



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
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From: Commanding Officer
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) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. W. Daniel".

R. W. DANIEL

USS THACH (FFG 43)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS THACH, the namesake of two-time Navy Cross recipient Admiral John Smith Thach, is the thirty-sixth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) class of guided missile frigates. THACH'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. THACH was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Los Angeles, California. Her keel was laid on March 6, 1982. She was christened on December 18, 1983 and commissioned on March 17, 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 THACH is under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO THREE and is homeported in San Diego, CA.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 2000

COMMANDING: CDR Richard W. Daniel
(11th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR J. Todd Black
Relieved by LCDR Kevin P. Flanagan

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LT Gregory Lechtenberg
Relieved by LT Dan T. Evans

Fire Control Officer (CF Division)
LT Mikael A. Rockstad
Relieved by LTJG Michael T. Gagnon

Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)
CWO2 Charles W. Crossan

Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer (CA Division)
LTJG George R. Murga

Gunnery Officer (CG Division)
LTJG Raymond P. Hill
Relieved by LTJG John D. Porado
Relieved by ENS Juan R. Ubeiria

OPERATIONS: LT H. Scott Brandon
Relieved by LT Arlen Aspenson

First Lieutenant (First Division)
LTJG John D. Porado
Relieved by LTJG Matthew E. Feeney
Relieved by ENS James P. Chalupsky

Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)
ENS Austin C. Johnson

Communications Officer (OC Division)
LTJG Scott J. Gardner

Electronic Warfare Officer (OW Division)

LT Lee E. Jahnke
Relieved by OSC(SW) Brian Wheeler

NAVIGATOR/ADMIN OFFICER: LTJG Steven Vanderlinde
Relieved by LT Mikael A. Rockstad
Relieved by LT Robert E. Fulkerson

ENGINEERING: LCDR Dennis W. Reinhardt
Relieved by LT Martin E. Rodriguez

Main Propulsion Assistant (M Division)
LTJG Eric M. Samuelson

Damage Control Assistant (R Division)
LTJG Matthew E. Feeney
Relieved by ENS Ted W. Carlson

Auxiliaries Officer (A Division)
LT Gary W. Hopewell
Relieved by LT Mikael A. Rockstad
LTJG David A. Espeut

Electrical Officer (E Division)
LT Gary W. Hopewell
Relieved by LT Mikael A. Rockstad
LTJG David A. Espeut

SUPPLY: LT Morgan C. Tulang

Storekeepers (S-1 Division)
LT Morgan C. Tulang

Food Service (S-2 Division)
LT Morgan C. Tulang

Ship's Servicemen (S-3 Division)
LT Brian C. Neal
Relieved by ENS Michael L. Warner

Disbursing Officer (S-4 Division)
LT Brian C. Neal
Relieved by ENS Michael L. Warner

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:

STSCM(SW/SS) William A. Smith
Relieved by FCCM(SW) Michael A. Wickline
Relieved by SKCS(SW) Christopher Baker

**USS THACH (FFG 43)
COMMAND HISTORY 2000
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

01 JAN INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO, HOLIDAY STANDDOWN

10 JAN HOLIDAY STANDDOWN ENDS

18 JAN UNDERWAY, DLQ'S WITH HSL-41 AND HS-10, SOCIAL OPAREA

21 JAN INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

25 JAN DEADSTICK MOVE TO CONTINENTAL MARITIME SHIPYARD

26 JAN BEGAN SELECTIVE RESTRICTIVE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY

30 MAR COMPLETED SELECTIVE RESTRICTIVE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
UNDERWAY, SEA TRIALS, SOCIAL OPAREA

31 MAR INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

11 APR UNDERWAY, CART II, SOCIAL OPAREA

14 APR INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO
BEGAN COMPUTERS COMMUNICATION COMMAND CONTROL AND
INFORMATION AVAILABILITY
BEGAN HABITIALITY AVAILABILITY

02 JUN COMPLETED COMPUTERS COMMUNICATION COMMAND CONTROL AND
INFORMATION AVAILABILITY
COMPLETED HABITIALITY AVAILABILITY
UNDERWAY, ENROUTE ASTORIA, OREGON

07 JUN INPORT, ASTORIA, OREGON

08 JUN TRANSIT COLUMBIA RIVER SHIPPING CHANNEL

08 JUN INPORT PORTLAND, OREGON FOR PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL

13 JUN UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

16 JUN INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

26 JUN UNDERWAY, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
INPORT, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA

27 JUN AMMUNITION ONLOAD

28 JUN UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO
INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

10 JUL UNDERWAY, TSTA A, SOCAL OPAREA

14 JUL INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

18 JUL UNDERWAY, TYPE TRAINING, SOCAL OPAREA

21 JUL INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

07 AUG UNDERWAY, TSTA B, SOCAL OPAREA

11 AUG INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

15 AUG UNDERWAY, TSTA B, SOCAL OPAREA

18 AUG INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

22 AUG UNDERWAY, TSTA B, SOCAL OPAREA

25 AUG INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

30 AUG UNDERWAY; E-QUAL, FEP; SOCAL OPAREA

01 SEP INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

03 OCT UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

06 OCT INPORT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FOR FLEET WEEK

10 OCT UNDERWAY, HULKEX, ENROUTE NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

16 OCT INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

26 OCT UNDERWAY, COMPTUEX, SOCAL OPAREA

09 NOV INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

14 NOV UNDERWAY, MISSILE-EX, SOCAL OPAREA

16 NOV INPORT, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

27 NOV UNDERWAY, ENROUTE CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

30 NOV ANCHORED, CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

04 DEC UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

06 DEC INPORT, BROADWAY STREET PIER, SAN DIEGO

13 DEC UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

14 DEC INPORT, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA,
FOR AMMUNITION ONLOAD

15 DEC UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO
INPORT NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO

16-31DEC HOLIDAY STAND DOWN PERIOD

USS THACH (FFG 43)
COMMAND HISTORY 2000
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS THACH started the New Year in a holiday stand-down with one half of the crew on leave. All Holiday leave concluded on 10 January and normal inport routine commenced. On 18 January, THACH got underway to support Deck Landing Qualifications for Helicopter Squadrons HSL-41 and HS-10. After 36 total hours of flight quarters, THACH returned to port 4 days later on 21 January. On 25 January, THACH was moved by tugboats to Continental Maritime shipyard. The next day, THACH commenced her first stateside maintenance availability since being forwarded deployed in the early 1990's. Multiple upgrades were made to equipment in all departments.

On March 30th, THACH got underway sea-trials on the new equipment and returned to Naval Station San Diego on the 31st. THACH began the training cycle immediately with a Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (Phase II). The underway portion of this phase commenced with drills in the SOCAL OPAREA lasting three days. While inport after this underway, THACH conducted an Aviation Readiness Evaluation and was certified to

operate helicopters. THACH also completed a Computers, Communication, Command, Control, And Information and a Habitability Availabilities.

On Saturday, June 2nd, THACH in company with MCCLUSKY, WADSWORTH, HEWITT, RUSHMORE, ANTIETAM, and STETHEM proceeded up the West Coast with an ultimate destination of Portland. Along the way, all ships participated in various exercises such as no notice gun-shoots and division tactical maneuvers. This group of vessels split up once entering the Columbia River Channel on June 7th. THACH, MCCLUSKY, WADSWORTH, and STETHEM tied up overnight in Astoria, Oregon. RUSHMORE and HEWITT proceeded further upstream to Longview, Washington while ANTIETAM remained in the open sea.

On the morning of June 8th, THACH navigated up the River channel remaining at Sea and Anchor Detail for eight hours. THACH was third of the four vessels departing Astoria, Oregon. With much fanfare due to the 2000 Portland Rose Festival, THACH arrived in Portland in the late afternoon. THACH remained in Portland until the 13th, when navigated back downstream to the Pacific Ocean. After three days, THACH arrived back in San Diego on the 16 June. The crew trained inport until the 26th when it departed for Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California. THACH tied up in Seal Beach later that afternoon and made preparations to onload weapons. This was successfully completed on the 27th and THACH returned to Naval Station San Diego on the 28th.

THACH continued to train its crew inport until July 10 when got underway for a second set of TSTA A drills and also to conduct Engineering Qualification in the SOCAL OPAREA. Remaining inport only for the weekend, THACH returned to sea on the 18th for type training. She returned to Naval Station San Diego on 21 July and immediately began the B phase of TSTA training. In order to support this phase, THACH departed San Diego on 7 August to conduct Operations in the SOCAL OPAREA, returning to port on the 11th. The second underway period for TSTA B was between 15 and 18 August with the third underway period conducted from 18 August to 22 August. During this inport period the THACH crew prepared for the Final Evaluation Problem, which commenced 30 August. During this underway, the crew successfully completed all training and was evaluated as ready to conduct battle group operations.

On 3 October, THACH along with CONSTELLATION, MOBILE BAY, KINKAID, HARPERS FERRY, BOXER, CLEVELAND, USNS GUADALUPE, and USCG CHASE proceeded to San Francisco for Fleet Week 2000. Along the way, THACH participate in battle group operations with CONSTELLATION and conducted flight operations with her own embarked helicopter. All ships arrived inport San Francisco on the 6th and remained until the 10th. THACH then proceeded to rendezvous with O' KANE, CURTS, HMS SUTHERLAND, HMS CUMBERLAND, HMS NEWCASTLE, and FS ACONIT. In company with those ships, THACH conducted live firing exercises including firing a Harpoon missile

and numerous rounds of 76mm gunfire against the ex-ASHTABULA. It was finally sunk by an Explosive Ordnance Demolition Detachment dispatched from THACH. On 16 October, THACH returned to San Diego.

In support of her carrier battle group training with CONSTELLATION, THACH went to sea on 26 October with two helicopters from HSL-49 embarked. After conducting exercises in several warfare areas, THACH disembarked both helicopters and returned to port on 9 November. THACH remained inport until 14 November, at which time she proceeded from San Diego to the SOCAL OPAREA to conduct a live fire Standard Missile exercise in company with BENFOLD, KINKAID, and RAINIER. THACH successfully engaged a dual stream raid with two SM-1's and returned to San Diego on the 16th. After remaining inport for Thanksgiving Weekend, THACH returned to sea on 27 November enroute to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. THACH arrived at Cabo San Lucas on 30 November and anchored out where the crew rode water taxis into port and enjoyed liberty under the Mexican sun. After three full days of celebrating Mexican culture, THACH departed Cabo San Lucas on the 4th and returned to San Diego on 07 December. THACH's last underway of the year was a quick transit to and from Seal Beach for an ammunition onload. THACH departed San Diego 13 December and arrived the same day, making preparations to onload ammunition on the 14th. After receiving ammunition, THACH departed Seal Beach

on the 15th and arrived in San Diego the same day. Holiday leave and stand down commenced upon arrival on the 15th and the crew enjoyed this well deserved break into the New Year.