



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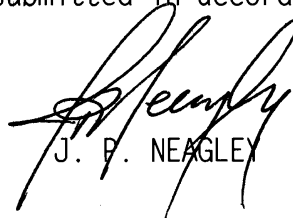
From: Commanding Officer, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) USS FITZGERALD Command History/Major Events 1 January 2001 to
31 December 2001
(2) Command History 3 ½" Disk
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) USS FITZGERALD Photograph
(5) Cruise Book

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).


J. P. NEAGLE

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
1 JANUARY 2001 TO 31 DECEMBER 2001

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 John P. Neagley relieved CDR Al Collins, Sr. as Commanding Officer of USS FITZGERALD on 13 December 2001.

2. Chronology of Major Events

01-02 JAN	Inport, Bahrain
03-14 JAN	Underway, Arabian Gulf for MIO
15-17 JAN	Inport, Bahrain
18-31 JAN	Underway, Arabian Gulf for MIO
01-05 FEB	Inport, Bahrain
06-25 FEB	Underway, Arabian Gulf for MIO
26 FEB-01 MAR	Inport, Bahrain
01 MAR	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shelton onboard, escorted by Commander of Fifth Fleet, Vice Admiral Moore
02 MAR	Underway, Arabian Gulf
03 MAR	Underway, Transit Straits of Hormuz
04-11 MAR	Underway, enroute to Phuket, Thailand
12-16 MAR	Anchored, Phuket, Thailand
17-18 MAR	Underway, enroute to Singapore
19-23 MAR	Inport, Singapore
24-27 MAR	Underway, enroute to Hong Kong
28-31 MAR	Inport, Hong Kong
01-03 APR	Underway, special operations Hainan Island
04-07 APR	Underway, Philippine Sea enroute to Guam

08 APR	Inport, Brief stop for fuel, Guam
09-15 APR	Underway, enroute to Pearl Harbor
16-18 APR	Inport, Pearl Harbor
17 APR	Missile Offload, Lualualei
19-25 APR	Underway, enroute to San Diego, Tiger Cruise
26 APR-03 JUN	Inport, San Diego for Period Upkeep
04-10 JUN	Underway, Southern California (SOCAL) for opposing force in support of Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX OPFOR)
11-12 JUN	Inport, Seal Beach for weapons offload
13 JUN	Underway, SOCAL
14-27 JUN	Inport, San Diego for upkeep
28 JUN	Underway, SOCAL for Dependent's Cruise
28 JUN	Awarded the Spokane Trophy for year 2000
29 JUN-10 JUL	Inport, San Diego for upkeep
11 JUL-12 SEP	Inport, San Diego for Drydock Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) at Southwest Marine Naval Shipyard
13-14 SEP	Underway, SOCAL for Sea Trials
15-23 SEP	Inport, San Diego for upkeep
24-28 SEP	Underway, SOCAL for Teamwork North 01
29 SEP-08 OCT	Inport, San Diego
09-12 OCT	Underway, SOCAL
13-23 OCT	Inport, San Diego
15-26 OCT	Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV)
24 OCT	Underway, SOCAL enroute to Seal Beach
25 OCT	Inport, Seal Beach for weapons onload
26 OCT	Underway, SOCAL enroute to San Diego
27-29 OCT	Inport, San Diego
30 OCT-02 NOV	Underway, SOCAL for CART II
03-04 NOV	Underway, enroute to Everett, WA
05 NOV-01 DEC	Pacific North West (PACNORWEST) for Operation Noble Eagle
05-13 NOV	Inport, Everett, WA
06-09 NOV	Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA)
14-17 NOV	Underway, PACNORWEST
14-16 NOV	TSTA
17-25 NOV	Inport, Everett, WA
26 NOV	Underway, PACNORWEST enroute to Esquimalt, Canada
27 NOV-01 DEC	Inport, Esquimalt, Canada
02-05 DEC	Underway, enroute to San Diego
06-10 DEC	Inport, San Diego
11-14 DEC	Underway, SOCAL for TSTA
13 DEC	CDR John P. Neagley relieved CDR Al Collins, Sr. as Commanding Officer, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
15-31 DEC	Inport, San Diego, Holiday Stand-down

3. Summary of Events

Throughout the course of 2001, USS FITZGERALD was active in a diverse and challenging series of events. It began with FITZGERALD involved in high-tempo operations in the Arabian Gulf. From January until late April FITZGERALD was deployed throughout the Western Pacific, involved in intense Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO), as well as critical operations in support of United States national policy. Upon return to San Diego the ship spent May in a period of post-deployment upkeep. The months of June through August were spent in and out of port for weapon offload, dependent's day cruise, and JTFEX OPFOR, however, most of the time was spent inport for upkeep and DSRA. Following this, FITZGERALD entered the Interdeployment Training Cycle, highlighted by CART II and TSTA. The year ended with FITZGERALD's participation in Operation Noble Eagle off the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

At the start of the new year (CY-2001) FITZGERALD was in the middle of her deployment to the Arabian Gulf. The major focus of her time spent in the area was on Maritime Interdiction Operations. Deployed to the Fifth Fleet as part of Multinational Interception Forces (MIF), these MIO operations were supported by the United Nations for sanctions against Iraq. FITZGERALD boarded over 25 vessels during her tour, including several non-compliant ships. During a portion of her time during these operations, a U.S. Navy SEAL team was embarked to assist FITZGERALD in the boardings and was tasked with performing some of the more dangerous non-compliant boarding operations. FITZGERALD's Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) teams were specifically tasked with the boarding and securing of ships, inspection of the ship's cargo and paperwork, and the verification of the health and comfort of the crew onboard.

In addition to carrying out MIO, FITZGERALD provided air defense for the Harry Truman Battle Group. The ship was visited by many noteworthy individuals while in the Arabian Gulf including: The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (General Shelton), Commander of the Fifth Fleet (Vice Admiral Moore), Commander Harry Truman Battle Group (Rear Admiral McArthur), and a member of the Bahrain Royal Family (Shaikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Khalifa). FITZGERALD also hosted a foreign exchange officer from the Kuwait Royal Navy, Lieutenant Nasser. Four port visits were made in the Arabian Gulf to Bahrain during this time, and at the beginning of March FITZGERALD began the transit through the Straits of Hormuz leaving the Arabian Gulf in it's wake.

After leaving the Gulf, the officers and crew of FITZGERLAD continued to focus on training and staying prepared to be called upon at a moments notice. While keeping this sharp focus however, the ship found time to make port visits to Phuket Thailand, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Here, the crew found time to take a well-deserved temporary rest and relaxation while enjoying the sights and culture of these foreign ports. Time for relaxation quickly came to an end however, as FITZGERALD was called upon to perform special operations close to Hainan Island. This happened after an international incident involving American and Chinese aircraft occurred and U.S. presence was heightened in the area.

From there, after a brief stop for fuel in Guam, FITZGERALD arrived in Pearl Harbor. Just in Pearl Harbor long enough to offload some materials and pickup Tigers, the ship headed back to her homeport of San Diego. FITZGERALD was inport for approximately five weeks through the beginning of June for period upkeep, and crewmember reunions with family. Over the next several months FITZGERALD was inport for post deployment upkeep and continuous training. During this time the ship did get underway however, for weapons offload at Seal Beach and for a Dependent's Day Cruise. During the Dependent's Cruise, the Commander of the Pacific Fleet recognized FITZGERALD as the winner of the Spokane Trophy for the year 2000. This distinguished award is given to the surface combatant ship considered to be most proficient in overall combat systems readiness and warfare operations. The award offered tangible evidence of the countless hours spent training and performing operations at sea the previous year, and was a sign to the crew of FITZGERALD that their continuous efforts were not only noticed, but praised as well.

From mid-July to mid-September, FITZGERALD was inport and then dry-docked for upkeep and DSRA. Here the ship the ship received new equipment installs and upgrades including: Common Data Link Management System (CDLMS), Extremely High Frequency - Follow On Terminal (EHF-FOT), Global Broadcast System (GBS), Dual INMARSAT B, and a Stern Flap. Following this, FITZGERALD had brief underway periods for sea trials, Teamwork North 01, and weapons onload between her inport periods of upkeep. Teamwork North 01 proved to be effective Anti-Submarine Warfare training as FITZGERLAD performed as Officer in Tactical Command for the exercise. The ASW exercise also served as a reminder to the ship and crew of the duties and ever-present responsibilities of staying focused on our mission to be prepared to conduct combat operations. This was the perfect preamble to CART II, which started at the end of October.

Throughout November following the terrible incidents of terrorist attacks on September 11th, Fitzgerald was tasked to participate in Operation Noble Eagle in PACNORWEST. The details of this mission involved providing air defense, the primary warfare area of FITZGERALD, to the area. From there, FITZGERALD turned full force to the task of training during TSTA. Then, on December 13th, CDR John P. Neagley relieved CDR Al Collins Sr. as Commanding Officer of FITZGERALD. Following the change of command, FITZGERALD pulled inport to San Diego to begin her 2001 holiday stand-down period.

Throughout 2001, as FITZGERALD persistently pursued excellence, the result was a spate of successes unprecedented in the ship's six-year history. As the winner of the Spokane Trophy Award FITZGERALD continued to represent the Surface Warfare community in the most positive light. Onboard 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. Our commitment to Safety, Mission Excellence and Warrior Spirit manifested itself in a warship ready to execute any tasking, at any time, and in any place.