



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORD (FFG 54)
FPO AP 96665-1508

Rec'd 7/29/99
W/o disk

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5700
FFG54/099
22 JUL 99

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

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

G. A. McCaffrey
G. A. MCCAFFREY

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. Its 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 uses 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 air missiles, a 76mm rapid fire gun, 20mm Close-In Weapon System, Mark 46 and Mark 50 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 uses jet engines similar to those found on commercial airliners. FORD's propulsion system can be energized and aligned for operation 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 20 Officers, 12 Chief Petty Officers, and 180 junior enlisted personnel. When assigned a dual aircraft LAMPS MK III detachment, 6 additional Officers, 1 Chief Petty Officer, and 14 enlisted personnel are added to the crew.

CHRONOLOGY

01-06JAN Underway NAG. MIO/UN Sanction enforcement.
07-09JAN Inport Bahrain.
10-28JAN Transit to Melbourne, Australia.
11JAN Transit Strait of Hormuz.
29JAN-02FEB Inport Melbourne, Australia. Port visit.
03-04FEB Transit to Sydney, Australia.
04FEB Change of Command
05-09FEB Inport Sydney, Australia. Port visit.
10-20FEB Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
21FEB BSP Pearl Harbor, HI.
22-28FEB Transit to NAVSTA Everett, WA. Tiger Cruise 98.
01MAR Moor Pier A, NAVSTA Everett. Completion of ARABIAN GULF 97-2.
02-28MAR Inport NAVSTA Everett. Post-deployment leave standdown.
29MAR-15APR Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
16APR Transit to Vancouver, British Columbia.
17-19APR Inport Vancouver, British Columbia. Port visit.
20APR Transit to Indian Island, WA. (NAVWEPSTA???)
21-22APR Inport Indian Island, WA. Ammunition offload.
23APR Transit to Todd Shipyard, Seattle, WA.
24APR Defueling
25-26APR Inport Todd Shipyard, Seattle, WA
27APR-30JUN Drydock Selected Restricted Availability 98-2 (DSRA 98-2).
Todd Shipyard, Seattle, WA.
30JUN Sea Trials. Completion of DSRA 98-2. Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
01-13JUL Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
14JUL Transit to Indian Island, WA. (NAVWEPSTA???)
15-16JUL Inport Indian Island, WA. Ammunition Onload.
16JUL Transit to Esquimalt, British Columbia.
17-19JUL Inport Esquimalt, British Columbia. Port visit.
20JUL Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
Commander's Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II) begins.
20-24JUL Inport NAVSTA Everett. CART II.
25JUL-16AUG Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
17-21AUG Inport NAVSTA Everett. TSTA I Inport.
22-24AUG Inport NAVSTA Everett.
25-28AUG Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA I.
29-31AUG Inport NAVSTA Everett.
01-04SEP Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA I.
05-07SEP Inport NAVSTA Everett.
08-11SEP Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA I.
12-27SEP Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
28SEP-02OCT Inport NAVSTA Everett. TSTA II Inport.
03-05OCT Inport NAVSTA Everett.
06-09OCT Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA II.
10-12OCT Inport NAVSTA Everett.
13-16OCT Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA II.
17-18OCT Inport NAVSTA Everett.

19-21OCT	Underway, Puget Sound. ECERT preparations.
22-23OCT	Underway, Puget Sound. ECERT.
24OCT-01NOV	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
02-05NOV	Underway, Puget Sound ISO USS DAVID R RAY Final Evaluation Period.
06-30NOV	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep
01-04DEC	Underway, Puget Sound. TSTA III.
05-13DEC	Inport NAVSTA Everett.
07-11DEC	Logistics Management Assessment.
14-17DEC	Underway, Puget Sound. Final Evaluation Period.
18-31DEC	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Holiday Standdown.

NARRATIVE

1. Under the command of Stephen W. Keith, CDR, USN, FORD began 1998 underway in the North Arabian Gulf conducting Maritime Interception Operations in support of United Nations sanctions. FORD was inport Bahrain from 07-09 January, receiving stores and fuel in preparation for its transit home.

2. On 10 January, FORD was headed for the Strait of Hormuz, enroute to port visits in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. Members of the crew participated in the traditional "Crossing the Line" ceremony on 18 January. FORD arrived in Melbourne on 29 January for a five-day port visit, meeting the prospective Commanding Officer, and completing the Work Definition Conference for the upcoming drydock availability. On 04 February, George A. McCaffrey, CDR, USN, relieved Stephen W. Keith, CDR, USN, as Commanding Officer, USS FORD. The following day, FORD arrived in Sydney for another five-day port call before proceeding to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After an overnight stay in Pearl Harbor, male dependents of crewmembers boarded for Tiger Cruise 98, an opportunity for civilians to experience daily life aboard a warship. On 01 March, FORD arrived home in Everett, WA, completing its Arabian Gulf deployment 97-2. For the remainder of the month of March, crewmembers enjoyed their well-earned post-deployment leave stand-down.

3. By 16 April, FORD was again underway, transiting to Vancouver, British Columbia. Following a port visit there, FORD proceeded to Indian Island Weapons Station to offload its deployment ammunition stock in preparation for a Drydock Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA 98-2). On 27 April, FORD began an extremely ambitious nine-week DSRA 98-2, which lasted until 30 June. The work package was one of the most aggressive ever attempted by a frigate for a nine-week DSRA, but everything was completed on time.

4. Following a brief upkeep period in Everett, FORD got underway on 14 July for a DESRON NINE Group Sail with USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD-964) and USS RODNEY M DAVIS (FFG-60). Following an ammunition onload and a visit to the Canadian naval base in Esquimalt, British Columbia, FORD began the Inter-deployment Training Cycle with the Commander's Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II) from 20-24 July, being evaluated at the TSTA I level.

5. FORD spent the remainder of the year completing the training cycle. On 22-23 October, FORD completed a successful Propulsion Examination Board, Pacific Fleet, Engineering Certification (ECERT). During 07-11 December, FORD passed its Logistics Management Assessment. FORD completed the Final Evaluation Period 17 December. On 18 December FORD began its 9D2 Availability and a welcome holiday stand down that was well-earned by FORD's hard-working crew.

6. As a result of all FORD's success and determination, she earned the Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency Award for 1998. FORD excelled at every step of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, and deserved this high commendation.