

### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH FFG-43 FPO AP 96679-1498

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From: Commanding Officer, USS THACH (FFG 43)

To: Director of Naval History, Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

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) 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.

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 UpkeepYokosuka
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	UpkeepYokosuka
23-26	Limited Team Trainer (3M Assist)
26-31	Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and UpkeepYokosuka
FEBRUARY 1996	
01-20	Pre-Overseas Movement Leave and UpkeepYokosuka
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
MADCII 1006	
MARCH 1996	
01-05	Enroute Phuket, Thailand in company with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS
- <del> </del>	(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)
- · <del>-</del> -	and USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973)
11	VERTREP, USNS SPICA (TAFS 9) - Andaman Sea

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 06 VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG 10 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG 11 RAS, USNS MERRIMACK (AO 179) - CAG 12 Inport Bahrain 12-30 Exercise SHAREM 115 - CAG 22 VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG 23 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 09 RAS, RAF BRAMBLELEAF (A 81) - CAG 10-16 MPS Protection duties - CAG 11 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 11 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 11 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 12 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 13 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 14-29 Inport Bahrain 15 Inport Bahrain 16 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 17-23 MPS Protection duties - CAG 18 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 18 RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG 19-03 Import Bahrain 19-03-03-11 Maritime Interception Ops - NAG	12	RAS, USNS PECOS (TAO 197) - Indian Ocean
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22       VERTREP, USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8) - CAG         27       RAS, USNS YUKON (TAO 202) - CAG         MAY 1996	18-21	Inport Bahrain
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, RAF 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	22-30	Exercise SHAREM 115 - CAG
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30-31 Maritime Interception Ops - NAG	24-29	Inport Bahrain
1 1	30-31	Maritime Interception Ops - NAG

## JUNE 1996

01-07	Maritime Interception Ops - NAG
04	RAS, USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO 199) - CAG
Ò8	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)
20	VERTREP USNS NIAGARA FALLS (TAFS 3)
28-30	Transit Arabian Gulf / Gulf of Oman / North Arabian Sea
20 50	Transit Francian Garry Garron Granding Transiting Sou
JULY 1996	
01-10	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART I)
02	Formed Surface Action Group (SAG) with RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG
02	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
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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	03-04	Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) assist
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	05	Sea trials
	07-08	Upkeep, Yokosuka, JA
09 Ammo Onload	09	• • ·
10-15 Upkeep Yokosuka	10-15	Upkeep Yokosuka
10 NAVSAFECEN Shipboard Safety Survey	10	NAVSAFECEN Shipboard Safety Survey
•	16-17	Type Training Philippine Sea
16-17 Type Training Philippine Sea	17	Navigation check ride
	18-31	Holiday Upkeep, Yokosuka, JA
16-17 Type Training Philippine Sea	17	Navigation check ride
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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.