



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74)

FPO AP 96615-2874

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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23 Feb 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74)  
To: Director, Naval History (OP-09BH) Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) for period  
1 January to 31 December 2003  
(2) Biographical Information on Commanding Officer  
(3) Change of Command Brochure

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. BUSS".

D. H. BUSS

Copy to:  
COMNAVAIRPAC

## USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) 2003 COMMAND HISTORY

### 1. Part I - Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission of USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74). The mission of USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) and her embarked Air Wing is to conduct sustained combat air operations while forward deployed in the global arena.

#### b. Organizational Structure

(1) Immediate Senior in Command is Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN.

(2) The Commanding Officer is Captain David H. Buss, USN. He assumed command of USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) December 10, 2003.

(3) The Executive Officer is Captain Mark Sickert, USN. He assumed duties as Executive Officer in July 2001.

(4) The Command Master Chief is CMDCM(SW) Terry Etherton, USN. He assumed duties as Command Master Chief in March 2002.

(5) The Department Heads as of 31 December 2003 were:

Department	Name
Administration	Lt. Cmdr. Ed D. White
Aircraft Intermediate	
Maintenance Department	Cmdr. Fred Melnick
Air	Cmdr. Lee A. Steele
Combat Systems	Cmdr. Patrick Costello
Deck	Lt. Cmdr. James C. Smith, Jr.
Dental	Cmdr. Peter Ruocco
Engineering	Cmdr. Jonathan A. Baker
Legal	Lt. Cmdr. Robert Hunt
Medical	Capt. Jesse Monestersky
Navigation	Cmdr. S. Galbreath
Operations	Capt. Mike T. Steed
Reactor	Cmdr. Gordon Rutherford
Religious Ministries	Cmdr. M.J. Parisi
Safety	Cmdr. George Jacobs
Supply	Cmdr. Vincent Griffith
Training	Lt. Cmdr. Romuel B. Nafarrete
Weapons	Cmdr. Thomas Sanford

c. On 1 January 2003, 3,061 JCS personnel were on board: 199 Officers, 212 Chief Petty Officers and 2,862 enlisted personnel.

d. On 31 December 2003, 3,194 personnel were on board: 178 Officers, 183 Chief Petty Officers and 2,878 enlisted personnel.

e. The command's Senior Sailor of the Year was Postal Clerk 1<sup>st</sup> Class (SW/AW) David Levu. The command's Junior Sailor of the Year was Personnelman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (SW) Erica Thornton. The command's Straight Furrow Award winner was Cmdr. Fred Melnick, the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department officer. The command's Look Ahead Award winner was Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Howard Fink also from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department.

## 2. Part II - Chronological list of Events/Accomplishments

### JANUARY

06-24 Jan Underway Material Assessment Team (UMAT)  
14-24 Jan Supply and Engineering Assist Team (SEAT) Visit  
16 Jan MWR took a group of sailors to the Price is Right and the Wayne Brady Show in Hollywood. Stennis Sailor won the Showcase Showdown.  
20-24 Jan Fast Cruise  
23 Jan Completed NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) installation: New software installed, created new user accounts, activation of on-line access to BUPERS for all personnel and pay transactions.  
27 Jan INMPRO (Integrated Network Manager Professional) SOVT: Installed new network monitoring tool  
  
28-30 Jan Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Certification  
28 Jan-5 Feb Station sea and anchored detail. Underway for sea trails, degaussing, anchor drop test, precision anchoring evolution, man overboard drill, and steering drills  
31 Jan PIA-02 End Date  
31 Jan Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USNS Walter S. Diehl

### FEBRUARY

10 Feb Completed JSIPS-N (Joint Service Imagery Processing System - Navy) hardware upgrade.  
10-12 Feb Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) 3M Assist Visit  
10-21 Feb SEAT Visit  
  
10-14 Feb Underway for Fleet Reserve Squadron Carrier Qualifications (FRSCQ).  
12 Feb Disbursing received the COMNAVAIRPAC Disbursing Excellence Award  
14 Feb-14 Mar UPK/Availability 01-03  
17 Feb Replaced NES (Network Encryption System) with KG-175 (TACLANE) for NIPERNET connectivity  
18-21 Feb Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team (MTT)1  
18-21 Feb Combat Readiness Training II (CART)

### MARCH

3-7 Mar SEAT Visit  
4-7 Mar Automated Damage Control System (ADCS) Training  
  
14-19 Mar Training Command Carrier Qualifications  
24-29 Mar FRS CQ  
  
28 Mar Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS Walter S. Diehl  
  
31 Mar SEAT Visit

### APRIL

02 Apr Underway (TSTA 1).  
03 Apr UNREP with USS JOHN PAUL JONES. Pumped 50 gal JP-5.  
11 Apr Returned to homeport.

## MAY

05 May Underway (FRSCQ).  
09 May Returned to homeport.  
13 May Underway (TRACOM).  
29 May Hosted the Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific, Commander Naval Surfaces Pacific and the Commander Naval Region Southwest Battle of Midway Reception onboard. More than 800 personnel attended, including 25 USS Midway survivors.

## JUNE

02 Jun Underway (ISE).  
04 Jun RHIB recovery for fishing vessel medical emergency.  
05 Jun Returned to homeport.  
16 Jun Underway (FRSCQ).  
21 Jun Returned to homeport, picked up John C. Stennis' friends and family for day cruise.  
21 Jun Hosted the USS John C. Stennis Friends and Family Day cruise. More than 2,000 friends and family members participate.  
21 Jun Returned to homeport.

## JULY

08 Jul Underway (ISE TSTA II).  
10 Jul Served July Birthday meal.  
11 Jul Returned to homeport, downloaded CIWS.  
14 Jul Mass Casualty Drill.  
21 Jul Enlisted Career Information Seminar.  
28 Jul Underway (FRSCQ), upload CIWS.  
31 Jul Offloaded 10,200 pounds of used/excess hazardous material.

## AUGUST

01 Aug Flight deck mass casualty drill.  
02 Aug Brief return to port for airwing offload/onload.  
04 Aug Sledgehammer exercise.  
08 Aug Return to port.  
11 Aug Underway (VFA-102 Ops/ISE/ORSE).  
13 Aug Served August Birthday meal.  
15 Aug Began Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.  
15 Aug Underway Replenishment with USNS Rappahannock.  
18 Aug Completed Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination.  
19 Aug Returned to homeport.  
25 Aug Ammo onload.  
31 Aug Offloaded 5,684 pounds of used/excess hazardous material.

## SEPTEMBER

01 Sep Ship Security Defense Force became a division of Security Department.  
02 Sep Small Arms qualification.  
16 Sep Department of Commerce reception on flight deck.  
22 Sep Underway (FRSCQ).  
25 Sep Served September Birthday meal.  
26 Sep Returned to homeport.  
30 Sep Offloaded 7,675 pounds of used/excess hazardous material.

## OCTOBER

01 Oct Stennis University Education Fair held aboard.

04 Oct Underway for Sea and Air Parade.  
 08-09 Oct All Hands suicide prevention training held.  
 12 Oct Chrysler Speed Fest reception held aboard.  
 14 Oct Spanish Heritage Month meal served on forward mess decks.  
 15 Oct Latino Heritage Show and Meal.  
 20-23 Oct Battle Group Inport Exercise (BGIE) conducted.  
 23-31 Oct Underway Deploying Group System Integration Testing (DGSIT) and Comprehensive Training Unit Exercise (COMTUEX) conducted.  
 27 Oct Burial at sea.  
 31 Oct .50 caliber gun shoot.  
 31 Oct October birthday meal served on aft messdecks.  
 31 Oct Offloaded 17,017 pounds of used/excess HAZMAT

**NOVEMBER**

01-21 Nov Underway for Carrier/Airwing Integration and COMPTUEX.  
 02 Nov Underway Replenishment with USNS Rappahannock.  
 03 Nov .50 caliber gun shoot.  
 03-10 Nov Flu SHOTEX held.  
 04 Nov Deceptive Lighting exercise.  
 04 Nov SWARMEX, and Hellfire conducted.  
 07 Nov MINEX and MEDALEX conducted.  
 07 Nov Underway Replenishment with USNS Rappahannock.  
 08 Nov EWEX II and ADEX II conducted.  
 09 Nov CIWS PACFIRE conducted.  
 10 Nov EWEX III and ADEX III conducted.  
 11 Nov Commenced Supply Management Inspection.  
 13 Nov SWARMEX conducted.  
 14 Nov November birthday meal served on aft messdecks.  
 14 Nov Completed Supply Management Inspection with a grade of Outstanding.  
 15 Nov CIWS PACFIRE conducted.  
 17 Nov Floating MINEX conducted.  
 17 Nov Underway Replenishment with USNS Tippecanoe.  
 25 Nov Ship-wide traffic safety stand down with CHP Officer Public Affairs Officer/3M Personal Protective Equipment Usage.  
 27 Nov Thanksgiving meal held for crew and guests on forward messdecks.

**DECEMBER**

02-05 Dec 3M inspection  
 03 Dec December birthday meal served on aft messdecks.  
 04 Dec Underway Replenishment with USNS Diehl.  
 05-06 Dec M-16 and 9mm gun qualifications. 213 new/requals.  
 09 Dec Change of Command luncheon held aboard.  
 10 Dec Change of Command  
 11 Dec Christmas party held at Town & Country Hotel.  
 13 Dec Family's Christmas party held at Admiral Baker park.  
 15 Dec Preserve/paint/re-nonskid the landing area of the flight deck.  
 25 Dec Christmas meal served to crew and guests on forward messdecks.  
 27 Dec Pacific Life Holiday Bowl luncheon held aboard.

**3. Part III - Narrative Summary of Events/Accomplishments**

**JANUARY**

Combat Systems Department completed week-long EHF MDR on-the-job training with SPAWAE, and completed NSIPS installation.

Engineering Department's Engineering Training Team and Damage Control

Training Team were evaluated by the Afloat Training Group to be ahead of the fleet average, performing at the TSTA II level (normally not achieved until midway through the six-month Basic Training Phase).

Public Affairs coordinated tours for more than 300 visitors, including: Iowa Pork Producers, Indian Guides tribe and SPAWAR contractors.

#### **FEBRUARY**

Combat Systems Department completed JSIPS-N hardware upgrade. They also completed a SPAWAE technical assistance for NTCSS database resize and maintenance.

Engineering Department accomplished several improvements to numerous ship systems; including watertight doors and hatches, AFFF system, aircraft elevators, air conditioning and refrigeration plants, laundry, aircraft electrical service stations and various multi-channel (MC) announcing systems. In addition, hundreds of quality of life improvements were made with the help of several Supply and Engineering Assist Team (SEAT) visits. STENNIS was selected as the Pacific Fleet Nominee for the 2002 Department of Defense Maintenance Award.

Public Affairs coordinated and hosted more than 30 Distinguished Visitors (DVs) during the underway period to observe flight operations and life at sea. While in homeport, more than 250 visitors were able to visit the ship.

#### **MARCH**

Combat Systems Department completed NTCSS BIRCH PLUS II software upgrade.

Educational Services Office held March advancement exams totaling 1,062 Navy-Wide examinations for the following paygrades: 298 for E-4 paygrade (180 advanced = 60.73%); 574 for E-5 paygrade (123 advanced = 21.42%); and 190 for E-6 paygrade (44 advanced = 22.63%).

#### **APRIL**

Combat Systems Department provided Communication support for APS/Joint Service Imagery Processing System - Navy Shipboard Operational Verification Testing.

Weapons Department expended 4,854 rounds of 9mm, 4,480 rounds of .50 caliber, 17 rounds of 7.62mm and 21 rounds of blank 7.62mm.

#### **MAY**

Combat Systems Department hosted Navy EHF SATCOM Program, Navy EHF Communications Controller Operational Evaluation OTIIC. They upgraded software for Tactical Aircraft Mission Planning System and Digital Camera Receiving Station.

Weapons Department expended 10 rounds of 7.62mm, 15 rounds of 9mm, 3,000 rounds of 7.62mm.

#### **JUNE**

Weapons Department unloaded 306,212.82 pounds of ammunition from the USS Constellation, and another 349,059 pounds of ammunition later in the month. They expended 16 rounds of blank 7.62mm, 1,199 rounds of 5.56mm and 779 rounds of 7.62mm

#### **JULY**

Air Department moved 1,493 aircraft, launched 834 and recovered 810 during July. They also issued 249,656 gallons of JP-5 to 330 aircraft.

Dental Department received C-1 status after a DRI inspection by Force Dental.

Combat Systems began implementing Public Key Infrastructure for the command. They installed Coalition Wide Area Network/Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System equipment upgrade.

Command Religious Ministry Department arranged a community relations cleanup of Hilltop Elementary School.

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 450 visitors. While underway, 64 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including NASA astronaut U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne Cagle.

Security Department received Law Enforcement and Force Protection gear from USS Constellation (CV 64) Security.

Supply generated \$105,000 for Stennis Morale, Welfare and Recreation program from retail operations.

Weapons unloaded 97 tons of ordnance/ammunition in July, and expended 1,500 rounds of 9mm; 6,200 rounds of 7.62mm; 3,000 rounds of 50 caliber; 40 rounds of 40mm and 11 rounds of blank 7.62mm for a burial at sea.

## **AUGUST**

Air Department moved 1,134 aircraft, launched 1,059 and recovered 914 during August. They also received 1,014,721 gallons of JP-5, issuing 551,431 gallons to 489 aircraft.

Combat Systems completed Final Evaluation Phase. They installed Air Combat Training System and upgraded Shipboard Automated Medical System to 8.03.

Command Religious Ministry Department arranged a community relations painting of Hilltop Elementary School.

Deck Department handled more than 1 million gallons of JP-5 and 48 pallets of cargo during the underway replenishment with USNS Rappahannock.

Engineering Department replaced eight major fire main valves, and 30 hatches or water tight doors were removed, powder coated and replaced from July through September. Repair division corrected 173 trouble calls and hydroblasted two zones in this quarter.

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 500 visitors. While underway, 10 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including prospective commanding officer's spouses.

Safety Department sponsored a Drunk Driving Awareness presentation from the El Cajon Fire Department Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Monica Zech.

Security Department received two new X-Ray machines for Force Protection.

Weapons expended 4,000 rounds of 9mm; 60 rounds of 7.62mm; 1,050 rounds of 5.56mm; 23 rounds of 40mm and 15 rounds of blank 7.62mm for a burial at sea.

## SEPTEMBER

Air Department moved 688 aircraft, launched 643 and recovered 607 during September. They issued 239,709 gallons of JP-5 to 277 aircraft.

Combat Systems overhauled the HF Fan Wire antenna and upgraded the Battle Force E-mail HF MODEM. Fleet Information Warfare Center installed the Information Assurance Toolkit.

Command Religious Ministry Department arranged a community relations visit to El Faro Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico.

The Educational Services Office held September Navy-wide advancement exams totaling 1,219 for the following paygrades: 444 for E-4 (117 advanced = 26.8 percent); 607 for E-5 (88 advanced = 14.5 percent); 168 for E-6 (26 advanced = 15.48 percent).

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 500 visitors, including Northern Command's General Eberhart. While underway, 64 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including director Rob Cohen, and baseball player Fred Lynn. Navy Recruiting shot a Hispanic Officer's Recruiting video on board.

Supply generated \$77,000 for Stennis MWR program from retail operations, for a total of \$1,264,468 for fiscal year 2003.

Weapons onloaded 98 tons of ordnance/ammunition and expended 6,000 rounds of .50 caliber.

## OCTOBER

Air Department conducted 47 elevator runs with 448 aircraft moves. They launched 482 aircraft, recovering 528. There were 237,945 gallons of JP-5 issued to 384 aircraft.

Combat Systems Department created more than 3,000 SIPRNET/NIPRNET accounts for 10 embarked squadrons for Carrier/Airwing integration and COMPTUEX.

Medical Department received a technical assist visit from Command, Naval Air Forces, Pacific, Medical to assist in the preparation for the Medical Readiness Inspection scheduled for February 2004.

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 450 visitors, including Pakistan's General Aziz. While underway, 10 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including Sam the Cooking Guy, Atlanta's CBS affiliate, and History Channel's Hunter Ellis. Disney Studios did a location scout tour for a video to be shot aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

Security attended Prisoner of War training given by the Office of Naval Intelligence instructors.

Supply Department onloaded more than \$2.1 million in food provisions and \$375,000 in ship's store merchandise. They process 1,473 customer demands for HAZMAT, offloaded 17,017 pounds of used/excess HAZMAT and saved \$56,294 through HAZMAT reutilization.

Weapons Department onloaded 332,097 pounds of ordnance.

## NOVEMBER

Air Department conducted 112 elevator runs with 2,080 aircraft moves. They launched 1,407 aircraft, recovering 1,363. There were 2,284,988

gallons of JP-5 issued to 1,961 aircraft. Air Department unloaded 2,201,415 gallons of JP-5.

Command Religious Ministries Department arranged for the distribution of 300 turkeys for the holidays. They also distributed 90 Thanksgiving Food Vouchers.

Engineering Department initiated the Navy's new CBR "RIP" process in November. DC Division coordinated the removal of 6,000 gas masks and 7,000 ACPG's to consolidate re-issue during subsequent months. DC Division sponsored 300 midshipmen from San Diego State University and University of San Diego.

Medical Department initiated the "Healthy Back" program to educate ship and air wing personnel how to prevent back injuries.

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 100 visitors. While underway, 120 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including actor Josh Lucas.

Safety Department sponsored a Drunk Driving Awareness presentation from the California Highway Patrol Office, Officer Mark Gregg.

Supply's S-3 Division was awarded the 2003 Navy Exchange Command Retail Excellence Award. Supply processed 2,867 customer demands for HAZMAT and saved \$67,107 through HAZMAT reutilization.

Weapons Department unloaded 17,814 pounds of ordnance, with 11,566 pounds expended in support of COMPTUEX.

## DECEMBER

Air Department conducted 21 elevator runs with 396 aircraft moves. They launched 849 aircraft, recovering 851. There were 131,913 gallons of JP-5 issued to 332 aircraft. Air Department unloaded 766,723 gallons of JP-5.

Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department's Calibration Lab won the Measure Program Outstanding Activity Award. They completed 3,450 calibrations and repaired 258 avionics items and coordinated 20 depot on-site calibrations. AIMD's Ground Support Equipment Division maintained 1,321 pieces of support equipment with 98 percent ready for issue rate. The Avionics/Armament Division installed, tested, and verified four Consolidated Automated Support System High Power Device Test Sets. AIMD completed more than 1,000 Technical Directive compliance actions. Their Quality Assurance Division completed 188 Work Center and Program Audits on 40 Naval Aviation Maintenance Programs, reducing discrepancies by more than 80 percent. The General Maintenance Division saved approximately \$25,000 by performing an overhaul of the STS Bench with minimal depot support, and saved more than \$50,000 by completing a depot-level repair to an S-3B Viking, allowing it to be flown rather than craned off the ship.

Command Religious Ministries Department took Christmas Angel Tree gifts for 48 children at the Hogar Infantil La Gloria Orphanage in Tijuana.

Dental Department performed 38,186 procedures during 2003, with a total of 8,006 patient visits. These included: 5,852 exams, 3,267 fillings, 2,347 cleanings, 2,261 anesthetic injections, 1,858 x-rays, 1,113 teeth extractions, 418 IV sedations, 407 root canals, 14 crowns, 11 dentures, 9 biopsies with a total dollar value of \$1,786,980.

Engineering Department has fit-tested 2,300 crewmembers for gas masks as of December 31, 2003.

Legal Department processed five Special Courts Martials, 90 Summary Courts Martials, 184 Non-Judicial Punishments, 128 administrative separations and approximately 1,200 Powers of Attorney during 2003.

Medical Department handled 14,500 outpatient visits, 2,500 audiograms, 2,000 physical exams, 150 surgical procedures, 24,000 laboratory tests, filled 18,000 prescriptions, 1,000 physical therapy visits, made 150 pairs of glasses, 650 CAAC/psych visits, 10,000 immunizations, 3,2000 health surveys and 500 clinical referrals during 2003.

Public Affairs coordinated in-port tours for more than 300 visitors. While underway, 44 DV's COD'ed out to the ship and received in-depth tours, including Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Don Sutton, Lance Parrish, David Parrish, and Reese and Reid Ryan.

Supply processed 546 customer demands for HAZMAT and saved \$12,763 through HAZMAT reutilization.

Training Department sponsored 3,100 Reservist active duty for training days, hosted Midshipman Summer Phases I, II and III for 115 Midshipmen and had 200 local JROTC students aboard for an overnight cruise. They spent 1,000 man hours for Partnership in Education at Freese Elementary, Montgomery Middle School and Southwest High School. The temporary active duty hours for training and travel came to \$680,000.

Weapons Department unloaded 26,183 pounds of ordnance. During weapons qualifications, 1,631 rounds of M-16 and 1,348 rounds of 9mm were expended. During the fourth quarter, there were 848 weapons elevator runs utilizing 570 man-hours.