



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 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
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(4) Ship's Photograph
(5) Ship's Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(6) Commanding Officer Biography
(7) 1996 Press Releases
(8) THACH DISPATCH Quarterly Newsletters
(9) Arabian Gulf Deployment 1996 Cruise Book

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are provided as THACH's Command History for the year 1996.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. M. Thomas".

S. M. THOMAS

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS THACH (FFG 43) is a Flight III Oliver Hazard Perry-Class Guided Missile Frigate designed to provide air, surface, and subsurface protection for carrier battle groups and Naval Expeditionary Forces. Additional protection is provided to replenishment groups, merchant convoys and THACH is ideally suited for littoral operations. THACH is a member of Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN, Commanded by Captain Robert E. Smith, United States Navy. THACH is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, and is a member of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. Commander Scott M. Thomas, United States Navy, served as THACH's Commanding Officer for the entire year of 1996. One antisubmarine warfare helicopter detachment five, was embarked in THACH during 1996 from HSL 51.

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY 1996

01 Assigned TG 075.2
01-02 Holiday Leave and Upkeep--Yokosuka
02-04 Inport Yokosuka
05-07 Group sail to Okinawa, JA, with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60),
USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52), and USS HEWITT (DD 966)
05-21 Embarked HSL-51, Detachment 5
08-10 MISSILEX 96-1
09 Refueling At Sea (RAS) with USNS PECOS (TAO 197)
11-12 Enroute Hong Kong
13-16 Inport Hong Kong
17-21 Enroute Yokosuka
22 Ammo Onload
22-25 Upkeep--Yokosuka
23-26 Limited Team Trainer (3M Assist)
26-31 Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and Upkeep--Yokosuka

FEBRUARY 1996

01-20 Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and Upkeep--Yokosuka
05-09 Pre-Selected Restricted Availability, Aviation Facility Certification
(ASIR) visit
10-20 Tender Availability with USS HOLLAND (AS 32)
21 Sea Trials
22-25 Inport Yokosuka
26 Assigned TU 075.9.3 and embarked HSL-51 Detachment 5
26-29 MEF 96-1, enroute Phuket, Thailand, in company with USS RODNEY M.
DAVIS (FFG 60)
29 RAS , USNS PECOS (TAO 197) - Philippine Sea
* THACH receives Undersea Warfare Excellence Award

MARCH 1996

01-05 Enroute Phuket, Thailand in company with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS
(FFG 60) and USNS PECOS (TAO 197)
05 RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197) - South China Sea
06-10 Inport Phuket, Thailand
11-22 Enroute Bahrain in company with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60)
and USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973)
11 VERTREP, USNS SPICA (TAFS 9) - Andaman Sea

12 RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197) - Indian Ocean
16 Assigned TF 50
17 THACH celebrates 12th year of commissioned service
18 Brief stop for fuel - Fujaira, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
18 Transit Strait of Hormuz
20 Inport Bahrain, INCHOP COMFIFTHFLT
21-22 Enroute Central Arabian Gulf (CAG) for Maritime Prepositioning
Ships (MPS) protection duties
23-25 Inport Dubai, UAE
26-31 Enroute Central Arabian Gulf for MPS Protection duties and steaming
exercise in company with COMPSRON 2
26 VERTREP, RFA BRAMBLELEAF (A 81) - CAG
27 RAS, RFA BRAMBLELEAF (A 81) - CAG

APRIL 1996

01 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG
02-15 MPS Protection duties and steaming exercise in company with
COMPSRON 2
05 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG
05 VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG
10 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG
16 Maritime Interception Ops (MIO) - North Arabian Gulf (NAG)
17 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG
18-21 Inport Bahrain
22-30 Exercise SHAREM 115 - CAG
22 VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG
27 RAS, USNS YUKON (TAO 202) - CAG

MAY 1996

01 Anchor Bahrain
02-06 KEYNOTE III exercise - CAG
02 RAS, USNS YUKON (TAO 202) - CAG
07-09 MPS Protection duties - CAG
07 VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG
09 RAS, RFA BRAMBLELEAF (A 81) - CAG
10-16 MPS Protection duties - CAG
13 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
17-23 MPS Protection duties - CAG
18 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
23 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
24-29 Inport Bahrain
30-31 Maritime Interception Ops - NAG

JUNE 1996

01-07 Maritime Interception Ops - NAG
04 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
08 VERTREP, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
08-19 Inport Bahrain
20-25 Maritime Interception Ops - NAG
20 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO-199)
26-27 Inport Bahrain
28 RAS, RAF BRAMBLELEAF (A 81)
VERTREP USNS NIAGARA FALLS (TAFS 3)
28-30 Transit Arabian Gulf / Gulf of Oman / North Arabian Sea

JULY 1996

01-10 Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART I)
02 Formed Surface Action Group (SAG) with RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) and JOHN YOUNG (DD 973) and OUTCHOP COMFIFTHFLT, Assigned TU 075.9.3
04 RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197) - Andaman Sea
05-06 Enroute Penang, Malaysia
07-10 Inport Penang, Malaysia
11 Transit Malacca Strait
12-14 Inport Singapore
15-17 Enroute Cebu, Republic of the Philippines (RP)
18-20 Inport Cebu, RP
21 RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197)
21-25 Enroute Yokosuka
26 Moor Yokosuka, assigned TG 75.2
26-31 Post Deployment Upkeep -- Yokosuka

AUGUST 1996

01-28 Post Deployment Upkeep -- Yokosuka
05-09 Hull cleaning
19-23 Combat Systems Maintenance Central Review (CSMCR) inspection
22 Command Control Assessment
20-31 USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) availability
26-30 Logistics Training Review (LTR)

SEPTEMBER 1996

01-03 Upkeep Yokosuka, USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) availability

03-04 Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) assist
11-12 Enroute Okinawa, JA
11-18 Embarked HSL 51 Detachment 5
13 Inport Okinawa, JA
13-15 RECONEX
15 Inport Okinawa, JA
16-17 Enroute Yokosuka, Mid Cycle Assessment (MCA) preps
18-23 Inport Yokosuka
24-26 MCA - Philippine Sea
27-30 Upkeep -- Yokosuka
30 Logistic Management Assessment (LMA)

OCTOBER 1996

01 Ammo off-load
01-04 Upkeep -- Yokosuka, JA, LMA
07 ISIC Environmental Compliance Inspection
07-31 Selected Restricted Availability (SRA-6)
17 Mechanical Fuel Calibration Activity (FCA)

NOVEMBER 1996

01-30 Selected Restricted Availability (SRA-6)
03-30 USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) availability
04-05 CMS assist visit
18-26 Diesel Inspections
19 Command Management Equal Opportunity (CMEO) training and assist

DECEMBER 1996

01-06 Selected Restricted Availability (SRA-6), USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)
availability
02-06 Tempest Inspections
05 Sea trials
07-08 Upkeep, Yokosuka, JA
09 Ammo Onload
10-15 Upkeep -- Yokosuka
10 NAVSAFECEN Shipboard Safety Survey
16-17 Type Training Philippine Sea
17 Navigation check ride
18-31 Holiday Upkeep, Yokosuka, JA

NARRATIVE

After a few remaining days of Holiday upkeep, THACH participated in an extremely successful MISSILEX with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60), USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52) and USS HEWITT (DD 966). Following the exercise, THACH made a brief four-day port visit to Hong Kong and returned to Yokosuka to begin Pre-Overseas Movement (POM).

February marked the final month of preparation prior to the five-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf. A pre-Selected Restricted Availability (SRA-6) with the tender USS HOLLAND (AS 32) completed preparations for deployment. On 26 February THACH departed Yokosuka enroute Phuket Thailand in company with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60). During the month of February THACH was presented the Undersea Warfare Excellence Award from Commander Seventh Fleet for the advancement of Under Sea Warfare (USW) tactics during "ANNUALEX" and "FOAL EAGLE" exercises. Additionally, THACH received the Battle Efficiency award and the embarked Lamps Mark III helicopter detachment helped its parent squadron earn the Aviation Safety Award from Commander Naval Air Force Pacific, for 1996.

While anchored in Phuket for five days, THACH sailors participated in a community relations project in which volunteers delivered hygiene products and clothing to a retirement home and local junior high school.

In company with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) and USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973), the three ships left Phuket and formed a Surface Action Group (SAG) enroute Bahrain.

The ship's 12th birthday of commissioned service was celebrated while the ship transferred to the operational control of Commander Fifth Fleet. After the turnover brief inport Bahrain, THACH provided protection of Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) in the Central Arabian Gulf (CAG) for 2 days prior to a port visit to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

During the months of April, May and June THACH resumed MPS protection duties in the CAG and Maritime Intercept Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf - supporting United Nations sanctions against Iraq. In addition the ship conducted numerous refuelings at sea (RAS), vertical replenishments (VERTREPS) and small boat operations.

In April Rear Admiral Henry Giffin, Commander Task Force Five Zero, THACH's

Operational Commander, flew aboard for a tour and Admiral's call. RADM Griffin commended the ship for its high degree of material readiness and congratulated the crew on its outstanding Undersea Warfare performance while in Seventh Fleet. During this period, THACH made four port visits totaling 24 days inport Bahrain and participated in another community relations project giving ship tours to a group of students from Bahrain's Bayan School.

In July THACH, RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) and JOHN YOUNG (DD 973) returned to SEVENTH FLEET after 109 days in the Gulf. On Independence Day, the ship's Captain Scott Thomas, gave out 69 awards to crewmembers for their performance during the Arabian Gulf Deployment. Topping off the day a "Steel Beach" picnic was enjoyed by all hands.

Enroute Yokosuka several port visits took place to include: Penang Malaysia, Singapore and Cebu Republic of the Philippines. During the Cebu visit, eight "Tigers" (father and sons of THACH crewmembers) joined the ship for the six-day transit back to Yokosuka. THACH arrived in Yokosuka for homecoming on the 26th of July after a five-month deployment.

Once safely home THACH enjoyed a brief Post Deployment Standown. During August several inspections and a maintenance availability were completed.

On the 13th of September THACH conducted a RECONEX in the Okinawa operation area but, due to typhoon "Violet" THACH returned early to Yokosuka and was unable to complete a port visit to the Philippines.

In October, THACH completed Logistics Management Assessment (LMA), which encompassed a thorough review of general stores, food service and retail operations earning high marks in all areas. On the 7th of October, THACH began a two month Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) undergoing several weapons system upgrades and engineering overhaul. Additionally, several THACH crewmembers participated in a community relations project with the Shiratori-en home for the mentally handicapped, further building a relationship with the local Japanese Community.

Having completed SRA on the 6th of December, THACH closed out the year by preparing for the 1997 Tactical Training Cycle. Following two days of at sea training, THACH returned home and began its Holiday Leave and upkeep period, which lasted into the New Year.