



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
FPO AP 96679-1498

Rec 103/16/95

5757

Ser FFG 43/ 051
27 Feb 95

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 Officer Biography
(7) Middle East Force 1994 Cruise Book
(8) 1994 Press Releases

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are provided as THACH's Command History for the year 1994.

W. F. BARNES

Copy to:
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 aircraft carrier battle groups, amphibious ready groups or merchant convoys; the ship is ideally suited for littoral operations as well. THACH is a member of Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN, Commanded by Captain Cyrus H. Butt IV, United States Navy. THACH is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan and is a member of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. Commander William F. Barns, United States Navy served as THACH's Commanding Officer for the entire year of 1994. Two anti-submarine warfare helicopter detachments were embarked in THACH during 1994 from HSL 51, detachments One and Two.

Encl (1)

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY 1994

01-26 Holiday Leave and Upkeep-- Yokosuka
26-10Feb ASWEX 94-1JA with port visit to Sasebo, JA

Ens [REDACTED] reports aboard

FEBRUARY 1994

10-17 Upkeep-- Yokosuka
17-19 Enroute Pusan, ROK
20-01Mar ASWEX 94-1US and SHAREM 107

MARCH 1994

01 Inport Chinhae, ROK
02-04 Enroute Yokosuka
05 Arrive Yokosuka
07 CINCPACFLT, ADM Kelly, visits
17-23 Combat Systems Readiness Review
23 PCMS Installation Testing
22-24 LTT (Engineering)
28-30 CINCPACFLT P.E.B. Operational Propulsion
Plant Examination

Ens [REDACTED] reports aboard

APRIL 1994

01-04 Enroute Okinawa, Conducting Tailored Ship's Training
Availability (TSTA II/III)
05 Inport Okinawa
06-07 Missilex 94-1 with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60)
07-11 Enroute Yokosuka, Conducting Tailored Ship's Training
Availability (TSTA III/FEP), CDS-15 embarked
11-26 Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and Upkeep, Combat
Systems Operational Sequencing System implementation
27 Enroute Guam, Commenced Middle East Force Deployment
30 Brief Stop for Fuel, Guam, Enroute Townsville, AUS

Ens [REDACTED] reports aboard

MAY 1994

06-09 Port visit, Townsville, AUS
Commemoration of 52nd Anniversary of the Battle of
Coral Sea, Honorary contingent visits Cardwell, AS
10 Enroute Phuket, Thailand
Great Barrier Reef transit, PASSEX with HMS TOBRUK
15 RAS, USNS JOHN ERICSSON (TAO 194)
18-21 Port visit, Phuket, Thailand
22 Joined Middle East Force Surface Action Group,
Commanded by USS SHILOH (CG 62) and in company with
USS PAUL F FOSTER (DD 964), Enroute Bahrain
23 RAS, USNS JOHN ERICSSON (TAO 194)
24 RAS, USNS JOHN ERICSSON (TAO 194)
25 RAS, USNS JOHN ERICSSON (TAO 194)
28 Change of Operational Command to Commander, U.S.
Naval Forces, Central Command
31 RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197)

Lt [REDACTED] departs

JUNE 1994

01-03 Inport, Bahrain
Visit by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central
Command, VADM Katz
04 Enroute Dubai, UAE
05-14 Inport Dubai, UAE
Visit by Commander, USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) Battle
Group, RADM Clark
15 Enroute North Arabian Gulf (NAG)
16 Maritime Interception Ops (MIO)-NAG
Medical Evacuation at Sea for M/V BAKRI ORBITER
17 Plane Guard duties for USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70)
18 MIO-NAG
19 RAS with USNS PECOS, enroute Bahrain
20-08Jul MIO-NAG

Ens [REDACTED] reports aboard

JULY 1994

09 Enroute Bahrain
10-15 Inport Bahrain
16 Enroute NAG
17-20 MIO-NAG
21 Enroute Dubai, UAE
22-26 Inport Dubai, UAE
27 Enroute NAG
28 RAS with RFA BAYLEAF
28-10Aug MIO-NAG
31 Conducted Rescue at Sea with USS PAUL F FOSTER (DD 964) for M/V GLORIOUS CITY

AUGUST 1994

11 RAS with RFA BAYLEAF, enroute Jebel Ali, UAE
12-18 Inport Jebel Ali, UAE
19 Enroute Karachi, Pakistan. RAS with USNS PECOS
21 Inport Karachi, Pakistan
22-24 Embarked Commander, Destroyer Squadron 23
Conducted Exercise INSPIRED SIREN '94 with PNS TARIQ and PNS ALAMGIR
25-28 Port visit Karachi, Pakistan
29 Enroute NAG

SEPTEMBER 1994

02 Turnover with USS REID (FFG 30), Enroute Jebel Ali, UAE
03-06 Inport Jebel Ali, UAE
07 Enroute Singapore
11 Change of Operational Command to Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet
16 Detached from Middle East Force Surface Action Group, Commanded by USS SHILOH
17-20 Inport Singapore
21 Enroute Hong Kong
24-27 Inport Hong Kong
28 Enroute Yokosuka, Command Assessment of Readiness and Training, Phase I
29-30 Typhoon Orchid Evasion

Lcdr [REDACTED] departs
Lcdr [REDACTED] reports for duty
Ens [REDACTED] reports for duty

OCTOBER 1994

01 Homecoming
02-05Nov Inport Yokosuka, conducted Command Assessment of
Readiness and Training, Phases IIA and IIB

Ens [REDACTED] reports for duty
Lt [REDACTED] temporarily assigned to FISC Yokosuka

NOVEMBER 1994

06-11 ANNUALEX 94-06G
12-17 Inport Yokosuka
18-20 CART IIA, Yokosuka
21-23 Enroute Sagami Wan for CART IIA Shipride
24-07Dec Inport Yokosuka

Lt [REDACTED] departs

DECEMBER 1994

08-09 Enroute Kure, JA
10-12 Inport Kure, JA
13-15 Enroute Yokosuka, JA
16-02Jan Leave and Upkeep-- Yokosuka

NARRATIVE

After an extremely busy year of exercises, repairs and more exercises in the last months of 1993, USS THACH enjoyed a brief break for the first three weeks of 1994. The ship spent the time inport Yokosuka, preparing for ASWEX 94-1JA, conducted with USS RODNEY M DAVIS and several ships from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. THACH served as Maritime Action Group Commander for the duration of the exercise and was designated as "the best ship of the exercise" by Commander, Escort Flotilla THREE.

Two port visits to the Republic of Korea marked February, followed by a visit by Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet while inport Yokosuka. The ship also modified several combat systems during the month in anticipation of its upcoming Middle East Force Deployment. The crew finished out March with an over-all grade of "Satisfactory" for its Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.

THACH spent a good part of April working up for a COMUSNAVCENT deployment. Hosting many riders from Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific for Tailored Ship's Training Availabilities, the ship also participated in an extremely successful Missilex with USS RODNEY M DAVIS off the coast of Okinawa, and then enjoyed a brief standdown before deploying on the 27th of the month.

THACH raced to GUAM for a brief stop for fuel and then continued on towards Townsville, Australia. Safely negotiating

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the Great Barrier Reef transit, THACH arrived in North Queensland to celebrate the 52nd Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea. Events included a vigil in Townsville and an Honor Brigade march through Cardwell. THACH left Townsville and transited North inside the Great Barrier Reef, conducting a PASSEX with HMAS TOBRUK and finally emerging some 40 hours later north of the Land Down Under and on her way to Thailand. The ship enjoyed several days in Phuket, Thailand, where she rendezvoused with her steaming partners for the next several months-- USS SHILOH (CG 67) and USS PAUL F FOSTER (DD 964). The three ships, now a Surface Action Group, set sail for the Arabian Gulf 22 May and reported for duty to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command 28 May.

During June and July, THACH operated in the Arabian Gulf conducting plane guard for USS CARL VINSON, conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations in the North Arabian Gulf, and spending several days inport Bahrain, Dubai and Jebel Ali for maintenance and overhaul. THACH participated in a successful Medical Evacuation at Sea and assisted USS PAUL F FOSTER in extinguishing a fire aboard M/V GLORIOUS CITY during her onstation time in the Gulf. She hosted both her immediate operational commander, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 23 and her overall commander, Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Central Command.

In August, THACH embarked CDS-23 for Exercise INSPIRED SIREN-- a highly successful, bilateral exercise with the Pakistan Navy. After a port visit in Karachi, THACH headed back to the Arabian Gulf for turnover of duties and some last minute repairs

in Jebel Ali, UAE. September saw THACH's return to the Seventh Fleet and port visits to Singapore and Hong Kong. Typhoon season took its toll, with Typhoon Orchid temporarily blocking THACH's way back home. THACH, however, was undeterred and returned to homeport ontime the first of October. Enjoying a brief Post-Deployment standdown, THACH underwent a number of Command Inspections by Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15, a CMS Inspection, CART IIA and IIB, and the following month, a Logistics and Management Assessment. THACH also participated in ANNUALEX 94-06G with USS FIFE (DD 991).

Prior to Holiday Leave and Upkeep , THACH transited the Inland Sea for a port visit to Kure, JA, where it continued preparations and training for its Tactical Training Strategy work-ups approaching in January 1995.