



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) ✓  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96682

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From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH) Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC  
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History for USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48) 1 Jan-31 Dec 1986

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

*T. E. Utegaard*  
T. E. UTEGAARD

The mission of USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48) is anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare as well as escorting merchant and amphibious groups. From 1 January 1986 to 15 April 1986 VANDEGRIFT was assigned to Commander Surface Squadron One. On 16 April 1986 VANDEGRIFT was assigned to Commander Destroyer Squadron Five, under Commander Third Fleet. VANDEGRIFT is commanded by CDR Clinton J. Coneway and homeported in Long Beach, California. The LAMPS MK III SH-60 Seahawk helicopter is the onboard aircraft of the HSL-43 Squadron Detachment. They are homeported at NAS North Island, California.

The following events, exercises, and operations were conducted this calendar year. Dates not listed were inport Long Beach, CA conducting routine maintenance and administration.

1-7 Jan	Inport Long Beach for holiday upkeep
1-8	Independent steaming in Southern California (SOCAL) operation area for fast cruise
11-15	Mobile Team Trainer (MTT) Phase I
16-17	Independent steaming SOCAL, Public Affairs Cruise
28-31	Enroute Acapulco, Mexico with USS LEAHY (CG 16)
1-4 Feb	Inport Acapulco, Mexico port visit
5-8	Enroute Long Beach
11-13	Independent steaming SOCAL
18-23	Underway SOCAL MTT Phase II and Varsity Player exercise
4-5 Mar	Independent steaming SOCAL
18-20	Conducted Operation Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)
24-26	Inport San Diego, Ca conducting Training Readiness Examination (TRE)
7-11 Apr	Independent Steaming SOCAL
16	Formally adopted by the Los Angeles Womens Council of the United States Navy League (Navy Belles)
16	Changed chain of command from Commander Surface Squadron ONE to Commander Destroyer Squadron Five
21 Apr-6 May	Conducted Refresher Training (REFTRA) in SOCAL and San Diego
7-8 May	Conducted missile firing exercise at Point Mugu Missile Test Range
9 May-16 Jun	Conducted Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) Phase I with USS PRAIRIE (AD 15)
17-18 Jun	Enroute San Francisco, CA with USS RACINE (LST 1191)
19-22	Inport San Francisco, CA port visit
23-24	Enroute Long Beach
25 Jun-24 Jul	Upkeep and annual Commander Naval Surface Group Diesel Inspection
25 Jul	Underway SOCAL for Deck Landing Qualifications for HSL 41
4-7 Aug	Enroute Vancouver, BC
8-15	CNO Special Project Nanoose Harbor, Esquimalt, Victoria BC
16-20	Inport Vancouver, BC port visit
21-24	Enroute Long Beach
7 Sep	Enroute San Diego
8-16 Sep	Inport San Diego for training availability

17-25	Underway SOCAL for Composite Training Exercise (COMPTUEX 86-5)
1 Oct	Underway SOCAL for deck landing qualifications HSL 43
2	Shipboard Self Radiated Noise Measurements (SSRNM) and Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check and Site (RACS) were conducted
3-5	Underway SOCAL conducting planeguard duties for USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
4-11 Oct	Conducted Combat Systems Readiness Testing (CSRT)
6 Oct-3 Nov	Conducted IMAV Phase II import Long Beach with SIMA NRMF
5-25 Nov	Conducted Readiness Exercise (READIEX 87-1) in SOCAL
27 Nov-31 Dec	Holiday upkeep, Pre-overseas Movement (POM)
11 Dec	Celebrated ship's second birthday at Fort MacArthur Community Center in San Pedro, CA
29-30	Conducted pre-deployment fast cruise

The following narratives further explain events which require additional information:

1-4 February. During our port visit to Acapulco, Mexico, over 6000 pounds of goods were delivered to various orphanages in the city. The goods included toys, clothes, food, medical supplies and a sewing machine. The goods were delivered by members in VANDEGRIFT as a part of Project Handclasp.

18-20 March. OPPE was completed in one and a half days and graded by PEB as outstanding in all areas. The examiners said it was the best OPPE ever for this class of ship with the fewest discrepancies ever recorded.

16 April. VANDEGRIFT was formally adopted by the Navy Belles; an adoption ceremony held onboard and televised in Southern California on channel 7 Eyewitness News in Los Angeles. The Navy Belles President Mrs. Edna Ralston presented CDR Clinton J. Coneway, Commanding Officer, with a plaque that signified the event. RADM John Higginson, Commander Naval Surface Group, was the guest speaker for the event.

21 April-6 May. VANDEGRIFT superbly completed REFTRA in less than 3 weeks which has not been done before. Fleet Training Group said VANDEGRIFT was the best trained ship they ever observed.

9 May-16 June. IMAV I encompassed over 200 major jobs and tasks. The coordination between VANDEGRIFT and USS PRAIRIE (AD 15) enabled completion of 98% of all the jobs.

25 June -24 July. COMNAVSURFGRU Diesel Inspector ENC Hamblin described VANDEGRIFT's diesels as the best diesels of any ship in the Long Beach and probably the San Diego Naval Station water front. VANDEGRIFT is the only ship of its class to pass all four satisfactory diesel engines during an inspection which included material and operational tests and checks.

17-25 September. Composite Training Exercise (COMPTUEX 86-5) was conducted as the first big battle group exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to enable all ships deploying together to train together. Additional ships participated simulating enemy forces. Training included gun shoots, flight operations, casualty drills and plane guarding for USS KITTY HAWK. Ships participating included:

USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)	USS MAHLON TISDALE (FF 28)
USS ROBISON (DDG 12)	USS BARBEY (FF 1088)
USS RAMSEY (FFG 2)	USS PLUNGER (SSN 595)
USS SIDES (FFG 14)	USS HALSEY (CG 23)
USS STEIN (FF 1065)	USS ELLIOTT (DDG 967)
USS MARS (AFS 1)	USS DUNCAN (FFG 10)
USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36)	USS LANG (FF 1060)
USS CALLAGHAN (DDG 994)	USS MOUNT HOOD (AE 29)
USS WADSWORTH (FFG 9)	CARRIER AIR WING NINE

4-11 October. Combat Systems Readiness Testing (CSRT) is the equivalent of an Engineering Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) for Combat Systems. The testing involved a very critical evaluation of our combat systems and support equipment to ensure their operability. The intense two weeks resulted in VANDEGRIFT achieving high scores in all areas. CSRT evaluators also provided a great deal of training for crew members, thereby increasing system operability and readiness.

5-25 November. Readiness Exercise (READIEX) 87-1 was the Battle Group's final dress rehearsal prior to deployment. READIEX is similar to COMPTUEX 86-5, but much more complex. The exercise involved the same participants as in COMPTUEX and in addition included various aviation commands from the Air Force. The total force participants numbered about 25 Naval and Coast Guard surface ships, four Naval aviation commands, Air Force and commercial aircraft, and several U. S. submarines.

VANDEGRIFT received the following awards from the Commander Destroyer Squadron FIVE:

Departmental Awards:

Gunnery "E" for Weapons Systems

White "EW" for Electronic Warfare Systems

Red "E" for Engineering

Red "DC" for Damage Control

VANDEGRIFT was runner up for the overall award of the Battle "E" for excellence in Destroyer Squadron FIVE.