



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GARY (FFG 51)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS GARY (FFG-51)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 Series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative
(4) 1999 Press Releases
(5) GARY GAZETTE Family Newsletter
(6) Ship's photograph
(7) Ship's Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(8) Commanding Officer Biography
(9) Exchange of Command Program

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are forwarded.


S. J. CAMACHO

USS GARY (FFG-51)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS GARY, the namesake of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Commander Donald Arthur Gary, is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) class of guided missile frigates. GARY's mission is to provide air, surface, and sub-surface protection for merchant and military convoys, aircraft carriers, logistics battle groups, and amphibious task forces, operating either independently or as a part of a Surface Action Group. GARY was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Los Angeles, California. Her keel was laid on 18 December 1982. She was christened on 19 November 1983 and commissioned on 17 November 1984.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability for the performance and welfare of the ship and her crew. Second in command, the Executive Officer, implements policies and regulations as applicable to the ship and her mission. Each Department Head reports to the Commanding Officer via the Executive Officer.

USS GARY was under the administrative command of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO THREE in San Diego, CA from 01 Jan 99 – 31 Aug 99. After the exchange of command on 31 Aug 99, USS GARY is now under the administrative command of Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN in Yokosuka, Japan.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 01 JAN – 31 AUG 1999

COMMANDING: CDR Joseph C. Harriss (9th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR Alan S. Rice
Relieved by LCDR James T. Black

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LT Gregory C. Lechtenberg

Fire Control Officer (CF Division)

Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)

Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer (CA Division)

Gunnery Officer (CG Division)

OPERATIONS:

LT Francis J. Campion
Relieved by LT H. Scott Brandon

First Lieutenant (First Division)

Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)

Communications Officer (OC Division)

NAVIGATOR/ADMIN OFFICER:

LT Raphael Rodriguez
Relieved by LTJG Steven M. Vanderlinde

ENGINEERING:

LT Dennis W. Reinhardt

Main Propulsion Assistant (M Division)

Damage Control Assistant (R Division)

Auxiliaries Officer (A Division)

Electrical Officer (E Division)

SUPPLY:

LT Morgan C. Tulang

Storekeepers (S-1 Division)

Food Service (S-2 Division)

Ship's Servicemen (S-3 Division)

Disbursing Officer (S-4 Division)

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND: STSCM (SW/SS) William A. Smith

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 31 AUG – 31 DEC 1999

COMMANDING:

CDR Stephen J. Camacho (10th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

LCDR John B. Carroll
Relieved by LCDR Gary R. Gilleon

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS:

LT Neill A. Voges

Ordnance Officer (CW Division)

Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)

Undersea Warfare Officer (CA Division)

Gunnery Officer (CG Division)¹

OPERATIONS: LT Harold P. Katz

First Lieutenant (First Division)

Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)

Communications Officer (OC Division)

Navigation Division (NAV Division)

ENGINEERING: LT Eric R. Horning

Main Propulsion Assistant

Damage Control Assistant (R Division)

Auxiliaries Officer (A Division)

Electrical Officer (E Division)

M-Division Officer²

SUPPLY: LTJG Michael A. York

Storekeepers (S-1 Division)

Food Service (S-2 Division)

Ship's Servicemen (S-3 Division)

Disbursing Officer (S-4 Division)

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND: MMCM (SW/AW) Michael Cisneros

¹ Reports directly to the Ordnance Officer.

² Reports directly to the Main Propulsion Assistant.

**USS GARY (FFG 51)
COMMAND HISTORY 1999
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

01 JAN	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY STAND DOWN PERIOD CONTINUES
11 JAN	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
19 JAN	UNDERWAY FOR DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS
22 JAN	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
27 JAN	UNDERWAY FOR SHIP'S SELF RADIATED NOISE MEASUREMENT
29 JAN	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
05 FEB	DEPENDENTS CRUISE/ VISIT SHIP BROADWAY PIER
08 FEB	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
22 FEB	UNDERWAY FOR MISSILEX
24 FEB	MISSILEX
25 FEB	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
01 MAR	UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
02 MAR	WEAPONS ONLOAD SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
03 MAR	COOPERATION AFLOAT READINESS AND TRAINING 1999 PREPARATIONS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
05 MAR	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
09 MAR	UNDERWAY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
10 MAR	IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
15 MAR	PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT STAND DOWN
08 APR	FAST CRUISE
09 APR	SEA TRIALS

12 APR UNDERWAY, FLEET BATTLE EXPERIMENT ECHO, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

16 APR IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

28 APR UNDERWAY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

29 APR IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

12 MAY UNDERWAY, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

13 MAY IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

21 MAY DEPLOY, COOPERATION AFLOAT READINESS AND TRAINING 1999, EN ROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

28 MAY IN PORT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

01 JUN UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA

11 JUN IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA

11 JUN EMBARK HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON (LIGHT) – 51

11 JUN UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE OKINAWA, JA

14 JUN IN PORT OKINAWA, JA

15 JUN UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE SATTAHIP, THAILAND

24 JUN IN PORT SATTAHIP, THAILAND

24 JUN UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE LUMUT, MALAYSIA

27 JUN IN PORT LUMUT, MALAYSIA

04 JUL UNDERWAY, BI-LATERAL EXERCISES WITH ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY, STRAIT OF MALACCA

07 JUL IN PORT LUMUT, MALAYSIA

10 JUL UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE SINGAPORE

11 JUL IN PORT, SINGAPORE

19 JUL UNDERWAY, BI-LATERAL EXERCISES WITH REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE NAVY, SOUTH CHINA SEA

19 JUL EMBARK COMDESRON ONE

22 JUL IN PORT SINGAPORE

22 JUL DISEMBARK COMDESRON ONE

23 JUL UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE SATTAHIP, THAILAND

25 JUL IN PORT SATTAHIP, THAILAND

01 AUG UNDERWAY, BI-LATERAL EXERCISES WITH ROYAL THAILAND NAVY, GULF OF THAILAND

05 AUG AT ANCHOR, PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND

06 AUG DETACH, COOPERATION AFLOAT READINESS AND TRAINING 1999 TASK FORCE

07 AUG UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE OKINAWA, JAPAN

13 AUG IN PORT OKINAWA, JA

13 AUG UNDERWAY, EN ROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA

16 AUG IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA

16 AUG DISEMBARK HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON (LIGHT) – 51

16 AUG BEGINNING OF USS GARY/USS THACH HULL SWAP

31 AUG EXCHANGE OF COMMAND, USS GARY AND USS THACH. CDR JOSEPH HARRISS RELIEVED BY CDR STEPHEN CAMACHO. USS GARY NOW FORWARD DEPLOYED TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN.

14 SEP UNDERWAY, PHILLIPPINE SEA FOR CREW CERTIFICATION

15 SEP IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA

17 SEP UNDERWAY, PHILLIPPINE SEA FOR “Y2K” VALIDATION AND TESTING

19 SEP IN PORT OKINAWA, JA

20 SEP UNDERWAY, ENROUTE KURE, JA BUT DIVERTED TO YOKOSUKA, JA

22 SEP IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA
28 SEP CMTQ BEGINS
30 SEP CMTQ ENDS
12 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE OITA, JA. EMBARK HSL 49 DET 8.
14 OCT IN PORT OITA, JA
18 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA
19 OCT DISEMBARK HSL 49 DET 8.
20 OCT IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA
30 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE SASEBO, JA. EMBARK HSL 49 DET 8.
01 NOV IN PORT SASEBO, JA
03 NOV UNDERWAY FOR ANNUALEX 11G
09 NOV DISEMBARK HSL 49 DET 8.
10 NOV ANCHORED YOKOSUKA, JA FOR AMMUNITION TRANSFER.
10 NOV IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA
12 NOV UNDERWAY FOR DEPENDENT'S DAY CRUISE WITH USS KITTY HAWK
12 NOV INPORT YOKOSUKA, JA
29 NOV BEGIN HOLIDAY STANDDOWN IN YOKOSUKA, JA
29 DEC END HOLIDAY STANDDOWN IN YOKOSUKA, JA

**USS GARY (FFG-51)
COMMAND HISTORY 1999**

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS GARY started the New Year after completing a successful 1998. After several days of holiday stand down in port, GARY got underway to support deck-landing qualifications for over five helicopter squadrons. The next week she sailed off the coast of San Clemente Island for a Ship's Self Radiated Noise Measurement. In the beginning of February, GARY moored at Broadway pier in San Diego after conducting a family day cruise. While at Broadway pier, she hosted a reception attended by Commander Naval Surface Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Edward Moore, and hosted tours for over 3000 visitors. Two weeks later, GARY completed a successful missile exercise where she shot two very small targets with two SM-1 telemetry missiles.

GARY spent much of March and April preparing for the exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training '99 (CARAT) '99 deployment. After unloading ammunition in Seal Beach, CA, she joined with Destroyer Squadron ONE ships for training exercises. Practicing skills varying from formation steaming to Visit Board Search & Seizure operations was essential to building a cohesive CARAT team. GARY then underwent a thirty day pre-overseas movement stand down in support of an April 16 deployment. In early April political instability canceled the Philippine phase of CARAT '99 and postponed deployment for five weeks. In lieu of deploying, GARY volunteered for Fleet Battle Experiment Echo, part of ground breaking network centric warfare exercises off the coast of California. This rigorous USW exercise, in conjunction with two other short underway periods, allowed GARY to maintain her maximum readiness. Finally on May 21, GARY deployed with USS COMSTOCK (LSD-45) and USS GEORGE PHILIP (FFG-12) for CARAT '99.

After enjoying Memorial Day weekend in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the CARAT Surface Action Group (SAG) united with USS FREDERICK (LST-1184) and continued west. In the

Middle Pacific, GARY detached and sailed north to embark Detachment One of the Helicopter Squadron (Light) (HSL)-51 Warlords in Japan. Now supplemented by one helicopter (Hellfire 04), GARY proceeded south to rejoin the CARAT '99 forces in Okinawa. Once reunited, the SAG pressed further westward, through the Strait of Malacca, to Malaysia.

The first phase of CARAT took place in late June in the town of Lumut, Malaysia. GARY crew members received a warm welcome from the citizens of Lumut. Inport by day, the crew prepared for the approaching underway period with the Royal Malaysian Navy. By night, they enjoyed the nightlife of the nearby cities of Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. Towards the end of the preparations, GARY won the CARAT softball tournament and seized the 1999 championship. Soon, the CARAT '99 team departed Lumut for intense bi-lateral exercises with the Malaysian forces. Events ranged from communications exercises to war games and from tactical maneuvering to gun shoots. Upon the successful completion of the Malaysian phase of CARAT '99, the forces proceeded to the July phases, Singapore and Thailand.

In July, the GARY crew members enjoyed the big city sights of Singapore. After a week of preparations inport, the CARAT '99 Task Group set sail for operations in the South China Sea with the Republic of Singapore Navy. The addition of USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN-707) diversified the schedule with USW tactics. Following this challenging phase, CARAT forces continued on to Thailand. In the Gulf of Thailand, the US ships trained with the Royal Thai Navy. Operations with the Thai aircraft carrier HTMS CHAKRI NARUEBET (CVH-911) improved understanding and respect between the two navies. With commitments in Japan, GARY spent several days resting in Pattaya Beach, detached from the Indonesia-bound CARAT task group, and sailed north towards Yokosuka for her impending hull swap with USS THACH (FFG-43).

In Yokosuka, GARY and THACH conducted the hull swap evolution seamlessly. Turning over items ranging from rubber ducks to fire control systems, both ships were fully mission capable after two short weeks. Conducting the swap swiftly and with the utmost professionalism, GARY and THACH crews saved the taxpayers millions of dollars. The swap complete, CDR Stephen Camacho relieved CDR Joseph C. Harriss during an exchange of command ceremony held on 31 AUG 1999.

For the next two weeks after the exchange of command, the Yokosuka crew formerly of USS THACH gradually adjusted to their new ship and became acquainted with the different systems. The ship was underway from 14-15 SEP for crew certification to ensure that the ship and crew were ready. The ship then got underway on 17 SEP to participate in the "Y2K" testing/validation exercise with many other ships. GARY was diverted from the exercise on 19 SEP to go to Okinawa. The purpose of this was to assist with humanitarian effort in delivering supplies to Kure, Japan, in order to aid the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force's relief effort for the severe earthquakes in Turkey. While the ship was en route Kure, the diplomatic clearance to enter was denied, so GARY proceeded back to Yokosuka to offload the supplies.

GARY's next major evolution was the difficult Cruise Missile Test Qualification (CMTQ) during the week of 27 SEP. GARY passed the numerous Harpoon missile exercises and was fully qualified. Two weeks later, GARY went to Oita, Japan for a port visit to give the crew sight seeing and liberty and to enhance the goodwill between the United States and Japan. While in Oita, 3,400 people toured the ship in an impressive outpouring of interest by the local community. The Commanding Officer made calls on the mayor of Oita and the Oita Chief of Police. Meanwhile, The crew was delighted by the many attractions, and many participated in the Community Relations (COMREL) Project at a local orphanage.

GARY departed Oita on 18 OCT and proceeded back to Yokosuka. After ten days in port, the ship went to Sasebo, Japan in preparation for the upcoming ANNUALEX 11G. After two days in Sasebo, the ship departed on 03 NOV to participate in the enormous bi-lateral exercise. The GARY participated in numerous events, including mine warfare exercises, underway replenishments, and most importantly the undersea warfare exercises. GARY was highly successful during the entire exercise, holding several submarine contacts on its towed array sonar, and prosecuting many OPFOR submarines.

Upon return from ANNUALEX 11G, GARY had a major ordnance handling evolution on 10 NOV to prepare for the Jan 2000 MEF deployment to the Arabian Gulf. GARY unloaded torpedoes, Penguin missiles, Hellfire, 76 mm gun ammunition, grenades, and numerous small arms. GARY then moored in Yokosuka for a brief stop and to embark the families of GARY for the Dependent's Day Cruise on 12 NOV. GARY joined with USS KITTY HAWK, which was also conducting its family cruise. A "Steel Beach" picnic was held on the flight deck, and Carrier Air Wing Five put on an outstanding air show.

Upon return to Yokosuka that afternoon, GARY spent the rest of the year in Yokosuka. The ship entered a holiday stand down period from 29 NOV – 29 DEC. All throughout this time, GARY was in a maintenance availability and was busy with final preparations for the Arabian Gulf deployment scheduled in Jan 2000.