



Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer

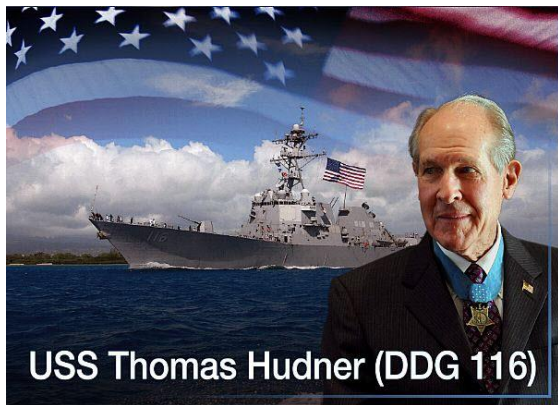
Future USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Successfully Completes Builder's Trials



Story Number: NNS180402-13Release Date: 4/2/2018 2:43:00 PM

From Team Ships Public Affairs

BATH, Maine (NNS) -- Future guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) successfully completed builder's trials, March 31, after spending four days underway.



Builder's trials consist of a series of in-port and at-sea demonstrations that allow the shipbuilder, Bath Iron Works (BIW), and the Navy to assess the ship's systems and its readiness for delivery.

"With the successful completion of these trials, we move closer to adding DDG 116 and her exceptional capabilities to the fleet," said Capt. Casey Moton, DDG 51 class program manager, Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. "The Navy and industry team worked diligently to ensure the ship operates at peak performance."

The DDG 51 class ships currently under construction are Aegis Baseline 9 Integrated Air and Missile Defense destroyers, with increased computing power and radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities against modern air warfare and ballistic missile defense threats. The Aegis Combat System will enable DDG 116 to link radars with other ships and aircraft to provide a composite picture of a battle space. When operational, DDG 116 and her sister ships will serve as integral players in global maritime security.

Future Thomas Hudner will return to sea to conduct acceptance trials with the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey later this spring. During acceptance trials, all systems and gears will undergo inspection and evaluation to ensure quality and operational readiness prior to the Navy accepting delivery.

BIW is currently in production on future Arleigh Burke-class destroyers Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) and John Basilone (DDG 122), as well as future Zumwalt-class destroyers Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001) and Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG 1002).

As one of the Defense Department's largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, and boats and craft.

For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/navsea/.

Webmaster's Note:

Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr. (August 31, 1924 – November 13, 2017) was an officer of the United States Navy and a naval aviator. He rose to the rank of captain, and received the Medal of Honor for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War.

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Hudner attended Phillips Academy and the United States Naval Academy. Initially uninterested in aviation, he eventually took up flying and joined Fighter Squadron 32, flying the F4U Corsair at the outbreak of the Korean War. Arriving near Korea in October 1950, he flew support missions from the aircraft carrier USS *Leyte*.

On 4 December 1950, Hudner and Brown were among a group of pilots on patrol near the Chosin Reservoir when Brown's Corsair was struck by ground fire from Chinese troops and crashed. In an attempt to save Brown from his burning aircraft, Hudner intentionally crash-landed his own aircraft on a snowy mountain in freezing temperatures to help Brown. In spite of these efforts, Brown died of his injuries and Hudner was forced to evacuate, having also been injured in the landing.

Following the incident, Hudner held positions aboard several U.S. Navy ships and with a number of aviation units, including a brief stint as Executive Officer of USS *Kitty Hawk* during a tour in the Vietnam War, before retiring in 1973. In subsequent years, he worked for various veterans organizations in the United States. The *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer USS *Thomas Hudner* is named for him.

