The Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, presented the 2010 Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Safety Excellence Award, Safety Integration in Acquisition to Code PMS377/Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEASYSCOM) Ship to Shore Connector Design and Acquisition Team. Work presented the award during the 4 October 2010 awards ceremony held at the Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center Theater, Washington, DC. Receiving the award on behalf of the Ship to Shore Connector Design and Acquisition Team were Mr. Tom Rivers, Ms. Dawn Doebel, Mr. Doug Johnson, Mr. Walt Mebane, Mr. Craig Carlson, Mr. Chris Dowd, Mr. Bernard Gray, Mr. Robert Holmes, Mr. Gordon Gattie, Mr. Glenn Long, and Mr. Joe Bray.

From left to right are: The Honorable Jackalyne Pfannestiel (ASN E, I&E), BG Gary L. Thomas (Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation), Mr. Glenn Long, Mr. Craig Carlson, Mr. Doug Johnson, Mr. Gordon Gattie, Mr. Robert Holmes, Mr. Joe Bray, Mr. Tom Rivers, Ms. Dawn Doebel, The Honorable Robert O. Work (Under Secretary of the Navy), Mr. Walt Mebane, VADM Kevin McCoy (Commander, NAVSEA), Mr. Chris Dowd, VADM John Bird (Director, Navy Staff), and Mr. Bernie Gray.
The Safety Excellence Awards were established in 2002, by The Honorable Gordon R. England, who twice served as Secretary of the Navy. The awards recognize Navy and Marine Corps commands or groups that demonstrate “extraordinary excellence by sustained mission success with simultaneous exemplary safety performance.” In addition to a citation and plaque, SECNAV Excellence Award winners receive the Secretary’s distinctive safety flag. They are entitled to fly the flag for one year from the date of presentation.

The Ship to Shore Connector (SSC) is a hovercraft designed to transport weapon systems, equipment, cargo and personnel. It replaces the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) hovercraft. The SSC can obtain a speed over 35 knots, carry a payload of 74 short tons, perform over-the-beach operations and operate independent of tides, water depth, underwater obstacles, ice, mud, or beach gradient.

The NAVSEASYSCOM PMS377 SSC Design and Acquisition Team was in competition for the SECNAV Safety Award with other Navy and Marine Corps teams with an acquisition mission. The SSC team’s safety-focused culture led to the implementation of a single integrated plan to facilitate system safety from design through disposal to eliminate known safety issues and incorporate safety and risk management early in the design process.

**Addressed LCAC Top 25 RMA Drivers**

NAVSEASYSCOM PMS377 SSC Design and Acquisition Team addressed Reliability/Maintainability/Availability Drivers.
This practice sets a course for future teams to emulate. It will no doubt protect the Navy’s material assets, prevent injuries, and save lives.

For more information on this success story, please contact Naval Sea Systems Command 202-781-3610.