



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53)  
FPO AP 96669-1271

Rec'd 4/4/97

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
DDG 53-ADM  
24 Feb 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-N09BH)

Subj: USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Mission Description  
(2) Command Organization  
(3) Chronology and Command Narrative  
(4) Messages from Seniors regarding John Paul Jones' performance.  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53) is submitted.

  
J. BRUCE HAMILTON

USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53)

COMMAND MISSION

The JOHN PAUL JONES Guided Missile Destroyer is designed to conduct prompt and sustained offensive operations at sea, operate as an element of a coordinated force or independently as the nucleus of a surface action group, and direct and coordinate anti-air, surface, undersea, and strike warfare operations in support of national interests.

COMMAND ORGANIZATION:

IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR IN CHAIN OF COMMAND (ISIC)

COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON SEVEN

CAPT Robert Conway

COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR Peter B. Opsal (until 20 August 1996)

CDR J. Bruce Hamilton (after 20 August 1996)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LCDR Brian A. Goulding

ENGINEERING OFFICER

LT [REDACTED]

COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER

LCDR [REDACTED] (until 19 August 1996)

LT [REDACTED] (after 19 August 1996)

WEAPONS OFFICER

LT [REDACTED] (became CSO 19 August 1996)

LT [REDACTED] (after 19 August 1996)

OPERATIONS OFFICER

LCDR [REDACTED] (until 20 November 1996)

LT [REDACTED] (after 20 November 1996)

SUPPLY OFFICER

LT [REDACTED] (until 4 November 1996)

LT [REDACTED] (after 4 November 1996)

NAVIGATION/ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

LT [REDACTED]

COMMAND HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY  
for the  
UNITED STATES SHIP  
JOHN PAUL JONES  
DDG 53

1996

12 Jan	COMDESRON SEVEN Change of Command
15 Jan	Underway enroute Continental Maritime Shipyard
16 Jan - 29 Mar	Selected Repair Availability One at Continental Maritime Shipyard
16-29 Jan	Chief of Naval Operations Project 1371 (SLQ-20) Install
23 Feb	Ship's Physical Readiness Test and Picnic
5 Mar	Awarded Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific Safety Award for 1995
6 Mar	Aegis Light Off
15 Mar	Passed Aviation Readiness Certification
18 Mar	Deadstick move to 32nd Street Naval Station
19-22 Mar	Initial Light Off Assessment observed by Afloat Training Group and DESRON 7
22 Mar	Awarded Battle Efficiency and Command Excellence Awards for the following: Engineering/Survivability Command and Control Logistics Management Maritime Warfare (Power Projection/Sea Control)
28 Mar - 1 Apr	Underway for Sea Trials

8-12 April	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II
10-12 April	Propulsion Examination Board Visit
11 Apr	Underway for Navigation Check Ride
15 Apr	VADM Robinson presents Battle "E" to crew
22-26 Apr	Logistics Assessment of Training Review
29 Apr	Underway enroute Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station
30 Apr - 1 May	Moored Seal Beach, Deployment Ammo Onload
2 May	Naval Surface Fire Support Firing Exercise 1 at San Clemente Island
3 May	Spotter Services, San Clemente Island
6 May	Begin Tailored Ship's Training Availability II (TSTA II)
6-10 May	Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Training
13-17 May	Underway for TSTA II
20-24 May	Underway for TSTA II
29 May	Underway enroute Portland, Oregon as part of Composite Unit Exercise 96-25T
4 June	Arrive Longview, Oregon
5 June	Arrive Portland, Oregon
6-10 June	Portland Rose Festival
10 June	Underway enroute San Diego, California as part of Composite Unit Exercise 96-5T

14 June	Arrive San Diego Submarine Base, Moor outboard of USS MCKEE (AS 41)
16 June - 8 July	Repair Availability with USS MCKEE (AS 41)
16 June - 21 June	Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection
26 June	Visit by California Young President's Association and North Atlantic Assembly
27 June	Visit by White House Fellows
8-12 July	Underway for TSTA II
15-19 July	TSTA II Engineering Training
22-26 July	Underway for TSTA II
23 July	Missile Exercise (AAW-11-SF)
29 July - 2 Aug	Underway for TSTA II
29 July - 2 Aug	Engineering Certification
8 Aug	Visit by the World Press Institute
10 Aug	Dependent's Cruise
11-15 Aug	Moored B Street Pier, San Diego
11-15 Aug	Navy Visit Ship for Republican National Convention
12-16 Aug	Logistics Management Assessment
20 Aug	Change of Command
26 August	Begin Tailored Ship's Training Availability III (TSTA III)
26-30 Aug	Underway for TSTA III
6 Sep	Ship's Physical Readiness Test and Picnic

10-12 Sep	Underway for Final Evaluation Problem and Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification
13 Sep	Chop to Commander, Third Fleet
17 Sep	Enter USS STEADFAST Drydock for Hub Changeout
27 Sep	Exit USS STEADFAST
18 Oct - 1 Nov	Underway with CONSTELLATION TASK GROUP for Composite Unit Exercise 96-5A
5-7 Nov	Underway for Integrated Training Assessment
13-20 Nov	Underway for Composite Unit Exercise 96-5B
20 Nov	VADM Briggs, USN (Ret.) and VADM King, USN (Ret.) ship visit
6 Dec	Ship's Christmas Party
9 Dec	Senior Seminar Visit
17 Dec	VADM Stockdale, USN (Ret.) performs commissioning ceremony on board JOHN PAUL JONES
18 Dec	Begin Christmas Leave Periods

## COMMAND NARRATIVE

USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53)

01 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1996

\* USS JOHN PAUL JONES began the year by entering the Continental Maritime Shipyard for the ship's first Selected Repair Availability. As part of this availability, a number of systems were installed or upgraded, including the equipment for CNO project 1371 (SLQ-20). The ship spent the rest of the year evaluating this system.

\* While in the shipyards, the ship was recognized for its achievements of the previous year. JOHN PAUL JONES was awarded the COMNAVSURFPAC Safety Award and the Battle "E" for all major categories.

\* JOHN PAUL JONES exited the shipyards in March to evaluate the work performed by Continental Maritime. For the first time in over three months, the ship energized and operated the combat and engineering systems.

\* Following the successful light of assessment and sea trials, the ship began the training cycle for next deployment. The first step in the process was the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II (CART II) visit by the Afloat Training Group. The ship's Immediate Superior in the Chain of Command, Destroyer Squadron Seven, is responsible for preparing the ship for battle group operations with the assistance of the Afloat Training Group. This process begins with CART. CART II evaluated the effectiveness of the ship's training programs and teams and determined the level at which training should begin.

\* The ship travelled to Seal Beach Weapons Station in April for its initial weapons onload. On the return voyage, the ship participated in its first firing exercise of the training cycle. JOHN PAUL JONES scored 99.7 points, the highest score to date at San Clemente Island.

\* Upon return to San Diego, the ship began the next stage of the training cycle, Tailored Ship's Training Availability II (TSTA II). The ship's Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Undersea Warfare, Strike, Damage Control, and Engineering



Casualty Control Teams were trained by members of the Afloat Training Group.

\* The highlight of the year for most of the crew was the ship's first visit to Portland, Oregon. The ship was invited to the city's annual Rose Festival for the first week of June. The ship's first stop on her journey down the Willamette River was in Longview, Oregon. The town's Chamber of Commerce provided a warm welcome for the ship by hosting two receptions for the crew. Due to the late arrival of spring in Oregon, the level of the river was unusually high. JOHN PAUL JONES's efforts to clear the bridges outside of Portland became the focus of several local newscasts. The ship was forced to temporarily remove its highest antenna in order to lower the masthead height by 5 feet. While at the Rose Festival, the ship participated in a number of festivities and gave tours to over 10,000 guests.

\* After returning from the Rose Festival, JOHN PAUL JONES moored outboard of the USS MCKEE (AS 41) at the San Diego Submarine Base. JOHN PAUL JONES's availability with the MCKEE was part of an experiment to determine the ability of submarine tenders to provide service for surface ships.

\* During the MCKEE availability, JOHN PAUL JONES hosted the first of a number of important dignitaries to visit the ship. The North Atlantic Assembly was composed of defense and state department heads from NATO countries including the former Norwegian Secretary of Defense. The following day the White House Fellows were given a tour of the ship. The White House Fellows are a group of young community leaders hand-selected by the President to learn about the federal government.

\* After leaving the Submarine Base, JOHN PAUL JONES resumed the training cycle. The ship passed its second Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection and got underway for the completion of TSTA II. Following the first missile exercise of the training cycle, JOHN PAUL JONES passed an important Engineering Certification inspection qualifying the ship to independently operate the ship's plant.

\* On August 20, 1997, the JOHN PAUL JONES hosted her second change of command. CDR J. Bruce Hamilton relieved CDR Peter

B. Opsal as the ship's third Commanding Officer during a ceremony held at Pier Seven, Naval Station, San Diego. The principal speaker was CAPT Robert T. Conway, Commander Destroyer Squadron Seven.

\* In between TSTA II and TSTA III, the ship was selected to represent the U.S. Navy and San Diego during the Republican National Convention. The JOHN PAUL JONES moored in downtown San Diego, and the crew gave tours to thousands of convention attendees. Among the dignitaries to visit the ship were the Honorable William Thornberry, U.S. Representative from Texas, and the Honorable Doug Bereuter, U.S. Representative from Nebraska.

\* The final phase of the training cycle, TSTA III, is intended to completely qualify the ship's training and watch teams. The graduation exercise of the training cycle is the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). During FEP, the ship's ability to successfully conduct air, surface, and undersea warfare after fighting numerous engineering casualties and sustaining serious battle damage was tested. After the ship passed FEP, the JOHN PAUL JONES was transferred to operational control of the Commander, Third Fleet and cleared to begin battle group work-ups in preparation for deployment with the CONSTELLATION Task Group.

\* The ship's first opportunity to work with the CONSTELLATION, Carrier Air Wing, and other ships in the Task Group came in October. The JOHN PAUL JONES participated in two Composite Unit Exercises (COMPTUEX) to finish the year. The COMPTUEXs are the beginning of the training cycle for the task group and provide a chance for the group to develop interoperability and tactics.

\* The final distinguished visitors to JOHN PAUL JONES of 1996 were the members of the Senior Seminar. The members of the Senior Seminar are senior employees of the State Department who will represent the United States in important positions overseas. They were led by Ambassador Howard Gilmore.