



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

Rev 03/26/02  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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Ser 00/011  
05 Mar 02

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 2001

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 Mark Balmert, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN  
Commanding Officer: Commander Adam S. Levitt  
Command Short Title: USS BENFOLD (DDG-65)  
UIC: 21940  
Permanent Duty Station: 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, California

2. Chronology

January 8 - January 12, 2001  
January 22 - January 31, 2001

February 1 - February 2, 2001  
February 2 - February 12, 2001  
February 12 - March 12, 2001  
March 13, 2001

March 15, 2001  
March 20 - March 22, 2001  
March 26, 2001

April 6 - April 11, 2001  
April 16 - April 20, 2001  
April 30, 2001

May 4 - May 7, 2001  
May 9 - May 12, 2001  
May 13 - June 2, 2001  
June 3 - June 6, 2001  
June 7 - July 14, 2001  
July 15 - July 18, 2001

July 19 - July 25, 2001  
July 26 - July 29, 2001  
August 1 - August 9, 2001

August 2, 2001

August 11 - August 14, 2001  
August 20 - August 25, 2001  
August 27 - August 28, 2001  
September 5, 2001

September 6 - September 9, 2001  
September 9 - September 15, 2001  
September 15, 2001  
September 15 - October 16, 2001

Ammunition Onload Seal Beach, CA  
Fleet Exercise/Supporting Arms  
Coordinator Exercise  
Force Protection Exercise (FPEX)  
Joint Tactical Fleet Exercise (JTFFEX)  
Pre-deployment Standdown  
Underway, Southern California Operating  
Areas  
Deployed with CONSTELLATION Battle Group  
Ammunition Onload Pearl Harbor, HI  
Change of Operational Commander, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Fleet  
Port Visit - Melbourne, Australia  
Port Visit - Fremantle, Australia  
Change of Operational Commander, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Fleet  
Port Visit - Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
CONSTELLATION Escort Duties  
Maritime Interdiction Operations  
Port Visit - Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
Maritime Interdiction Operations  
Port Visit - Jebel Ali, United Arab  
Emirates  
Maritime Interdiction Operations  
Port Visit - Mina Sulman, Bahrain  
Command Assessment of Readiness and  
Training I  
Change of Operational Commander 7<sup>th</sup>  
Fleet  
Port Visit - Phuket, Thailand  
Port Visit - Hong Kong  
Mid Cycle Assessment  
Change of Operational Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Fleet  
Ammunition Offload, Pearl Harbor, HI  
Tiger Cruise/Transit to San Diego, CA  
Arrive San Diego, CA  
Post Deployment Stand-down

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October 18, 2001	Underway, Southern California Operating Areas
November 6, 2001	Underway Board of Inspection and Survey Preparations
November 13 - November 15, 2001	Board of Inspection and Survey Rehearsal
November 26 - November 30, 2001	Board of Inspection and Survey
November 27, 2001	Underway Material Inspection
December 1 - December 4, 2001	Transit to Everett, WA
December 3 - December 22, 2001	Pacific Northwest Air Defense Picket Ship (Operation NOBLE EAGLE)
December 5 - December 17, 2001	Inport Everett, WA
December 14, 2001	Planned Maintenance System Stand-down
December 18 - December 22, 2001	Transit to San Diego, CA
December 30, 2001- January 21, 2002	Holiday Stand-down

### 3. Narrative

BENFOLD upheld her reputation as "The Best Damn Ship in the Navy" in 2001. Her unparalleled warfighting capabilities and combat readiness earned her the Commander Destroyer Squadron SEVEN Battle Efficiency Award for 2001, the COMNAVSURFPAC Safety Award, the CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award, and the Silver and Gold Warrior Spirit Awards for qualifying all E-5 and above Surface Warfare Specialists/Officers.

BENFOLD sustained her excellent reputation throughout year with superlative performances during Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX), Joint Training Force Exercise (JTTFEX) and a challenging Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf Deployment. BENFOLD continues to set the standard for excellence in every mission area.

Designated the Alternate Air Defense Commander for the CONSTELLATION Battle Group, BENFOLD rapidly assume Battle Group-wide responsibilities and maintained a coherent and comprehensive air-defense picture on multiple occasions. The Battle Group's air defense training culminated in BENFOLD's flawless execution as Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) for a short-notice, multi-ship, multiple missile firing exercise at a low-altitude supersonic target. BENFOLD's Air Defense expertise and unparalleled material readiness was critical to the safe and picture-perfect execution of this complex exercise. BENFOLD also filled role as Air Defense Commander during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

During the CONSTELLATION Battle Group's transit home from the Arabian Gulf, BENFOLD assumed duties as Air Defense Commander. In this role, BENFOLD planned and executed a comprehensive, short-notice, two-day, dual-carrier, power projection demonstration off the coast of China. BENFOLD's tactical prowess was also clearly evident by her phenomenal ability to defend both the CONSTELLATION Battle Group and the airspace surrounding the Southern California Coast during the initial phases of Operation NOBLE EAGLE immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Upon return from deployment, BENFOLD was immediately assigned duties as the Ready-For-Sea Air Defense ship and later served as the Pacific Northwest Air Defense Picket Ship during further tasking for NOBLE EAGLE. While executing the mission, BENFOLD was the first ship to successfully establish data link interoperability and early warning voice communications connectivity with NORAD, the Western Air Defense Commander, thus providing a complete surveillance picture for multiple air defense sector units.

As the Theater Ballistic Missile Defense Commander for CONSTELLATION Battle Group, BENFOLD pioneered training in the Commander, Fifth Fleet (COMFIFTHFLT) Area of Responsibility (AOR). Through the innovative use of the Theater Event System (TES) Exercise Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) injects, BENFOLD developed and implemented complex training scenarios, ensuring the Air Defense Syndicate for CONSTELLATION Battle Group was prepared for this vital and rapidly developing warfare area.

Throughout the calendar year, BENFOLD continued its reputation as the CONSTELLATION Battle Group's premiere Tomahawk shooter. BENFOLD began the cycle by successfully completing COMTHIRDFLT Strike Warfare training during FLEETEX, JTTFEX and EXERCISE TEXAS THUNDER. While deployed, BENFOLD performed superbly during the

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Commander, Seventh Fleet (COMSEVENTHFLT) directed Tomahawk Exercise FORTRESS RAPTOR. Acting as Alternate Tomahawk Launch Area Coordinator (ALTLAC) on multiple occasions while firing 120+ simulated training missions in the COMFIFTHFLT AOR, BENFOLD was a full up round to execute the short notice strike package response option being considered when CONSTELLATION Battle Group was extended in support of national tasking. Throughout the entire training cycle and deployment to the Arabian Gulf, BENFOLD was identified, time after time, by Commander, CONSTELLATION Battle Group as "the sharpest shooter" in the Task Force.

BENFOLD's Surface Warfare Team maintained their well-deserved reputation as ship killers during ex-JOHN PAUL JONES SINKEK. Firing more than 80 5-inch gun rounds, BENFOLD's team put her to rest on the ocean floor. BENFOLD's peerless conduct of Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) resulted in her being selected to support the 11th Marine's Supporting Arms Coordination Exercise (SACEX). BENFOLD placed more than 200 5-inch gun rounds on target safely without incident and completed all gunnery exercises with outstanding results. Expending 700+ rounds of 5-inch ammunition, 10,000+ rounds of CIWS ammunition, three exercise torpedoes, and 23,000+ rounds of small arms ammunition, BENFOLD maintained an M-1 rating in all weapons firing proficiencies throughout the year.

The ship executed extensive and innovative Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) while deployed to the Arabian Gulf. BENFOLD conducted 28 boardings including three non-compliant escort missions, 45+ health and comfort inspections, six dramatic rescue and assistance operations, countless hours of guardship duty, the towing of a 10,000-ton vessel and escort/turnover of five vessels to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Working with embarked Naval Special Warfare teams, BENFOLD was the ship of choice for MIO surge On-Scene-Commander duties. BENFOLD's aggressive and professional execution of MIO and guardship operations enabled her to safely and effectively manage 23 diverted vessels anchored in the holding area.

During FLEETEX and JTFEX, BENFOLD's Undersea Warfare Team established themselves as the Search and Attack Unit Commander of choice by the Sea Combat Commander in displaying superb tactical prowess. The team's aggressive and skillful prosecution of augmented U.S. nuclear submarines simulating KILO and HAN Diesel Submarines resulted in multiple hours of contact time for tracking, localization and simulated attacks with Vertical Launch ASROC, over the side and LAMPS dropped torpedoes. BENFOLD flawlessly executed the complex undersea warfare exercises with SH-60B LAMPS helicopters culminating in constructive kills of all exercise targets despite significantly unfavorable acoustic conditions.

During one particular undersea warfare exercise while conducting dual-carrier operations in the South China Sea, BENFOLD's ASW Team was singularly responsible for protecting the CONSTELLATION Battle Group from opposing-force submarines. BENFOLD's team aggressively detected, localized and destroyed an opposing force LOS ANGELES class submarine, achieving an umpire ruled kill with vertically launched ASROC before the sub was able to engage the force.

BENFOLD's operational superiority was only matched by her material readiness as validated by a comprehensive material assessment by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) conducted shortly after return from deployment. The ship's ability to critically assess her own material readiness resulted in a score 20% better than the fleet average for the Continuous Ship Maintenance Plan. BENFOLD also earned record setting scores of 93% and 95% in Habitability and Supply. Area Anti-Air Warfare and Anti-Submarine Warfare Detect to Engage demonstrations were graded as 100% and 95% respectively as well.

BENFOLD and her crew executed every mission safely, professionally and effectively as shown by her qualifying for all Mission Area Awards and being awarded the Battle "E". Retention and crew morale was just as critical and key to BENFOLD's superb performance throughout the year. The ship exceeded CNO goals for retention in all ranks and was recognized with the CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award.

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4. 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 (PC 4). 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 shore 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