



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE
2000 WEST MARINE VIEW DRIVE, BLDG. 2202
EVERETT, WA 98207

5750
Ser 00/103
4 Mar 16

From: Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE
To: Director, Naval History and Heritage Command
Subj: 2015 DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

1. Command Data

- a. Name of your command or organization: Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE
- b. Unit identification code, per the SNDL: 0118A
- c. Name and rank of commander, commanding officer or officer in charge: CAPT Christopher M. Engdahl
- d. Last/first/middle initial: Engdahl/Christopher/M.
- e. Rank: CAPT
- f. Date assumed command: 2015-01-21
- g. Mission, command employment or area of operations: THIRD Fleet
- h. Permanent location (homeport for deployable units): Everett, WA
- i. Immediate superior in command: Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE through July 2015 and then realigned to Commander, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN.
- j. Operational superior in command: Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE through July 2015 and then realigned to Commander, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN.
- k. Administrative superior in command: Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet
- l. Identify your assigned task force, group or unit name(s) and mission(s). Include operation plan(s) and or named operations you participated in during task force assignment (if

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applicable): Assigned as Sea Combat Commander (SCC) to CTG 35.9 as CTU 35.9.1, supporting pre-deployment operations as assigned, from January 2015 to August 2015. Assigned as SCC to CTG 35.11 as CTU 35.11.1, supporting pre-deployment operations as assigned, from August 2015 to December 2015. Assigned Mission Commander for Pacific Partnership 2015; deployed May 2015 to September 2015.

m. Name(s) of forces, commands, ships, squadrons or units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): USS HOPPER (DDG 70), USS HOWARD (DDG 83), USS SHOUP (DDG 86), USS CHAFEE (DDG 90), USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91), USS KIDD (DDG 100). USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) until decommissioning. USS PREBLE (DDG 88) until shifted to COMDESRON TWO THREE.

n. Type and number of aircraft assigned and tail codes, if applicable: N/A

o. Commands, detachments or units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): USNS MERCY (T-AH 19), USNS MILLINOCKET (T-EPF-3).

p. Number of personnel assigned: 33

q. Officers, enlisted, or civilian: 21 Officers, 12 enlisted, 0 civilians.

r. Command point of contact (required entry, complete in full):

(1) Name (rank, first name, middle initial, last name):
LT [REDACTED]

(2) Job title or office code: Submarine Liaison/N53

(3) E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]@navy(.smil).mil

(4) Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

(5) Command mailing address: Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE, 2000 West Marine View Drive, BLDG 2202, Everett, WA 98207

2. Commander's Assessment

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a. Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE (COMDESRON NINE) performs duties as both an Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) for six surface combatants and as the Sea Combat Commander (SCC) for Commander, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN.

b. As an ISIC, COMDESRON NINE manages the operations, training and material readiness for six DDGs, based at Naval Station Everett, Naval Station San Diego, and Naval Base Pearl Harbor. This includes coordinating all pre-deployment training, inspections and certifications, as well as providing mentorship and guidance to the Commanding Officers.

c. As Carrier Strike Group NINE SCC, COMDESRON NINE coordinated the surface and sub-surface defense of USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) from January 2015 to July 2015, and the same duties for Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN from August 2015 to December 2015. To accomplish this, COMDESRON NINE uses surface combatants, aircraft and submarines to search for and identify all vessels in the vicinity, and maintains the ability to destroy or neutralize any ships or submarines that are classified as threats. Additionally, COMDESRON NINE plans and executes a variety of exercises to hone the surface and sub-surface warfighting skills of assigned Carrier Strike Group units and personnel.

d. COMDESRON NINE experienced a significant turnover of assigned ships in 2015 in support of Fleet Readiness Reorganization, until regaining a full line up of six DDGs by August. In addition, responsibilities while under CCSG-9, whose CVN, USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76), was in the shipyard, were limited due to the non-deploying status of the CVN. The OPCON shift to CCSG-11 assigned DESRON NINE to another CVN, USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), who had recently entered shipyard and was not due out for a year. Thus, DESRON NINE continued to remain in a steady state readiness condition regarding strike group requirements, until the later portion of the year when a focus was shifted back to regaining tactical knowledge and proficiency in preparation for the CVN exiting shipyard and pre-deployment workups. The key focus through the year was the operational planning and then execution of a deployment as Mission Commander of Pacific Partnership 2015. A challenge through execution of Pacific Partnership was the gaining of additional DDGs, a strike group shift and an absent Deputy Commodore who was assigned by CNSP as an interim CO of USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70).

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3. Chronology and Narrative

a. CHRONOLOGY

01 - 11 Jan: Holiday Stand Down period
03 - 11 Jan: Pacific Partnership 2015 Da Nang, Vietnam
Pre-Deployment Site Survey
10 - 21 Jan: Pacific Partnership 2015 Papua New Guinea
Pre-Deployment Site Survey
16 - 25 Jan: Pacific Partnership 2015 Philippines Pre-
Deployment Site Survey
21 Jan: COMDESRON NINE Change of Command; CAPT
Christopher M. Engdahl relieves CAPT
Triplett
23 Jan: USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) Decommissioning
Ceremony
08 - 21 Feb: USS PREBLE IDCERTEX/MISSLEX
09 - 12 Feb: Scheduling conference, San Diego, CA
09 - 13 Feb: Pacific Partnership 2015 Main Planning
Conference, Pearl Harbor, HI
19 Feb: Staff Media Training in preparation for
Pacific Partnership
03 - 06 Mar: Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Basic
Phase Staff Training Course in preparation
for Pacific Partnership
09 - 10 Mar: Staff travel to Portland, OR to work
embarkation plan on USNS MERCY (T-AH 19).
18 - 20 Mar: Humanitarian Assistance Response Training
Course in preparation for Pacific
Partnership
23 - 30 Mar: USS SHOUP TYCOM Sea Trials
30 Mar: Gained USS KIDD (DDG-100).
01 - 02 Apr: Cultural Awareness Training in preparation
for Pacific Partnership
03 - 08 Apr: Pacific Partnership 2015 Da Nang, Vietnam
Pre-Deployment Site Survey #2
07 - 10 Apr: Final Planning Conference for Pacific
Partnership, Everett, WA
14 - 17 Apr: NECC Integrated Exercise for Pacific
Partnership, San Diego, CA

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21 - 30 Apr: POM leave period #1
02 - 10 May: POM leave period #2
14 May: Staff Embark USNS MERCY, San Diego, CA
17 May: Staff Deploys for Pacific Partnership 2015
26 - 27 May: IPT JBPHH
26 - 29 May: USS SHOUP EOC
06 - 10 Jun: IPT Suva, Fiji for Pacific Partnership
country engagements
11 - 19 Jun: IPT Savusavu, Fiji for Pacific Partnership
country engagements
15 - 19 Jun: Scheduling Conference, San Diego, CA
27 Jun
- 04 Jul: IPT Arawa, Bougainville for Pacific
Partnership country engagements
01 Jul: Gained USS HOWARD (DDG-83) and USS PINCKNEY
(DDG-91)
04 - 10 Jul: IPT Rabaul, Papua New Guinea for Pacific
Partnership country engagements
18 Jul
- 03 Aug: IPT Roxas City, Philippines for Pacific
Partnership country engagements
04 Aug: Gained USS HOPPER (DDG-70) and shifted from
CCSG-9 to CCSG-11.
04 - 14 Aug: IPT Subic Bay, Philippines for Pacific
Partnership country engagements
17 - 28 Aug: IPT Da Nang, Vietnam for Pacific Partnership
country engagements
04 - 06 Sep: IPT Guam; majority of staff returns to
Everett, WA
08 - 18 Sep: Post deployment POM leave #1
17 - 19 Sep: IPT JBPHH
19 - 27 Sep: Post deployment POM leave #2
27 Sep: Remainder of staff returns from Pacific
Partnership deployment
28 - 30 Sep: USS HOPPER EOC
28 Sep
- 07 Oct: Post deployment POM leave #3
16 Oct: Gained USS CHAFEE (DDG-90)

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19 - 23 Oct: Pacific Partnership 2016 Initial Planning
Conference, Pearl Harbor, HI
19 Nov: USS HOWARD Change of Command
25 Nov: USS SHOUP Change of Command
26 - 29 Nov: Thanksgiving stand down
01 - 11 Dec: Virtual Flag 16-1, Albuquerque, NM
04 Dec: STGCS [REDACTED] Retirement
10 Dec: USS KIDD Change of Command
07 - 11 Dec: FST-J Main Planning Conference
18 - 28 Dec: Holiday Stand Down period

a. EVENTS

(1) Pre-deployment Site Surveys: In the planning stages of PP15, the OIC and Deputy OIC of each country traveled to the expected area of engagements, leading a team of joint military personnel in the planning and coordination of their engagements. The teams consisted of medical, dental, engineering, civil affairs, USNS MERCY representative and DKO specialists, to each coordinate with the host nation in their specialized area.

(2) Change of Command: CAPT Christopher M. Engdahl received command of Destroyer Squadron NINE from CAPT William M. Triplett. The ceremony was held on base in Everett, WA with CAPT William F. Mosk, Chief of Staff, Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE as the guest speaker.

(3) CCSG-9 Seminar Series: DESRON NINE tactical planners participated in a seminar series with CCSG-9 during February and March, to plan and discuss proposed strike group operations by 2020.

(4) USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (RMD) Decommissioning: A decommissioning ceremony was held for RMD on 23 January 2015 at Naval Station Everett. Guest speakers included CDR Craig Heckert (Ret), CDR Todd Whalen, and CAPT William Triplett.

(5) Pacific Partnership Main Planning Conference (MPC): The MPC was held in Pearl Harbor, HI. A majority of the DESRON staff attended and were in charge of running the conference. Attendance included a multi-national audience of military, NGO, and interagency personnel. Each country engagement team held meetings and workgroups with their associated partners and host nation representatives to plan the projected engagements.

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(6) Staff Media Training: USS NIMITZ Public Affairs department provided media training to the staff in preparation for the expected media interactions during Pacific Partnership.

(7) Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Basic Phase Staff Training Course: NECC trainers traveled to Everett, WA to train and refresh the staff on the Navy Planning Process and Expeditionary planning.

(8) Humanitarian Assistance Response Training Course: Personnel from the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) traveled to Everett, WA to train the staff on civilian-military relations, including interacting with agencies of an affected State and humanitarian agencies, in preparation for the Pacific Partnership mission and the potential of responding to an actual disaster during deployment.

(9) Cultural Awareness Training: A team of cultural experts from the Navy Postgraduate School traveled to Everett, WA to educate the staff on the cultural differences and expectations in the areas of planned operations.

(10) Pacific Partnership Final Planning Conference (FPC): The FPC was held in Everett, WA at Naval Base Everett Reserve Center. A similar audience to the MPC of multi-national planners traveled to the conference to finalize the planned engagements in each country.

(11) Naval Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) Integrated Exercise for Pacific Partnership: The NECC and DESRON NINE developed a multi-day exercise with the leadership, representatives from most units deploying with us, and role players. The exercise provided the opportunity to stand up the watch on shore and afloat, to execute engagements and exercise and refine the standing orders and processes the staff had developed. It also acted as a certifying event prior to deploying.

(12) Pacific Partnership 2015 (PP15): A humanitarian assistance/disaster relief focused mission focused on preparing in calm to respond in crisis. In coordination with partner and host nations, PP15 strengthened alliances and partnerships, while advancing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief interoperability and response capabilities as well as improve

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stability of the region. With seven host countries, and two platforms, it was among the largest iterations of the annual mission. DESRON staff embarked USNS MERCY, stopping in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Vietnam for engagements. Simultaneously, USNS Millinocket made stops in Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Philippines, and Vietnam. Engagements included medical, dental, veterinarian, engineering, HA/DR, SAR, community relations, and other subject matter expert exchanges.

(13) USS HOWARD Change of Command: CDR Amy McInnis relieved CDR Jack Fray during a ceremony in San Diego, CA.

(14) USS SHOUP Change of Command: CDR Jason Rogers relieved CDR Bryant Trost during a ceremony in Everett, WA.

(15) Virtual Flag 16-1 (VF 16-1): From 2-10 December, four members of DESRON NINE along with CSG-11 staff officers traveled to Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM for VF 16-1. The joint exercise included academic briefs with capabilities/limitations and basic operations of attending unit's platforms. Four days of simulation included planning briefs in the morning, 3 hours of simulation, a daily AAR, and required planning for the next day. The simulation included assets from all services to exercise our coordination efforts in a complex environment and better understand each other's capabilities.

(16) USS KIDD Change of Command: CDR Timothy Long relieved CDR Thomas Zerr during a ceremony in San Diego, CA.

(17) FST-J Main Planning Conference: DESRON NINE planners met with CCSG-11 and other entities in San Diego from 7-11 December to plan and coordinate the Fleet Synthetic Training - Joint (FST-J).

4. Supporting Reports.

a. Enclosure (1) is Telephone Directory. Enclosure (2) is COMDESRON NINE Change of Command Program.

5. Published Documents.

a. Website:
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/cds9/Pages/default.aspx>

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6. Photographs.

a. Enclosure (3) is the Photo/Biography of Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. Enclosure (4) is the Photo/Biography of Deputy Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE. Enclosure (5) is the Photo/Biography of Senior Enlisted Leader, Destroyer Squadron NINE.



C. M. ENGDahl

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**COMMANDER,
DESTROYER SQUADRON
NINE**



**Change of Command
21 January 2015
Grand Vista Ball Room
Naval Station Everett**

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PROGRAM



Musical Prelude

Navy Band Northwest

Arrival of Official Party

National Anthem

Navy Band Northwest

Invocation

Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] CHC, USN

Opening Remarks and Introduction

Of Guest Speaker

Captain William M. Triplett, USN

Guest Speaker

CAPT William F. Mosk, USN

Chief of Staff

Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE

Award and Gift Presentation

Remarks and Reading of Orders

Captain William M. Triplett, USN

Reading of Orders and Remarks

Captain Christopher M. Engdahl, USN

Benediction

Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] CHC, USN

Departure of Official Party

Reception

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**CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER M. ENGDAHL
COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE**

Captain Chris Engdahl is a native of South Bend, Indiana and a 1990 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History and was commissioned as an Ensign. Additionally, Captain Engdahl completed Naval Nuclear Power training and has received a Master of Science Degree in National Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Captain Engdahl's initial sea tour was as Damage Control Assistant in USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36). Subsequent sea tours include duties as Nuclear Quality Assurance Officer and Reactor Training Assistant in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), Operations Officer in USS FLETCHER (DD 992), Executive Officer in USS RENTZ (FFG 46) and Commanding Officer USS ELROD (FFG 55). He served ashore as Department Head, Steam Engineering Directorate at Surface Warfare School Command, Newport Rhode Island. Subsequent shore tours include Strategic Planner for the War on Terrorism Directorate on the Joint Staff. Captain Engdahl's most recent assignment was as Director for Surface Nuclear Programs at Navy Personnel Command Millington, Tennessee.

Captain Engdahl's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and various unit and campaign awards.

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CAPTAIN DOUGLAS W. KUNZMAN
DEPUTY COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE

Captain Douglas Kunzman is a native of Bend, Oregon and entered Naval Service in 1980 as a Nuclear Trained Electrician's Mate. In 1989 he was selected into the Enlisted Commissioning Program, receiving his commission in December 1992 from the University of New Mexico. CAPT Kunzman also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Washington State University.

Captain Kunzman's initial sea assignment was in USS ANZIO (CG 68) as Main Propulsion Assistant and Navigator. Subsequent sea tours include Engineering Officer, USS STOUT (DDG 55); Executive Officer, USS MASON (DDG 87); Commanding Officer, USS GRAVELY (DDG 107) and Operations Officer for Carrier Strike Group THREE.

Subsequent shore assignments include Assistant Professor of Naval Science at the University of Idaho and Washington State University, Assessor assigned to the Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board and Flag Aide to Commander Naval Sea Systems Command. He also served as a Joint Planner at JFCOM-JECC, completing a tour in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. His most recent shore assignment was Commanding Officer of Regional Support Organization, Pacific Northwest.

Captain Kunzman's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and various unit and service awards.

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FCCS KIETH YOUNG
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER
COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE

Senior Chief Young is a native of Turlock, California. He enlisted in the Navy and started his career at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois in June 1999.

Upon Completion of Fire Controlman "A" school and MK15 Close in Weapons System (PHALANX) "C" school, he reported to USS ANTIETAM (CG54) for his initial sea tour. He then reported to Center for Surface Combat Systems Det West in May of 2005 where he instructed the operation and maintenance course for MK15 Close in Weapons System (PHALANX). He also completed an Individual Augmentee to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Counter Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar Battery ONE from October 2006 to August 2007. His subsequent sea tour was USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG53) in April 2009. He reported to his current sea tour onboard the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE in October 2014.

Senior Chief Young's awards include the Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (four awards), Army Achievement Medal (two awards), and various service, unit and deployment awards.