

Enterprise Transformation: Pipe Banding Tool at Newport News Shipbuilding

Transcript:

Chris Eckstein, Pipefitter: “You know, it’s really amazing. I mean, we take a lot of pride in our work. It’s the only place in the world that you can build ships like this, so it really makes us proud.

“This is my second carrier. I was part of CVN 78, the *Ford*, and now I’m on the *Kennedy*, CVN 79. We learned lessons from the *Ford*, and we incorporate all that. The same jobs that we were doing on the *Ford*, we can do them differently and more efficiently on this carrier because: 1. We’ve got the experience; and 2. The technology advances are just really helping us out.

“As a pipefitter, my foreman, Chelsie Baker, she comes in, and she’ll show me the job, go over the job with me and show me the new tools we’re using.”

Chelsie Baker, Foreman: “All of a sudden, we have all of this new technology at our fingertips. So we’re now learning: ‘How do I use this technology? How do I use this technology to better my job and make it more efficient?’ I think everybody has a sense of excitement about what’s next.”

Chris: “A banding tool is basically, it’s banding a piece of pipe to a hanger, which attaches the pipe to structure. It secures the pipe and makes it so it’s not bouncing around or rattling around as the ship moves. Holds it in place, basically.

“The new tool we’re using for banding, it’s really a game-changer for banding hangers. It’s safer. You don’t have to handle the bands as much. The bands can get pretty sharp, so that’s big. It’s quicker, more efficient, and also I can get in to tighter spots. I mean, spots you couldn’t get an older banding tool in before, you can get this new banding tool in.

“So it’s really a game-changer. I mean, all these tools and digital copies of drawings and everything, it’s a game-changer for shipbuilding. So it’s technology and manual tools all coming together as one.”