



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS VANDEGRIFT 1998 Command History  
(2) Welcome Aboard Brochure

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.
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N. J. KUSUMOTO

## USS VANDEGRIFT 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

### Part I

The mission of the 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. From 01 January to 15 January 1998, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David S. Armstrong. From 16 January to 31 December 1998, VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR Neal J. Kusumoto. VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA from 01 January 1998 until 30 March 1998 under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty Three, "The Little Beavers." On 31 March 1998, VANDEGRIFT forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan and came under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Fifteen.

### Part II

The following events occurred during 1998:

Date	Event
01 Jan – 05 Jan	Holiday Upkeep
06 Jan – 07 Jan	Type Training Southern California
08 Jan – 15 Jan	Inport San Diego
12 Jan – 15 Jan	LMA
16 Jan	Change of Command Ceremony (at sea)
16 Jan	Type Training Southern California
17 Jan – 20 Jan	Inport San Diego
21 Jan – 23 Jan	INSURV
22 Jan	UMI Southern California
24 Jan – 01 Feb	Upkeep San Diego
02 Feb – 22 Feb	POM
19 Feb	Ammo Onload at Seal Beach
20 Feb	Dependents' Cruise
23 Feb	Depart San Diego enroute Yokosuka, Japan
01 Mar – 08 Mar	Inport Pearl Harbor
13 Mar	Chop to Commander Seventh Fleet
09 Mar – 18 Mar	U/W Enroute Guam
19 Mar	Refuel in Guam
19 Mar – 22 Mar	U/W Enroute Yokosuka
23 Mar	Arrive in new homeport of Yokosuka
23 Mar – 07 Apr	Upkeep Yokosuka
31 Mar	Chop to Commander Destroyer Group 15

Enclosure (1)

08 Apr	Dry Dock
09 Apr – 28 Apr	DSRA Yokosuka for Sonar Dome repairs
13 Apr – 03 May	Embark COMDESRON Fifteen
29 Apr – 30 Apr	Engineering Safety Checks
01 May – 04 May	Undock / Upkeep Yokosuka
05 May – 07 May	Enroute Sasebo
07 May – 21 May	Embark Helicopter Squadron Light Fifty –One Detachment
08 May	Inport Sasebo
09 May – 11 May	Exercise Sea of Japan: Distant Thunder II
12 May	Inport Sasebo for personnel pickup
12 May – 14 May	MLSTL Philippine Sea with USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54)
15 May – 19 May	Inport Shimoda, Japan: Black Ship Festival
19 May – 10 Aug	Enroute Yokosuka
20 May – 10 Jun	Upkeep Yokosuka
06 Jun – 10 Jun	Type Training: Weapons Systems Accuracy Test (WSAT)
11 Jun	U/W Philippine Sea (WSAT)
12 Jun – 18 Jun	Upkeep Yokosuka
19 Jun – 10 Aug	Deploy: RIMPAC 98
19 Jun	Embark Helicopter Squadron Light Forty- Nine Det Eight
19 Jun – 02 Jul	U/W Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
28 Jun	Chop to Commander Third Fleet
02 Jul – 06 Jul	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
07 Jul – 10 Jul	U/W Hawaiian Opareas: RIMPAC 98
11 Jul – 14 Jul	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
15 Jul – 19 Jul	U/W Hawaiian Opareas: RIMPAC 98
20 Jul – 23 Jul	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
24 Jul – 30 Jul	U/W Hawaiian Opareas: RIMPAC 98
31 Jul – 10 Aug	Enroute Yokosuka, Japan in company with USS Kitty Hawk (CV - 62) and Chancellorsville (CG- 63)
11 Aug – 07 Sep	Inport Yokosuka
31 Aug – 02 Sep	IMR SQQ-89 System
31 Aug	In chop to Commander, SEVENTH Fleet
08 Sep – 09 Sep	Enroute Chinhae
10 Sep – 11 Sep	Inport Chinhae
12 Sep – 18 Sep	Exercise Sea of Japan: SHAREM 126
19 Sep – 20 Sep	Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
21 Sep	NAVCERT
21 Sep – 22 Sep	Inport Yokosuka
23 Sep – 24 Sep	Enroute Kagoshima
25 Sep – 27 Sep	Inport Kagoshima
28 Sep – 29 Sep	Mid Cycle Assessment, Enroute Yokosuka
30 Sep – 20 Oct	Upkeep Yokosuka
21 Oct – 23 Oct	LTT Philippine Sea
22 Oct	Embark Helicopter Squadron Light Fifty-One
24 Oct	Inport Okinawa, Japan
25 Oct	Enroute East China Sea

26 Oct – 27 Oct	Exercise Sea of Japan: Foal Eagle 98
28 Oct	Inport Pohang, Korea
29 Oct – 01 Nov	Exercise Sea of Japan: Foal Eagle 98
02 Nov – 03 Nov	Inport Pusan, Korea
04 Nov	Enroute Sea of Japan
05 Nov – 12 Nov	Exercise Sea of Japan: Annualex 10G
13 Nov – 29 Nov	Upkeep Yokosuka
30 Nov – 01 Dec	Enroute Philippine Sea
02 Dec	Inport Okinawa, Japan
03 Dec	Enroute Shanghai, China
04 Dec – 07 Dec	Inport Shanghai, China
08 Dec – 09 Dec	Enroute Philippine Sea
10 Dec	Inport Okinawa
11 Dec – 13 Dec	Enroute Philippine Sea
14 Dec – 31 Dec	Holiday Upkeep
15 Dec – 18 Dec	Hull Cleaning

### Part III

01 Jan – 31 Mar

In January, VANDEGRIFT started off 1998 with Type Training off the coast of San Diego, a Logistics Material Assessment and an Inspection and Survey (INSURV). On January 16, VANDEGRIFT had a Change of Command Ceremony when Commander Neal J. Kusumoto relieved CDR David S. Armstrong. VANDEGRIFT continued training and upkeep through the month of February. VANDEGRIFT did an ammunition onload as her crew made preparations for her change of homeport to Yokosuka, Japan. VANDEGRIFT also held a Dependents' Cruise off the coast of San Diego prior to departing for the last time on 23 February. During her underway to Yokosuka, Japan, VANDEGRIFT experienced rough seas during a storm and sustained damage to her sonar dome that was patched in Pearl Harbor. On 13 March, Vandegrift chopped to Commander Seventh Fleet. On 31 March, VANDEGRIFT chopped to Commander Destroyer Group Fifteen.

01 Apr – 30 Jun

In April, VANDEGRIFT entered into a Dockside Restricted Availability (DSRA) for repair of the Sonar Dome and also conducted Engineering Safety Checks. VANDEGRIFT made a brief stop in Sasebo, Japan and then participated in Distant Thunder II, a USW exercise testing advanced submarine hunting technologies and tactics. Also in May, VANDEGRIFT participated in a MLSTL with the USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54) to Shimoda, Japan to participate in The Black Ship Festival. The Black Ship Festival commemorates the arrival of Commodore Perry to Japan in 1854. Prior to deployment VANDEGRIFT began the Weapons Systems Accuracy Test (WSAT), conducting various tests on the radars, sonar and other sensors. In June, VANDEGRIFT embarked Helicopter Squadron Light Fourty Nine out of San Diego, CA, bringing on two

helicopters. On 18 June, VANDEGRIFT deployed to Pearl Harbor, HI in company with Commander Escort Flotilla One, JDS Murasame (DD-101), JDS Harusame (DD-102), JDS Kirishima (DD-174), JDS Shirane (DD-148), and JDS Towada (AOE-422) to participate in Rim of the Pacific, a multinational joint exercise off the coast of Hawaii and involving over two hundred ships.

#### 01 Jul – 30 Sep

In July, RIMPAC officially began. VANDEGRIFT was assigned to a Maritime Action Group with ships of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF). VANDEGRIFT conducted torpedo firings, MK 15 Close-in-weapons-firings and MK75/76mm firings. VANDEGRIFT also conducted Maritime Interception Operations and provided the first ever VBSS training to JMSDF units. For engaging and destroying more simulated hostile air (2), surface (3), and subsurface (1) units than any other ship of the Bilateral Force, VANDEGRIFT was called the “Number One Killing Machine” by COMCORTFLOT ONE. VANDEGRIFT also completed Weapons System Accuracy Test (WSAT) in July 1998. Upon USS Kitty Hawk’s turnover with USS Independence, VANDEGRIFT sailed back to Yokosuka with the USS KITTY HAWK.

#### 01 Oct – 31 Dec

The ship was scheduled to be inport in Hong Kong in October but was turned back by two typhoons. Instead VANDEGRIFT participated in FOAL EAGLE 98, a joint naval exercise with the Republic of Korea. As part of exercise FOAL EAGLE 98, VANDEGRIFT successfully launched and inserted a platoon of SEALs from SEAL TEAM FIVE. VANDEGRIFT then participated in ANNUALEX 10G, a joint exercise with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. In December 1999, VANDEGRIFT visited the port of Shanghai, China, becoming one of a handful of ships to visit Mainland China in the 1990’s. A number of the crew went to see the Great Wall, Tianamen Square and other sites in Beijing on a trip sponsored by the People’s Liberation Army. Vandegrift was the runner-up for the CDS-15 Battle E ahead of 5 other ships, winning a fifth consecutive award for Maritime Warfare, a sixth consecutive award for Engineering, and the Logistics Blue E. VANDEGRIFT’s high morale and superior retention, despite the homeport shift and high personnel turnover, were highlighted by being nominated for the Golden Anchor by Commander Carrier Group Five. The ship’s sustained safety record resulted in being awarded a third consecutive safety pennant by Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific.