

## Destroyers in Evolution



Warships keep getting bigger and more powerful. They are also getting uglier. Terry Sutherland's oil painting at left, depicting the 20-year-old *USS Colahan* off Diamond Head in 1963, shows a destroyer that looks like a destroyer should. Yes, I know, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, and my old eyes see what Terry and I saw in the 1950s when we served together aboard her. Young sailors currently serving aboard the much larger *USS Decatur*, below, will someday look back with the same nostalgia. With me at San Diego's waterfront in 2004 is *Colahan* plankowner Bob McDonald. I'm the one wearing suspenders. The photograph was taken by Bill McIver, another *Colahan* shipmate.



Larger still and even more powerful and ugly is the DDX destroyer under construction to replace the *Decatur* and other modern-day warships. It looks like a damned submarine, but if it ever goes under it will sink like the *Titanic*. The graphic at right shows the DDX firing its weapon systems. No doubt, however, sailors will love this ship, too.

**Jackson Sellers**  
**Lake Forest, California**  
**September 2005**

