



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GARY (FFG 51)
FPO AP 96666-1505

5750
Ser FFG 51/CO
24 MAR 2003

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) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative
(4) 2002 Press Releases
(5) Ship's photograph
(6) Ship's Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(7) Commanding Officer Biography

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are forwarded.


L. BUA

USS GARY (FFG51)**COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION**

USS GARY, the namesake of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Commander Donald Arthur Gary, is the forty-fifth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) class of guided missile frigates. GARY's mission is to provide air, surface, and sub-surface protection for merchant and military convoys, aircraft carriers, logistics groups, and amphibious task forces, operating either independently or as part of a Surface Action Group. GARY was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation in Long Beach, California. Her keel was laid on 18 December 1982. The ship was christened on 19 November 1983, and commissioned on 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 FIFTEEN in Yokosuka, Japan.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 01JAN-31DEC 2002

COMMANDING: CDR Michael R. Olmstead (11th Commanding Officer)
Relieved by CDR Tito P. Dua (12th Commanding Officer)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: LCDR M. V. Metzger

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS: LT [REDACTED]
Ordnance Officer (CW Division)
Electronic Materials Officer (CE Division)
Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer (CA Division)

OPERATIONS: LT [REDACTED]
Relieved by LT [REDACTED]
First Lieutenant (OD Division)
Combat Information Center Officer (OI Division)
Communications Officer (OC Division)

Navigation Division (ON Division) (ON Division was combined mid-year with the Admin office to form a new division: NAV/ADMIN, under the Executive officer via the Navigator)

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 Service (S-2 Division)
Ship's Servicemen (S-3 Division)
Disbursing (S-4 Division)

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:
MMCM(SW/AW) Miguel Cisneros
Relieved by CMDCM(SW) Roger Cauley

**USS GARY (FFG-51)
COMMAND HISTORY 2002
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

01 JAN CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY STAND DOWN PERIOD CONTINUES
14 JAN INPORT YOKOSUKA
04 FEB UNDERWAY FOR FDNF MULTI-SAIL/MISSILE-EX 02
14 FEB ENROUTE SAIPAN
17 FEB INPORT SAIPAN
20 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
23 FEB INPORT YOKOSUKA
20 MAR UNDERWAY/AT ANCHOR FOR AMMO OFFLOAD
21 MAR INPORT YOKOSUKA
25 MAR IN DRYDOCK FOR DRYDOCK SELECTED REPAIR AVAILABILITY
30 MAY UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS
01 JUN INPORT YOKOSUKA
03 JUN UNDERWAY/AT ANCHOR FOR AMMO ONLOAD
04 JUN INPORT YOKOSUKA
21 JUN UNDERWAY FOR JMSDF MIDSHIPMAN CRUISE
24 JUN INPORT KURE, JAPAN
27 JUN UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
29 JUN INPORT YOKOSUKA
08 JUL UNDERWAY FOR CO'S TIME
10 JUL INPORT YOKOSUKA
15 JUL CHANGE OF COMMAND
19 JUL UNDERWAY FOR READY TAIL SHIP OPERATIONS, ENROUTE HONG KONG, CHINA
25 JUL INPORT HONG KONG, CHINA
29 JUL UNDERWAY ENROUTE PUSAN, ROK
04 AUG INPORT PUSAN, ROK

06 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE OKINAWA, JAPAN
10 AUG INPORT OKINAWA, JAPAN
12 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
15 AUG INPORT YOKOSUKA
03 SEP UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS
04 SEP INPORT YOKOSUKA
13 SEP UNDERWAY FOR READY TAIL SHIP OPERATIONS
17 SEP INPORT OKINAWA
18 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
20 SEP INPORT YOKOSUKA
27 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE CHINHAE, ROK
30 SEP INPORT CHINHAE, ROK
01 OCT UNDERWAY FOR SHAREM 142
11 OCT INPORT CHINHAE, ROK
14 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
17 OCT INPORT YOKOSUKA
18 OCT UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPS
18 OCT INPORT YOKOSUKA
25 OCT UNDERWAY FOR INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUP OPERATIONS AND
ANNUALEX 14G
29 NOV INPORT HONG KONG, CHINA
03 DEC UNDERWAY FOR INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUP OPS
13 DEC INPORT YOKOSUKA
14 DEC BEGIN HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD

**USS GARY (FFG-51)
COMMAND HISTORY 2002**

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS GARY (FFG-51) GREETED THE NEW YEAR OF 2002 IN THE MIDST OF A WELL-DESERVED AND MUCH NEEDED HOLIDAY STANDDOWN. HER CREW SPENT MOST OF THE MONTH OF JANUARY RECOUPERATING FROM THE INTENSE DEPLOYMENT OF THE PREVIOUS FALL AND HELPING THE SHIP DO THE SAME BY FOCUSING ON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. HOWEVER, BY THE 4TH OF FEBRUARY SHE WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR THE 7TH FLEET MULTI-SAIL AND MISSILE-EX 02.

DURING THE EXERCISE, GARY FLEXED HER WARFIGHTING MUSCLES AND DISPLAYED HER CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONALISM, PROVIDING A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WARSHIP AND ESTABLISHING EARLY ON HER INTENTION TO WIN THE BATTLE "E". SHE ACHIEVED TWO SKIN-TO-SKIN HITS ON THE DRONES WITH HER SM-1 MISSILES, A FEAT NO OTHER SHIP COULD MATCH DURING THIS EXERCISE. DURING THE ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE (ASW) PHASE, SHE SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGED THE TARGET WITH AN EXERCISE TORPEDO. FURTHERMORE, HER EX-TORP NOT ONLY ACQUIRED THE TARGET ONCE, BUT REACQUIRED IT 13 MORE TIMES.

UPON THE COMPLETION OF MISSILE-EX, GARY HEADED SOUTH FOR A PORT VISIT IN SAIPAN, WHERE THE CREW ENJOYED THE TROPICAL WEATHER AND WORLD WAR II BATTLE SITES BEFORE RETURNING HOME TO YOKOSUKA. ON THE 20TH OF MARCH, AFTER NEARLY A MONTH INPORT, GARY GOT UNDERWAY FOR AN AMMUNITION OFFLOAD AT ANCHOR IN TRUMAN BAY. A MERE FIVE DAYS LATER, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT AND THE SHIP REPAIR FACILITY'S

EXPERTS, GARY WAS LAID UP FOR A TWO MONTH DRYDOCK SELECTED REPAIR AVAILABILITY (DSRA). FROM THE 20TH OF MARCH UNTIL THE END OF MAY, GARY WAS THE FOCUS ON AN INTENSE REPAIR EFFORT, AS COMPUTERS WERE GROOMED, SPACES RENOVATED AND SYSTEMS OVERHAULED. NEW EQUIPMENT WAS INSTALLED AND OLD GEAR WAS REMOVED. BY THE TIME GARY GOT UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS ON THE 30TH OF MAY, SHE WAS ALMOST AN ENTIRELY NEW SHIP. BACK HOME ON THE 1ST OF JUNE, GARY GOT UNDERWAY BRIEFLY ON THE 3RD FOR A POST-DSRA AMMUNITION ONLOAD.

ON JUNE 21ST, GARY GOT UNDERWAY FOR A QUICK TRIP TO KURE, JAPAN, IN COMPANY WITH THE JAPANESE DEFENSE SHIP SAMIDARE. ALONG FOR THE RIDE WAS A GROUP OF JAPANESE MIDSHIPMEN. CONVERSELY, EMBARKED ON THE SAMIDARE WERE A NUMBER OF US MIDSHIPMEN. THE TRANSIT SOUTH WAS FULL OF TRAINING EVOLUTIONS, BOTH FOR THE SAKE OF THE MIDSHIPMEN AND FOR GARY'S CREW, STILL GETTING THEIR SEA LEGS BACK AFTER THE EXTENDED YARD PERIOD. NOTABLE AMONG THESE EVENTS WAS A COORDINATED ASW EXERCISE CULMINATING IN AN OVER-THE-SIDE RECOVERABLE EXERCISE TORPEDO. THE MIDSHIPMEN EXCHANGE CULMINATED IN A THREE-DAY PORT VISIT IN KURE, AND MANY MEMBERS OF THE CREW TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE PEACE PARK AND MUSEUM IN NEARBY HIROSHIMA.

UPON HER RETURN TO YOKOSUKA, GARY IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR HER CHANGE OF COMMAND. THOUGH THE TRIP WAS CUT SHORT BY POOR WEATHER, SHE WAS UNDERWAY AGAIN FROM THE 8TH UNTIL THE 10TH OF JULY FOR CO'S TIME, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OUTGOING CAPTAIN TO SHOW THE INCOMING ONE HOW THE SHIP HANDLES UNDERWAY BEFORE TAKING OVER. THE CEREMONY WAS HELD ON THE FLIGHT DECK ON THE 15TH OF JULY, A BEAUTIFUL BUT WINDY SUMMER DAY.

DURING THESE WEEKS, THE GARY'S ASW TEAM WAS ALSO UNDERGOING A SERIES OF TRAINING SESSIONS QUALIFYING HER AS THE FIRST 7TH FLEET READY TAIL SHIP. THIS NASCENT PROGRAM WOULD EVENTUALLY INCLUDE EVERY ASW-CAPABLE SHIP IN YOKOSUKA, AND IT WAS GARY'S HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE THE FIRST SHIP SO DESIGNATED. GARY'S FIRST TOUR AS READY TAIL SHIP BEGAN IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY, AND THOUGH SHE WAS NOT CALLED TO DUTY, SHE GOT UNDERWAY FOR A MONTH OF TRAINING OPERATIONS AND PORT CALLS. HER FIRST STOP WAS PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR WITH THE CREW: FOUR DAYS IN HONG KONG, CHINA. AFTER THAT, SHE TRANSITED NORTH FOR A TWO DAY STOP IN PUSAN, SOUTH KOREA, A QUICK JAUNT INTO THE YELLOW SEA, AND ANOTHER TWO DAY STOP IN OKINAWA, JAPAN, BEFORE RETURNING HOME ON THE 15TH OF AUGUST.

ASW WAS TO BE THE THEME FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, BUT LITTLE DID GARY'S CREW KNOW JUST HOW INTENSE THAT THEME WOULD BE. GARY SPENT A DAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER UNDERWAY, CONDUCTING LOCAL TRAINING. THE TRIP WAS TO BE A LITTLE LONGER, BUT AN ERRANT TYPHOON FORCED HER TO HEAD HOME EARLY. SHE WOULD NOT HAVE TO MOURN THE LOST UNDERWAY TIME HOWEVER, BECAUSE A FEW SHORT DAYS LATER, BEFORE HER SECOND TERM AS READY TAIL SHIP WAS EVEN BEGUN, SHE WAS ACTIVATED AND CALLED TO GET UNDERWAY FOR AN URGENT MISSION.

STOPPING FOR FUEL AND A BIT OF LIBERTY IN OKINAWA FROM THE 17TH TO THE 18TH, GARY ARRIVED IN YOKOSUKA ON THE 20TH WITH ONLY A WEEK TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT EXERCISE: SHAREM 142. EARLY IN THE MORNING ON THE 27TH OF SEPTEMBER, GARY WAS UNDERWAY IN COMPANY WITH USS JOHN S. MCCAIN (DDG-56), USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG-54) AND

USS CUSHING (DD-985), ENROUTE CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA. THERE THE FOUR US SHIPS WOULD JOIN A FLOTILLA OF KOREAN SHIPS FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS OF INTENSE ASW EVENTS IN THE YELLOW SEA. GARY SPENT THE FIRST FEW DAYS PATROLLING TO THE WEST OF THE EXERCISE AREA, THEN PARTICIPATED IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AFTER AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A US SUBMARINE THE USS HELENA (SSN-725) AND KOREAN FISHING BOAT.

AFTER THAT HOWEVER, THE PACE PICKED UP DRAMATICALLY. MOST OF THE EVENTS WERE DESIGNED TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF DISTANT THUNDER, AN EXPERIMENTAL NEW ASW SYSTEM, AND GARY WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY TEST PLATFORMS. GARY'S ENTIRE ASW TEAM WORKED FEVERISHLY, STANDING PORT AND STARBOARD WATCHES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ALL OF THE EVENTS AND MEET THE DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXERCISE.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE EXERCISE, GARY HEADED BACK TO CHINHAE FOR A TWO-DAY DEBRIEF, THEN PROCEEDED HOME TO YOKOSUKA WHERE THE CREW WOULD HAVE A WEEK TO REST BEFORE GOING TO SEA AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH THE USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) FOR INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUP OPERATIONS AND ANNUAL-EX 14G.

NEARLY ALL THE SHIPS IN YOKOSUKA GOT UNDERWAY WITH THE CARRIER ON THE 25TH OF OCTOBER, HEADING SOUTH TO THE WATERS OFF OKINAWA WHERE THEY BEGAN A STEADY REGIME OF TRAINING EVOLUTIONS AND EXERCISE EVENTS. GARY WAS TASKED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF TARGET FOR THE AIR WING, AS THEY PRACTICED WITH THEIR WEAPONS GUIDANCE LASERS FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ONCE THE BATTLE GROUP WAS TRAINED, IT TRANSITED TO THE SEA OF JAPAN, WHERE ANNUAL-EX 14G BEGAN. THIS WAS A MAJOR BILATERAL EXERCISE WITH THE JAPANESE MARITIME SELF-

DEFENSE FORCE (JMSDF) AND INVOLVED LARGE-SCALE WAR AT SEA EXERCISES FLEXING THE SHIPS' ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN ALL WARFARE AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY. GARY HOWEVER WAS AGAIN TASKED WITH ASW AS HER PRIMARY MISSION, AND SHE FELL TO IT WITH GUSTO.

HALF WAY THROUGH THE EXERCISE, SEVERAL OF THE US SHIPS PARTICIPATING WERE CALLED AWAY TO SHADOW A NORTH KOREAN MERCHANT SHIP CARRYING SCUD MISSILES TO YEMEN. GARY HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO GO BACK TO YOKOSUKA AFTER ANNUAL-EX, BUT WITH MUCH OF THE FLEET AWAY WITH REAL WORLD TASKING, SHE HAD TO REMAIN AND ESCORT THE KITTY HAWK AS SHE CONTINUED HER TRAINING OPERATIONS. GARY'S CREW ENDED UP EATING THANKSGIVING DINNER AT SEA, INSTEAD OF AT HOME AS HAD BEEN PLANNED, BUT THE STING WAS CONSIDERABLY LESSENERED BY THE FACT THAT THE CHANGE OF PLANS ALLOWED GARY TO ACCOMPANY THE KITTY HAWK ON HER PORT VISIT TO HONG KONG.

ON THE 3RD OF DECEMBER, AFTER FOUR DAYS OF LIBERTY IN HONG KONG, THE BATTLE GROUP AGAIN GOT UNDERWAY AND BEGAN MAKING THEIR WAY HOME. ALONG THE WAY THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO CONDUCT HIGH TEMPO TRAINING, INCLUDING A SEVERAL DAY ASW EXERCISE WITH SUBMARINES FROM THE JMSDF. YET GARY CONTINUED TO EXCEL AT EVERY TASK ASSIGNED HER AND BY THE TIME SHE FINALLY RETURNED HOME ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER, HER CREW EMBARKED UPON A HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD WITH THE TRIUMPHANT AIR OF CONQUERING HEROES. WHAT STARTED OUT AS A COLLECTION OF SEPARATE EXERCISES IN THE FALL TURNED OUT TO BE A DEFACTO FALL DEPLOYMENT, BUT GARY'S HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION PAYED OFF. GARY NOT ONLY WON DESRON 15'S NOMINATIONS FOR THE 7TH FLEET ASW AWARD AND THE PACIFIC FLEET

BLOODHOUND AWARD, BUT SHE ALSO CAME HOME WITH THE NEY AWARD
NOMINATION.