



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)  
FPO AP 96665-1200

*Rec'd 8/31/98  
w/o disk*

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5750

Ser DDG62/ **083**

**JUN 29 1998**

From: Commanding Officer, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)

To: Director of Naval History, Washington, DC

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS FITZGERALD Command History/Major Events, Calendar Year 1997  
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (CDR Charles W. Martoglio, Commanding Officer)  
(3) Change of Command Pamphlet  
(4) USS FITZGERALD Photograph

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

  
C. W. MARTOGLIO

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CINCPACFLT  
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COMDESRON TWO THREE

COMMAND HISTORY  
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)  
CALENDAR YEAR 1997

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. The ship 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 its own self defense capabilities in air warfare (AW), 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 C. W. Martoglio.

2. Chronology of major events.

01-09 JAN	Inport San Diego, Holiday Upkeep
09-17 JAN	Underway, Middle East Force Exercise (MEFEX) 97-1 Phase II
18-21 JAN	Underway, CONSTELLATION Battlegroup Fleet Exercise 97-1
21 JAN-20 FEB	Inport San Diego, Pre-Overseas Movement (POM)
21 FEB-21 AUG	Deployed, Pacific Middle East Force (PACMEF) 97-1
21-27 FEB	Underway, enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
27 FEB-01 MAR	Inport Pearl Harbor
01-10 MAR	Underway, enroute Guam
07 MAR	Change Operational Commander, United States SEVENTH Fleet
10 MAR	Brief Stop for Fuel, Guam
10-15 MAR	Underway, enroute Hong Kong
15-19 MAR	Inport Hong Kong
19-22 MAR	Underway, enroute Singapore
22-25 MAR	Inport Singapore
25-29 MAR	Underway, enroute Maldives
29 MAR-03 APR	Inport Maldives
03 APR	Change Operational Commander, United States FIFTH Fleet
03-05 APR	Exercise Arabian Skies 97-1 with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) and USS VELLA GULF (CG 72)
03-07 APR	Underway, enroute Bahrain
06 APR	Transit Strait of Hormuz. Enter Arabian Gulf.
07-10 APR	Anchored Bahrain
10-19 APR	Underway, Arabian Gulf for Maritime Interception Operations (MIO)

19-22 APR	Inport Jeb El Ali, United Arab Emirates
22 APR-02 MAY	Underway, North Arabian Gulf for MIO
30 APR	Change of Command, CDR Gary M. Holst relieved by CDR Charles W. Martoglio
02-05 MAY	Inport Dubai, United Arab Emirates
05-19 MAY	Underway, Arabian Gulf for MIO
19-24 MAY	Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
24 MAY-11 JUN	Underway, CV escort for USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64)
10 JUN	Anchored Bahrain
10-11 JUN	Underway, Arabian Gulf
11-19 JUN	Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
16 JUN	Host ship for Secretary of Defense
19-26 JUN	Underway, enroute Seychelles
20 JUN	Transit Strait of Hormuz, Depart Arabian Gulf
26 JUN-01 JUL	Inport Port Victoria, The Seychelles
01-02 JUL	Underway, enroute Mombassa, Kenya
02-05 JUL	Mombassa, Kenya
09 JUL	Change Operational Commander, United States SEVENTH Fleet.
05-11 JUL	Underway, enroute Diego Garcia
11 JUL	Brief Stop for Fuel, Diego Garcia
11-25 JUL	Underway enroute Sydney, Australia
24-25 JUL	PASSEX with HMAS Sydney
25 JUL-01 AUG	Inport Sydney, Australia
01-06 AUG	Underway, enroute Suva Harbor, Fiji
06 AUG	Brief Stop for Fuel, Suva, Fiji
06-13 AUG	Underway, enroute Pearl Harbor
09 AUG	Change Operational Commander, United States THIRD Fleet.
13-15 AUG	Inport Pearl Harbor
15-21 AUG	Underway, enroute San Diego
21 AUG-23 SEP	Inport San Diego for Post-Deployment Leave and Upkeep
23-24 SEP	Underway, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA
24-26 SEP	Inport Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA for Ammunition off-load
26 SEP	Underway, enroute San Diego
26 SEP-03 OCT	Inport San Diego
03 OCT	Underway, Continental Maritime Shipyard, San Diego
03-12 DEC	Inport Continental Maritime Shipyard for Selected Restricted Availability (SRA)
12 DEC	Underway, Southern California Operating Area for SRA sea trials
12-15 DEC	Inport San Diego
15-16 DEC	Underway, ABRAHAM LINCOLN Battle Group ITA Opposing Force
16-17 DEC	Enroute Seal Beach
17-18 DEC	Inport Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach for ammunition on-load

18 DEC Underway, enroute San Diego  
18-31 DEC Inport San Diego for Holiday Leave and Upkeep

3. Summary of Events. FITZGERALD began the year completing preparations for the ship's first deployment. Following Middle East Force Exercise Phase II and CONSTELLATION Battle Group Fleet Exercise 97-1, FITZGERALD was inport San Diego for the ship's Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Period. On 21 February 1997, FITZGERALD deployed on Pacific Middle East Force (PACMEF) 97-1. Joining USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964), USS INGRAHAM (FFG 61), and HMCS REGINA (FFH 334), enroute to the Arabian Gulf, FITZGERALD enjoyed port visits in Hawaii, Guam, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Maldives.

On 06 April 1997, FITZGERALD transited the Strait of Hormuz in order to conduct turnover briefings with USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60) in Bahrain; and ultimately proceeded to the North Arabian Gulf (NAG) to begin Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in support of U.N. Security Council Resolutions against Iraq. On 30 April 1997, CDR Gary M. Holst was relieved by CDR Charles W. Martoglio while underway in the NAG. While in the Arabian Gulf, FITZGERALD conducted over thirty boardings in support of U.N. sanctions against Iraq, served as the Tomahawk ready strike platform, and made port visits to Bahrain; and Jebel Ali and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Upon INCHOP of the CONSTELLATION Battle Group, FITZGERALD was assigned as CV escort for the CONSTELLATION, serving as AAW escort and planeguard while CONSTELLATION operated in CVOA4, CVOA3, and at anchor off Bahrain. FITZGERALD transited the Strait of Hormuz and departed the Arabian Gulf on 20 June. Prior to departing the Arabian Gulf, FITZGERALD served as host platform for a visit by the Secretary of Defense which included a COMFIFTHFLT AOR OPINTEL briefing by FITZGERALD's Commanding Officer and an opportunity for the Secretary to meet crewmembers.

Prior to commencing the transit home, FITZGERALD was assigned two representational port visits; one to Port Victoria, Seychelles; and one to Mombasa, Kenya. The purpose of the port visits was to demonstrate U.S. interests in both countries and to serve as a host platform for Fourth of July receptions co-hosted by FITZGERALD's Commanding Officer and the U.S. Ambassador to each country. FITZGERALD also stopped in Sydney, Australia for a one week port visit on the transit home. After a brief stop for fuel in Suva, Fiji, FITZGERALD stopped for two days in Pearl Harbor for post-deployment briefings to CINCPACFLT staff and to embark sixty Tigers for the final leg of the transit home.

For their deployment service, the crew of FITZGERALD was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and a Sea Service Deployment ribbon.

After a month of post-deployment leave and upkeep, FITZGERALD shifted berths to Continental Maritime Shipyard, San Diego, to undergo COMNAVSURFPAC's first nine week Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). During the SRA, FITZGERALD received new equipment and upgrades to many systems including the installation of Extremely High Frequency (EHF) communications equipment; Tactical Digital Information Link (TADIL) J, known as Link-16; the Advanced Tomahawk Weapons Control System (ATWCS); and a plastics waste processor. Following SRA sea trials, an ammunition on-load, and an emergent assignment as the opposition force for the LINCOLN Battle Group's integrated training assessment, FITZGERALD's crew ended the year at home during their holiday leave and upkeep period.

USS FITZGERALD was awarded a "Battle E" for the ship's outstanding performance during calendar year 1997. Additionally, the ship received the following command excellence awards for calendar year 1997: Maritime Warfare (Power Projection/Sea Control), Engineering/Survivability, Command and Control, and Logistics Management, as well as COMNAVSURFPAC's Ship Safety Award and the Unit Wellness Award (Green H).