

MSC Underway Replenishment Training Center (MUTC) Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia

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Who Are We What do we do

MSC Underway replenishment Training Center (MUTC) located at 1142 5TH Street, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia is dedicated to serving the MSC and U.S. Navy fleets. Its mission is to provide: Standard Tensioned Replenishment Alongside Method (STREAM) for Fuel and Cargo, Ordnance Handling Training, Material Handling Equipment, Ammunition Management, Astern Refueling, Banding & Palletization, Basic Operations, Cargo Ordnance, Explosive Material Handling Equipment, Fall Protection Rescuer Training, Magazine Sprinkler Operation and Maintenance, Basic Seamanship, Cargo Drop Reel Repair and Maintenance, Crane Operating Cert's, Probe Repair and Maintenance, STREAM Winch Booth Operator, Vertical Replenishment Familiarization, Visual Information Operation and Maintenance, DRAKE Operation and Maintenance, for training of MSC Civilian Mariners, Cargo Afloat Rig Teams (CART), Active and Reserve Duty Navy personnel.

As the MSC's only fully-equipped and operational underway replenishment (UNREP) training center, MUTC has provided replenishment training and engineering services to the surface fleet since 1976. The command's team of CIVMAR's and Contractor technicians are the fleet's full service UNREP agents, maintaining critical capabilities that allow the fleet to remain at sea for as long as necessary.

We are considered the Navy's Center of Excellence in the field of underway replenishment. "Our team consists of civilian and military professionals who thoroughly understand the operation of the UNREP system. In fact, they are training future UNREP specialist for the future."

The MUTC site is configured with all the same equipment found on both sending and receiving ships in the fleet, which makes it realistic and ideal for practical, hands-on training for any surface fleet sailor. It also offers an opportunity to train in a controlled environment where the risk to trainees and training personnel is mitigated.

MUTC offers familiarization training to the deck crews from a variety of ships: carriers, amphibious ships, surface combatants, Military Sealift Command (MSC) ships, and the ships MSC charters. In general, training is conducted for sailors whose ships are home ported on the West Coast and East Coast for a ship assessment. On an annual basis, MUTC personnel provide approximately 16 to 24 UNREP training sessions, per year. Combined training with MSC and US Navy's training classes, we send through about 1500 students per year.

“Most of the trainees that come here have never experienced an actual UNREP evolution,” said one CIVMAR Instructor. “Our job is to give them a thorough understanding of the procedures with hands-on learning from our team of professionals.”

Training lasts for five days. It starts with classroom training in standard operating procedures for UNREP maneuvers. The sailors learn about rig team organization, safety procedures and communications. The instruction is often provided by the same engineer or technician that will be providing shipboard training.

Then, trainees receive hands-on machinery practice for fuel and cargo rig-sending and receiving, which can be tailored to their ships’ specific configuration. During the training, sailors get the rare opportunity to operate and rig both the delivery side machinery and the receiving stations. This hands-on training gives them an appreciation for the choreography that is required to conduct a safe UNREP evolution.

Learning how to operate the Robb Coupling [an alternative fuel rig arrangement] is something that the ship really needed to know, it is really an important procedure and it’s best to practice that on land.

When sailors leave MUTC, they have confidence in their ability to receive fuel and cargo rigs at sea; they understand their ship-specific rigging arrangement and drawings; and they comprehend the value of maintaining UNREP station weight-testing documentation.

Underway replenishment maneuvers are challenging, even for the most experienced individuals. There are many things to consider for a successful replenishment evolution – and they all must come together seamlessly while two ships move along side-by-side, approximately 120-140 feet apart, in various sea states.

While at sea, sailors continue their dialog with UNREP personnel through distance support capability. This exchange of information between the crew and MUTC personnel ensures the onboard UNREP system works properly when needed anywhere, anytime in support of the ship’s assigned mission.