



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 1999

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.

T. F. NEDERVOLD

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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 missiles, 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

01-24JAN	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
25-27JAN	Underway, Nanoose, USW exercise.
28JAN	Transit to Victoria, British Columbia.
29-31JAN	Inport Victoria, British Columbia.
01FEB	Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
02-07FEB	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
08-12FEB	Transit to Port Hueneme, CA.
13-21FEB	Inport, Port Hueneme, CA. CSRR.
22-25FEB	Underway, SOCAL. MEFEX 99-2, Phase II.
26-28FEB	Inport San Diego, CA.
01-04MAR	Underway, SOCAL. MEFEX 99-2, Phase II.
05-07MAR	Inport San Diego, CA.
08-10MAR	Underway, SOCAL. OPFOR Constellation Battle Group.
11-17MAR	Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
18MAR-28APR	Inport NAVSTA Everett. IMAV.
29-02MAY	Transit to San Diego, CA.
03-16MAY	Inport San Diego, CA. IMAV/Liferaft Maintenance.
17-27MAY	Underway enroute Puget Sound as tow escort.
28MAY	Transit to Bellingham, WA.
28-31MAY	Inport, Bellingham WA. Adoption Ceremony, Bellingham Navy League
01JUN	Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
02-06JUN	Inport NAVSTA Everett.
07-10JUN	Underway for WSAT Nanoose USW Range.
11-21JUN	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
22-23JUN	Underway in Puget Sound. Underway Material Inspection.
24-25JUN	Inport NAVSTA Everett. INSURV.
26-28JUN	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
29-02JUL	Transit to Kodiak, AK.
03-05JUL	Inport Kodiak, AK. Port Visit.
06-09JUL	Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
10-26JUL	Inport NAVSTA Everett. Upkeep.
27JUL	Transit to Indian Island, WA.
28JUL	Inport Indian Island, WA. Ammunition Onload.
29-02AUG	Transit to San Diego, CA.
03-04AUG	Inport San Diego, CA.
05-20AUG	Underway, SOCAL. PACMEF 99-3 Phase II.
21-24AUG	Transit to NAVSTA Everett.
24-19SEP	Inport NAVSTA Everett. POM.
20SEP	Deploy PACMEF 99-3.
21-25SEP	Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI.
26SEP	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI. Refueling.
27-13OCT	Transit to Singapore.
14-17OCT	Inport Singapore. Port Visit.
18-19OCT	Transit to Phuket, Thailand.
20-24OCT	Inport Phuket, Thailand.
25-01NOV	Underway, Indian Ocean.
02NOV	Transit Straits of Hormuz.

03NOV	Transit to Bahrain.
04-06NOV	Inport Bahrain. Inchop Brief.
07-20NOV	Underway, MIO OPS.
21NOV	Transit to Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
13-15NOV	Inport Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Port Visit.
16-22NOV	Underway, MIO OPS.
23NOV	Transit to Doha, Qatar.
24-27NOV	Inport Doha, Qatar. Port Visit.
28-09DEC	Underway, MIO OPS.
10DEC	Transit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
11-13DEC	Inport, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
14-31DEC	Underway, MIO OPS.

## NARRATIVE

1. Under the command of George A. McCaffrey, CDR, USN, FORD began 1999 inport, Naval Station Everett WA, during its Christmas standown period.
2. On 25 January, FORD transited to the Nanoose USW Range for exercises and then to Esquimalt, British Columbia for a three-day port visit. FORD spent the first week of February inport, NAVSTA Everett. On 8 February, FORD transited to Port Hueneme, CA for its Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR). FORD achieved an unprecedented 78 percent "fix to find" ratio, the highest to date of any Puget Sound ship. After successfully completing CSRR, FORD participated in MEFEX 99-2, along with USS David R. Ray (DD-971), USS Ingraham (FFG-61), and USS Stetham (DDG-63).
3. FORD returned to NAVSTA Everett on 18 March for a month-long Inport Maintenance Availability (IMAV). On 29 April FORD transited to San Diego, CA for a two-week IMAV. Upon getting underway on 17 May FORD was assigned as a tow escort for ex-USS Baltimore and ex-USS Phoenix during their journey to Bremerton Naval Shipyard. FORD turned the decommissioned submarines over to the Coast Guard and proceeded to Bellingham, WA. There the FORD was adopted by the Bellingham Navy League, and enjoyed a three-day port visit.
4. Following a brief upkeep period in Everett, FORD got underway on 7 June for a Weapons Systems Accuracy Test in the Nanoose USW Range, where the FORD achieved a 100% kill ratio. After another inport period, FORD underwent its INSURV inspection from June 22-25. FORD completed the five-day comprehensive inspection in only four days. The Senior Inspector remarked that FORD was the best frigate his team had ever seen. On June 29 FORD departed NAVSTA Everett for an Independence Day port call in Kodiak, AK. FORD returned on July 9 and remained inport until July 27.
5. FORD got underway on July 27. After an ordinance onload in Indian Island, WA, FORD transited to the Southern California Operation Area, where it participated in PACMEF 99-3 Phase 2 training, with USS John Young (DD-973) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG-53). On the morning of August 13, Commander Thomas F. Nedervold relieved Commander George A. McCaffrey as Commanding Officer, USS FORD. On August 24, FORD returned to NAVSTA Everett for its three-week Pre-Overseas Movement leave period.
6. FORD deployed on Middle East Force 99-3 on September 20. After a rendezvous with USS John Young and USS John Paul Jones, the FORD stopped in Pearl Harbor, HI for a fuel onload. The next day FORD moved into the Seventh Fleet Area of Responsibility, and began its transit to Guam, where it made a brief stop for fuel on October 7. On October 14, FORD pulled into Singapore for a four-day port visit. FORD went underway on October 18 for a brief transit to Phuket, Thailand, where it enjoyed a four-day port visit. On October 25, FORD began its transit across the Indian Ocean. FORD moved into the Gulf of Oman and the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility on October 30. On November 2 FORD transited the Straits of Hormuz, and stopped in Bahrain for a three day port visit and Commander Fifth Fleet Arabian Gulf orientation.
7. On November 7, FORD traveled to the Northern Arabian Gulf, where it participated in Maritime Interception Operations. On November 12, FORD transited to Jubail, Saudi Arabia, where it stopped for a three-day port visit. On November 16 FORD departed Saudi Arabia for eight days in the Northern Arabian Gulf until November 24, when it stopped in Doha, Qatar for a four-day Thanksgiving port visit. FORD left Qatar and proceeded to the Northern Arabian Gulf for 11 more days of operations. On December 11, FORD stopped in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates for a three-day port visit. FORD went underway on December 16 and conducted operations through the end of the year.