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USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington, DC 20350

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS VANDEGRIFT 1994 Command History

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

JAC
J. A. CORSI

USS VANDEGRIFT 1994 COMMAND HISTORY

Part I

The mission of the USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) is "To provide self defense and effectively supplement planned and existing escorts in the protection of underway replenishment groups, amphibious forces and military and mercantile shipping against subsurface, air and surface threats; to conduct ASW operations in conjunction with other control forces tasked to ensure our use of essential sea lanes of communications; and be the best at it." From 1 January to 31 December, VANDEGRIFT was homeported in San Diego, CA. VANDEGRIFT was commanded by CDR David C. Harrison and was under the administrative command of Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Three.

Part II

The following events occurred during 1994.

Date:	Event:
10 JAN-25 FEB	CSSQT
08 Feb	Navigation Check Ride
28 MAR-01 APR	CART IIA
21-25 MAR 94	CART IIB
29-30 MAR	SESI
03-04 MAY	OPPE
09-27 MAY	TSTA I
13 MAY	CMTQ
30 MAY-01 JUN	JPJ Shock Trials
02-06 JUN	MAVUS CNO Project
02 JUN-17 JUN	COMPTUEX 94-4
07-12 JUN	Portland Rose Festival
20 JUN-25 JUN	TSTA II
18-19 JUL	CORTRAMID
25-29 JUL	Magellan Groom
07-12 AUG	LMA/3M Inspection
15-19 AUG	FEP
22 AUG-03 SEP	Magellan II (CNO 1412)
6-11 SEP	CSRR
12-16 SEP	MEFEX 94-4
17-22 SEP	FLEETEX
25 OCT - 25 APR	Deployment
25 OCT-31 OCT	MEFEX 94-4 Transitex III
02 NOV-05 DEC	VANDEGRIFT SAG CMDR
17-20 NOV	JMSDF-USN PASSEX
22 NOV	US-HMS PEACOCK PASSEX
30 NOV	USN RSN PASSEX
05 DEC	CHOP USNAVCENT
23-29 DEC	Arabian Gulf AAWC
24-25 DEC	AJMER Opposed Insertion and Takedown
23-31 DEC	Arabian Gulf MIO Operations

Part III
10 JAN-25 FEB

The "World Famous Battle Frigate" marked her return to fleet operations with a landmark Combat Systems Qualification Trials (CSSQT) in Jan 1994. During this challenging qualification period, VANDEGRIFT expertly flexed her newly installed state-of-the-art Mk 92 Mod 6 (CORT) "New Threat Upgrade" weapons system. The culmination of the trials were the highly successful firings of three standard missiles, the Mk 75 76mm gun and the Close-In-Weapon System (CIWS). Combat Systems and Operations Department personnel performed flawlessly throughout the trials. Analysis of missile telemetry evaluated all three shots as "kills." VANDEGRIFT's performance was praised by the inspection team as the "best Mk 92 Mod 6 performance seen to date." They also stated that "[VANDEGRIFT's] crew ... learned, mastered and employed the CORT/IADT upgrade to perfection." In addition, VANDEGRIFT consistently scored high marks with her gun batteries, destroying two TDU's and numerous surface targets in the process. VANDEGRIFT's ability to successfully demonstrate the performance of SM-1 Block VI(B) missiles against a simulated Exocet threat is particularly noteworthy in that it represents a first among Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigates.

29-30 MAR

Daily commitment to ordnance management and strict adherence to the highest standards of personal qualifications, personnel training and weapons handling virtually guaranteed zero explosive safety violations during VANDEGRIFT's inter-deployment cycle. The effectiveness of VANDEGRIFT's Shipboard Explosives Safety Program was rigorously evaluated by NAVSEACENPAC Explosives Inspection Team - zero major discrepancies were noted. As a result of Combat systems Department's uncompromising commitment to explosive safety and attention to detail, VANDEGRIFT not only successfully completed the SESI but safely conducted three major ammunition onloads and numerous smaller handling evolutions without incident or risk to personnel or equipment.

03-04 MAY

VANDEGRIFT clearly set the standard for engineering Excellence in the Pacific Fleet in 1994. Scheduled several months

earlier in the training cycle than is the norm, VANDEGRIFT's 3-4 May 1994 Operational Propulsion Plant Examination was extraordinarily successful. The exam was executed in an extremely efficient manner, lasting a mere 36 hours from start to finish. Material Condition was "EXCELLENT". Cleanliness, Preservation and Stowage was also graded "EXCELLENT." To place this tremendous achievement in perspective, one has only to compare the very small number of 56 major deficiencies noted by the Propulsion Examining Board against the class average of 138. Of particular note, the PEB Senior Examiner had not previously assigned a grade of Excellent to any ship during any OPPE. Firefighting was graded as "GOOD". VADM Robinson, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific called VANDEGRIFT'S OPPE "...undoubtedly one of the best, and shortest, FFG-7 OPPE's ever!"

13 MAY

VANDEGRIFT completed a highly successful Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) in May 1994, six weeks ahead of schedule. The Combat Systems and Operations Departments orchestrated an aggressive training program which allowed the training received during the Tailored Ship Training Assessment (TSTA I) to be upgraded to full certification. Most noteworthy was the high level of knowledge and performance demonstrated by the teams despite a large influx of new personnel since the completion of VANDEGRIFT's ten-month extended availability.

30 MAY-17 JUN

On 30 May 1994, VANDEGRIFT conducted a short-notice underway to support the JOHN PAUL JONES shock trials, after which VANDEGRIFT departed the SOCAL Opareas for the Portland Rose Festival. While enroute Portland, VANDEGRIFT participated in COMPTUEX 94-4 with USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (COMDESRON ONE FIVE embarked) and USS MERRILL. Concurrently, VANDEGRIFT conducted CNO Special Project "MAVUS" testing of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

20 JUN-25 JUN

VANDEGRIFT's performance during the TSTA/FEP process was nothing short of spectacular. Consistently demonstrating an extremely high level of warfare proficiency in all areas, VANDEGRIFT's performance during FEP was the best to date in DESRON 33. This

accomplishment is even more noteworthy because it was achieved without the benefit of a TSTA III period. The only warfare area not graded at the FEP level was ASW (Sonar) which could not be adequately evaluated because of an OBT casualty. This casualty was the sole equipment problem experienced during TSTA. VANDEGRIFT successfully completed 100 percent of her "core" and 97 percent of the basic mission area exercises during the TSTA training cycle. VANDEGRIFT emerged from this basic training process on par with top performing PACFLT ships much farther advanced in their training cycles. In the process, VANDEGRIFT successfully engaged and destroyed three towed surface targets (ASU-8/18-SF), four towed air targets (AAW-12/20/21-SF) and successfully conducted a Mk 46 Rextorp firing. A Total Ship Survivability (TSS) exercise was satisfactory completed during the Final Evaluation Period. VANDEGRIFT's Combat Systems Training Team members were evaluated as "extremely knowledgeable and proficient in their respective areas of expertise." VANDEGRIFT's performance was characterized by LCDR Green of Afloat Training Group as "the best performance by a frigate yet." ASW (sonar) was re-evaluated by CDS-33 as being at the FEP level 20 Oct 1994.

07-12 AUG

The many unqualified successes continued during VANDEGRIFT's Logistics Management Assessment/3M Inspection. VANDEGRIFT's commitment to excellence in material management was clearly demonstrated by the extraordinary performance of the supervisors and maintenance men during this inspection. Superior administrative ability and technical skills coupled with superb attention to detail resulted in the flawless completion of 36 for 36 spotchecks sampled, helping VANDEGRIFT earn the highest PACFLT 3M inspection grade ever recorded for a ship of this class. This extraordinary performance is another testimony to VANDEGRIFT's ability to routinely maintain the highest levels of material excellence.

22 AUG-03 SEP

Displaying exceptional ASW expertise, VANDEGRIFT's performance during CNO Special Project 1214 (Magellan II), conducted 3-18 Aug 94, was flawless. VANDEGRIFT's ASW team aggressively integrated traditional

monostatic active and passive sonar with multi-static Low Frequency Active Acoustic (LFAA) transmissions and provided a very comprehensive evaluation of this cutting edge sonar capability with respect to its usefulness in fleet tactical operations in littoral waters. VANDEGRIFT's superlative performance contributed significantly to the Navy's front line ASW initiatives and won the following praise from Naval Sea Systems Command: "USS VANDEGRIFT's total support, enthusiasm and can-do attitude were evidenced from the first meeting and throughout the test period. It was a pleasure working with the professionals of VANDEGRIFT."

12-22 SEP

VANDEGRIFT's performance during COMPTUEX 94-4, FLEETEX 94-1 and MEFEX Phase I, II and III was aggressive and spirited. VANDEGRIFT was commended by Commander, DESTROYER SQUADRON SEVENTEEN for "superlative performance" during FLEETEX 94-1.

25-31 OCT

VANDEGRIFT's flawless performance as OTC/AAWC for the CTU 35.8.1 three-ship MEF Surface Action Group won the following praise from COMDESRON FIVE: Your planning and execution of numerous advance level exercises as well as performing duties as MEF SAG AAWC for TU 35.8.1 was superb. VANDEGRIFT's SOE participation was characterized by exceptional enthusiasm and professionalism. From comm checks to quickdraw gunnery events to the Mini-MEFEX at PMRF Barking Sands, VANDEGRIFT participated to the max. You are most certainly a force to be reckoned with."

02 NOV-05 DEC

After departing Pearl Harbor enroute the Arabian Gulf, VANDEGRIFT assumed duties as SAG Commander for the MEF 94-4 three-ship SAG. During the transit, VANDEGRIFT coordinated and implemented an intensive training schedule which prepared the deploying units for operations in the Arabian Gulf. Included in this training schedule were numerous VBSS exercises which proved invaluable in preparations for Maritime Interdiction Operations.

17-30 NOV

VANDEGRIFT acted as overall OTC and AAWC during USN-JMSDF PASSEX, US-RN PASSEX and USN-RSN PASSEX. Planning and conducting challenging exercises in all mission areas, VANDEGRIFT's exceptional performance helped

to promote friendly relations between participating nations and develop mutual trust and understanding of each navy's tactical procedures.

03 DEC

After completing a flawless Straits of Malacca transit, VANDEGRIFT proceeded to the Arabian Gulf. While enroute, VANDEGRIFT received tasking to coordinate and execute an emergency medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) from the Japanese merchant ship JINSEI MARU. VANDEGRIFT's embarked helicopter, Saberhawk 67, flew over 150 miles to the vessel to rescue an injured crewmember suffering from severe abdominal wounds. After a brief stop to refuel, Saberhawk 67 then flew the injured crewman to Colombo, Sri Lanka medical facilities. VANDEGRIFT's corpsman and aircrew members worked valiantly to save the life of the injured crewman. The JINSEI MARU's parent company, Tanda Sangyo Kisen Kaisha, LTD., expressed great gratitude for VANDEGRIFT's efforts to save their crewmember.

23-29 DEC

VANDEGRIFT's performance as Arabian Gulf Anti-Air Warfare Commander and "REDCROWN" was truly superlative. As AAWC, VANDEGRIFT improved Link 11 interoperability and reduced net cycle time in a joint warfare environment, again demonstrating impressive proficiency in combat systems readiness and warfare operations.

Part IV

The following items are included as part of VANDEGRIFT's Command History 1994.

- (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet, Including Commanding Officer's Biography
- (2) Commanding Officer Photograph
- (3) Ship Photograph
- (4) News Articles