



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS HOWARD (DDG 83)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HOWARD (DDG 83)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: 2001 USS HOWARD (DDG 83) COMMAND HISTORY

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography
(3) Norfolk SESEF Range Navigation Safety Lessons Learned
(4) 3x5 Diskette

1. Per reference (a), the 2001 Command History for USS HOWARD (DDG 83) is submitted.


J. F. NOLAN

USS HOWARD (DDG 83) 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization

Mission: The mission of HOWARD and her officers and crew of 346 is to be prepared to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea. She can operate in a high density, multi-threat environment independently or as an integral member of a Carrier Battle Group or a Surface Action Group. In addition to self-defense capabilities in Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, and Undersea Warfare, HOWARD provides heavy area protection to other ships in a battle group.

Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet (Until Sailaway). Commander Destroyer Squadron SEVEN

Name of Commanding Officer: Commander Joseph F. Nolan, USN

Permanent Duty Station: Naval Base San Diego, California

2. Chronology

01 Jan-01 Mar	Pre-Commissioning Pipeline training
12-23 March	CIC Team Trainer, Wallops Island, Virginia
26 Mar-13 April	IT/ET/CTO Team Trainer, ST Indigoes, Maryland
23 April-18 May	Crew Preps for Builders Trials
30 April-04 May	Aviation Certification
21-24 May	Builders Trials
04-07 June	INSURV- Navy Acceptance Trials
21 June	Aviation Pre-Look
22 June	Barge Moveaboard
25-29 June	Engineering Limited Team Trainer (LTT) I
25 June	Tech Manual Inventory and Loadout
25-29	Stores Onload
26-29 June	Crew Certification Phase I
09 July	Postal Assist
09-13 July	Engineering Counterpart Training (ATRC-D Philadelphia)
16-19 July	Sonar Dome Final Certification (NAVSES Philadelphia)
20 July	Crew Moveaboard
23-25 July	LAN Certification
23-25 July	SAR Evaluation
24-26 July	ATWCS software onload
01-03 Aug	Aviation Readiness Evaluation
06 Aug	VLS Final Certification
06 Aug	Unrep Inspection
13-17 Aug	Crew Certification Phase II
20-31 Aug	R-Supply Install

Encl (1)

27 Aug	Aviation Pack Up Kit (PUK) Onload
04-07 Sep	Engineering Light Off Assessment
14 Sep	Sail away
15 Sep	Arrive Newport, Rhode Island
15-21 Sep	School Ship, SWOSCOLCOM Newport, Rhode Island
22-26 Sep	Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
26-28 Sep	Inport Unrep-Vertrep CSSQT Training
02 Oct	Depart Norfolk
03-06 Oct	Underway VACAPES (ULM-4, SESEF, CDF, CSSQT RANGE)
08 Oct	CIWS Lear Jet Track-ex
09 Oct	Arrive Port Everglades, Florida
09-12 Oct	Inport Port Everglades, Florida
13 Oct	First ship to fire CIWS-1B
12-15 Oct	Underway for Galveston, Texas
15 Oct	Arrive Galveston, Texas
15-21 Oct	Inport Galveston, Texas
20 Oct	Commissioning
22 Oct	Orientation Cruise
22 Oct	Underway for Panama Canal
22-27 Oct	Enroute Panama Canal
27 Oct	Arrive and transit Panama Canal
28 Oct	Arrive Vasco Nunez de Balboa for Brief stop for Fuel
28 Oct -09 Nov	Enroute to San Diego
09 Nov	Arrive San Diego
09-26 Nov	Leave and upkeep
26-30 Nov	Corrosion and Deck Survey
27-28 Nov	Underway Baseline Industrial Hygiene Survey / Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's)
3-7 Dec	AEGIS program load
10 Dec	Family cruise / Transit To Naval Weapons Station (NWS), Seal Beach
11-12 Dec	Inport (NWS) Seal beach
12 Dec	Underway SOCAL
13-16 Dec	Acoustic and SSRNM (Self Ship Radiate Noise Measurement)
17 Dec	Arrive San Diego
18 Dec-13 Jan	Leave and upkeep

3. HOWARD began calendar year 2001 in phased training. A portion of the crew was in Bath, Maine at the Precommissioning Unit while others were in San Diego at the Precommissioning detachment preparing for the move to Maine. While at the detachment, Sailors took part in many schools that would prepare them for a successful tour in HOWARD. In Maine, the officers and crew prepared for the fast approaching Builders Trials and ensured all personnel were arriving in Maine with proper training and NEC's.

The first team trainer where HOWARD watchstanders worked together as a team was in Wallops Island for two weeks of intense Combat Information Center Team Training. Scenario after scenario put HOWARD Sailors and crew through their paces with resounding results, which resulted in HOWARD having a very successful team trainer. The next team trainer for HOWARD Sailors was the highly successful IT/ET/CTO Team Trainer in San Indigoes, Maryland. This two-week trainer provided HOWARD's technical experts a first look at the equipment they would be operating in the Fleet in a few short months.

In April the ship began preparing for Builders Trials with the missile firing team practicing scenarios in HOWARD's Combat Information Center for the first time. Lots of hard work went into preparation for the sea trials by HOWARD Sailors. The result was a positive kill from a HOWARD-launched Standard Missile-2 and a successful first firing of the new 5" .62 caliber Mark 34 Gun fire control system.

The balance of the crew arrived in Maine in June and began to make all preparations to move aboard a berthing barge prior to moving onboard HOWARD. The crew moved aboard the barge in mid-June and onto HOWARD on the 20th of July. HOWARD's LAN certification, Search and Rescue Evaluation, and Advanced Tomahawk Weapon Control System software on load were all completed by the end of July.

HOWARD's Engineering Department had their second limited team trainer (LTT) consisting of material checks, the first week of August. Light Off Assessment was conducted onboard HOWARD the first week of September with outstanding results. HOWARD sailed down the Kennebec River on 16 Sep and met the former President George Bush at sea off the coast of Maine. He climbed aboard utilizing the ship's accommodation ladder and took a tour of the ship meeting as many Sailors as possible. While on board, the former President re-enlisted a Sailor and attended an award ceremony presenting awards to several Sailors for outstanding service onboard HOWARD. After the departure of the former president, HOWARD sailed for Newport, Rhode Island for a week of school ship, schools and trainers. HOWARD then sailed for Norfolk for a week of upkeep and in port underway replenishment training. After getting underway from Norfolk, HOWARD conducted testing of her shipboard sensors, which required the ship to operate in shallow water in close proximity to land. The mostly inexperienced crew quickly earned their salt by conducting all testing without incident and resounding results. After finishing combat system testing off the coast of Virginia, HOWARD conducted her first underway replenishment at sea. After a successful UNREP, HOWARD sailed south for a well-deserved port visit in Port Everglades, Florida. HOWARD officers and crew were met by a fantastic local chapter of the Navy League. Upon completion of liberty HOWARD put to sail and headed south for the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston, Texas. Galveston proved to be a great host for the ship's commissioning ceremony. A week full of preparations was all that was needed for HOWARD to conduct one of the most impressive commissioning ceremonies ever. The ceremony took place at 1800 on a beautiful Saturday. Approximately 4,000 people attended with many retired military in attendance. The Monday after commissioning HOWARD got underway for a one day orientation cruise in support of Navy recruiting and NROTC programs. Commissioning committee, local public officials and some

family members were able to get underway with the ship. Our guests were able to see fifty-caliber machine fire as well as the ship in a full power run reaching 30 plus knots in less than three minutes. HOWARD sailed back into Galveston that afternoon and bid farewell to our guests and friends and headed for the Panama Canal.

Howard reached the canal four days later and transited the canal in eight hours. Many of HOWARD's Sailors came out on deck to take in the sights of the amazing Panama Canal. Few were disappointed as the ship made her way through the locks and through Gatun Lake and headed for the Pacific Ocean. Once on the Pacific side of the canal HOWARD went to sea for the night and returned the next morning to Vasco Nunez de Balboa for a brief stop for fuel. After fueling, HOWARD set sail for San Diego and the last leg of her Maiden voyage.

While transiting up the Central American coast the crew was treated to the World Series as we were within television range every evening. A steal beach picnic was conducted on the flight deck on a beautiful Sunday and HOWARD's first marlin was cooked to perfection after the ship's Navigator hauled it aboard after a 45-minute fight. The ship continued to train during the final days of the transit and could sense the end of a long voyage was coming to an end.

HOWARD arrived outside San Diego bay on the morning of November 9th with the crew manning the rails. On the first inbound leg into San Diego harbor, HOWARD called attention to port and rendered honors to the ship's namesake, Jimmie Howard, laid to rest at Rosecrans National cemetery, on a hill overlooking San Diego bay. Upon arrival, several hundred family members and friends greeted HOWARD.

After a two-week leave period the ship was back at work and ready to train. HOWARD took the families to sea for a day trip to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach where the crew was to on load ordnance. Approximately 100 family members made the trip and witnessed the awesome power of HOWARD as she made the transit and conducted a full power demonstration. Upon arrival at Seal Beach weapons station the families took busses back to San Diego and the crew set sail the next morning for training off the California coast. HOWARD conducted acoustic trials off the coast of San Clemente Island for three days and headed for home on the 16th of December.

The year 2001 proved to be a successful year for the officers and crew of HOWARD as they looked to a new year and to new challenges in the months ahead.