



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96679

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS THACH (FFG-43)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY; SUBMISSION OF

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) THACH Command History, Calender Year 1984
(2) Commissioning Book
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) THACH Statistical Data/Mission and Charateristics
(5) Command Organization

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted. Enclosures (2) through (5) are provided for additional background.

D. H. MOSES

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS THACH (FFG 43)
CALENDAR YEAR 1984

Commanding Officer's Narrative:

The year 1984 saw the addition of USS THACH (FFG 43) to the Fleet. The crew of this new construction ship was assembled at Fleet Introduction Team TODD Pacific Shipyard, San Pedro, CA where initial outfitting was completed and training for this relatively young, inexperienced crew was conducted. Construction and outfitting were completed in February and the ship was delivered to the Navy on 24 February 1984. On 01 March THACH was moved to Naval Station, Long Beach, her homeport, and commissioned on 17 March 1984.

During the first few months following delivery, emphasis was placed on familiarizing the crew with their new ship and conducting the training necessary to make THACH ready to perform her various missions. Once THACH completed the inspections required for getting underway, she became a sea-going vessel, spending a substantial part of the months of April through August underway. Final Contract Trials were conducted 17 through 21 September and material discrepancies were noted. On 01 October THACH commenced a Post Shakedown Availability at TODD Shipyard which continued through March 1985. During this period modifications to the original contract specifications were performed and INSURV discrepancies corrected. The following timeline provides more detailed information concerning events which occurred during 1984.

24 FEB 84 THACH (FFG 43) was delivered to the United States Navy by TODD Pacific Shipyard, Los Angeles Division, San Pedro, CA during a ceremony on the ship's flight deck. The ship is named for ADM John Smith Thach, famed naval aviator. Representing TODD Shipyard was Mr. Len M. Thorell, Vice President and General Manager. Accepting the ship on behalf of the Navy was Capt David G. KALB, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair, Long Beach, CA. The prospective Commanding Officer was CDR Dale H. MOSES. A cake cutting ceremony was held in the starboard helicopter hanger. That evening meal was the first meal served onboard ship.

27-29 FEB 84 THACH completed PMS Installation.

27-29 FEB 84 THACH Combat System Team attended Combat System Operational Team Trainer Refresher in San Diego, CA.

01 MAR 84 THACH successfully completed Pilot Rescue Team Training .

05 MAR 84 THACH departed TODD Shipyard and arrived at Naval Station Long Beach where she was homeported.

09 MAR 84 THACH successfully completed Ordnance Certification, CIWS Certification, and MTT Phase II.

13 MAR 84 THACH completed Sonar Certification Phase II, and Aviation Assist Visit (AAV). This successful AAV was upgraded to Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE). THACH was certified to land and operate helicopters.

17 MAR 84 USS THACH (FFG 43) was commissioned at Pier 7 West, Naval Station, Long Beach. The Commissioning Officer was Captain John D. Chamberlain, Commander Surface Squadron ONE. Principal speaker was Honorable Robert E. BADHAM, Republican Congressman for the Fortieth Congressional District (Orange County) of the state of California. Commissioning Book in Enclosure (2).

22 MAR 84 THACH successfully completed CIWS Explosive Safety Certification.

26 MAR 84 THACH's hull was cleaned.

29 MAR 84 THACH successfully completed Communication System Cert.

05 APR 84 THACH conducted first inport refueling.

12 APR 84 THACH successfully passed Light-Off Examination at Naval Station, Long Beach and was certified to operate her engineering plant.

16 APR 84 THACH conducted Fast Cruise in preparation for Crew Certification.

18 APR 84 THACH successfully passed Crew Certification and was certified to get underway and go to sea.

19 APR 84 Admiral John S. THACH's Birthday was celebrated aboard with a cake.

19 APR 84 THACH was underway for the first time. Conducted independent steaming exercises at sea enroute San Diego.

20 APR 84 THACH conducted first anchorage in San Diego harbor.

20 APR 84 THACH given Training Readiness Evaluation by FLETRAGRU San Diego. Commended by COMNAVSURFPAC for outstanding performance.

06 MAY 84 CDR Dale H. MOSES reenlisted first sailor aboard THACH; GM1 Ludwig LEYERLE.

08 MAY 84 THACH completed EW Team Trainer

09 MAY 84 Operational Readiness Assessment (ORATS) system of testing implemented aboard THACH.

11 MAY 84 THACH loaded weapons for first time at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA with no incidents.

11 MAY 84 Tailoring of Engineering Operational Sequency System (EOSS) was completed.

11 MAY 84 THACH involved in minor accident while pulling alongside USS McCLUSKY (FFG 41) to moor outboard. USS THACH's stern collided with USS McCLUSKY's. Several fiberglass helo safety nets on McCLUSKY starboard side and THACH's port side crushed. Minor superstructure damage to McCLUSKY stbd helo hanger also resulted. Accident caused by strong offsetting winds and inexperience of the master of the tug which was made up on the after starboard side of THACH pushing the stern in too strongly.

13 MAY 84 150 gal fuel spilled in bilge Auxillary Machinery Room #2 caused by overflowing tank. No problems resulted, fuel was cleaned up.

14 MAY 84 First gun shooting (at sea).

15-16 MAY 84 Conducted ASW operations with USS Brooke. Acted as target vessels for submarine PCO's on the submarine USS Guitarro.

17 MAY 84 Experienced flooding of Electricians Shop and adjacent passageway. Open firemain line being worked on had a remotely operated valve which was tagged out at the valve, but not at its remote actuation button on the DC console in Central Control Station. CCS watch remotely opened the valve causing firemain to rush into the Electricians shop, which was unmanned at the time. Water damage experienced to three A/C transformers and to degaussing panel and system. JAG Manual Investigation convened.

25 MAY 84 THACH got underway with Commander Surface Squadron One embarked, enroute to first port call at Pt. Hueneme, Ca.

25-28 MAY 84 THACH made port call in Pt. Hueneme Ca, and conducted visit ship with approximately two thousand people visiting.

29 MAY 84 THACH got underway enroute for port visit at Everett, Washington.
29 MAY 84 HT2 Micheal Gozdowski honored as THACH first sailor of the quarter.

2 JUNE 84 THACH MARCHING UNIT participated in the Everett, Washington Salty Sea Days parade.

2 JUNE 84 GM1 Michael Turner reenlisted on board in Everett Wa.

4 JUNE 84 THACH departed Everett Wa, having welcomed sixteen hundred visitors aboard.

Enclosure (1)

5 JUNE 84 THACH conducted first UNREP with USS KANSAS CITY (AOR3)

7 JUNE 84 THACH arrived back in Long Beach.

8 JUNE 84 THACH got underway for San Diego.

11 JUNE 84 THACH commenced Shakedown Refresher Training with Fleet Training Group in San Diego Ca.

11 JUNE 84 THACH conducted first VERTREP

29 JUNE 84 THACH successfully completed first refresher training and returned to Long Beach.

6 JUL 84 THACH loaded six dummy torpedos for use during WSAT.

9 JUL 84 THACH commenced Weapons Systems Accuracy Tests (WSAT) phase I and II ASMO RAVIR team trainer at Long Beach Ca.

10 JUL 84 THACH successfully completed ASMD Ravir Team Trainer.

11 JUL 84 THACH breasted out and fired one dummy torpedo out of each of the six torpedo tubes successfully.

13 JUL 84 THACH got underway to receive Canadian Chief of Naval Operations, VADM WOODS aboard for one day lunch and a tour. He came by helo in SOCIAL OPAREA off San Diego.

16 JUL 84 THACH got underway from Long Beach Naval Station to continue WSAT Phase III and IV Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Site (FORACS), test on the WSAT Range off San Clemente Island California.

16 JUL 84 Anchored at Avalon, Santa Catalina overnight. This was first of a number of times ship was anchored there.

17 JUL 84 THACH conducted first exercise torpedo firing for Phase IV of WSAT. Fired one MK46 Mod2 and one MK46 Mod5 at a stationary target. Both shots evaluated as successful.

18-19 JUL 84 THACH conducted Acoustic Trials on Santa Cruz Acoustic Range Facility (SCARF).

20 JUL 84 THACH conducted SESEF.

22 JUL 84 Experienced a Class "C" Fire in No 1 Switchboard in NR 1 Switchboard Room. Damage assessed was fused circuit breaker and burnt wiring. Cause of fire was failure of circuit breaker in switchboard. JAG Manual Investigation convened.

23-27JUL 84 THACH conducted Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) Collimation at Long Beach Naval Station.

23-27 JUL 84 THACH assisted by Food Management Team Assist Visit.

30 JUL-21 AUG 84 Continued CSSQT.

11 AUG 84 8 Sea Cadets and 11 NJROTC came aboard for one week orientation

cruise.

- 23 AUG 84 THACH conducted its first dependents cruise off Long Beach. Approximately 200 dependents, friends, and visitors were aboard for a day at sea including a picnic on the flight deck.
- 28 AUG 84 To conclude CSSQT, THACH fired its first two SMI missiles. The two exercise missiles, fired at a target drone were evaluated as hits.
- 07 SEP 84 THACH ASW Team successfully completed ASW Escort Team Trainer Phase One with an overall score of 90.8 out of 100.
- 07 SEP 85 THACH ASW Combat System received Certification.
- 07 SEP 84 Experienced a minor flood in 400 HZ/Battery Charging Room, 6 inches of water caused by a faucet left running in a deep sink and sink overflowing. Minor water damaged occurred only.
- 14 SEP 84 Appointed Mrs. Sue Lockwood as Ombudsman.
- 14 SEP 84 THACH successfully completed Harpoon Certification. Thach qualified to fire Harpoon Missles.
- 17-21 SEP 84 Final Contract Trials were conducted by Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) from San Diego Sub-Board.
- 17 SEP 84 Experienced minor flood in Sonar Equipment room. 3 inches of water. on deck caused by overflowing ballast tank beneath space and manhole gasket in space leaking as tank was overfilled. High level alarm for tank cutout at time. Minor water damage to deck and matting occurred.
- 23 SEP 84 Sponsored USS CAYUGA (LST 1187) homeport shift to Long Beach from San Diego.
- 25 SEP 84 In preparation for PSA, offloaded all ammunition at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station.
- 26 SEP 84 Conducted first annual Physical Fitness test, 163 passed, 1 failed, 30 excused (didn't take) (194 personnel assigned).
- 28 SEP 84 Defueled the ship.
- 01 OCT 84 THACH returned to TODD Pacific Shipyard, San Pedro, CA and commenced Post Shakedown Availability (PSA).
- 01-05 OCT 84 Crew moved off THACH into TODD San Pedro Shipyard PSA trailer Complex #1.
- 20 OCT 84 ETCS Charles Walker became first THACH crewmember to earn ESWS pin.
- 05 OCT 84 THACH entered and was raised in TODD Pacific Shipyard Synchrolift and rolled forward onto drydock work area number 1.
- 05-26 OCT 84 Fin Stablizer System installed; hull sandblasted and painted; propeller cleaned and preserved; Prairie Masker System cleaned.

23-25 OCT 84 Conducted MTT Phase I

26 OCT 84 Halloween party at the trailer complex.

09 NOV 84 THACH ASW Team successfully completed ASW Escort Team Trainer Phase II at Fleet ASW Training Center Pacific, San Diego with an overall score of 84 out of 100.

21 NOV 84 THACH successfully completed Sonobuoy Passive Localization Team Trainer at Fleet ASW Training Center Pacific, San Diego.

06 DEC 84 Experienced a minor fire in the Nixie Winch Room caused by TODD Shipyard welder brazing in overhead of Nixie room having hot slag drop on his gas/air line, cutting it, and igniting gas. Fire put out when gas turned off on pier. Minor burn and smoke damage assessed.

13 DEC 84 Total Combined Federal Campaign funds donated on THACH was \$6,487.00.

14 DEC 84 Homeport shift to San Diego, CA was finalized by Chief of Naval Operations becoming effective 31 May 1985.

15 DEC 84 Held first THACH Christmas Party at Enlisted Men's Club, Naval Station Long Beach.

18 DEC 84 Plaque laying ceremony at the trailer complex followed by TODD workers appreciation party aboard.

RETENTION STATISTICS (17 MAR 84 - 31 DEC 84)

Reenlistments:	7
Advancements:	
Enlisted:	150
Officers:	9
Discharges:	14
Retirements:	0

AMMUNITION EXPENDED (17 MAR 84 - 31 DEC 84)

	Rounds
12 Gauge Shotgun	200
7.62 MM blanks	121
7.62 MM ball	3160
45 caliber ball	1055
40 MM grenade	72
20 MM (CIWS)	984
76 MM BL & P	162
Super RBOC Chaff-Practive	12
SML Guided Missiles (Exercise)	2
MK 46 Torpedos (Exercise)	2

SHIPS EVOLUTIONS (17 MAR 84 - 31 DEC 84)

Underway Replenishments:	8
Vertical Replenishments:	145
(to include touch & go landings)	
Inport Refuelings:	5
Gas Turbine Operating Hours:	GTE #A: 712 hours
	GTE #B: 580 hours
Maintenance Availabilites:	4

SHIPS MISSION

- Outlined in THACH Welcome Aboard Pamphlet, enclosure (3).

SHIPS CHARACTERISTICS

- Outlined in THACH Welcome Aboard Pamphlet, enclousre (3)

Note: LAMPS MKIII Weapon System and the AN/SQQ-28 Acoustic Processor System part of AN/SQQ-89 ASW Integration System was installed during Post Shakedown Availability (01 Oct 84 - 29 Mar 85).

Enclosure (4)

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND ORGANIZATION (17 MAR 84 - 31 DEC 84)

Commanding Officer: CDR Dale H. MOSES
Executive Officer: LCDR Lee W. CHAMPAGNE

Ship Control Department

Ship Control Department Head: LCDR Joseph HACK III
Communications Officer/SC-1 Division Officer: LTJG Brian L. FAULHABER
Quartermaster/SC-2 Division Officer: QMC Edmund E. Munyer
1ST Lieutenant/SC-3 Division Officer: BMCM Richard A. BLAIR

Combat Systems Department

Combat Systems Officer/Department Head: LCDR Joseph CELANO
Combat Information Center Officer/CS-1 Division Officer: LT. Robert McGRATH
Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer/CS-2 Division Officer: LT. Eric LANTTO
Ordnance Officer/CS-3 Division Officer: LTJG Juan RENTA
Electronic Readiness Officer/CS-4 Division Officer: ENS. William F. CONESCENTI

Support Department

Support Officer/Department Head: LT. John R. MESSMAN
S-1 Division Officer: SKCS Micheal D. HOGAN
S-2 Division Officer: MSC Melvin BURNS (17MAR84-04AUG84)
MSC German FIRME (04AUG84-ON)
Disbursing Officer/S-3 Division Officer: LTJG Milante F. LAZO
S-4 Division Officer: EMC Florante B. PERENIA

Engineering Department

Engineering Officer/Department Head: LT Richard T. HOLDCROFT
Main Propulsion Assistant/E-1 Division Officer: CWO2 Wayne WALKER
Damage Control Assistant/E-2 Division Officer: LT Robert O. BOWERS
Auxiliaries Officer: LT Robert COIL (Arrived 18 DEC 84)

Further Information on Command Organization can be found in the THACH Commissioning Book, enclosure (2)

Enclosure (5)

RETENTION STATISTICS

Reenlistments:	21
Advancements :	
Enlisted :	63
Officers :	6
Discharges :	15
Retirements :	1

AMMUNITION EXPENDED

	Rounds
12 Gauge Shotgun	695
7.62 MM blanks	6570
7.62 MM ball	2556
45 caliber ball	2235
50 caliber	3462
20 MM (CIWS)	1400
76 MM BL & P	187
76 MM HR-IR	163
76 MM HE-PD	93
Grenades, Hand	18
Sml Guided Missiles (Exercise)	2
Harpoon Missile (Exercise)	1
MK 46 Torpedos (Exercise)	5

SHIPS EVOLUTIONS

Underway Replenishments:	52
Helicopter Launches/Landings	724
Gas Turbine Operating Hours:	GTE #A: 2050 hours
	GTE #B: 2062 hours
Miles Steamed	35,415
Gallons of fuel consumed (F-76)	2,203,260

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

Commanding Officer: CDR D. H. MOSES (1 Jan - 28 Jun)
CDR G. J. O'DONNELL (29Jun - Present)

Executive Officer: LCDR Billy D. KYSAR

Ship Control Department

Ship Control Department Head: LCDR Joseph HACK III (1 Jan - 18 Feb)
LT Frederick SCHWARZ (18Feb - Present)
Communications Officer/SC-1 Division Officer: RMCS(SW) Darrell C. BULLINGER
Quartermaster/SC-2 Division Officer: QMC Michial D. HODELL
1ST Lieutenant/SC-3 Division Officer: BMCS Robert E. DUTCHER (1Jan - 29 Oct)
LTJG Andrew TAIT (29 Oct - Present)

Combat Systems Department

Combat Systems Officer/Department Head: LCDR Joseph CELANU
Combat Information Center Officer/CS-1 Division Officer: LT. Robert McGRATH
(1 Jan - 17 Jun)
LT. Timothy J. LAWRENCE
(17 Jun - Present)
Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer/CS-2 Division Officer: LT. Eldridge HORD
Ordnance Officer/CS-3 Division Officer: LTJG Stephen GATTIS (1 Jan - 18 Oct)
ENS Timothy NORTH (19 Oct - Present)
Electronic Readiness Officer/CS-4 Division Officer: LTJG William F. CONESCENTI
(1 Jan - 09 May)
ENS Micheal KELLENBERGER
(10 May - Present)

Support Department

Support Officer/Department Head: LT John R. MESSMAN (1 Jan - 12 Jan)
LT Ronnie E. NEWKIRK (13 Jan - Present)
Disbursing Officer/S3 Division Officer: LTJG Milante F. LAZO (1 Jan - 10 May)
ENS Theodore OLSON (11 May - Present)

Engineering Department

Engineering Officer/Department Head: LT Richard T. HOLDCROFT
Main Propulsion Assistant/E-1 Division Officer: LT Robert COIL (1 Jan - 11 Apr)
ENS Timothy NORTH (12 Apr - 18 Oct)
ENS Steven FISH (19 Oct - Present)
Damage Control Assistant/E-2 Division Officer: LT Brian L. FAULHABER (1 Jan - 11 Dec)
LTJG Stephen GATTIS (11 Dec - Present)
Auxiliaries Officer: LT Robert COIL (1 Jan - 14 Feb)
ENS Timothy NORTH (15 Feb - 11 Apr)
ENS Steven FISH (12 Apr - 26 Oct)
ENS Steven SCHUELER (27 Oct - Present)

c. Narrative.

In 1986 THACH continued its Pre-Deployment work-up participating in exercises COMPTUEX 86-2 (21-31 Jan) and READIEX 86-2 (18 Feb - 09 Mar) in the Southern California Operating areas. During various periods of these exercises THACH was named alternate Warfare commander in ASW, AAW, SFTC, FTC, and EW receiving awards for performance in Communications, Supply, ASW, Missiles and Engineering. On 15 February, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral James A. Lyons selected THACH as one of three surface ship's in San Diego to visit; he was accompanied by Admiral George W. Davis, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Rear Admiral R.A.K. Taylor, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group ONE and Captain R. J. Doll, Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE.

THACH departed San Diego on her first deployment 12 May as part of the first modern Battleship Battle Group (Battle Group Romeo) with USS NEW JERSEY (BB 62), USS LONG BEACH (CGN 9), USS MERRILL (DD 976), USS WABASH (AOR 5) and USS COPELAND (FFG 25). During deployment THACH and Battle Group Romeo tested the feasibility, composition, and advantages and limitations of a Battleship Battle Group in environments stretching from the Gulf of Thailand to the Bering Sea. CDR G. J. O'Donnell relieved CDR D. H. Moses as Commanding Officer in Charge of Command ceremonies on 29 June while underway.