



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
FPO AP 96679-1498

5750

Ser FFG 43/013

FEB 17 2003

From: Commanding Officer, USS THACH (FFG 43)
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 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are
forwarded.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "WA Sheehan", is positioned above the printed name.

W. A. SHEEHAN

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 SEVEN and is homeported in San Diego, CA.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 2002

COMMANDING OFFICER: CDR William A. Sheehan
(12th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR Paul J. Lommel
Relieved by LCDR James A. Lewis

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LCDR Walter T. Taylor
Relieved by LT Edward Bray

Assistant Combat Systems Officer
LTJG Juan R. Ubiera

Fire Control Officer (CF Division)
LTJG Ted W. Carlson

Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)
LTJG William E. Hieronimus

Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer (CA Division)
LTJG Brian M. Lee

Gunnery Officer (CG Division)
LTJG Juan R. Ubiera
Relieved by ENS Jared P. Belliveau

OPERATIONS: LT Arlen E. Aspenson
Relieved by LT Donald D. Williams

First Lieutenant (First Division)
LTJG James P. Chalupsky
Relieved by ENS Matthew T. Viele

Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)
LTJG Austin C. Johnson
Relieved by ENS John M. Bauserman

Communications Officer (OC Division)
LTJG Matthew G. Kennedy
Relieved by LTJG George Adams

Electronic Warfare Officer (OW Division)
LTJG Robert R. Ellison

NAVIGATOR/ADMIN OFFICER: LT Robert E. Fulkerson
Relieved by LT Craig S. Frangente

ENGINEERING: LT Martin E. Rodriguez
Relieved by LT Warren E. Cupps

Main Propulsion Assistant (M Division)
ENS Arol B. Trewin

Damage Control Assistant (R Division)
ENS Ashley L. Pankop

Repair Division Officer
ENS Ashley L. Pankop
Relieved by ENS Michael A. Quaresimo

Auxiliaries Officer (A Division)
LT Anthony R. Graham
Relieved by LTJG Jay Segó

Electrical Officer (E Division)
ENS Peter M. Bernard

SUPPLY: LT Robert S. Scott

Storekeepers (S-1 Division)
LT Robert S. Scott

Food Service (S-2 Division)
LT Robert S. Scott
Relieved by LTJG Michael L. Warner

Ship's Servicemen (S-3 Division)
LTJG Michael L. Warner

Disbursing Officer (S-4 Division)
LTJG Michael L. Warner

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:

CMDMC(SW) Glenn T. St. Pierre

**USS THACH (FFG 43)
COMMAND HISTORY 2002
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

01 JAN INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO, HOLIDAY STANDDOWN

07 JAN HOLIDAY STANDDOWN ENDS

10 JAN BERTHSHIP TO GRAVING DOCK COMPOUND, NAVAL BASE SAN
DIEGO FOR COMMENCEMENT OF DSRA

06 FEB *THACH* NAMED RUNNER-UP FOR FY 2001 CNO ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY SMALL SHIP AWARD

25 FEB BERTHSHIP FROM GRAVING DOCK COMPOUND, NAVAL BASE
SAN DIEGO TO CMSD PIER 6 NORTH

01 MAR *THACH* NAMED 2001 COMMAND EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER FOR
MARITIME WARFARE (THIRD CONSECUTIVE), ENGINEERING
(THIRD CONSECUTIVE), AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT (FIRST)

13 MAR *THACH* NAMED CG/DDG/FFG CATEGORY SECOND PLACE WINNER
FOR 2001 PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER HOMETOWN NEWS AWARD

21 MAR UNDERWAY, SEA TRIALS, SOCIAL OPAREA

22 MAR INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

05 APR *THACH* NAMED 2001 FORCE COMMANDER ANNUAL WELLNESS UNIT
AWARD (GREEN H) WINNER (FIFTH CONSECUTIVE)

08 APR- INTER-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING CYCLE
03 JUL

08 APR- CART II
12 APR

29 APR UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

01 MAY INPORT, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

01 MAY- AMMUNITION ONLOAD
03 MAY

03 MAY UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NSWC PORT HUENEME

04 MAY INPORT, NSWC PORT HUENEME

06 MAY- COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT
 10 MAY

10 MAY UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

11 MAY INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

15 MAY CCDG1 VISIT (RADM ETNYRE)

21 MAY UNDERWAY, WEEK 7 TSTA, SOCIAL OPAREA

21 MAY SAR RESCUE OF CREW FROM *USS DOLPHIN*

24 MAY INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

28 MAY UNDERWAY, WEEK 8 TSTA, SOCIAL OPAREA

31 MAY INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

03 JUN UNDERWAY, ENROUTE MAZATLAN, MEXICO

07 JUN- INPORT, MAZATLAN, MEXICO
 10 JUN

10 JUN UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

14 JUN INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

20 JUN- UNDERWAY, SOCIAL OPAREA
 21 JUN

21 JUN INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

22 JUN- UNDERWAY, WEEK 12 TSTA, SOCIAL OPAREA
 27 JUN

27 JUN INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

01 JUL- UNDERWAY, WEEK 13 TSTA, SOCIAL OPAREA
 03 JUL

03 JUL INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

05 JUL SKSR TOMAS J. AKERS DIES WHILE ON LIBERTY IN TIJUANA,
 MEXICO

08 JUL- UNDERWAY, FEP, SOCIAL OPAREA
 09 JUL

09 JUL INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 10 JUL- UNDERWAY, COMPTUEX, SOCIAL OPAREA
 24 JUL
 24 JUL INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 29 JUL- C5RA
 09 AUG
 06 AUG UNDERWAY, SOCIAL OPAREA
 07 AUG INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 08 AUG MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR SKSR TOMAS J. AKERS
 19 AUG UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH
 19 AUG FAMILY DAY CRUISE
 19 AUG INPORT, NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH
 20 AUG AMMUNITION ONLOAD
 20 AUG UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 21 AUG INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 26 AUG- INSURV
 30 AUG
 28 AUG UNDERWAY, INSURV, SOCIAL OPAREA
 28 AUG INPORT, NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO
 04 SEP DEAD-STICK BERTHSHIP FROM PIER 4 TO PIER 8
 05 SEP- ATG FORCE PROTECTION TRAINING
 06 SEP
 09 SEP ATG FORCE PROTECTION TRAINING
 09 SEP- UNDERWAY, BG SUSTAINMENT EXERCISE, SOCIAL OPAREA
 12 SEP
 16 SEP BERTHSHIP PIER 8 TO PIER 4
 16 SEP CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PINNING CEREMONY

16 SEP- PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT, LEAVE PERIOD 1
 30 SEP

 30 SEP- PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT, LEAVE PERIOD 2
 15 OCT

 16 OCT COMNAVSURFPAC VISIT (VADM LAFLEUR)

 17 OCT- UNDERWAY, JTFEX, SOCAL OPAREA
 29 OCT

 22 OCT CLASS 'C' FIRE, 2 SWITCHBOARD

 24 OCT COMTHIRDFLT VISIT (VADM BUCCHI)

 31 OCT ENS JIMMIE NELSON COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

 01 NOV CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN DAVIS VISIT

 02 NOV- UNDERWAY, WESTPAC 02-03
 31 DEC

 22 NOV- PORT VISIT, HONG KONG
 27 NOV

 27 NOV UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SINGAPORE

 01 DEC- PORT VISIT, SINGAPORE
 07 DEC

 07 DEC TRANSIT, STRAITS OF MALACCA

 07 DEC UNDERWAY, ENROUTE ARABIAN GULF

 17 DEC TRANSIT STRAITS OF HORMUZ

 17 DEC- MIO OPERATIONS, ARABIAN GULF
 31 DEC

USS THACH (FFG 43)
COMMAND HISTORY 2001
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS THACH started the New Year with a Holiday Standdown, which ended on 07 January. On 10 January, THACH berthshipped to the Naval Base San Diego graving dock compound for commencement of DSRA 2002.

The month of February got off to a good start when on 06 February, THACH was named Runner-Up for the Fiscal Year 2001 CNO Environmental Quality Small Ship Award.

On 25 February, THACH was put back into the water and berthshipped to Continental Maritime San Diego Pier 6 North.

The month of March began just as the month of February had, with THACH being recognized for more awards. On 01 March THACH was named as a 2001 Command Excellence Award Winner for Maritime Warfare (Third Consecutive Award), Engineering (Third Consecutive Award), and Logistics Management. On 13 March, THACH was named CG/DDG/FFG Category Second Place Winner for 2001 Public Affairs Center Hometown News Award.

On 21 March, THACH completed DSRA 2002 and was ready for sea trials to test out all her new and upgraded equipment. Following sea trials, THACH returned to Naval Base San Diego on 22 March.

Enclosure (3)

On 05 April *THACH* was named as a 2001 Force Commander Annual Wellness Unit Award (Green H) Winner for the fifth consecutive year.

THACH entered the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle on 08 April. The first obstacle was CART II, which ran from 08-12 April.

On 29 April *THACH* got underway from Naval Base San Diego and headed for Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach for an ammunition onload. Following the onload, which lasted from 01-03 May, *THACH* got underway for NSWC Port Hueneme, arriving on 04 May.

While in NSWC Port Hueneme, from 06-10 May, *THACH* underwent a Combat Systems Assessment, where all combat systems equipment was inspected by skilled technicians to ensure everything was operating at peak performance.

After returning to Naval Base San Diego on 11 May, *THACH* welcomed aboard RADM Terrance T. Etnyre, Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group One, on 15 May.

On 21 May, *THACH* got underway for week 7 of TSTA training. Late that evening, while performing training exercises, *THACH* responded to a distress call from the research submarine *USS DOLPHIN* (AGSS-555). Utilizing the RHIB, *THACH*'s boat crew played the primary role in rescuing all 43 crewmembers from *DOLPHIN* after they had abandoned ship due to a fire onboard. Following

the rescue, *THACH* returned to Naval Base San Diego on 24 May.

From 28-31 May, *THACH* was underway for week 8 of TSTA training. Following this short underway period, *THACH* again was underway on 03 June, enroute to Mazatlan, Mexico.

Arriving in Mazatlan, Mexico on 07 June, the crew of *THACH* enjoyed the beaches, the sunshine, and the local hospitality until getting underway 10 June.

After returning to Naval Base San Diego on 14 June, *THACH* continue with her training cycle. Underway periods continued from 20-21 June, 22-27 June, and 01-03 July.

On 05 July, *THACH* was saddened with the death of one of her own, SKSR Tomas J. Akers, who died while on liberty in Tijuana, Mexico.

THACH was again underway from 08-09 July for the Final Evaluation Problem, marking the end to the basic training cycle.

After spending the evening of 09 July inport Naval Base San Diego, *THACH* was underway from 10-24 July for COMPTUEX, performing various exercises along with the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) Battle Group. For this period, *THACH* welcomed the "Battlecats" from HSL-43 Detachment Two.

From 29 July - 09 August, *THACH* completed a C5RA, where the Combat Systems equipment received one final groom before the upcoming deployment.

On 08 August, *THACH* held memorial services for SKSR Tomas J. Akers.

Embarking family members, *THACH* was again underway on 19 August for a Family Day Cruise while enroute to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. After dropping off the family members upon arrival, *THACH* completed an ammunition onload on 20 August.

Following a return to Naval Base San Diego, *THACH* made preparations for the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), which lasted from 26-30 August.

On 04 September, *THACH* made a dead-stick berthship from Pier 4 to Pier 8 of Naval Base San Diego. While on Pier 8, *THACH* took part in the ATG Force Protection Training which lasted until 09 September.

From 09-12 September, *THACH* was underway with the CONSTELLATION Battle Group for a Battle Group Sustainment Exercise.

On the morning of 16 September, *THACH* held the Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony on the forecastle. Following the ceremony, Leave Period 1 of the Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and Upkeep Period commenced.

Upon completion of Leave Period 1 on 30 September, Leave Period 2 commenced, ending on 15 October.

With the entire crew onboard, Commander, Navy Surface

Forces Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC), VADM LaFleur visited *THACH* on 16 October to talk to the crew about the upcoming deployment.

From 17-29 October, *THACH* and the CONSTELLATION Battle Group were underway in the Southern California operations area for a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX).

On 22 October, *THACH* experienced a Class 'C' Fire to the #2 Switchboard. Rapid response from the engineers manning Auxillary Machinery Room #2 ensured the fire was put out and did not spread to additional equipment.

Commander, Third Fleet, VADM Bucchi visited *THACH* on 24 October.

After returning from JTFEX, *THACH* commissioned ITC(SW/AW) Jimmie Nelson an Ensign on 31 October and on 01 November Congresswoman Susan Davis toured the ship.

On 02 November, *THACH* and the CONSTELLATION Battle Group got underway for the 2002-2003 Western Pacific Deployment.

Arriving in Hong Kong on 22 November, *THACH* moored to a buoy. The crew enjoyed five days of liberty before getting underway on 27 November.

On 01 December, *THACH* made her final port visit for 2002, arriving at the Changi Naval Base in Singapore. The crew enjoyed the local hospitality for six days, until getting underway on 07 December.

While enroute to the Arabian Gulf, *THACH* transited the Straits of Malacca on 07 December and the Straits of Hormuz on 17 December.

Upon entering the Arabian Gulf, *THACH* proceeded to the Northern Arabian Gulf to conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), where she remained on-station until the end of the year.