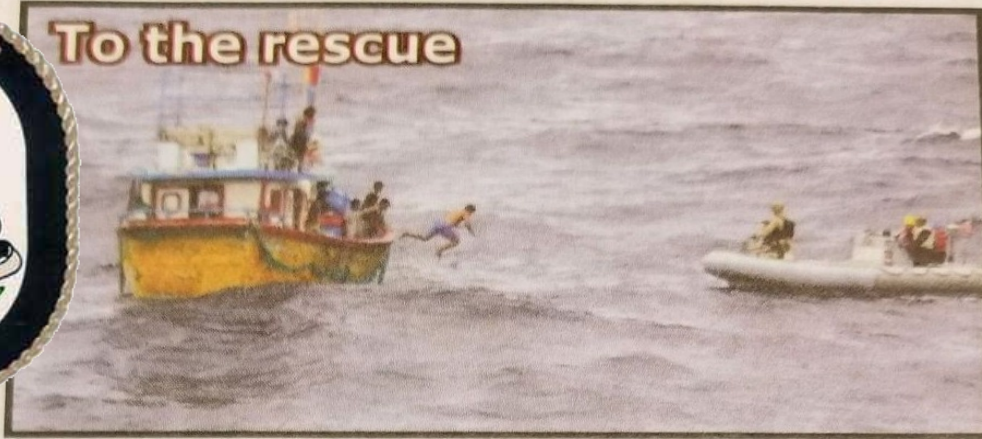




Another example of a mission ready ship because of a U.S. Navy Port Engineer



A Sri Lankan fisherman jumps and swims to a rigid-hull inflatable boat from *USS Decatur* after the ship stopped to render assistance to a stranded fishing vessel. After providing food and water, *Decatur* contacted the Sri Lankan authorities who came and towed the stranded vessel back to port. Navy photo

***Decatur* renders assistance to Sri Lankan fishermen**

INDIAN OCEAN - Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS Decatur* (DDG 73) rendered assistance to seven distressed mariners, Oct. 7 - 8, whose fishing boat had suffered an engine malfunction, rendering the vessel inoperable.

Decatur was conducting a routine patrol Oct. 7, in the waters south of Sri Lanka when watch standers sighted a fishing vessel with fishermen onboard frantically waving rags in the air.

After pulling alongside the fishing vessel in a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB), two of the fishermen were brought on board *Decatur*. The fishermen stated that their vessel had experienced engine trouble and was unable to return to shore.

The *Decatur* crew immediately offered to provide medical and towing assistance. The fishermen requested for the ship to contact the Sri Lankan authorities. *Decatur* provided food and water to the fishermen while they waited for the arrival of the Sri Lankan Off-Shore Patrol Ship SLNS Jayesagara (P 601) which arrived Oct. 8.

Decatur is forward-deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.