



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)  
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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 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

### COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS FORD (FFG 54) is the forty-eighth of the fifty-one ship Oliver Hazard Perry Class Guided Missile Frigates. The Oliver Hazard Perry Class is the largest frigate class ever built. 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. FORD's Combat System suite utilizes a computerized command and control system to integrate ship sensors and weapons. Its weapons include Harpoon surface to surface and Standard SM-1 surface to surface and 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 onboard, FORD's backbone is the crew. Each member has been highly trained and is an expert in his field, always able to operate, monitor and repair his equipment. FORD's crew consists of 18 Officers, 15 Chief Petty Officers and 177 junior enlisted personnel. When assigned a dual aircraft LAMPS MK III detachment; 6 additional Officers, 1 Chief Petty Officer and 14 enlisted are added to the crew.

### CHRONOLOGY

01-13 JAN IMAV, Inport, Pier A, NAVSTA Everett, WA. Second  
Holiday Leave Period.  
14-15 JAN Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
16 JAN Pre-INSURV, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
17-18 JAN INSURV Rehearsal, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
19 JAN BSF, Manchester, WA., Return to Everett  
20 JAN Pre-INSURV continued.  
21-22 JAN Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
23-27 JAN INSURV NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
28-29 JAN Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
30JAN-05FEB IMAV, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
06-10 FEB SESI, Inport Everett, WA.  
11-15 FEB Inport, Everett, WA.  
16 FEB BSF, Manchester, WA., Return to Everett  
17-20 FEB Inport, Everett, WA.  
21-26 FEB TSTA 1, Inport Everett, WA.  
27FEB-03MAR TSTA 1, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
04-05 MAR Inport, Everett, WA.  
06-10 MAR TSTA 1, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
11-15 FEB Inport, Everett, WA.  
16 FEB BSF, Manchester WA., Return to Everett  
17-20 FEB Inport, Everett, WA.  
21-26 FEB TSTA 1, Inport, Everett, WA.  
27FEB-03MAR TSTA 1, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
04-05 MAR Inport, Everett, WA.  
06-10 MAR TSTA 1, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
11-21 MAR IMAV, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
22 MAR Weapons Onload, Indian Island, WA.  
23-26 MAR Transit Enroute San Diego, CA.  
27-31 MAR TSTA 2, Inport San Diego, CA.  
01-02 APR Inport, San Deigo, CA.  
03-07 APR TSTA 2, Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
08-11 APR Transit Enroute Everett, WA.  
12-18 APR Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
19-21 APR Underway Northeast Pacific  
22APR-07MAY IMAV, Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
08-11 MAY Transit, Enroute San Diego, CA.  
12-15 MAY Inport San Diego, CA.  
16-17 MAY Underway OPPE preps SOCAL OPAREA  
18-22 MAY Upkeep, San Diego, CA.  
23 MAY OPPE Inport San Diego, CA.  
24 MAY OPPE, Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
25-26 MAY Transit Enroute Everett, WA.  
27-31 MAY Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
01-02 JUN Everett Salty Sea Days  
03-05 JUN Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
06-09 JUN TSTA 3, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA

10 JUN Family Day Cruise, Puget Sound  
 11 JUN Inport, Everett, WA.  
 12-16 JUN FEP, Underway PACNORWEST OPAREA  
 17JUN-10JUL IMAV, Upkeep NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 11-19 JUL CSRR, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 20JUL-06AUG IMAV, Upkeep NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 07-11 AUG BFTT, Everett, WA.  
 12-20 AUG Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 21-23 AUG Transit Enroute SOCAL OPAREA  
 24 AUG Embark HSL-45 DET 1, NASNI  
 25-31 AUG COMPTUEX 95-15 Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
 01-04 SEP Inport San Diego, CA.  
 05 SEP DLQ Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
 06-15 SEP FLEETEX 95-2 Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
 16-24 SEP IMAV, Upkeep San Diego  
 25SEP-06OCT JTFEX 95-2 Underway SOCAL OPAREA  
 06 OCT Debark HSL-45 DET 1, NAVSTA San Diego  
 07-09 OCT Transit Enroute Everett, WA.  
 10 OCT Weapons Onload Indian Island, WA.  
 11-19 OCT Upkeep, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 20OCT-20NOV POM Period, NAVSTA Everett, WA.  
 21 NOV Weapons Onload, Indian Island, WA.  
 22-27 NOV Ready for Sea  
 28-30 NOV DEPLOY, Embark SOSMRC Student, Transit Enroute  
 SOCAL OPAREA  
 01 DEC Debark SOSMRC Student, Embark HSL-45 DET 1,  
 San Diego, CA.  
 02-12 DEC TRANSITEX Middle Pacific 96-W1  
 02-08 DEC ASWEX, MIDPAC  
 09-20 DEC TRANSITEX Western Pacific 96-W1  
 21-25 DEC Inport, Hong Kong  
 26-29 DEC Underway South China Sea  
 30-31 DEC Inport, Singapore

Encl (2)

## NARRATIVE

1. Under the command of Kenneth R. Trass, CDR, USN, FORD began 1995 with a job availability period during the first half of January. The second Holiday Leave period was in full swing with those crewmembers not able to go home for Christmas, now at home with their loved ones. On 16 January, members of the Board of Inspection and Survey came aboard to conduct pre-INSURV (the Navy's material readiness inspection.) Preparations continued until the final inspection from 23-27 January. FORD scored well with minimal discrepancies outside normal class-wide discrepancies.

2. The inspection process continued into February with the Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI) scheduled for 6-10 February. FORD completed the inspection in just under 6 hours with no discrepancies! The inspector commented that no ship had ever passed his inspection this quickly during his nine year career.

On 21 February, members of Afloat Training Group Pacific (ATGPAC) arrived to begin Tailored Ships Training Availability Level 1 (TSTA 1). TSTA 1 is a shipwide assessment and training period covering firefighting, communications, operations, engineering, and ship's defense (ASUW, ASW, and AAW). ATGPAC went to sea with FORD in the PACNORWEST OPAREA and completed their initial assessment 10 March. To continue the process, FORD went to San Diego, California to begin TSTA 2 on 27 March. TSTA 2 included a dual-salvo missile shoot and gunnery exercise at Pacific Missile Test Center off of San Clemente Island. FORD recorded a skin-to-skin missile engagement. On 8 April, FORD headed north back to its homeport in Everett, Washington for a month long availability and upkeep period. Early in May, FORD once again returned to San Diego to prepare for its Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). The San Diego preparations paid off as the Propulsion Examination Board (PEB) was onboard for only 48 hours before making the decision that FORD's propulsion plant and auxiliary spaces were satisfactory for a Western Pacific deployment.

FORD returned to Everett to be home for the Memorial Day Weekend. During the first weekend of June, FORD participated in the traditional Everett Salty Sea Days Festival and served as the "visit ship" along with USS CALLAGHAN (DDG 994). The festival was a big boost to the already warm relationship between the Navy and the Everett community. The following week, ATGPAC returned for TSTA 3, the last assessment and training period prior to the Final Evaluation Period (FEP).

On 10 June, FORD families and friends came aboard for a Family Day Cruise from Everett to Seattle and back. The following week, with the support of both U.S. and Canadian assets, FORD successfully completed FEP and the training cycle.

3. The remainder of the summer was committed to upkeep in preparation for November's deployment. FORD's Cruise Missile Qualification Trials were conducted by ATGPAC the last week of June and a Combat System Readiness Review was completed in mid-July.

4. FORD departed Everett on 21 August for Deployment workup exercises with the Nimitz Battle Group. On 24 August, FORD embarked Helicopter Detachment One from HSL-45 at Naval Air Station North Island. Workups consisted of three major exercises involving the entire Battlegroup including two submarines and additional U.S. assets posing as enemy forces. In total, FORD was away from homeport for 50 days with 12 days inport San Diego. FORD conducted another missile exercise and again scored a skin-to-skin engagement. FORD achieved a direct hit on a towed air target with the 76mm gun, a rare occurrence. The Visit, Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) Team conducted several practice boardings against USS SHASTA (AE 33) in preparation for anticipated Maritime Intercept Operations.

5. Before returning to Everett, FORD stopped at Indian Island, Washington to onload additional weapons for deployment. The Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) period began on 20 October allowing the crew to take leave and make final personal arrangements prior to leaving for six months. The period was divided into two two-week leave periods. On 21 November, FORD got underway for one day to complete a final ammunition onload. The last week prior to deployment was dedicated to getting the ship ready for sea.

6. FORD deployed 28 November stopping first in San Diego to pick up HSL 45 Det ONE, the embarking SH-60F Detachment. After a five hour stop FORD was underway rendezvous with the Nimitz Battle Group under the command of Rear Admiral Lyle Bien, Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN. The Battlegroup then transited the Pacific Ocean from 02-20 December enroute Hong Kong. FORD participated in two ASW exercises with a U.S. Los Angeles Class SSN and a new state-of-the-art Diesel submarine of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

7. From 21-25 December, FORD visited Hong Kong. On 26 December, FORD transited the South China Sea while escorting USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707) enroute to Singapore. FORD completed 1995 enjoying the warmth of Singapore. The Supply Department was inspected here for the prestigious Ney Award for Food Service Excellence.

Encl (3)