



**THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
(SURFACE WARFARE)
WASHINGTON**

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on our general-purpose destroyer of the future and why I feel Congressional approval of the Arleigh Burke Class DDG is my number one priority.

The Arleigh Burke Class DDG is a general-purpose destroyer whose warfighting capability has been carefully developed to reflect planned employment with Carrier Battle Groups (CVBG), Surface Action Groups (SAG), Amphibious Task Forces (ATF) and Underway Replenishment Groups (URG). She complements the anti-air (AAW) capability of CG 47 and the anti-submarine (ASW) capability of DD 963. In addition, the distributed firepower achieved with her cruise missiles allows us to supplement the land attack capability of CV strike aircraft. Arleigh Burke will be the lead combatant for URGs and provide offensive and defensive support to amphibious operations including Naval Gunfire Support.

Over the next twenty years, thirty-three guided missile destroyers will be retired. The combat systems in these retiring ships are manual, short range, and operator intensive. Upgrades have provided some improvements but not enough to meet the projected threat. Retirement of these ships without replacement would reduce our AAW capable surface combatants below the level required to support our maritime strategy. CG 47 phase-in alone will not be sufficient to offset retirement. We need a larger number of affordable, versatile, general-purpose surface combatants capable of supporting the multi-mission warfighting requirements of the fleet in the 1990's and beyond. The Arleigh Burke guided missile destroyer is that combatant.

CG 47 and Arleigh Burke not only replace the current inventory of cruisers and destroyers, they also provide modern sensors and weapons

required to defeat the current and projected threat. Each has distinct and different missions. The cruiser is equipped to embark a staff and lead the battle in high risk, sustained offensive operations. The destroyer, procured in greater numbers, distributes offensive and defensive capabilities throughout the fleet. The average follow-on Arleigh Burke Class destroyer costs about \$700M or about 65% of the cost of the follow-on CG 47. Our CG 47/Arleigh Burke Class SCN plan strikes the correct balance between affordability, force level requirements and capability.

The Arleigh Burke design incorporates the most advanced technology available in AAW including the state-of-the-art AEGIS AN/SPY-1D phased array radar. The AEGIS Weapon System, 90-cell Vertical Launching System (VLS), two PHALANX Close-In Weapons Systems (CIWS), and the AN/SLQ-32(V)2 electronics warfare system provide a quantum advantage over older "G" ships in terms of performance, reaction time, fire-power, availability and area coverage.

TOMAHAWK brings a major capability to Arleigh Burke and augments the ASUW capability of the HARPOON missile system and the 5"/54 gun which will use guided projectiles and the laser controlled SEAFIRE GFCS.

Arleigh Burke's ASW System integrates a light-weight digital AN/SQS-53C sonar, the AN/SQR-19 TACTAS and a MK 116 Underwater Fire Control System with automated track motion analysis. ASW weapons include vertical launch ASROC (VLA) and MK 46/MK 50 torpedoes launched over the side.

Arleigh Burke has a new sea-keeping hull design, reduced radar cross section, improved survivability, and features the proven LM-2500 gas turbine propulsion system, so successful in the FFG 7, DD 963, DDG 993, and CG 47 ships. It has an improved noise signature, infrared radiation suppression, and a collective protection system which subdivides the ship into four pressurized zones to provide nuclear, biological and chemical protection.

Our shipbuilding program calls for the lead ship to be authorized in 1985 and commissioned in July 1989. Three Arleigh Burke Class (DDG 52 through 54) will be requested in 1987 and five ships in each of the following five years for a total of 29 ships. The program is structured to reduce life-cycle costs through the employment of the "flight" concept. All ships constructed within a given flight will be identical. Major upgrades will be introduced as required in flight two or three.

The past two decades have witnessed the emergence of the Soviet Navy as a mature and increasingly capable "blue water" force whose capability to project presence and power on a global scale exists today and is steadily improving. If present trends continue as intelligence estimates project, their warfighting capability will continue to build throughout this decade. In planning for the Navy of the 21st century, the principal challenge is to effectively manage and introduce technology within the framework of a 600 ship Navy so that the objectives of deterrence and a war winning strategy are effectively served. Arleigh Burke addresses our need for an affordable, tough, survivable warship. She is our general-purpose destroyer for the future and can execute sea control or power projection missions in support of the five traditional warfare tasks: anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine, amphibious, and strike warfare.

Should you desire more information on Arleigh Burke or a briefing here in Washington, please let me know. The warfighting capability of our surface Navy will be dramatically enhanced with your help to ensure we articulate the requirement for Arleigh Burke.

Sincerely,



R. L. WALTERS
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

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