



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

(b) Your ltr 5757 Ser 09BH/SH/8U506019 of 30 Sep 98

Encl: (1) USS VANDEGRIFT 1997 Command History

(2) Welcome Aboard brochure

1. Per references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

2. Point of contact is ENS Son, Public Affairs Officer, autovon: (315) 243-2863.


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USS VANDEGRIFT 1997 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 31 December 1997, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David S. Armstrong. VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA and was under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two-Three, "The Little Beavers".

Part II

The following events occurred during 1997.

Date:	Event:
01 Jan	New Years Day
07 Jan	Ammo Offload U/W MAZATLAN, MEXICO
10 Jan	I/P MAZATLAN, MEXICO
14 Jan	U/W SAN DIEGO, CA
16 Jan	Chief Exam on Messdecks
17 Jan	I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
20 Jan	MLK Day Cookout-Flight Deck
21 Jan	Missile Offload w/USS MCCLUSKY
24 Jan-26 Jan	U/W OPFOR
27 Jan	U/W SEAL BEACH, CA MCA
29 Jan	I/P SEAL BEACH, CA
30 Jan	Ammo Offload U/W SAN DIEGO, CA
31 Jan	I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
03 Feb-02 May	ILR DSRA 97
03 Feb-11 Apr	SIMA C/FVMF AVAIL
03 Feb	Shipboard Repair Parts/Mam's Offload
06 Feb	Ammo Tranfer w/USS GARY Crew Move Ashore
10 Feb	Dry Docking
14 Feb	Safety Standdown
18 Feb-21 Feb	PLOT I/II
21 Feb	Naval Station's 75th Anniversary Celebration
24 Feb-28 Feb	ASW Phase I Team Trainer
28 Feb	COMDESRON 23 Change of Command
03 Mar-07 Mar	ASW Phase II Team Trainer
04 Mar	E-4 Advancement Exams
06 Mar	E-5 Advancement Exams

10	Mar-13	Mar	LAMPS Aviation Ordnance Team Trainer
11	Mar		E-6 Advancement Exams
19	Mar		Undock Ship
19	Mar		Moor Continental Maritime Shipyard
19	Mar-21	Mar	MLOC Verification
24	Mar-28	Mar	PLOT III
02	Apr-03	Apr	Radar Assisted Piloting Team Trainer
08	Apr		ENG Lockout/Machinery Space Turnover
11	Apr		PUK Offload
14	Apr		DESRON 23 Embarks
15	Apr-17	Apr	IPTEA (LOA)
18	Apr		AAV
21	Apr		Shipboard Repair Parts/Mam's Onload
23	Apr-25	Apr	ASIR
29	Apr		Fast Cruise
29	Apr		Dock Trials
30	Apr-02	May	U/W for Sea Trials
02	May		TACAN Certification
05	May		U/W SEAL BEACH, CA
			I/P SEAL BEACH, CA
06	May		Ammo Onload
07	May		U/W PORT HUENEME, CA
07	May-15	May	I/P PORT HUENEME, CA
			Combat Systems Groom
15	May		U/W SAN DIEGO, CA
16	May		I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
19	May		Combat Systems Snapshot
			ARE
20	May-23	May	U/W SOCAL
21	May		TORPEX/USWEX
22	May		EWEX
27	May-29	May	PMT
28	May-20	Jun	Midshipman Training Phase I
29	May		Officer Promotion Ceremony-Foc'sle
01	Jun		U/W ASTORIA, OR
04	Jun		I/P ASTORIA, OR
05	Jun		U/W PORTLAND, OR
05	Jun		I/P PORTLAND, OR
05	Jun-08	Jun	Portland Rose Festival
09	Jun		U/W SAN DIEGO, CA
12	Jun		I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
12	Jun		Safety Standdown
16	Jun-08	Jul	IMAV
16	Jun-20	Jun	CART II
19	Jun-20	Jun	U/W for training
25	Jun-30	Jun	U/W KERNEL BLITZ
30	Jun-03	Jul	SBT
23	Jun-18	Jul	Midshipman Training Phase II
04	Jul		Independence Day Cookout-Flightdeck

09 Jul		U/W CATALINA ISLAND, CA SOCAL (TYT/DLQ's)
11 Jul		I/P CATALINA ISLAND, CA
14 Jul		U/W SAN DIEGO, CA SOCAL (TYT/DLQ's)
15 Jul		I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
16 Jul-18 Jul	Jul	PRT
21 Jul-15 Aug	Aug	TSTA I Midshipman Training Phase III
25 Jul		REXTORP Onload
28 Jul		Awards Ceremony-Flight Deck
29 Jul-01 Aug	Aug	U/W TSTA I/II Exercises
04 Aug-08 Aug	Aug	U/W TSTA I/II Exercises
12 Aug		Fast Cruise Captain's Call-Flight Deck
14 Aug-15 Aug	Aug	U/W for ECERT
18 Aug		IMAV 7I3 begins
19 Aug		Guest Ship
21 Aug		SRTT Ship Check
25 Aug-29 Aug	Aug	LATR
27 Aug-29 Aug	Aug	Harpoon LTT
29 Aug		U/W Turnship
04 Sep		SRTT E-4 Advancement Exams
09 Sep		E-5 Advancement Exams
10 Sep		Ship's Manning Meeting with EPMAC-Bldg. 55
11 Sep		E-6 Advancement Exams
11 Sep		Officers vs. CPO's Basketball Game-Pier 13
12 Sep		Awards Ceremony-Flight Deck
15 Sep-17 Sep	Sep	U/W for training
18 Sep		CPO Pinning Ceremony-Anchors and Spurs
23 Sep-25 Sep	Sep	U/W TSTA III
26 Sep		Aviation Safety Standdown
29 Sep		U/W FEP U/W CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO
03 Oct-06 Oct	Oct	I/P CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO
07 Oct		U/W SAN DIEGO, CA
10 Oct		I/P SAN DIEGO, CA
13 Oct		Columbus Day & Navy's Birthday
14 Oct		PXO Reports
14 Oct		Awards Ceremony-Flight Deck
18 Oct-31 Oct	Oct	IMAV
21 Oct-23 Oct	Oct	Homeport Change Conference-Washington D.C.
22 Oct		Shift to Winter Uniform-Blues
27 Oct		SPA-25G Installation
27 Oct-29 Oct	Oct	Shiphandling Simulator
27 Oct-31 Oct	Oct	CSMP Scrub Team Visit Phase I
30 Oct		Communications Readiness Certification (CRC)
30 Oct		Homeport Change Fair- ADM Robinson Auditorium
03 Nov-07 Nov	Nov	CSMP Scrub Team Visit Phase II

03	Nov-07	Nov	Baseline Industrial Hygiene Survey
03	Nov-11	Nov	Cargo Weapons Elevator Assessment
13	Nov		Homeport Change Fair-Part II
17	Nov-21	Nov	U/W Missile Exercise
24	Nov-26	Nov	3M Baseline Assessment
01	Dec		Promotion Ceremony-Flight Deck
01	Dec-02	Dec	CART I
03	Dec-05	Dec	PRT
04	Dec		Guest Ship
08	Dec		Ship's Inclination Survey/Experiment
09	Dec-12	Dec	U/W FRSCQ's (DLQ's)
14	Dec		Children's X-MAS Party
15	Dec-23	Dec	IMAV (8I-2)
16	Dec		X-Mas Party at Handlery Hotel
			Frocking/Promotion Ceremony-Flight Deck
18	Dec		Safety Standdown
19	Dec-26	Dec	Holiday Leave Period #1
25	Dec		Christmas Day
27	Dec		Leave Turnover Day
27	Dec-31	Dec	Holiday Leave Period #2

PART III

01 Jan-31 Mar

VANDEGRIFT started the New Year with an ammo offload in early January, followed by a brief port visit to Mazatlan, Mexico. The crew was entertained in this "South of the Border" resort city for four days before heading back to homeport, San Diego, CA. In the following weeks, the VANDEGRIFT conducted a missile offload with USS MCCLUSKY, and set sail for OPFOR near the end of January, returning home for Superbowl Sunday. Next in line was a visit to Seal Beach, CA for an ammo offload. Upon arrival in San Diego from Seal Beach, ILR and DSRA commenced. The crew moved ashore and the ship dry docked near Pier 5 for repairs. All Shipboard Repair Parts and MAM's were offloaded just prior to the dry docking period in early February. PLOT I/II was conducted during the third week of February, which was followed by E-4, E-5, and E-6 Advancement Exams. March 19th marked the day when VANDEGRIFT undocked from the Pier 5 drydock and headed to Continental Maritime Shipyard, where extensive shipboard repairs would take place for the next six weeks. During the end of March, PLOT III was conducted, resulting once again in success for the VANDEGRIFT and its crew.

01 Apr-30 Jun

April began with a shift to Summer White uniforms and a rejuvenated spirit onboard the VANDEGRIFT. The ship and crew completed an extensive yard period, ending with a better looking, more efficient battle frigate. April also included Engineering Lockout/Machinery Space Turnover, always an important event for the Engineering Department. During the middle of the month, the Aviation Pack-up Kit was offloaded, and the Shipboard Repair Parts and MAM's were brought back onboard the ship. This point marked the end of "the yards", at which point the VANDEGRIFT began LOA and AAV. The ship headed to sea for Sea Trials, which ended successfully back in San Diego on May 2nd. Early May begun with TACAN Certification, soon followed by another underway period to Seal Beach for ammo onload. Instead of returning to San Diego after Seal Beach, The VANDEGRIFT headed on up the

Pacific coastline to Port Hueneme, CA. where a Combat Systems Groom was conducted and ARE began. Upon arrival in homeport, a Combat Systems Snapshot was next in line. The end of May marked yet another underway period, as exercises in the SOCAL Opareas was the agenda. Various exercises were conducted, from a TORPEX4/USEWEX to an EWEX. All exercises were graded effective and the VANDEGRIFT once again proved to be a leader on the waterfront. In the month of June, the scent of roses filled the air as the ship and crew made a port visit to the Rose Festival in Portland, OR. A short stop in Astoria, OR preceded the Rose Festival, which once again provided excitement for the ships involved. Mid-June consisted of the beginning of IMAV and CART II, followed with an underway period for Exercise Kernel Blitz. The VANDY provided support for a carrier and her squadron during this exercise.

01 Jul-30 Sep July started out with a "Boom" with an Independence Day cookout on the ship's flight deck. Catalina Island was the next port visited during this period, providing that "tropical atmosphere" so similar to the Hawaiian Islands. Upon return to homeport, the VANDEGRIFT was soon underway again in the SOCAL Opareas (TYT/DLQ's) for another day of "fun at sea". Mid-July marked PRT time, crowning much of the crew with grades of "Outstanding". TSTA I and II were conducted during this time, both including underway periods for various drills and exercises. The ship graded so well during this process, that on August 14th ECERT was conducted two months ahead of schedule. Although the VANDEGRIFT did not pass every drill and evolution of ECERT during that underway day, the crew exemplified what hard work and dedication would result in...a well respected and talked about ship and crew. The ECERT qualification was attained in record fashion, with scores of 100% on drills and 93% on evolutions. IMAV 713 began on the 18th of August, followed by LATR towards the end of the month. September was the month for Advancement Exams to be conducted, resulting in many advancements for the crew. A Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony was held in mid-September for three new Chief Petty Officers...ETC(SW) Solazzo, HMC(SW) Marquez, and MAC(SW) Wingate were all honored at Anchors and Spurs Bar and Grill that day. September began with the TSTA III and the FEP cycles, both resulting in

outstanding grades.

01 Oct-31 Dec After FEP the ship was scheduled for a port visit to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, the second "South of the Border" visit for the VANDY this year. Scuba diving, snorkeling, para-sailing, jet skiing, and the like were on the table for the crew at this exotic port on th baja peninsula. LCDR Steve Sloan relieved CDR Clay Sellars as Executive Officer. IMAV commenced in late October, followed by Halloween Nite! Since the ship's crew had learned of a homeport change to Yokosuka, Japan to occur in late February, '98, a Homeport Change Conference took place in Washington D.C. in late October. A Homeport Change Fair was held on 30 October at the ADM Robinson Auditorium for those personnel that would be going to Japan in Feb. '98. In Early November, a Baseline Industrial Hygiene Survey was conducted, followed by another underway period for a Missile Shoot. The VANDEGRIFT successfully shot two SM-1 Missiles at drone targets. November 24-26 marked the 3M Baseline Assessment. CART I was conducted next in early December, followed by the year's second PRT test. On December 8th, the ship engaged in an Inclining Experiment, followed by the last underway period for the year...to conduct FRSCQ's and DLQ's. The air was getting crisp and the spirits high as the Christmas Season was near. The children of the crew had "a ball" at the annual Children's Christmas Party held at Murphy Canyon Recreation Center. The adult party was two days later at the Handlery Hotel and Resort near Hotel Circle. Many gifts and prizes were awarded to the crew on this eve, which turned out to be as classy as ever! The rest of the year consisted of Holiday Standdown and Leave Periods.