



Engineering and Operations

Shipboard Confined Space Firefighting and Shipboard Damage Control

After suffering a devastating fire on one of its Navy ships, a Middle East nation called on Booz Allen Hamilton to establish a professional training program for Shipboard Confined Space Firefighting and Shipboard Damage Control. Booz Allen helped this nation acquire affordable training facilities and develop a permanent training program with qualified instructors that has graduated more than 3,250 officers and enlisted personnel and gives this nation the only fully internationally accredited Shipboard Confined Space Firefighting School in the world.

Inadequate Shipboard Firefighting Training

A Middle East nation that had acquired former US Naval ships through foreign military sales lacked the capability to train its shipboard crews to fight fires and limit the damage aboard ships. Although the crews were initially trained in the United States when the ships were purchased, new crew members received no qualified firefighting training and, as a result of normal transfers and attrition over a 4-year period, most of the skills were lost. When a fire broke out on an amphibious ship moored alongside a pier in 2000, the fire grew out of control in less than 30 minutes because crewmembers did not know how to respond. By the time the fire was extinguished, the damage was so extensive that the ship was deemed a “constructive loss” beyond repair.

This nation’s military leaders needed to equip their Navy crews with shipboard firefighting skills but could not afford to send them overseas for training. A low-cost, but effective, training program was needed to address their immediate and long-term firefighting needs.

Developing World-class Firefighting Capabilities

At the foreign client’s request, Booz Allen conducted an extensive risk assessment and study of the Navy’s requirements to gradually build firefighting competency while developing a permanent training program that met the highest standards for shipboard firefighting and damage control. Booz Allen drew upon experts from across the firm to assemble a Technical Assist team led by a former US Navy specialist in shipboard survivability. In addition, every member of Booz Allen’s team was a retired US Naval Officer or Senior Enlisted Petty Officer trained extensively in firefighting and damage control.

Booz Allen also helped design and then managed the construction of Shipboard Confined Space and Firefighting and Damage Control Training facilities that were scaled to the spaces of the client’s newest ships and built to provide variable levels of heat and flooding challenges geared to the students’ skills. The confined

space firefighting facility was prefabricated in the United States and reassembled after being shipped to the client. The damage control flooding facility was assembled by the client's shipyard on-site under Booz Allen's direction. The total cost for the facilities—a turnkey operation that was ready for training—was \$6.2 million, significantly less than the \$100 million-plus cost to acquire similar US Navy training facilities.

Booz Allen's Strategy and Organization Training Solutions Team worked with the client and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) to achieve IFSAC accreditation for its Shipboard Confined Space Firefighting School. In addition to being the only Shipboard Firefighting school with this accreditation, the school meets all shipboard firefighting requirements established by the International Maritime Organization; consequently, the foreign client can also train its maritime workers at this school.

Booz Allen managed the project from concept to full operational status, and provides all of the school's instructors, who are specialists representing more than 130 years of naval firefighting and damage control experience.

Helping Our Client Be Ready for What's Next

Since the school and facilities were established in 2007, more than 3,250 officers and enlisted personnel have graduated from the schools' basic shipboard firefighting course, with about 400 participating in advanced firefighting courses, team training, and aviation firefighting. In 2009, the school introduced the Shored-Based Marine Firefighting course to train fire departments on shore.

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Overall, the program has helped our client protect its valuable military investments by significantly reducing the risk of shipboard fires and damage. Graduates are trained to the highest standards and obtain the discipline and skills for "fighting a fire in an oven," as firefighting in a ship's confined spaces is often described. No serious shipboard injuries or fires have occurred since the program began, and the client continues to find new opportunities for taking firefighting training beyond its ships to airfields, fire departments, and other needed areas.

Ready to Help You

Our work with this Middle East client is just one example of how Booz Allen's global strategy and technology consultants can help foreign and domestic clients achieve their goals. Our consulting teams draw from the firm's wide range of capabilities as well as our in-depth knowledge of international program acquisition management and military operations and requirements. To learn more about the know-how behind this project's success and how it can help your organization be ready for what's next, visit www.boozallen.com.

About Booz Allen

Booz Allen Hamilton is a leading provider of management and technology consulting services to the US government in defense, intelligence, and civil markets, and to major corporations, institutions, and not-for-profit organizations. Booz Allen is headquartered in McLean, Virginia, employs more than 25,000 people, and had revenue of \$5.59 billion for the 12 months ended March 31, 2011. (NYSE: BAH)