



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)  
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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 1998  
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (CDR James S. Grant, Commanding Officer)  
(3) Change of Command Pamphlet  
(4) USS FITZGERALD Photograph

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

  
J. S. GRANT

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COMDESRON TWO THREE

COMMAND HISTORY  
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)  
JANUARY 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 1998

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), undersea warfare (USW) and anti-surface warfare (SUW), FITZGERALD can effectively provide local area protection to the battle group, surface action group or other ships.

USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) is homeported in San Diego, CA, and assigned to Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three. USS FITZGERALD was commanded by CDR C. W. Martoglio from April 30, 1997 to October 23, 1998, and is currently commanded by CDR J. S. Grant.

2. Chronology of major events.

USS FITZGERALD's 1998 OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE

01-05 January	Inport, San Diego, Holiday Stand-down
06-09 January	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA
10 January-01 February	Inport, San Diego, SRA Phase 2
02-08 February	Inport, San Diego, CART II
09-12 February	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA
13 February-01 March	Inport, San Diego, Tomahawk Material Certification
02-08 March	Inport, San Diego, TSTA I
09-13 March	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, USW Training
14-15 March	Inport, San Diego
16-19 March	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, MISSILEX
20-21 March	Inport, San Diego
22-27 March	Underway, CONSTELLATION Battle Group COMPTUEX
28 March-05 April	Inport, San Diego, TSTA II
06-13 April	Inport, San Diego, CSRR
14 April	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, CSRR
15-20 April	Inport, San Diego, CSRR
21-23 April	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, TSTA II
24-27 April	Inport, San Diego
28-30 April	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, TSTA II
01-03 May	Inport, San Diego
04-06 May	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA

07-15 May	Inport, San Diego, ECERT
16-26 May	COMDESRON 23 Embarked
27-29 May	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA
30 May-01 June	Inport, San Diego
02-04 June	Underway, FEP Preparations
05-09 June	Inport, San Diego
10-12 June	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, FEP
13-14 June	Inport, San Diego
15-16 June	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, COMTRAMID
17-24 June	Inport, San Diego
25-26 June	Underway, Enroute to Santa Barbara
27-28 June	Port Visit, Santa Barbara
29-30 June	Underway, Return to San Diego
01-13 July	Inport, San Diego
14-16 July	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA, TORPEX
17-19 July	Inport, San Diego
20 July	Dependents Cruise
21 July-11 August	Inport, San Diego
12-14 August	Underway, AAW Training
15 August-14 September	Inport, San Diego, MEFEX Phase II, IMAV
15-24 September	Underway, MEFEX Phase II, Battle Group Sustainment Training
25 September-04 October	Inport, San Diego
05 October	Underway, Enroute to Seal Beach, Ca
06-07 October	Inport, Seal Beach, CA, Weapons Onload
08 October	Underway, Return to San Diego
09 October-04 November	Inport, San Diego, Pre-Deployment Leave and Stand-down
23 October	CDR James S. Grant relieved CDR Charles W. Martoglio as Commanding Officer, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
05 November	Fast Cruise
06 November	Underway, Pre-deployment Ready-For-Sea Period
10 November-03 May	Deployed, CARL VINSON Battle Group
14-18 November	ASWEX 99-1
22 November	CHOP to SEVENTHFLT AOR
02-07 December	Port Visit: Singapore
08-13 December	Port Visit: Phuket, Thailand
18 December	CHOP to FIFTHFLT AOR
18-22 December	Operation Desert Fox
22-28 December	Maritime Interception Operations, North Arabian Gulf
29-31 December	Anchored, Bahrain Bell, Arabian Gulf

### 3. Summary of Events

From starting the year with the completion of Phase Two of a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) to finishing it off with operations in the Arabian Gulf, 1998 proved to be a successful year for FITZGERALD. In addition to the SRA, January was also the beginning of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). FITZGERALD completed the CART II portion of the IDTC in February with one-third of the training teams assessed at the TSTA III Level. Half of the training teams were assessed at this level by the end of the TSTA I Phase, which finished in the first week of March. The remainder of March was spent conducting both inport and at-sea combat systems training in preparation for the Combat Systems Readiness Review, which was accomplished during the month of April. Throughout the course of the year, FITZGERALD excelled in numerous combat readiness evaluations, including a SM-2 BLKII engagement versus a drone, a SVTT-launched MK 46 engagement against a MK 39 target, a 5" 54 caliber gun engagement against towed air and surface targets, and a Phalanx CIWS engagement versus an towed air target. FITZGERALD finished the month of April by completing TSTA II. During May, engineering became the focus as FITZGERALD achieved engineering certification with a training program described by evaluators as the "model for the waterfront." The intense training during the first few months of the year culminated in mid-June, when FITZGERALD set a new standard by successfully completing the Final Evaluation Problem in only two days, a feat never accomplished by a DDG-51 class ship in San Diego. In addition, FITZGERALD accomplished this feat in only half the underway time normally required. At the end of June, FITZGERALD made a port visit to Santa Barbara, CA, and on July 20, 1998, the crew welcomed friends and family in FITZGERALD as part of a one-day dependent cruise. In preparation for the upcoming deployment, FITZGERALD spent much of August working with the other members of the Carl Vinson Battle group and the Middle East Expeditionary Force. In mid-September, FITZGERALD was underway conducting battle group operations, such as flight control, communications training and combined force operations, with USS CARL VINSON Battle Group. FITZGERALD got underway again in early October to finish final preparations for the deployment with a weapons onload at Seal Beach, CA. Upon return from Seal Beach, FITZGERALD entered a four-week leave period. On October 23, 1998, CDR James S. Grant relieved CDR Charles W. Martoglio as Commanding Officer in a ceremony held at Naval Station, San Diego. After a one day ready-for-sea cruise on November 6, 1998, FITZGERALD deployed with the CARL VINSON Battle Group to the Arabian Gulf. The initial phase of the deployment concentrated on battle group support operations, including Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise 99-1, during which FITZGERALD excelled and was recognized for her exceptional ASW capabilities. After brief port visits to Singapore and Phuket, Thailand, FITZGERALD began the remaining portion of the voyage to the Gulf. On December 16, 1998, FITZGERALD was ordered to flank speed and arrive at the Gulf to immediately support OPERATION DESERT FOX, the strike mission against Iraq

targeted against Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction. After three days at maximum speed, FITZGERALD entered the Gulf, and on December 19, 1998, fired a number of Tomahawk missiles in support of the ongoing operation. With almost no delay, the ship then began conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations in support of United Nations Sanctions against Iraq. The ship wrapped up 1998 at anchorage at Bahrain Bell, looking back at a successful year and forward to another in 1999.