



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BENFOLD (DDG 65)
FPO AP 96661-1283

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Ser 00/026
26 Feb 03

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 2002

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 Balmert, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN

Commanding Officer: Commander Charles R. Hill

Command Short Title: USS BENFOLD

UIC: 21940

Permanent Duty Station: 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, California

2. Chronology.

January 1 - January 20, 2002

January 22 - January 24, 2002

January 25, 2002

January 26 - January 28, 2002

January 29 - February 01, 2002

February 19 - February 22, 2002

March 4 - March 7, 2002

March 15, 2002

March 20 - April 16, 2002

April 16 - 22 May, 2002

June 17 - June 18, 2002

June 18 - June 20, 2002

Holiday Stand-down

Underway SOCAL FIREX 2

Transit to Seal Beach, CA

Ammo Offload-Naval Weapons

Station, Seal Beach, CA

Transit to San Diego, CA

Underway, Southern California Operating
Areas (SOCAL)

Underway, SOCAL

Change of Command

Drydock Selected Restricted Availability,
Southwest Marine

Readiness Availability, Continental

Maritime, San Diego, CA

Sea Trials/Transit to Seal Beach, CA

Ammo Onload, Naval Weapons

Station, Seal Beach, CA

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June 21 - June 23, 2002	Transit to Port Hueneme, CA
June 24 - June 27, 2002	Combat Systems Groom, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division
June 28, 2002	Transit to San Diego, CA
July 15 - July 16, 2002	Conducted Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II Inport
July 17 - July 19, 2002	Conducted Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II Underway SOCAL
July 22 - July 24, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability Inport
July 25 - August 2, 2002	Fleet Battle Experiment Juliet/Exercise Millenium Challenge, Underway SOCAL
August 12 - August 16, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability Inport
August 19 - August 23, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability Inport
August 27, 2002	COMDESRON SEVEN Navigation Certification Check Ride, Underway SOCAL
September 3 - 13 September, 2002	NIMITZ Battle Group Sail/ MISSILEX, Underway SOCAL
September 16 - 19 September, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability, Underway SOCAL
September 20 - 22 September, 2002	Port Visit - San Francisco, CA
September 23 - 27 September, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability, Underway SOCAL
October 1 - October 4, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability, Underway SOCAL
October 3 - October 4, 2002	Successfully passed Underway Demonstration SOCAL
October 6, 2002	San Diego Fleet Week Underway San Diego Harbor
October 15 - October 18, 2002	Tailored Ship's Training Availability, Inport
October 21 - October 23, 2002	Final Evaluation Problem Preparations, Underway SOCAL
October 24 - October 25, 2002	Successfully passed Final Evaluation Problem Underway SOCAL
November 1 - November 8, 2002	NIMITZ Battle Group Sustainment Sail, Underway SOCAL

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November 11 – November 13, 2002
November 14 – November 16, 2002
November 17 – November 22, 2002
December 3 – December 5, 2002

Transit to Mazatlan, Mexico
Port Visit - Mazatlan, Mexico
Transit/FIREX, Underway SOCAL
NIMITZ Battle Group Force Protection
Exercise Inport
Holiday Stand-down

December 17 – December 31, 2002

3. Narrative.

BENFOLD upheld her reputation as “The Best Damn Ship in the Navy” this past calendar year. Her unparalleled warfighting capabilities and combat readiness earned her high praise throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, the SECNAV Safety Award for 2001, the CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award for 2001, and the Silver and Gold Warrior Spirit Awards for qualifying all E-5 and above Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists within the time allotted.

BENFOLD sustained her excellent reputation throughout the year with superlative performance during Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Part 2 (CART II), Final Evaluation Problem (FEP), Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Test Events, and multiple Battle Group Inport Exercise’s (BGIE’s). BENFOLD continues to set the standard for excellence in every mission area.

Designated the Alternate Undersea Warfare Commander for the NIMITZ Battle Group, BENFOLD rapidly assumed Battle Group-wide responsibilities and maintained a coherent and comprehensive Undersea Warfare picture during multiple exercises. BENFOLD was often looked to provide Red Crown duties because of her consistently clean and capable air warfare picture.

Throughout the calendar year, BENFOLD continued with her reputation as top Tomahawk shooters in one of NIMITZ Battle Group. BENFOLD began the cycle by successfully completing Afloat Training Group, Pacific’s (ATG PAC) Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ). Throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle BENFOLD excelled at every challenge.

4. Commanding Officer Biography.

Commander Charles R. Hill graduated from the University of Southern California in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and received his commission through the NROTC program.

Duties ashore have included assignment as a test officer on the staff of the Operational Test and Evaluation Force Pacific and as the Surface Warfare Plans and Policy action officer on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (N86).

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Following commissioning, Commander Hill was assigned as Communications and Anti-Submarine Officer in USS HEPBURN (FF 1055). Subsequent sea tours included assignments to USS HALSEY (CG 23) as Combat Information Center Officer, USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD 968) and USS YORKTOWN (CG 48) as Operations Officer, USS PRINCETON (CG 59) as Executive Officer and as Theater Air Defense/Tomahawk Officer and Flag Secretary for the Commander THIRD Fleet.

Commander Hill has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with one Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars and the Navy Achievement Medal with two Gold Stars and various unit and expeditionary awards.



C. R. HILL