

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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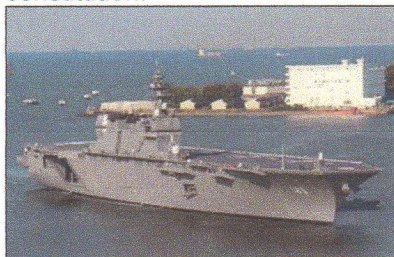
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Deposit Balance \$ _____

Japan Takes Delivery of Biggest Warship Since WWII

gCaptain Blog March 26, 2015

YOKOHAMA, March 25 (Reuters) — Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force on Wednesday took delivery of the biggest Japanese warship since World War Two, the *JS Izumo DDH-183*, a helicopter carrier as big as the Imperial Navy aircraft carriers that battled the United States in the Pacific. The *Izumo* with a crew of 470 sailors is a highly visible example of how Japan is expanding the capability of its military to operate overseas and enters service as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks lawmaker approval to loosen the restraints of Japan's pacifist post-war constitution.



JS IZUMO DDH-183

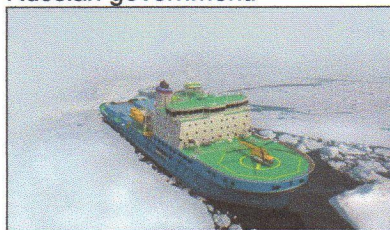
The 248 meter (813 feet) long *Izumo* resembles U.S. Marine Corp amphibious assault carriers in size and design but it is designated as a helicopter destroyer, a label that allows Japan to keep within the bounds of a constitutional ban on owning the means to wage war. Aircraft carriers, because of their ability to project force, are considered offensive weapons. "The vessel can serve in a wide range of roles including peace keeping operations, international disaster relief and aid," Gen Nakatani, Japan's Minister of Defense said standing beside the vessel after a handover ceremony at the Japan United Marine shipyard in Yokohama. "It also helps

improve our ability to combat submarines. Abe's moves to ease Japan's pacifist constitution and its build up in defense capabilities is unnerving neighbor China. Japan is also adding longer-range patrol aircraft and military cargo planes to its defense capability, and buying Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets, amphibious assault vehicles and Boeing's Osprey troop carrier, which can operate from the *Izumo*. The *Izumo* does not have a catapult necessary to launch fixed-wing fighters, but a planned vertical-take-off-and-landing (VTOL) variant of the F-35 could fly from the *Izumo*'s flight deck.

Arctech Helsinki Shipyard Launches Russian Icebreaker

gCaptain Blog March 25, 2015

Finnish shipyard Arctech Helsinki on Wednesday celebrated the launch of a new icebreaker being built for the Russian government.



The vessel, named 'Murmansk', is part of a three-vessel series ordered by the Russian Ministry of Transport from the Vyborg Shipyard. For the *Murmansk*, basic design and purchasing of major components was provided by Vyborg Shipyard as well as 40% of the hull blocks, while Arctech Helsinki, acting as the subcontractor, is responsible for construction, outfitting and commissioning. "Icebreaker *Murmansk*, which was launched today, is of an icebreaker type in the Russian icebreaker renewal program intended both for the Baltic Sea as well as Arctic conditions. The vessel will be

delivered later this year. The vessel is built in co-operation with Vyborg shipyard", comments the Managing Director of Arctech Helsinki Shipyard, Esko Mustamäki. *Murmansk* is the second vessel in a class of three icebreakers.

Ed. Note: I chose to cover this because it is important that we remember that the US is many years behind in icebreaker construction.

Republic of China commissions two new warships



Catamaran ROCS Tuo Jiang PGG618

The Republic of China Navy has commissioned the first in a planned class of a dozen domestically constructed guided missile corvettes in a Tuesday ceremony.



Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou attended the commissioning of the 500-ton *ROCS Tuo Jiang PGG 618* and the 20,000-ton combat support ship *ROCS Panshih AOE 532* at the RoC Navy's naval base at Zuoying, Kaohsiung on the southern part of the island, reported Jane's Defence Weekly.

The commissionings mark an uptick in Taiwan's domestic naval shipbuilding as a hedge against an expansion of China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

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