

# USS NITZE (DDG 94)



## Mast Stepping Ceremony 01 November 2003



## **Mast Stepping Ceremony**

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Stan Weliever</b> <i>Director DDG Program</i>
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>LCDR Dwane Purser</b> <i>Chaplain NASB</i>
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Dugan Shipway</b> <i>President Bath Iron Works</i>
<b>Background of Mast Stepping</b>	<b>Stan Weliever</b> <i>Director DDG Program</i>
<b>Placement of items in Mast Box</b>	<b>CDR Hegarty, USN</b> <i>PCO USS NITZE (DDG 94)</i>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>CDR Hegarty, USN</b> <i>PCO USS NITZE (DDG 94)</i>
<b>Observe Welding Box Into Mast</b>	<b>Designated Personnel</b>

Since the era of wooden ships, stepping the mast was a very skilled business. It was done with sheerlegs, spars, block and tackle and sheer manpower. The mast would be steadily lowered through the hole left for it on the deck, which was surrounded below the deck by reinforcing chocks secured to the beams. The mast was manhandled into position in a slot cut on the keelson. Often times, a coin was placed at the base of the mast. The custom of placing coins under the step of the mast when a ship is being built had its origin with the ancient Romans. It was a custom then to place coins in the mouth of a dead person in the belief this would enable him to pay Charon to ferry him across the River Styx. The old superstition has survived and coins are still placed in the mast today so that if the ship met with mishap at sea, safe passage for the crew is ensured.



The COINS:

1907 Silver Dollar - Represents the year Paul Henry Nitze was born

1943 and 1944 Penny - The year the Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies was founded and the year it actually opened.

1963 through 1967 dimes - The years that Paul H. Nitze was Secretary of the Navy

1972 Half Dollar - The year The Salt 1 Treaty was signed in Moscow

1981, 1982, and 1983 Pennies - The years that Paul H. Nitze headed the INF delegation



## **DDG 94 Construction Milestones**

<b>Keel Laying</b>	<b>20 Sep 2002</b>
<b>Mast Stepping</b>	<b>01 Nov 2003</b>
<b>AEGIS Light Off</b>	<b>01 Feb 2004</b>
<b>Launch</b>	<b>27 Mar 2004</b>
<b>Builders Sea Trials</b>	<b>27 Sep 2004</b>
<b>Acceptance Sea Trials</b>	<b>04 Oct 2004</b>
<b>Delivery</b>	<b>29 Oct 2004</b>
<b>Sail Away</b>	<b>21 Jan 2005</b>