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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96665

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000

FFG54/CO

24 JAN 1990

From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG-54)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), 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).

*W. W. Spotts*  
W. W. SPOTTS

Copy to:  
COMDESRON NINE

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS FORD (FFG-54) is the forty-eighth of the fifty-one ship Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. This is 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 computerized command and control system to integrate the ship's sensors and weapons. Her weapons include Harpoon surface-to-surface and standard SMI surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, a MK15, 20mm Close-in Weapons System, MK46 anti-submarine torpedoes and the LAMPS MK III helicopter/weapons system.

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.

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. FORD's crew is composed of 15 Officers, 14 Chief Petty Officers, and 163 other junior enlisted. When assigned a single aircraft LAMPS MK III Detachment; 5 Officers, 1 Chief Petty Officer, and 11 other other junior enlisted are added to the crew.

e. In January of 1988 FORD was assigned to Commander, Middle East Force with HSL 45 Detachment (DET) 2 embarked. Upon return to Long Beach, California in February DET 2 disembarked. FORD remained under administrative control of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Nine throughout the year. In October 1988, HSL 47 DET 3 embarked for the first time and began work-ups for the 1989 deployment. In 1988, FORD was Commanded by Commander John D. Price and was homeported in Long Beach, California.

## CHRONOLOGY

1 JAN: RELIEVED AS ESCORT FOR BARGES HERCULES AND WIMBROWN VII BY USS CARR  
1-8 JAN: DEPLOYED ARABIAN GULF  
6 JAN: ESCORTED MV'S CHESAPEAKE CITY, MIDDLETOWN, AND COURIER TO KHOR  
FAKKAN  
8 JAN: CHOPPED TO SEVENTH FLEET  
9-11 JAN: TRANSIT TO COLOMBO SRI LANKA ICW USS THACH  
12 JAN: BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL COLOMBO SRI LANKA  
13-14 JAN: TRANSIT TO PHUKET, THAILAND  
15-19 JAN: PORT VISIT PHUKET, THAILAND  
20-24 JAN: TRANSIT TO HONG KONG  
22 JAN: DETACHED USS THACH TO PROCEED TO PUSAN, KOREA  
25-29 JAN: PORT VISIT TO HONG KONG  
30JAN-9 FEB: TRANSIT TO PEARL HARBOR, HI  
4 FEB: RDVU WITH USS THACH  
7 FEB: CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE  
10-11 FEB: INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HI-EMBARKED TIGERS FOR TIGER CRUISE  
12-16 FEB: TRANSIT TO LONG BEACH, CA  
16 FEB: DETACHED USS THACH TO PROCEED TO SAN DIEGO, CA  
17 FEB: ARRIVE LONG BEACH, CA  
18FEB-18MAR: UPKEEP LONG BEACH, CA  
16 MAR: CONDUCTED AVIATION ASSIST VISIT SUBSEQUENTLY UPGRADED TO AVIATION  
READINESS EXAMINATION  
21 MAR: CONDUCTED AMMO OFFLOAD WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH  
22 MAR-8APR: AWARD CEREMONY - RADM HIGGENSON, COMNAVSURFGRU LONG BEACH ONBOARD  
CONDUCTED "R" AVAILABILITY WITH SIMA  
23 MAR: 3RD ANNUAL FORD ATHLETIC COMPETITION  
3-5 APR: FAADCPAC SURPRISE DISBURSING AUDIT  
4-8 APR: SHIP SERVICE DIESEL GENERATOR INSPECTION  
26-28 APR: UNDERWAY SOCIAL OPERATION FOR ASW COMMAND ASSESSMENT OF READINESS  
AND TRAINING AND SEA TRAILS  
2-5 MAY: UNDERWAY SOCIAL FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE EXERCISE 88-1  
9-13 MAY: 3M INSPECTION SHIP'S SCORE WAS 91%  
23-27 MAY: COMMAND ASSESSMENT OF READINESS AND TRAINING (CART) LMTTU AND RAVIR  
TRAINERS ONBOARD  
2-5 JUNE: UNDERWAY FOR ALL COMERS AT SEA TRAINING WITH SABERHAWK 63 EMBARKED  
6-8 JUNE: TRANSIT TO PORTLAND, OREGON WITH SABERHAWK 61 EMBARKED  
9 JUNE: TRANSIT COLUMBIA RIVER; ARRIVAL IN PORTLAND FOR ROSE FESTIVAL  
9-13 JUNE: INPORT PORTLAND, OREGON  
14-16 JUNE: TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO, CA  
17-24 JUNE: INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA FOR TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TRAV)  
24 JUNE: TRANSIT TO LONG BEACH, CA  
25 JUN-5JULY: INPORT LONG BEACH, CA; OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION  
(OPPE) PREPARATIONS  
6-8 JULY: OPPE-RECEIVED SATISFACTORY IN ALL AREAS  
9 JULY: TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO, CA FOR TRAV  
10-22 JULY: TRAV SAN DIEGO, CA  
21 JULY: FORD ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF ROOFTOP TRAINING EXCELLENCE AWARD LONG  
BEACH  
22 JULY: TRANSIT TO LONG BEACH, CA FOR DEPENDENT'S CRUISE  
29 JULY: LCDR H. FLAMMANG RELIEVED CDR P. DANKS AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
15 AUG: SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (SRA) NUMBER ONE COMMENCED AT PIER  
15 NAVSTA LONG BEACH  
29-31 AUG: SUPPLY MOBILE TEAM TRAINING

7-8 SEP: COMMAND INSPECTION BY COMDESRON NINE- 19 AREAS GRADED OUTSTANDING  
8 SEP: POSTAL AND CMS INSPECTION; WELFARE AND RECREATION AUDIT  
14 SEP: BMCS MCCULLOUGH RELIEVED QMC SYLVIA AS SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER  
OF THE COMMAND  
19 SEP: FORD ANNOUNCED AS COMDESRON NINE ARLEIGH BURKE AWARD NOMINEE  
3-7 OCT: ASW TEAM TRAINER PHASE II  
11-13 OCT: RADAR ASSISTED PILOTING TEAM TRAINER; SCORE 94.5%  
17-28 OCT: 20B5 COMBAT SYSTEMS MOBILE TEAM TRAINER  
20 OCT: TRAINING READINESS EVALUATION (TRE) CONDUCTED  
24-28 OCT: AVIATION CERTIFICATION CONDUCTED  
30OCT-3NOV: UNDERWAY SOCIAL OPAREA FOR SENIOR OFFICER'S SHIP MATERIAL READINESS  
COURSE (SOSMRC) AND SCORE RANGE EXERCISE; FIRED TWO TORPEDOES  
OVERSIDE, 1 LAMPS MK III DROPPED, BOTH HITS  
1 NOV: FORD ANNOUNCED AS COMDESRON NINE GOLDEN ANCHOR NOMINEE  
2-3 NOV: SURFACE SHIP RADIATED NOISE MEASUREMENT (SSRNM) COMPLETED  
3 NOV: FORD ANNOUNCED AS CNSG LONG BEACH ARLEIGH BURKE NOMINEE  
4 NOV: ONLOAD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH, CA  
7-18 NOV: INTERIM REFRESHER TRAINING IN SOCIAL OPAREA  
28 NOV: AVIATION ASSIST VISIT CONDUCTED, SUBSEQUENTLY UPGRADED TO AN  
AVIATION READINESS EXAMINATION; MK-36 SRBOC RECERTIFICATION  
28NOV-2DEC: COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS TEST/SHIP EXPLOSIVE SAFETY INSPECTION;  
0 MAJOR, 0 SAFETY, AND 1 MINOR DISCREPANCY  
30 NOV: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY  
7 DEC: MEDICAL READINESS EXAMINATION  
12-13 DEC: COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT; ALL WARFARE AREAS RECEIVED SCORES IN  
EXCESS OF 93%  
14-16 DEC: MIDDLE EAST FORCE EXERCISE 89-2 SOCIAL OPAREA WITH COMDESRON NINE, 1  
SUCCESSFUL MISSILE SHOT, 1 MISSILE FAILURE  
19-21 DEC: ENGINEERING MTT PHASE I

## NARRATIVE

USS FORD began 1988 underway in the Northern Persian Gulf as the escort for the U.S. Navy's two mobile sea bases, barges Hercules and Wimbrown VII. Relieved by USS CARR (FFG-52) on 2 January and after a brief stop for fuel (BSF) in Sitrah Anchorage, Bahrain, FORD transited out of the Gulf in company with USS THACH (FFG-43). After escorting Motor Vessel (MV) Sealift Antarctica from Khor Fakkan to Muscat and MV's Chesapeake City, Middletown, and courier from Muscat to Khor Fakkan, FORD commenced her transit back to homeport Long Beach, California. The transit home included a BSF in Colombo, Sri Lanka, port visits in Phuket, Thailand and Hong Kong and a brief stop in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where 26 "Tigers" embarked for the cruise from Hawaii to Long Beach. FORD arrived in homeport Pier 16 Berth 1 at 1014, 17 February 1988.

After almost a month of post deployment leave and upkeep, FORD began the demanding cycle of interdeployment inspections and exercises. First was an Aviation Assist visit which because of the outstanding material condition of Aviation Systems and training of Aviation Operations Support personnel was immediately upgraded to an Aviation Readiness examination. FORD was then in a "Restricted" maintenance availability from 22 March through 8 April which was followed by Middle East Force exercise 88-1, the first of two such exercises that year. FORD then underwent a very successful 3-M inspection in which the ship received an overall score of 91%. The Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was conducted shortly thereafter during which FORD qualified three watch sections and received unsatisfactory in all areas.

For two and one half months beginning 15 August, FORD was in Selected Restricted Availability with the civilian contractor Al Larson's Boat Shop. During this time, numerous major systems were overhauled and the ship received its first Command Inspection. Nineteen areas received grades of outstanding from Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE, Captain H. M. Dyck.

FORD underwent Interim Refresher Training (IRFT) 7-18 November with HSL 47 Detachment 3 embarked. Since FORD was scheduled to deploy to Middle East Force (MEF), IRFT was geared to support MEF Operations with emphasis on AAW, ASUW, Damage Control, Visit, Boarding, Search and Seizure, and Command and Control.

November and December were extremely busy months. IRFT was followed by a highly successful Combat Systems Readiness Test during which zero safety or major discrepancies were discovered. The Combat Systems Assessment (CSA) on 12 December brought similar results when FORD received grades in excess of 93% in all Warfare areas and was one of only nine ships in SURFPAC to successfully complete CSA in 1988.

Immediately following CSA, FORD conducted its second MEFE of 1988, MEFE 89-2 during which FORD fired two missiles, one success, the other a "missile round" failure. 1988 was closed out by completing a successful Mobile Training Team Phase I.