

Crew of MSC Ship Nabs Energy Conservation Honor

The crew onboard the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS TIPPECANOE was singled out for praise earlier this month after earning special Navy recognition. Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer issues annual awards for energy conservation accomplishments that take place during the preceding fiscal year. For its FY '16 accomplishments, TIPPECANOE, which has been supporting her Naval Task Force in the Gulf of Aden, was honored with the Energy and Water Management Award, at the Platinum Level. The Military Sealift Command civilian mariner fleet is represented by M.E.B.A., MM&P and SIU.

MSC Commander Rear Admiral Dee Mewbourne sent a letter of congratulations to the vessel's Master Steven Perdue and the TIPPECANOE team noting that they "will receive a Secretary of the Navy Energy award plaque to proudly display on your ship." In learning about the award, Capt. Perdue was quick to praise the crew along with the ship's "outstanding Chief Engineer, Mr. Samuel Battles."



During drydocking of the TIPPECANOE a few years back are Chief Engineer Samuel Battles, Chief Engineer George Bentley, PPE Rusty Richardson, Senior SSU Sing PE Berrel Goins and PPE Ray Key.

Chief Battles noted, "We were deeply honored to win this award and a bit surprised as we were just following the standard practices and policies set forth by MSC, along with applying basic good engineering." He said there's no real secret for the ship's terrific results beyond the crew's dedication to energy efficiency, attentiveness and hard work. "We frequently test our injectors on the main engines and the Ship Service Diesel Generators then overhaul and replace them as they fail," he said. "We also follow the manufacturers' repair

plan as closely as possible ensuring the engines are overhauled in a timely manner but also as operations permit. We also use our Diesel Doctor engine analyzer frequently to evaluate the operation of the engines and balancing the engine firing pressures and temperatures as closely as possible.”



TIPPECANOE engineers repairing a diaphragm failure on an Alfa Laval evaporator. From left to right are 1st A/E Vincent Fernando, 3rd A/E Preston Banker and 3rd A/E Julio Loong.

“All of the ships are burning low sulfur fuel now to cut down on the harmful emissions. However in order to operate with this fuel, the ships are now using fuel conditioner. The crew also changes the engine air filters frequently on the Turbo Chargers to help with the Fuel to Air ratio to ensure a proper burn. The crew also reclaims all of the fuel from the contaminated drain tanks and reintroduces it to the inventory that saves on consumption,” Chief Battles noted.

In the congratulatory letter, RADM Mewbourne stated, “Your efforts set the example for our fleet to follow as MSC becomes more vigilant, constantly seeking ways to improve our energy conservation. Thank you for your exemplary stewardship. Keep up the great work.”