



Rec'd 4/13/94
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
FPO AP 96679-1498

5757
Ser FFG 43/ 071
25 MAR 1994

From: Commanding Officer, USS THACH (FFG 43)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington, D. C. 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Ship's Photograph
(5) Ship's Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(6) Commanding Officers' Biographies

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are provided as THACH's Command History for the year 1992.


W. F. BARNES

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFPAC
COMDESRON FIFTEEN

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS THACH (FFG 43) is a Flight III Oliver Hazard Perry-Class Guided Missile Frigate, designed to provide anti-surface, anti-submarine and medium range anti-air defense to battle group, amphibious or merchant convoys. THACH is a member of Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN, Commanded by Captain Richard Robbins, United States Navy. THACH is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan and is a member of the Overseas Family Residency Program. Commander Thomas A. Baker, United States Navy, until 20 March 1992 when he was relieved by Commander Robert J. Gibson, United States Navy. Two anti-submarine warfare helicopter detachments were embarked in THACH during 1993 from HSL 51 dets one and two.

Encl (1)

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY

01-05 HOLIDAY UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
06-08 COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS TEST, INPORT YOKOSUKA, JA
09 COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS TEST, U/W PHILLIPINE SEA
10-12 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
13-16 ENROUTE HONG KONG
17-19 PORT VISIT, HONG KONG
20-23 ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA
24-31 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

FEBRUARY

01-17 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
18-20 UNDERWAY, PHILLIPINE SEA
21-29 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA

MARCH

01 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
02-09 ASSIGNED CTG 70.1, BATTLE GROUP OPS ENR SUBIC BAY,
PHILLIPINES
10 INPORT, SUBIC BAY, PHILLIPINES
11-16 BATTLE GROUP OPS, SOUTH CHINA SEA
17-20 INPORT, SUBIC BAY, PHILLIPINES
21-22 ENROUTE, HONG KONG
23-26 PORT VISIT, HONG KONG
27-30 BATTLE GROUP OPS ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA
31 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
CDR [REDACTED] DETACHES

APRIL

01-14 POM, YOKOSUKA, JA
15-26 UNDERWAY, ENROUTE GERALDTON, AUSTRALIA
27-29 PORT VISIT, GERALDTON, AUSTRALIA
30 UNDERWAY, ENROUTE PERTH, AUSTRALIA

MAY

01-05 PORT VISIT, PERTH, AUSTRALIA
06 UNDERWAY, ENROUTE BUNBURY, AUSTRALIA
07-10 PORT VISIT, BUNBURY, AUSTRALIA
11-27 UNDERWAY, INDIAN OCEAN, ENROUTE ARABIAN GULF
28 ANCHORED, BAHRAIN BELL
29-31 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
ASSIGNED CTF 154
ENS [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD

JUNE

01-03 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
04-06 UPKEEP, BAHRAIN
06-09 OPERATION NEON SPARK 92-2 WITH BAHRAIN EMIR NAVY
07 ANCHORED, BAHRAIN BELL
08-20 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
09-12 MOBILE TRAINING TEAM ASSIST (PHASE I)
13 RAS WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS
14-16 GULFEX XII WITH FRENCH NAVY AND ROYAL NAVY
15 RAS WITH HMS BRAMBLELEAF
21-26 PORT VISIT, ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
27-28 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
29 ANCHORED, BAHRAIN BELL
29-30 OPERATION EASTERN SAILOR WITH QATAR NAVY
LTJG [REDACTED] DETACHES

JULY

01-02 FINEX OPERATION EASTERN SAILOR, ANCHORED, DOHA LIGHT
02-03 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
04-14 TENDER AVAILABILITY WITH USS ACADIA, BAHRAIN
15-17 MOBILE TRAINING TEAM (PHASE II)
15 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
16-17 ANCHORED, BAHRAIN BELL
18-19 UPKEEP, BAHRAIN
20-21 OPERATION NEON SPARK 92-3 WITH BAHRAIN EMIR NAVY
22 ANCHORED, SITRA
22-24 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
25-29 UPKEEP, BAHRAIN
30-31 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
31 RAS WITH MOTOR VESSEL GIANELLA
LTJG [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD

AUGUST

01-04 BATTLE GROUP OPS, ARABIAN GULF
05-11 TAV WITH USS ACADIA, JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES
12-24 OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH
21-24 MTT PHASE (PHASE III)
25-28 ANCHORED, BAHRAIN BELL
28-31 OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH
LT [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

SEPTEMBER

01-07 OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH
08-15 TAV WITH USS ACADIA, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
16-25 UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SINGAPORE
25-30 UPKEEP, SINGAPORE
INCHOP SEVENTH FLEET AOR

OCTOBER

01-04 ENROUTE HONG KONG
01-04 OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION
05-08 PORT VISIT, HONG KONG
09-12 TIGER CRUISE ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA
13-31 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
LCDR [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD
ENS [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD

NOVEMBER

01-04 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
02-06 HAZARDS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION TO ORDNANCE
(HERO) SURVEY
05-17 ANNUALEX 04G WITH JMSDF
18 INPORT OKINAWA
19 UNDERWAY PHILLIPINE SEA
19 INPORT OKINAWA
20 UNDERWAY PHILLIPINE SEA
20-22 INPORT OKINAWA
23-25 UNDERWAY, ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JA
25-30 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
30 COMMAND ASSESSMENT OF READINESS AND TRAINING
COMMENCES (CART PHASE II) AND
LCDR [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

DECEMBER

01-28 HOLIDAY UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
11 COMPLETED CART II AND ASIR
25 CHRISTMAS DAY, MISSILE MAGAZINE SPRINKLER SYSTEM
ACCIDENTALLY ALIGNED, WETTING ALL MISSILES
29 ANCHORED, YOKOSUKA, JA FOR MISSILE OFFLOAD
29-31 UPKEEP, YOKOSUKA, JA
LT [REDACTED] REPORTS ABOARD
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

NARRATIVE

THACH was constantly on the move in the year 1992. January started with a highly successful Combat Systems Readiness Test. Then , THACH went on a two week trip to Hong Kong and back to Yokosuka.

February was the last month for fixing major material discrepancies prior to Battle Group work up exercises in March. THACH also saw two port stops in the Philippines and one in Hong Kong. The second visit to the Philippines ended with CAPT Thomas A. Baker being relieved by CDR Robert J. Gibson on 20 March.

A pre-overseas movement stand down started the first two weeks of April. THACH'S deployment to the USNAVCENT AOR began on 15 April when the ship left Yokosuka bound for Geraldton, Australia. THACH made port calls in Geraldton, Perth and Bunbury and participated in OPERATION REMEMBRANCE, commemorating the 50TH anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea over the last week of April and first two weeks of May. THACH officially became a part of the U.S. Central Command on May 26TH.

THACH conducted bi-lateral operations with the Bahrain Navy during OPERATION NEON SPARK, with the French and Royal Navies during OPERATION GULFEX XII, and with the Qatar Navy during OPERATION EASTERN SAILOR in the month of June. THACH also conducted RAS with the USNS A. J. HIGGINS and HMS BRAMBLELEAF on separate occasions. There was still time in June to officially start our OPPE preparations with our first Mobile Training Team assist visit and have a port call in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

THACH continued its hectic schedule in July with a short anchorage at Doha Light for a hot wash up for OPERATION EASTERN SAILOR, then a quick transit to Bahrain to begin a week and a half long tender availability with USS ACADIA. Next, THACH had its second Mobile Training Team assist visit. The month ended with THACH participating in a second OPERATION NEON SPARK with the Bahrain Navy followed by a RAS with the Motor Vessel Gianella.

August began with a week-long tender availability in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates. Afterwards, THACH commenced duties with the other participants of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH. THACH also had the third and final Mobile Training Team assist visit.

THACH ended her assigned duties for OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH after the first week of September and proceeded to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for another tender availability with USS ACADIA to help put the finishing touches on our OPPE preparations. On September 16TH, THACH left the Arabian Gulf. The next week and a

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half was spent transiting the Indian Ocean and Straits of Malacca enroute Singapore. THACH became part of the Seventh Fleet AOR on 20 September.

After a four day upkeep at Sembawang Wharf, Singapore, the WESTPAC Propulsion Examining Board embarked for an outchop OPPE enroute to Hong Kong. The OPPE was a very successful evolution, placing THACH on a 24 month examination cycle. THACH had a four day port visit in Hong Kong and embarked over twenty male guests of the crew for a Tiger Cruise for the voyage back to Yokosuka. On October 13TH, THACH returned to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan for a much needed upkeep for the ship.

November started with a shipboard HERO survey. THACH was underway again for ANNUALEX 04G with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force for two weeks. After a couple short spots in Okinawa, Japan, THACH was headed for Yokosuka. THACH returned to Yokosuka and started a holiday leave and upkeep period from the last week of November until the new year. During December THACH had a two week assist from ATG WESTPAC for a Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II. On Christmas Day, there was a mishap in the missile magazine ready service room that allowed the sprinkler system in the magazine to activate, wetting all missiles. THACH went to anchorage on December 29TH for missile off-load, then, returned pierside to finish the year.