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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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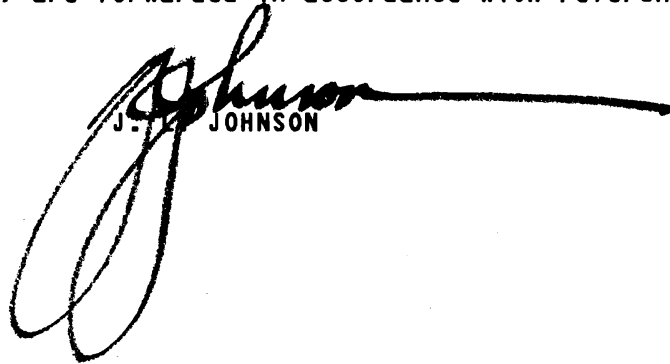
From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG 54)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

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. JOHNSON

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COMDESRON NINE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS FORD (FFG 54) is the forty-eighth ship of the fifty-two ship Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. This is the largest number of ships of a single class built by the Navy since World War II. FORD's 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 communications for the United States and its allies.

b. The Combat Systems aboard utilize a computerized command and control system to integrate the ship's sensors and weapons. Its 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 dual aircraft LAMPS MK III Detachment, six Officers, one Chief Petty Officer, and 14 other junior enlisted men augment the crew.

CHRONOLOGY

01JAN-03JAN 91	ENROUTE NORTH ARABIAN SEA BB63, AOE 1
04JAN-07JAN 91	ENROUTE DIEGO GARCIA
08 JAN 91	INPORT DIEGO GARCIA
09JAN-12JAN 91	ENROUTE PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS
13JAN-14JAN 91	VISIT PORT LOUIS MAURITIUS
15JAN-20JAN 91	ENROUTE BOMBAY, INDIA
21JAN-24JAN 91	VISIT BOMBAY, INDIA
23JAN 91	LM 2500 GAS TURBINE DEMO
25JAN-27JAN 91	ENROUTE PERSIAN GULF
28JAN-18MAR 91	DESERT STORM OPERATIONS NORTHERN PERSIAN GULF
19MAR-20MAR 91	VISIT BAHRAIN
21MAR-02APR 91	ENROUTE PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND
03APR-08APR 91	VISIT PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND
09APR-12APR 91	ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
13APR-18APR 91	VISIT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
19APR-03MAY 91	ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HI
04MAY-05MAY 91	INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HI
06MAY-12MAY 91	ENROUTE LONG BEACH, CA
13MAY 91	ARRIVE LONG BEACH
14MAY-10JUN 91	LEAVE AND UPKEEP LONG BEACH, CA
03JUN-22JUN 91	RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY LONG BEACH, CA
22JUN-23JUN 91	INPORT LONG BEACH
24JUN-28JUN 91	ALL COMERS AT SEA TRAINING, SOCAL
29JUN-30JUN 91	INPORT LONG BEACH, CA
01JUN-03JUL 91	TYT SOCAL
04JUL-07JUL 91	INPORT LONG BEACH, CA
08JUL-12JUL 91	3M ASSIST
08JUL-14JUL 91	INPORT LONG BEACH, CA
15JUL-04AUG 91	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY 6 LONG BEACH, CA
05AUG-09AUG 91	TYT SOCAL
10AUG-25AUG 91	TRAINING AVAILABILITY SAN DIEGO, CA
26AUG-30AUG 91	TYT SOCAL AND MOOR LONG BEACH, CA
31AUG-15SEP 91	INPORT LONG BEACH
03SEP-06SEP 91	SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT
16SEP-20SEP 91	TYT SOCAL
21SEP-14OCT 91	INPORT LONG BEACH COMMAND INSP
23SEP-26SEP 91	COMMAND INSPECTION
15OCT-18OCT 91	TYT SOCAL
19OCT-20OCT 91	INPORT LONG BEACH CA
21OCT-24OCT 91	TYT SOCAL
25OCT-27OCT 91	INPORT LONG BEACH CA
28OCT-01NOV 91	TYT SOCAL - MISSILE EXERCISE
01NOV 91	DEPENDENT'S AND NAVY LEAGUE CRUISE
02NOV-11NOV 91	INPORT LONG BEACH CA
12NOV-15NOV 91	TYT SOCAL
16NOV-20NOV 91	INPORT LONG BEACH CA
21NOV-22NOV 91	INTEGRATED ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT (IERA)
23NOV-01DEC 91	INPORT LONG BEACH CA

CHRONOLOGY CONT.

02 DEC 91	ENROUTE SAN FRANCISCO, CA
03DEC-05DEC 91	VISIT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
06DEC 91	ENROUTE LONG BEACH, CA
07DEC 91	ARRIVE LONG BEACH, CA
07DEC-12DEC 91	INPORT LONG BEACH, CA
08DEC-11DEC 91	MTT PHASE I
13DEC-14DEC 91	WEAPONS OFF-LOAD SEAL BEACH, CA
13DEC-31DEC 91	HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP

NARRATIVE

FORD performed efficiently and effectively as the only surface combatant escort and shotgun for USS MISSOURI (BB 63) and USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1) while transiting from the United States, across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and into the Persian Gulf. The MISSOURI Surface Action Group (SAG) participated in a highly successful Middle East Force (MEF) training exercise with ships providing each other mutual training support while enroute to the Persian Gulf. FORD made a single ship two-day visit to the island nation of Mauritius. Port Louis Mauritius had not been visited by a U. S. Navy ship since 1987. This brief stop, which occurred immediately before the outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf, was an unqualified success. FORD crewmembers painted an orphanage and a Muslim Mosque to show our country's goodwill as a Project Hand clasp effort. FORD also hosted the American Ambassador and many foreign dignitaries to an elegant flight deck reception, creating a lasting good impression that promised to pave the way for follow-on visits by other U. S. Navy ships in the near future.

Next stop prior to entering the Persian Gulf was Bombay, India, for a Navy to Navy LM-2500 Gas Turbine technical exchange in support of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program. FORD's visit was the first to Bombay by a U.S. Navy warship since 1988. This technical exchange greatly enhanced bilateral relations between the countries, and represented the first meaningful exchange of ideas and information between the U. S. and Indian Navies. To conclude the visit, FORD participated in the first ever at-sea demonstration of U.S. Naval capabilities for the Indian Navy. The embarked Indian Navy representatives included two admirals, the senior of which was the equivalent of Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command. FORD received accolades from both the U. S. Defense Attache in New Delhi and Commander, Task Force 75, for a job professionally and diplomatically well done.

With two hours notice just prior to leaving Bombay, FORD was diverted to join Task Force 154 and Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf. In order to arrive combat ready in theater, the crew obtained and assimilated over 1000 messages in fewer than 24 hours while transiting the Straits of Hormuz. After arriving on station, FORD assumed responsibilities as anti-air warfare coordinator for the combat logistics force holding area. FORD also stationed all multinational/coalition forces in defense of this area, as well as coordinated and reported the surveillance and interdiction activities of the forces assigned.

FORD subsequently was assigned as a carrier battle force screen ship on the northern flank of a four aircraft carrier operating area. In this location, FORD was the only allied coalition ship between Iran, a neutral country that had offered safe haven to over 100 fully combat ready Iraqi aircraft, and the entire carrier battle force. This station also was in the center of the merchant and tanker traffic lanes of the gulf where FORD conducted over 90 ship interdictions.

FORD expertly performed around the clock plane guard and shotgun duties, alternating between the carriers USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, USS MIDWAY, AND USS RANGER for 34 consecutive days of continuous flight operations during the peak of the allied air campaign in Operation Desert Storm. The ship was only Non-Aegis or Non-New Threat Upgrade ship to perform shotgun duties for the carriers during the entire Gulf War.

Encl (3)

While on station, FORD conducted continuous surface surveillance of the entire carrier battle force operating areas by controlling rotary wing (helicopters) and fixed wing aircraft for over 1125 hours during Operation Desert Storm with zero safety violations or incidents. While in the combat zone, the ship conducted over 1000 safe helicopter landings, and each of the embarked pilots flew an average of 175.5 hours. FORD and HSL-49 Detachment ONE met all ship and helicopter commitments during Operations Desert Shield/Storm without exception, and conducted safely 25 underway refuelings, 27 vertical replenishments, and 3 connected replenishments while underway.

Upon the cessation of hostilities, FORD remained assigned to the USS RANGER Battle Group, and, after a brief port visit to Bahrain, began transiting the Straits of Hormuz on 20 March, departing the Persian Gulf for Long Beach on 24 March 1991 in company with USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1).

On the way back to the United States, FORD stopped in Phattaya Beach, Thailand, for a well-deserved six days liberty. The resort atmosphere and hospitality in the "Land of a Thousand Smiles" was the perfect answer for a battle-weary crew. Subic Bay, Philippines, was the next stop and provided a much needed availability for a ship that also was battle-weary. A quick stop in Hawaii saw the onload of the Tiger Cruise guests and the final stop prior returning to homeport.

For the crew's outstanding performance during this period, nine personnel were nominated to receive Air Medals, six personnel were nominated to receive Navy Commendation Medals, 30 personnel were nominated to receive Navy Achievement Medals, and 43 personnel were nominated to receive Letters of Commendation.

FORD crewmembers returned home to a hero's welcome complete with marching band, the USO, dignitaries, and many happy loved ones. On 24 June 1991, after a well-deserved leave and upkeep period and restricted availability, FORD was underway for a highly successful All Comers's At Sea Training (ACAT) period. After one more underway period, FORD spent the fourth of July in port Long Beach and tackled a 3-M Assist visit between 8 and 12 July. IMAV 6 began 15 July, and ended 4 August with many needed ship repair jobs being completed. Following a short underway period, FORD was in port San Diego on 10 August 1991 for a two week long training availability. FORD spent about half of the period between 26 August through 1 November 1991 underway. September saw a Supply Management Inspection and Command Inspection. On 1 November, 1991 FORD sponsored a Dependents and Navy League cruise that embarked over 150 guests for which the ship demonstrated her many warfare and operational capabilities and hosted a flight deck picnic for all. FORD participated in and passed an ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA) in November 1992 with flying colors. After several other underway periods in November, FORD departed Long Beach on 2 December 1991, visited San Francisco, California, 3 through 5 December, returned to Long Beach on 7 December 1991. A weapons off-load in preparation for a shipyard period took place at Seal Beach Weapons Stations on 13 and 14 December. The Mobile Technical Training Team Phase One visited FORD 9 through 13 December 1991. 13 through 31 December 1991, the ship remained in port Long Beach for a holiday leave and upkeep period.