



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)  
FPO AP 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 1994

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.

  
K. R. TRASS

Copy to:  
COMDESRON NINE

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## 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 17 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

1-18 JAN 94	INPORT, PIER 3, LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD, HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD
19 JAN-25 MAY 94	INPORT, PIER 3, LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD, SRA-4
26 MAY 94	DEAD-STICK TO PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
27 MAY-19 JUN 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
20-24 JUN 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA, LIGHT OFF EXAMINATION (LOE)
25 JUN-31 JUL 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
1-5 AUG 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA, CREW CERTIFICATION
6-14 AUG 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
15-18 AUG 94	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH, WEAPONS ON LOAD/SEA TRIALS
19-25 AUG 94	INPORT, PIER 6, NAVSTA LONG BEACH, CA
26-28 AUG 94	UNDERWAY, CHANGE OF HOMEPORT TO NAVSTA EVERETT, WASHINGTON VIA SAN FRANCISCO
28-31 AUG 94	INPORT, TREASURE ISLAND PIER, SAN FRANCISCO
1-2 SEP 94	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
3 SEP 94	ARRIVE, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
4-22 SEP 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
23 SEP 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA, USS FORD CHANGE OF COMMAND
24-25 SEP 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
26-29 SEP 94	UNDERWAY, PUGET SOUND ENROUTE VANCOUVER, B.C., WASAT
30 SEP -3 OCT 94	INPORT, VANCOUVER, B.C.
4-5 OCT 94	UNDERWAY, PUGET SOUND ENROUTE NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
6 OCT 94	ARRIVE, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
7-19 OCT 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
20-23 OCT 94	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CA
24 OCT 94	INPORT, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, CA
25-26 OCT 94	UNDERWAY, SOCAL, SAN DIEGO, CA
27-30 OCT 94	INPORT, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, CA
31 OCT-4 NOV 94	UNDERWAY, SOCAL, SAN DIEGO, CA
5-6 NOV 94	INPORT, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, CA
7-10 NOV 94	UNDERWAY, SOCAL OPAREA, SAN DIEGO, CA, CSSQT
11-15 NOV 94	INPORT, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, CA
16 NOV 94	UNDERWAY, SOCAL OPAREA, SAN DIEGO, CA, CSSQT MISSILE FIRE
17-20 NOV 94	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NAVSTA EVERETT, WA

21 NOV 94	ARRIVE, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
22-26 NOV 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
27 NOV-2 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA, LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT
3-6 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
7-8 DEC 94	UNDERWAY, PUGET SOUND, CART IIB
9-11 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA
12-14 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA, AFLOAT TRAINING GROUP SHIP VISIT
15 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA, FAST CRUISE
16-31 DEC 94	INPORT, PIER ALPHA, NAVSTA EVERETT, WA, HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD 1

## NARRATIVE

1. Under the command of John R. Eckelberry, CDR, USN, FORD began a six month SRA in Long Beach Naval Shipyard in early January. During this overhaul, FORD's Combat Systems Department was the primary recipient of modifications and upgrades to its present system, including the SQR-19 Tactical Towed Array Sonar and the Victor mod 5 upgrade to its present SPS-49 and AN/SLQ-32; and the mod 6 upgrade to the MK 92 Fire Control System. Overall, USS FORD was refurbished in a wide range of areas from the diesel generators to habitability and living conditions in the crews berthing.

2. By the end of June, the ship completed its yard period by passing the Light Off Exam (LOE), implemented by CINCPACFLT. USS FORD was the first ship in COMNAVSURFPAC to pass this examination on time in two years. This was quite an accomplishment for the crew, especially the Engineering Department.

3. During the month of July and the first part of August, the crew members were preparing for their first underway in over eight months. By mid August, the FORD was underway for the first time for a weapons on-load at Seal Beach Weapons Station and completion of Sea Trials in the Southern California Operations Area. After a successful Sea Trial, it was time for FORD to change home-ports at the end of August. With the prospective closing of Naval Station Long Beach, California earlier in the year, USS FORD in addition to the USS INGRAHAM (FFG-61) would be the first ships to relocate to Naval Station Everett, Washington. On August 26, 1994, USS FORD pulled out of the Long Beach harbor for the last time, and headed North for Washington. During the transit, FORD pulled into Naval Station Treasure Island in San Francisco, California. After four days of liberty in San Francisco, it was time to head on to the "Puget Sound" and Everett, Washington for an arrival on 1 September.

4. During the month of September, FORD began its inspection cycle with CART IIA. With the assistance of the Afloat Training Group stationed in San Diego, California, FORD trained and prepared in assorted areas ranging from 3M to logistics management. Taking time from the everyday operational commitments, it was time to say good-bye to Commander John R. Eckelberry as the Commanding Officer. His relief, Commander Kenneth R. Trass, assumed command on 23 September. Two days following the ceremony, FORD was underway for its torpedo exercise, WASAT, in the Puget Sound. Additionally, FORD had the opportunity to pull into Vancouver, British Columbia for a three day port visit.

5. During the month of October, FORD spent most of its time inport allowing the crew to settle into the area and prepare for the upcoming underway at the end of the month. On October 25, FORD set sail for San Diego, California for the Combat Systems Shipboard Qualification and Testing (CSSQT). This was the

certification that allows the ship validate combat systems gear. In addition to CSSQT, the FORD was also preparing for the upcoming Logistic Management Assessment (LMA), and this four week visit to San Diego allowed maximum assistance from the Afloat Training Group. By November 17, FORD headed back home to Everett, Washington after completing its' successful Combat Systems Qualification.

6. By the end of November, final preparations were made for the Logistic Management Assessment (LMA), which began on 27 November and finished 2 December. FORD was awarded the "Blue E" for Logistics Excellence and 3M maintenance. The remainder of December was spent inport, Naval Station Everett, as the crew prepared for the holiday leave periods beginning on 16 December.