feedback from the evaluation team’s interactions with the Electric Boat employees was very positive. They were impressed and appreciative with your willingness to be open, self-critical, share information and to learn and improve.

Although the Naval Reactors team of approximately 28 subject matter experts was onsite for one week, the inspection began several months ago with submittals of requested information, execution of exercises, practical and written examinations, and demonstrations in the performance of nuclear work. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into preparations prior to, during and following this inspection and I would like to personally thank all shipbuilders for their time and support of this evaluation. Your hard work, dedication and strive for excellence resulted in Admiral Houston extending our license to perform nuclear and radiological work for another year.

In addition, during the out brief with the Admiral, he referred to EB as a “pocket of excellence in a tiny corner of New England”. He stated the excellence that EB shows day to day is our asymmetrical advantage over our adversaries and our commitment to excellence gives the Navy the ability to dominate the undersea battlespace.

The importance of the work we do here is vital to the shipbuilders, to the sailors who operate these warships and to the nation whose freedoms these warships are bound to protect. Every one of us should be proud to be the best shipbuilders in the world.

Judy Ruthko

Director of Nuclear Quality Control and Audit & Assessment

## QUONSET POINT BENEFIT UPDATE REGARDING YMCA AND OSCW



In order to better align wellness offerings across CT and RI sites, there are some changes coming to your Quonset Point fitness program enrollment through the YMCA (select locations) and Ocean State Community Wellness.

Quonset Point employees can continue to enroll in the fitness program. Dependent and spouse enrollment will be changing following the below schedule.

- As of May 6, 2024, new applications for dependents and spouses will no longer be accepted.
- Currently enrolled dependents and spouses can continue to use the fitness benefit until June 30, 2024.
- Starting July 1, 2024, only Electric Boat employees will be enrolled in this benefit.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [ebwellness@gdeb.com](mailto:ebwellness@gdeb.com).



## I WANT YOU TO STAY HYDRATED!

Invite EB Wellness to your crew during the months of **June, July and August** to give a 10-minute wellness break about hydration.

**For the first 10 crews to sign up, we will raffle off a water bottle at EACH wellness break (\$40 value!).**

Contact: Don Black  
Health Promotion Specialist  
Phone: 952-205-6067  
Email: [donald.blackjr@optum.com](mailto:donald.blackjr@optum.com)



**FAIRWATER STORE**  
EST. 1977

by Greenwich Safety



- USS Arizona apparel hot off the presses!
- Shop the latest selection of Seawolf & Columbia apparel!
- Get your Energizer 3000 Lumen headlamp today!
- See fairwaterstore.com for custom merchandise ordering!

**Hours of Operation**

**7:30 am to 4:00 pm**



**QP Weekly Safety Briefing**

06/02/2024 – 06/08/2024



Be mindful of signs and roped-off areas. These are in place for your protection.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Electric Boat

EBP-02852: EB has established health and safety as the company's number one priority.

**Week 23**



**Job Opportunity—Robotic Welder**

Robotic Welders are skilled welders that will operate a Robotic System to weld and insert missile tubes into the Columbia Class Submarine.

Our new modular construction technique outfits four missile tubes. Once the four-tube section is assembled, this quad pack is completed with a hull section, joined with additional quad packs, and then outfitted as a complete missile compartment with decks, systems and other equipment.

Duties may include Basic Robot Operation to include welding, grinding, scanning & cutting, structural work along with hand and mechanized welding for RT quality.

To learn more about this position please apply thru the internal job posting page or contact Lauren Palana in Staffing at lpalana2@gdeb.com /401-208-8413.