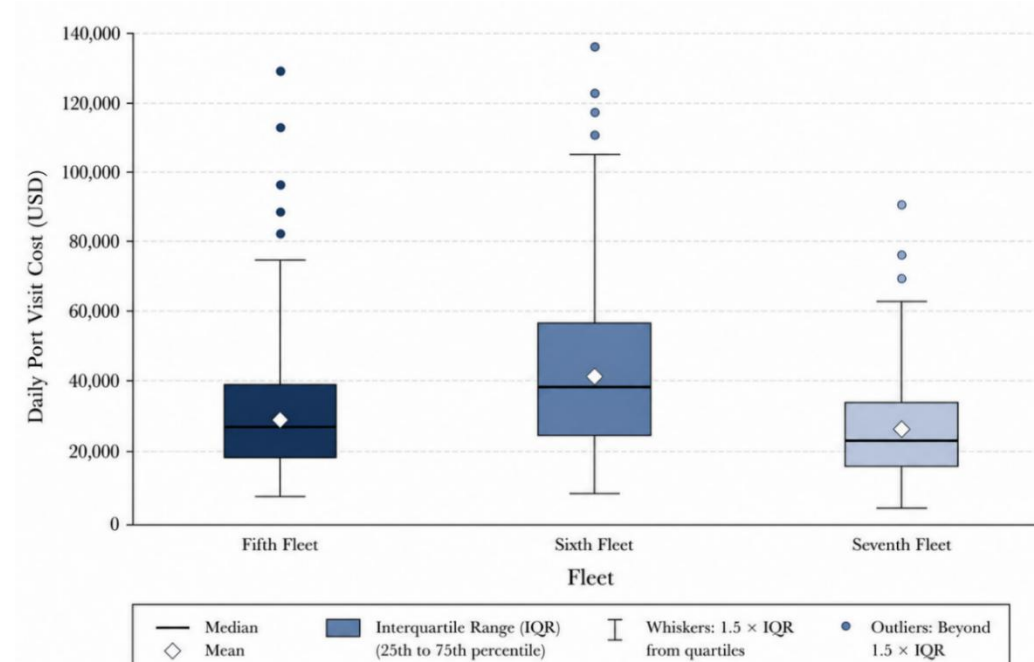
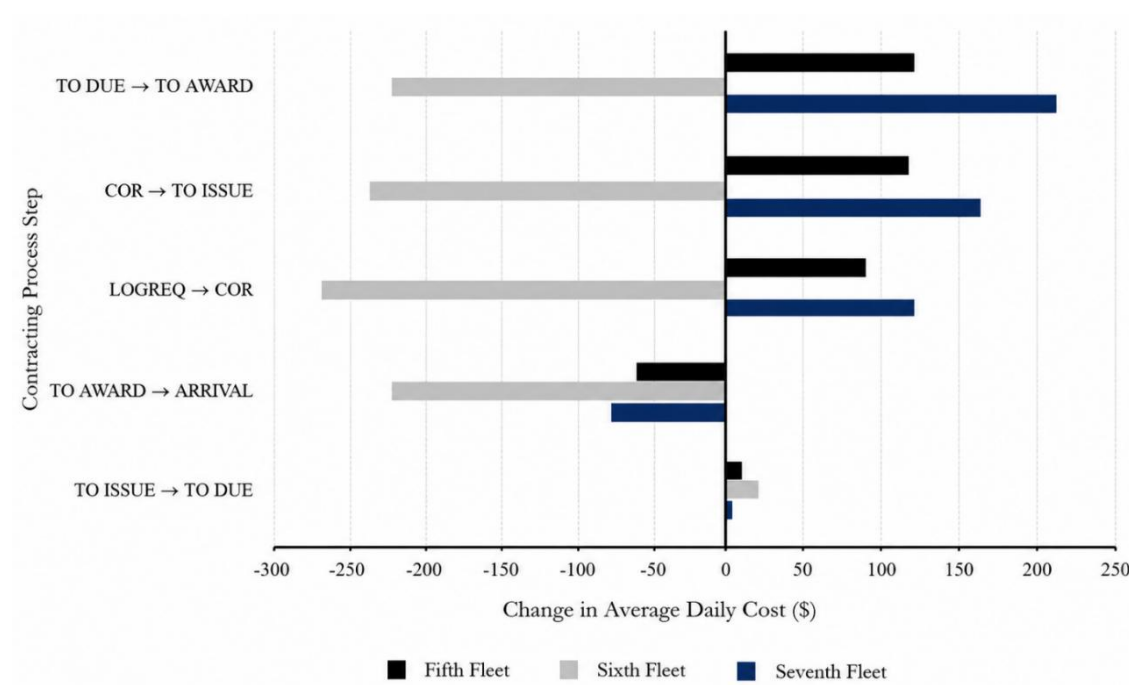


Abstract

Since implementation of Off-Ship Bill Pay and the Multiple Award Contract strategy in 2016, the Navy husbanding services process has operated under increased oversight and auditability requirements intended to improve transparency and fiscal control. While these reforms improved process control following the Glenn Defense Marine Asia scandal, questions remain regarding their effect on contracting efficiency and cost outcomes. This capstone research examines which contracting process intervals within the Husbanding Service Provider pre-port visit process most influence daily port visit cost from FY16 through FY26. Using quantitative analysis of over 6,700 overseas Navy port visits extracted from HSPortal, the researchers evaluated five major contracting process intervals and their relationship to daily average port visit cost through descriptive statistics and multivariate regression modeling. The analysis found that longer durations during early requirement validation and task order award increased daily port visit costs in Fifth and Seventh Fleets, while Sixth Fleet showed that compressed contracting timelines were associated with higher cost. The contract award phase was the most consistently significant process interval across all fleets. The researchers conclude that targeted improvements in early coordination, proposal evaluation, and planning time may reduce costs while maintaining audit readiness and operational responsiveness.

Methods

Fleet	Observations	R ²	Adjusted R ²	F-Statistic	Significance F	Significant Steps	Strongest Significance Interval
Fifth Fleet	2,035	0.224	0.220	48.76	<0.001	3 of 5	TO DUE → TO AWARD
Sixth Fleet	2,087	0.206	0.201	44.82	<0.001	4 of 5	LOGREQ → COR
Seventh Fleet	2,630	0.633	0.631	376.11	<0.001	3 of 5	TO DUE → TO AWARD



- **Collected HSPortal data** for Navy port visits from FY2016-FY2026, including cost, fleet, ship type, port visit dates, and HSP task order milestone dates.
- **Cleaned and refined the dataset** by excluding low-volume fleets, cancelled or incomplete task orders, non-standard port visits, missing data, and extreme cost outliers.
- **Constructed process timeline variables** to measure the duration of key HSP task order steps, including LOGREQ → COR, COR → TO Issue, TO Issue → TO Due, TO Due → TO Award, and TO Award → Arrival.
- **Conducted descriptive analysis** using Excel pivot tables to compare daily average costs across fleets, ship types, and process-duration categories.
- **Applied multivariate regression models** to assess whether HSP process timelines were associated with daily port visit cost while controlling for ship type and days in port.

Results & Impact

- Contracting process timelines were associated with daily port visit cost, but the effect varied by fleet. Seventh Fleet showed the strongest model fit, with the regression explaining approximately 63% of daily cost variation, compared to about 22% in Fifth Fleet and 20% in Sixth Fleet.
- The TO Due → TO Award interval was the most consistent cost-related process step. This phase was statistically significant across all three fleet models, making it the key contracting interval for management attention.
- Fifth and Seventh Fleet showed cost increases when early coordination and award timelines lengthened. Delays in LOGREQ → COR, COR → TO Issue, and TO Due → TO Award were associated with higher daily port visit costs, especially in Seventh Fleet.
- Sixth Fleet showed a different pattern, where compressed timelines appeared more closely linked to higher cost. This suggests that operational urgency and reduced planning flexibility may drive pricing pressure differently across fleet environments.
- Standardized target-date reporting for LOGREQ → COR, COR → TO Issue, and TO Due → TO Award could help distinguish avoidable administrative delay from mission-driven schedule compression.

Future Research

- Future research should continue evaluating HSP process timelines and pricing outcomes to determine whether standardized reporting improves both process visibility and long-term cost management.