



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 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS FITZGERALD Command History/Major Events January 1, 1999 to  
December 31, 1999  
(2) Highlight Matrix  
(3) Command History 3 1/2" Disk  
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(5) USS FITZGERALD Photograph

1. Enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted in accordance with reference  
(a).

  
AL COLLINS, SR.

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**COMMAND HISTORY  
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)  
1 JANUARY 2000 TO 31 DECEMBER 2000**

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. FITZGERALD's robust combat systems provide capabilities in Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Undersea Warfare (USW) and Anti-Surface Warfare (SUW), projecting power throughout all spectrums of maritime operations.

USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) is home ported in San Diego, California and assigned to Destroyer Squadron Twenty Three, with Unit Identification Code R21824. CDR Al Collins, Sr. relieved CDR J. S. Grant as Commanding Officer of USS FITZGERALD on 19 April 2000.

2. Chronology of Major Events

01-09 JAN	Inport, San Diego	Holiday Stand Down
10-14 JAN	Inport, San Diego	Fast Cruise
15-17 JAN	Inport, San Diego	
18-23 JAN	Inport, San Diego	TSTA B Inport. CMTQ
24-30 JAN	Underway, SOCAL	TSTA B Underway.
31 JAN	Inport, San Diego	TSTA B Inport. CMTQ
01-04 FEB	Underway, SOCAL	TSTA B Underway. CMTQ
05-18 FEB	Inport, San Diego	TSTA B Inport
19-22 FEB	Inport, San Diego	
23 FEB	Underway, SOCAL	FEP
24 FEB-14 APR	Inport, San Diego	IMAV, Corrosion Control, R/O, IT-21 Install
15-18 APR	Inport, San Diego	
19 APR	Inport, San Diego	Change of Command Ceremony
20-23 APR	Inport, San Diego	
24-28 APR	Underway, SOCAL	
29-30 APR	Inport, San Diego	
01-05 MAY	Inport, San Diego	VBSS Team Trainer
06-07 MAY	Inport, San Diego	
08-11 MAY	Underway, SOCAL	TORPEX and Kingfisher on 9 MAY

12-14 MAY	Inport, San Diego	
15-19 MAY	Inport, San Diego	VBSS Team Trainer
20-21 MAY	Inport, San Diego	
22 MAY	Inport, San Diego	Embark Midshipmen (PACTRAMID I)
23-29 MAY	Multi-ship steaming,	Enroute Pearl Harbor
30 MAY-01 JUN	Inport, Pearl Harbor	
02-09 JUN	Underway	Bi-Lateral Forces work up PHASE I. PACIFIC BLITZ 7-8 JUN
10-12 JUN	Inport, Pearl Harbor	
13-19 JUN	Underway, RIMPAC 2000	Bi-Lateral Forces work up PHASE II. VANDALEX 14 JUN. HARPOONEX 15 JUN
20-26 JUN	Underway, RIMPAC 2000	Tactical Free Play
27-28 JUN	Inport, Pearl Harbor	
29 JUN-04 JUL	Anchored, Lahaina Maui	
05-11 JUL	Underway	Enroute San Diego. Tiger Cruise
12-16 JUL	Inport, San Diego	
17 JUL-13 AUG	Inport, San Diego	IMAV SIMA San Diego
14-16 AUG	Underway, SOCAL	
17-20 AUG	Inport, San Diego	
21 AUG	Inport, San Diego	INSURV
22 AUG	Underway, SOCAL	INSURV
23-25 AUG	Inport, San Diego	INSURV
26 AUG-04 SEP	Inport, San Diego	MEFEX PHASE I
05-06 SEP	Underway, SOCAL	Burial at Sea and SSRNM on 5 SEP
07-08 SEP	Inport, Seal Beach	Weapons On Load
09-24 SEP	Inport, San Diego	Force Protection Exercise 20-21 SEP
25-26 SEP	Underway, SOCAL	
27 SEP	Inport, San Diego	
28 SEP	Underway, SOCAL	Recruit Day Cruise
29 SEP-01 OCT	Inport, San Diego	
02-11 OCT	Underway SOCAL	MEFEX PHASE II
12-24 OCT	Inport, San Diego	1 <sup>st</sup> POM leave period. IMAV
25 OCT-05 NOV	Inport, San Diego	2 <sup>nd</sup> POM leave period.
06-08 NOV	Inport, San Diego.	
09-14 NOV	Multi-ship sail	Deploy PACMEF 00-4. MEFEX PHASE III
15 NOV	Inport, Pearl Harbor	
16 NOV	Inport, Lualualei, HI	Weapons On Load
17-28 NOV	Underway, WESTPAC	CHOP C7F on 23 NOV
29 NOV-03 DEC	Inport, Pt. Kembla, AS	
04-11 DEC	Multi-ship sail, Great Australian Bight.	
12-16 DEC	Inport, Fremantle, AS	
17-28 DEC	Multi-ship sail	Indian Ocean. CHOP C5F on 27 DEC

29 DEC	Multi-ship sail	Strait of Hormuz transit
30 DEC	Multi-ship sail	Enroute Bahrain
31 DEC	Inport, Bahrain	

### 3. Summary of Events

The Officers and crew of USS FITZGERALD started the new millennium (CY-2000) with a vision to master every aspect of Surface Naval Operations at Sea. That vision led to record setting achievements throughout the year. A year that included: all phases of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), participation in Rim of the Pacific 2000, one of the largest and most complex naval exercises in the Pacific Fleet, Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) material inspection, live torpedo, Harpoon, 5"/54 and SM-2 missile firings and culminated with a deployment to the Arabian Gulf. All along the way, the Officers and Men of FITZGERALD persistent pursuit of excellence resulted in a spate of successes unprecedented in the ship's four-year history.

In every aspect of Surface Warfare, USS FITZGERALD performed with the utmost poise, professionalism and style. Performances during the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle received noteworthy acclaim. The Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) was completed in a single day with outstanding results. A Missile Firing exercise and Torpedo Firing Exercise were immensely successful. Moving on to advanced training; FITZGERALD sailed West for Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2000. Through the course of this challenging and highly successful exercise FITZGERALD: performed duties as Surface Attack Unit Commander for Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise 00-2, engaged two high speed targets during a Stream Raid exercise and a low-flying (50ft) Supersonic Target with spectacular results, provided emergent astern refueling relief for USS SALVOR as it towed two hulks to the Pacific Missile Range Facility, successfully engaged one of the hulks during a HARPOONEX, participated in the complex Theater Ballistic Missile Defense exercise, PACIFIC BLITZ, and performed Officer in Tactical Command duties during Exercise TEAMWORK NORTH 00. The crew's finely honed skills were manifested again during Mid-East Force Deployment Exercise (MEFEX) Phases I and II. FITZGERALD departed San Diego on 9 November for her third deployment to the Arabian Gulf. During the Westpac transit the crew participated in MEFEX Phase III to further refine their operational skills, culminating in Texas Thunder, a 2-day Tomahawk exercise in which FITZGERALD performed duties as TSC and LAC simultaneously.

FITZGERALD hosted numerous inspections and visits during the year and received superlative marks in the Medical and Dental Readiness Inspections, Explosive Safety Inspection, and COMNAVSAFECEN Safety Survey. FITZGERALD'S

excellent material condition was validated during a Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) visit in August. High marks were attained in cleanliness and preservation, while FITZGERALD'S quality of shipboard life was evaluated as being "above fleet average". All other evaluations and assessments remained current through the competitive cycle.

In the way of innovation, FITZGERALD introduced many new procedures and Systems designed to improve overall quality of life. FITZGERALD was chosen to receive a Textile Ducting System that decreases the amount of ambient noise in ventilation system flow. FITZGERALD greatly enhanced its operational capabilities, as well as crew morale, with the completion of the IT-21 Increment Five install. FITZGERALD'S inventive use of the Battle Force Team Trainer (BFTT) continued to pave the way for the fleet-wide implementation of this important training system.

As the "show ship" on the San Diego waterfront, FITZGERALD continued to represent the Surface Warfare community in the most positive light. The crew was very active in community service activities including: a Maui beach clean up project, the Meade Elementary School mentoring program and a vigorous Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) with foreign sailors during RIMPAC 2000. FITZGERALD's Navy and Marine Corps Relief effort was *first* among all Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet destroyers.

In USS FITZGERALD, combat readiness and mission accomplishment created a cause and effect attitude that drove the crew to generate exemplary results in every endeavor, but not at all costs. Quality of life was preserved through careful planning and personnel management. The ship sustained a twelve-section duty rotation that provided every Sailor quality time off while retaining ample time for mission planning and execution. Our commitment to Safety, Mission Excellence and Warrior Spirit have manifested itself in a warship ready to execute any tasking, at any time, and in any place.