OPNAVINST 5750.12J
14 Mar 2005

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1
Command Serial Number:
Date Submitted: 24OCT06

Classification (when filled in): UNCLASS

Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. Instructions on submitting this form and the required attachments are at the end.

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: USS FORREST SHERMAN

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 23149

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Van Durick First: Michael M.I.: G. Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2005-08-08

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: New Construction Outfitting and Commissioning/ Pre-Commissioning Crew Training and Integration/COMSECONDFLT OPAREAs

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Norfolk, VA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Regional Support Organization Norfolk

Administrative: Regional Support Organization Norfolk

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable):

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable):

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable:

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable):

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: **25** Enlisted: **283** Civilian:

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name):
Job Title/Office Code: **Ship's Historian**
E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available):
Phone number(s): **757-444-4541**
Command Mailing Address: **FPO, AE 09569-1214**

2. Commander's Assessment

The Commander's Assessment briefly tells the story of the command's role in national defense and should highlight any general and specific lessons-learned. It should contain the commander's commentary, insights and reflections on the unit's activities. Attention should be directed to significant issues impacting training, operations and mission accomplishment during the reporting period. Descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to major command decisions and results of those decisions are particularly desired. Also desired are accounts of specific contributions of individuals in the command to mission accomplishment. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, particular attention should be given to the commander's estimate of the situation, records of discussions and decisions, descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to operational decisions and results of those decisions. For a unit returning from deployment or participating in a single operation this can normally be a single assessment. For higher-echelon commands or units engaging in multiple operations, a separate assessment for each operation in addition to an overall assessment may be appropriate.

The crew of USS FORREST SHERMAN began forming up in late 2004 in a Precommissioning Detachment in Norfolk, VA and at the Precommissioning Unit in Pascagoula, MS, where USS FORREST SHERMAN (DDG 98) was being built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems under contract to the U.S. Navy. The crew's primary mission for most of the year was to execute individual training pipelines, followed by integrated crew training on board FORREST SHERMAN,

leading to eventual crew certification to operate USS FORREST SHERMAN as she departed the builder's yard in December 2005. Concurrent with the crew certification process, the crew also was heavily engaged in writing and establishing the myriad instructions and procedures which govern daily life aboard a U.S. warship.

The ship's first Commanding Officer was CDR Michael G. Van Durick. A 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, CDR Van Durick reported to Precommissioning Unit FORREST SHERMAN on 14 January 2005 and assumed duties as Commanding Officer. The ship's first Executive Officer was LCDR Robert M. Brown, a prior enlisted Sonar Technician and graduate of California State University at Long Beach. A complete listing of the "plankowner" commissioning crew is submitted under separate enclosure as part of the commissioning ceremony program.

2005-07 With the approach of Hurricane Dennis, FORREST SHERMAN crew was ordered to evacuate the Gulf Coast region. The Commanding Officer, CDR Van Durick and 40 members of FORREST SHERMAN crew were onboard as she got underway from Northrop Grumman Shipyard under the cognizance of Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Gulf Coast. FORREST SHERMAN spent five days at sea in the Gulf of Mexico conducting storm evasion. Hurricane Dennis veered east and struck the Florida Panhandle on July 9, 2005. No crew member or immediate family were harmed or impacted.

2005-08-29 Fifty percent of FORREST SHERMAN crew had just arrived in the Pascagoula area for the upcoming crew move aboard. On Saturday August 27, Hurricane Katrina was predicted to travel west into eastern Texas and western Louisiana. On Sunday August 28, as Hurricane Katrina turned toward the northeast, families in the vicinity were advised to evacuate. All single sailors or those whose families were not in the area, most of whom were newly arrived were housed in the Lakeside CBQ in Pascagoula, MS, which was the designated regional hurricane shelter under the Navy's Regional Commander in Gulfport, MS. Lieutenant Commander Robert Brown, Executive Officer, was senior officer of FORREST SHERMAN present at Lakeside during and after storm. At the CBQ a number of the ship's Division Officers and Chief Petty Officers were also present, including Command Master Chief Herman Murphy and the Ship's Independent Duty Corpsman, Senior Chief Jonathon Davis.

On the morning of August 29, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. The first floor of Lakeside CBQ flooded with about 3 feet of water, so the FORREST SHERMAN crew and other residents consolidated on the second and third floors. Although the water receded a few hours later, the building sustained extensive damage to the first floor due to the flooding, many windows were

broken and a portion of the roof caved in. All utilities were lost and not regained before evacuation of the crew. All personnel and immediate family were accounted for within a matter of hours after the storm passed with no loss of life or injury. A substantial percentage of the crew residing at Lakeside, and those with homes in the area experienced extensive material losses due to the storm.
On Wednesday, August 31, all FORRREST SHERMAN personnel at Lakeside CBQ were extracted from the disaster area and provided safe haven at NAS Pensacola via buses arranged for by the Navy.

For the next several weeks, the bulk of the crew remained in either in Pensacola or at a detachment established in Norfolk, continuing the training and preparations for crew move aboard. Meanwhile a small team of ship's force personnel returned to the ship in NGSS shipyard to work with Northrop Grumman and Supship Gulf Coast personnel to chart a course toward completion of construction.

During Hurricane Katrina, FORREST SHERMAN remained pier side in NGSS Shipyard at the direction of Program Executive Office Ships, and SUPSHIP Gulf Coast. The only crew member aboard was Supply Clerk Third Class Perezhernandez, who was on board to aide the shipyard personnel with access to spaces already turned over to the Navy. FORREST SHERMAN received minor damage to her hull when a barge broke loose due to the storm surge and collided with her, impacting the starboard quarter. FORREST SHERMAN was dry-docked after the storm for one week for hull plate repairs.

The Northrop Grumman Shipyard was devastated by the effects of the storm; FORREST SHERMAN, operating on its own power, became the command post for shipyard executives and workers. FORREST SHERMAN's power and utilities provided a temporary place for about 300 personnel to reside, including the President of NGSS, Philip Teel, and six of the companies' vice presidents. From the decks of FORREST SHERMAN, Northrop Grumman was able to reconstitute the shipyard and continue construction.

2005-10-03 FORREST SHERMAN crew officially moved aboard. Construction and outfitting was still in progress so the crew conducted initial onboard training while NGSS completed the ship.

2005-12-17 FORREST SHERMAN sailed away from NGSS with construction fully completed, only 13 days after the originally scheduled sail away, despite the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. With the Gulf Coast still reeling in the storm's aftermath, FORREST SHERMAN sailed directly to its first home port, Norfolk, VA, arriving December 21. The remainder of the year was spent in a holiday stand-down for the crew and preparing for the delayed Commissioning scheduled for January 28, 2006, in Pensacola FL.

3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology should include dates of movements; local operations and training; exercises and operations (define acronyms and purpose of exercise or operation); installation of new weapons systems or changes; major physical changes to facilities, ship or aircraft; Class A or B mishaps; port visits; unit awards received; reserve augmentation; and other significant operational or administrative events.

2004-10-02	Ship's Christening
2005-06-15	Ship's Super Trials
2005-07-11	Information Systems Technician/Electronic Technician Team Trainer
2005-07-26	Combat Information Center (CIC) Team Trainer, Norfolk
2005-08-03	Cooperative Engagement Capability Tactical Operations, Wallops Island
2005-08-08	AEGIS Training Supervisor Operator Training, Wallops Island
2005-08-08	Engineering Console Team Trainer, Newport, RI
2005-08-08	Ship's Crew takes Ownership of Ship
2005-08-15	CIC Team Trainer, Wallops Island
2005-08-29	Single Ship Anti Submarine Warfare Trainer, Norfolk
2005-08-29	Hurricane Katrina
2005-08-31	Evacuation to Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL
2005-09	Ship Yard Cleanup and Equipment Recovery
2005-09-26	First Phase Crew move aboard
2005-10-03	Crew move aboard
2005-10-07	Mast Stepping Ceremony
2005-10-10	Marine Safety International Team Trainer, Norfolk
2005-11-07	Navigation LTT
2005-11-15	Engineering LTT
2005-11-21	Search and Rescue Certification
2005-11-29	Aviation Readiness Qualification
2005-12-12	Crew Certification Phase I/II
2005-12-14	Engineering Light Off Assessment
2005-12-17	Depart Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Pascagoula, MS-Return to Homeport

2005-12-21 Arrive Naval Station Norfolk, VA
2005-12-22 Begin Holiday Stand-down

The short narrative should amplify chronology entries (such as objectives and results of exercises/ operations; commander's evaluation of exercises/operations, etc). Entries may refer to an enclosure of this report without additional description if the enclosure sufficiently reports the incident/event. For all other entries, give the date or period in YYYY-MM-DD format and provide a brief narrative. All significant events during the reporting period are to be included.

2004-10-02 FORREST SHERMAN was Christened on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, during a ceremony at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi delivered the ceremony's principal address. Ann Sherman Fitzpatrick is the sponsor of the ship named for her father. In the time-honored Navy tradition, she broke the bottle of champagne across the bow to formally Christen FORREST SHERMAN. DDG 98 honors Admiral Forrest Percival Sherman (1896-1951).

2005-07-08 FORREST SHERMAN got under way to evade Hurricane Dennis. The Commanding Officer and 40 crew members, along with various shipyard workers and technicians, were underway for five days conducting storm evasion.

2005-08-29 On August 29, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Alabama. USS FORREST SHERMAN and 50% percent of her crew were in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Crew members weathered the storm in Lakeside CBQ. Loss of power, wind damage, and massive flooding were results. Command personnel residing at Lakeside and those with homes in the area experienced extensive material losses due to the storm. On August 31, buses were provided from NAS Pensacola to evacuate the crew to NAS Pensacola.

2005-10-03 FORREST SHERMAN crew moved aboard. They conducted initial onboard training while NGSS completed construction.

2005-12-17 FORREST SHERMAN sailed away from NGSS with construction fully completed, only 13 days after initial scheduled sail away, despite ravages of Hurricane Katrina. FORREST SHERMAN sailed directly to Norfolk, arriving December 21. This allowed Holiday Stand-down for the crew and to prepare for the delayed Commissioning schedule January 28, 2006.

4. Supporting Reports

Supporting Reports are those reports required by other instructions that provide significant data about the command during the calendar year. These reports may be submitted "as is," eliminating the need to duplicate information for this report that is already contained in reports prepared in response to other instructions and requirements. Examples include battle efficiency, safety and other award submissions, major staff or command studies, and end of cruise reports or briefs. For units

engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, enclosures may include, but are not limited to:

a. Situation Reports
b. Intentions Messages
c. Operational Reports
d. Operations Orders/Deployment Orders
e. Operational Plans
f. Personal For Messages
g. After Action Reports
h. Significant Electronic Message Traffic (outgoing/e-mail/chat)
i. Battle Damage Assessments
j. Casualty Reports
k. End-of-Cruise/Deployment Reports
l. Intelligence Summaries
m. Major Exercise Reports

List below the items submitted, indicating the classification of each. Electronic reports should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF, or plain text. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Submit electronic reports via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

Electronic Version-SIPR Email

A. OPREP 5

1. **17 DEC 06**
2. **18 DEC 06**
3. **19 DEC 06**
4. **20 DEC 06**

---

5. Published Documents

List below the published documents being submitted in either electronic or paper format, indicating the classification of each item. Documents to be submitted include cruise books, change of command programs, commissioning/decommissioning brochures, establishment/disestablishment/deactivation brochures, copy of command's web site, news releases, biography of commander, welcome aboard brochures, newspaper articles, command studies, statistical data, etc.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

_____

6. Photographs

List below official photographs and any other command-generated media being submitted in either electronic or paper format. Photographs to be submitted include: official photo of commanding officer; recent photo of ship, aircraft, or facility; and photos of historic events associated with the command. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Photographs in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained below. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in the same manner as the CD-ROM. Also include any photographs covering operational strikes, battle damage (especially that sustained by own ship, aircraft, facilities or equipment), or other relevant photos relating to combat or deployment operations.

Hard Copy

A. Ship's Photo

Electronic Version-CD Rom

A. COMREL Photos
B. Dry Dock Photos-2004
C. Mast Stepping Photos- 7 OCT 05
D. CDR Van Durick- DDG-98 CO
E . Advancements
F. Awards Ceremony
G. Awards Ceremony 2
H. Katrina Pictures
I. Leaving Pascagoula

7. Other Documents and Paraphernalia

1 Christening Coin-Large and Small
2 Commissioning Coin
3 Ship's Patch
4 2006 Sailor of the Year Awards Luncheon Program
5 CPO Selectee Pinning Program
6 Copy of Delivery, Acceptance, and Commissioning of Forrest Sherman Letter
7 Copy of Material Inspection and Receiving Report for DDG 98
8 Memorandum of Agreement
9 Commissioning Book
10 Commissioning Invitation and Tickets
11 Commissioning Contributors Brochure

12 Letter to CDR Van Durick from CPT Azarel Ram, Embassy of Israel
13 Commissioning Script Highlights
14 Copy of Commissioning Platform Participants
15 Platform Seating Diagram
16 Letter to CDR Van Durick from Norman Meeker, Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart
17 Letter to CDR Van Durick from Brian Prindle, Rear Admiral, USN
18 Letter to CDR Van Durick from David P. Ferrick
19 Letter to CDR Van Durick from H.G. Ulrich, Admiral, USN
20 Letter to CDR Van Durick from Anne Sherman-Fitzpatrick - Ship's Sponsor
21 Letter to CDR Van Durick from Kurt Wagemann, President, USS FORREST SHERMAN DD-931 Foundation, INC.

Submit this Command Operations Report as follows:

Via e-mail, to one of the three e-mail addresses:

All air/aviation commands: aviationhistory@navy.mil
All ships: shiphistory@navy.mil
All other commands: archives@navy.mil

Place any attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward paper records included as attachments in the same manner. **Do not forward Command Operations Reports via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures.** Address all shipments to:

Naval Historical Center
(Attn: Ships History/Aviation History/Operational Archives) *
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Submit **Confidential and Secret** Command Operations Reports electronically via SIPR-net e-mail to one of the three e-mail addresses:

All air/aviation commands: aviationhistory@nhc.navy.smil.mil
All ships: shiphistory@nhc.navy.smil.mil
All other commands: archives@nhc.navy.smil.mil

Place any **classified** attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward classified paper records included as attachments in the same manner. **Do not send attachments to the Command Operations Report via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures.** Ensure all items are properly marked and wrapped. Address all shipments to:

Naval Historical Center
(Attn: Ships History/Aviation History/Operational Archives) *
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Forward Command Operations Report enclosures containing **Top Secret** via courier to:

405130-BA 33
NHC/AR Washington, DC

Forward Command Operations Report enclosures containing **Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI)** via courier to:

449354-BA 31
ONI/Suitland, MD

The inner wrapper should read: ONI Historian, ONI-ODB EXT 2975

Telephone numbers for the ONI Historian are DSN 659-4488/5901, Commercial (301) 669-4488/5901.

* The attention line should read **Ships History** for all ships, **Aviation History** for all air/aviation commands, and **Operational Archives** for all other commands. Telephone numbers for these branches are as follows: Ships History Branch, DSN 288-6802, Commercial (202) 433-6802; Aviation History Branch, DSN 288-2321, Commercial (202) 433-2321; Operational Archives Branch, DSN 288-3224, Commercial (202) 433-3224.