



EXCELLENCE ON THE JOB

A SEA SERVICE CASE STUDY

USNS Gordon
Newport News, VA

JOB: ABS inspection & repair
of main pistons

ENGINES: 3 low-speed
diesels power up to 24 knots

Officially named in 1996, the USNS Gordon serves a vital role in the transport of military supplies and vehicles in both war and peace times. The Gordon's roll on/roll off design makes it ideal for transporting helicopters, tanks, trucks and other military vehicles and provides more than 330,000 square feet of cargo space. The ship is 956 feet long, has a beam of 105.9 feet, and displaces approximately 55,422 tons when fully loaded.



The Gordon has a slewing stern ramp and a moveable ramp that services two side ports, making it easy to drive vehicles on and off the ship. In addition, the ship is capable of off-loading cargo onto floating barges while in ports that have been damaged or do not possess cargo cranes.

Upon returning to port, ship management tasked Bay Diesel to "pull" three pistons from the main engines for routine ABS inspections. However, Bay Diesel mechanics found that there was much more work to be done in order to prevent the Gordon from having a major engine failure while at sea. These repairs only became more vital since the Gordon was set to sail only a few days after the problems were diagnosed.

To accommodate the vessel's tight schedule, Bay Diesel added more technicians to the job and worked tireless overtime hours - delay was not an option. Further, after completing the job Bay Diesel even supplied two technicians to sail with the vessel to its first port in order to monitor engine performance.

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