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Inside Look: Patriot's Theodore Boom Triage Unit

Since its inception on June 3, 2010, the Boom Repair Recycle Facility has evolved into the premier triage for boom. The facilities reputation for safety and quality has surpassed all those who have visited. The facility is home to 46 day-shift and 26 night-shift employees, divided into groups and trained in their respective areas.

In the recycling area, the personnel strip the retired boom of important and sometimes difficult to find parts, and enter them into inventory.

The PVC skirting is inspected, cleaned and then cut into patch material to be used for the repaired boom.

The chain is retrieved, inspected, and reused for repaired boom or anchor chain to secure the boom to the sea floor.

The cables are retrieved, inspected, and reused for repaired boom, as well as, tow bridles used to deploy, move or retrieve boom.

Cleats (boom connectors) are inspected, cleaned and used to replace worn, missing or damaged cleats, as well as, tow bridles and training aids in the field.

Closed cell Styrofoam floats are recycled.

All nuts, bolts, shackles, D rings, air valves and toggle pins are inspected, inventoried and used in the restoration of damaged boom.

In the repair area, three 100-foot tables are used to elevate the boom to a height conducive of efficient production. Each table consists of technicians capable of hot-welding patches as well as replacing chain, cable, and cleats. A quality control technician monitors each step, and a table lead supervisor oversees each piece of boom. The repaired boom is staged by size, stacked on pallets and redeployed.

The repair area is also used for the reparation of the NOFI Harbor, Current and Ocean Busters. R&D Manager Dag Nilsen, Tor Christiansen from Norway, and a local commercial net maker have assisted and trained the personnel in the proper techniques in repair and a slight redesign to better accommodate the current composition of the oil.