

# NAVSEA breaks down barriers for the RMCs

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SAN DIEGO -- Vice Adm. William Hilarides, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), along with several of his staff, visited Southwest Regional Maintenance Center (SWRMC) July 24 to discuss the barriers SWRMC faces related to maintenance and modernization of ships in the Pacific Fleet.

SWRMC has a combined military, civilian, and contractor workforce whose primary mission areas are depot level maintenance, contract management oversight, intermediate level maintenance, fleet technical assistance and total ship readiness assessment (TSRA).

“We are here to listen to you very carefully,” said Hilarides as he kicked off the roundtable discussion. “At headquarters we don’t produce anything; it is you who produces ready ships. We are here so you can tell us how headquarters is holding you back from being the best regional maintenance center in the country and what we can do to help you get better.”

At the end of fiscal year 2014, SWRMC is projected to complete 21 Chief of Naval Operation availabilities, 21 INSURVS, 76 TSRA's and more than 40 continuous maintenance availabilities.

SWRMC’s leadership appreciated the opportunity to discuss barriers to work accomplishment during the one-on-one discussions with their NAVSEA counterparts and Hilarides.

“I felt honored to have the opportunity to talk to Vice Adm. Hilarides,” said Robert DeJesus, Corporate Operations department head. “He is a very busy person and for him to make the time to see and talk to our command leadership was awesome.”

“Additionally, he brought many of his staffers so they could also listen to our concerns,” said DeJesus. “Vice Adm. stated several times during the briefing that SWRMC is a part of the NAVSEA team and he came out to see how our SWRMC team was doing and what he and his staff could do to help us.”

One of SWRMC’s strategic business initiatives is to “Make SWRMC a better place to work,” with one of the effects being that people feel appreciated. Hilarides’ visit exemplifies the message that headquarters values and appreciates the SWRMC workforce.

“It was a great opportunity for Vice Adm. Hilarides to gain an appreciation for some of the hurdles that SWRMC faces,” said Tom Coumes, SWRMC’s executive director. “The

department heads did a wonderful job in laying out the issues and generating a great dialog with the Admiral and his staff.”

At the conclusion of the visit, Hilarides agreed to look into a number of items that could make SWRMC’s work more efficient in the future.

“One immediate benefit was that our local contract authority for ship repair and modernization work was increased from \$20 million to \$40 million,” said Coumes. “This will save a fair amount of work for our contract shops.”

SWRMC’s vision is to be the Navy’s premier maintenance organization.

For more information about NAVSEA, visit <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/default.aspx>.