



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS JAMES E. WILLIAMS (DDG 95)  
FPO AE 09575-1204

5750  
DDG 95/Ser 256  
13 Jul 05

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)  
Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 2004  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, Command History Program  
Encl: (1) 1 - 3.5 Inch Computer Disk  
(2) Basic Historical Data  
(3) 2004 Chronological Order of Events  
(4) Commanding Officer Picture and Biography  
(5) Executive Officer Picture and Biography  
(6) Command Master Chief Picture and Biography  
(7) Organizational Charts  
(8) Command Philosophy  
(9) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(10) Christening Program  
(11) Commissioning Book

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (11) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. W. Vance", is positioned above the printed name.

P. W. VANCE

Copy to:  
CFFC PAO  
COMNAVSURFLANT PAO  
RSO Norfolk PAO

## Basic Historical Narrative

USS JAMES E. WILLIAMS (DDG 95) honors the Navy's most decorated Sailor. Boatswain's Mate First Class James Elliott Williams received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery and leadership in 1966, while serving as patrol commander of River Patrol Boat 105 on the Mekong River during the Vietnam War.

James Elliott Williams was born November 13, 1930 in Fort Mill, South Carolina and moved two months later with his parents to Darlington, South Carolina where he spent his early childhood and youth. He attended the local schools and graduated from St. John's High School. He was married to the former Elaine Weaver and they had five children and seven grandchildren. In July 1947, at the age of 16, he entered the United States Navy where he served for twenty years, retiring in April 1967. During those twenty years he served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

On October 31, 1966, Williams' River Patrol Boat, along with another boat, was searching for Viet Cong guerillas operating in an isolated area of the Mekong Delta River. While searching, they spotted two fast speedboats crossing in front of them. As those two boats split, Williams pursued one and sank it, then turned around to go after the other boat. The boat was hiding in an eight-foot canal and Williams knew his boat wouldn't fit. He looked at a chart and found a wider canal to use to intercept the boat. However, when he maneuvered towards this canal, he and his crew found themselves under heavy fire from enemy boats and shore batteries. Williams and his crew shot back and continued a fierce battle for more than three hours before U.S. helicopter support arrived. By this time, Williams' patrol had accounted for the destruction or loss of 65 enemy boats and more than 1,000 enemy troops.

He is the most highly decorated enlisted man in the history of the United States Navy. On May 14, 1968 the President of the United States presented him the Medal of Honor. His other awards include the Navy Cross, Silver Star (2 awards), The Legion of Merit (with Combat V), The Navy and Marine Corps Medal (2 awards), Bronze Star (3 awards), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star and Palm, Navy Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (2 awards), Purple Heart (3 awards), Vietnam Service Medal (1 star), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National

Defense Service Medal (1 star), United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal (2 stars), Korean Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal (5 awards).

Williams retired from the Navy in 1967, and was appointed as U.S. Marshal for the District of South Carolina in 1969. He died on October 13, 1999, in Florence, South Carolina.

JAMES E. WILLIAMS' keel was laid July 15, 2002, and was Christened by Mrs. Elaine Weaver Williams, Ship's Sponsor, on June 28, 2003 in Pascagoula, Mississippi. JAMES E. WILLIAMS is the 45<sup>th</sup> ship in the ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) class of Aegis guided missile destroyers - the U.S. Navy's most powerful destroyer fleet. These highly capable multi-mission ships can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of National Military Strategy.

The mission of JAMES E. WILLIAMS is to conduct sustained combat operations at sea, providing primary protection for the Navy's aircraft carriers and battle groups, as well as essential escort to Navy and Marine Corps amphibious forces and auxiliary ships, and independent operations as necessary. DDG 95 is capable of fighting air, surface, and subsurface battles simultaneously. The ship contains a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime needs well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Chronological Order of Events**

2002

15 July Keel Layed, Pascagoula, Mississippi

2003

28 June Christened, Pascagoula, Mississippi

2004

11 - 16 July Acceptance Trials

23 August Ship's Custody Transfer

01 October Crew Move Aboard

01 December Sail Away

11 December Commissioned, Naval Weapons Station,  
Charleston, South Carolina

17 December Homecoming, Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia