



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)

FLEET POST OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96662-1170

IN REPLY, REFER TO:

5750

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From: Commanding Officer, USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS VALLEY FORGE Command History for 1986

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. C. Lockhart", is written over the typed name.

T. C. LOCKHART

COMMAND HISTORY - 1986
USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)

A. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION.

USS VALLEY FORGE is the fourth ship of the new TICONDEROGA (CG 47) class Aegis guided missile cruisers. These ships are truly multi-purpose, possessing significant anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-subsurface capabilities. The Mk 7 Aegis Weapons System, the world's most capable shipboard air defense radar and missile system, enables VALLEY FORGE to provide protection for units of a carrier battle group in extreme threat environments. Hostile targets may be engaged with a variety of weapons : surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, ship and air launched torpedoes, antisubmarine rockets, guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys. VALLEY FORGE is well able to counter all current and projected threats to the U. S. Navy.

USS VALLEY FORGE, homeported in San Diego, CA, is a unit of Cruiser-Destroyer Group Three under Naval Surface Forces Pacific. Captain Theodore C. Lockhart is the Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Commander William V. Johnson is the Officer in Charge of HSL 43's Detachment Eight. The pilots and maintenance crew of the two LAMPS Mk III helicopters, Oceanlord 30 and 32, are embarked on VALLEY FORGE for underway periods.

B. CHRONOLOGY.

18 JAN	USS VALLEY FORGE commissioned in Pascagoula, MS
04 FEB	Light-Off Exam by Propulsion Examining Board
11 FEB	Training Readiness Exam by Fleet Training Group
12 FEB	Crew Certification by Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific
21 FEB	Sailaway - VALLEY FORGE departs Pascagoula
23-24 FEB	Port Visit - Cancun, Mexico
26 FEB	Transit Panama Canal
08 MAR	Arrival in Homeport - San Diego
17-27 MAR	Shakedown Refresher Training by Fleet Training Group
16 APR	Depart San Diego for Combat System Qualification Trials
17 APR	Ammunition Onload - Seal Beach, CA
25 APR	Arrive Pearl Harbor, HI
26 APR	Ship Deperming
01 MAY	Commence Combat System Qualification Trials
20-22 MAY	Port Visit - Lahaina, HI
26 MAY	Depart Hawaii

04 JUN Complete Combat System Qualification Trials - Return San Diego

07-11 JUL INSURV Inspection

05-07 AUG Operational Propulsion Plant Exam

28 AUG Dependents' Cruise to Seal Beach, CA

29 AUG Ammunition Offload

30 AUG Arrive Todd Shipyard, San Pedro, CA for Post Shakedown Availability

12 SEP Crew moved off ship into Todd Shipyard Trailer Complex

15 OCT Crew moved onto ship

23 OCT Sea Trial

27 OCT Complete Post Shakedown Availability - Depart Todd Shipyard

01 NOV Shifted Admin Command from COMNAVSURFPAC to CCDG 3

07 NOV Underway for READIEX 87-1

25 NOV Return San Diego

12 DEC Aviation Readiness Exam

16-17 DEC Training Readiness Exam by Fleet Training Group

C. NARRATIVE.

USS VALLEY FORGE set many new standards during her first year in commission. In 1986 the ship completed a shakedown/inspection pipeline which prepared the ship to join the Fleet at a war ready status. VALLEY FORGE earned departmental excellence awards in Operations, CIC, Gunnery, Missile Systems, Electronic Warfare, and Engineering after only six months as a Fleet asset. All inspections (Light Off Exam, Training Readiness Evaluation, Operation Propulsion Examination, Aviation Readiness Evaluation, and Final Contract Trials) were completed with outstanding grades. Additionally over 3,000 people were provided a tour onboard throughout the year.

Combat Systems Qualification Trials, supervised by Naval Ship Weapons Systems Engineering Station, were tests of the Aegis Combat System. Every warfare area was tested by firing/operating all elements of the combat system. The trials were conducted at both Hawaii and the Pacific Missile Test Ranges with outstanding results.

The Post Shakedown Availability at Todd Shipyard was conducted to accomplish Warrantee-Guarantee work items - jobs which repaired/replaced any equipment or material which had failed since construction. No major configuration changes or revisions were made to the ship.

As the extensive training and inspection cycle came to an end, VALLEY FORGE was assigned to a deploying Battle Group for Fleet operations. In November the ship participated in a two Carrier Battle Force exercise which tested the ship and crew in every way.

D. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

- (1) Commissioning Book
- (2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- (3) Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer
- (4) 1986 Copies of "Spirit" (Ship's monthly Newsletter)
- (5) ODCR
- (6) Reef Points
- (7) Ship Pictures