



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS HOWARD (DDG 83)  
FPO AP 96667-1274

5750  
Ser DDG 83-00/055  
11 May 05

From: Commanding Officer, USS HOWARD (DDG 83)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center  
  
Subj: 2004 USS HOWARD (DDG 83) COMMAND HISTORY  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H  
  
Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(3) 3x5 Diskette

1. Per reference (a), the 2004 Command History for USS HOWARD (DDG 83) is submitted.

  
C. A. HOTTENROTT

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COMDESRON 21 (w/o encl (3))

USS HOWARD (DDG 83) 2004 COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization:

a. Mission: The mission of HOWARD and her officers and crew of over 350 sailors 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 Strike Group or a Surface Action Group. In addition to self-defense capabilities in Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, and Undersea Warfare, HOWARD provides area protection to other ships in a company.

b. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE.

c. Name of Commanding Officer: Commander Carol A. Hottenrott, USN

d. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Base San Diego, California

2. Chronology

01 -14 Jan	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period
20 - 23 Jan	U/W SOCAL Operating Area
24 Jan - 29 Feb	Inport San Diego, California
04 -16 Feb	Dry Dock (Hub repairs)
01 - 05 Mar	U/W SOCAL Operating Area
06 - 21 Mar	Inport San Diego, California
22 Mar - 07 Apr	JOHN C STENNIS Strike Group JTFEX
08 - 12 Apr	Inport San Diego, California
13 - 14 Apr	Transit to Weapons Station Seal Beach, California
15 - 16 Apr	Weapons onload, Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA
17 - 20 Apr	U/W SOCAL Operating Area
21 - 23 Apr	Inport San Diego, California
24 Apr - 21 May	POM
24 May - 01 Nov	WESTPAC Deployment; HSL-45, Detachment 1 Embarked
31 May - 03 Jun	Inport Seward, AK
07 - 10 Jun	Texas Thunder TLAM Exercise
10 - 16 Jun	NORTHERN EDGE 2004 Exercise
12 - 18 Jun	Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-One Embarked
18 - 20 Jun	Inport Vancouver, Canada
21 - 28 Jun	Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI
29 Jun - 5 Jul	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
29 Jun	Weapons onload, Weapons Station Lualualei, HI
06 - 23 Jul	RIMPAC 2004
23 - 26 Jul	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
14 Jul	ADM Doran visit
27 - 29 Jul	Fortress Raptor TLAM Exercise
30 Jul	Crossed International Date line (non-day); Chop C7F
08 - 14 Aug	JASEX
21 - 24 Aug	Inport Sasebo, Japan
01 - 05 Sep	Inport Changi Naval Base, Singapore
06 Sep	Crossed Equator
23 - 25 Sep	Royal Australian Navy-U.S. Navy PASSEX
28 Sep - 03 Oct	Inport Perth, Australia
03 - 21 Oct	Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
22 - 24 Oct	Weapons offload, Weapons Station Lualualei, HI
25 Oct	In port Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (Embarked Tigers)

26 Oct - 1 Nov	Transit to Homeport; Tiger Cruise
31 Oct	HSL-45, Detachment 1 fly-off
1 Nov	Return to Homeport, Naval Station San Diego, California
12 Nov	HOWARD Change of Command
16 Nov	Destroyer Squadron Twenty-One Change of Command
01 - 29 Nov	Inport San Diego, California
30 Nov	Transit to Weapons Station Seal Beach, California
01 - 02 Dec	Weapons offload, Weapons Station Seal Beach
3 Dec	Transit to San Diego, California
04 - 09 Dec	Inport San Diego, California
10 - 12 Dec	U/W SOCAL Operating Area for unit level training
13 - 31 Dec 2004	Inport San Diego, California
16 Dec	Command Christmas Party
17 - 31 Dec 2004	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period

### 3. Narrative

a. The ship's schedule in early 2004 was filled with HOWARD's final preparations to deploy. After the officers and crew returned from holiday leave, the ship conducted several underway training periods, conducting various seamanship, communication, engineering, and warfare related drills in preparation for continued Strike Group work-ups and deployment. Additionally, in late February, HOWARD was directed to execute an emergent dry-docking to replace the controllable pitch propeller hub bolts to correct a ship class discrepancy. Following the on-schedule completion of this event, HOWARD exercised her full warfighting capabilities during the JOHN C. STENNIS Strike Group's Joint Task Force Exercise (JTTFEX). During these two weeks, the ship established a solid reputable for excellence by maintaining a high degree of connectivity, a ready flight deck, and by professionally executing every maneuver and combat evolution, in and out of formation. Final deployment preparations included the standard ammunition onload in Seal Beach, CA and the much anticipated Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) standdown.

b. By May, the officers and crew were anxious to finally demonstrate their mission proficiency and actively contribute to the national defense through forward presence. On May 24 2004, HOWARD departed San Diego en route Pearl Harbor, HI, the first stop on the STENNIS Strike Group's Western Pacific deployment--HOWARD's maiden deployment. Whether the operations included prosecuting submarines, formation transiting through congested Straits, or being ambassadors of good will in Canada, Japan, and Australia, HOWARD sailors performed admirably. Some highlights include:

(1) Following the ship's first port visit in Seward, Alaska, the ship transited east into Prince William Sound to experience the College Fjord. The crewmembers were excited to take hundreds of photographs of the beautiful scenery, which included the enormous glaciers. We captured a beautiful photograph of the ship against the Alaskan backdrop during the trip and have added it as an attachment.

(2) Operation NORTHERN EDGE 2004 was our first joint exercise where the officers and crew became familiar with other service capabilities. During training the ship was able to deck qualify four Army UH-60 Black hawk helicopters. Overall, the exercise was a good tool to flex the flight deck crew and Combat Information Center (CIC) aircraft controllers.

(3) Commodore Christenson and other Destroyer Squadron Twenty-One staff Embarked to partake in a transit to Vancouver, British Columbia. Accompanied by USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) and USS MILIUS (DDG 69), the crew stayed busy using the array of tours scheduled and the interesting nightlife.

(4) While operating with over forty vessels from foreign countries including Japan, Chile, and Australia, HOWARD sailors tested their skills during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2004 exercise. The exercise events necessitated a good deal of formation steaming and rapid maneuvering, as well as challenging Combat Information Center coordination. Of particular note, the exercise afforded HOWARD the opportunity to conduct several live fire events, including standard missile shots, Naval Surface Fire Support operations, and ASW tracking. HOWARD earned distinction by winning the RIMPAC Shootout award for "Most Accurate Gunnery".

(5) As the driving force behind the Anti-Submarine Warfare Innovative Strike Group, HOWARD continually worked to apply and test these new technologies and to develop associated tactics against real targets. While testing the Advanced Active Analysis Adjunct for Imat (A4I), HOWARD pushed the system to its fullest capability allowing initial detection of contacts at greater ranges, holding of contacts moving at higher speeds, and maintaining contact through the baffles. In addition to A4I, HOWARD and the other ships in the JOHN C STENNIS Strike Group were tasked with implementing and validating Undersea Warfare Decision Support System (USW-DSS). HOWARD created multiple search plans using USW-DSS at every opportunity and revised ASW tactics in conjunction with the system to provide the most innovative feedback for future improvements to Anti-Submarine Warfare tactics. The ship completed 2 SVTT REXTORP firings and 1 VECTAC.

(6) Ship's force additionally conducted several community relations' projects in Seward, Alaska, Sasebo, Japan and Singapore. These efforts definitely contributed to improving relations between countries:

(a) During the ship's first port visit on deployment, 47 sailors paid a visit to Seward High School and cleared an ample amount of brush from a cross-country trail. Afterwards, the students welcomed several to a campfire party that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

(b) In Sasebo, Japan, 15 crewmembers spent many hours assisting in daily chores and general cleaning at a retirement home. Those who volunteered enjoyed the delightful company of the residents of Japan and unique exposure to the Japanese culture.

(c) In Singapore, 20 volunteers visited a school for physically and mentally disabled adults. HOWARD's crew worked long and hard hours clearing a field full of rocks, debris and garbage in preparation for a community garden and a park for children.

(7) When the order came to extend the deployment for a month the ship sailed south towards Australia and crossed the equator. With only a few volunteers for the "Equator Watch", actual sightings of the line will remain a mystery but the crossing the line ceremony ensured that the transgression of the crew did not go unnoticed. With over 75% of the crew designated slimy pollywogs, the enthusiasm level did justice to the tradition.

(a) USS HOWARD's maiden deployment came to an end 1 November 2004 when the ship returned to San Diego. Onboard for the arrival were an

additional 41 "Tigers" who had embarked during the ship's brief stop in Pearl Harbor. Overall for the deployment, HOWARD qualified 11 Surface Warfare Officers, 6 Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists and 68 Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. The benefits of the extensive operational training were complemented by over one hundred college courses being completed by the crew.

(b) Upon returning to San Diego, the crew enjoyed the post-deployment standdown, with the added work of a change of command being conducted on leave turnover day. At this ceremony, CDR Carol A. Hottenrott, USN relieved CDR Patrick A. Piercey as Commanding Officer. Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-One, Capt John Christenson, USN served as the guest speaker. HOWARD additionally served as the flagship for his change of command just days later, when he was relieved by Capt Victorino Mercado, USN.

(c) USS HOWARD completed this busy deployment year with an ammunition offload at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, and conducted various unit based training exercises prior to commencing holiday standdown. Throughout the year, HOWARD's crew excelled with every tasking and proved themselves "Ready for Victory."