



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT

McFAUL (DDG 74)

PASCAGOULA MS 39568-7003

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From: Commanding Officer, PCU McFAUL (DDG 74)

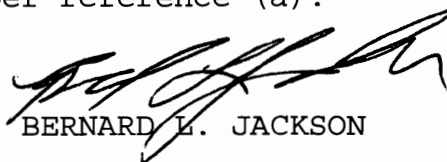
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) PCU McFAUL (DDG 74) Command History for 1997

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted per reference (a).

  
BERNARD L. JACKSON

## **Command Composition and Organization**

### **Ship's Mission**

McFAUL will be the twenty-fourth ship in the ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) class and the thirteenth to serve in the Atlantic Fleet.

McFAUL's mission in 1997 was crew training and shipboard quality assurance during construction, in preparation for joining the fleet in 1998.

### **Immediate Senior in Charge**

Captain Harry J. Rucker

Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Pascagoula, MS

### **Prospective Commanding Officer**

Commander Bernard L. Jackson

### **Prospective Executive Officer**

Lieutenant Commander Edward J. Lester

## 1997 Chronology

- 1 - 6 Jan. Holiday Leave and Upkeep.
- 17 - 18 Jan. DDG 74 Launched.
- 12 Apr. DDG 74 Christened McFAUL.
- 16 Jun. Aegis Light Off (ALO).
- 18 - 20 Jul. Hurricane Danny brushes Gulf Coast.
- 19 Aug. Main Engine Light Off (MELO).
- 28 Aug. Prospective Commanding Officer reported to Precommissioning Unit.
- 26 Sep - 3 Oct. McFAUL Dry-docked.
- 29 Sep - 17 Oct. Land Based Engineering Site, ATRCD Philadelphia, PA.
- 6 - 17 Oct. CIC Team Training., Wallops Island, VA.
- 22 Oct. Prospective Executive Officer reported to Precommissioning Unit.
- 15 Nov. Ammunition Onload, Litton Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, MS.
- 18 - 21 Nov. Underway. Combined "Alpha/Bravo" Sea Trials.
- 22 Nov. Ammunition Offload, Litton Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, MS.
- 27 - 30 Nov. Holiday Leave and Upkeep.
- 16 Dec. Underway. "Charlie" Trial (INSURV).
- 17 - 31 Dec. Holiday Leave and Upkeep.

## 1997 Narrative

McFAUL continued construction at Litton-Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, Mississippi, during the entire year of 1997.

In January, after crewmembers returned from Holiday leave and stand down, the shipyard transferred DDG 74 from the dock to the floating dry dock. Soon after, the ship was launched for the first time into the Pascagoula River.

In April, DDG 74 was christened "McFAUL," in honor of ENC (SEAL) Donald McFaul, by Mrs. Marcia Coats. Her husband, Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind), was the principal speaker at the christening ceremony, attended by members of Chief McFaul's family, several platoon teammates, and many prospective crewmembers.

Summer saw the initial testing of several Weapons and Engineering Systems, beginning in June with Aegis Light Off (ALO) to test key components of the Aegis Combat System. In August, the forward main engines were tested for the first time, and Prospective Commanding Officer Bernard L. Jackson arrived late in the month to witness the testing of the aft main engines in September.

Also in September, the ship was dry-docked to repaint and reinspect the hull and screws. Later in the month, approximately 25 members of the Engineering Department traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to receive training at the Land Based Engineering Site (LBES).

Another team training took place in October, as over 50 members of the Combat Systems and Operations Departments participated in 2 weeks of Combat Information Center Team Training in Wallops Island, Virginia. Immediately after the completion of CIC Team Trainer, Prospective Executive Officer Edward J. Lester left the Training Detachment in Norfolk to report to the Precommissioning Unit.

In November, the crew unloaded ammunition in preparation for Combined Alpha/Bravo trials. During the successful Sea Trials, McFAUL fired one Standard Missile, twenty 5-inch rounds, thirty-six rounds of SRBOC, and 400 CIWS rounds. The crew also tested the engineering plant during the trials and stood watches for the first time.

In December, Ingalls held Charlie Sea Trials for the Board of Inspection and Survey, during which McFAUL again fired 400 rounds from her CIWS mount. As the year ended, the growing crew at the Precommissioning Unit was enjoying a Holiday leave and stand down as McFAUL was moored pierside at Ingalls, looking forward to 1998 and her first year of service.