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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96665-1508

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000  
FFG 54/CO  
20 MAR 1990

From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG-54)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1989

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-submarine 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 SM1 surface-to-air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, 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 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 Junior Enlisted were added to the crew.

CHRONOLOGY

1-12 JAN LEAVE AND UPKEEP  
 9-17 JAN HARPOON TRAINING  
 14-31 JAN POM  
 1-2 FEB UNDERWAY REWS RANGE SAN DIEGO  
 3 FEB - 1 MAR INPORT LONG BEACH  
 2 MAR EMBARKED COAST GUARD LEDET, EMBARKED HSL-47 DET 3  
 2-13 MAR UNDERWAY SNAPSHOT-2 DRUG INTERDICTION OPERATIONS  
 18-19 MAR UNDERWAY MARDEZ EXERCISE, EMBARKED HSL-47 DET 3  
 20 MAR VANDALEX REHEARSAL  
 16-21 MAR ACAT  
 23-26 MAR VANDALEX 89-1  
 27-31 MAR INPORT MAZATLAN  
 31 MAR - 2 APR TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO  
 2-8 APR TRAV, SURPRISE FAADCPAC DISBURSING AUDIT  
 8 APR DEPENDENT'S CRUISE - TRANSIT TO LONG BEACH  
 8 APR ARRIVE LONG BEACH  
 9 APR - 2 MAY INPORT LONG BEACH  
 3 MAY UPKEEP/NAVY LEAGUE CRUISE  
 4-7 MAY INPORT LONG BEACH  
 8 MAY PCO ARRIVES, EMBARK HSL-47 DET 3  
 9 MAY DEPLOYMENT - HSL-47 DET 3 FLY ON  
 9 MAY - 14 MAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR  
 13 MAY CHANGE OF COMMAND - CAPT J.D. PRICE RELIEVED BY CDR W. W. SPOTTS  
 14 MAY ARRIVE PEARL HARBOR  
 15 MAY UNDERWAY  
 20 MAY RENDEZVOUS USS HELENA, TRANSFER TECHREPS VIA SMALL BOAT  
 29 MAY INPORT SUBIC BAY R.P.  
 31 MAY - 1 JUN UNDERWAY  
 2 JUN UNDERWAY, MEF EXERCISE  
 3-4 JUN UNDERWAY  
 5-6 JUN CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY  
 7 JUN INPORT SINGAPORE  
 11-14 JUN UNDERWAY  
 15 JUN BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
 16-18 JUN UNDERWAY  
 19 JUN TURNOVER WITH USS CURTS, INCHOP MIDDLE EAST FORCE  
 20 JUN TRANSIT THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ  
 21 JUN INPORT BAHRAIN  
 22-24 JUN UNDERWAY NORTHERN PERSIAN GULF  
 25 JUN RENDEZVOUS WITH USS PUGET SOUND  
 26 JUN - 2 JUL UNDERWAY  
 3 JUL INPORT BAHRAIN  
 7-12 JUL UNDERWAY NORTHERN PERSIAN GULF  
 13 JUL INPORT BAHRAIN  
 14 JUL RADM FOGARTY ONBOARD FOR LUNCH/TOUR  
 15-28 JUL UNDERWAY CENTRAL PERSIAN GULF  
 29-30 JUL PORT VISIT - SAUDI ARABIA {DAMMAM}  
 31 JUL RECEPTION ROYAL SAUDI NAVAL FORCES/CANADIAN AMBASSADOR  
 1-2 AUG UNDERWAY PASSEX - SAUDI FORCES  
 3 AUG FINISH PASSEX  
 4-18 AUG UNDERWAY

19 AUG INPORT BAHRAIN  
 20 AUG - 1 SEP UNDERWAY NORTHERN PERSIAN GULF  
 2 SEP INPORT BAHRAIN  
 8 SEP UNDERWAY  
 17 SEP INPORT ABUDHABI UNITED ARAB EMERENTS  
 20 SEP ANNOUNCEMENT OF WARFARE EXCELLENCE AWARDS COMPETITION - FORD  
 RECEIVED DEPARTMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN ANTI-AIR WARFARE,  
 ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE, ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE, COMMAND,  
 CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRONIC WARFARE, SUPPLY  
 EXCELLENCE, SEAMANSHIP/NAVIGATION, ENGINEERING, AND DAMAGE  
 CONTROL.  
 20 SEP UNDERWAY  
 21 SEP INPORT BAHRAIN  
 22-23 SEP TURNOVER USS LEAHY  
 24-25 SEP OUTCHOP MIDDLE EAST FORCE  
 26-27 SEP INPORT COCHIN INDIA, SHIP TOUR WITH INDIAN NAVAL  
 OFFICERS/CADETS  
 28-30 SEP UNDERWAY  
 1 OCT INPORT PHUKET THAILAND  
 1-6 OCT UNDERWAY  
 7 OCT INPORT SINGAPORE  
 8-11 OCT UNDERWAY  
 12-15 OCT INPORT HONG KONG  
 16-17 OCT UNDERWAY  
 18 OCT INPORT SUBIC BAY  
 18-19 OCT UNDERWAY  
 20 OCT INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.  
 21 OCT 3M ASSIST VISIT SUBIC BAY, R.P.  
 22 OCT - 1 NOV UNDERWAY  
 2 NOV INPORT PEARL HARBOR, EMBARK TIGER CRUISE  
 3-8 NOV UNDERWAY  
 9 NOV HSL47 DET 3 FLYOFF  
 9-20 NOV INPORT LONG BEACH - LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD  
 21-22 NOV SAFETY STANDOWN  
 23-30 NOV LEAVE AND UPKEEP  
 1 DEC FAST CRUISE  
 3-4 DEC UNDERWAY, DEPERMING SAN DIEGO  
 5-8 DEC UNDERWAY  
 8-31 DEC INPORT LONG BEACH  
 11-15 DEC 3M ASSIST VISIT LONG BEACH  
 18-22 DEC DIESEL INSPECTION LONG BEACH

## NARRATIVE

USS FORD began 1989 in a pre-deployment leave and upkeep period in preparation for the 9 February 1989 deployment to the Persian Gulf. Due to the changing political climate in the Middle East, the deployment was postponed until 9 May 1989.

During this period of delay, USS FORD was involved with Helicopter operations with the Coast Guard LEDET AND HSL-47 DET 3, which were used when FORD participated in drug interdiction operations and MARDEZ and VANDALEX exercises in March. After these demanding exercises concluded successfully, there was a well-deserved port call in Mazatlan, Mexico. FORD underwent a highly successful Training Availability and "surprise" Fleet Accounting and Disbursing Center audit in April. A Dependent's Cruise and a Navy League Cruise followed in the same month.

HSL-47 DET 3 deployed with FORD in May and CDR W. W. SPOTTS relieved CAPT J. D. PRICE as Commanding Officer of FORD. After port calls in Hawaii and Subic Bay, and Republic of the Philippines, FORD participated in a MEF exercise and then performed the "Wog" initiation when "Crossing the Line", in June. Shortly after "Crossing the Line" there was a port call in Singapore and then a port call in Sri Lanka before transiting the Straits of Hormuz to arrive in Bahrain for Persian Gulf Operations. FORD operated in the Persian Gulf from June to September. Before turning over to the USS LEAHY, FORD received many warfare excellence awards. Departments received special recognition in the following areas: Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Command, Control and Communications, Electronic Warfare, Supply Excellence, Seamanship/Navigation, Engineering, and Damage Control. During OUTCHOP, FORD visited Cochin, India, Phuket, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Subic Bay, R.P., and Pearl Harbor, HI. In Pearl Harbor FORD began a Tiger Cruise for the return transit to Long Beach arriving on November 9. After a leave and upkeep period and safety shutdown in Long Beach, FORD was underway enroute to San Diego for Deperming. In December FORD completed a favorable 3-M assist visit, Type Commander Diesel Inspections, followed by a Christmas leave and upkeep period.