



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)**  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
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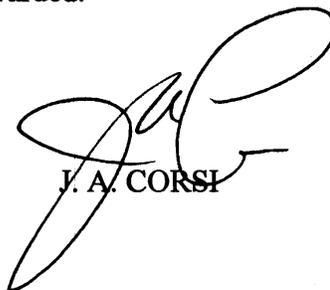
From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington, DC 20350

Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1995 Command History for USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

  
J. A. CORSI

## USS VANDEGRIFT 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

### Part I

The mission of USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is "To provide self defense and effectively supplement planned and existing escorts in the protection of underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and military and mercantile shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats; to conduct ASW operations in conjunction with other control forces tasked to ensure our use of essential sea lanes of communications; and be the best at it." From 01 January to 06 January 1995, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David C. Harrison. From 07 January to 31 December 1995, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR Joseph A. Corsi. VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA and was under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three-Three until Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three was disestablished on 1 October of 1995 and then came under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two-Three, ("The Little Beavers").

### Part II

The following events occurred during 1995.

Date:	Event:
01-28 JAN	Underway(U/W) in the Northern and Central Arabian Gulf conducting Maritime Interception Operations and plane guard duty
07 JAN	Change of Command Ceremony - CDR J.A. Corsi assumes command of USS Vandegrift
20-24 JAN	Plane guard duties with the USS Constellation
28 JAN-01 FEB	Port visit Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
28 JAN	VANDEGRIFT hosts the Emir of Ras Al Khaimah
01 FEB	U/W Central Arabian Gulf transiting to Jebel Ali
01-05 FEB	Port visit Jebel Ali
05-19 FEB	U/W in the Southern Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman conducting shallow water ASW as part of SHAREM 110
06 FEB	Commander, Naval Surface Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet Spokane Trophy Nominee
12 FEB	Strait of Hormuz transit(SOH) - Eastbound leg
18 FEB	SOH transit westbound leg
19 FEB-01 MAR	Port visit Jebel Ali/Availibility with the USS Samuel Gompers (AD-37)
22 FEB	Winner Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award for FY-94
01-08 MAR	U/W off the coast of Dubai performing penalty box duties

08-10 MAR Port Visit Jebel Ali  
 10-11 MAR U/W en route Muscat Oman  
 10 Mar SOH transit  
 11-13 MAR Port visit Muscat, Oman  
 13 MAR VANDEGRIFT hosts Commander United States Naval  
 Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) Vice Admiral  
 John Redd and the U.S. Ambassador to Oman  
 14-21 MAR U/W en route Singapore  
 16 MAR Outchop from the USNAVCENT AOR  
 21-27 MAR Port visit Singapore  
 27 MAR-01 APR U/W en route Manilla, Phillipines  
 27-28 MAR ISIC's Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA)  
 31 MAR Command Assessment of Readiness and Training I  
 (CART I)  
 01-04 APR Port visit Manilla, Philippines  
 04-17 APR U/W en route Pearl Harbor  
 17-19 APR Port Visit Pearl Harbor  
 19-25 APR U/W en route San Diego, CA/ Tiger Cruise  
 25 APR Homecoming San Diego, CA  
 25 APR-01 JUN Inport (IPT) San Diego, CA -Post Deployment Upkeep  
 28 APR LCDR Mehki relieves as Executive Officer  
 27 MAY Parade in Solana Beach with VANDEGRIFT Color Guard  
 celebrating the "Fiesta Del Sol"  
 01-02 JUN U/W Southern California (SOCAL) OPAREA  
 01 JUN TACAN Cert  
 02-06 JUN IPT San Diego, CA  
 05-09 JUN Inspection and Survey Board(INSURV)/ IPT and U/W  
 06 JUN U/W SOCAL  
 09-26 JUN IPT/Upkeep(UPK) San Diego, CA  
 23 JUN-21 JUL Pacific Training of Midshipman  
 23 JUN CART IIA  
 26 JUN-01 JUL U/W en route Kodiak, Alaska  
 01-06 JUL Port visit Kodiak, Alaska  
 06-12 JUL U/W en route San Diego, CA  
 12-31 JUL IPT San Diego, CA  
 24-28 JUL Tailored Ship Training Availability I (TSTA I),  
 inport  
 31 JUL-05 AUG U/W SOCAL TSTA I  
 05-07 AUG IPT San Diego, CA  
 07-12 AUG U/W SOCAL TSTA I  
 12-14 AUG IPT San Diego, CA  
 14-18 AUG U/W SOCAL TSTA I/completion of TSTA I  
 18-28 AUG IPT UPK San Diego, CA  
 28 AUG-02 SEP U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps

02-11 SEP IPT UPK San Diego, CA  
 11-15 SEP U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps  
 15-26 SEP IPT UPK San Diego, CA  
 23 SEP "Adopt a Beach" with city of Solana Beach, CA  
 26-29 SEP U/W SOCAL - Pre-OPPE preps  
 29 SEP-09 OCT IPT San Diego, CA  
 01 OCT Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three  
 disestablished/VANDEGRIFT becomes part of  
 Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three  
 03-11 OCT Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)  
 10 OCT U/W OPPE  
 11-13 OCT U/W Seal Beach, CA for weapons off-load  
 13-15 OCT IPT San Diego, CA-off-load fuel  
 15 OCT-15 DEC Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at the  
 National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)  
 15 OCT Dead stick move to the NASSCO pier  
 13-14 DEC U/W SOCAL-Sea Trials  
 15-31 DEC Holiday Upkeep San Diego CA  
 16 DEC Christmas Card exchange with children of Solana  
 Beach and delivery of holiday treats to VANDEGRIFT  
 Sailors from a Solana Beach Retirement Home.  
 18-22 DEC Aviation Certification Inspection and Aviation  
 Readiness Evaluation

Part III

01-28 JAN When the USS Vandegrift pulled into Ras Al Khaimah  
 on the 28th of January, she had completed thirty-  
 eight straight days of underway operations. The  
 longest underway period in VANDEGRIFT'S history  
 consisted largely of conducting Maritime  
 Interception Operations (MIO) in the Northern  
 Arabian Gulf (NAG) in support of U.N. resolutions  
 against IRAQ. VANDEGRIFT conducted a change of  
 command which took place on the forecastle while  
 VANDEGRIFT was patrolling her designated sector in  
 the NAG. CDR J.A. Corsi assumed command on 07  
 January without a hitch and CDR D.C. Harrison bid  
 VANDEGRIFT and her crew farewell as he boarded the  
 "Desert Duck" helicopter for a short flight into  
 Bahrain. VANDEGRIFT was very successful in the  
 MIO role and when properly relieved by another  
 U.S. Navy warship in the NAG, she proceeded to the  
 Central Arabian Gulf to assume plane guard duties  
 with the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-

28 JAN-28 FEB VANDEGRIFT fulfilled diplomatic duties as she hosted the Emir of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), Sheik Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi for lunch and a tour onboard. After a short stay in RAK, VANDEGRIFT proceeded north up the coast to Jebel Ali to onload the necessary equipment to participate in the 110th shallow water ASW Exercise known as SHAREM. VANDEGRIFT operated with USS LAKE ERIE, USS DAVID R. RAY, the research vessel USNS SILAS BENT and the Los Angeles attack submarine USS TOPEKA. The thrust of the exercise was to study and improve tactics against submarines in shallow water in which VANDEGRIFT performed meticulously. VANDEGRIFT was able to flex all aspects of her ASW capabilities which include the SQR-19 passive acoustic towed array, the SQS-56 active hull mounted sonar and the embarked SH-60B LAMPS MK-III helicopter from HSL-47 Det 2 out of San Diego. The exercise was a huge success for all involved. VANDEGRIFT returned to Jebel Ali for an availability with the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37).

01-16 MAR VANDEGRIFT was underway for eight days while guarding sanctions violators off the coast of Dubai in an area designated as the "penalty box." This duty consisted of ensuring the vessels did not leave that area and that their crews had sufficient food and water. The ship's Visit Board Search and Seizure team visited the vessels regularly to evaluate living conditions and to bring them supplies. VANDEGRIFT was relieved by another U.S. warship and returned to Jebel Ali for the last time to onload some of the necessary supplies to begin the journey back to San Diego. After departing Jebel Ali, VANDEGRIFT made a flawless transit of the Strait of Hormuz en route to Muscat, Oman where they made a port visit. On thirteen March, the beautiful and picturesque mountains and castles of Muscat Oman were the backdrop for a lavish reception held onboard the world's finest frigate for Vice Admiral Redd and the U.S. Ambassador to Oman, the Honorable David J. Dunford. The Officers and crew of VANDEGRIFT shown brightly as they presented their ship to the

many dignitaries on hand. Vice Admiral Redd praised VANDEGRIFT for the excellent condition of the ship and the obvious effort that went into putting on such a fine reception. 16 March marked the last day VANDEGRIFT was in the USNAVCENT AOR.

21 MAR-25 APR The humidity soared as VANDEGRIFT headed towards Singapore for a brief port visit. While in Singapore, VANDEGRIFT embarked riders from COMDESRON Three-Three to conduct an IERA while the ship transited towards the Philippines. As is the case for ships that are required to go on deployment within a year after returning from the last deployment, VANDEGRIFT had already begun her predeployment work-ups with the completion of the first part of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART I). The IERA went well and VANDEGRIFT pulled into Manilla, Phillipines on 1 April for yet another port visit.

On 4 April, VANDEGRIFT left Manilla and began transiting towards Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. CDR Johnson the XO, left the ship in Manilla and the air detachment Officer in Charge, LCDR Brasel was the acting XO during the interim until the ship reached San Diego when LCDR Mehki assumed the duties as XO on 28 April. On 17 April, the ship arrived in Pearl Harbor, to refuel and to embark "Tigers" (family members of crew men wishing to experience shipboard life) for the ride from Pearl Harbor, HI to San Diego, CA. The Tigers were treated and involved in the routine evolutions a ship normally undergoes including; gun shoots and replenishments at sea. VANDEGRIFT roared over the horizon and out of the early morning fog to arrive pierside Naval Station San Diego, CA on the 25th of April exactly on schedule.

01-09 JUN As early as January, VANDEGRIFT had been preparing for an INSURV inspection. The actual INSURV went from 5 to 9 June and included a brief underway period to demonstrate those operational areas for the INSURV inspectors. The necessary preparations had taken place and the desired result of a very

successful INSURV was achieved.

- 23 JUN VANDEGRIFT embarked midshipman in mid June for training. The ship completed CART II on 23 June.
- 23 JUN-18 AUG Somewhat unexpectedly VANDEGRIFT was selected to make a port visit to Kodiak, Alaska to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II with local veterans. VANDEGRIFT rose to the occasion and hosted the people of Kodiak to tours onboard for the five days of the port visit. The trip to Kodiak included a week of transiting each way.

VANDEGRIFT returned from Alaska to resume her predeployment workups, this time in the first part of the Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA I). The rigors of TSTA I included one week inport and three weeks of underway demonstrating proficiency in all required areas of engineering, operations, and combat systems. TSTA I was completed successfully with high marks from the Afloat Training Group inspectors.

- 03-11 OCT VANDEGRIFT spent most of the month of September preparing for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). The OPPE was originally scheduled from 03-05 October but VANDEGRIFT experienced problems with the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) system. Because of the immaculate material condition of the engineering spaces, the senior OPPE inspector decided to give VANDEGRIFT time to correct the problem with UPS and complete the examination on the 11th of October. After satisfying the rigorous requirements of the OPPE, VANDEGRIFT completed the exam with an overall grade of satisfactory.

- 11 OCT-15 OCT In preparation for entering the yards on October 15th, VANDEGRIFT had to conduct an offload of all her weapons at the Seal Beach, CA Naval weapons station. VANDEGRIFT returned to San Diego to offload fuel and be moved to the NASSCO pier for the two month Selected Restricted Availability

(SRA) .

15 OCT-15 DEC SRA

13-15 DEC VANDEGRIFT put to sea in order to verify the proper operation of the ship after two months in the yards. The ship performed satisfactorily and returned to Naval Station San Diego.

18-22 DEC VANDEGRIFT proved she was capable of safely conducting flight operations with the successful completion of the Aviation Readiness Evaluation and the Aviation Certification Inspection.

22 DEC VANDEGRIFT began her holiday standown.

Part IV

The following items are included as part of VANDEGRIFT's Command History 1995.

- (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- (2) Commanding Officer Photograph
- (3) Ship Photograph
- (4) News Articles
- (5) Amplifying Message Traffic