

By William J. Angelo

New Naval Training Building Transforms

# Recruits Into Sailors

Interactive ship  
module tests sailors  
under high-tech fire

Quietly rising under the radar and chaff of today's starchitects and signature structures is a revolutionary ship-shaped building within a building that marks the beginning of a new genre of naval military training. Built around technology, theatrics and special effects, the project is the prod-

uct of imaginative teamwork.

Dubbed Battle Stations 21, the \$82.5-million facility now under construction at the U.S. Navy's Great Lakes Naval Station, North Chicago, will be the ultimate in naval warfare simulation. When operational in the summer of 2007, it will test all recruits one week before graduation to active service in 16 realistic scenarios based on historic naval events as the training ship "travels" between two ports.

But in reality, the USS Trayer is firmly anchored. It is housed deep within a 156,896-sq-ft steel-framed two-story multi-use administrative structure. When completed, it will be a 210-ft long three-deck replica of a guided missile destroyer that can accommodate up to 352 recruits. It will sit in water and be tied up at Pier 8, part of a mock waterfront.

The Trayer holds eight berthing compartments and is melded into a more traditional three-story, 233-ft long by 90-ft deep steel-frame training building clad in insulated precast concrete panels. The entire training complex is housed in a giant bump-out on the south side of the administration building.

Recruits will face a realistic and demanding 12-hour test of their skills. Special effects and equipment will bring to life shipboard scenarios ranging from mundane to perilous. These include line handling and loading stores, but also fire, flooding and mass casualties.

The new training facility brings together activities that had been developed and spread out over four buildings since 1997. "We needed more realism for better training," says Capt. Michael Moran, training center commanding officer.

Design and construction challenges pushed a contractor-led design-build team, including seven special-effects firms, to keep training



▲ One-of-a-Kind. Battle Stations 21 project is designed to provide more realistic training.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCSHANE-FLEMING STUDIOS

