

Session – Operations and Requirements

DPO Assessment and Improvement

Authors: Captain John Macdonald and Lew Weingarth, *Transocean, Inc.*

Abstract

DPOs hold one of the most responsible positions on the vessel. They are required to understand and operate a number of complex systems, often with weak supporting documentation, particularly with regards to interfaces between systems. Much of the equipment the DPO is required to manage is remote, often hundreds of meters away. Often the DPOs only window into what that equipment is doing is a bar graph and row of numbers, from which the DPO has to detect proper operation and any number of problems. This is a challenging job, particularly when the DPO has no formal training to understand this remote equipment.

This paper will present a combined simulator and training program that is being developed to improve DPO understanding of the operation of these complex integrated systems. An advanced simulator will have the ability to present the DPO with a wide range of failure modes that cannot easily be duplicated on an operating vessel, but which have caused loss of location numerous times. This same simulator can be used to effectively measure the skill level of DPOs, including new hires.

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