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Paper

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT OF PROFILE BY WATER JETTING FOR COATINGS REMOVAL

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ABSTRACT

In the context of coatings and corrosion removal, the paint industry has held to the notion that water jetting will not change the original profile which was produced by abrasive blast cleaning. Water Jetting methods can produce a profile, generally on metals softer than steel. To make a uniform texture, the systems must keep the cleaning head with multiple nozzles moving across the surface. This paper examines the language on the current standards, the examples where coatings are removed to reveal the underlying profile, where defects in the substrate metal could occur, and the findings of a recent military paper which is limited in distribution where the researchers are concerned with the removal rate of the metal substrate when they allow the rotating deck blaster to remain stationary.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The author started this paper thinking that the Naval Surface Warfare Center Technical Report (NSWCCD-TR) with a mountain of data on the removal rate of aluminum and steel with a High Pressure Waterjetting (hpwj) crawler could be compared with prior technical data reports. See Reference 1.

This concept proved almost insurmountable because the NSWCCD TR and the prior reports came to profile formation from two different points of view- that of the practitioner with practical experience and that of the authority with overall comprehension. As an example, the Practitioner can run the gasoline engine all day and repair it while the Authority invented the gasoline engine, but not necessarily know the ins and outs of everyday usage.

The NSWCCD focused on misuse of the equipment; the prior reports focused on the positive aspects of UHPWJ enhancing adhesion, formation of a micro-profile over a larger abrasive blast profile and removing embedded abrasive. The prior reports noted the same misuse but didn't emphasize it. The profile produced by the UHP WJ was to be painted, not reconfigured by additional abrasive blasting as mandated by the Navy. However, flight deck maintenance is a safety issue and is an area of expertise in itself. Flight decks are discussed at every meeting.

Starting around the mid 1970's, the author started working with the U.S. Navy through the industrial-Navy program of the National Shipbuilding Research Program (NSRP) to get acceptance of waterjetting as an alternative surface preparation method to conventional abrasive blast cleaning. Dr. David Summers, retired University of Missouri-Rolla, and Roland Lever, Cavitech, were working with other divisions of the Navy and Department of Defense. Europe was seeking to minimize waste streams. Abrasive blasting to remove coatings, or to create the original profile, was the largest waste stream in shipyards. (See Reference 2) The author recognizes Dr. David Summers, Roland Lever, Larry Fulmer, Dr. Mohan Vijay, and the StoneAge group as people who are both Practitioners and Authorities.

Rolland Lever taught the Navy the practical aspects of WJ stripping of coatings; his company photographs and descriptions were adopted by the Navy before industry standards. See Reference 3



Figure 1 Summary Graph of Pressure, flow, and Removal Reference 3

Lever clearly depicts that as the pressure increases, the tip diameter decreases and the energy intensity (impact) per area increases dramatically. Lever also shows that WJ can produce profile in intermediate coatings layers.

Working with a customer can be tricky. Contractors and coatings manufacturers are reluctant to tell any customer that their processes might not be working or that a change could give better results. Criticism leads to loss of contracts and revenues. As a result, misinformation can reign supreme because practitioners see something that they don't understand from their experience, and they resist continuing education.

To this day, at least for the Navy, so far as the author can tell as an outside observer, there is a handful of Naval civilian technical researchers who have worked with water jetting via Dr. Summers, myself, and a few major contractors. However, the author has observed an absence of people who have been to a WJTA conference and understand the fundamentals. Their knowledge comes from the deck plate jetters.

In 1994, the U.S. Navy invented Removal of Coatings by Water Jetting in Bremerton Marine Coatings Conference where they demonstrated the Pratt and Whitney Ship ARMS system. Batelle was doing similar Water jetting coatings removal for the Air Force. Critical to the Batelle work was the Effect of the Water Jet stream on the aluminum substrates. Reference 2, 5 When water jetting was introduced to SSPC, NACE, and the NPCA (National Paint and Coatings Association) around 1985, the immediate response from the industry was to resist anything that was not conventional abrasive blasting, or hand-power tools. As we worked on making standard language, the task groups settled on the template language:

"Waterjet cleaning to achieve the "Very Thorough Cleaning (WJ-2)" degree of surface cleanliness is used when the objective is to remove almost all rust and other corrosion products, coating, and mill scale, but when the extra effort required to remove all of these materials is determined to be unwarranted. Discoloration of the surface may be present.

Waterjet cleaning does not provide the primary anchor pattern on the metallic substrate known as "surface profile."

See Reference 6

2. WATERJET CLEANING

Over the last 40 years, the author has taken many calls for advice or education concerning water jetting, visual appearance, and the measurement of conductive ions. Now the author is getting calls "We have a proposal for the profile to be made by water jetting. Is this possible?" The answer is: "Yes, it is possible, certainly on pieces which are handled by automated systems. On a large surface or structure, it might or might not be economically viable. Contact the manufacturers of the WJ pumps as the pressure in the systems have moved from 10,000 psi (68 MPa) up to 50,000 psi (340 MPa)."

What is the "standard" language and how can it be mis-interpreted?

Waterjet cleaning does not provide the primary anchor pattern on the metallic substrate known as "surface profile."

The author was careful to let the paint industry know that WJ removed material and could produce patterns in metals, but not in an economical time frame.

However, the coatings industry adopted a black and white picture. Practitioners and the abrasive suppliers did not want the hint that WJ could supply a profile. The Practitioners placed their conservative interpretation into the NACE CIP course.

2.1 Background of NSWCCD-61-TR-2020/15

"According to the NACE[®] Coatings Inspector Program (CIP) Level 1 [4] training course section 10.17.4 states, "UHPWJ will not produce a surface profile but **can restore** any previously existing surface profile if the equipment is designed to clean the surface to a high standard." This study will help determine if this statement holds true for UHPWJ operations to remove nonskid onboard naval flight decks due to the frequency at which flight decks are replaced over the service life of a ship." See Reference 2, p.3.

The above statement can lead practitioner to an erroneous position. It is true that you can remove coatings without substantially changing the underlying substrate. It is also true that you can

change the substrate energy and profile, typically to form a micro-profile rather than the macro profile.



Figure 2 Example of water wetting the surface better after water jetting. The center was water jetted at 40,000 psi with 6 gpm. Left and right of center were only degreased. Reference 7

In 2001, the Navy was investigating the formation of surface profile at the Naval Sea Systems Command. NSTM Chapter 634, Deck Covering requires a measurable anchor tooth profile of 3 to 4.5 mils. Their conclusion. Water Jetting at pressures up to 40,000 psi alone cannot impart this profile [on cold rolled steel]. It can only reveal an existing profile. During surface preparation, the wetting characteristics of the surface changed significantly. Prior to waterjetting, the water was observed to bead on the surface meaning incomplete wetting was achieved and the substrate had low surface energy. After the surface was waterjetted, however, water was observed to spread quickly over the surface, meaning more complete wetting was achieved, thus the surface energy of the substrate was increased.

- The profile data on the solvent cleaned non-blasted panel and the waterjet cleaned panel were similar. The effects of water jetting on surface profile were undetectable using either Testex tape or profilometer.
- The data show no significant difference between the adhesion of coatings to the various surface preparations used.
- Water jetting may affect substrate surface energy.
- The results reported in this paper are based on the specific parameters of the water jetting equipment used, substrate and coating materials selected, and the tests performed.

McGaulley is requesting additional panel testing and determination on other factors that affect adhesion. From this project, the Navy could conclude that WJ alone would not create a profile. See Reference 7

3. CONVENTIONAL PHOTOS

The following photos illustrate what a practitioner would encounter and why the revealed substrate looks like the original profile under the paint or rust.



Figure 3 Waterjet cleaning to WJ-1 revealing the abrasive blasted substrate. No measurable change in profile. The two layer coating system in white topcoat, red primer.



Figure 4 Waterjet cleaning to WJ-1 of Grade D steel. The rotating head standoff was moved further in. Showing the linear groove of the nozzle.



Figure 5 Flat Surface Treatment Using Rotary Head Equipped with two water nozzles Reference 8

Kunaporn and Ramulu published several papers on the impact pressure and peening and changing the surface energy of various substrates. Water Jet cleaning can influence the energy of the substrate surface and enhance fatigue strength. See Reference 9

The Navy wasn't alone in searching for the effect of water jetting on the substrate profile. Akzo Nobel had just issued their Hydroblasting photos in 1994. Europe was adopting this technique. Individual coatings manufacturers were doing their own proprietary research on specific coatings systems, primarily for marine exposure.

In 1995 as WJ for coating removal was being introduced to SSPC, Stein Bjoerndal, Ameron International- Norway, said that Ameron Norway went over steel with UHPWJ with 10 passes; they found a 10% decrease after 10 passes. This project was reported in a Norwegian Marine Tanker Coatings magazine, but translation from Norwegian to English was not available. The report has been mislaid during the interim years. Ameron wanted to verify, in their in-house R & D, the influence of Water Jetting on the profile (peak to valley). Reference 10

The author wrote about revealing the substrate in 1983 to 1985 using 140 MPa (20,000 psi) waterjetting. The author's experience at 140 MPa (20,000 psi) was that corrosion was removed and the profile remained at originally established. (Reference 11) Dupuy and Howlett published a paper for 35,000 psi (241 MPa) water blasting on surfaces which were original blasted with abrasive. (Reference 12)

It is noted that we were not looking for a change in surface profile, nor trying for a deliberate misuse of the equipment. We were seeking the removal of rust, prior coatings, and invisible contaminants.

4. DEFECTS DESCRIBED IN OTHER PAPERS

The conclusion from all the paper- keep the head moving to avoid localized deterioration of gouges or grooves. Use a uniform motion and standoff to produce a uniform textured substrate.

4.1 Miller and Swenson

In 1999, Miller and Swenson, Thiokol Propulsion Division, was investigating erosion rates between the 10,000 to 15,000 psi (68 MPa to 100 MPa) fixed nozzle systems to 36,000 to 40,000 psi (250 to 272 MPa) multi-orifice, rotary nozzle, waterjet system. The project was to determine a method to refurbish space shuttle equipment with the least amount of erosion. This project is close to the requirement of the NSWCCD-TR. Reference 13

Maximum erosion at any one location is dependent on the nozzle overlap pattern. Calculating erosion based on weight loss proved to be the only method sensitive enough to detect the slight erosion of D6AC steel by the established waterjet cleaning process. All erosion testing was conducted on bare metal coupons to simulate a 'worst case condition'.

The project was completed at 2 different sites with slightly different parameters: Their parameters were:

1992

- Water Pressure: 36,000 psi (at the pump)
- Nozzle Speed: 1,000 rpm
- Nozzle Standoff: 1.0"
- Nozzle Angle: Normal to the surface being cleaned
- Sweep Rate: 70 inches per minute

1995 and 1998

- Water Pressure: 40,000 psi (at the pump)
- Nozzle Speed: 500 to 1,500 rpm (1,300 rpm nominal)
- Nozzle Standoff: 1.0" to 2.5" (2.5" nominal)
- Nozzle Angle: Normal to the surface being cleaned
- Sweep Rate: 30 to 60 inches per minute (60 ipm nominal)

1995 Testing

The 1995 testing was conducted to qualify a new automated ultra-pressure, rotary nozzle, waterjet system for use on space shuttle flight hardware. Data from the testing verified that the new system would safely and efficiently remove contaminants without damaging the hardware. This hardware was designed to be reused up to 20 times. Component wall thickness was designed with the assumption that each refurbishment would remove up to 0.001 in. of material from the steel substrate wall thickness.

1998 Testing

The 1998 testing qualified the same automated system for use on Minuteman III Stage 1 hardware. The task of the Minuteman Propulsion Replacement Program (PRP) is to remove old propellant, insulation, and adhesives from the steel hardware and then to reline and reload

the hardware. The Minuteman hardware was not designed for reuse and therefore has minimal allowances for erosion of the steel substrate. This testing verified that the minimum allowable erosion of 0.0001 in. would not be exceeded during the cleaning process.

Erosion testing was determined by calculating the weight difference of each test sample (before and after waterjet exposure) and then dividing by the material (D6AC steel) specific weight and coupon exposed surface area to determine the erosion (mils). In comparing the single pass waterjet erosion of 0.009 mils (0.23 μ m) to that of the zirconium silicate paint removal of 0.7 mils (18 μ m)., the level of material erosion is decreased by approximately 98%. See Table 1

The rate of D6AC steel erosion (inches/pass) when exposed to the ultra-pressure waterjet cleaning process is not linear. The erosion rate is only slightly different between the first and second exposures ($\sim 11\%$) while the third and subsequent exposures display a much larger variation in the erosion rate. In fact, the data show that the initial exposure removed up to 88% more material than the subsequent exposures.

Failure simulation testing shows that any prolonged exposure, at zero nozzle rpm and / or zero sweep rate, will cause significant material removal, (0.0017 in./sec.).

Miller and Swenson also illustrated the hole drilling when the head was not rotated and crop circles when the head was rotating without a transverse movement.

To prevent unacceptable erosion of steel substrates it is essential that automated systems be designed with devices to control and monitor the critical processing parameters. These systems must also be equipped with the means to automatically and immediately shut off the flow of high-pressure water when established critical parameter limits are violated.

	D6AC Steel Er				
Pressure (psi)	Revolution/min	Stand-off	Volume	# of	Average
10,000 psi =	(rpm)	(Inch)	Liter/min	passes	Erosion
68 MPa		1" = 25 μm	(lpm)		mil-inch
36,000	1,000	1 "	70	1	0.009
40,000	1,300	2.5"	60	2	0.017
40,000	1,300	2.5	60	3	0.018
40,000	500-1,500	1.0 - 2.5	30-60	6	0.018
Zirconium				1 refurb	0.700
silicate grit					

Table 1. Normal Operating Parameters Erosion

Note: Figure 6 in Reference 13



Normal Operating Parameters Erosion D6AC Steel Frosion Data

Figure 1. Waterjet Erosion versus Gritblast Erosion

Figure 6 Normal Operating Parameters Erosion

Note: Figure 1 in Reference 13

4.2 Wright, Wolgamott, Zink (StoneAge group)

Wright, Wolgamott, and Zink published a series showing localized distortions and what happened if the head stopped rotating or was not moved along the substrate. They used a rotating jet, pipe which is found in sewer lines, 20,000 psi (140 MPa) both good and bad nozzles, with varying dwell times. Steel process lines and tubes are commonly cleaned using waterjet systems with pressures up to 40,000 psi. There is a risk of damaging these lines depending on operating parameters such as jet pressure, angle, rotation, and rate of traverse. See Reference 14

Waterjet surface preparation is typically performed using pressures from 20,000 to 40,000 psi, with rotating nozzle heads varying in diameter from 2 inches to 16 inches. Materials being removed include coatings, oxidation, or scales. The purpose of this research was to determine the effects of variables such as standoff distance, traverse speed, surface speed, rotation speed, and the head design.



Figure 7 Left side is 30 seconds dwell, right side is 60 seconds dwell time Reference 14



Damage at 250 MPa (36,000 psi), Time Periods of 10, 30 and 60 Seconds Figure 9.

Figure 8 Damage at 250 MPa, time periods of 10, 30, and 60 seconds Reference 14

5. CRAWLER UNIT NSWCCD-1-TR-2020/15

In Figure 1 Lever clearly depicts that as the pressure increases, the tip diameter decreases and the energy intensity (impact) per area increases dramatically. With a robotic crawler, the operator is placing 5 to 8 tips which are about 0.025 cm diameter (0.01 inch), rotating the nozzle bar, and trying to clean a 30-60 cm wide (12 to 24 inch) path. The transverse speed must be constant, or you will make overlapping spirals. See Figure 5

The NSWCCD-TR is more comprehensive than any individual WJTA papers. Reference 1. It is unclassified, but with distribution to persons with contracts with the US Navy. Reference 13 is closest to the NSWCCD-TR.

Reference 1 is 109 pages long. Selected portions and photos are given in this paper. In this section, the author has kept the original numbering of the Figures; thus, the TR figures are out of sequence with the rest of this paper. The author has changed the original Table numbers to conform with the Table numbering in this paper. Reference 1 uses English notation.

5.1 Operating Parameters

The conditions of the US Navy system (Reference 1, p. 5) are:

- 272 MPa (40,000 psi),
- 2 passes per cycle,
- 1 ft²/min,

The objective of this project was to determine **if there was degradation** to the abrasive blasted surface profile of steel and aluminum (Al) plates after seven repetitive cycles of nonskid coating application and removal (replacement) by ultra-high pressure waterjet (UHPWJ) using a commercial robotic crawler unit capable of pressures at or above 40 ksi.[sic 40,000 psi] Results from this study will help determine if the minimum requirement of the 20 percent abrasive blast mandate in the current FY-20 CH- 1, NAVSEA Standard Item (NSI) 009-32 is sufficient during nonskid system replacement on flight decks.

5.2 Executive Summary

The objective of this project was to determine if there was degradation to the established surface profile of steel and aluminum (Al) plates after seven repetitive cycles of nonskid coating application and removal (replacement) by ultra-high pressure waterjet (UHPWJ) using a commercial robotic crawler unit capable of pressures at or above 40 ksi. Results from this trial study will help determine if the minimum 20 percent abrasive blast mandate in NAVSEA Standard Item (NSI) 009-32, FY 21, CH-2 is sufficient during nonskid system replacement on flight decks. Four plates were selected for this project: HY-80 (two plates), Al 5456-H116, and Al 6061-T6. An Al 6082-T5/T6 extruded section was added during testing via sponsor request. Five test methods were selected to evaluate changes to the plates' surfaces: profile measurements using a needle depth gauge, ultrasonic testing (UT), metallography, adhesion testing, and mass loss testing on Al 6082.

Surface profile measurements using a needle depth gauge revealed that the HY80-1 and HY80-2 steel plates resulted in an average surface profile rate of reduction of 0.21 mils/cycle and 0.29 mils/cycle, respectively. The Al 5456 and Al 6061 plates revealed an average surface profile reduction rate of 0.27 mils/cycle and 0.36 mils/ cycle, respectively. The Al 6082 extruded section revealed an average profile rate of reduction of 0.3 mils/cycle, respectively. The HY80-2 and Al 6061 plates that received 14 passes of UHPWJ after seven cycles of nonskid replacement revealed a greater rate of reduction than the HY80-1 and Al 5456 plates that received seven passes of UHPWJ by approximately 0.8 mil/cycle and 0.9 mil/cycle, respectively.

UT longitudinal wave technique revealed that the HY80 steel plates resulted in a material thickness rate of reduction after seven cycles of nonskid replacement of 0.21 mils/cycle and 0.29 mils/cycle. The Al 5456 and Al 6061 plates resulted in a material thickness rate of reduction after seven cycles of nonskid replacement of 0.36 mils/cycles and 0.43 mils/cycles. The HY80-2 plate, and Al 6061 plate that received 14 passes of UHPWJ both revealed a greater rate of reduction than the HY80-1 and Al 5456 plates in order of magnitude of 0.8 mils/cycle and 0.7 mils/cycle

Metallography images of the HY80-1 steel plate samples revealed that after six cycles of nonskid replacement the peaks became smoother. Metallography images of the HY80-2 steel plate samples that received 12 passes of UHPWJ after six cycles of nonskid replacement revealed more of a rounded surface profile with areas of little profile.

Metallography images of the Al 5456 plate samples revealed less frequent deep valleys and high peaks after six cycles of nonskid replacement, while the Al 6061 plate samples after 12 passes of UHPWJ revealed that periodic high peaks seen on the baseline profile images were generally not present.

Mass loss testing of Al 6082 resulted in a linear net increase in mass loss and material thickness loss as the dwell time of the crawler unit waterjetting at 40 ksi in a stationary position increased. While the original surface profiles for all plates decreased with increasing cycles of UHPWJ, the adhesion strength of the primer coating remained good with average pressures far above minimum requirement after six cycles of nonskid replacement.

5.3 Types of Material Used

The following list is comprised of the materials selected for this study:

- Aluminum 5456-H116 (4' x 8' x 0.25")
- Aluminum 6061-T6 (4' x 8' x 0.25")
- HY-80, (two plates total) (4' x 8' x 0.25")
- Aluminum 6082 (4' x 4' x 0.125") (Note: This was not a plate. This section was an extrusion with corrugated cross-section. The thinnest part of extrusion was 0.125" thick. The total height of extrusion was 3.5".

5.4 Surface Profile Measurement Preparation

For this study, the HY80 steel plates, Al 5456 and Al 6061 plates, and the extruded Al 6082 material were abrasive blasted once in accordance with NSI 009-32. Profile measurements were

taken in 12 different spot locations in accordance with ASTM D4417 Method B [6] (DeFelsko Positector 6000 series surface profile needle depth gauge).

Note by Author. The surface profile needle depth gauge will not be sufficient to measure micro profile. It will measure maximum profile, which is appropriate for this study. NSI 009-31 is Navy Standard Item 009-32 Cleaning and Painting Requirements. It is revised periodically; Dated versions are located on the internet.

Paragraph 3.11.9.3 in the NSI 009-32 states, "If the primer coat is not overcoated with nonskid within 7 days of final full primer coat application, the primer must be removed, and the surface preparation repeated." The HY80-2 and Al 6061 plates were coated with an epoxy "hold" primer on one-half while the other half of the plate was left uncoated. Afterwards, the plates were placed outside overnight for a period of 24 hours or until flash rust and oxidation appeared on the bare section, then they were waterjetted again to remove the holding primer and oxidation prior to applying the nonskid system. This method was selected to reflect two common field practices of nonskid replacement on naval ships' flight decks where both require an additional pass of UHPWJ to reestablish the required surface cleanliness prior to nonskid system application. The HY80-2 and Al 6061 plates received 14 passes of UHPWJ in total for the seven cycles of nonskid replacement. For this study, the application and removal of the nonskid system (primer and topcoat), and removal of holding primer/oxidation via UHPWJ is considered one complete cycle. For the HY80-2 and Al 6061 plates, one cycle equaled two passes of UHPWJ. Contractors during nonskid replacement will either apply a holding primer after the old nonskid system was removed or leave the deck's substrate exposed for multiple days before coming back and waterjetting again to remove any holding primer, flash rust (steel decks), or oxidation (aluminum decks).

5.5 Observed Defects Due to UHPWJ (page 16)

The UHPWJ unit used was non-hydraulic and required one man to maneuver it back and forth. The transition rate of the unit used on the plates was recorded at 1 ft2/min. Deep gouges on the Al 5456 plate surface were observed after the UHPWJ passes; these consisted of either a linear row of eight deep gouges displayed in Figure 17 or circular grooves displayed in Figure 18. The robotic crawler unit has eight jewel-nozzles lined up on an eight-inch straight bar which rotates. The bar is mounted to the crawler unit and moves over the plate surface directing the water at ultra-high pressure. The linear row of deep gouges can occur when the ultra-high pressure water is exiting the nozzles while the bar is not rotating and the crawler unit is stationary (see Figure 17). Upon discovery of the linear defects, the operator of the robotic unit was questioned, and he confirmed the defects were created when the bar was not rotating. One set of the gouges displayed in Figure 17 were cutout from the Al 5456 plate. Cross-sections of the gouges were examined using metallography to reveal the depth of penetration made into the plate surface along with 3D heat imaging illustrated in Figures 19 and 20. In Figure 19, the depth of the gouges measured at 39.4 mils (1002 µm) and 36.6 mils (929.73 µm). In Figure 20, a 3D heat map confirmed the measurements of the metallographic cross-section images of the deep gouges to be between 37.4 - 39.4 mils (950-1000 μm).

The second type of defects as seen in Figure 18 are circular grooves (also called crop circles) that can occur during the UHPWJ process when the robotic crawler unit is left stationary but the ultrahigh pressure water is running and the bar is rotating. They can also occur when the operator is

maneuvering the unit back and forth in the same general area. Circular grooves visually revealed into the Al 6061 plate during the cycles of UHPWJ as illustrated in Figures 21 and 22. The circular grooves were examined in more detail during the mass loss trials of Al 6082.



Figure 18 Combination of deep gouges in a linear direction and circular grooves seen into the Al 5456 plate. NSWCCD Figure



Figure 19 Metallographic cross-section images of two of the narrow gouges in the Al 5456 by a robotic crawler unit during the process of UHPWJ.

5.6 Ultrasonic Testing Longitudinal Wave Technique

This technique established the material thickness.

The HY80-1 results displayed a material thickness loss ranging from 0.001-0.0015 in. (1.0-1.5 mils) after seven cycles of nonskid replacement.

The HY80- 2 plate displayed a material thickness loss ranging from 0.0015-0.002 in. (1.5-2.0 mils) after seven cycles of nonskid replacement (14 passes of UHPWJ).

The Al 5456 plate resulted in a material thickness loss ranging from 0.001-0.0025 in. (1.0-2.5 mils) through seven cycles of nonskid replacement.

The Al 6061 plate resulted in a greater material thickness loss than the Al 5456 plate ranging from 0.0015-0.003 in. (1.5-3 mils) after seven cycles of nonskid replacement (14 passes of UHPWJ).

5.7 Surface Profile Evaluation by Metallography

Note: The text is from NSWCCD-61-TR-2020/15 and refers to the Figure Numbers as in the Technical Report. The **tables** have been renumbered within the text to reflect consecutive tables in **THIS** paper.

Representative metallography images of cross-sections from the HY80 steel panels, Al 6061 panels, and Al 5456 panels of the baseline, after the first cycle, and after the sixth cycle of nonskid replacement are shown in Figures 43 through 55. The profile images of the HY80-1 samples observed by metallographic examination are shown in Figures 43 through 45. The metallographic images of the HY80-1 samples revealed a varied range of profile where in some areas examined showed little profile such as those shown in Figures 43a, 43b, 44a, and 44b, while other areas showed large peaks such as those shown in Figures 43c, 44c, and 44d. Overall, while the large peak ranges did not change significantly after six cycles of nonskid replacement, the peaks became smoother. Metallography was not performed after the seventh cycle because the plates' surface were significantly gouged during shipment.

Figure 58, the depth of penetration of the mechanical gouge made into the coupon after UHPWJ for 10 seconds was measured at $1.32 \text{ mils} (33.57 \text{ }\mu\text{m})$.





Representative metallographic images of non-abrasive and abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupons after UHPWJ for 20 seconds are shown in Figures 60 and 61. In Figure 60, the mechanical gouge made into the non-abrasive blasted coupon was measured at 8.6 mils (218.03 μ m). The measured depth of penetration of 8.6 mils equals 3.6% material thickness loss of a 0.236-inch thick plate. In Figure 61, the depth of penetration of the mechanical gouge made into the coupon was measured at 4.7 mils (120.67 μ m). The original surface profile was 3.07 mils (77.97 μ m).



Figure 60. Metallographic image of a non-abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 20 seconds



Figure 61. Metallographic images of an abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 20 seconds

Representative metallographic images of a non-abrasive and an abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 100 seconds are shown in Figures 68 and 69. In Figure 68, the mechanical gouges made after UHPWJ into the non-abrasive blasted coupon were measured at 12.4 mils (314.27 μ m) and at 9.4 mils (239.62 μ m). The measured depth of penetration of 12.4 mils and 9.4 mils equal 5.3% and 4.0%, respectively, material thickness loss of a 0.236 in. thick plate.

In Figure 69, the mechanical gouges made after UHPWJ in the abrasive blasted coupon were measured at 5.8 mils (148.19 un) and 14.5 mils (367.76 μ m). The measured depth of penetration of 14.5 mils equals 6.1% material thickness loss of a 0.236 in. thick plate. The original abrasive blasted profile was 3.5 mils (88 μ m).



Figure 68. Metallographic image of a non-abrasive blasted mass loss coupon UHPWJ for 100 seconds in stationary position.



Figure 69. Metallographic image of an abrasive blasted coupon after UHPWJ for 100 seconds.

Representative metallographic images of a non-abrasive and an abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 120 seconds are shown in Figures 70 and 71. In Figure 70, the mechanical gouges made into the non-abrasive blasted coupon after UHPWJ were measured at 6.4 mils (163.01 μ m), 6.2 mils (156.53 μ m), and at 19.2 mils (488.73 μ m). The measured depth of penetration of 19.2 mils equals 8.1% material thickness loss of a 0.236 in. thick plate.

In Figure 71, the mechanical gouge made into the abrasive blasted coupon after UHPWJ was measured at 19.5 mils (495.85 μ m), which equals 8.3% material thickness loss of a 0.236 in. thick plate.



Figure 70. Metallographic image of a non-abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 120 seconds.



Figure 71. Metallographic image of an abrasive blasted Al 6082 coupon after UHPWJ for 120 seconds

Dwell Time of UHPWJ (seconds)	Maximum Depth of Penetration for Abrasively Blasted Coupons (Mils)	Maximum Depth of Penetration for Non-Abrasive Coupons (Mils)		
120	19.5	19.2		
100	14.5	12.4		
80	8.8	8.9		
60	12.8	4.2		
40	4.7	9.3		
20	4.8	8.6		
15	3.1	3.2		
10	N/A	1.3		
5	N/A	1.3		

Table 2.Maximum depth of penetration in relations to Al 6082 thickness loss per dwell
time of UHPWJ exposure

Note: Table 3 in Reference 1

5.8 Adhesion testing

Representative photos of the adhesion testing via pull-off strength of coatings (ASTM 4541, Method E) and tape test (ASTM 3359, Method A). Due to the fact that this is a nonskid system, only the nonskid primer was used for adhesion testing. Results from adhesion testing showed that the primer coating on the steel substrate and aluminum alloys after six cycles of nonskid replacement retained good adhesion strength with the average values exceeded the minimum requirement of 400 psi by an order of magnitude of 10. The HY80-2 and Al 6061 plates that received twice as many UHPWJ passes than the HY80-1 and Al 5456 plates during the trials showed no major differences in adhesion strength. Table 3 summarizes the adhesion pull-off strength test results of the baseline. Table 4 summarizes the adhesion pull-off strength test results after six cycles of nonskid application and removal.

Table 3.	Summary of ASTM D4541, Method E (Adhesion Pull-off Strength) baseline results of
	both steel and aluminum panels.

	Baseline							
Panel Avg Pressure at Failure (PSI)		Types of Failure: Cohesive/ Adhesive	Locations of Failure					
HY80-1	4150	Cohesive and Adhesive	Six dollies failed between glue and primer. Two failed between substrate & primer					
HY80-2	3595	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer					
Al 5456	2847	Cohesive and Adhesive	Five dollies failed between glue and primer. Three dollies failed between substrate & primer					
Al6061	3309	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer.					

Note: Table 4 in Reference 1

Table 4. Summary of the ASTM D4541, Method E (Adhesion Pull off Strength) results after sixcycles of UHPWJ for both steel and aluminum panels.

After 6th Cycle of UHPWJ							
Panel	PanelAvg Pressure at Failure (PSI)Types of Failure: Cohesive/ Adhesive		Locations of Failure				
HY80-1	4147	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer				
HY80-2	3997	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer				
Al 5456	2947	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer.				
A16061	2948	Cohesive and Adhesive	All dollies failed between glue and primer.				

Note: Table 5 in Reference 1

5.9 SUMMARY NSWCCD-61-TR-2020/15

Table 5 summarizes the reduction rate per cycle of the peak and average surface profile of the steel and aluminum plates. Eleven cycles of UHPWJ would be required to remove over 3.0 mils of surface profile on aluminum flight decks, and 21 cycles for steel flight decks. For example, if the peak surface profile of an aluminum 6000 series flight deck was recorded at 4 mils, then after three nonskid replacements the surface profile would be below the minimum requirement of 3 mils called out in NSI 009-3.2

Material	Profile Net Peak Loss		Net Average	Number of Cycles to
	Reduction Rate	eduction Rate After 7 cycles		Remove 3 mils of
	(mils/cycle)	(mils)	cycles (mils)	Profile
HY80-1	0.21	1.0	1.5	21
HY80-2 (14				12
passes of	0.29	1.7	2.0	12
UHPWJ)				
Al 5456	0.27	1.3	1.9	16
Al 6061 (14				11
passes of	0.36	2.0	2.5	11
UHPWJ)				

Table 5. Reduction Rates of the Surface Profile of Steel and Aluminum Plates

Note: Table 7 in Reference 1

Note: Errata HY80-2 Number of cycles is calculated at **12** rather than the published 21 in the Redacted Version of NSWCCD-61-TR-2020/15

Table 6 summarizes the reduction rate per cycle of the peak and average surface profile of the Al 6082 extruded structure. Seven cycles of UHPWJ would be required to remove over 2.0 mils of surface profile at the reduction rate recorded for Al 6082 flight decks.

Table 6	Reduction	Rates	of the	Surface	Profile	of Al 6082
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Material	Profile Reduction	Net Peak Loss	Net Average Loss	Number of Passes to
	Rate (mils/ cycle)	After 3 cycles	After 3 cycles	Remove 3 mils
		(mils)	(mils)	Profile
Al 6082	.33	0.9	1.0	10

Note: Table 8 in Reference 1

Note: Errata Number of Passes to remove 3 mils Profile is calculated at 10 rather than the published 1 in the Redacted version of NSWCCD-61-TR-2020/15

Table 7 summarizes the reduction rate per cycle of material thickness of the steel and aluminum plates. The risk of removing steel and aluminum material over maximum thickness allowance via UHPWJ is very low. Deep gouges and circular grooves were revealed on the Al 5456 and Al 6061 plate surfaces during the waterjet process due to operator error as the ultra-high pressure water was impinging on the surface while the crawler unit was stationary. The measured depth of penetration of two of the deep gouges was approximately 40 mils.

Material	Material Thickness Reduction Rate	Net Maximum Material Thickness Loss After 7 cycles	Number of Cycles to Remove Over Maximum Thickness Allowance [10,	
	(mils/cycle)	(mils)	11]	
HY80-1	0.21	1.5	912	
HY80-2 (14 passes				
of UHPWJ)	0.29	2.0	912	
Al 5456	0.36	2.5	620	
Al 6061 (14 passes				
of UHPWJ)	0.43	3.0	517	

Table 7	Reduction	Rate of	Material	Thickness	of Plates	by U	JT Long	gitudinal	Wave
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Note: Table 9 in Reference 1

Metallography images of the HY80-1 steel plate samples revealed that the peaks became smoother after six cycles of nonskid replacement. Metallography images of the HY80-2 steel plate samples that received 12 passes of UHPWJ after six cycles of nonskid replacement revealed more of a rounded surface profile with areas of little profile. Metallography images of the Al 5456 plate samples revealed less frequent deep valleys and high peaks after six cycles of nonskid replacement, while the Al 6061 plate samples after 12 passes of UHPWJ revealed that periodic high peaks seen on the baseline profile images were generally not present. The Al 6061 surface profile appeared more ablated than the Al 5456 profile after 12 passes of UHPWJ.

Mass loss testing of Al 6082 resulted in a linear net increase in mass loss and material thickness loss as the dwell time of the crawler unit waterjetting at 40 ksi in a stationary position increased. While the original surface profiles for all plates decreased with increasing cycles of UHPWJ, the adhesion strength of the primer coating remained good with average pressures far above minimum requirement after six cycles of nonskid replacement.

6 **PRODUCING A PROFILE**

Metals have different threshold pressures, the pressure where the material is being removed. As early as 1995, patents by Van Kuiken and Byrnes were issued for pure Water Jets to generate a profile in malleable light metal comprising the steps of: roughening said surface by creating jets of water having pressures sufficiently high to clean and erode the surface to provide a pitted surface with undercuts, so that said surface is provided with a mechanical /adhesive bond for said coating...

6.1 VanKuiken Patent Malleable Light Metal

Van Kuiken and Byrnes were working between 35,000 and 55,000 psi. This patent finds application in engine block manufacturing and claims thermal spray coatings of aluminum, aluminum-bronze alloy, and low carbon alloy steel. Reference 15











Note: Figure 3 in Reference 15

The grit blast surface has high peaks to valley, and flat gouge surface; The thermal Spray coating adhesion is 3000 psi. The lower WJ surface has a 10-75 micron profile, much more peaks per unit area, the thermal spray coating adhesion is 6000 psi.





Note: Figure 4 in reference 15

The adhesion of the thermal spray coating was enhanced by the undercutting of the water jet process.

6.2 Taylor Surface Roughening Inconel IN 718

The formation of profile and enhancement of adhesion was verified by Thomas Taylor in 1995. See Reference 16

In 1995, Taylor worked with a stream of 0.016 inch (0.4 mm) diameter orifice, standoff of 3 in (7.6 cm), with an erosion trace of about 0.06 in (1.5 mm). Mass loss is calculated as milligrams of mass lost per square centimeter of surface area. The substrate was Inconel IN-718. The measured erosion (mg/ cm²) ranges 0.26 to 42.17; the calculated thickness loss in μ m ranges from 0.1 to 51.2.

Two features of water jet erosion were noted:

- There is a minimum mass of water required to impinge before there is measurable erosion, that is, an incubation period.
- There is a threshold pressure required for measurable erosion.

The threshold pressure of IN-718 is about 28,500 psi (196 MPa) which is slightly under the 30,000 psi (204 MPa) pump.

Taylor's photographs are similar to VanKuiken's photographs.



Figure 11 WaterJet profile of IN-718

The IN-718 eroded at 50,000 psi (345 MPa) The feature size is at least an order of magnitude finer in the waterjet surface.

The striking point is ...the detail of the eroded surface increases with increasing magnification, suggest the waterjet erosion produces a fractal surface. ... granular features of about 2 microns ... rather micro-faceted.

Excellent bonding of a thermal spray overlay was obtained with this surface preparation having an absolutely clean interface.



Figure 12 Alumina grit blasted surface.

The grit-blast surface would appear smoother as the magnification is increased, going from a longrange roughness pattern to smooth plateaus and facets, although there is micro-grooving due to the abrasion of the grit particle. The roughness of the grit blat surface is a about 5.3 μ m, while the waterjet surface is about 6.0 μ m, much the same in magnitude but substantially different in detail.

6.3 Vijay AL 6061-T6511 Aluminum Alloy

More recently, Vijay, Tieu, et.al. have reported on enhancing the adhesion strength of sprayed coatings. They start with an aluminum oxide abrasive blasted AL 6061-T6511aluminiumm alloy substrate. See Reference 17



Figure 13: SEM image of grit blasted aluminum showing traces of alumina oxide grit embedment





Figure 14: SEM Image (200x) showing PWJ roughened surface free from grit contamination.

Figure 2 in Reference 17

The surface topography is increased by random pits and crevices created by cavitation. The adhesion strength and surface roughness appear to have a direct correlation.



Figure 15: SEM image (500X) showing a cross sectional view of the coating and substrate interface. Note the interlocking effect offering strong mechanical anchoring.

Figure 6 in Reference 17

Vijay's conclusions are:

- Increased adhesion strength is a result of increased surface area and increased mechanical anchoring features.
- The surface roughness is beyond what can be expected from grit blasting.
- The additional benefit of not having embedded grit.

Vijay et.al. has also produced different profiles on biocompatible metals such as titanium to generate a progressive micro-and nano-topography with bioactive abilities for biomedical applications.

6.4 -Hashish Superplastic Formed Metals

Ramulu, Hashish and Chillman investigate the use of waterjets (>600 MPa) to qualify the material removal mechanism and form fine grain Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. The surface preparation for the formation of texture and removal was dependent on process dynamics. Reference 18

6.5 Hare Adhesion Factors

Hare published a series of articles on the fundamentals of paint for the Journal of Protective Coatings and Linings (JPCL) over several years. Clive Hare is my "GO TO" papers as Dr. Summers articles are my "GO TO" for waterjet fundamentals. The prior examples all verify the discussion of Clive Hare. Hare includes requirements for maximized adhesion in Reference 19.

For quality and longevity of paint performance, the substrate should have high surface energy, increased surface area, a pure surface without contamination, the presence of active sites, and porosity. See reference 19

Hare's summary list includes:

- Molecular bonding- mechanical bonding
- Expansion of surface area increases the number of potentially reactive sites for primary or secondary bonding.
- The thin, impermeable oxide layer that immediately reforms on newly bared iron surface is adherent and suitable as a substrate for good adhesion.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Water Jetting can produce a surface profile or texture on substrate.

The process must be automated so that the desired profile is achieved and not manifested as a deterioration.

The field use of 272 to340 MPa (40,000 to 50,000 psi) has exceeded the threshold pressure of steels as well as aluminum alloys and leads to material removal.

The undercutting of the substrate and the increase of the surface area are beneficial to increase the real surface area.

The exposed surface area for a water jet texture is greater per unit area than comparable abrasive blast surface area.

Thermal spray coatings work well on waterjet textures even if the profile is not as deep at abrasive blasted surfaces.

Practitioners (Jetters, Contractor) should be made aware that material is being removed when the robotic head is stationary and might need to change their work habits.

Authorities (Owners, Specifiers, Trainers, Coatings Experts, Coating Manufacturers) should consider that a conventional surface texture might not be required for performance. However, additional testing such as cathodic disbondment, or a lateral shear test rather than a perpendicular pull-off adhesion to determine if the macro peak-to-valley is required.

Do not let the head stop moving!

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