



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS BENFOLD (DDG 65)
FPO AP 96661-1283

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From: Commanding Officer, USS BENFOLD (DDG 65)
To: Director of Naval History (N09bh), Washington Navy Yard
901 M Street, Washington DC, 20374-5060

Subj: USS BENFOLD (DDG 65) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. 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 in Command: Captain Spicer, Destroyer Squadron Seven

Commanding Officer: Commander Adam S. Levitt

Command Short Title: USS BENFOLD

UIC: 21940

Permanent Duty Station: San Diego, California

2. Chronology

January 1 - January 14, 2000

February 14, 2000

February 15 - February 16, 2000

February 17 - February 18, 2000

February 19 - April 28, 2000

May 8 - May 9, 2000

May 10, 2000

May 11 - May 12, 2000

May 15 - May 19, 2000

June 19 - June 23, 2000

June 26 - June 30, 2000

July 5 - July 7, 2000

July 24, 2000

July 24 - July 28, 2000

July 31 - August 4, 2000

August 8 - August 9, 2000

August 10 - 2 October, 2000

August 21, 2000

August 25, 2000

October 3, 2000

October 3 - October 6, 2000

October 26 - November 10, 2000

November 14 - November 17, 2000

December 11 - December 14, 2000

December 15 - December 31, 2000

Holiday Stand-down

Transit to Seal Beach, CA

Ammo offload-Naval Weapons

Station, Seal Beach, CA

Transit to San Diego, CA

Selected Restricted Availability,

Continental Maritime, San Diego,

CA

Transit to Seal Beach, CA

Ammo onload, Naval Weapons

Station, Seal Beach, CA

Transit to San Diego, CA

Conducted Command

Assessment of Readiness and

Training II Inport

Tailored Ship's Training

Availability A Underway SOCAL

Tailored Ship's Training

Availability A Underway SOCAL

Successfully passed Underway

Demonstration SOCAL

Ammo onload Naval Air Station,

North Island

Tailored Ship's Training

Availability B Underway SOCAL

Tailored Ship's Training

Availability B Underway SOCAL

Successfully passed Final

Evaluation Problem Underway SOCAL

C4I Install Inport

Change of Command

Command Picnic

Ammo Onload Naval Station North

Island, CA

Underway SOCAL FIREX 1

COMPTUEX Underway SOCAL

MISSILEX Underway SOCAL

Underway SOCAL

Holiday Stand-down

Narrative

BENFOLD demonstrated her Combat readiness throughout the past calendar year, expertly completing the interdeployment training cycle in preparation for deployment in March 2001 with the CONSTELLATION Battle Group. BENFOLD's success has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Battle Efficiency Award for 1999, Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific Surface Safety Ship of the Year, the Force Commander Annual Wellness Unit Award, First Place in Medium Afloat Command Category in Athletic Events at Surface Line Week Pacific, and the Silver as well as the Gold Warrior Spirit Awards for qualifying all E-5 and above Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists and all Surface Warfare Officers within the time allotted.

BENFOLD changed its command structure by developing the Training Officer billet into a Department Head, facilitating improvements in onboard training programs across all departments. Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II (CART II) was conducted inport. An inport CART II was a first, but seemed in some ways to improve the ability of Afloat Training Group Pacific to assess BENFOLD's operational and training readiness.

Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) was well recognized by Expeditionary Warfare Training Pacific. During NSFS FIREX I Qualification the NSFS team scored 106.5% out of a possible 100, with bonus points for accuracy and professionalism.

The compressed training cycle required a Command, Control, Communications, Computer and Intelligence (C4I) installation to occur after completing the major components of the training cycle, but before advanced Battle Group workups. BENFOLD's warfighting capabilities were greatly enhanced by Tactical Decision Support Subsystem (TDSS), INMARSAT B HSD, AUTOMATED DIGITAL NETWORK SYSTEM, IT-21 Classified and Unclassified LAN including 93 new computers, and Navy Tactical Command Support System (NTCSS).

Commanding Officer Biography

Commander Adam Levitt was born and raised in [REDACTED]. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Analysis. Commander Levitt's initial sea tour was in USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973), where he served from 1985 to 1988 as Damage Control Assistant, Gunnery Officer, and Main Propulsion Assistant. In 1987 USS JOHN YOUNG deployed to the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq Tanker War and was a participant in Operations Earnest Will and Nimble Archer. In 1989, Commander Levitt received a Master's Degree in Information Systems Management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and was awarded the Admiral Grace Hopper Award for outstanding academic achievement. Following graduation from the Department Head course in June of 1990, he reported to USS MERRILL (DD 976) as Combat Systems Officer. During this tour MERRILL deployed to the Persian GULF in support of Operation Desert Storm and also conducted initial at sea testing of the Tomahawk Blk III missile. Commander Levitt reported to new construction duty in July 1992 as Prospective Commanding Officer of the fourth CYCLONE Class Patrol Coastal Ship, USS MONSOON. Commander Levitt commanded MONSOON from September 1993 to March 1995 completing the ship's first operational deployment. From May 1995 to July 1997 Commander Levitt served as Flag Secretary to the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. During this tour he also served as Executive Secretary to the Naval Academy Board of Visitors. Returning to sea, Commander Levitt served as Executive Officer in USS STETHEM (DDG 63) from November 1997 to February 1999. His most recent assignment was as Executive Assistant to the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Commander Levitt's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Two Gold Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and expeditionary awards.



A. S. LEVITT