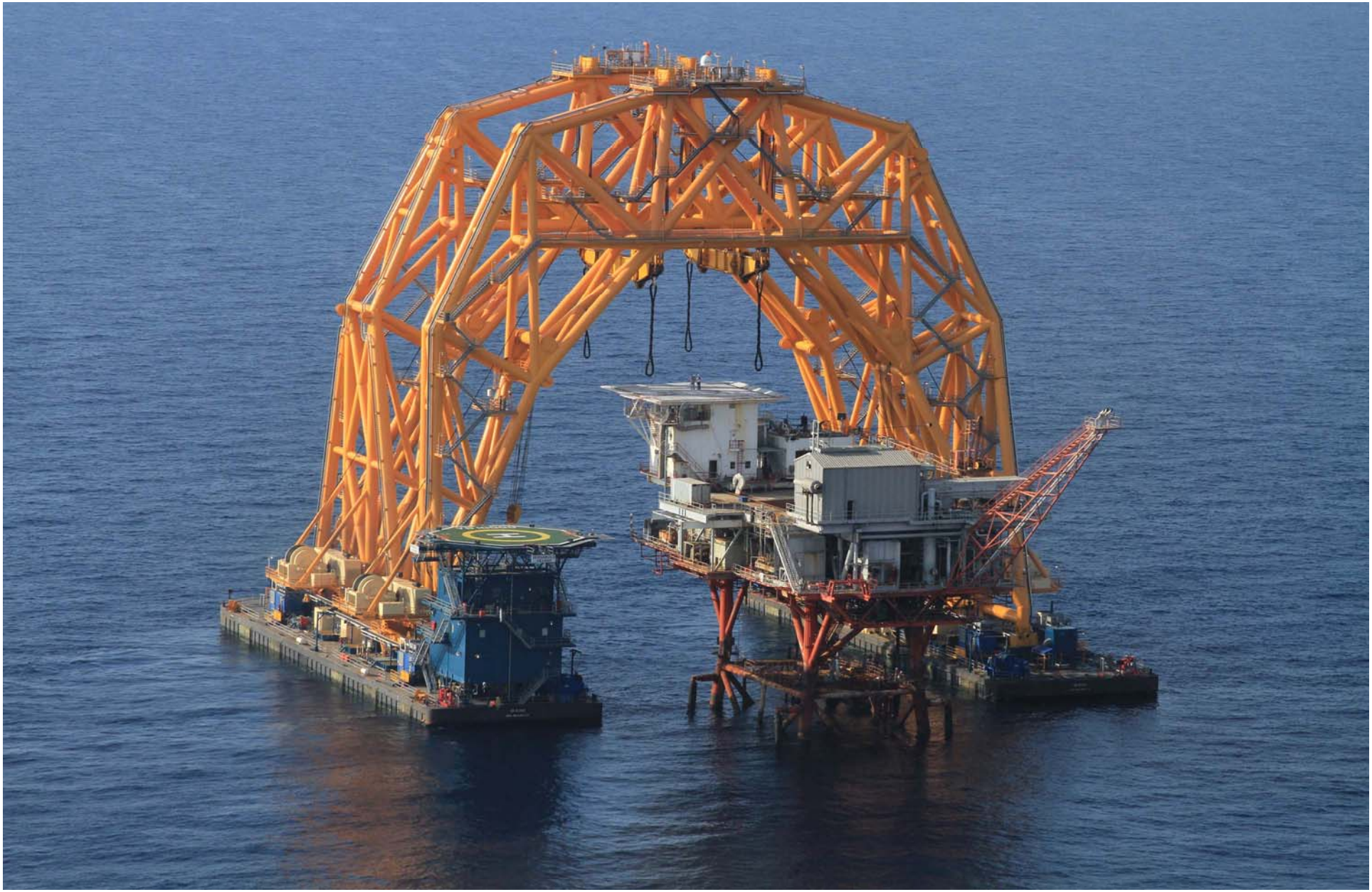
# The Removal of Green Canyon 6A

## By Versabar's VB – 10000

## July 5, 2011

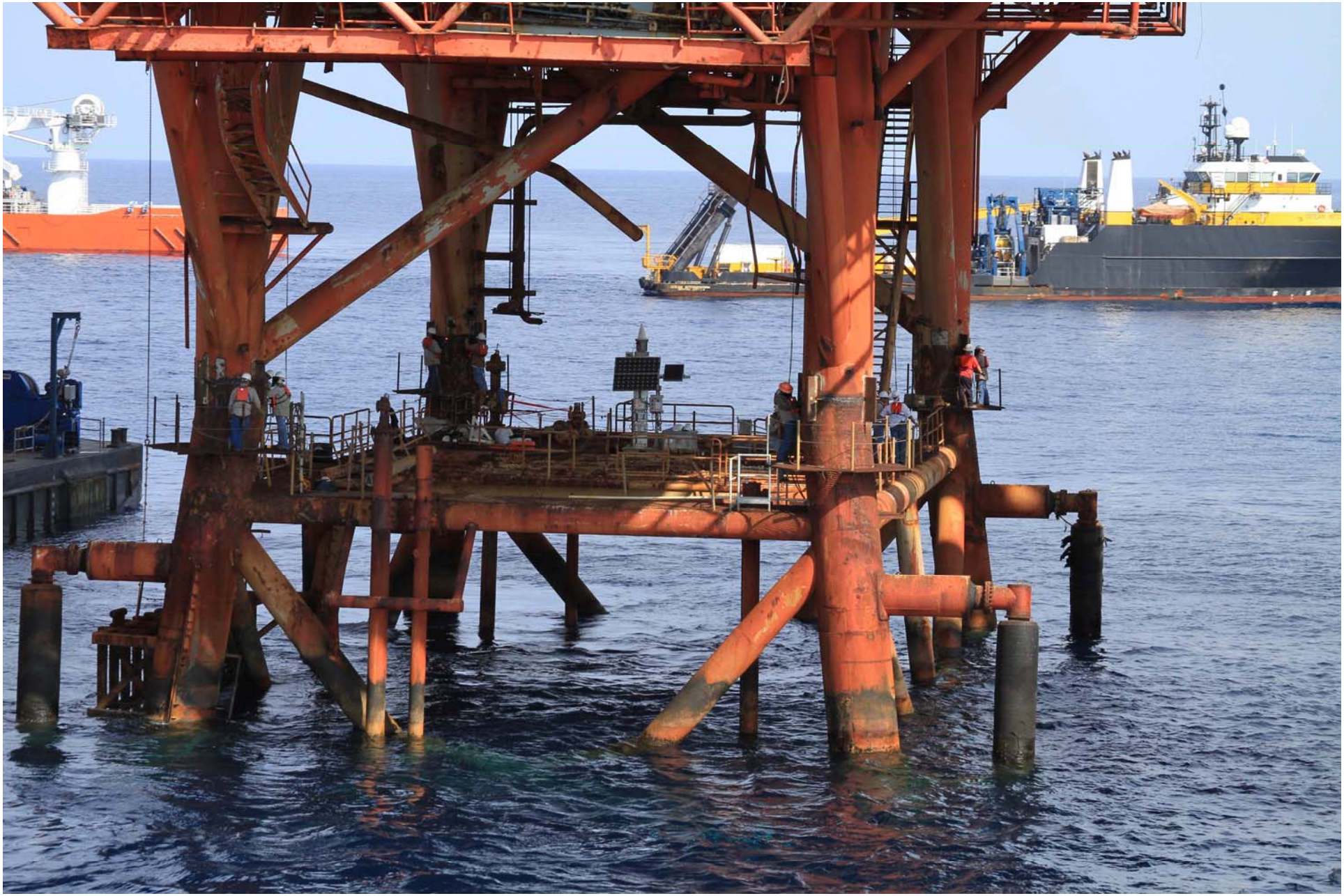
Written & photographed by Peter Devine



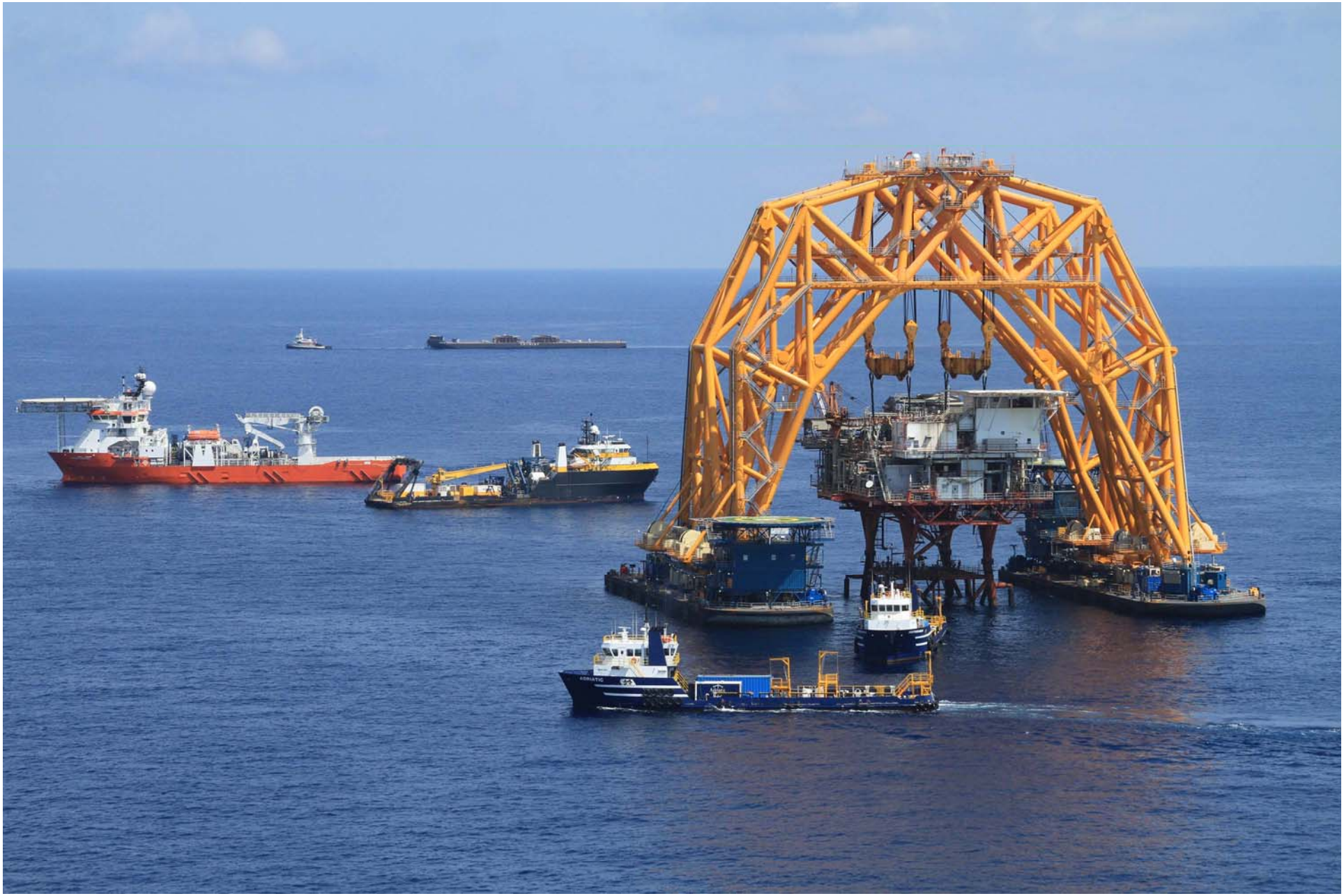
8:00 AM. Powered by its newly-commissioned DP3 system, the VB-10000 Offshore Heavy Lift System begins to maneuver over the 2,600-ton topside.


Within 30 minutes, the system is centered over the topside.

This will be a four-point hookup. The blocks are lowered and the slings looped though the hooks. Once fully hooked up, the VB- 100000 will assume a load consisting of about 10% of the deck's total weight.



By 10:00, the welders are at work making their final cuts on the legs.



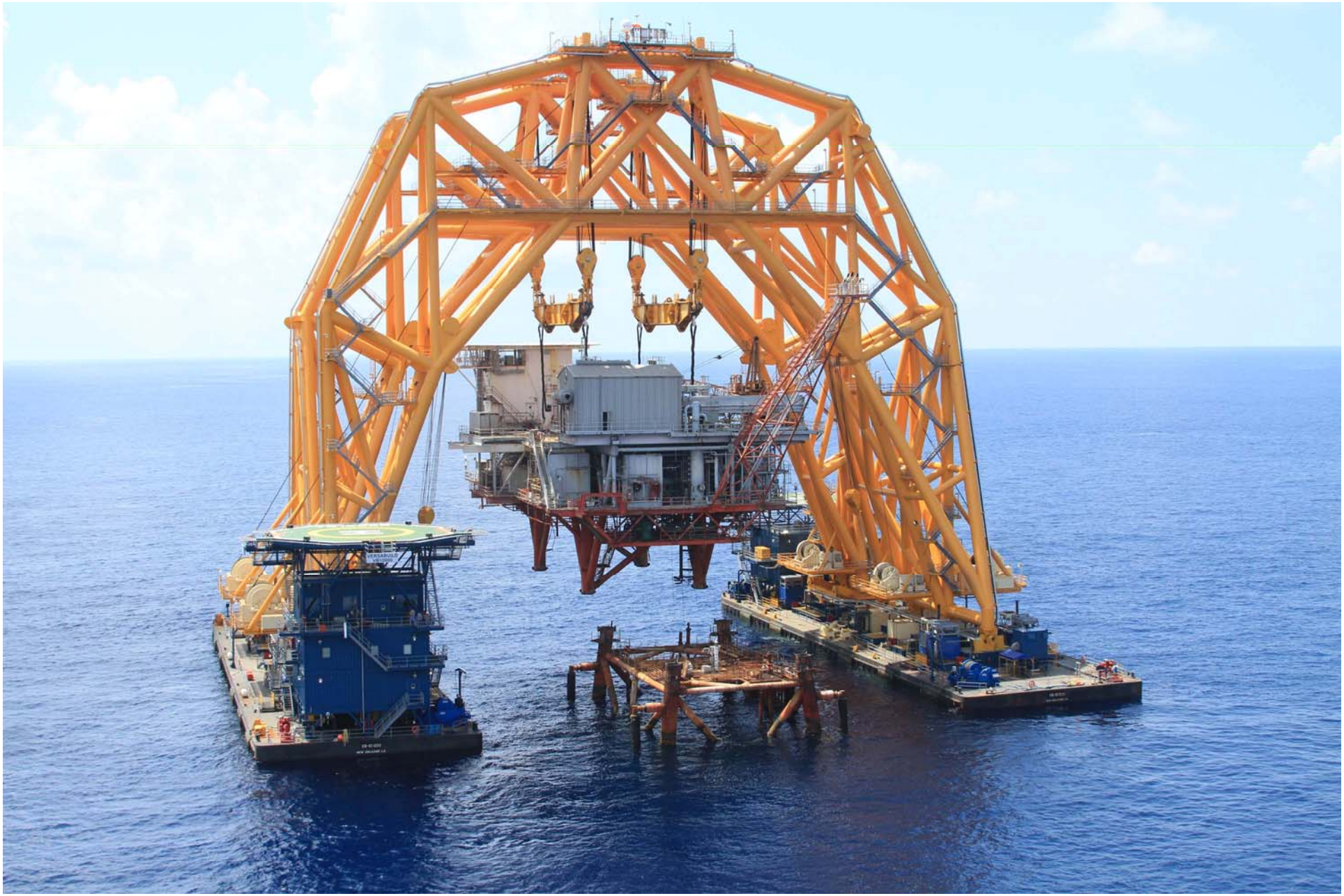
While the cuts are being completed, the transport barge (in the background) is towed into position nearby.


By 11:00 AM, the welders have finished their work and are removed. All clear for lifting.

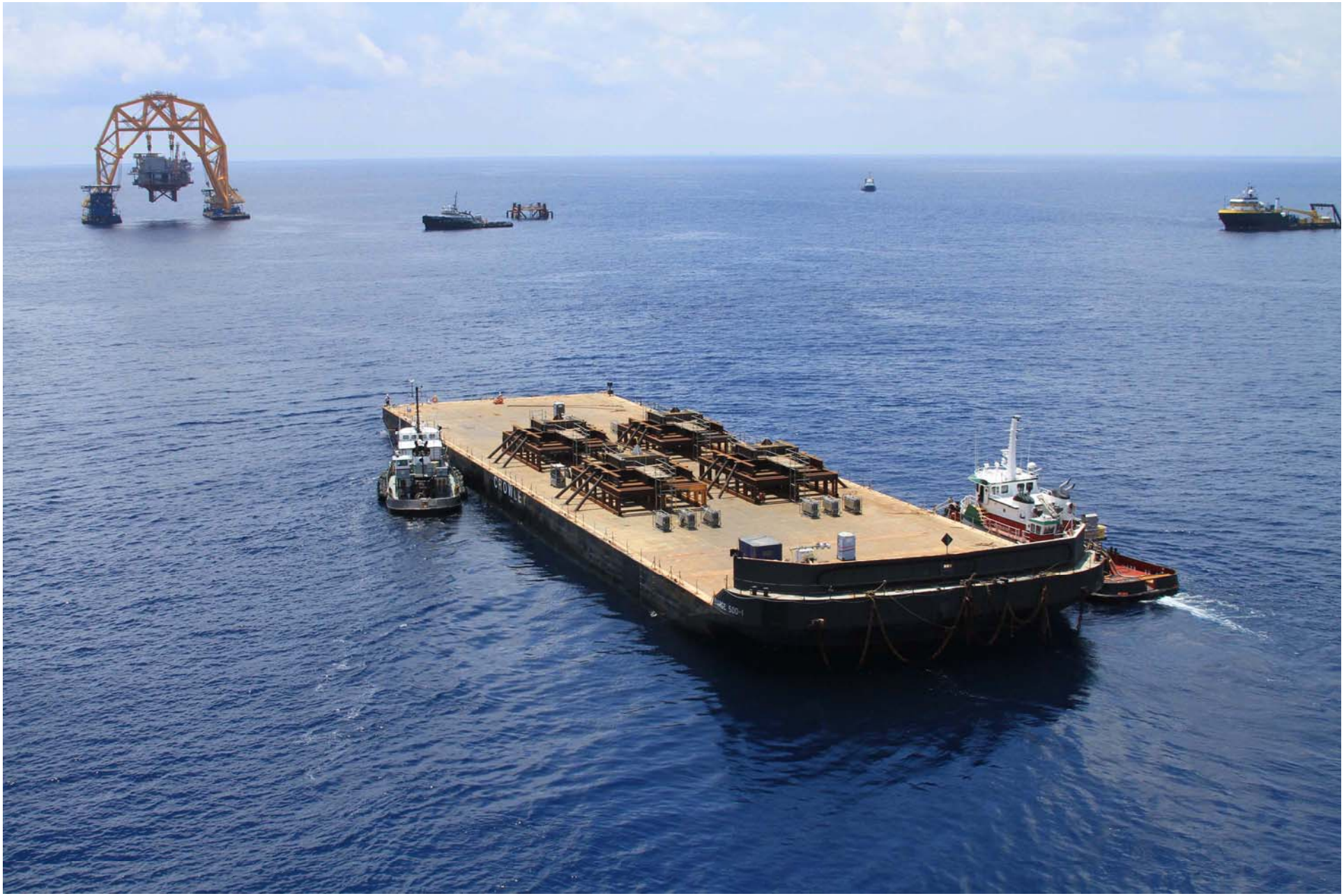
The system's four 300-ton main hoist winches, each carrying 7500 feet of 3 1/2 " wire rope, are idled up and ready to go. The VB - 10000 has a lift capacity of 7,500 tons.

At 11:25, the topside comes out of the cans.

As soon as the topside is free of the jacket, the VB – 10000 begins to maneuver clear.



The DP3 system assures complete control during this critical phase of the operation.



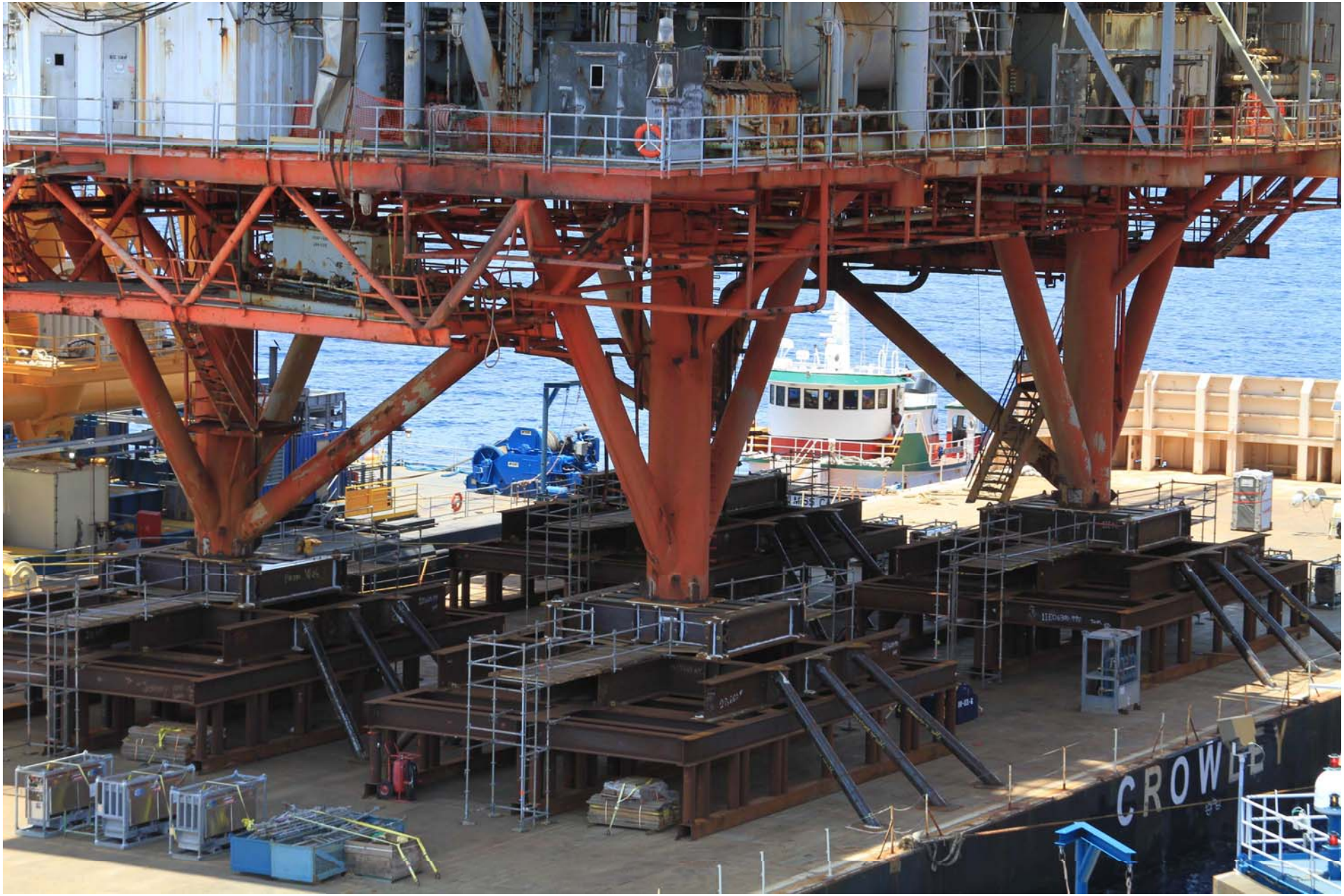

As the VB-10000 gets into position, the transport barge begins its approach.  This phase requires smooth teamwork on the part of the captains and marine managers.

The VB – 10000's hook-height insures plenty of clearance for the barge.

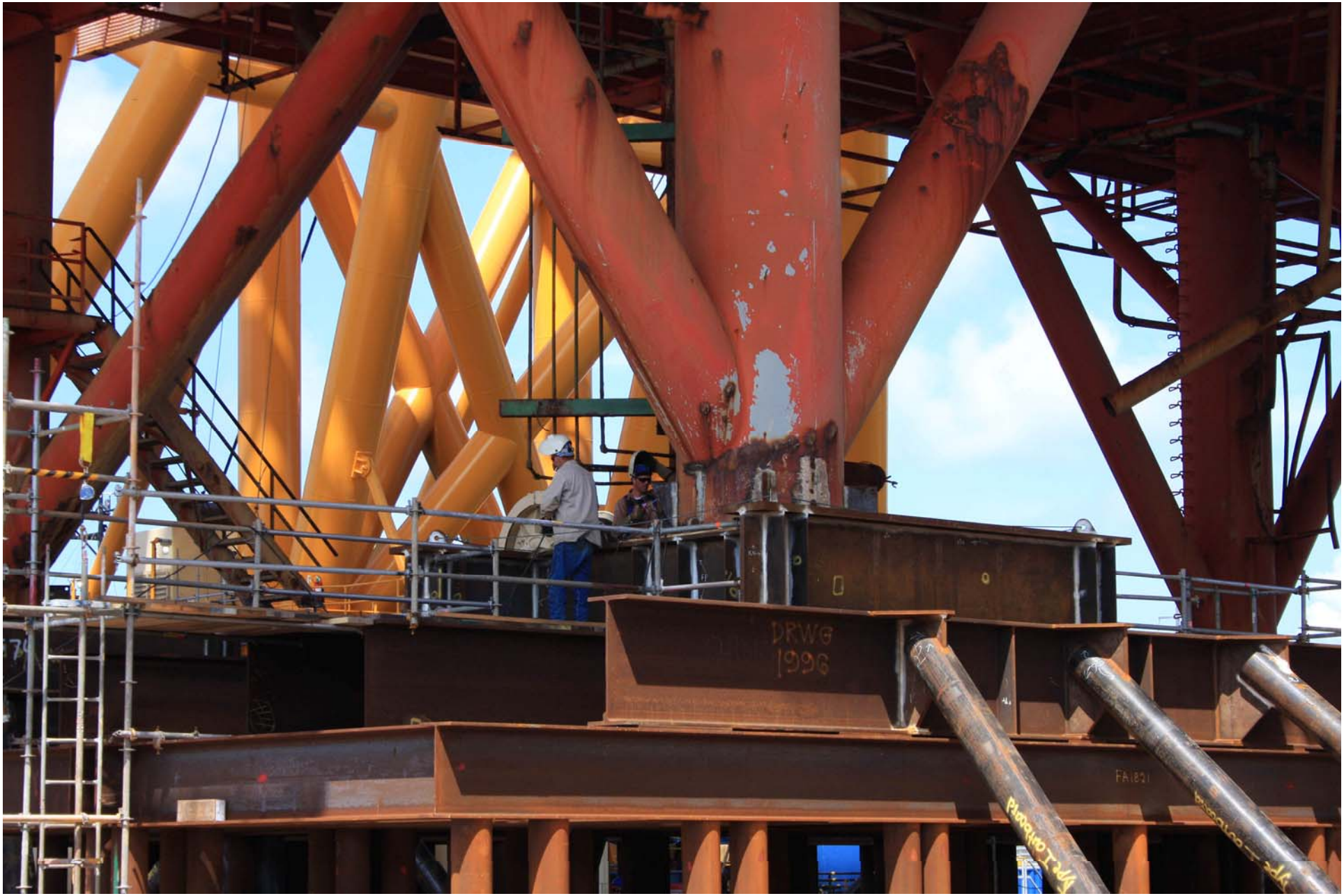
A calm sea state facilitates this delicate phase of the operation.


Using tugs and tugger winches, the barge is positioned to receive the topside.

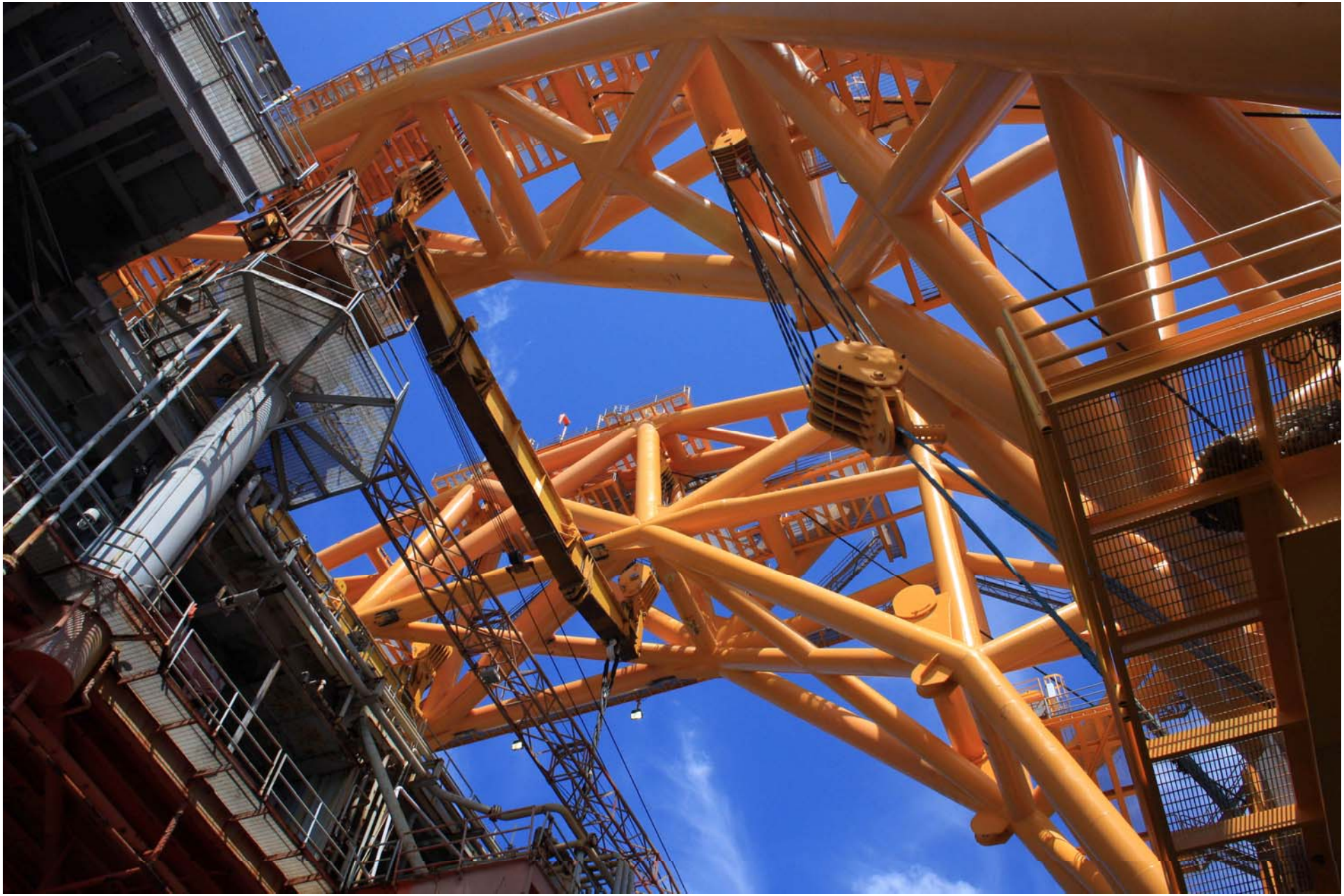
Almost there.



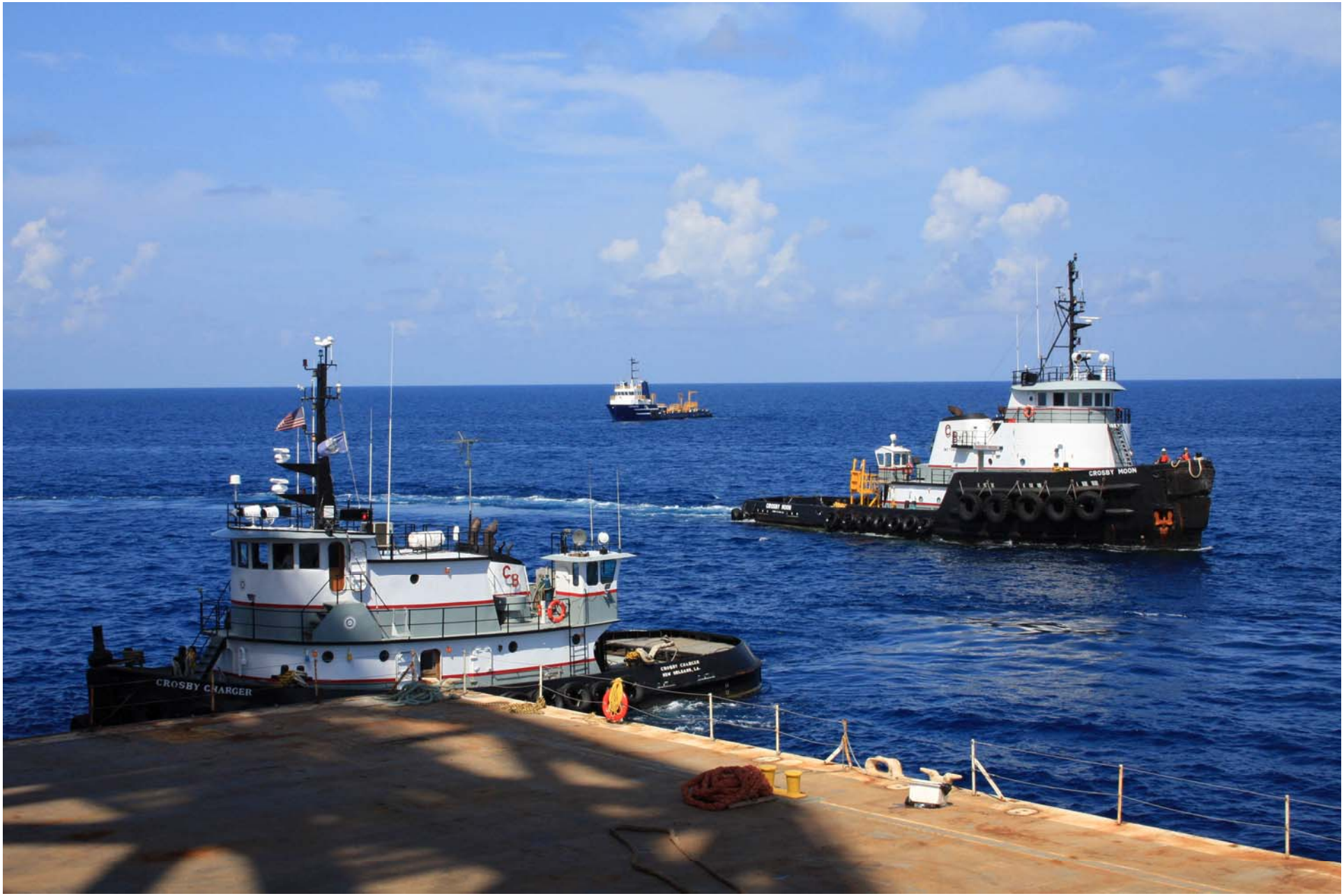

12:50 PM. The VB – 10000 lowers the topside onto the stabbing cones, and releases most of the load.




Welders immediately board the barge and begin the work of sea-fastening the topside.



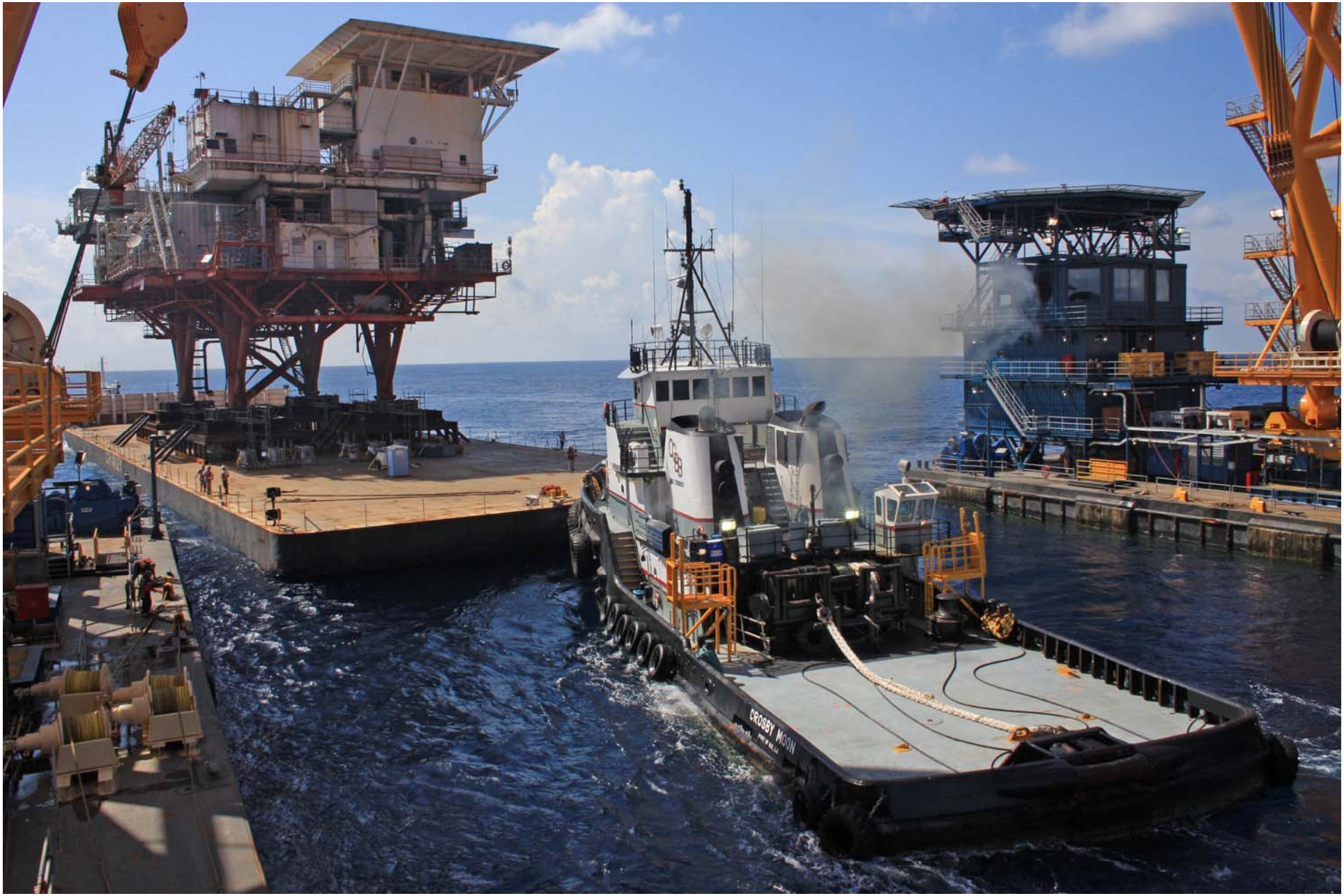
3:15 PM. The slings are unhooked from the topside. This view from the deck of the VB 10000 shows ample clearance, even for the large topside.




3:30 PM. The welders have been removed from the barge, and the tugs position themselves for the sail-away.

Again the VB – 10000 crew man the tugger winches to guide the transport barge out of its berth.

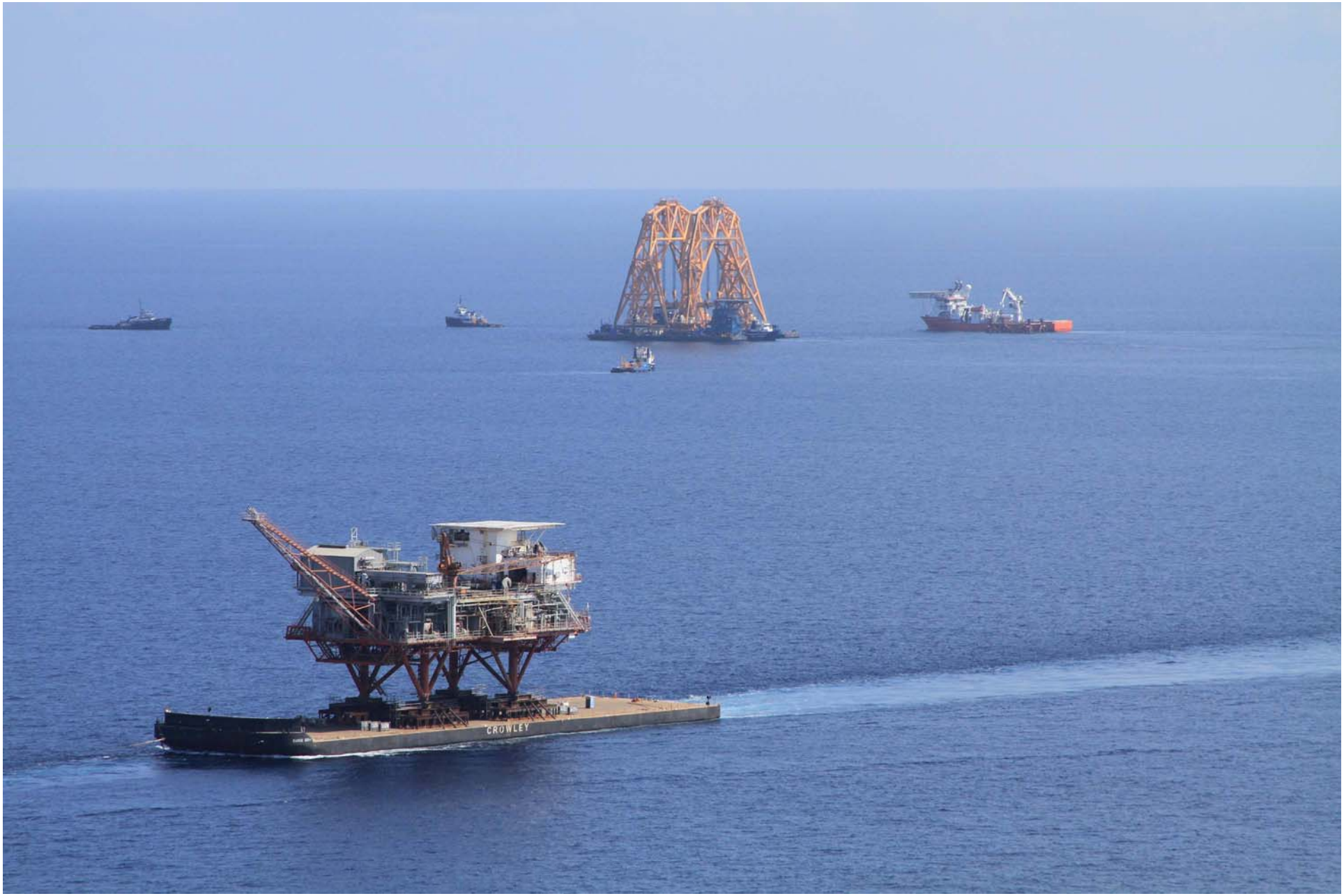

Smoothly the barge begins to slip out.




One last push…

4:00 PM. The transport barge has cleared the VB-10000 and is ready for tow.

An excellent view of the rigging. The topside can be seen under tow on the horizon.




4:30 PM. The topside is under tow to a Gulf Coast salvage facility.


Flare boom and helideck intact. Now, *that's* a single-piece lift!


Elapsed time of removal procedure: 8 hours. Solid gone.