



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50)
FPO AP 96682-1170

*Rec'd 6/13/02
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5750

Ser Admin/194
10 OCT 01

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

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: 2000 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

(2) 2000 Chronology

(3) Narrative Summary

(4) Supporting Documents

1. Enclosure (1) through (4) are forwarded per reference (a).

J. ARBTER

Copy to:

COMDESRON TWENTY-ONE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

a. Mission: The mission of USS VALLEY FORGE (CG-50) is to complement the fleet's ability to keep the world's sea lanes open, and free, and to provide for in-depth protection of military and merchant shipping, underway logistics groups, amphibious forces and battle groups. To achieve this the ship has been specifically designed to simultaneously counter air, surface and subsurface threats.

b. Unit Commander:

(COMDESRON TWENTY-ONE)

CAPT LeFever 01 JAN - 25 JUN

CAPT Wisecup 26 JUN - 31 DEC

c. Units under VALLEY FORGE's operational control:

None

d. Commanding Officer:

CDR Thomas D. Goodwin 01 JAN - 31 DEC

e. Executive Officer:

LCDR Jeffrey Frederick 01 JAN - 02 MAR

LCDR Michael G. Vandurick 03 MAR - 31 DEC

f. Homeport:

San Diego, California

g. Aircraft Assigned:

HSL-49 Scorpions 27 MAR - 25 SEP

One Lamps Mk III (SH-60B) Helicopter:

Red Stinger 103

2000 CHRONOLOGY

January

01-11 Holiday Leave Period Two
11-31 Upkeep-San Diego, CA
24-31 CSRR

February

01-04 CSRR
07-09 DLQ's
17-29 first POM leave period
22-29 IMAV/FVMF A Avail

March

01-03 First POM leave period
03 Crew POM leave turnover day
04-20 Second POM leave period
01-24 IMAV/FVMF A Avail
21 Fast Cruise
27-31 VALLEY FORGE deploys: Counter Drug Operations
Deployment (CD OPS)

April

01-14 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS
15-17 PVST Acapulco, Mexico
18-30 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS

May

02-05 PVST Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
05-24 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS
25-29 PVST Manta, Ecuador

June

01-09 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS
10 BSF Balboa North, Panama
11-17 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS
18 BSF Balboa North, Panama
19 Panama Canal Transit North
20-23 U/W CARIB CD OPS
24-30 UPKEEP Mayport, FL

July

01-04 UPKEEP Mayport, FL
06-13 U/W CARIB CD OPS
14-16 PVST Aruba
17-23 U/W CARIB CD OPS
24 BSF Colon, Panama
25-31 U/W CARIB CD OPS

August

01-03 U/W CARIB CD OPS
04-06 PVST Cartegena, Columbia
07-10 BSF Port of Spain, Trinidad
12-20 U/W CAIB CD OPS
21 BSF Point-A-Pierre, Trinidad
22-25 U/W CARIB CD OPS
26-28 PVST Curacao

September

02-03 Panama Canal Transit South
03-05 PVST Balboa North, Panama
06-21 U/W EASTPAC CD OPS
22-23 PVST Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
23-25 Tiger Cruise, En Route San Diego, CA
25 Homecoming San Diego, CA
26-30 First POM leave period

October

01-09 First POM leave period
10 POM leave turnover day
11-24 Second POM leave period
30-31 U/W En Route Seal Beach, CA

November

01-02 IPT Seal Beach, CA: Ammo offload
03 U/W Family Day Cruise EN Route San Diego, CA
04-30 UPKEEP San Diego, CA
20-22 Fuel offload
27-30 Hull cleaning

December

01 Safety Standown
01-22 I AVAIL/FVMF
01-13 UPKEEP San Diego, CA
14-27 First holiday leave period
28 Holiday leave turnover day
29-31 Second holiday leave period

NARRATIVE:

During 2000, USS VALLEY FORGE (CG-50) participated in a variety of missions in diverse operational environments. The majority of the year was spent working up for and then participating in a six-month deployment to the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Following the return from deployment, the ships focus was on preparation for an extensive SRA, which included the Integrated Ship Control system installation.

January of 2000 began with the second of two leave periods dedicated to allowing sailors to spend time with family and friends over the holiday season. Following this, VALLEY FORGE conducted an upkeep period in San Diego through January 31. From January 24 to February 4 the crew prepared for deployment by conducting Combat Systems Readiness training. Continuing preparations for deployment, VALLEY FORGE conducted DLQ's February 7-9, ensuring the crew was prepared to conduct safe and sustained helicopter flight operations. As the deployment grew closer, the crew conducted its first P.O.M. leave period from February 17 to March 3, followed by another POM leave period from 4 to 20 March. A maintenance availability conducted concurrently with the P.O.M. periods was completed on 24 March.

VALLEY FORGE deployed on March 27 under the operational control of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF). The ship conducted a patrol of the Eastern Pacific enroute to a port visit in Acapulco, Mexico from 15 - 17 April. A second patrol period ended with a port visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 2 - 5 May, and a third patrol concluded with a visit to Manta, Ecuador, from 25 - 29 May. The first weeks in June saw continued patrols in the Eastern Pacific, which included two brief stops for fuel in Panama on 10 and 18 June. Following the second refueling in Panama, VALLEY FORGE transited the Panama Canal on June 19. The friends and families of the crew were able to watch the ship's progress through the canal on the internet.

Following the canal transit, the ship conducted a two week long upkeep in Mayport, Florida from 24 June through 04 July. The remainder of July was spent patrolling in the Caribbean under the control of JIATF - East. This patrol was punctuated by a port visit in Aruba from 14 - 16 July and a BSF in Colon, Panama on 24 July. August saw continued Caribbean operations as well as port visits in Cartagena, Columbia, (4-6 August) and Curacao (26-28 August).

September began with a southbound transit through the Panama Canal (2 September) and a port visit to Balboa North, Panama (3-5 September). Back in the Eastern Pacific, VALLEY FORGE conducted her last patrol of the deployment from 6 through 21 September. During this patrol VALLEY FORGE conducted the boarding and search of the motor vessel Gran Tauro, a Bahaman flagged merchant ship. The boarding resulted in the discovery and seizure of 3 tons of cocaine, as well as the seizure of the vessel and arrest of her crew.

Following the seizure of the Gran Tauro, VALLEY FORGE conducted a brief port visit in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (22-23 September) while picking up friends and family for a tiger cruise to San Diego. Many happy family members crowded the pier on September 25 when VALLEY FORGE returned from a successful deployment.

After a month of post deployment leave in October, VALLEY FORGE transited to Seal Beach, CA for an ammunition off-load. Several dozen family members rode up to meet the ship in Seal Beach and were treated to a Family Day cruise back to San Diego on November 3. The rest of November was dedicated to off-loading fuel, conducting a hull cleaning, and preparing for the upcoming SRA/Integrated Ship Control system installation. In December, VALLEY FORGE commenced the SRA. The year ended with two well-deserved holiday leave periods.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

A CD-ROM Cruise Book containing photographs and maps of the department is enclosed.