

The following is an example of how NIOD Groton utilizes a mobile workstation:

We begin with prepping for a trip from Groton, CT, to Norfolk, VA (488 miles) or Kings Bay, GA (1,033 miles). Initially, a four-person team loads the truck with aluminum, brass, and steel foundations—at least 300 lbs. of metal used to support equipment within the racks—and over 200 RF, Ethernet, and fiber cables into storage containers or tied down in the workstation. Following prepping the foundations and cables, the team will screw in 65-75 pieces of equipment—servers, workstations, and UPS units ranging from 1.75” to 14” tall—into the racks. Finally, the team packs all necessary power and hand tools (drills, screwdrivers, wrenches, and saws), zip ties, metal strapping, duct tape and hardware (screws, lock washers, washers, nuts and bolts) needed to complete the project.

After completion of the prep work, the team will drive the 488 or 1,033 miles to the project location. During the drive, the team will stop once to refuel and eat before a stop in Norfolk, VA. However, if the project location is Kings Bay, GA, the team will stay overnight in Norfolk or North Carolina before continuing to Kings Bay.

Once at the project location, Kings Bay or Norfolk, the team will work out of the workstation. Tasks include prepping and assembling rack foundations, inventorying cables, modifying foundations (drilling holes, cutting foundations using a mounted saw), reviewing technical drawings, and writing status reports. Weather impacts the projects, and work happens with the doors closed. There are instances when the workstation is in a location that requires a hand truck to transfer equipment to the job site.

Finally, after the project, the team loads unused materials and equipment in the workstation, and the team returns to Groton, CT, using the same route and stops used heading to VA and GA.

Occasionally, the following special circumstances occur. The team driving to GA must stop in Norfolk, VA, to pick up additional equipment not available in Groton. At times, it is beneficial to modify foundations (drilling and cutting) outside of the workstation.