



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

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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 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002
(2) Command History 3 ½" Disk
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) USS FITZGERALD Photograph

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

J. P. NEAGLE

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
1 JANUARY 2002 TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

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. FITZGERALD 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 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 is the Commanding Officer.

2. Chronology of Major Events

01-14 JAN	Inport, San Diego
15-22 JAN	Underway, enroute Hawaii
23-25 JAN	Underway, Hawaii Social Theatre Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD)
26-29 JAN	Inport, Pearl Harbor
30 JAN-05 FEB	Underway, enroute San Diego
06-11 FEB	Inport, San Diego
12-15 FEB	Underway, Social Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA)
16-18 FEB	Inport, San Diego
19-22 FEB	Underway, Social (TSTA)
23 FEB-03 MAR	Inport, San Diego SPAWAR FC improvement program
04-08 MAR	Underway, Social Moor to a buoy, ENG Demo practice
09-11 MAR	Inport, San Diego
12-15 MAR	Underway, ENG Demo
16-20 MAR	Inport, San Diego
21-22 MAR	Underway, SIT II testing
23-31 MAR	Inport, San Diego POLO HAT
01-06 APR	Underway, enroute Hawaii
07 APR	Inport, Pearl Harbor
08-14 APR	Underway, enroute Kwajalein
15 APR	Inport, Kwajalein brief stop fuel

16-21 APR	Underway, enroute Guam (TBMD)
22-26 APR	Inport, Guam
27 APR-03 MAY	Underway, enroute Kwajalein
04-05 MAY	Inport, Kwajalein
06-10 MAY	Underway, enroute Hawaii (TBMD)
11-12 MAY	Inport, Pearl Harbor
13-19 MAY	Underway, enroute San Diego, Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)
20 MAY-16 JUN	Inport, San Diego, C4I Assessment, Millennium Challenge installs
17-18 JUN	Underway, SOCAL (DLQ's)
19-24 JUN	Inport, San Diego, Force Protection exercise #3 (FP EX #3)
25-28 JUN	Underway, SOCAL, Leaders to Sea, Dependants Cruise
29 JUN-07 JUL	Inport, San Diego
08-12 JUL	Underway, SOCAL, CEC event #9
13-23 JUL	Inport, San Diego, BGIE
24 JUL-02 AUG	Underway, SOCAL, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE
03-04 AUG	Inport, San Diego
05-09 AUG	Underway, SOCAL, Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS)
10 AUG-02 SEP	Inport, San Diego, Corrosion Control Availability
03-13 SEP	Underway, SOCAL, CEC EVT 10
14 SEP-20 OCT	Inport, San Diego, C5RA, NSFS MTT, NIMITZ Battlegroup MTT
21-22 OCT	Underway, enroute Seal Beach
23-24 OCT	Inport, Seal Beach, Ammo onload
25 OCT	Underway, enroute San Diego
26-31 OCT	Inport, San Diego, NBG JFACC
01-16 NOV	Underway, SOCAL, CEC event #12, SACEX (TARAWA ARG)
17 NOV-08 DEC	Inport, San Diego, CSOSS II
09-12 DEC	Underway, SOCAL, CEC event #13
13-31 DEC	Inport, San Diego, Holiday Stand down, Holiday Bowl tour ship Broadway Pier

3. Summary of Events.

The start of 2002 FITZGERALD was assigned to participate in Theatre Ballistic Missile Defense testing, Flight Mission II (FM-2) at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Kauai, Hawaii with the USS LAKE ERIE.

The months of February and March, FITZGERALD started to enter its pre-deployment workups. The ship also conducted its Engineering Demonstration receiving an "above average" final grade.

From the beginning of April through the end of May, FITZGERALD participated in TBMD testing, Systems Integration Test II (SIT-II). The ship left San Diego enroute the South Pacific to the Ronald Reagan Missile Range. After several brief stops for fuel at Kwajalein atoll FITZGERALD left for Guam. FITZGERALD spent one week at Naval Station Guam before proceeding back to the missile range for additional testing. After the testing was completed FITZGERALD sailed for homeport San Diego preparing for the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). During the summer months FITZGERALD spent a fair amount of time operating off of the California coast. The ship hosted some of America's prominent business leaders each for a day of Naval Operations with the Leaders to Sea program. FITZGERALD participated in MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE '02, a large-scale Joint exercise, designed to test a series of systems for futuristic battles. This war game allowed the crew to train in all aspects of Naval engagement including ASW, SUW, and AAW. The ship also conducted Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) off of San Clemente Island during this same time.

The fall of 2002 proved to be intense with pre-deployment training. The ship participated in CEC events 10, 12 and 13 as well as ammunition onload in Seal Beach, California followed by the December holiday leave period. FITZGERALD spent 130 days underway.