



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GARY (FFG-51)
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From: Public Affairs 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) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

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

Robert J. Falk LT

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USS GARY (FFG 51)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS GARY, the namesake of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient CDR Donald Arthur Gary, is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG 7) class of guided missile frigates. The mission of *The Fighting Frigate* is to provide air, surface, and submarine protection for the merchant and military convoys, carriers, logistics battle groups, and amphibious task forces, operating either independently or as part of a surface action group. GARY was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Los Angeles, California. Her keel was laid on 18 December 1982. She was christened on 19 November 1983 and was commissioned 17 November 1984.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability for the performance and welfare of the ship and her crew. Second in command, the Executive Officer, implements policies and regulations as applicable to the ship and her mission. Each Department Head reports to the Commanding Officer via the Executive Officer.

USS GARY is under the administrative command of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO THREE , home ported in San Diego, CA.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 1998

COMMANDING: CDR A.L. Diefenbach (8th Commanding Officer)
Relieved by CDR Joe C. Harris (9th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR Brian T. Smith
Relieved by LCDR A.S. Rice

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LCDR [REDACTED]
Relieved by LT [REDACTED]

Fire Control Officer (CF Division)

Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)

Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer (CA Division)

Gunnery Officer (CG Division)

OPERATIONS: LT [REDACTED]

First Lieutenant (First Division)

Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)

Communications Officer (OC Division)

NAVIGATOR/ADMIN Officer: LT [REDACTED]

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

Main Propulsion Assistant (M Division)

Damage Control Assistant (R Division)

Auxiliaries Officer (A Division)

Electrical Officer (E Division)

SUPPLY: LT [REDACTED]
Relieved by LT [REDACTED]

Storekeepers (S-1 Division)

Food Services (S-2 Division)

Disbursing Officer (S-3 Division)

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND: STSCM(SW/SS) Smith

**USS GARY (FFG 51)
COMMAND HISTORY 1998
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

01 JAN U/W MIO, NORTH ARABIAN GULF

03 JAN TRANIST STRAITS OF HORMUZ

04 JAN OUT CHOP ARABAIN GULF

05 JAN TRANSIT PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

16 JAN INPT FREMANTEL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

22 JAN U/W ENROUTE HOBART, TASMANIA

25 JAN INPT HOBART, TASMANIA

30 JAN U/W ENROUTE SUVA, FIJI

05 FEB INPT SUVA, FIJI

05 FEB U/W ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

12 FEB INPT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

13 FEB U/W ENROUT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

19 FEB RTN TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA FROM MIDDLE EAST FORCE
DEPLOYMENT 97-98.

20 FEB POM STANDDOWN

18 MAR U/W SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA

19 MAR WEAPONS OFF LOAD SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA

19 MAR U/W ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

20 MAR INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

01 APR CHANGE OF COMMAND, USS GARY

10 APR U/W, CONTINENTAL MARINE, SELECTED REPAIR AVAILIABILITY

10 JUN U/W CONTINENTAL MARINE
11 JUN SEA TRIALS, POST SRA
12 JUN INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
18 JUN U/W ENROUTE SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
19 JUN WEAPONS ONLOAD SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
20 JUN U/W ENROUTE PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA
22 JUN INPT PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA, COMBAT SYSTEMS GROOM
29 JUN U/W ENROUTE SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA
30 JUN INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
13 JUL U/W CART II
17 JUL INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
27 JUL U/W TSTA I
31 JUL INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
03 AUG U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA I
07 AUG INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
19AUG U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA I
21 AUG INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
25 AUG U/W SOUHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA I
28 AUG INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
01 SEP U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA I
04 SEP INPT SAN IEGO, CALIFORNIA
28 SEP U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
01 OCT INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

06 OCT U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA II
10 OCT INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
13 OCT U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TSTA II
17 OCT INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
02 NOV U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, FINAL EVALUATION PERIOD
06 NOV INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
09 NOV LMA
23 NOV THANKSGIVING STANDDOWN
01 DEC U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS
05 DEC INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
08 DEC U/W SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12 DEC INPT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
18 DEC CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FIRST PERIOD STANDDOWN
30 DEC SECOND HOLIDAY STANDDOWN PERIOD

USS GARY (FFG 51) COMMAND HISTORY 1998 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS GARY started the New Year conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in the North Arabian Gulf. GARY's mission in the gulf was drawing to a close and a few days later she joined up with the USS BENFOLD and the USS HARRY W HILL in a transit out of the gulf. After a successful transit through the Straits of Hormuz, GARY began her journey home to San Diego, California. The first stop enroute was Fremantle Western Australia. Here the crew enjoyed the beautiful sights of Perth and her port city Fremantle on the Swan River. There were many things to experience such as sight seeing, MWR trips and shopping. Several of the ship's crewmembers joined in a game of basketball with a local youth school. Each day the ship hosted tours for the local residents of Western Australia. After several days of rest and relaxation in Western Australia, GARY set sail around the bight of Australia towards Hobart Tasmania. This was a much-anticipated visit since very few people ever get the chance to visit such a remote Island. The transit to Hobart Tasmania went without incident and the sea were calm even for the notoriously rough waters of the roaring forties. The first sight of Tasmania was one of grandeur and remoteness. Hobart was a small city nestled at the foot of Mount Wellington, which provided a real scenic backdrop. Here the crew fell in love with the small community hospitality of the local residents and the generous establishments. In Hobart the crew enjoyed everything from golf and biking to casino gaming. After a few days of growing land legs, the crew eagerly awaited departure and the final journey home. Underway from Hobart Tasmania was market with a spectacular sunset and a great closure to one of the GARY's most successful deployments.

The beginning of February were marked with days on end without sight of land, bird or other vessels as GARY transited to Suva, Fiji for a four hour refueling stop. In Suva, Fiji, GARY completed a champion style pit stop and continued on her way to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Many days and nights were spent in transit and anyone standing bridge watches could see the Southern Cross sink deeper into the southern sky and just as soon as Scorpio was lay directly overhead, the Northern Star appeared on the horizon. GARY was now closer to home under a familiar sky then she had been in six months. Two days out of Pearl Harbor, GARY rejoined HARRY W HILL and BENFOLD. They had taken separate courses in transit from Australia since their refueling stops were Apia, Samoa. Once again a three ship MEF, the convoy entered Pearl Harbor for an overnight refueling and stores re-supply for the last week transit to beautiful Southern California. As if in a test of GARY's determination to return to home port the seas picked up considerably and for three days GARY rode twenty-foot swells. Still intact and saltier than ever, GARY returned to a warm welcome. Family and friends showed up to see their sailors' safe return. Mooring and placing over the brow took for what seemed to some ages as the minutes passed when they could greet their sailors return.

GARY entered a one-month Post Overseas Movement Leave period were time lost with family was made up. March saw the tempo pick up again as GARY readied herself for a nine-week avail. The first underway since returning for deployment was for a required ammunition offload at Seal Beach California. In one afternoon GARY offloaded her entire ship full and set sail for San Diego.

The beginning of April saw a change of command where A.L. Deifenback, (8th Commanding Officer) was relieved by J.C. Harris (9th Commanding Officer) during an underway ceremony. A week later the ship entered the Continental Marine shipyard for a nine-week availability. In the yard, GARY received many repairs including a refurbished Crew Complex, classroom, mess-deck and a new Command Master Chief office. The GARY crew did most of the work. A grand opening of the mess-decks was held where San Diego Padre's relief pitcher Trevor Hoffman # 51 was in attendance. He signed a 5'X3' picture which was hung on the mess-decks. He also signed numerous autographs for the crew. Major work was also accomplished in Combat Systems where a new RAIDS system was installed and all the OJ-194 and OJ-197 combat consoles were overhauled.

The end of the yard period came in June where the ship got underway for Port Hueneme. At Port Hueneme the ship received a total Combat Systems groom. Also the ship supported the Sea Bee Days being held by Port Hueneme. GARY had over 3,000 visitors making use of one of the most popular venues at the event. After finishing up the Combat Systems groom, GARY was headed back to San Diego, ready to start her training cycle.

GARY's training cycle began in mid July with CART II, By August we were into the TSTA I and II cycles. With numerous in port and underway training weeks, GARY's crew received the skills they would require on the next deployment. GARY did so well on the initial phases of training that TSTA III and ECERT were moved up a month. GARY finished the training cycle by the end of October opening up several weeks in the schedule. With a few more underway periods in early November and December for support of helicopter landing qualifications, GARY was ready for deployment. Late November and early December GARY went through an intensive maintenance availability where over forty jobs were completed making her highly prepared to go on the next deployment in April. Christmas standdown started in mid December. GARY entered the 1999 fully prepared and ready for the challenges ahead in the coming year.