



Rec'd 3/16/93
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96665-1508

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000
Ser CO/287
02 Mar 93

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1992

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

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

1. Enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded in accordance with
reference (a).


J. R. ECKELBERRY

Copy to:
COMDESRON NINE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS FORD (FFG-54) is the forty-eighth of the fifty-two ship Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. This is 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; 6 Officers, 1 Chief Petty Officer, and 14 other junior enlisted are added to the crew.

CHRONOLOGY

01 JAN - 27 JUN 92	DEPOT-LEVEL SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY 3 AND INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY 7
08- 12 JUN 92	AVIATION SYSTEMS INSPECTION AND READINESS/AVIATION ASSIST VISIT, HARPOON SAFETY AND MATERIAL CERTIFICATION
17 - 19 JUN 92	LIGHTOFF EXAM
20 - 21 JUN 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
22 JUN 92	LIGHTOFF
23 JUN 92	SAFETY STANDOWN
24 JUN 92	FAST CRUISE DOCK TRIALS
25 - 26 JUN 92	SEA TRIALS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
27 - 28 JUN 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
29 JUN 92	WEAPONS ONLOAD, SEAL BEACH
30 JUN - 01 JUL 92	AVIATION READINESS EXAMINATION
02 - 05 JUL 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
06 - 10 JUL 92	FLEET TRAINING GROUP ASSIST, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
11 - 12 JUL 92	INPORT, SAN DIEGO
13 - 17 JUL 92	MOBILE TECHNICAL TRAINING PHASE II
18 - 19 JUL 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
20 - 24 JUL 92	HARPOON TEAM TRAINING ASSESSMENT
25 - 26 JUL 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
27 - 31 JUL 92	3M ASSIST
01 - 02 AUG 92	INPORT, LONG BEACH
03 AUG 92	WEAPONS ONLOAD, SEAL BEACH
04 AUG 92	DEPART LONG BEACH FOR CENTRAL AMERICA
05 - 08 AUG 92	ENROUTE PUERTO QUETZAL, GUATEMALA
09 AUG 92	BASIC STOP FOR FUELING, PUERTO QUETZAL, GUATEMALA
10 AUG 92	INCHOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
11 - 16 AUG 92	ENROUTE RODMAN PANAMA
17 AUG 92	BASIC STOP FOR FUEL, RODMAN
18 - 25 AUG 92	ON-STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
26 - 29 AUG 92	VISIT PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
30 AUG - 12 SEP 92	ON-STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
13 SEP 92	BASIC STOP FOR FUEL, RODMAN
14 SEP 92	TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
15 - 17 SEP 92	ENROUTE BRASSETTERRE ST KITTS
18 - 21 SEP 92	VISIT BRASSIETRE ST KITTS
22 - 27 SEP 92	ON STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
28 SEP 92	TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
29 SEP 92	BASIC STOP FOR FUEL RODMAN
30 SEP - 02 OCT 92	ON STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
03 - 05 OCT 92	VISIT PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA
06 - 08 OCT 92	ON STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
09 OCT 92	CROSSING THE EQUATOR CEREMONY
10 - 15 OCT 92	ON STATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
16 OCT 92	REFUELING AT SEA WITH USS WICHITA
17 OCT 92	OUTCHOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
18 OCT 92	ENROUTE CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO
19 - 21 OCT 92	VISIT CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO
22 - 24 OCT 92	ENROUTE LONG BEACH
25 OCT 92	ARRIVE LONG BEACH
26 OCT - 08 NOV 92	LEAVE AND UPKEEP INPORT LONG BEACH
09 - 20 NOV 92	COMMAND ASSESSMENT READINESS TRAINING IIB
21 - 29 NOV 92	UPKEEP INPORT LONG BEACH
30 NOV - 04 DEC 92	TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY 1 LONG BEACH
05 - 06 DEC 92	INPORT LONG BEACH
07 - 11 DEC 92	TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

12 - 13 DEC 92

14 - 18 DEC 92

19 - 31 DEC 92

30 DEC 92

INPORT SAN DIEGO

TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY/LEAVE AND
UPKEEP LONG BEACH

CHANGE OF COMMAND

NARRATIVE

FORD spend the first five months of 1992 in a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at Southwest Marine Shipyard in San Pedro, CA. On 14 February 1992, Vice Admiral Bennett, Commander Naval Surface Forces, Pacific presented the Golden Anchor Award for 1992 to USS FORD in a brief ceremony on the ship's Berthing barge at Southwest Marine Naval Shipyard. Training also was a major part of the yard period and was used to keep current with shipboard systems and prepare for the light-off examination after ford left Southwest Marine shipyard.

FORD passed it's LOE on 19 June 92 and completed Sea Trials 25 and 26 June 92. After a weapons onload at Seal Beach, CA on 29 June 92 FORD passed its Aviation Readiness Examination which was from 30 June through 1 July 92. FORD received a Fleet Training Group San Diego assist visit from 6 through 10 July 92 to prepare the crew for the task of going to sea in support of Law Enforcement Operations. The Mobile Technical Training Team visited 13 through 17 July 92 to ensure the Engineering Plant was ready for sea. From 19 July to 3 August 92 FORD accomplished a 3M assist visit, a pre-deployment leave period, and another Weapons onload at Seal Beach, CA.

On 4 August 92, FORD departed Long Beach, CA for Central America. Law Enforcement Operations lasted nearly three months, and were a major success. Hard work, organization and planning all paid off when the task group commander (CTG 4.1) declared FORD's performance to be unmatched and designated the ship his "AAW (Anti-Air Warfare) TIGER."

Throughout, FORD played a significant role in the interdiction of drug traffic. Both surface and air contacts were challenged. Expertly detecting and tracking a total of 329 surface vessels, FORD positively identified 311, and boarded 18. While no contraband was discovered in any of the surface vessels ford was highly successful in interrupting potential air targets of interest. Twenty eight detected aircraft contacts were of high interest to law enforcement authorities, and six were followed to the ground where they were apprehended by law enforcement authorities. The result of the effort yielded nearly 3,000 kilos of seized cocaine and the arrest of eleven suspected drug traffickers. This impressive record clearly demonstrated how U.S. Navy Warships in this region play an important role in the detection and deterrence of illegal drug traffic into the United States.

On 9 August 1992 FORD called in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, for fuel. The principle refueling and reprovisioning port through Law Enforcement Operations was Rodman, Panama. In all, six stops were made in that particular port, including one three day visit from 26 through 29 August 1992 in Panama City, Panama. After transiting the historic Panama Canal on 14 September 1992 enroute to Law Enforcement Operations in the Caribbean, FORD visited the island nation of St. Kitts-Nevis from 18 through 21 September 1992. A highly successful diplomatic a reception for local officials including the Chief of Police, and the Minister of Interior was hosted onboard. Members of the crew also attended celebrations and receptions in honor of the nation's ninth anniversary of independence. FORD conducted Law Enforcement Operations in the Caribbean until 28 September 92 when she transitted back through the Panama Canal to the Pacific side. From 3 to 5 October 92 FORD visited Puntarenas, Costa Rica which also saw a diplomatic reception. Local officials, including the President of Chiquita Brands, Army Officers and the American Ambassador to Costa Rica were in attendance. Project Handclasp materials were distributed providing nearly a ton were of donations. A special day of reckoning for some crewmembers came on 9 October as FORD entered the domain of King Neptune and crossed the equator. The age-old tradition of crossing-the-line was observed with due solemnity, cleansing the ship of all polliwogs. FORD performed a refueling at sea with the USS WICHITA on 16 October 92 and proceeded north to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico for a port visit there from 19 to 21 October 92.

ENCLOSURE (3)

FORD returned to Long Beach on 25 October 1992 and began a post deployment leave and upkeep period that ended 16 November 92 with the start of Command Assessment Readiness Training which was a comprehensive shipwide assessment that tested the readiness of the ship from the aspect of combat systems, operations, engineering, and firefighting readiness. After a short break for Thanksgiving celebrations FORD moved into a major training period called Tailored Ship Training Availability which started 30 November and ended 18 December 92. The crew began it's Christmas leave and standown period and the ship began Intermediate Maintenance Availability 7 with SIMA Long Beach on 18 December 92.

The year ended with a Change of Command ceremony on 30 December 92 in which Commander John R. Eckelberry relieved Commander J. Lee Johnson as FORD's Commanding Officer.