

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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Current Deposit Balance \$

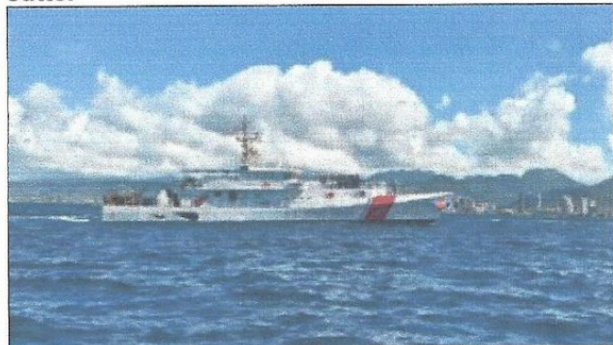
(Make checks payable to Richard F. Hoffner)

Russia launches second nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Sibir'



Sibir, as the second icebreaker in the class is named, was launched on 22 September into the River Neva in the presence of Russian president Vladimir Putin and a number of other government and shipyard officials. Together with sister ship *Arktika*, the *Sibir* is dubbed the "world's largest and most powerful" icebreaker. The *Sibir* was launched 16 months after it started construction in May 2015. The lead ship, *Arktika*, was launched in June 2016 and is expected to be commissioned in June 2019. Designed by Iceberg Central Design Bureau in 2009, the 173-meter long icebreakers will be capable of breaking ice up to 2.8 meters thick. The vessels are being built for Rosatomflot for operation in Arctic waters and in the waters of the mouth of the Yenisei river and the Gulf of Ob.

Hawaii welcomes first fast response Coast Guard cutter



US Coast Guard Cutter *Oliver Berry* (WPC 1124) became the first fast response cutter to be stationed in Hawaii arriving in Honolulu on 22 September. The *Oliver Berry* is the first of three Honolulu-based FRCs that will primarily serve the main Hawaiian

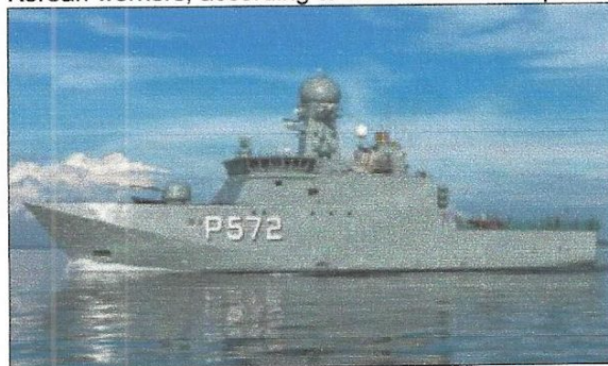
Islands. The 154-foot cutters are designed to patrol coastal regions and feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment, including the ability to launch and recover standardized small boats from the stern.

The chapter has submitted a pictorial postmark to Honolulu HI to be issued on the date of the Official Commissioning Ceremony of the cutter which is scheduled for 31 October.

North Koreans were involved in construction of new Danish Navy vessel



A Polish shipyard subcontracted for work on the hull of the Royal Danish Navy's newest Knud Rasmussen-class patrol vessel has employed North Korean workers, according to a Danish news report.



As reported by DR (news service), Danish shipbuilder and prime contractor Karstensens contracted the Polish shipyard Crist S.A. for work on the hull of the future *HDMS Lauge Koch* (P572). The Polish shipyard then worked with another subcontractor who employed North Korean workers. According to DR, the North Korean workers were employed through a North Korean state-owned company Rungrado. (Perhaps slave labor provided by DPRK?) Question of the day? What else don't we know about DPRK?

The 378 (WHEC) Project Group

Public Group

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More

The 378 (WHEC) Project Group (on Facebook)

We are a large group of Coast Guard Veterans in the process of acquiring a 378' High Endurance Cutter to convert into a museum. The response from Veterans all over the country has been overwhelming. We are determined to succeed. We are a non-profit corporation with a board of directors. Our CEO's name is Steve Howard and he is presently with a Coast Guard Attorney in negotiations with Commandant Zukunft and MCPOCG Patton for one of four 378s still in service. MCPOCG Patton is also on the board of directors of the National Coast Guard Museum. He informed me that the museum wanted a 378 to display. The 378 is unique. It was the first warship, in both the Coast Guard or Navy, equipped with twin jet turbine engines, bow thrusters, variable pitch props, helicopter flight deck, aluminium superstructure and fly by wire helms. It also had stealth tech, forerunner of Littoral. They served with distinction in Vietnam as well as their roles in search and rescue and law enforcement. At least one of these ships should be preserved and that is our mission. Won't you please find it in your heart to either volunteer and/or donate. We are getting the paperwork done so that you can deduct your contribution from your taxes. Join us!

Notes:

Initially I found this through Chuck Hill's Blog on the Internet. This pointed me to the 378 Facebook page. Apparently the group is in the process of seeking non-profit status.

There are four WHEC's still in commission in the USCG. Problem is that they may have been or could be promised to foreign governments.

Still in Service:

USCGC MELLON WHEC 717

USCGC SHERMAN WHEC 720

USCGC DOUGLAS MUNRO WHEC 724 (ex-MUNRO)

USCGC MIDGETT WHEC 726

Provided by:

Rich Hoffner, Served 1962-68 BT-3 USCG-R