



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96665

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG 54)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Ship's Characteristics
(2) Key Dates

1. Narrative:

a. USS FORD (FFG 54) is the forty-eighth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. Currently programmed for over fifty ships, this will be the Navy's largest destroyer class built since World War II. Her mission is to provide in-depth anti-air, anti-surface and anti-subsurface protection for military and merchant shipping and to ensure continuous use of the sea lanes of communication for the United States and her allies.

b. The Combat Systems aboard utilize a computer command and control system to integrate the ship's sensors and weapons. Her weapons include surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, a close-in weapons system, anti-submarine torpedoes and the LAMPS MK III helicopter.

c. The propulsion system is a computer controlled gas turbine power plant which utilizes jet engines similar to those found on commercial airliners. FORD'S propulsion system can be "brought on the line" in less than five minutes as compared to more than four hours for the conventional steam powered ships.

d. Despite the advanced systems aboard, the heart of the ship is the crew. Each member has been highly trained in his particular area of expertise so that he can either operate, monitor or repair all shipboard systems. Skilled technicians and professional leadership make FORD a vital asset for the fleet in today's multi-threat environment.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

e. From the date of Commissioning of the USS FORD on June 29 1985, to her Post Shakedown Availability on January 13, 1986, FORD has been involved in various ship's tests and trials. FORD will be in Post Shakedown Availability until May 9, 1986. The Commanding Officer is Commander Joseph F. Eckler and the FORD is homeported in Long Beach, California.



J. F. ECKLER

SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS

Built by: Todd Pacific Shipyard Corporation
Los Angeles Division San Pedro, California

Keel Laid: 16 July 1983
Christened: 23 June 1984
Commissioned: 29 JUNE 1985

Displacement: 3800 Tons
Length: 453 Feet
Beam: 47 Feet

Complement: 15 Officers
15 Chief Petty Officers 180 Enlisted Men

Propulsion: *Two General Electric LM2500 Gas Turbines
*One Controllable/Reversible Pitch Propeller
*Two 350 HP Electric Auxiliary Propulsion
Units

Auxiliaries: Four 1000 KW Diesel Generators
Speed: 30+ Knots

Aircraft: Two SH-60B Seahawk Helicopters

Armament: *MK 13 Guided Missile Launcher
*HARPOON Anti-Ship Missile
*STANDARD Anti-Aircraft Missile
*MK 75 76mm/62 cal Rapid Firing Gun
*MK 32 ASW Torpedo Tubes (Two Triple Mounts)
*MK 15 Close-in Weapons System
*AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar
*AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar
*MK 92 Fire Control System
*AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare System
*AN/SQS-56 Sonar
*MK 36 SRBOC Decoy System
*AN/SLQ-25 Torpedo Countermeasure System
*LAMPMS MK III Weapons System
*SQR-19 Tactical Towed Array Sonar System
(installed later)
*AN/SQQ-89 ASW Integration System
(installed later)

Enclosure (1)

KEY DATES

- 31 May 85 - Delivery of ship from Todd Pacific Shipyard Corporation, Los Angeles.
- 28 Jun 85 - Reception for commissioning. Guests include Mrs. Robert C. McFarlane and members of Patrick Osborne Ford's family.
- 29 Jun 85 - Commissioning. Guests include Mr. Kenneth de Graffenreid, Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Speaker), Mrs. Robert C. McFarlane, and surviving family members of Patrick Osborne Ford.
- 23-24 Jul 85 - Engineering Light Off Examination.
- 03-20 Sep 85 - Shakedown Refresher Training.
- 23 Sep-02 Oct 85 - Weapon System Accuracy Trial.
- 15 Oct-15 Nov 85 - Combat System Ship Qualification Tests.
- 02-06 Dec 85 - Harpoon Certification.
- 16-20 Dec 85 - Final Contract Trials.