

Outfitting Hall Cranes Arrive

The two, 200-ton bridge cranes for the Outfitting Hall were built by Virginia Crane in Ashland, Virginia under subcontract to PC Construction, the general contractor for the Outfitting Hall, and arrived by truck on March 30 and April 1. Highlights of their path into the shipyard and through installation are shown here.



1. The first, or East Crane, so-called because of its installation location, arrived in Bath as two girders on two trucks with a state police escort every mile of the journey. Here, the first truck begins to turn.



2. While the cranes for the Ultra Hall came through the South Gate, these longer, 132-foot cranes prevented turning in that location and entered by the Union Street Gate.



3. The crane runways were installed with part of the roof open to accommodate the 550-ton crane which would raise the girders 83 feet aloft. The installation was staged in West Bath.



4. The West Crane, which arrived several days later, was staged on the south end of the LLTF.



5. Cabs, trolleys and hooks were staged on the floor of the new bay.



Right: **6.** The first girder of the East Crane, about to "fly."



7. The second girder of the East Crane.



8. The East Crane ready to receive its two trolleys, each with a 100-ton and 25-ton hoist.



9. With the last girder of the West Crane landed, all four girders were in place.

Photos courtesy G. Bridgman.



A 30-ton test load is suspended from the West 200-ton bridge crane during the installation and testing phase of the Outfitting Hall cranes.

Bringing the Outfitting Hall Cranes ONLINE

Lifting and handling of very large ship products is arguably one of the most important aspects of our shipyard capabilities.

The new Outfitting Hall building includes two 200-ton bridge cranes, each 132-feet long and equipped with four hoists on two separate trollies which run on rails across their “bridge” spans. Each trolley has a 100-ton main hoist and 25-ton service hoist. Working together, the two cranes can handle up to 400 tons.

While most of us typically see the crane structures and operators’ cabs and hooks from the shop floor looking up, crane mechanics, electricians and operators have a whole different view of things from up above. In this case, they deal with slightly less than 8,000 feet of wire rope, 24 motors and gearboxes and 32 steel wheels running on more than 1,200 feet of steel rail.

To bring what is essentially eight hoisting devices online—which are fully assembled and run for the first time at the owner’s site—takes a methodical process that sequentially checks all functions over a load spec-



Members of the Facilities Weight Handling and Rigging team included, l to r: Mike Biron, crane operator; Greg Bridgman, crane engineer; Dan Moody, mechanic; Rick Lajoie, rigger; and Mark Schools, rigging supervisor.

trum to an ultimate overload of 125% of capacity. Each crane has to hoist and travel with 250 tons throughout the bay.

Greg Bridgman (D20), Facilities Crane Engineer, said, “It takes a dedicated team of Facilities Weight Handling and Rigging personnel to carefully run through a series of steps—which may at times produce unexpected results. Ultimately, the team declares that the cranes are ready for safe operation and they then begin a life cycle which must last 50 years or so. We got there in mid-August.”

Outfitting Hall Opens For Business

The new Outfitting Hall opened for business in July with placement of the 4240 steel deckhouse unit for DDG 1002.



Ben Goulette.

Ben Goulette (D10), Building Manager, is familiar with the work scope from stints when Right Side Up (RSU) work was done in the Assembly Building

and at 5 Skids. He said, "We're load testing the cranes now and expect to finish by the end of the month. There are some odds and ends to be addressed but it's all coming together."

He continued, "Shipfitters and welders from the AB are here now to get the units rolling. We'll bring the outfitting trades along later and employees from 5 Skids will follow. By the time the snow flies, we'll be firing on all cylinders. We have some challenging goals but we have some good people headed our way and the combination of experience and teamwork will help us achieve the benefits of this new facility."



Crane Operators **Arthur Mailloux**, left, and **Larry Haines** (both D80) made the first pick in the new building on July 16 when they lifted the 4240 deckhouse unit.

Due to the scope of the design and construction of the steel deckhouse, it is assigned a separate hull number and identified as Hull 605. Another section of the deckhouse will be added inside the Outfitting Hall and the last section will be joined on the LLTF before final erection onto DDG 1002. In addition, the DDG 116 Ultra 1000 unit will be brought into the Outfitting Hall in early August. 

