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Crane to Dismantle A Minesweeper on a Coral Reef



The Jascon 25 a pipe-lay construction crane vessel

A US Navy minesweeper lying on a coral reef in the Sulu Sea will soon resurface in pieces after a pipe-lay construction crane vessel helps dismantle it.

In January 2013 The *USS Guardian* hit the protected Tubbataha Reef off the south-western part of the Philippines. Originally contracted to

lift the ship, the *SMIT Borneo* salvage vessel ran into difficulties with anchoring the crane another vessel, so the *Jascon 25* was requested as a replacement.

The *Jascon 25* has a Huisman-Itrec main crane with an 800-ton lifting capacity at 30 meters, a whip hoist capacity of 120 tons at 35 meters and an underwater capacity of 50 tons at 720 meters. It is also fitted with a heave compensation system.

The vessel's TTS pedestal type auxiliary deck crane has a 34-ton lifting capacity at 20-meter radius as well as a 22-ton lifting capacity at 30 meters.

Lt Antony Falvo, deputy public affairs officer for the US Navy's 7th Fleet, stated to *The Wall Street Journal* that the *USS Guardian* will be broken into three parts before being lifted to prevent further damage to the coral reef. Fuel and waste from the navy ship has already been removed to reduce damage to the surrounding reef and sea.

Lifting and removal of the stranded ship is expected to be completed by late March, 2013.