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**DECLASSIFIED**  
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, Washington Navy Yard, Washigton, D.C.  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5790.12C  
Encl: (1) Command History for USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48) (U)

1987

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

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

(CLAS PORTIONS OF ENCL. (1) IN CLAS FILE)

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## COMMAND HISTORY

### Part I

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 1987 through 31 July 1987, VANDEGRIFT was under Commander Destroyer Squadron Five. On 1 August 1987, VANDEGRIFT changed organizational command to Commander Destroyer Squadron Nine, under Commander Naval Surface Group Long Beach CA. VANDEGRIFT is commanded by CDR Thomas Eric Utegaard and homeported in Long Beach, California. The LAMPS MKIII SH-60 Seahawk helicopters assigned to VANDEGRIFT are of HSL-43 and HSL-45 Squadrons homeported at NAS North Island, California.

### Part II

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

1-4 Jan	Inport Long Beach for holiday upkeep
5 Jan	Commenced World Cruise Deployment with Battle Group BRAVO transiting Pacific Ocean
11-14 Jan	Conducted exercise VARSITY SCRIMMAGE off the coast of Hawaii
17-19 Jan	Inport Subic Bay, RP
30 Jan-3 Feb	Transit South China Sea/Malacca Straits
8 Feb	CAPT Clinton J. Coneway relieved by CDR Thomas E. Utegaard
3 Feb-7 Apr	Conducted Battle Group Operations in Indian Ocean and North Arabian Sea
20 Mar	Conducted mid-deployment corrosion inspection of HSL-43 SH-60B LAMPS MK III
8-12 Apr	Conducted port visit Karachi, Pakistan
13 Apr	PASSEX with Pakistani Navy
14 Apr	Air/Sea power demonstration for President Zia of Pakistan
15-27 Apr	Transit Indian Ocean
25 Apr	Crossed Equator - conducted over-the-line- ceremony
28 Apr-5 May	Port visit Mombasa, Kenya
13-18 May	Transit Red Sea and Suez Canal
22-26 May	Port visit Ste. Maxime, France
25 May	Participated in Memorial Ceremony at Rhone American Military Cemetery in Draguignan, France
26 May	Conducted Interim Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA) with COMDESRON FIVE
26 May-6 Jun	Transit Atlantic Ocean
7-8 June	Anchored Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
8 Jun	Embarked personnel of U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement for transit to Long Beach, CA
9 Jun	Conducted missile exercise in Atlantic Fleet Missile Range off Puerto Rico
10 Jun	Conducted torpedo exercise in Atlantic Fleet Torpedo Range off Puerto Rico
11-14 Jun	Port visit St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

15-16 Jun PASSEX with Venezuelan Navy  
 17-18 Jun Transit Panama Canal  
 18 Jun Conducted boarding of U.S. vessel "Southwind" by embarked U.S. Coast Guard Detachment  
 18-27 Jun Transit Pacific Ocean  
 27 Jun HSL-43 SH-60B LAMPS MK III Detachment fly off to North Island, CA  
 27 Jun Return homeport Long Beach, CA from World Cruise Deployment  
 27-31 Jul Underway SOCAL for ISE  
 11 Aug Conducted SMI  
 31 Jul-24 Aug Conducted IMAV inport Long Beach, CA  
 25 Aug-10 Sep Upkeep/training inport San Diego, CA  
 8 Sep Conducted ARE  
 14-16 Sep Underway SOCAL with MTT  
 28 Sep-1 Oct Enroute Esquimalt, B.C. Canada  
 2-6 Oct Port visit Esquimalt, B.C.  
 7-8 Oct Conducted CNO Project Nanoose Range  
 9 Oct Weapons onload Indian Island, WA  
 10-12 Oct Enroute Long Beach, CA  
 13-15 Oct Conducted OPPE  
 14-15 Oct Underway SOCAL  
 2-6 Nov Upkeep/Training inport San Diego, CA  
 9-13 Nov Conducted Combat Systems Assessment (CSA)  
 14 Nov-13 Dec Conducted RAV inport Long Beach, CA  
 2 Nov Conducted Diesel Engine Inspection  
 20 Nov Conducted Harpoon Recertification  
 7 Dec Conducted COMSEC Inspection on board VANDEGRIFT  
 8 Dec Conducted Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE)  
 14 Dec Weapons onload Seal Beach, CA  
 15 Dec VANDELEX Missile shoot PMTC Range SOCAL  
 16-31 Dec Holiday Upkeep

### Part III

5 Jan: Departed for forward deployment with HSL-43 DET 9.

11-14 Jan: Conducted "Varsity Scrimmage." This was a war-at-sea exercise of the coast of Hawaii. The simulated enemy was Battle Group CHARLIE returning from their Western Pacific Deployment. Exercise encompassed all warfare areas

14 Apr: KITTY HAWK, CALIFORNIA, VANDEGRIFT conducted air/sea power demonstration for Pakistani VIP aboard KITTY HAWK. Show included weapons demonstration, air maneuvers, air bombardments, and ship maneuvers.

25 May: Memorial Ceremony honored lives of soldiers sacrificed during WWII invasion of France. Hundreds of French and American attended including participation from USS INCHON (LPH 12) and French Army. Many French dignitaries present to honor dead.

8-27 Jun: Conducted drug traffic interdiction mission with ten man Coast Guard Law Enforcement Team from Coast Guard Headquarters New Orleans, LA.

9-10 Jun: Missile and torpedo exercises conducted with HALSEY, CALLAGHAN, and VANDEGRIFT. VANDEGRIFT fired one SM1 missile at drone in LANTFLTWPNSTRA Range off Puerto Rico. VANDEGRIFT and OL 29 SH-60B LAMPS III each launched one exercise torpedo at underwater vessel simulating anti-sub warfare attack.

15-16 Jun: PASSEX conducted with Venazualen Navy to practice coastal operations prior to transit of Panama Canal. Using deceptive lighting and strict EMCON, Battle Group BRAVO successfully deceived the Venezuelans, avoiding possible exercise attacks by Venezuela's fast patrol boats during a night transit.

11 Aug: Supply Management Inspection conducted resulting in excellent Supply Department grade.

7-8 Oct: Conducted CNO POPS Project in Nanoose Range to test new torpedo launching from ship and embarked LAMPS MK III SH-60B Seahawk (HSL-45) at a mini mobile target simulating an enemy submarine.

LAMPS MK III SH-60B Seahawk flight statistics for deployment 5 Jan-27 Jun 1987 with HSL-43:

Flight Evolutions -	174 (117 day, 57 night)
Flight Hours -	711.8 (544.7 day, 167.1 night)
Landings -	994 (662 days, 332 night)
UNREPS (Fuel/CONREPS)- 45	

#### Part IV

The following photos and documents are enclosed as part of VANDEGRIFT's Command History 1987:

- CO photograph and biography
- Change of Command Program
- 3 Photos from Change of Command
  - 1 photo of crew on flight deck
  - 1 photo of CDR Utegaard relieving CAPT Coneway
  - 1 photo of CAPT Coneway/CDR Utegaard with COC cake
- Letter from US Ambassador to France with COMSIXTHFLT Letter of Appreciation
- Battle Group BRAVO ASUWC Deployment Report (Jan-May 87) (U) - ~~confidential~~ message
- Battle Group BRAVO Communication Post Deployment Report (Jan-May 87) (U) - ~~confidential~~ message
- Task Group 24.9 Caribbean PASSEX-POSTEX (U) - ~~confidential~~ message
- Destroyer Squadron Five completes World Cruise (U)
  - ~~Confidential~~ press release message
- Commanding Officer Narrative Reports (CONAR) (U)
  - ~~Confidential~~ report for each quarter of calendar year 87
- USS VANDEGRIFT Combat Systems Assessment (CSA) message