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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FORD (FFG-54)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH),
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1993

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. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.


J. R. ECKELBERRY

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. It's mission is to provide detailed 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, Mark 46 anti-submarine torpedoes and the LAMPS MK III helicopter/weapons system.

c. The propulsion system is a computer controlled LM 2500 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 back bone of FORD 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 12 Officers, 15 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 enlisted are added to the crew.

CHRONOLOGY

1-31 JAN 93 INPORT NAVAL STATION LONG BEACH, PIER 16,
OPPE AND PREDEPLOYMENT PREPARATIONS

1-12 FEB 93 UNDERWAY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, SOCAL OP
AREA

13-17 FEB 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
18 FEB 93 UNDERWAY, SOCAL OP AREA

19-22 FEB 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
23-25 FEB 93 UNDERWAY OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT
EXAMINATION (OPPE)

26-28 FEB 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
1-11 MAR 93 UNDERWAY SOCAL MEF/OPPE PREPARATIONS

12-15 MAR 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
16-17 MAR 93 UNDERWAY (OPPE) REEXAMINATION

18-29 MAR 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
30-31 MAR 93 UNDERWAY SOCAL, MEF PREPARATIONS

1 APR 93 UNDERWAY SOCAL, MEF PREPARATIONS
2-6 APR 93 INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, PIER 16
7-13 APR 93 UNDERWAY, ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT, ENROUTE
TO NAVSTA PEARL HARBOR

14-15 APR 93 INPORT NAVSTA PEARL HARBOR
16-25 APR 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO NAVSTA GUAM
26-27 APR 93 INPORT NAVSTA GUAM
27-30 APR 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO SINGAPORE
1-4 MAY 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO SINGAPORE
5-9 MAY 93 INPORT SINGAPORE
10 MAY 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO PENANG MALAYSIA
11-15 MAY 93 INPORT PENANG MALAYSIA
16-18 MAY 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO COLOMBO SRI LANKA
19 MAY 93 ANCHOR COLOMBO SRI LANKA
19-24 MAY 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO BAHRAIN, ARABIAN GULF
OP AREA

25-31 MAY 93 INPORT BAHRAIN
1-6 JUN 93 INPORT BAHRAIN
7-8 JUN 93 UNDERWAY ARABIAN GULF, EXERCISE NEON SPARK
9-10 JUN 93 INPORT BAHRAIN
11-12 JUN 93 UNDERWAY ARABIAN GULF
12-13 JUN 93 INPORT JUBAIL, SAUDIA ARABIA
14-16 JUN 93 UNDERWAY ARABIAN GULF, EXERCISE NAUTICAL
SWIMMER

16 JUN 93 INPORT JUBAIL, SAUDIA ARABIA
16-17 JUN 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO DUBAI, UAE
18-26 JUN 93 INPORT DUBAI, UAE
27-29 JUN 93 UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO STRAIGHTS OF HORMUZ
GATE KEEPER OPS

29-30 JUN 93 INPORT ABU DHABI
1-4 JUL 93 INPORT ABU DHABI, EXERCISE IRON SIREN
5-6 JUL 93 UNDERWAY ARABIAN GULF, CONTINUE EXERCISE
IRON SIREN
7 JUL 93 INPORT ABU DHABI

8-15 JUL 93	UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN GULF
16-18 JUL 93	INPORT ASH SHUWAYKH KUWAIT
19-25 JUL 93	UNDERWAY ARABIAN GULF EXERCISE EAGER SENTRY
26-31 JUL 93	INPORT BAHRAIN
1-13 AUG 93	UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN GULF, ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTLE GROUP
14-17 AUG 93	INPORT BAHRAIN
18-25 AUG 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE THE STRAIGHTS OF HORMUZ AND DIEGO GARCIA
26 AUG 93	INPORT DIEGO GARCIA
26-31 AUG 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO SURABAYA INDONESIA
1-5 SEP 93	INPORT SURABAYA INDONESIA
6-8 SEP 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO PORT DARWIN AUSTRALIA
9-13 SEP 93	INPORT PORT DARWIN AUSTRALIA
13-15 SEP 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO PORT MORESBY PAPA NEW GUINEA
16-17 SEP 93	INPORT PORT MORESBY PAPA NEW GUINEA
17-20 SEP 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO KWAJALEIN MARSHAL ISLANDS
20-21 SEP 93	INPORT KWAJALEIN
22-26 SEP 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO NAVSTA PEARL HARBOR, HI
27-30 SEP 93	INPORT NAVSTA PEARL HARBOR, HI
30 SEP - 6 OCT 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA, TIGER CRUISE 93
7 OCT 93	MOOR, PIER 7, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
8-31 OCT 93	INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA, PIER 7, POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE STAND-DOWN
1-7 NOV 93	INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA, PIER 7
8-9 NOV 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO SEAL BEACH WEAPONS STATION
9-12 NOV 93	UNDERWAY SOCAL, CNO OPS AREA, IERA
12 NOV 93	INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH CA
13-19 NOV 93	UNDERWAY SOCAL OPS AREA
20 NOV-1 DEC 93	INPORT NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
2-6 DEC 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO NAVSTA PUGET SOUND, EVERETT, WA
7-10 DEC 93	INPORT NAVSTA PUGET SOUND, EVERETT, WA
11-13 DEC 93	UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
14-31 DEC 93	INPORT NAVAL SHIPYARD LONG BEACH, HOLIDAY LEAVE STAND-DOWN

NARRATIVE

1. 1993 started out with emphasis placed on preparation and training for USS FORD (FFG-54). The first success for 1993 was in the initial part of the year with FORD's completion of their inspection cycle by passing the Operational Plant Propulsion Examination (OPPE) on 17 March. The spring continued with continual preparations for Arabian Gulf Exercises and damage control. With the completion of FORD's final inspection, it was time to deploy for the Arabian Gulf.

2. Arabian Gulf deployment 1993 began April 7. This is what the crew had been planning and training for in 1992. To assist FORD on its voyage, two SH60-B helicopters from HSL-49 embarked for the deployment for ASW operations and search and rescue. During the transit to the Straights of Hormuz, FORD visited Pearl Harbor, Guam, Singapore, Penang Malaysia, and a stop for fuel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. During the port visits in Singapore and Malaysia, the crew had a chance to experience the sights, sounds, and cultures of the south pacific. Additionally, the crew assisted countries in "Project Handclasp" in which repairs were made on an old elementary school in Malaysia.

3. By the end of May, FORD entered the Arabian Gulf to stand its watch completing its' turnover with USS HORNE (CG-30) 24 May. For the next three months, FORD patrolled the Arabian Gulf resupplying in Bahrain. Other port visits while in the Arabian Gulf included Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Jubail Saudia Arabia. FORD's primary mission during its time in the Arabian Gulf was the enforcement of the United Nations "No Fly" Zone and Military Interdiction Force. In addition to its' primary duties, FORD was involved in four multinational forces exercises which included the countries of Saudia Arabia, United Kingdom, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, USS HALSEY (CG-23), and USS O'BRIEN (DD-975). The exercises involved damage control training, underway tactical maneuvering, and communications. FORD completed its watch in the Arabian Gulf by assisting the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTLE GROUP with plane-guard operations during the first part of August. By August 18. FORD was headed for the Straights of Hormuz and headed home.

4. During the first part of the transit home, FORD headed south for the island of Diego Garcia. While enroute, members of the crew participated in the traditional "Crossing the Line" ceremony on 24 August. The following day, FORD pulled into Diego Garcia. The remainder of the voyage home included liberty stops in Surabaya, Indonesia, Port Darwin Australia, and a first for U.S. Navy ships in stopping at Port Moresby, Papa New Guinea. From there, FORD stopped one last time in a foreign port in Kwajalein on

the Marshall Islands and then proceeded on to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After a few days of the incredible beaches of Wai Ki Ki, FORD set sailed for Long Beach, California and to many missed families. While in Pearl Harbor, male dependents of crew members boarded for Tiger Cruise 93. A chance when civilians experience the life aboard a Naval Warship without actually joining.

5. On October 7, USS FORD (FFG-54) arrived home to Long Beach, Ca completing Arabian Gulf 1993. There to greet the homesick sailors were hundreds of family and friends. For the remainder of the month of October, crew-members enjoyed their post deployment leave stand down. By 9 November, FORD was underway to Seal Beach Weapons Station to off-load its deployment stock. Additionally, FORD headed back to sea for a combined Chief of Naval Operations experiment along with an Issic Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA). The remainder of the year concluded with an underway port visit on 2 December to Naval Station Puget Sound in Everett, Washington to see the future home of USS FORD (FFG-54). By 14 December, FORD was back in Long Beach moored at pier three in the Long Beach Shipyard to begin SRA-4 and at the same time commence with the Christmas leave stand-down.