



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GARY (FFG 51) ✓

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96666

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS GARY (FFG 51)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History for 1986

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

*W. D. Bethea*

W. D. BETHEA

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COMNAVSURFPAC (Code 021)  
COMCRUDESGRU 1  
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COMDESRON 9

**USS GARY (FFG 51)  
COMMAND HISTORY 1986  
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

USS GARY is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. Currently programmed for over fifty ships, this will be the NAVY'S largest destroyer class since World War II as well as the newest. Her mission is to provide anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-surface protection for military and merchant shipping, amphibious task forces, underway logistics groups, and carrier battle groups.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility, and accountability for the performance of the ship and the crew. The Executive Officer, as second in command, is responsible for the implementation of Navy policies and regulations as applicable to the ship. Each department head reports to the Commanding Officer via the Executive Officer.

USS GARY is commanded by Commander William D. Bethea of Los Angeles, California. The Executive Officer is LCDR Robert L. Moon. The ship's organization is divided into five departments: Combat Systems, Engineering, Ship Control, Supply, and Air (Helicopter Detachment). The department head administers and oversees the basic operation of his department's function in achieving the overall command mission.

**USS GARY DEPARTMENT HEADS 1986**

Combat Systems Officer: LCDR [REDACTED]  
Chief Engineer: LT [REDACTED]  
Ship Control Officer: LCDR [REDACTED]  
relieved by LT [REDACTED] in August  
Supply Officer: LT [REDACTED], SC, USN  
OIC Helo Det: LCDR [REDACTED]

In keeping with her motto as "Freedom's Foremost Guardian" USS GARY participated in various fleet exercises and independent operations which tested the capabilities and endurance of the ship and her crew.

Training and pre-deployment preparation dominated GARY's schedule for the first half of 1986. Successful completion of Refresher Training, READIEX 86-3, and RIMPAC 86 proved that the "Fighting Frigate" and her crew were ready for deployment to the Seventh Fleet.

With the benefits of training complete GARY deployed for her first WESTPAC since commissioning on 17 November 1984. During the cruise GARY achieved several important milestones:

First Surface Warfare Officer qualified on board  
LT [REDACTED] 21 August 1986  
First foreign port visit  
Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines  
First crossing of the Equator at Longitude 047° 35.6'E  
First Change of Command  
Over 42,000 nautical miles traveled

**USS GARY FFG-51  
COMMAND HISTORY 1986**

At the end of 1986 GARY had completed all tasks and missions of her deployment. The last week of 1986 was spent in transit from Bunbury, Western Australia to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. For a chronological outline of specific events in 1986 please refer to the attached Narrative Summary in the Special Topics enclosure.

USS GARY (FFG 51)  
 COMMAND HISTORY 1986  
 SPECIAL TOPICS

COMMAND ORGANIZATION: USS GARY (FFG-51) is presently under the command of CDR William Dallas Bethea III who relieved CDR Harlan Roland Bankert Jr on 26 December 1986. USS GARY is under the operational control of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 9 and Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 5.

USS GARY'S Air Department is staffed by detachments from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Forty Three (HSL-43), homebased at NAS North Island, California. HSL-43 flies the SH-60B "SEAHAWK" LAMPS MK III helicopter.

USS GARY is homeported in Long Beach, California.

MAJOR COMMAND PROBLEMS: None

MAJOR CHANGES TO EQUIPMENT/MAJOR MATERIAL CASUALTIES: None

1986 AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Type</u>
20 Feb	02	MK 58 Marine Markers
	209	.50 Cal
	70	7.62 MM (M-14)
	09	76 MM HEPD
	31	76 MM BL&P
	01	Rifle Grenade Cartridge (M-14)
1 Mar	143	.50 Cal
	20	76 MM BL&P
	01	MK 58 Marine Marker
25 Mar	15	MK 2 Marine Illumination Signals
26 Mar	01	EXTORP (Tube)
29 Mar	96	20 MM CIWS
	01	MK 58 Marine Marker
8 Apr	01	Rifle Grenade Cartridge (M-14)
	01	MK 58 Marine Marker
2 May	140	12 GA Shotgun
	720	7.62 MM (M-14)
	685	.45 Cal
20 May	115	7.62 MM (M-14)
28 June	03	SRBOC (chaff)
1 Jul	03	76 MM BL&P

1986 AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES (Continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Type</u>
2 Jul	200	20 MM CIWS
2 Sept	05	76 MM BL&P
10 Sept	70	12 GA Shotgun
	635	7.62 MM (M-14)
	425	.45 Cal
18 Sept	152	.50 Cal
	03	76 MM BL&P
	01	MK 58 Marine Marker
19 Sept	200	12 GA Shotgun
	260	7.62 MM (M-14)
	300	7.62 MM Linked (M-60)
	275	.45 Cal
	01	MK 58 Marine Marker
22 Sept	18	7.62 MM (M-14)
	200	.50 Cal
23 Sept	300	20 MM CIWS
	134	.50 Cal
1 Oct	01	MK58 Marine Marker
9 Oct	267	.50 Cal
14 Oct	79	7.62 MM (M-14)
	158	.50 Cal
23 Oct	260	7.62 MM (M-14)
	100	7.62 MM Linked (M-60)
	272	.50 Cal
	200	20 MM CIWS
26 Oct	20	7.62 MM (M-14)
	05	76 MM HEPD
	10	76 MM BL&P
6 Nov	348	.50 Cal
6 Dec	20	76 MM BL&P
9 Dec	31	76 MM BL&P
14 Dec	200	20 MM CIWS
20 Dec	200	20 MM CIWS
	60	76 MM BL&P

1986 AMMUNITION EXPENDITURES (Continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Type</u>
30 Dec	01	MK 58 Marine Marker

HELO OPERATIONS FOR 1986:

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Forty Three Detachment Seven was comprised of 4 pilots, 2 aircrewmembers, a Maintenance CPO, and 8 enlisted maintenance technicians. The Officer-in-Charge of HSL-43 Det 7 from January 1986 through March 1987 was LCDR [REDACTED], USN.

Detachment Seven first embarked on USS GARY from 10 February 1986 through 1 March 1986 in support of Refresher Training (REFTRA). The SH-60B, Bureau number 162109, callsign/tail number -- "Oceanlord 27", was flown 78 hours in support of REFTRA exercises.

The Detachment embarked again from 21 March 1986 to 14 April 1986 for READIEX 86-3 and TACDEVEX 86-1 in which 125 flight hours were logged for tactics evaluation, and training in using the LAMPS MK III systems. At the completion of READIEX, the airborne ASW crews had achieved "Alpha Crew" status, indicating that they were ready for deployment.

From 2 June 1986 to 2 Jul 1986, HSL-43 Det 7 flew 142 hours participating in RIMPAC 86 in the Hawaiian OPAREA. During one "BUSY OBSERVER" exercise, RADM E. Clexton, COMCARGRU THREE, Battle Group "C" commander, flew as a co-pilot and intercepted a USAF B-52 simulating a Soviet BEAR "D" reconnaissance aircraft.

With training completed, the Detachment embarked on USS GARY on 12 August 1986 for a six month WESTPAC deployment. On the morning of departure, USS GARY experienced failures of both gas turbine engine start motors. Oceanlord 27 flew the repair parts from San Diego, California to Long Beach, California allowing the repairs to be effected. USS GARY was underway for deployment by early afternoon.

The LAMPS MK III helicopter provided a valuable ESM and radar platform in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman from 27 September 1986 through 4 November 1986.

On 4 December 1986 in Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, HSL-43 Det 7 received an over-all grade of satisfactory on the mid-cruise Maintenance Material Inspection with grades of 4.0 in "Aviation Life Support" and "Aircraft Condition."

At the end of CY 86, Detachment 7 had logged 725 flight hours and USS GARY'S flight deck crew had logged nearly 1200 flight deck evolutions without a mishap. USS GARY has been nominated for the "LAMPS Ship Safety Award" for 1986.

USS GARY (FFG 51)  
COMMAND HISTORY 1986  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1-8 Jan Holiday leave and upkeep.

8 Jan Underway from Long Beach, California. Conduct Engineering Casualty Control drills and vibration analysis in SOCIAL OPAREA.

10 Jan Moor Long Beach, California.

13 Jan Underway from Long Beach, California.

14 Jan Conduct TACAN certification. Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USS ROANOKE (AOR-7).

15 Jan Anchor San Diego, California.

16 Jan Underway, conduct MOB-N-6-R, transit swept minefield exercise. Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) commences.

21 Jan Receive Navy Food Management Team Assist visit. Conduct Link 11 system groom and 2M Certification on board. LAMPS III Helicopter Mobile Training Team arrives on board at Long Beach, California.

22 Jan GARY receives grade of "outstanding in preparation for training" by TRE.

28 Jan Underway from Long Beach, California. OPPE commences.

30 Jan Moor Long Beach, California.

3 Feb Recover SH-60B helicopter inport Long Beach, California.

4 Feb GARY reports to Destroyer Squadron 9.

7 Feb Torpedo onload for LAMPS MK III. GARY successfully completes OPPE.

9 Feb Underway for Refresher Training (REFTRA) in San Diego, California.

10 Feb Anchor San Diego, California. REFTRA commences.

11-13 Feb Conduct ASW/AAW exercises under the tactical control of USS CAPE COD (AD-43). In formation with USS JOHN YOUNG (DD-973), and USS WADDELL (DDG-24). Conduct deck landing qualifications for HSL-41.

14 Feb Anchor San Diego, California.

17 Feb Underway, REFTRA continues.

17-21 Feb Conduct various ship control/mobility exercises and formation steaming as part of REFTRA.

20 Feb Conduct ASU-8-B Surface gunnery exercise and AAW-9-I Surface-Air gunnery exercise. Total of 40 rounds expended. UNREP with USNS KAWISHIWI.

20-21 Feb Steam in company with USS TARAWA (LHA-1).

21-24 Feb Anchored San Diego, California.

24-25 Feb Underway, steaming in company with USS LEAHY (CG-16), USS BERKELEY (DDG-15), USS JOHN YOUNG (DD-973), and USS ELLIOT (DD-967).

28 Feb REFTRA successfully completed, en route Long Beach, California.

28 Feb-21 Mar Inport Long Beach, California.

3 Mar Commence IMAV with USS PRAIRIE (AD-15).

10-11 Mar COMNAVSURFPAC conducts GARY's first Supply Management Inspection: Receives grade of satisfactory.

21 Mar IMAV complete; underway for READIEX.

21 Mar-14 Apr READIEX

22-24 Mar Steaming in company with USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF-1066).

25 Mar UNREP with USNS KAWISHIWI.

25-26 Mar Under tactical control of USS JOUETT (CG-29).

26 Mar Torpedo firing exercise as part of READIEX.

28 Mar UNREP with USNS KAWISHIWI

29 Mar Steaming with USS BREWTON (FF-1086), USS SAMPLE (FF-1048) and USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD-964).

29-31 Mar Moor Long Beach, California.

31 Mar-4 Apr Underway, steaming with the USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF-1066), USS BREWTON (FF-1086).

1-3 Apr Operations with USS BLUEBACK (SS-581).

3 Apr Steaming with USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD-964), UNREP with USS FLINT (AE-32).

4-6 Apr Conduct simulated anti-ship attacks on simulated aggressor warships.



5 Apr Steaming with USS JOUETT (CG-29); conduct towing exercises.

6-7 Apr Torpedo exercise with USS HOUSTON (SSN-713).

7 Apr UNREP with USS ROANOKE (AOR-7).

8 Apr In company with USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), USS ROANOKE (AOR-7), and various units of Battle Group "C".

9 Apr Operating as "convoy escort" for USS FLINT and USS ROANOKE.

10-12 Apr Conduct coordinated ship attacks against simulated targets with USS MARVIN SHIELDS and USS BRADLEY.

12 Apr UNREP with USS ROANOKE. In company with USS MARVIN SHIELDS, USS LEAHY, USS FLINT, USS ROANOKE, and USS BREWTON.

13 Apr Detach by USS ROANOKE, steaming with USS JOUETT, destination Long Beach, California.

14 Apr-  
30 May Moor Long Beach, California.

23 Apr GARY successfully completes first annual SSDG inspection for number 1, 2, & 3 Ship's Service Diesel Generators.

24 Apr GARY receives grade of 92% in first annual PMS inspection.

7-14 May Underway to conduct ECC drills.

30 May Underway to NWS Seal Beach, California. Completed first full power and economy trial runs. Ammunition onload. Return to Long Beach, California.

2 Jun Underway for RIMPAC 86. En route Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

3 Jun UNREP with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).

3-8 Jun Steaming with USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22), USCGC MIDGETT and the JDS HARUYUKI.

8-17 Jun Battle Group Operations under the tactical control of USS CARL VINSON.

18-24 Jun Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

25 Jun Underway for TRANSITEX 86-19A, destination: Long Beach, California with various units of Battle Group "C".

26-28 Jun Stationed in plane guard for USS CARL VINSON flight ops

28 Jun SRBOC (chaff) firing; 3 rounds expended.

1 Jul Conducted "QUICKDRAW" gunnery exercise.

2 Jul Moor Long Beach, California.

7 Jul Commence SIMA "S" availability and hull cleaning.

22 Jul Annual inspection for number 4 SSDG satisfactorily completed.

25 Jul Conducted Zone/Personnel inspection.

5 Aug USS GARY defeats USS GRAY (FF-1054) at softball game.  
TEAM GARY conducts first Command Physical Readiness Test.

7 Aug Conduct pre-deployment "Dependents cruise."

12 Aug Underway for Western Pacific Ocean.

13-26 Aug Under tactical control of USS MARVIN SHIELDS in ASW operations.  
En route Aleutian Islands.

19 Aug Transit Amchitka passage.

26 Aug Assigned surveillance on BALZAM class AGI. Later detached from  
Battle Group to intercept a KRIVAK I FFG.

27 Aug Rejoin Battle Group "C", Chop to SEVENTHFLT.

28 Aug UNREP with USS CARL VINSON.

30 Aug Detach from Battle Group "C" to proceed independently to Subic Bay,  
Republic of the Philippines.

4 Sep Arrive SRF Subic Bay, R.P.

10 Sep Underway, en route Singapore.

13-16 Sep Port visit Singapore.

16-20 Sep Underway, en route Colombo, Sri Lanka.

18 Sep Conducted 76MM "QUICKDRAW" exercise. Held .50 caliber machine  
gun training.

20 Sep Brief stop for fuel in port Colombo, Sri Lanka. Moored to "QC  
II" pier.

20-25 Sep Independent steaming. En route Gulf of Oman.

25 Sep Anchor off Fujairah, Oman. Chop to COMIDEASTFOR. Turnover of duties  
with USS COPELAND (FFG 25).

25-30 Sep Gulf of Oman (GOO) operations.

30 Sep-  
2 Oct En route Sitra, Bahrain (Persian Gulf).

2-4 Oct Anchor Sitra, Bahrain.

4-6 Oct En route Gulf of Oman.

6-9 Oct Gulf of Oman operations.

9-10 Oct En route Sitra, Bahrain.

10-12 Oct Anchor Sitra, Bahrain.

12-13 Oct En route Gulf of Oman.

13-18 Oct Gulf of Oman operations.

18-20 Oct Accompaniment operations through the Persian Gulf.

20-21 Oct Anchor Fujairah, Oman.

21-24 Oct Gulf of Oman operations.

24 Oct Anchor Fujairah, Oman.

24-25 Oct Gulf of Oman operations.

25-27 Oct En route Sitra, Bahrain.

27-29 Oct Anchor Sitra, Bahrain.

29-31 Oct En route Gulf of Oman.

31 Oct-  
3 Nov Gulf of Oman operations.

3-4 Nov Anchor Fujairah, Oman. Turnover of duties to USS ROBISON (DDG 12).

4-6 Nov Depart Gulf of Oman, en route rendezvous Battle Group "C".

5 Nov Chop to COMCARGRU 3.

6 Nov Rendezvoused with USS CARL VINSON en route anchorage near Masirah, Oman.

7-11 Nov Anchor Masirah, Oman in company with USS CARL VINSON, USS JOUETT, USS LEAHY, USS MARVIN SHIELDS, USS FLINT, USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7), USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-37), and USNS MISPILLION.

11 Nov Underway, UNREP with USS ROANOKE. En route port visit Seychelle Islands under the tactical control of USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

13 Nov Detached from USS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

14-17 Nov Under tactical control of USS FLINT. En route with Battle Group "C" to port visit Mombasa, Kenya.

17-23 Nov Anchor Mombasa, Kenya in company with USS LEAHY, USS ROANOKE, USS PAUL F. FOSTER, USS MARVIN SHIELDS, USS VINCENNES (CG 49), USS CARL VINSON, USS SAN JOSE, and USNS MISPILLION.

23 Nov Underway from Mombasa, Kenya with Battle Group "C." En route Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. UNREP with USNS MISPILLION.

29 Nov-  
6 Dec Inport Diego Garcia, BIOT.

6 Dec Underway, en route port visit Bunbury, Western Australia. Fired twenty 76MM rounds in surface to surface gunnery exercise with USS VINCENNES.

7 Dec Tactical maneuvering drill with USS LEAHY. UNREP with USS ROANOKE.

8 Dec Detach to rendezvous with the SS OVERSEAS VALDEZ under the tactical control of USS MARVIN SHIELDS. Successfully conducted dry astern refueling exercise.

9 Dec Fired 31 rounds of 76MM during exercise with USS MARVIN SHIELDS.

11-16 Dec Detach to conduct ECC drills.

14 Dec UNREP with USS ROANOKE.

17-19 Dec Commence Naval exercises with HMAS ADELAIDE and HMAS SWAN.

19 Dec USS LEAHY assumes tactical control of GARY for entering port.

19-26 Dec Port visit Bunbury, Western Australia with USS LEAHY.

26 Dec CDR W. D. Bethea relieves CDR H. R. Bankert as Commanding Officer, USS GARY, during Change of Command Ceremony held onboard USS GARY. One hundred guests attended the ceremonies.

26 Dec Underway, en route Subic Bay, R.P..

27 Dec UNREP with USS ROANOKE.

30 Dec UNREP with USS FLINT.

31 Dec Under tactical control of USS LEAHY, ships in company: USS VINCENNES, USS PAUL F. FOSTER, USS FLINT, USS SAN JOSE. All ships proceeding to arrive in Subic Bay, R.P. on 5 January 1987.