



FAT MAN ATOM BOMB SLED The Navy Museum, Washington, DC



Client/Owner
The Navy Museum

Location
Washington, DC

Project Dates
2005

Materials
Steel

Services Provided
Conservation Treatment
Paint Analysis
Corrosion Removal
Removal and Reinstallation

The Navy Museum in Washington DC owns a full scale version of the *Fat Man* atom bomb and its transport sled. The *Fat Man* was used against Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 and is the second and last atom bomb used in war. The bomb and its transport sled are full scale versions from the World War II period.

After transport and exhibition of the bomb and sled at another venue, the sled was found to have suffered losses, abrasion and damage to the paint finish when it was returned to the Navy Museum. Conservation Solutions, Inc. (CSI) was contracted to assess the damage and determine a means of restoring the sled to its original condition.

The bomb was hoisted off the sled and stabilized at the museum. The sled was then removed for treatment. Paint analysis was performed to identify the historic color stratigraphy. The curator then selected a color that matched the current color of the bomb. Markings and plaques were removed and the sled was blast cleaned and powder-coated to match the selected color. The markings and plaques were re-installed, the sled was transported to the museum and the bomb was replaced on it. Work was completed in 2005.