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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS GARY (FFG-51)  
FPO AP 96666-1505

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser FFG 51/CO  
26 March 1993

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS GARY (FFG 51)  
**To:** Director of Naval History (OP-09BH),  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

**Subj:** COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 Series

**Encl:** (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Command History for 1992  
(3) Chronological Summary  
(4) Historical Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

  
D. W. WEDDEL

**Copy to:**  
**File**

**USS GARY (FFG 51)**  
**COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION**

Homeported in San Diego, CA, USS GARY (FFG 51) is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG 7) class of guided missile frigates. Her primary mission is to provide anti-air, anti-submarine and anti-surface protection for military and merchant convoys, amphibious task forces, and underway logistics groups.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability for the performance of the ship and her 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 under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE, which is homeported in Long Beach, CA.

**SHIP ORGANIZATION FOR 1992**

COMMANDING: CDR Ronald E. Ratcliff (4th Commanding Officer)  
Relieved 20 June 1992 by CDR David W. Weddel

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR Kevin R. Cheezum  
Relieved by LCDR John J. Gallagher

**DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION**

SHIP'S CONTROL: LT [REDACTED]  
Relieved by LCDR [REDACTED]

ASSISTANT NAVIGATOR / SC-1 Division  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER / SC-2 Division  
FIRST LIEUTENANT / SC-3 Division

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LT [REDACTED]

COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER OFFICER / CS-1 Division  
ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE OFFICER / CS-2 Division  
ORDNANCE OFFICER / CS-3 Division  
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS OFFICER / CS-4 Division

ENGINEERING: LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED]y  
Relieved by LT [REDACTED]

MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT / E-1 Division  
DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT / E-2 Division  
ELECTRICAL OFFICER / E-3 Division

SUPPORT: LT [REDACTED]

STOREKEEPERS / S-1 Division  
FOOD SERVICES / S-2 Division  
DISBURSING OFFICER / S-3 Division  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT / X Division

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:  
QMCM(SW) Joseph F. Welter

**USS GARY (FFG 51)**  
**COMMAND HISTORY 1992**  
**CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

1 Jan	New Year's Day
1-6 Jan	Holiday Leave and Upkeep
1 Jan-2 Feb	Inport NAVSTA Long Beach
6-10 Jan	3M Assist Visit
17 Jan	DESRON NINE Dining Out
20 Jan	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
21-24 Jan	Surface Warfare Training Week
27 Jan-2 Feb	2R2 Restricted Availability (Laundry SHIPALT)
28-30 Jan	NAVOSH Evaluation
3-5 Feb	Underway SOCAL for Type Commander's Training
3-4 Feb	Deck Landing Qualifications
3-4 Feb	76mm PACFIRE
3-4 Feb	ECC Drills
6 Feb	Ammo Off-Load, NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach
7 Feb	Dependent's Day Cruise, Long Beach to San Diego
7 Feb	Awards Ceremony
8-16 Feb	Inport NAVSTA San Diego
8-16 Feb	ILR Off-Load
11 Feb	Defueling
14 Feb	Ship's Party
17 Feb	President's Day
18 Feb	Dead-stick Move to Continental Maritime San Diego Shipyard
18 Feb-1 Dec	SRA-2, CMSD Shipyard
19-21 Feb	Crew Move-Aboard SRA Barge (FFG 51A)

17 Apr	Memorial Ceremony for PCSN Todd Anderson
31 Mar	Easter Sunday
8 May	GARY Best-Ball Golf Tournament
25 May	Memorial Day
26-27 May	Navy Rights and Responsibilities Seminar
29 May	Personnel Inspection
1-5 Jun	Command Inspection
8 Jun	Captain's Call
20 Jun	Change of Command
4 Jul	Independence Day
9-10 Jul	Navy Rights and Responsibilities Seminar
13-17 Jul	CDS-9 MTT Phase IA Review
16 Jul	Awards Ceremony
27-31 Jul	FFG-7 Combat Systems Team Trainer
3-6 Aug	Physical Readiness Test
4-7 Aug	Engineering MTT Phase IA
7 Aug	Sexual Harassment Stand-Down
12 Aug	Ship's Picnic
17-20 Aug	CDS-9 Engineering Assist Visit
24-28 Aug	Surface Line Week
28 Aug	Captain's Call
7 Sep	Labor Day
16-18 Sep	Crew Move-Aboard
18 Sep	Combat Systems Equipment Light-Off
24 Sep	Safety Stand-Down
28-30 Sep	Crew Certification Phase I
2 Oct	Awards Ceremony

12 Oct	Columbus Day
19-23 Oct	Engineering MTT Phase IB
26-28 Oct	Crew Certification Phase II
29 Oct	Security Stand-Down
30 Oct	Personnel Inspection
11 Nov	Veteran's Day
12-14 Nov	Engineering Light-Off Examination
16 Nov	Fast Cruise
17 Nov	Dock Trials
19-20 Nov	Sea Trials
21 Nov-13 Dec	Inport NAVSTA San Diego
24 Nov	Ammo On-Load
26 Nov	Thanksgiving Day
7-11 Dec	HARPOON Material Safety Certification
11 Dec	Surface Ship Safety Survey
14-16 Dec	Combat Systems Sea Trials
17 Dec	Inport NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach for Ammo On-Load
18-31 Dec	Inport NAVSTA San Diego
18 Dec	Ship's Christmas Party
19-31 Dec	Holiday Leave and Upkeep
25 Dec	Christmas
31 Dec	New Year's Eve

**USS GARY (FFG 51)**  
**COMMAND HISTORY 1992**  
**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Time for a change

The first days of 1992 found GARY enjoying a period of relative peace and quiet, her recent deployment now behind her. But even in those early days were signs that 1992 would not be without considerable activity for the ship and her crew. Barely four weeks into the new year, GARY began the first of numerous availabilities in 1992, this one with SIMA Long Beach, as substantial changes began to be made in the eight-year-old Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate.

The first major change of the year came in the first week of February. On the 7th of that month, after a few days underway for training and weapons off-load, GARY picked up some of her dependents in Long Beach and set sail for San Diego, her new homeport. On February 11th she defueled, and a few days later was moved from the Naval Station to Continental Maritime San Diego Shipyard, which was to be her home for the next 10 months.

Eviction Notice

Within a few days, it was clear that no area of the ship would be untouched during SRA-2. With her berthing and messing areas now off-limits, GARY's crew was in need of new accommodations, and a berthing barge, dubbed "FFG 51A" by the crew, was brought alongside to serve the purpose.

With the crew safely "evicted," work began in earnest. Almost overnight, huge banks of scaffolding and plastic sheeting appeared. Inside her new cocoon, many of GARY's old systems were removed and crated up, and shiny new ones appeared in their places.

Under New Management

In the midst of all the activity on FFG 51, things were not exactly quiet on FFG 51A. June brought a Command Inspection, as representatives from Destroyer Squadron 31 went over every aspect of GARY's administrative organization. As is generally the case, the Command Inspection was followed by a Change of Command, as CDR Ronald E. Ratcliff was relieved on 20 June by CDR David W. Weddel, GARY's fifth commanding officer.

Wake-Up Call

By midsummer, most of GARY's new equipment was in place, most of her old equipment had been thoroughly refurbished, and it was time to begin light-offs and testing. To prepare for the rigorous pace of operations the rest of the year would hold, the crew moved into a three-section duty rotation, and detailed daily damage control and security drills became standard.