



PHAN Casey James photo

Salvor Sailors practice putting out fires aboard the decommissioned USS Navigator during salvage and rescue training conducted by USS Salvor (ARS 52) and MDSU 1 in mid July.



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A Salvor Sailor directs the nozzle of a fire-fighting hose during a salvage and rescue exercise between USS Salvor and MDSU 1.

## USS Salvor, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One conduct salvage and rescue training

Lt. j.g. Paul Shoning  
USS Salvor Public Affairs Officer

USS Salvor (ARS 52), under command of Cmdr. (sel.) William J. Nault, conducted salvage and rescue training during the week of July 16 with the assistance of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU1).

To evaluate Salvor's ability to salvage a stranded vessel, the ex-USS Navigator was beached in East Loch near Pearl City.

Upon notification of a beached vessel, Salvor deployed a hydrographic survey team led by Quartermaster 1st Class David West to chart the bottom conditions and lay the "line of death" near the stranding site.

Laid in 24 feet of water, the "line of death" served as a visual reference to mark the point at which Salvor would risk running aground itself while preparing to pull the Navigator free. Following the hydrographic survey, an internal survey made by Master Diver Fred Orns determined the effects of internal flooding.

A dive survey led by Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Chad Jakel evaluated the hull condition. While these events were taking place, Salvor's crew was preparing beach gear for deployment.

Preparing a leg of beach gear, which consists of a 6,000-pound anchor and 1,500 feet of wire rope to pull on, is a labor-intensive task requiring the effort of all hands and the leadership of first class divers. Engineman 1st Class Keven Credle and Electrician's Mate 1st Class Dave Kriese.

With preparations completed, USS Salvor put to sea Tuesday morning to lay beach gear. The legs of beach gear, deployed from Salvor's fantail, provided anchors for the hydraulic pulling machines to pull against. Laying each leg of beach gear required Salvor to drop an anchor and drive directly towards the Navigator for 1,500 feet while streaming out the wire rope.

Precise direction from Salvor's navigation team, led by Lt. Scott Swope, executive officer, allowed Salvor to complete streaming the wire rope and turn away yards shy of the "line of death."

Once the beach gear was laid, Salvor once again maneuvered in along the "line of death" to pass a tow hawser aft to the Navigator and connect the beach gear forward to the hydraulic pullers.

After spending Tuesday night "in the harness," Salvor was ready for the final pull on Wednesday morning. At 11 a.m., Salvor's hydraulic pullers began taking a strain on the beach gear.

Pulling herself forward against the beach gear, Salvor generated nearly 50,000 pounds of pulling force before the Navigator began to move. Once free, the Navigator was passed to MDSU1 boats and Salvor spent the afternoon maneuvering in East Loch to retrieve both legs of beach gear.

On Friday, Salvor commenced with the fire-at-sea exercise coordinated by the damage control assistant, Lt. j.g. William Wirtz. Salvor was underway at 6 a.m. with the ex-USS Navigator towed astern.

Once at sea, ex-USS Navigator was cut loose and the compartments filled with wood set ablaze. The conning officer, Lt. j.g. Alex Leanos, maneuvered Salvor alongside the Navigator while water from the ship's fire monitors extinguished the external fires.

After pulling alongside, the attack teams, led by Damage Controlman 1st Class Samuel Perkins and DC1 Victor Brooks, boarded the still burning Navigator. Once onboard, the attack teams maneuvered to fight internal fires and prevent any re-flash fires topside.

Boarding a disabled and burning vessel on the high seas is one of Salvor's most dangerous missions. Despite intense heat and a rolling deck, Salvor's offship rescue and assistance team performed flawlessly.



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A Sailor verifies a bearing from Salvor's bridgeway.



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Sailors aboard USS Salvor put out fires aboard the decommissioned ex-USS Navigator during salvage and rescue training conducted by USS Salvor and MDSU 1.



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USS Salvor tows the ex-USS Navigator out to sea to conduct salvage and rescue exercises.