FORCE MONITORING OF POST-TENSIONING TENDONS & CABLE STAYS IN BRIDGE STRUCTURES

Shahid Islam, Ph.D.
HQ Technical Services

Western Bridge Engineers' Seminar
Sept 3-6, 2013. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bellevue, WA

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Theory
- Systems
- Accuracy
- Measuring Procedure
- Applications
- Conclusions

INTRODUCTION

Health monitoring system
- Determine the behavior of the structure under various loads and environmental effects
- Know the condition of the structure before it is too late
  - Inspection- non-destructive testing
  - Repair or replacement

Post-tensioning is a key element to the performance and durability of the structures where they are installed

Tendon or stay force
- During construction
- Long-term monitoring
  - Periodic, continuous, remote

INTRODUCTION Cont'd

Tendon embedded or external

Tendon/stay either of strand or high strength bar

Strand/bar can be of bare, coated or grouted

Various methods to measure the tendon/stay force

Most are cumbersome and accuracy differs

DSI involved in development, testing and utilization of DYNA Force (DF) to measure the force in tendon/stay

THEORY

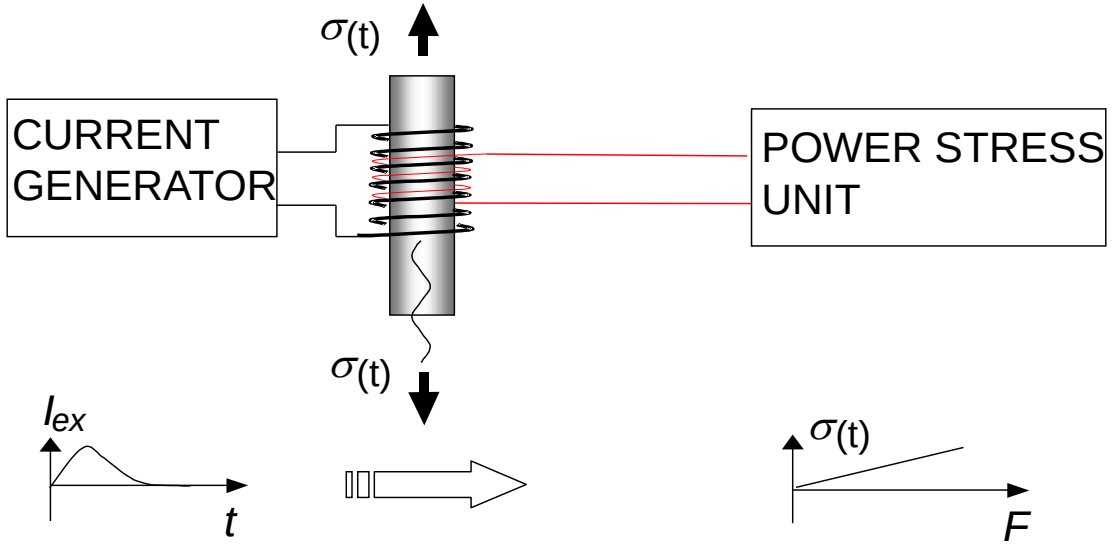
DYNA Force sensors are manufactured based on the magneto-elastic properties of ferrous material.

FARADAY'S LAW: Change in magnetic environment of a coil of wire will cause a voltage to be induced in the coil

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{d}{dt}(\phi_B)$$

$\varepsilon =$ ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE

$\phi_B =$ MAGNETIC FLUX



THEORY Cont'd

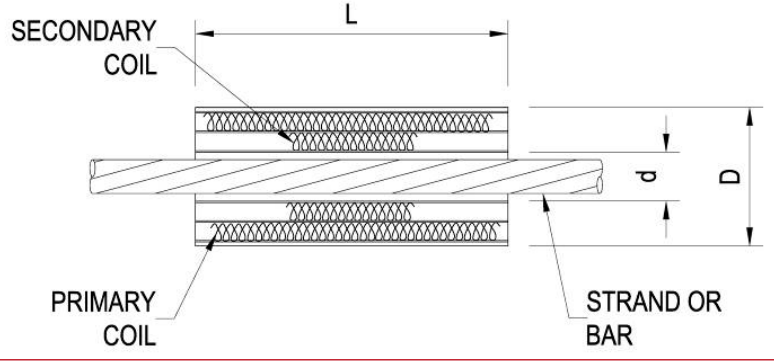
Sensor is composed of a primary coil and a secondary coil

By passing current through primary coil, ferromagnetic material is magnetized

Sensing coil picks up induced electromotive force that is proportional to change rate of applied magnetic flux and relative permeability

As permeability of core changes, output voltage changes

Output voltage is calibrated to measure force



SYSTEMS

DYNA Force System consists of mainly sensor and readout unit

The force can be measured by:

- Manual reading
- Local data storage
- Remote access

DF Sensor

Readout Unit

Multiplexer

SYSTEMS- Cont'd

Table: DYNA Force Dimensions

Strand Size	Strand Grade	Sensor Dimensions [in]		
[in]	[KSI]	ID	OD	Length
0.5" - 0.62"	270	0.79	1.42	5.2
THREADBAR Size	Bar Grade	Sensor Dimensions [in]		
[in]	[KSI]	ID	OD	Length
#7 - #11	75-97	1.69	3.15	7.09
#14	75-97	2.09	3.90	7.87
#18 / #20	75-97	2.87	5.71	12.20
#24	75-97	3.35	6.10	12.99
1" - 1-3/8"	150	1.69	3.15	7.09
1-3/4"	150	2.09	3.90	7.87
2-1/2"	150	2.87	5.71	12.20
3"	150	3.35	6.10	12.99

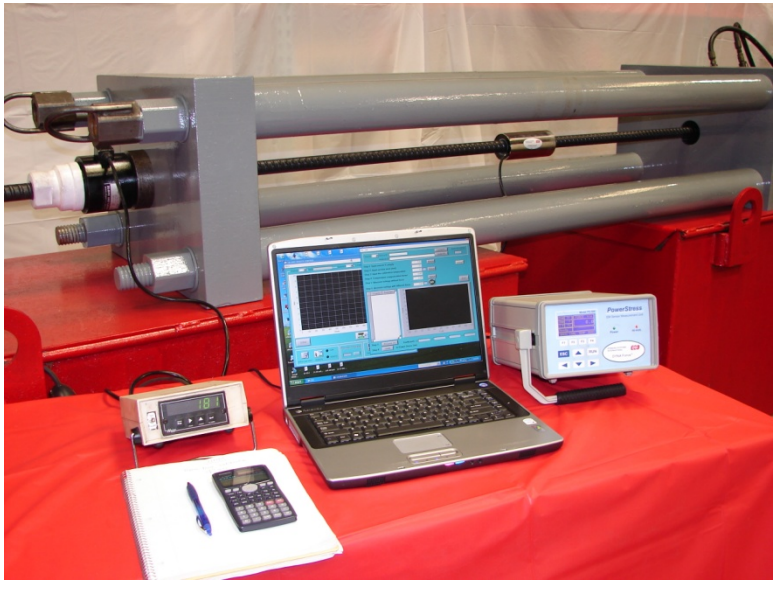
DYNA Force over the entire tendon is custom made and dimensions will be provided upon request

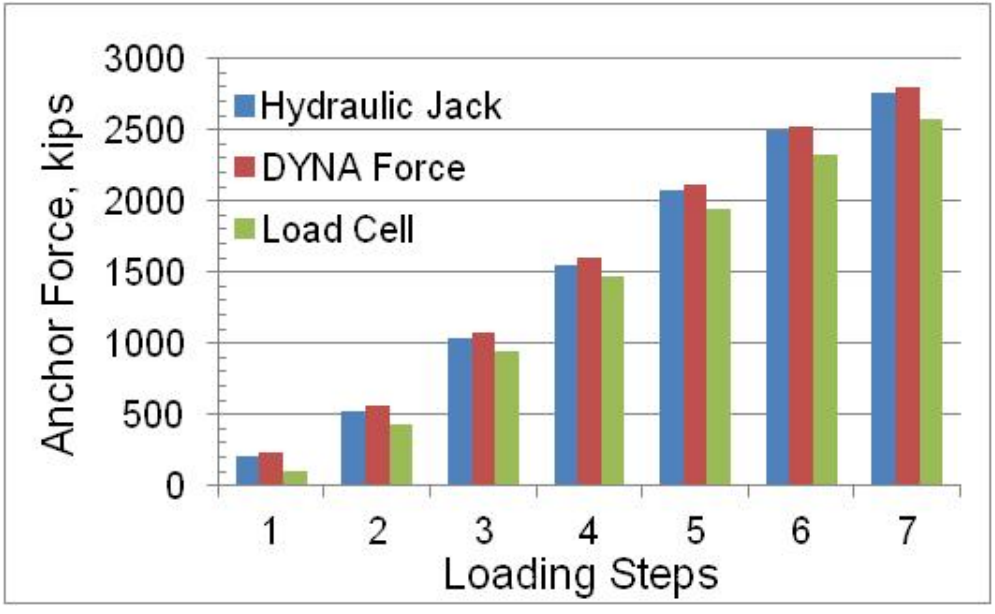
ACCURACY

Due to the diversity of the magnetic property of steel, calibration is done for each type of steel allowing the sensors to perform at their highest accuracy.

Three sensors were used in each of three 59-0.6” strand anchors

Sensors were consistently more accurate than load cells when compared to the actual jacking force.





MEASURING PROCEDURE

Sensors supplied are pre calibrated at DSI facility

Install over the strand/bar or tendon during construction

Attach portable readout unit to wire leads from DYNA Force

Take a zero reading before applying any force

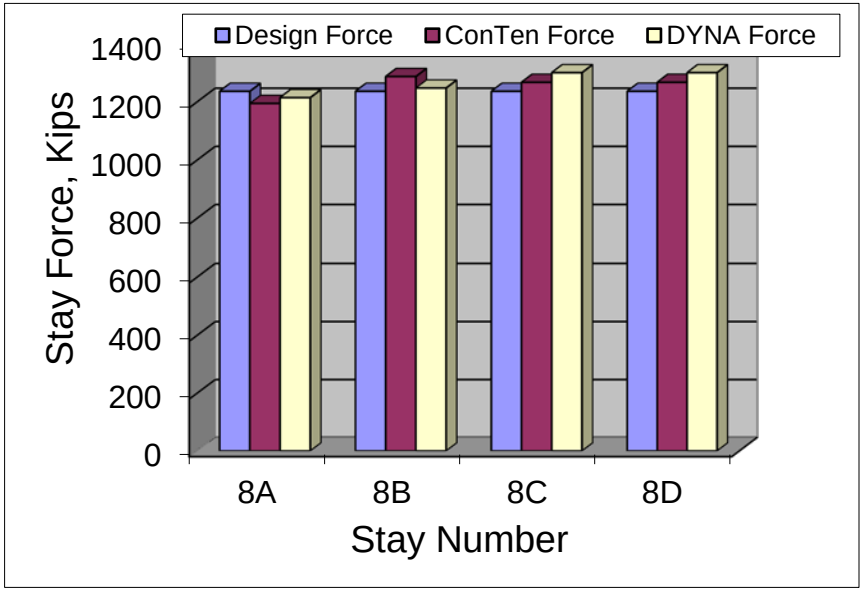
Apply PT/stay force

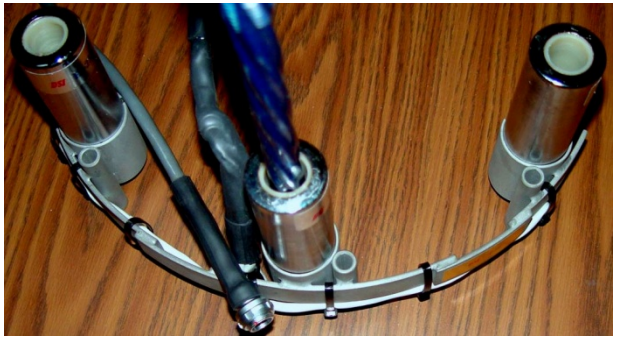
Measure the force in cable/strand anytime

APPLICATION- Penobscot Narrows Bridge, Maine

80 stay cable anchors with 3 DYNA Force in each anchor

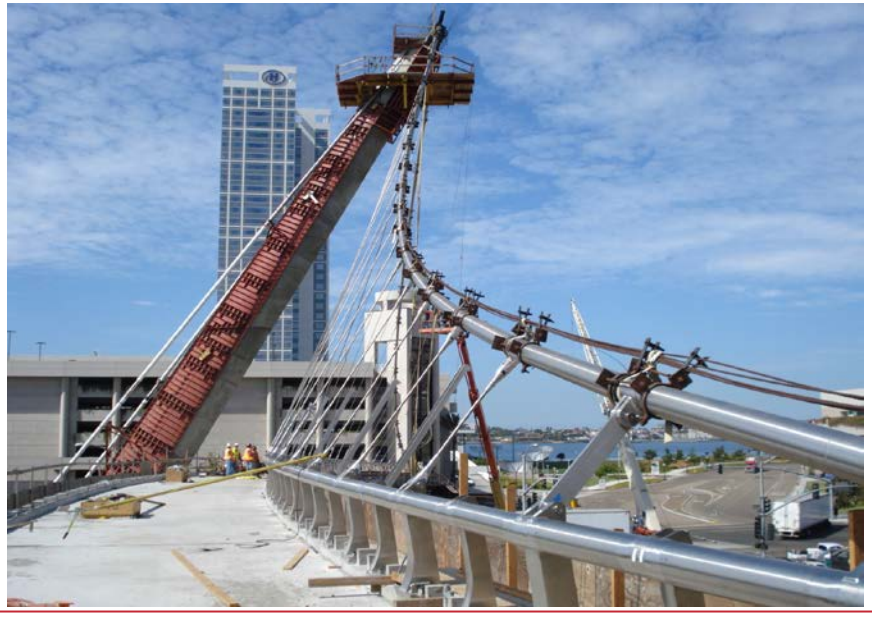
Stay force was monitored during construction





APPLICATION- Harbor Drive Bridge, San Diego

Sensors were installed in two foundation tie-downs, two back stays and two main cables.
DF enabled verification of friction assumptions and permitted adjustment to jacking forces to achieve the target force at the pylon tip.
Lock-off forces in the tie-down anchors were also adjusted based on the DF sensor readings.



APPLICATION- Wacker Drive Bridge, Chicago

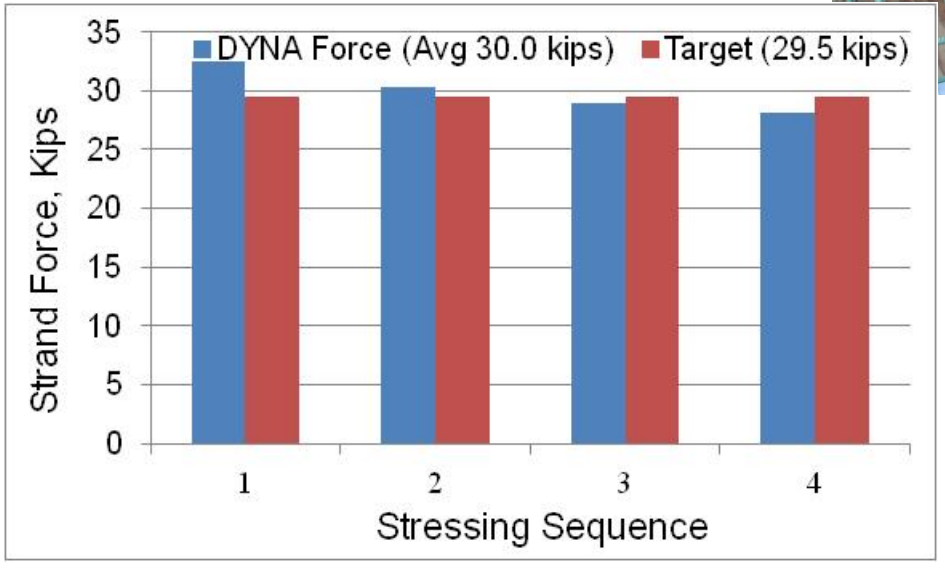
Sensors were installed to know:

Force at dead end of 9-06 longitudinal tendons

Jacking force was revised based on finding

Force at dead end of 4-06 transverse tendons

Good correlation was observed



APPLICATION- Wade Bridge (I-81), Pennsylvania

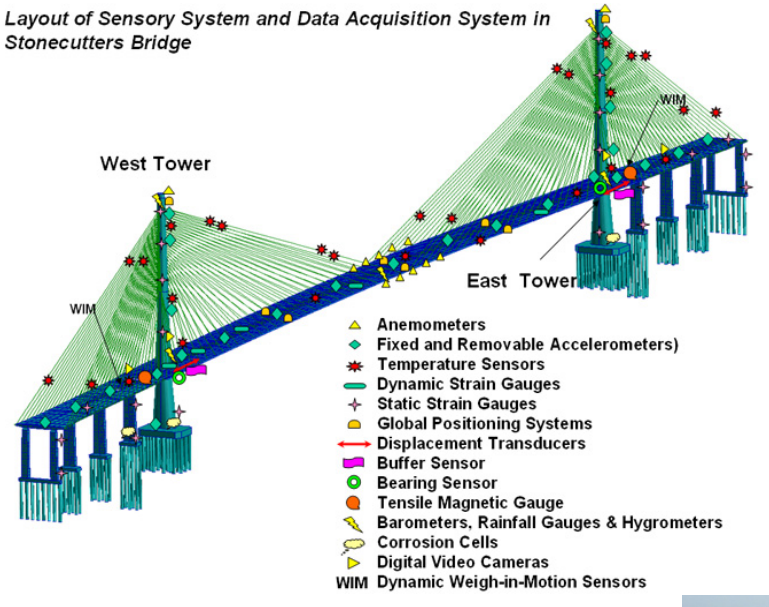
Twelve sensors were installed to monitor forces in 1-3/4” DCP external tendons in Pier Caps
Good correlation was observed

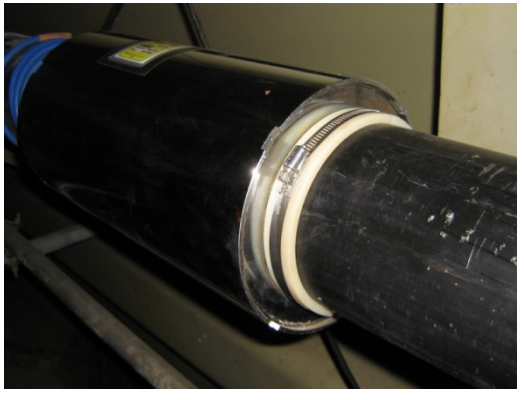
APPLICATION- Pont Champlain Bridge, Montreal, Canada

Sensors were installed to monitor forces in 0.6” dia strands used to retrofit the exterior girders
DF readings provided valuable Information to the designer

APPLICATION- Stone Cutters Bridge, Hong Kong

32 sensors were installed at the interfaces of steel girders and RC girders to monitor the force in 37-0.62” tendons





Courtesy- IIS

APPLICATION- Hsing-Tung Bridge, Taiwan

EM sensors were installed on all 34 stay cables

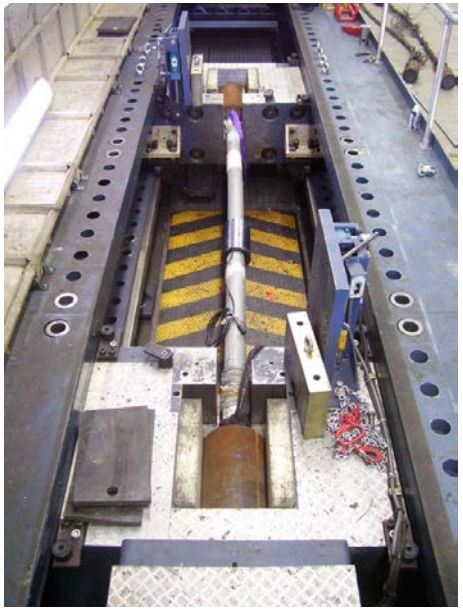
Sensors were fabricated in the field by winding process

Each stay force is being monitored

Courtesy- IIS

APPLICATION- Adige Bridge, Italy

EM sensors were used on the existing stays
A total of twelve sensors were installed
Sensors were precalibrated at the laboratory
All sensor reading are accessed remotely



Courtesy- IIS

APPLICATION- Sellwood Bridge Abutment, Oregon

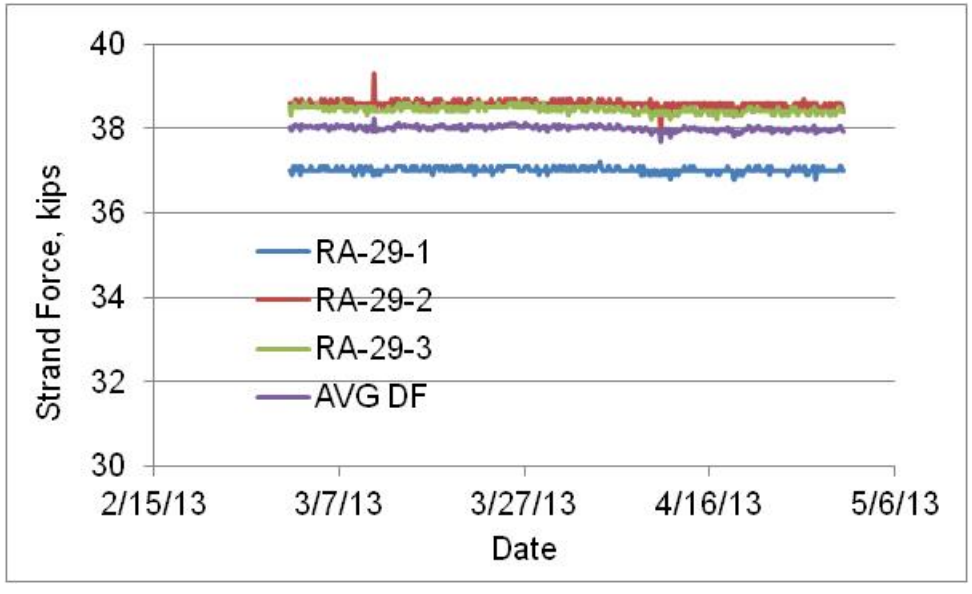
56 DYNA Force sensors were supplied to monitor the slope stability in front of the bridge abutment. Automated readout units were installed to record the force readings at every 4 hours.

APPLICATION- Willow Island Hydroelectric Project, WV

To monitor the forces in the anchors during excavation of rocks, three sensors were installed in each of 28 anchors (59-0.6”).

Data from all of the sensors are being taken remotely every 3 hours, analyzed and reported to the owner.

In service since Nov 2012



CONCLUSIONS

DYNA Force sensors can be used for:
bare, epoxy-coated, galvanized and greased-sheathed steel in bonded, un-bonded, grouted or un-grouted length of the tendon.

Sensors for existing tendon/stay

Eliminates any lift-offs & possible friction tests

Portable read-out unit

Reading in seconds by a trained person

Owner can regularly monitor forces in PT tendon/stays even from remote access

CONCLUSIONS- Cont'd

Durability

- DYNA Force system is robust
- Requires no maintenance & has no moving parts
- Similar service life to that of bridge or structure

The accuracy of the force measurement is normally within 1.5% for strand and within 3% for bar for preinstalled DF sensors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION