



# VIRGINIA

## NewsFlash

### Cost Reduction Effort Mobilizes Suppliers

Reducing rework is the goal of a series of training conferences that will extend nationwide to reach the entire EB supplier base by the end of the year.

The first Supplier Quality Conference was conducted in November at the Mystic Hilton. Most of the 100 participants, representing 39 companies, also visited Quonset Point. This was the first of 11 training conferences for suppliers that will be supporting VIRGINIA Block III contracts.

“Teaching suppliers and defining our expectations is our only option to get the product right the first time,” explained Nancy Beckwith, Manager of Supplier Quality.

The supplier training task is funded by NAVSEA as part of the VA Cost Reduction Program. The goal is to lower costs associated with material deviations by clarifying requirements, sharing lessons learned, and identifying available tools. EB has estimated a potential savings of \$14M for the VIRGINIA Class.

The discussion topics included contract review, sub-tier supplier control, inspection and testing requirements, welding procedures and restrictions on foreign purchases. Bob Scheel, EB VP of Quality and Materials, emphasized that the cost of rework and the schedule impacts can greatly exceed the cost of the item. John Butler, NAVSEA 04P Director of Supplier Quality, discussed how verbatim compliance with requirements is critical to safety and mission functionality.

Ship availability demands on today's submarine fleet and mission readiness were discussed by Mike Stevens, Commanding Officer of the SSN778.

After the conference, organizer Megan Devlin (D210) said, “It was a great opportunity for the VIRGINIA



Suppliers during tour of Quonset Point with Nancy Beckwith, center, Manager of Supplier Quality.

Team Quality community to share knowledge.”

Feedback from the suppliers was positive. Quality Engineer Greg Moyer of Curtiss Wright said, “It was very good; he [CDR Stevens] made it clear that there are real people depending on the suppliers.”



#### Message to the VIRGINIA Team:



“2007 was a year of many accomplishments for the VCS Program. In the first quarter our team began to focus our efforts on a new bow design that consolidates the existing 12 vertical payload tubes in two large-diameter SSGN-like tubes. In addition to changing missile tube arrangements we have changed our approach on forward end sonar. These changes, along with other improvements, will reduce the cost of each VIRGINIA Class ship by \$40M dollars.

Our Cost Reduction Program has been a success and we owe the credit to the many creative people engaged in our effort. Not only have we utilized many ideas from the Shipbuilding and Design Yard Teams but we also have had many contributions from our suppliers and customer community.

As we move into 2008 we will need to remain focused on execution of ideas, bringing them to the Shipyard as quickly as possible.

Keep up the good work!”

 **John Holmander**  
VP & VIRGINIA Class Program Manager

**CDR Mike Stevens,**  
Commanding Officer PCU New Hampshire, addresses Supplier Quality Conference.



## Suppliers Tour QP and Learn About Their Role in Cost Reduction



**Blair Decker, Director of Material Acquisition, far right, and Paul Normand, Director of Navy Programs for General Dynamics, 10<sup>th</sup> from left, accompanied suppliers during a tour led by Bill Frydryk, QP Site Manager, far left.**

A group of suppliers from 13 states toured Quonset Point in the Fall and now have a sense of how their products fit into the big picture of submarine manufacturing and production.

Their companies produce materials, parts and systems including specialty metals, valves, power supplies and provide services such as waterjet cutting. One of these companies was EMS Development Corp. in Yaphank, New York, which manufactures military electronic systems and industrial/commercial components. EMS President Peter Crawford said, "I thought the tour was extremely interesting and worthwhile. I was awestruck by what I saw," Crawford said. "It is truly amazing how these magnificent boats are constructed."

The tour was the first of several tours planned by the Submarine Industrial Base Council. Other tours will focus on quality (See Page 1).

"They are being invited to see how their products are used," said Paul Normand, Director of Navy Programs for General Dynamics. "It also allows them to see the complexities involved in submarine construction. Several perceived that we were an assembly facility and were surprised how much construction is performed. Most of the suppliers have never been on a submarine let alone seen one in construction."

The supplier tour initiative is part of the VIRGINIA Cost Reduction effort. Blair Decker, director of material acquisition, addressed the group about the challenges of moving to two submarines per year and

the importance of meeting delivery and quality requirements.

"I think it was a very positive experience," Decker said. "Now they have a much better idea of how important their product is, how it fits in the ship and how if it isn't there, there is a hole that affects everything."

Nick Azzarello, represented Rolled Alloys, a specialty metals service center in Ewing, NJ. "The tour was a great opportunity to see our product on a sub. The meetings helped us understand some of the constraints EB has with delays and what we can expect when the number of commissioned units doubles to two," Azzarello said.



The complexity of submarine construction impressed Michael Gurny, director of business development, Goodrich Corporation Engineered Products Division, of Jacksonville, FLA.

Goodrich's non-metallic products include towed array fairings, coatings, and the sonar bow dome.

"We got a first hand look at the complexity and magnitude of VACL submarine manufacturing and assembly operations," said Gurny.

For Dave Schults of Nuclear Alloys Corp. of Wilson, NY, the trip was an eye-opener. "It was great to see the components near the end stage of assembly, and to see the production processes and methods," he said. "I think that the greatest value it has is refocusing all the vendors on the big picture, reminding us of the importance of our work and the value it has to EB, the Navy, and the nation." 