



Press Release

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Navy Accepts Delivery of Future USS Spruance

BATH, Maine — The Navy accepted delivery of the future USS Spruance from General Dynamics Bath Iron Works shipyard April 15.

Designated DDG 111, Spruance is the 61st ship of the Arleigh Burke class of guided-missile destroyers.

The Spruance finished combined "super trials" March 18 in the Gulf of Maine. Throughout four days underway, Bath Iron Works and the U.S. Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey tested the ship and its systems as required to prove its operational readiness.

"DDG 111 proved in rigorous sea trials last month to be yet another great naval asset," said Capt. Pete Lyle, DDG 51 class program manager for the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO), Ships. "This multi-mission ship continues to demonstrate the growth and technological improvements of this capable class of destroyers."

Accepting delivery of DDG 111 represents the official transfer from the shipbuilder to the Navy and is a major milestone in Spruance's transition to operational status.

"Delivery of the ship marks completion of a superb product by the master shipbuilders of Bath Iron Works," commented Cmdr. Tate Westbrook, who takes command of the ship upon delivery. "Each member of my crew is eager to take ownership of their respective areas of the ship at delivery, which will allow them to accelerate the ongoing training required to get the ship ready to go to sea at the end of this summer."

The Spruance is the first new construction Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to have a modernized machinery control system installed. This system minimizes obsolescence issues by leveraging open architecture and thereby helping to reduce total ownership costs.

Spruance is a multi-mission guided-missile destroyer designed to operate in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface environments. The ship is equipped with the Navy's Aegis Combat System, the world's foremost integrated naval weapon system. The class provides outstanding combat capability and survivability characteristics while minimizing procurement and lifetime support costs due to the program's maturity. The DDG 51 program continues to reinforce affordability and efficiency, with a commitment to deliver ships at the highest possible quality.

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The ship is named for Adm. Raymond Spruance, who led U.S. Navy forces in the Battle of Midway and the Battle of the Philippine Sea in World War II. Previously, Spruance's name was on the lead ship of the former Spruance class of destroyers.

Michael Murphy (DDG 112) is currently under construction at Bath Iron Works and will deliver in fiscal year 2012. DDG 111 and DDG 112 are the last two ships in the Navy's initial production run of this class. DDG 113, to be built by Huntington Ingalls Industry in Pascagoula, Miss., will be the first of the DDG 51 program continuation ships.

As one of the Defense Department's largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships, an affiliated program executive office of the Naval Sea Systems Command, is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all major surface combatants, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, and special warfare craft. Currently, the majority of shipbuilding programs managed by PEO Ships are benefiting from serial production efficiencies, which are critical to delivering ships on cost and schedule.

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