



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THACH (FFG 43)
FPO AP 96679-1498

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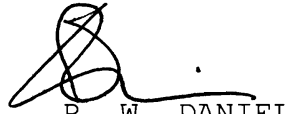
From: Commanding Officer
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 Series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological Summary
(3) Historical Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.


R. W. DANIEL

USS THACH (FFG 43)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS THACH, the namesake of two-time Navy Cross recipient Admiral John Smith Thach, is the thirty-sixth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7) class of guided missile frigates. THACH's mission is to provide air, surface, and sub-surface protection for merchant and military convoys, aircraft carriers, logistics battle groups, and amphibious task forces, operating either independently or as a part of a Surface Action Group. THACH was built by Todd Pacific Shipyards Corporation, Los Angeles, California. Her keel was laid on March 6, 1982. She was christened on December 18, 1983 and commissioned on March 17, 1984.

The Commanding Officer has the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability for the performance and welfare of the ship and her crew. Second in command, the Executive Officer implements policies and regulations as applicable to the ship and her mission. Each Department Head reports to the Commanding Officer via the Executive Officer.

USS THACH was under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN from 01 Jan -31 Aug, as a member of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces in Yokosuka, Japan. THACH then changed ports for a crew swap and became a member of Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three from 01 Sep -31 Dec 1999. THACH is now homeported in San Diego, CA.

SHIP'S ORGANIZATION, 1999

COMMANDING OFFICER:

01Jan-26Mar CDR Thomas Goodall
26Mar-31Aug CDR Stephen Camacho
31Aug-05Oct CDR Joseph Hariss
05Oct-31Dec CDR Richard W. Daniel

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

01Jan-31Aug LCDR John Carrol
31Aug-31Dec LCDR J. Todd Black

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER:

01Jan-31Aug LT [REDACTED]
31Aug-30Sep LT [REDACTED]
30Sep-31Dec LT [REDACTED]

OPERATIONS OFFICER:

01Jan-26Feb Ltjg [REDACTED]
01Feb-31Aug LT [REDACTED]
31Aug-31Dec LT [REDACTED]

NAVIGATOR/ADMIN OFFICER:

01Jan-31Aug LT [REDACTED]
31Aug-31Dec LTJG [REDACTED]

CHIEF ENGINEER:

01Jan-31Aug LT [REDACTED]
31Aug-31Dec LT [REDACTED]

SUPPLY:

01Jan-05Apr LTJG [REDACTED]
05Apr-31Aug LTJG [REDACTED]
31Aug-31Dec LT [REDACTED]

MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND:

01Jan-20Aug EMC(SW) Brian Korth
20Aug-31Aug MMCM (SW/AW) Mike
Cisneros
31Aug-31Dec STSCM(SW/SS) W.A.
Smith

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY 1999

01 Assigned CTG 075.2
01-04 Holiday Leave and Upkeep-Yokosuka
05 Fast Cruise, Yokosuka
06-08 Underway, Phillipine Sea for ISIC LTT
09-17 Inport Yokosuka
18 Embark HSL 51, Detachment 15
18-20 Enroute Okinawa
20 Inport Okinawa
21-23 MISSILEX 99-1A at Phillipine Sea with USS
MOBILE BAY
24-26 Inport Okinawa
27-30 RECONEX 99-2 at Phillipine Sea
31 Inport Okinawa

FEBRUARY 1999

01 Inport Okinawa
02-07 Enroute Guam
08-19 Inport Guam for tender availability with
USS FRANK CABLE
13-16 LTT(L)
20 Enroute Saipan
21-24 Inport Saipan
25-28 Enroute Yokosuka

MARCH 1999

01 Enroute Yokosuka
02-24 Inport Yokosuka
08-12 LTT(L) and ISIC LTT(E)
15-18 CART II
25-26 Underway Phillipine Sea
26 Change of Command. CDR Stephen Camacho
relieved CDR Thomas Goodall
27-31 Inport Yokosuka

APRIL 1999

01 Assigned CTG 075.2
01-04 Inport Yokosuka

05-09 Underway Phillipine Sea for Tailored Ship's
Training Availability IA (TSTA IA)
10-11 Inport Yokosuka
12-16 Underway Phillipine Sea for Tailored Ship's
Training Availability IB (TSTA IB)
17-18 Inport Yokosuka
19-20 Enroute Kure, Japan
21-24 Inport Kure, Japan
25-26 Enroute Okinawa
25-27 LTT(S)
27-28 Inport Okinawa
29-30 Underway Phillipine Sea for RECONEX 99-3

MAY 1999

01-03 Enroute Yokosuka
04-09 Inport Yokosuka
10-12 Enroute Shimoda, Japan
10-12 Tailored Ship's Training Availability II
(TSTA II) with USS O'BRIEN
13-16 Anchored Shimoda, Japan for Shimoda Black
Ship Festival with USS O'BRIEN
17 Enroute Yokosuka
18 Inport Yokosuka
19 Embark HSL 51
19-21 Enroute Pusan, South Korea with USS JOHN S.
MCCAIN
22-23 Inport Pusan, South Korea
24 Enroute Tonghae, South Korea with USS JOHN
S. MCCAIN
25 Inport Tonghae, South Korea
26-28 Underway Sea of Japan for CSOFEX 99-2 with
USS JOHN S. MCCAIN & ROKN
29 Inport Tonghae, South Korea
29-31 Enroute Yokosuka with USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

JUNE 1999

01-13 Inport Yokosuka
07-11 LTT(L)
14-18 Tailored Ship's Training Availability IIB
(TSTA 2B)

JUNE 1999

14-15 Underway Phillipine Sea
19-27 Inport Yokosuka
28-30 Underway Phillipine Sea for LTT(E)

JULY 1999

01-02 Underway Phillipine Sea for LTT(E)
03-05 Inport Yokosuka
06-07 Underway Phillipine Sea for Engineering
Qualification(E-QUAL)
08-13 Inport Yokosuka
14-16 Underway Phillipine Sea for TSTA III
Preparations
17-18 Inport Yokosuka
19-23 Underway Phillipine Sea for Tailored
Ship's Training Availability III (TSTA III)
24-25 Inport Yokosuka
26-28 Underway Phillipine Sea for Final
Evaluation Period (FEP)
29-31 Inport Yokosuka

AUGUST 1999

01-05 Inport Yokosuka
06-08 Enroute Okinawa
09-11 Blue-Green Work-ups with USS BELLEAU WOOD,
USS GERMANTOWN, and USS FORT MC HENRY
12 Inport Okinawa
13-15 Enroute Yokosuka
16-31 Inport Yokosuka for crew swap with USS GARY
31 Change of Command. CDR Stephen Camacho
relieved by CDR Joeseeph Harris
31 THACH-GARY Hull Swap

SEPTEMBER 1999

01-15 Inport Yokosuka, Shake Down
15-19 Enroute Manila, Philipines
19-22 Port Visit, Manila
22-26 Enroute Guam
26-28 Port Visit Guam
28-30 Enroute Pearl Harbor

OCTOBER 1999

01-04 Enroute Pearl Harbor
04 Change of Command CDR Daniel relieves CDR
Harriss
05-08 Port Visit Pearl Harbor
08-15 Enroute San Diego
15 Arrive San Diego
15-31 Post Overseas Movement Stand Down

NOVEMBER 1999

01-07 Post Overseas Movement Stand Down
12-12 Inport San Diego
12-21 Underway as Opposing Forces for Joint Task
Force Exercise
22-30 Inport San Diego

DECEMBER 1999

01-04 Inport San Diego
06 Underway for Seal Beach
07 Inport Seal Beach for Ammunition Offload
08 Return San Diego
08-15 Inport San Diego
16-31 Holiday Stand Down

USS THACH (FFG 43)
COMMAND HISTORY
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS THACH started the New Year in a holiday stand-down with one half of the crew on leave. All Holiday leave concluded on 04 January and normal inport routine commenced. On the 6th of January THACH got underway for the Phillipine Sea to conduct Limited Type Training for an upcoming Missilex. On the 21st of January THACH was underway and participated in a very successful Standard (SM-1) missile firing exercise with the USS MOBILE BAY, as well as RECONEX 99-2 in the OKINAWA OPAREA.

THACH then sailed to GUAM for an extended port visit in February as well as a period of tender availability with USS FRANK CABLE. Afterwards, she sailed to Saipan where an onboard reception was held for the Lieutenant Governor of Saipan, and THACH crew members were entertained by traditional Saipan dancers.

THACH arrived in Yokusuka by March and began the Inter Deployment Training Cycle. THACH passed every phase of the training cycle with flying colors. Shortly

thereafter, THACH held an at-sea change of command ceremony where Cdr. Thomas Goodall was relieved by Cdr. Stephen Camacho.

Continuing with the training cycle, THACH passed TSTA IA and IB in April. She then sailed to Kure, Japan, where thousands of local residents toured the ship. At the end of the month, THACH participated in yet another RECONEX (99-3) with the US Marines ashore on the beaches of Okinawa.

In May, THACH passed TSTA IIA while enroute to Shimoda, Japan. THACH and O'BRIEN both anchored outside of Shimoda to participate in the 60th Annual Shimoda Black Ship Festival. Members of the wardroom attended the official ceremony, which was also attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the Honorable Thomas Foley. THACH then traveled to Korea with the JOHN S MCCAIN to participate in Counter Special Operational Force Exercise (CSOFEX) 99-2 with the Republic of Korea Navy. Also included were port visits to Pusan and Tonghae, Korea.

THACH then traveled back to Yokosuka to complete the training cycle. In July, the Engineering Department steamed over the toughest of its tests, the Engineering Qualification (E-QUAL). The entire ship was evaluated as

ready for deployment by completing TSTA III and Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

With the training cycle complete, THACH participated with BELLEAU WOOD, GERMANTOWN, FORT MCHENRY, in Blue-Green Work-ups. THACH then returned to Yokosuka to turnover the ship to the crew of the GARY. Both crews remained in their homeports, swapping ships. The official change of command ceremony was held on 31 AUG, with Cdr. Joseph Harriss relieving Cdr. Stephen Camacho as Commanding Officer, and the crew of the GARY became the crew of the THACH.

After the hull-swap the new THACH crew had two weeks for Shake Down, where they would accustom themselves to their new surroundings and move their official documents onboard their new ship. From 01 September until the 15th of September, the THACH crew organized their workspaces and made the ship sea-worthy. She then got underway on the 15th of September for Manila Bay, Phillipines. Entering port on the 19th, the THACH crew experienced the warm hospitality of the locals and took advantage of tours that helped them embrace the Phillipine culture. On the 22 September, the THACH crew departed Manila and began a four day transit to Guam. She arrived in Guam on the 26th for a two day port visit where crew members took advantage of the prime fishing and snorkeling activities. From Guam, the THACH

transited to its last stop in Pearl Harbor before heading back to their homeport in San Diego.

THACH arrived in Pearl Harbor on the 5th of October and enjoyed a four day port visit. Prior to pulling into port, a change of command ceremony took place at sea, where Cdr. J.C. Harriss was relieved by Cdr. R.W. Daniel. THACH got underway on the 8th and headed home for San Diego. After a seven day transit, the crew was welcomed home in San Diego by family and friends on September 15th.

Upon entering port, the crew enjoyed a well deserved Post Overseas Movement stand-down for three weeks. On 07 November, stand-down ended and the crew began their normal inport routine. On the 12th of November THACH got underway to act as Opposing Forces for the STENNIS Battlegroup's pre-deployment preparations. THACH returned from JTFEX on 21 November and enjoyed Thanksgiving inport San Diego.

THACH's last underway of the year was a quick transit to Seal Beach for an ammunition offload. THACH departed San Diego on the 6th of December and arrived the same day to make preparations for the offload the following day. After offloading ammunition, THACH departed Seal Beach on the 8th and arrived in San Diego the same day. She was inport the remainder of the year and the crew was rewarded with a holiday leave period into the New Year.