



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)
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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 1996

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.


S. W. KEITH

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 17 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

01-05 JAN Inport, Sembawang, Singapore. Port Visit.
06-13 JAN Transit Indian Ocean.
14-17 JAN Fujairah, UAE. Port Visit.
18 JAN Transit Gulf of Oman, Straits of Hormuz.
19 JAN Transit Arabian Gulf.
20-22 JAN Inport, Bahrain.
23JAN-05FEB MIO OPS, North Arabian Gulf.
06-10 FEB Inport, Bahrain.
11-18 FEB MIO OPS, North Arabian Gulf.
19-25 FEB Inport, Bahrain.
26FEB-03MAR MIO OPS, North Arabian Gulf.
04-21 MAR Transit, Indian Ocean enroute to Taiwan.
22-30 MAR On station, OPAREA southeast of Taiwan.
31MAR-04APR Transit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand.
05-10 APR Inport, Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Port Visit.
11-14 APR Transit to Cebu, Phillipines.
15-19 APR Inport, Cebu, Phillipines. Port Visit.
20APR-05MAY Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI.
06-10 MAY Inport, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, Port Visit.
11-17 MAY Transit to NAVSTA Everett, WA.
18-31 MAY Inport, Everett, WA. First Post-Deployment Leave
Period.
01-13 JUN Inport, Everett, WA. Second Post Deployment Leave
Period.
14-23 JUN Inport, Everett, WA.
24 JUN Transit to Port Hadlock, WA. Weapons offload.
25 JUN Underway Puget Sound OPAREA.
26 JUN Transit to Everett, WA.
27-30 JUN Inport, Everett, WA.
01 JUL Change of Command, Everett WA.
02JUL-30SEP Inport, Everett, WA. PRAV.
01-02 OCT Inport, Everett, WA. FASCUISE.
03-04 OCT Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. Sea Trials.
05-06 OCT Inport, Everett, WA.
07-11 OCT Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. NAVCHECK Ride.
12-20 OCT Inport, Everett, WA.
21-25 OCT Inport, Everett, WA. CART II.
26-27 OCT Inport, Everett, WA.
28-31 OCT Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. C2W WTT/STT.
01-03 NOV Inport, Everett, WA.
04-08 NOV Inport, Everett, WA. ASIR.
09-11 NOV Inport, Everett.
12-15 NOV Inport, Everett, WA. LMA.
16-17 NOV Inport, Everett, WA.
18-22 NOV Inport, Everett, WA. TSTA I.
23-24 NOV Inport, Everett, WA.
25 NOV Enroute to Port Hadlock, WA. Ammo Onload.
26 NOV Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA.
27 NOV Arrive, Everett, WA.
28NOV-01DEC Inport, Everett, WA.
02 DEC Inport, Everett, WA. TSTA I

03-06 DEC Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. TSTA I.
07-08 DEC Inport, Vancouver, BC. Port Visit.
09 DEC Inport, Vancouver, BC. TSTA I.
10-13 DEC Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. TSTA I.
14-15 DEC Inport, Everett, WA.
16 DEC Inport, Everett, WA. TSTA I.
17-20 DEC Underway, Hein Bank OPAREA. TSTA I.
21-31 DEC Inport, Everett, WA. Holiday Leave Period.

NARRATIVE

1. Under the command of Kenneth R. Trass, CDR, USN, FORD began 1996 in sunny and warm Singapore enroute to the Arabian Gulf. FORD was part of the Nimitz Battlegroup in a normally scheduled six month deployment. Once on station in the Arabian Gulf, FORD was tasked as the primary Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) platform in the battlegroup and operated mostly in the North Arabian Gulf. In February, a dhow (small Arabian cargo vessel) collided with the FORD while preparing to be boarded and forced FORD into Bahrain for repairs. FORD performed it's MIO duties in an exemplary manner, intercepting 31 ships, boarding 16 and diverting 8 vessels which in sum total were laden with over five million pounds of illegal cargo. This accounted for over two-thirds of the total MIO output for the entire Nimitz Battlegroup.

2. In March, FORD and her Nimitz Battlegroup counterparts were tasked to respond to the growing tensions in the Straits of Taiwan between China and Taiwan. China was conducting "missile tests" dangerously close to Taiwanese airspace in response to pro-Democracy elections in Taiwan. FORD helped to provide a strong US presence in that region and help quell the political tempers before any serious confrontations erupted. After the tensions relaxed, FORD transited to Pattaya Beach, Thailand and Cebu, Phillipines for some well-deserved liberty. FORD finished her six month deployment with a stop in Pearl Harbor, HI where she picked up her Tiger Cruise participants. FORD arrived in Everett on 17May96, one week earlier then originally scheduled!

3. Immediately after returning from deployment, FORD went into a one month post-deployment stand down period allowing crewmembers to get a well-deserved respite from being underway and catch up on their family lives. On 01JUL96, FORD bid farewell to CDR K. R. Trass and welcomed aboard CDR S. W. Keith in a Change of Command ceremony held on the flight deck of FORD.

4. The remainder of the summer was committed to a major overhaul period. Inside the skin of the ship, number One and three Ship's Service Diesel Generators (SSDG) were overhauled and the Gas Turbine Intakes were redone. On most of the outer portions of the ship, FORD was coated with PCMS, a substance which diffuses reflective radar energy, making FORD's radar cross-section smaller. The overhaul period lasted roughly until the beginning of October when FORD began her sea trials and the first of her deployment cycle training. CART II took place pierside in Everett from 21-25 OCT96 and laid the groundwork for the next deployment cycle that FORD was entering. Supply Department had their Logistics Management Assessment 12-15 NOV96 and received Excellents in all three Supply divisions (no grade was below a 96%) and earned FORD her third consecutive Blue "E" for Supply Excellence.

4. In November, FORD began the TSTA process. TSTA I was held inport Everett from 18NOV-02DEC. The TSTA I process was

continued underway for the each of the next three weeks in December. FORD was highly successful, passing all areas. In some areas, Radio for example, FORD was assessed at the TSTA II level, quite impressive! FORD enjoyed a port visit to Vancouver, British Columbia on 07-09 DEC96, taking in all of the sights and sounds of that breathtaking Canadian city.

5. FORD closed out 1996 spending the holidays at home with loved ones and family. It was a very successful and productive year for all on FORD, one which we will all try to replicate for the coming year 1997.

Encl (3)