



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS DECATUR (DDG 73)  
FPO AP 96663-1290

5750  
Ser DDG 73/1084  
19 JUL 00

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M. O. de la*

From: Commanding Officer, USS DECATUR (DDG 73)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical  
Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

- Encl:
- (1) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Command Composition and Organization
  - (2) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) 1996-1999 Command Chronology and Historical Narrative
  - (3) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Commissioning Book Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and Command Master Chief
  - (4) Command Philosophy
  - (5) DECATUR Photograph

1. Enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded per reference (a) to be included in USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Ship's History file.

P. A. GUMATAOTAO

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**USS DECATUR (DDG 73)  
SHIP HISTORY  
19 Jan 1993 – 11 July 2000**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
19 January 1993	Contract Signed
11 January 1996	Keel Laying
13 July 1996	Mast Stepping Ceremony
8-9 November 1996	Launch Day – Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine. The launch was originally scheduled for the 8 <sup>th</sup> of November, but because of strong winds and the danger of the ship entering the water under those conditions, the actual launch was conducted the morning of the 9 <sup>th</sup> . The ceremony with all the major speakers was conducted on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of November. Mrs. Shalikashvili, DECATUR's sponsor christened the ship on the 8 <sup>th</sup> as part of the ceremony and then a second time on the 9 <sup>th</sup> when the ship was actually launched off the rails into the Kennebec River. 30 plus members of the Commissioning crew came from San Diego, Rhode Island, and other commands around America to Bath to be a part of the ceremony.
October/November 1997	Engineering Department attended the LBES training facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
November 1997	"A" Trials.
25 December 1997	DECATUR's first annual Christmas party in DECATUR University, a renovated Reserve center turned into training rooms for the Precommissioning Unit.
5 January 1998	Phase IV Balance Crew arrives in Bath, ME at the Pre-commissioning unit. All 300 crew members arrive from San Diego and other commands. The detachment in San Diego is closed down.
21-25 January 1998	"B" Trials.
January 1998	Ice Storms. Engineering Console Operations Team Training, Newport, Rhode Island. Engineering Department members visited the Surface Warfare Officer School to practice operation of

DECATUR's propulsion plant in a new simulator. They also attended the LBES training facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- 22 February- 13 March 1998 Radioman and Electronic Technician Team Training, St. Indigos, Maryland. All the RM's and ET's practiced configuring a communications suite just like the one onboard to provide the communications needed at sea.
- 15- 30 March 1998 Combat Information Center Team Trainer, Wallops Island, Virginia. Training provided a series of realistic command and control scenarios to develop methods for dealing with Anti-ship cruise missiles, attacking aircraft, torpedoes from submarines and gunfire from surface ships. The team completed training with praise from the staff of instructors.
- March 1998 Fire Fighting and Helicopter Crash and Fire Fighting in Norfolk, Virginia. Donning the same fire fighting ensembles used at sea, these trainees learned team techniques for battling fires aboard ship and simulated battling helicopter crashes on a flight deck.
- February/March 1998 Light Off Assessment Preparations  
Crew Certification Preps  
Publication Inventory  
Supply warehouse on-load preps  
"C" trials
- 13 March 1998 Ship's Custody Transfer, the Navy took custody of DECATUR from BIW, at this point the ship became an official Navy asset.
- 1 May 1998 Crew Move Aboard
- May 1998 Crew Certification Phase I
- 5 - 12 June 1998 Crew Certification Phase II  
Light Off Assessment
- 19 June 1998 Commissioned Without Ceremony. Commodore Pat Garrett, COMDESRON 23, put DECATUR in Commission without Ceremony in Bath, Maine.
- 22 June 1998 Dry Dock. DECATUR was put into dry dock in Portland, Maine due to a CRP leak in the starboard shaft seal.

4 July 1998	DECATUR hosts the shipbuilders from Bath Iron Works and their families for tours and a barbecue on the flight deck.
6 July 1998	Sailaway from Portland, Maine.
13 July 1998	Naval Weapon Station, Yorktown, Virginia for weapons onload.
20 July 1998	Mayport, Florida port visit
28 July 1998	Port visit Puerto Rico.
29 July 1998	NGFS range Puerto Rico, shot over 140 five inch shells and scored 99.25% on the range, during FIREX I.
3 August 1998	Panama Canal transit
11-14 August 1998	Port visit Puerta Vallarta, Mexico
21- 23 August 1998	Port visit Longview, Washington. The transit from Longview to Portland, Oregon provided a chance to have many riders on board. DECATUR hosted over 200 passengers for the transit up the Columbia River ranging from Delayed Entry Program Candidates from the Naval Recruiting Depot in Portland to family members and a host of media personnel.
26 – 31 August 1998	Commissioning Week in Portland, Oregon. Television and newspaper coverage touted the ship's arrival for the first commissioning ceremony in Portland, OR. DECATUR hosted for the Portland Navy League and the Reserve Centers. General topside ship tours were open to the public on Saturday and Sunday after the commissioning ceremony. Over 1000 people visited the ship this weekend.
29 August 1998	Commissioning Ceremony, Portland, Oregon
4 September 1998	Arrival in Homeport San Diego, California
October 1998	Emergent Drydock in Southwest Marine shipyard for repairs on the starboard shaft.
November 1998	Acoustic Trials in SOCAL

December 1998	Combat Systems SQT/ 14 out of 14 Missile shots hit the target, PMRF Hawaii. Returned to San Diego just before Christmas
January 1999	Acoustic trials continue Final Contract Trials, DECATUR passed with flying colors.
February- April 1999	Post Shakedown Availability period in Southwest Marine shipyard. The crew lived and worked on a berthing barge. Most ships are allowed a twelve week availability period, but DECATUR was able to complete these jobs in only nine weeks and was awarded the AEGIS Excellence award for efficiency during the Shakedown period.
April 1999	Sea Trials
April 1999	Deperming Pier. After a successful move back aboard the ship DECATUR spent three days at the Deperm pier on Point Loma.
19 April 1999	DECATUR Family Day Cruise enroute to Seal Beach, CA for an ammo onload. This was DECATUR's first Family day cruise with over 150 family members taking part. DECATUR had Damage Control demonstrations of a Helicopter crash and smash drill and Small arms static display. The Supply department provided a Steel Beach picnic to top off the day.
25 April 1999	Decatur Island, Washington visit. DECATUR anchored off the little island and ran the RHIB boats to and from the ship to provide the community ship tours. In return the community of Decatur Island held a picnic complete with a basketball court and a campfire.
26-30 April 1999	Vancouver, British Columbia port visit. Ship tours were provided for a few groups including the Canadian Standards Association, the Royal Canada Sea Cadets Corps, and the Navy League Cadet Corps.
5 May 1999	Returned to San Diego.
28 Jun – 02 Jul 1999	TSTA – Engineering
28 Jun 1999	Safety Stand-down

12-16 July 1999	Underway – EOCC Drills, CMTQT, VBSS Training
29 Jun – 02 Jul 1999	USW LTT
8 July 1999	Crew shifted to Departmental Berthing
30 July 1999	Embarked CDS23 Staff
31 July 1999	Departed San Diego enroute Seattle, via Everett
03 August 1999	Arrived Everett, Washington - RON
04 August 1999	Embarked 150 Guest Riders. Departed Everett, enroute Seattle Washington as a parade of ships for the Seattle Seafair. Visitors enjoyed a steel beach picnic. Arrived Pier 66.
09 August 1999	Departed Seattle enroute San Diego. Conducted Divtacs, Integrated Training Team Scenarios.
12 August 1999	1242 Copied Pan Pan transmission with regards to a car carrier on fire about 80 NM away. Established comms with CG Station Long Beach they requested our assistance. DECATUR, in company with the BUNKER HILL proceeded at best speed to Gardenia Ace. BUNKER HILL Launched helo which arrived onscene with CG C-130. After 3 hour transit DECATUR arrived onscene, launched RHIB (John) with R&A Team. Conducted an inspection to determine seaworthyness. Found the engineroom unsatisfactory, and the CG ordered the Gardenia Ace to remain in position with the BUNKER HILL. DECATUR's team did an outstanding job climbing the high freeboard, and conducting a danger inspection, not knowing what they were going to find. At 2000, DECATUR was released from the scene and proceeded to San Diego.
13 August 1999	Conducted EA exercise south of San Clemente. Moored San Diego.
23-27 August 1999	CMTQ – Tomahawk/Harpoon – passed successfully!
31 Aug-01 Sept 1999	USS DECATUR completed FEP successfully! STT Harbor Package, 3 Integrated Training Team Drills
07 September 1999	Underway for EQUAL

09-10 September 1999	Embarked CDS23 and EQUAL Riders – passed successfully. Moored NAVSTA
13 September 1999	Commenced IMAV, FADWC, Embarked CDS23 Staff
26 Sept – 02 Oct 1999	GTM Engine Groom
26 Sept – 04 Oct 1999	CDS23 Embarked
03 – 09 October 1999	SEAMAT
07 October 1999	Pre-deployment Fair
09 October 1999	Navy Ball
17 – 23 October 1999	Install of 97 new computers Anthrax Vaccinations SMI SRTT
04 – 10 November 1999	CSRR
10 - 11 November 1999	Underway – MRG Testing
12 – 21 November 1999	JTFEX
29 Nov – 01 Dec 1999	Underway SOCAL Oparea
02 – 03 December 1999	Seal Beach, CA
05 January 1999	Underway – Sea Trials
07 January 2000	Underway for Maiden Western Pacific Deployment
18 January 2000	Chopped to 7 <sup>th</sup> Fleet
13-14 January 2000	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
14 January 2000	Berth shift to Lualualei, Hawaii TLAM onload
22 January 2000	UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANOCK
26 – 29 January 2000	Sharem 2000 – Yellow Sea (Joint USW exercise with ROKN and USN forces)

30 Jan – 03 Feb 2000	Inport Chinhae, South Korea Community Relations Project at Good Samaritan Rehabilitation and local Orphanage Crewmembers visit Pusan
07-12 February 2000	Yokosuka, Japan VLS swap-out- DECATUR accomplishes mission of bringing weapons to SEVENTH FLEET OPAREA.
14 – 17 February 2000	Nagasaki, Japan Community Relations Project at Convent of the Holy Child Jesus Crewmembers visited historical sites such as the Peace Park, Atomic Bomb Hypocenter and Atomic Bomb museum, as well as attended the Nagasaki Lantern Festival
18 February 2000	BSF Okinawa, Japan
20-21 February 2000	Taiwan Strait Transit
22 – 25 February 2000	Hong Kong Community Relations Project at Crossroads Crewmembers took tours to places such as Victoria’s Peak, Ocean Park, Stanley Market, and TSL Jewelry Factory.
28 Feb – 01 Mar 2000	Balikatan Exercise – South China Sea (Amphibious exercise with USS FORT MCHENRY and Philippine Navy) PAX cross-deck with USS FORT MCHENRY
02 Mar 2000	UNREP with USNS SPICA
06 – 09 March 2000	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia Crewmembers stay at Magellan Resort Hotel and participate in whitewater rafting and Orangutan Sanctuary tours
13 – 17 March 2000	Guam CO’s (CDR Gumataotao) homecoming Major Flight Deck Reception Community Relations Project at Alee Shelter and Sanctuary
22 – 25 March 2000	SOCEX 00-02 – Philippine Sea (Exercise with USN amphibians and marines) PAX Cross-deck with USS BELLEAU WOOD

23 March 2000	UNREP with USNS RAPPAHANOCK
29 – 31 March 2000	Guam
03 April 2000	Crossing the Line Ceremony
09 – 13 April 2000	Suva, Fiji Community Relations Project at the Humane Society
14 – 19 April 2000	Pago Pago, American Samoa – Centennial Celebration Major Flight Deck Reception Military Recognition Ceremony at Veteran Memorial Stadium CO elected High Chieftain
26 April – 01 May 2000	Sydney, Australia Wardroom reception on host ship HMAS ARUNTA Wardroom reception with Australian American Association
01 May 2000	Group Sail/DIVTACS with RAN NSFS at Jervis Bay
03 – 07 May 2000	Brisbane, Australia Crewmembers meet Steve (Crocodile Hunter) and Teri Irwin
10-13 May 2000	Torres and Clarence Strait transit
13 – 17 May 2000	Darwin, Australia
17 May 2000	USS PEARY (DD-226) Memorial Service
19 May 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Crossing the Line Ceremony
23 – 24 May 2000	Guam
29 May 2000	Chopped to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fleet
01 – 02 June 2000	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii – Tigers boarded USS MISSOURI and ARIZONA Memorials Reenlistments Crewmembers enjoy Germaine's Luau
08 June 2000	Arrive San Diego – Homecoming
08 June – 11 July 2000	Post Overseas Movement Stand Down

12 June 2000	Embark CDS 23 Pennant
19 June 2000	Semi-annual PRT
30 June 2000	Semi-annual PRT