



# USS BAINBRIDGE (DDG 96)

*Competence, Dedication, Discipline*

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Welcome to the Navy's Newest and Most Modern Warship

Dear BAINBRIDGE Family and Friends,

Welcome to an exciting and, hopefully very rewarding tour on the Navy's newest and most modern warship.

Since September of 2001, Bath Iron Works has been building this ship, the 45th Aegis destroyer of the ARLEIGH BURKE class and the 25th to be produced in Bath, Maine. However, it is only recently that the Navy has begun to add the most important element to it — the crew.

For most of 2004, the earliest people who are assigned to the ship spent their time in vari-



USS BAINBRIDGE (DDG 96) on the morning of 12 November 2004 being readied for christening the following day.

ous schools to prepare themselves for the latest systems of this dynamic warship, and prepare for the next sequence of the ship's life — arrival of the three additional phases of the remaining crewmembers.

Now nearly all of those phases of people are here, either in the Pre-Commissioning Unit in Bath, Maine or in the PreCommissioning Detachment in Norfolk, Virginia.

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## Main Engine Start-Up Achieved

Another major milestone was put behind BAINBRIDGE's builders on 9 February, when the marine gas turbine engines of Main Engine Room Number Two roared to life over 6 weeks ahead of schedule. Started by a combined group of builder's and ship's crew,

the two engine smoothly came to life marking a key milestone in the ship's path to sea trials.

One of the most difficult and demanding tasks on the ship has always been the construction of the complex main engine rooms, the myriad of systems to support the en-

gines, and the cleanliness of air intake and exhaust paths. In this case, builders chose to do the difficult work earlier in the construction phases leading to early activation. Soon, with a fresh coat of paint, the space will be more than ready for May sea trials.

# Welcome (continued from page 1)

2005 should prove to be one of the most exciting and challenging years that you could experience in the Navy.

Coupled with completing a tremendous amount of school-house training across the country, our crew will attend a large number of team training events in areas such as damage control, engineering plant operations, combat systems and communications operations, and various other pro-



USS MOMSEN (DDG 92) is shown during her May 2004 sea trials. MOMSEN is a BIW built ARLEIGH BURKE destroyer and sister ship of BAINBRIDGE.

grams to bring us together and prepare us to accept our ship and sail it away for commissioning in

Ft Lauderdale, Florida in November.

Following commissioning, we will sail to our new homeport in Norfolk, Virginia, to begin the training and certification process that will make BAINBRIDGE ready to join the fleet and be a productive fleet asset supporting our national policy around the world in the Global War on Terrorism.

Welcome Aboard! Now, Let's Go to Sea!

## From the Captain



CDR John Dorey, USN

Welcome to All BAINBRIDGE Family and Friends!

Hopefully this is the first in a long line of newsletters telling you the great things that those onboard are doing.

While we are still in the process of forming a crew worthy of this great ship, we are off to a fantastic start! There are just too many talented and hard-working people to recognize them all by name for the

amazing work they do, but trust me when I say I couldn't be more proud of them and their accomplishments!

What is most special is watching this group grow into a team of professionals, working together to make this ship better each day. I know much of that wouldn't be possible without the efforts of those family members who raised, taught,

helped, married, and now continue to support us.

I hope you are as proud of your crewmember as I am.

I look forward to meeting you soon and telling you what great things your husband or wife, son or daughter is doing.

John Dorey  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

## From the Command Master Chief

Welcome aboard to the crew and families of BAINBRIDGE!

As we continue to move closer to becoming a highly trained and successful team, it becomes even more important to share good news and information about events affecting our crew and their families.

As the majority of the crew

will soon depart Norfolk en route to Bath to complete our training and get to know our ship, staying informed and keeping the lines of communication open becomes even more critical.

Please take advantage of any opportunities from ship's events to our newly formed Family Support Group to stay in touch with the happenings and hopefully

make some new friends in the BAINBRIDGE family.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon.

CMDCM James Collins  
Command Master Chief



CMDCM (SW) James Collins

# BAINBRIDGE Christened on 13 November

On a cold, snowy, Maine day, Mrs. Susan Bainbridge Hay, the great, great, great granddaughter of the ship's namesake, Commodore William Bainbridge, and the ship's sponsor, formally christened the ship with a mighty swing of a champagne bottle.

Attended by a crowd of hearty on-lookers from the shipyard, visitors from across the country and 75 members of the ship's crew, Mrs. Bainbridge's swing marked another milestone in the ship's construction and brought the ship one step closer to her May 2005 sea trials.

Mrs. Hay's swing of the bottle is one of a long tradition of christening ships with champagne. Except for a

brief time during prohibition, the Navy has conducted this tradition for hundreds of years.

Mrs. Hay is also no stranger to these events, having served as a matron when her mother christened a previous USS BAINBRIDGE (DLGN/CGN 25) in 1962.

We expect that Mrs. Hay will be in Florida with us this fall to give the traditional order at commissioning to "Bring the ship to life!" and

place BAINBRIDGE in active service as the newest member of the fleet.



Mrs. Susan Bainbridge Hay, watched by her cousin, the ship's Matron, Mrs. Cornelia Rea, christens BAINBRIDGE

## Recognizing Our Own

### Promotions

LCDR David Richardson

QM1(SW) Jeffrey Brebner	GSM1(SW) Eric Esancy	EN1 Jeremy Huff	HT1(SW/AW) Adonnis White
OS2(SW) Deeric Bacchuus	ET2 Aaron Coleman	PN2(SS) Michael Dana	IT2 Edward Wong
FC3 Sean O'Carroll	SH3 Mario Robinson	SH3 Khari Butler	HT3 Robert Mork
CS3 Kasey Christoph		ET3 Crystal Mueller	

### Awards

#### *Joint Services Commendation Medal*

OS1(SW) Slappey

#### *Navy Achievement Medal*

SK1(SW) Jeffrey Moore      EM2(SW) Latoya Brown

#### *Letters of Commendation*

ET3 Michael Schmidt      OSSN Chester Gemaehlich

### Reenlistments

IC2(SW) Rubin Bailey	FC1 David Alverson
IT3 Apichai Thavichith	GSCS(SW) Michael Wroten

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*Confidence, Dedication, Discipline*

## Commodore William Bainbridge

William Bainbridge was born in Princeton, New Jersey, on 7 May 1774. He went to sea in the merchant marine in 1789 and was captain of a ship before reaching the age of twenty. Bainbridge was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in August 1798 and given command of the schooner *RETALIATION*. Lieutenant Bainbridge was promoted to the rank of Master Commandant and then to Captain.

During 1800-1803 he commanded the U.S. warships *George Washington*, *Essex* and *Philadelphia* during operations in the Mediterranean, but was taken prisoner with his entire crew when *Philadelphia* ran aground in October 1803

After regaining his freedom in 1805, Captain Bain-



Commodore William Bainbridge

bridge supervised naval facilities and the construction of gunboats and, while on leave, again served in the merchant marine. He returned from the last of his commercial voyages in 1812, shortly before the United States went to war with Great Britain.

In September, he was given command of the frigate *Constitution*, took her to sea on the second of her War of 1812 cruises, and destroyed HMS *Java* in battle on 29 December 1812. Bainbridge was stationed at Boston, in charge of building the ship of the line *Independence*, during most of the rest of the war. In July-November 1815, she was flagship of his squadron during an expedition to the Mediterranean to suppress the renewed threat

posed by the Barbary states.

Commodore Bainbridge was commander of Navy forces afloat at Boston for much of the rest of the decade, and in 1820-21 flew his flag in the ship of the line *Columbus* during another Mediterranean cruise. He was later Commandant of the Boston Navy Yard, served as a Naval Commissioner in 1825-1828 and then was Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Bainbridge returned to the Boston command in 1832, but ill health forced him to leave that post in 1833. He died at Philadelphia on 27 June of that year.

The U.S. Navy has named four ships in honor of William Bainbridge, including: USS *Bainbridge*, 1842-1863; USS *Bainbridge* (DD-1) 1902-1920; USS *Bainbridge* (DD-246) 1921-1945; and USS *Bainbridge* (DLGN/CGN-25), 1965-1997.