



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96685

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 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photographs
(5) USS FORD Welcome Aboard Booklet

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


J. F. ECKLER

I. Command Composition and Organization

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.

e. Throughout this year of post-commissioning tests, trials and inspections, FORD has been assigned to Commander Surface Squadron ONE under the administrative control of Commander, Naval Surface Group, Long Beach, California. A LAMPS Mark III detachment from HSL 45 is permanently assigned to FORD. FORD is commanded by Commander Joseph F. Eckler and is homeported in Long Beach, California.

Enclosure (1)

II. CHRONOLOGY

- 13 Jan - 09 May 86 - Post Shakedown Availability - TODD Pacific Shipyard Corporation, Los Angeles Division, San Pedro, CA.
- 25 Apr 86 - Fast Cruise
- 29-30 Apr 86 - Sea Trials
- 05-06 May 86 - RAVIR Van Training-Pierside ASW Training
- 09 May 86 - Delivery of Ship from Todd Pacific Shipyard Corporation, Los Angeles Division.
- 10 May 86 - Dependent's Cruise
- 27-30 May 86 - ASW Escort Team Training Phase I - FLTASWTRACEN, San Diego, CA
- 29 May 86 - Aviation Assist Visit
- 02-06 Jun 86 - Mobile Team Training Phase I (Engineering)
- 12-16 Jun 86 - San Diego Visit Ship, Broadway Pier
- 24-25 Jun 86 - Medical Training Assist Visit
- 01-03 Jul 86 - Mobile Team Training Phase II (Engineering)
- 16 Jul 86 - Pilot Rescue Team Training
- 29-31 Jul 86 - Operational Propulsion Plant Examination - CINCPACFLT PEB
- 10-12 Aug 86 - Training Readiness Evaluation - FLETRAGRU, San Diego
- 15-21 Aug 86 - Deperm Esquimalt, British Columbia
- 22-26 Aug 86 - Port Visit Vancouver, British Columbia
- 08-26 Sep 86 - Refresher Training - FLETRAGRU, San Diego
- 29 Sep - 03 Oct 86 - Diesel Inspection - SIMA Long Beach
- 29 Sep - 03 Oct 86 - Lamps MK III Mobile Team Training
- 16 Oct 86 - Tacan Certification

Enclosure (2)

03-23 Nov 86 - IMAV I - SIMA Long Beach
10-14 Nov 86 - Harpoon Team Training
17-21 Nov 86 - Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection
18-20 Nov 86 - Supply Material Inspection
05-08 Dec 86 - Port Visit San Francisco
10-12 Dec 86 - Surface Action Group (SAG) operations with
USS NEW JERSEY
12-14 Dec 86 - Varsity Player Exercise

Enclosure (2)

III. Narrative:

1. The first four months of the year were spent undergoing a Post Shakedown Availability at TODD Pacific Shipyard in Los Angeles. Work accomplished included class-wide modifications and equipment changes, electronics field changes and ordnance alterations and correction of discrepancies identified during Final Contract Trials.
2. With the ship construction phase completed, FORD concentrated on crew readiness and training. Completing the basic and intermediate phases of her training cycle, FORD underwent a concentrated period of both on and off-ship training and inspections. The most significant milestones achieved were the successful completion of the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE), Refresher Training and the Supply Management Inspection (SMI).
3. Brief but enjoyable respites during the training cycle were provided by visits to Vancouver BC, following ship deperming in Esquimalt, and San Francisco, CA.
4. FORD finished the year as a trained and ready COMTHIRDFLT asset, participating in Surface Action Group Operations with the battleship New Jersey and Exercise Varsity Player; a multi-ship training exercise for COMSURFRON ONE units.