

## The US anti-missile missiles

This picture has been issued by the US Navy.

On 29 August it was reported that a medium-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii, during Flight Test Standard Missile-27, Event 2.

The target was successfully intercepted by SM-6 missiles fired from the guided-missile destroyer USS *John Paul Jones* (DDG 53).

*US Navy photo by Latonja Martin/Released. USN ©.*

### Historical note

USS *John Paul Jones* is the fifth US warship to bear this name and honours the Father of the American Navy.

Born in Scotland, Commodore John Paul Jones earned the undying respect and admiration of his countrymen by his extraordinary courage, tactical genius and audacity during the American War for Independence.

Without hesitation, he took the war at sea to the British, attacking their coastlines and capturing their ships in the British fleet's home waters. These acts inspired and transformed the fledgling Colonial Navy from an upstart band of rebels to a recognized fighting force, providing critical justification for recognition of the colonies and their right to independence from Great Britain.

John Paul Jones is best remembered for his heroic defeat of the British 50-gun frigate *Serapis* on 23 September 1779.

The three-hour battle off Flamborough Head (on England's East Coast), in which John Paul Jones, in command of *Bonhomme Richard*, was victorious over a vastly superior British foe, established the spirit from which has grown the greatest Navy the world has ever known.

Today, USS *John Paul Jones* proudly displays the flag (*illustrated*) of the captured *Serapis* as her Battle Ensign.

DDG 53's motto, *In Harm's Way* reflects Commodore Jones' understanding that victory at sea will always require fast ships which are prepared to close and defeat the enemy.

For more readers are invited to open:

[http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/j3/john\\_paul\\_jones.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/j3/john_paul_jones.htm)