



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
PCU SPRUANCE (DDG 111)
590 WASHINGTON STREET
BATH, ME 04530

Shipmate and family, **this is *your* ship!** Welcome aboard!

Congratulations on your assignment to the first crew of the Navy's newest guided missile destroyer, USS SPRUANCE (DDG 111). The ship is the 61st Aegis destroyer and the 33rd of the Flight IIA variant, SPRUANCE honors Admiral Raymond Ames Spruance, USN, and is the second U.S. Navy ship to bear his name. Admiral Spruance is considered one of the greatest fighting and thinking admirals in American history as the leader of some of our greatest victories in the Pacific during World War II, including the Battle of Midway and the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

SPRUANCE is currently under construction at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Bath, Maine. BIW is a shipyard with over 120 years of history delivering a superb product. While under construction, we have established two SPRUANCE training commands: a pre-commissioning detachment (PCD) in San Diego and a pre-commissioning unit (PCU) in Bath, Maine.

Most of you will be ordered to the PCD for up to six months of additional training and some underway opportunities on other Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. A few of you will report directly to Maine. The PCD and PCU will prepare you for service in SPRUANCE through Navy training and shipboard familiarization. **Study hard in your training courses – I need you to be ready to bring Spruance to life and sail her safely.**

After training at the PCD, you will transfer to the PCU to begin to familiarize yourself with SPRUANCE's systems. You will assist the Supervisor of Shipbuilding staff in verifying the installation and operation of your division's equipment and spaces. A few of you will also get underway with the ship for its first sea trials. Finally, we will prepare for "ship custody transfer", the date when the shipyard officially hands the Navy 'the keys to the ship' in late 2010. Then you will take ownership of your work and living spaces, move aboard the ship a few weeks later, and begin training in earnest to take the ship out to sea.

The final sailaway from Maine will occur in late summer 2011. We will make our way around the United States, visit a few liberty ports and working ports, then sail through the Panama Canal en route to our home port of San Diego, California by early fall 2011. That fall, we will also commission the ship into naval service, in a location still to be determined. Once in San Diego, we will get underway often to test all aspects of the ship, including key weapons firing events.

While we cannot fully ease the turmoil of changing duty stations, especially since duty in a new construction ship will require most of you to move *twice* during your tour, the PCD and PCU teams are committed to assisting you. **Review the "Welcome Aboard Package" here on the ship's website.** Check it often, as we will update it with any new information. This section includes check-in instructions, mailing addresses, travel and pay rules, lodging, housing, household goods, and points of contact. Study the website in detail to answer most questions you might have. The base at Naval Air Station Brunswick ME will close during our stay in Maine, which will have minor impacts on our crew and families. See the Maine Welcome Aboard for details.

The entitlements (pay and allowances) associated with the ship construction process are different than any other Navy assignment you have been on to date. Therefore, ensure you understand your entitlements to travel and housing for your families which is based on the accounting classification code (ACC) listed in your orders (ACC 352 vs. ACC 106). The entitlements are different for each Sailor based on your arrival date at either PCD or PCU. **Do not schedule a move for your dependents without first fully understanding these important rules and how they apply to your orders.**

I am honored to be your Captain, and look forward to meeting you and your family as we prepare to take ownership of the newest and most technologically advanced warship in the world. Your shipmates come from all walks of life, from numerous states and from many countries. Whatever your background, I can promise you a personally and professionally rewarding experience, and the opportunity for you to make a lasting contribution to the life and culture of this ship, to the Navy, and to the United States. I thank you for your service, and especially thank your family for their support and many sacrifices in their service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. T. Westbrook".

M. T. WESTBROOK