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From: Commanding Officer, USS BENFOLD (DDG 65)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street, SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS BENFOLD (DDG 65) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 1998

Ref: (a) Chief of Naval Operations letter dtd 18 August 1999
        (b) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Battle Efficiency Nomination
        (2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
        (3) "Bold Defender" Newsletter- December 1998
        (4) Ship's picture

1. Per reference (a) BENFOLD's Command History for CY 1998 is being resubmitted. Regret any inconvenience caused by the delay.

2. Command Composition and Organization.
Mission: *To be ready to win the next war at sea. We will be ready to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea, executing assigned tasks correctly, safely, and decisively in support of our national policy objective.*
Immediate Senior Command: *Captain LeFever, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE.*
Commanding Officer: *Commander D. Michael Abrashoff.*
Permanent Duty Station: *San Diego, California.*

3. Chronology.

January 6, 1998 - January 8, 1998	*Mid Cycle Assessment*
January 16, 1998 - January 19, 1998	*Port visit - Perth, Australia*
January 23, 1998 - January 26, 1998	*Port visit - Melbourne, Australia*
January 28, 1998 - January 31, 1998	*Port visit - Sydney, Australia*
February 5, 1998	*Port visit - Pago, Pago*
February 16, 1998 - February 18, 1998	*Ammunition Offload - Seal Beach*
February 19, 1998	*HOMECOMING*
February 20, 1998 - March 19, 1998	*Post deployment upkeep*
March 20, 1998 - March 22, 1998	*Fast cruise*
March 23, 1998 - March 24, 1998	*Type training - SOCAL*
March 24, 1998	*NSFS II - San Clemente Island*
March 25, 1998 - March 27, 1998	*Ammunition Offload - Seal Beach*
March 28, 1998 - April 1, 1998	*Transit to Mexico*
April 2, 1998 - April 5, 1998	*Port visit - Puerta Vallarta*
April 6, 1998 - April 9, 1998	*Transit return to San Diego / Tiger Cruise*
April 13, 1998 - April 17, 1998	*Logistics & Administration Training Review (LATR)*
April 29, 1998 - July 1, 1998	*Ships' Restricted Availability (SRA)*
May 6, 1998	*Presentation of the Spokane Trophy & Battle Efficiency Award*
June 15, 1998 - June 19, 1998	*Engineering Limited Team Trainer (ENG LTT)*
June 29, 1998 - July 1, 1998	*ASIR/ARE*
July 7, 1998 - July 10, 1998	*Type training - Inport/SOCAL, VIPs to sea*
July 20, 1998	*Underway - SOCAL*

July 21, 1998 - July 22, 1998	*Ammunition onload - Seal Beach*
July 23, 1998 - July 24, 1998	*Underway - SOCAL*
August 3, 1998 - August 7, 1998	*CART II (Inport)*
August 21, 1998	*Family day cruise*
August 22, 1998	*Family picnic*
September 14, 1998 - September 16, 1998	*Transit to Canada*
September 17, 1998 - September 20, 1998	*Port visit - Victoria, Canada*
September 21, 1998 - September 25, 1998	*Transit return to San Diego*
October 6, 1998 - October 9, 1998	*Underway - SOCAL, transit to San Francisco*
October 9, 1998	*Ammunition Onload*
October 10, 1998 - October 12, 1998	*Port visit - San Francisco Fleet Week*
October 13, 1998 - October 16, 1998	*Transit to SOCAL, MISSILEX, Spotter services*
October 28, 1998 - October 29, 1998	*Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)*
November 2, 1998 - November 5, 1998	*Transit to Mexico*
November 6, 1998 - November 9, 1998	*Port visit - Cabo San Lucas*
November 10, 1998 - November 12, 1998	*Transit return to San Diego*
November 19, 1998	*Engineering Certification (ECERT)*
December 16, 1998 - January 12, 1999	*Holiday stand-down*

4. Narrative.

Nineteen nintey-eight has been an incredible year for BENFOLD. The ship successfully and safely returned from serving in the Arabian Gulf and the crew was met with warm welcome home. The rest of the year offered time to start preparing for the next deployment while implememnting innovative approaches to ship maintenance, management and retention. As a result, BENFOLD was fortunate to receive a number of awards for excellence including the Battle Efficiency Award and the prized Spokane Trophy for "Most combat ready ship in the Pacific Fleet." Enclosure (1) highlights the achievements of BENFOLD's crew in the past year and serves as our narrative.

5. Biography of current commanding officer - Commander D. Michael Abrashoff

Commander Donald Michael Abrashoff was born in ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮. *He is a 1982 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His initial sea duty assignment was in the USS ALBERT DAVID (FFG 1050) where he served as Communications Officer and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. Upon completion of Department Head School, he was ordered to USS HARRY W. HILL (DD 986) where he served as Combat Systems Officer. His second tour was as Combat Systems Officer in USS ENGLAND (CG 22). During this tour, he participated in Operation DESERT SHIELD in Southwest Asia. He served as Executive Officer in USS SHILOH (CG 67) which also deployed to Southwest Asia.*

Commander Abrashoff served ashore as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Naval Surface Group Western Pacific/Commander Surface Combatant Force Seventh Fleet and Commander Logistics Support Force Seventh Fleet in Subic Bay, RP. In Washington, D.C., he served as a Surface Warfare Assignment Officer, Junior Officer Shore Coordinator and Cruiser Destroyer Atlantic Fleet Placement Officer. Additionally, he served as the Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable William J. Perry.

Commander Abrashoff's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, various Campaign and Service Medals and four Battle "E" Awards for shipboard excellence.

T.W. LEAVITT
By direction