



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96682-1170

IN REPLY, REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B1)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750

Encl: (1) USS VALLEY FORGE Command History for 1988

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

  
P. A. BOZZELLI

COMMAND HISTORY - 1988

USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)

A. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS VALLEY FORGE is the fourth ship of the TICONDEROGA (CG 47) Class of AEGIS Guided Missile Cruisers. These ships are truly multipurpose, possessing significant anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare 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, anti-submarine rockets, guns, rapid-fire close-in weapons, 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 Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Captain Philip A. Bozzelli is the Commanding Officer, with Commander James A. Hazlett as Executive Officer. Ship's company consists of 26 officers and 370 enlisted crew members divided up into four major departments: Operations, Engineering, Combat Systems and Supply. Lieutenant Commander Robert M. Moore was the Officer in Charge of HSL-47's Detachment Two, which was embarked 01-17 June, 01-05 August, 15-19 August, 26-29 September, 14-31 October, and 01-31 December 1988. Detachment Two consisted of two LAMPS MK III helicopters, Sabrehawk 66 and 67, 6 pilots and 18 enlisted crew members.

During the period of 14-31 October (READIEX 89-1A) and the period of 01-31 December (Western Pacific and Indian Ocean Deployment), VALLEY FORGE was under the operational and tactical control of Commander, Carrier Group ONE as a unit of Battle Group Delta, which included USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64), USS FOX (CG 33), USS LEFTWICH (DD 984), USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7), USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1), USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF 1066), and USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4). VALLEY FORGE served as battle group Anti-Air Warfare Commander (DW) and Force Track Coordinator (DF).

B. CHRONOLOGY

04-08 JAN	Underway - SOCAL Ops
06 JAN	Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Qualification (AMW-1-R)
20-21 JAN	Combat Systems Mobile Training Team (CSMTT)
20-21 JAN	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART)
25-29 JAN	Underway - SOCAL Ops
29 JAN	ULM-4 Range
02-15 FEB	"A" Availability - USS ACADIA
01 FEB	NAVSAFECEN Safety Survey
12 FEB	NEY Award Semi-finalist eval visit
17-18 FEB	Underway - Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)
19-22 FEB	Broadway Pier Visit Ship
24-26 FEB	Underway - Enroute San Francisco

26-29 FEB	Port Visit - San Francisco
01-03 MAR	Underway - Enroute Seal Beach
03-04 MAR	Ammo Offload - Seal Beach
04 MAR	Underway - Enroute San Diego (Dependent's Cruise)
08-11 MAR	Underway - SOCAL Ops
28 MAR-27 MAY	Selected Restricted Availability (SRA)
05-15 APR	Waste Heat Boiler Inspection
20 MAY	NEY Finals
24-25 MAY	Underway - Sea Trials
25 MAY	Ship Electronic Systems Engineering Facility (SESEF) Range
27 MAY	Change of Command - CAPT P.A. Bozzelli relieves CAPT T.C. Lockhart
01-08 JUN	Underway - Enroute Portland
01 JUN	Ammo Onload - North Island
01-17 JUN	HSL-47 Embarked
09-13 JUN	Rose Festival Upriver Cruise/Port Visit - Portland Rose Festival
14-17 JUN	Underway - Enroute San Diego
14 JUN	Rose Festival Downriver Cruise - Portland to Astoria
17 JUN	ULM-4 Range
20-24 JUN	Harpoon Recertification
20-24 JUN	Performance Monitoring Team (PMT) Machinery Condition Assessment
25-26 JUN	Broadway Pier Visit Ship
27-29 JUN	Nuclear Weapons Assist Team (NWAT)
29 JUN	Medical Readiness Evaluation (MRE)
29-30 JUN	Underway - Enroute Seal Beach
30 JUN	Ammo Onload - Seal Beach
01 JUL	Received Second Place in 1988 CAPT Edward F. Ney Memorial Award (Medium Afloat Category)
01 JUL	Underway - Enroute San Diego
05-06 JUL	Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE)
06-07 JUL	Underway - Enroute Port Hueneme
07-10 JUL	Port Visit - Port Hueneme (NSWSES 25th Anniversary)
11 JUL	Underway - Enroute San Diego
12-22 JUL	Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT)
18-21 JUL	Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI)
19 JUL	Underway - CSRT
01-05 AUG	Underway - Interim Refresher Training (IRFT)
11-12 AUG	Underway - IRFT
11 AUG	Ammo Onload - North Island
15-19 AUG	Underway - IRFT
24-25 AUG	Underway - Enroute San Francisco
26-28 AUG	Port Visit - San Francisco
29 AUG	Received CNO Surface Ship Safety Award (Medium Afloat Category) for period JUL 86-DEC 87
29-30 AUG	Underway - Enroute San Diego
01-02 SEP	Cruise Missile Training and Qualification (CMTQ)
02 SEP	NATO Parliament Members Visit
08-09 SEP	Underway - SOCAL Ops
08 SEP	Ship's Self Radiated Noise Measurement (SSRNM)

09 SEP	Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Sight (FORACS) Trials
12-15 SEP	Underway - SOCAL Ops
15 SEP	Ammo Onload - Seal Beach
16 SEP	Underway - Enroute San Diego (Dependent's Cruise)
19-20 SEP	Full Hull Cleaning
20 SEP	Visit by Admiral Lord Staveley, British First Sea Lord
21-23 SEP	Moored Broadway Pier
23 SEP	COMCRUDESGRU THREE Change of Command - RADM Strasser relieves RADM Zeller
26-29 SEP	Underway - SOCAL Ops
05-06 OCT	BATTLEX
13 OCT	Aviation Assist Visit (Upgraded to Aviation Readiness Evaluation)
13 OCT	Postal Assist Visit
14-31 OCT	Underway - READIEX 89-1A
28 OCT	Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Requalification (AMW-69-SF)
31 OCT	Ammo Onload - North Island
01-28 NOV	Pre-Overseas Movement Period (POM)
03 NOV	Ship's Dinner - U.S. Grant Hotel
03-27 NOV	COMCRUDESGRU THREE Embarked
23 NOV	Visit/Tour by RADM Strasser, COMCRUDESGRU THREE
28 NOV	Underway - Sea Trials
01 DEC	CHOP to CTG 30.4
01-22 DEC	Underway - WESTPAC (TRANSITEX 89-2)
01-08 DEC	READIEX 89-1B
09-12 DEC	Battle Group Evaluation (BGE)
13-14 DEC	Port Visit - Pearl Harbor
15 DEC	Underway - WESTPAC (TRANSITEX 89-2)
22 DEC	INCHOP to COMSEVENTHFLT (TG 70.4)
23 DEC-05 JAN	INCHOPEX 89-1
30 DEC	NEY Award Semifinals
30 DEC	ULM-4 Range
30-31 DEC	Port Visit - Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines

### C. NARRATIVE

1988 was another busy year for USS VALLEY FORGE. It was a year that saw the ship conduct its first Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), closely followed by a change of command and commencement of predeployment preparations and the inspection cycle. These evolutions, combined with extensive underway time and culminating in the start of VALLEY FORGE's second deployment, made the year memorable.

The year began with a "bang" as VALLEY FORGE successfully achieved Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) qualification at San Clemente Island. A Combat Systems Mobile Training Team (CSMTT) visit and a Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) followed, then underway the last week of January for training in the SOCAL OPAREA. A two-week "A" availability with the USS ACADIA (AD 42) began the month of February, followed by an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination

(OPPE). Once again, VALLEY FORGE's commitment to engineering excellence produced above average results in the areas of Operations, Fire-fighting capability, Material, Administration, and Overall. The exam was followed by stint as Broadway Pier visit ship and a port visit to San Francisco. Upon return from San Francisco, VALLEY FORGE conducted an ammo onload at Seal Beach and a dependent's cruise enroute to San Diego. As the calendar year's first quarter ended, VALLEY FORGE began her first Selected Restricted Availability (SRA).

During the SRA, extensive maintenance, repairs and preservation were conducted to prepare VALLEY FORGE for the rigorous predeployment schedule to come. Significant installations in the Combat Systems area included: (1) AN/UYK-44 computer in ORTS; (2) AN/SWG-1(A) upgrade to the Harpoon Weapon System; (3) A number of ORDALTS to the MK 26 launchers which improve system reliability and protection against SM-2 rocket blast; (4) Air-gun engagement capability. Upon completion of the RAV, Sea Trials were held on 24-25 May, and VALLEY FORGE was pronounced "ready for sea".

On 27 May CAPT Philip A. Bozzelli relieved CAPT Theodore C. Lockhart as Commanding Officer, USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50). CAPT Bozzelli's previous tour of duty was Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy, and Operations (OP-06). CAPT Lockhart was assigned as Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare School Command (SWOSCOLCOM), Newport Rhode Island.

VALLEY FORGE began the month of June with a visit to Portland, Oregon, for the famous Portland Rose Festival. As always, Portland's reputation as a great liberty port was found well deserved. The welcome, hospitality, and congeniality of the people of Portland will long be remembered. Upon both arrival and departure, VALLEY FORGE conducted guest cruises on the Columbia River between Astoria and Portland.

Upon return to San Diego, the remainder of the month of June was filled with a Harpoon Recertification, Performance Monitoring Team (PMT) assessment, Broadway Pier visit ship, Nuclear Weapons Assist Team (NWAT), Medical Readiness Evaluation (MRE), and another ammo onload, all successfully completed.

VALLEY FORGE began the month of July with a Fourth of July ship's picnic, moving smoothly into the Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) the following Monday. The TRE was successfully completed, with no restrictive discrepancies and outstanding in preparations in Aviation, CIC, Seamanship, Electronic Warfare, Medical, Navigation, Communications, and Signals Security. The ship followed the inspection with a port visit to Port Hueneme, California, to celebrate the Naval Ship Weapon Systems Engineering Station (NSWSES) 25th anniversary. The facility rolled out the red carpet for VALLEY FORGE and the ship entertained over 3000 visitors. The crew enjoyed a welcome respite from the ship's busy operating schedule.

Upon return to homeport, SECNAV announced that VALLEY FORGE had received runner-up in the 1988 Ney Memorial Award for excellence in Navy food service. A good start to the month of July, this was followed by a Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT). The CSRT was successfully completed, resulting in

only one major and four minor discrepancies. CSRT was followed by a Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection (SESI) which was successfully accomplished with no major deficiencies noted.

The predeployment preparation pace increased a notch in August as VALLEY FORGE began Interim Refresher Training (IRFT). The schedule was heavily laden, and training was completed satisfactorily in all areas. After completion of IRFT, VALLEY FORGE proceeded to San Francisco for a well earned port visit. The port call was made even more enjoyable as VALLEY FORGE received notification the ship had received the Chief of Naval Operations Surface Ship Safety Award for cruisers/battleships in the U.S. Pacific fleet for the competitive period July 1986-December 1987.

September was also a busy month, featuring a Cruise Missile Training and Qualification (CMTQ), ship's self radiated noise measurement (SSRNM) and a ship's sensors accuracy test (FORACS). Additionally, VALLEY FORGE was pleased to host a visit by a contingent of NATO Parliament members visiting the U.S. and a visit by the British First Sea Lord, Admiral Lord Staveley. As the month ended, VALLEY FORGE was proud to host a very special change of command ceremony, as RADM Joseph Strasser relieved RADM Guy Zeller as Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE.

VALLEY FORGE's predeployment schedule continued to build to a crescendo in October, beginning with BATTLEX, continuing with an Aviation Assist Visit (AAV) which was later upgraded to an Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE), and a postal assist visit, and culminating with READIEX 89-1A. During READIEX the ships of Battle Group Delta conducted extensive exercises in preparation for deployment. As READIEX 89-1A concluded, VALLEY FORGE achieved NGFS requalification at San Clemente Island with an assigned grade of Outstanding (100%).

The Pre-Overseas Movement period commenced in November, as the crew completed final preparations for deployment, both at home and on the ship. A ship's dinner was hosted at the U.S. Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego.

VALLEY FORGE departed 01 December for her second deployment. During the transit to Pearl Harbor, Battle Group Delta conducted READIEX 89-1B, a myriad of exercises designed to prepare the battle group for the Battle Group Evaluation (BGE), conducted 9-12 December in the Hawaiian OPAREA. The conduct of both events went smoothly, ending with a live missile firing exercise conducted by VALLEY FORGE. Upon conclusion of the BGE, Battle Group Delta entered port 13-14 December for SEVENTHFLT briefings and crew liberty. Battle Group Delta continued TRANSITEX 89-2 upon departure from Pearl Harbor, group sailing to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. In transit, Battle Group Delta "chopped" to COMSEVENTHFLT 22 December. INCHOPEX 89-1, a series of exercises to acclimate the battle group to SEVENTHFLT, was conducted 23 December until Battle Group Delta entered Subic Bay 30 December.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- (1) Copies of 1988 "Spirit" (Ship's Monthly Newsletter)
- (2) Commanding Officer's Biography
- (3) Operational Propulsion Plant Examination Report and messages
- (4) Selected Restricted Availability Combat Systems Final Report
- (5) Ney Award message
- (6) Training and Readiness Evaluation message and letter
- (7) Combat Systems Readiness Test message
- (8) Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection letter
- (9) Interim Refresher Training message
- (10) Copy of CNO Surface Ship Safety Award Certificate
- (11) Naval Gunfire Support letter