



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS FITZGERALD Command History/Major Events Calendar Year 1996
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

G. M. HOLST

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
CALENDAR YEAR 1996

1. Command History and Organization.

The mission of USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) is to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, in support of U.S. national policy. She is equipped to operate in a high density, multi-threat environment as an integral member of a carrier battle group, surface action group or underway replenishment group. In addition to her own self defense capabilities in anti-air warfare (AAW), under sea warfare (USW), surface warfare (SUW), FITZGERALD can effectively provide local area protection to the battle group, surface action group and other ships.

USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) is home ported in San Diego, CA and assigned to Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three. USS FITZGERALD is commanded by CDR G. M. Holst.

2. Chronology of major events.

01-04 JAN	Inport San Diego
05-16 JAN	Transit to Pearl Harbor
19-31 JAN	Underway, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii (PMRF)
21 JAN	Kingfisher Sonar (prototype), Mine Detection Range Operations
22 JAN	Weapon System Accuracy Trials, PMRF
23 JAN	Antisubmarine Ship Qualification Trials, PMRF
28-30 JAN	Manned Raid TRACK-EX, PMRF
31 JAN-05 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
05-14 FEB	Underway, PMRF
06-08 FEB	Prospective Submarine Commanding Officer HOLLYWOOD Operations with USS HELENA and USS OLYMPIA
09-13 FEB	Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trial MISSILE-EX
14-16 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
16-22 FEB	Transit to San Diego
22 FEB-04 MAR	Inport San Diego
05-08 MAR	Underway, SETT-8 MISSILE-EX
07 MAR	Special Engineering Test Target-8, Pacific Missile Test Center, San Nicholas CA (PMTTC)
09-13 MAR	Inport San Diego
11-15 MAR	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II
14 MAR	Underway, CART II Engineering Drills
15 MAR-07 APR	Inport San Diego

20 MAR	Ship-wide Safety Stand-down
25-29 MAR	Board of Inspection and Survey Visit (INSURV)
01-26 APR	Total Ship's Training Availability II
08-12 APR	Underway, TSTA II
13-21 APR	Inport San Diego
15-19 APR	Logistics Assessment Training Review
17 APR	Ship-wide Safety Stand-down
23-26 APR	Underway, TSTA II
27-28 APR	Inport San Diego
29 APR-03 MAY	Underway TSTA MISSILE-EX
01 MAY	Total Ship's Training Availability MISSILE-EX, PMTC
06-08 MAY	Underway, Ammo Off-load
20 MAY-07 AUG	Post-Shakedown Availability
20-24 MAY	Target Motion Analysis Team Trainer
22-26 JUL	ASW Phase II Team Training
09 AUG	Departed Southwest Marine Shipyard
06-07 AUG	Post-PSA Sea Trials
08-18 AUG	Inport San Diego
19-23 AUG	Deperming Point Loma, CA
21 AUG	Post-PSA MK-41 Vertical Launching System Magazine Certification
24-25 AUG	Inport San Diego
26 AUG-09 SEP	Underway, Independent Steaming
06 SEP	Special Engineering TRACK-EX
10-15 SEP	Inport San Diego
10-13 SEP	Naval Food Management Team Assist Visit
16-20 SEP	Underway, Independent Steaming
19-29 SEP	Inport San Diego
23-24 SEP	ISIC Command Inspection
24 SEP	Comprehensive Communication Assessment (CCC-27-SF)
30 SEP-01 OCT	Engineering Certification
02-10 OCT	Inport San Diego
05 OCT	Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Trial
11 OCT-21 OCT	Underway, Port Visit Manzanillo, Mexico
22-28 OCT	Inport San Diego
29-31 OCT	Final Evaluation Period
01-03 NOV	Inport San Diego
04-07 NOV	COMPUTEX 95-5A/ITA with USS CONSTELLATION
07 NOV	Optionally Piloted Vehicle Electronic Attack Demonstration
07-18 NOV	Inport San Diego
12-15 NOV	Logistics Management Assessment
18 NOV	Combat Systems Readiness Review
18 NOV-08 DEC	Inport San Diego
09-13 DEC	Underway, FIREX II, San Clemente, Inport Seal Beach, CA

14-31 DEC Holiday Stand-down

3. Summary of Events. The year began with FITZGERALD being catapulted into a series of qualifications and trials challenging both crew and combat systems. January and February saw a San Diego-Hawaii-San Diego transit with numerous live weapons firings, tactical war fighting scenarios, nuclear attack submarine trackings and multiple ship maneuvering exercises. Upon return to Southern California, FITZGERALD then prevailed through tactical training cycles which included several inspections, assists and underway steaming opportunities. In this time-frame we also had the chance to engage in weapons engineering and development projects. The Spring drew to a close and the Summer months were occupied with the wail of the grinder and torch as FITZGERALD underwent extensive material upgrades and modifications in the three month Post-Shakedown Availability in Southwest Marine Shipyard. Autumn arrived and ushered in FITZGERALD's first deperming cycle at Point Loma and a return to the vigorous pre-deployment training evolutions. Among the major hurdles cleared were Engineering Certification, Final Evaluation Phase, Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification and Comprehensive Communications Assessment. The end of the year was capped with an Opposing Force exercise with the CONSTELLATION Battle Group, a deployment ammunition shipfill onload, and a return to San Diego for a holiday leave and upkeep period.