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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
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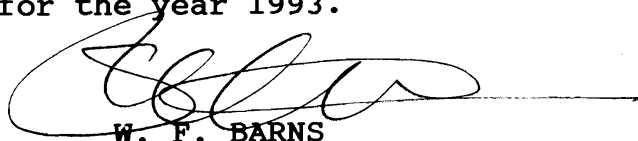
From: Commanding Officer, USS THACH (FFG 43)
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Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

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 1993.


W. F. BARNES

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 Cyrus H. Butt, United States Navy. THACH is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan and is a member of the Overseas Family Residency Program. Captain Robert J. Gibson, United States Navy, until 15 November 1993 when he was relieved by Commander William F. Barns, 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 1993

01-10 INPT YOKOSUKA
11-18 TSTA(I)
18-26 INPT YOKOSUKA
27-29 U/W ENROUTE SASEBO, JA
29 ARRIVE SASEBO
29-2FEB INPT SASEBO

FEBRUARY 1993

02-07 U/W ENROUTE OKINAWA
07 ARRIVE OKINAWA
08-10 U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
10 ARRIVE YOKOSUKA
11-15 INPT YOKOSUKA
16-24 U/W ENROUTE OKINAWA
20 RAS WITH A.J. HIGGINS
24 ARRIVE, DEPART OKINAWA
25 MISSILEX '93
26 RAS WITH A.J. HIGGINS
27-2MAR TEAM SPIRIT '93
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

MARCH 1993

05 ARRIVE YOKOSUKA
06-19 INPT YOKOSUKA
19 U/W, LOCAL OPS
20 ARRIVE YOKOSUKA
20-29 INPT YOKOSUKA
29-1APR INSURV
LCDR [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY
ENS [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY

APRIL 1993

01-19 INPT YOKOSUKA
20-24 LOCAL OPERATIONS WITH USS O'BRIEN (DD 975)
CDR [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY
ENS [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY

MAY 1993

19 U/W ENROUTE AUSTRALIA
23 RAS WITH A.J. HIGGINS
26 ARRIVE BUNBURY, AUSTRALIA
29 U/W ENROUTE DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

JUNE 1993

01-29 SPRING TRAINING '93
02 U/W ENROUTE DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
05 RAS WITH A.J. HIGGINS
12 RAS WITH A.J. HIGGINS
16 ARRIVE DARWIN
17-21 PVST DARWIN
21 U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
30 ARRIVE YOKOSUKA
ENS [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY

JULY 1993

01-08 INPT YOKOSUKA
08-15SEP DSRA '93
15-12AUG COMDESRON FIFTEEN EMBARKED
LTJG [REDACTED] DETACHES

AUGUST 1993

18 VISIT BY COMCARGRU FIVE
24 VISIT BY COMNAVSURFPAC

SEPTEMBER 1993

15 DEPART DRY DOCK

OCTOBER 1993

11,12 LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT
19 U/W, LOCAL OPS
22 DSRA DEPARTURE CONFERENCE
25-27 U/W, LOCAL OPS
28-08NOV INPT YOKOSUKA
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] REPORTS FOR DUTY

NOVEMBER 1993

08 U/W, ENROUTE SINGAPORE
15 ARRIVE SINGAPORE
COMMANDER WILLIAM F. BARNES RELIEVES CAPTAIN ROBERT J.
GIBSON AS COMMANDING OFFICER
15-18 PVST SINGAPORE
18 U/W ENROUTE MERCUB 94-1
24 ARRIVE SINGAPORE
24-26 PVST SINGAPORE
26 U/W ENROUTE SHAREM 105
26-08DEC U/W ENROUTE PULAU LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

DECEMBER 1993

08 ARRIVE PULAU LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA
PVST IN CONJUNCTION WITH LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME AND AERONAUTICAL EXHIBITION 1993
08-10 VISIT BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA
10 U/W ENROUTE HONG KONG
14 ARRIVE HONG KONG
14-17 PVST HONG KONG
18 U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA
22 ARRIVE YOKOSUKA
22-31 INPT YOKOSUKA
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES
LT [REDACTED] DETACHES

NARRATIVE

The year 1993 was an eventful one for USS THACH (FFG 43). The first phase of the ship's Total Ship's Testing Availability was carried out in the first part of January. Representatives from Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific came aboard during an inport period, observed training evolutions and made recommendations for improved training techniques. The aim of the assist visit was to integrate THACH's overall training program and to evaluate the effectiveness of THACH's ship force training teams for engineering, combat systems and seamanship.

Shortly after, THACH was underway with USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41), enroute to Sasebo for refueling and then on to Okinawa for Missilex 93. On the way, THACH carried out a Replenishment at Sea with USNS A. J. HIGGINS. Arriving in Okinawa on 24 Feb 1993, THACH had two chances at the missile range. The first day, THACH did not shoot. The second day on the range, THACH shot twice, scoring a glancing blow the first shoot. Due to drone failure, the second shoot was unsuccessful: the drone dove into the water too early and the SM-1 launched to intercept followed.

After the Missilex, THACH and MCCLUSKY joined several other DESRON FIFTEEN ships during TEAM SPIRIT 93. THACH conducted a bilateral exercise with the South Korean Navy, then detached from the exercise along with MCCLUSKY. Arriving in Yokosuka shortly thereafter, THACH made preparations for its scheduled INSURV

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inspection. During INSURV, THACH was declared fit for continued service. Evaluations of all the ships systems-- engineering, combat systems, operations and supply procedures-- were conducted and discrepancies were minor. The ship successfully completed a full-power run, emergency astern propulsion drills and satisfactory tests on the Close-In Countermeasures Weapon System and the 76-mm gun, among others.

After INSURV, THACH enjoyed a brief rest in her homeport. While not engaged in at-sea tasking, she competed and triumphed in COMDESRON FIFTEEN's First Annual Seamanship Competition. THACH swept first place in shore-based events such as Sea Story-telling, Cake baking, Damage Control drills and Seamanship drills.

THACH had planned on remaining in port until her scheduled dry dock period began in July, but short-notice tasking sent her to Australia in late May along with USS MOBILE BAY (CG 54) and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62). Providing plane guard support for the carrier, THACH accompanied INDEPENDENCE to Australia to enable the embarked air wing to participate in Spring Training 93. THACH's embarked helicopter detachment provided ammunition onload support in Darwin. THACH conducted bilateral training with four Australian ships and had two port visits in Australia-- one in Darwin and one in Bunbury. She headed home with the carrier, arriving in Yokosuka 30 June 1993.

Barely a week later, THACH moved into her dry dock berth for the start of DSRA 93. For the next three months, THACH received extensive repair, including a complete revamp of Radio Central,

an overhaul of the hull-mounted sonar dome and much-needed preservation work. THACH emerged from dry dock on time and was underway again 19 October 1993 for sea trials. 25-27 October were sea trial days operating in waters off Yokosuka. THACH returned to Yokosuka to work out any kinks and was underway, enroute to Singapore on 8 November 1993.

She arrived in Singapore, along with USS HEWITT (DD 996), on 15 November 1993. The very day THACH arrived, Commander William F. Barns, USN, relieved Captain Robert J. Gibson, USN, as Commanding Officer on the flight deck, pierside Singapore. After a three-day port visit, THACH was underway with HEWITT and two Singaporean Missile Corvettes for MERCUB 94-1 -- a week of bilateral anti-submarine tactical training and bilateral exercises with the Royal Australian Navy. Returning to Singapore, THACH refueled and got underway again in support of SHAREM 105-- a data collection exercise aimed at increasing environmental information for anti-submarine warfare.

A third stop to Singapore fell through, and THACH, instead, was tasked with representing the United States in Malaysia. Pulling into the tiny harbor of Pulau Langkawi, Malaysia along with some 30 other war ships from around the world as part of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aeronautical Exhibition 1993, THACH was greeted with pomp and fanfare. She received the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia the day after arriving and conducted tours for the hundreds of exhibition attendees who toured the harbor.

Underway again, she steamed to Hong Kong for a port visit and rendez-vous with Hewitt. Four days later, she was underway

again for home. Delayed a day because of heavy seas, THACH pulled into Yokosuka on 22 December 1993. She began her holiday upkeep period the next day and stayed inport until the year concluded.