

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 0989)
Subj: USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067) Command History - 1972
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) 1 January 1972 - 31 December 1972 Narrative
History
(2) USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067) Chronological History
(3) USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067) Command History
1 January 1972 - 31 December 1972 Documentary
Annexes (Annexes A through D)

1. Enclosures (1), (2), and (3) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


P. J. DOERR

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BASIC HISTORY

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 1 January 1972, USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (DE1067) was in POM (Planned Overseas Movement) at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California, completing the inevitable last minute preparations for deployment. Destroyer Squadron NINE - USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG32), USS HIGBEE (DD806) and FRANCIS HAMMOND - left Long Beach Harbor late the morning of the seventh, enroute to WESTPAC via Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The squadron first transitted north in order to effect rendezvous with USS HANCOCK (CVA19) on the morning of the eighth. FRANCIS HAMMOND, as a screening member of the now complete carrier-escort group, trained vigorously during this first leg of the four-week transit.

Not having previously qualified for Naval Gunfire Support, FRANCIS HAMMOND delayed her arrival in Pearl in order to complete outstanding qualifications exercises at the shore bombardment range at Kahoolawe Island. The inport period in Hawaii was taken up by various briefings for intelligence, weather, and operations and in crew's recreation. This inport period was, however, divided by a three-day independent steaming exercise period underway, highlighted by Basic Point Defense Missile System (Sea Sparrow) and Independent Variable Depth Sonar (SQS-35V) tactics and performance evaluation at Barking Sands Tactical Undersea Range (BARSTUR) west of Kauai Island, 16-18 January, followed by rearming in Pearl the afternoon of the eighteenth.

FRANCIS HAMMOND departed Pearl Harbor the morning of 22 January and by refueling from HANCOCK transitted non-stop to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines via the San Bernardino Straits. The ship, never having been to WESTPAC and with a fledgeling crew to man her, was obliged to continue her preparations and training for deployment, even after her actual arrival in the Orient and was therefore underway for ISE in the Philippine Op Areas 10-12 February. The ship's participation in the traditional regimen of WESTPAC deployment was further delayed by her representation of the United States in the SEATO exercise PX-44 - Exercise Sea Hawk. The ASW training and coordination exercises, in which ships, submarines, and aircraft from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and the Philippines as well as the United States began with opening ceremonies and pre-exercise briefings in Manila 14-15 February. The initial inport period was followed by a week of underway multi-ship training and four days of opposed transit ASW exercises.

Enclosure (1)

After a two-day (27-28 February) upkeep period in Subic, FRANCIS HAMMOND finally actively assumed a WESTPAC role escorting USS CORAL SEA (CVA43) to Yankee Station, Gulf of Tonkin as a member of TG 77.6. From 2 to 13 March, CORAL SEA and her small boys plied the seas between Vietnam and Hainan, returning to Subic Bay 15 March. On 16 March the crew of FRANCIS HAMMOND observed its first change of command. CDR John E. ELMORE transferred command of the ship to CDR Peter J. DOERR, and FRANCIS HAMMOND, with a new Captain at the helm, again escorted CORAL SEA to Yankee Station for a scheduled 17-day line period.

Though a short-of-three-weeks line period was originally to be followed by port visits to Southeast Asian cities, the offensive launched by North Vietnam 30 March postponed these visits and considerably extended the underway time. FRANCIS HAMMOND's carrier escort duties continued through 7 April at which time the ship was detached to proceed to TU 70.8.9 in the vicinity of the DMZ, off Quang Tri province South Vietnam, for duty as a Naval Gunfire Support unit. In spite of several casualties to the gun which threatened to cut short the ship's line period, ingenious home-remedy fixes fashioned by the gunners mates and hull technicians enabled FRANCIS HAMMOND to distinguish herself by firing over 2000 rounds on enemy positions north and south of the DMZ. In addition to providing destructive fire power in support of their country's defensive efforts, the ship rescued five South Vietnamese nationals from their sinking sampan on 17 April, later to transfer them to USS ROARK (DE1054).

Her gun barrell spent, FRANCIS HAMMOND returned to the wake of CORAL SEA to complete her record 54 day line period as planeguard in TG 77.6. During that time (8-9 May) the crew participated in their second SAR effort, the recovery of survivors of CORAL SEA's helicopter carrying COMCRUDES-GRUSEVENTHFLT and staff, which was downed enroute to the flagship - USS PROVIDENCE (CLG9). Though unsuccessful in locating the admiral and his staff, FRANCIS HAMMOND did retrieve the Chief-of-Staff's briefcase containing highly classified documents vital to the war effort.

FRANCIS HAMMOND's next upkeep period in Subic Bay, scheduled to last some ten days, was drawn out from 13 May to 7 June owing to casualties to the forced-draft blowers which required considerable not-readily-available technical assistance. After abortive starts on 26 and 27 May, the ship departed the Philippines on 8 June enroute to AAW picket duty, escorting USS STERETT (DLG31) (10-11 June) and USS CHICAGO (CLG11) (12-18 June) on station as South Talos units - TU 77.0.3.

While assigned to CHICAGO, FRANCIS HAMMOND was temporarily detached to relieve ROARK, shadowing two People's Republic of China merchantmen enroute to the mined harbor of Vinh, North Vietnam (13 June).

On 19 June, FRANCIS HAMMOND reported to CTU 70.8.9 for her second gunline period near the Cua Viet river. During this period, the ship fired in excess of 2500 rounds, participated in South Vietnam's counter offensive against Quang Tri City, Lam Son 72, and provided naval gunfire support at Points Allison (Quang Tri), Betsy (Hue) and Claudia (north of Da Nang). The action at Point Allison brought several incidents of hostile fire directed at FRANCIS HAMMOND including a peppering of schrapnel on 21 June. Her last assignment as a deployed unit complete, FRANCIS HAMMOND departed the gunline 19 July enroute to four days R & R in Hong Kong.

FRANCIS HAMMOND's attempt at rest and recreation was thwarted, however, by Typhoon Susan, which effectively blocked all approaches to the colony's harbor. After riding out the storm at sea for two days, the ship pulled into Subic Bay combining those days allotted for Hong Kong with those reserved for upkeep and ammunition off-load. FRANCIS HAMMOND left Subic Bay 18 July enroute to Guam, Marianas Islands and points east. After a brief stop in Guam and a one-day layover in Pearl Harbor during which customs and agricultural inspections were conducted, FRANCIS HAMMOND completed the last leg of her homeward journey, arriving in her homeport of Long Beach, California on 5 August.

During the next thirty days FRANCIS HAMMOND was in a post deployment leave period which saw approximately 40 percent of the crew go on leave. This period was also marked by the start of large scale personnel changes that would result in more than a 50 percent turnover by the end of the year. Many of the crew that had been with FRANCIS HAMMOND at her commissioning left and were replaced with young unseasoned sailors.

On 4 September FRANCIS HAMMOND commenced a scheduled two month restricted availability with Al Larson's Boat Shop, a civilian contractor. The primary reason for the availability was to accomplish the conversion from Navy Standard Fuel Oil (NSFO) to Navy Distillate (ND), and the major modifications of the air search radar, to the AN/SPS 40C. Major problems with the main turbine, discovered during a routine inspection, caused the restricted availability to be extended until 2 December 1972. The restricted availability (RAV) was conducted with

FRANCIS HAMMOND moored at the Naval Station, Long Beach. This represented a new concept in RAV and proved to be very successful.

During this long inport period extensive training was conducted using the shore training facilities in both Long Beach and San Diego. On 20 September 20 men participated in the ships first race relations UPWARD seminar. During the week of 10 October FRANCIS HAMMOND underwent her first Command Inspection which was conducted by Captain PACE, Commander Destroyer Squadron NINE. On 11 October FRANCIS HAMMOND competed in the annual COMCRUDES PACREP Olympiad finishing Third. In addition she was awarded the Admirals trophy for the second year in a row. The trophy is given to the team that exemplifies good sportsmanship and team spirit. On 26 October RADM WOODS, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet visited the ship for an indoctrination tour and meeting with the Officers and Chief Petty Officers. The month of October also saw the installation of Damage Control Personnel Qualifications.

On 30 November FRANCIS HAMMOND put to sea and successfully completed her sea trials returning to Long Beach that evening. She was underway again on 2 December for Seal Beach to take on ammunition. On 4 December FRANCIS HAMMOND got underway to join an old friend, CORAL SEA, for three days of escort duty. Following a day of type training FRANCIS HAMMOND returned to Long Beach. On 9 December she was underway again, this time for her annual dependents cruise. The day was beautiful, the sea calm, and a good time was had by all. After a short weekend in Long Beach FRANCIS HAMMOND was again underway, this time for a week of type training, 11-15 December, that would see her successfully fire her 5"/54 gun, ASROC, and tube launched torpedoes. In addition a wide variety of other exercises were completed including operational checks at the Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Site, San Clemente Island. Upon her return to Long Beach on 15 December FRANCIS HAMMOND moored at the Sonar Accuracy Check Site pier in order to conduct sonar calibration. From 18-21 December the ship underwent a Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT). December 21st marked the beginning of the Christmas leave period. This period was highlighted by a visit from Santa Claus on 23 December for the ship's third annual children's Christmas party.

BASIC HISTORY

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1-6 JAN PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT PERIOD, LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

7-13 JAN ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR HAWAII

13 JAN SHORE BOMBARDMENT EXERCISES, KAHOLAWE ISLAND HAWAII

14-16 JAN INPORT PEARL HARBOR HAWAII

16-18 JAN UNDERWAY FOR MISSILE FIRING AND IVDS TRIALS IN THE HAWAIIAN OPERATION AREAS

18 JAN REARM PEARL HARBOR HAWAII

18-21 JAN INPORT PEARL HARBOR HAWAII

22 JAN - 1 FEB ENROUTE SUBIC BAY REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

2-9 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

10-12 FEB UNDERWAY FOR TYPE TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINE OP AREAS

13 FEB ENROUTE MANILA, R.P.

14-15 FEB INPORT MANILA, R.P.

16-22 FEB UNDERWAY IN THE PHILIPPINE OP AREAS FOR PHASE ONE OF SEATO EXERCISE PX-44

22 FEB ANCHOR MANILA BAY, R.P.

23-26 FEB UNDERWAY IN THE PHILIPPINE OP AREAS FOR SEATO EXERCISE PX-44 PHASE TWO

27-28 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

29 FEB - 1 MAR ENROUTE YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN

2-13 MAR PLANEGUARD FOR USS CORAL SEA ON YANKEE STATION

14-15 MAR ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P.

16-20 MAR INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

Enclosure (2)

16 MAR CHANGE OF COMMAND, CDR J.E. ELMORE WAS RELIEVED BY CDR P.J. DOERR

21-22 MAR ENROUTE YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN

23 MAR - 1 APR PLANE GUARD FOR USS CORAL SEA ON YANKEE STATION

2-3 APR PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-SUBMARINE EXERCISES WITH USS WHIPPLE, USS CHICAGO AND USS SCULPIN

3-7 MAR PLANE GUARD FOR USS CORAL SEA ON YANKEE STATION, GULF OF TONKIN

8-20 APR NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT OFF MILITARY REGION ONE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

17 APR RESCUED SOUTH VIETNAMESE FROM THEIR SINKING JUNK AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO USS ROARK

21 APR-10 MAY PLANEGUARD FOR USS CORAL SEA ON YANKEE STATION IN THE GULF OF TONKIN

8-9 MAY SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS WITH USS PROVIDENCE

11-12 MAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

13 MAY-7 JUN INPORT SUBIC BAY REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR UPKEEP AND REPAIR

26-27 MAY UNDERWAY FOR MACHINERY TRIALS OFF SUBIC BAY, R.P.

8-9 JUN ENROUTE SOUTH TALOS STATION, GULF OF TONKIN

10-18 JUN ON STATION SOUTH TALOS WITH USS STERETT. STERETT RELIEVED BY USS CHICAGO ON 12 JUN

18 JUN-9 JUL NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT OFF MILITARY REGION ONE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

10-12JUL ENROUTE HONG KONG. DIVERTED TO SUBIC BAY, R.P. BECAUSE OF TYPHOON SUSAN

13-17 JUL INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

18 JUL- 5 AUG ENROUTE LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

29 JUL INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

5 AUG-4 SEP POST-DEPLOYMENT STAND DOWN PERIOD, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

17 AUG VISIT BY COMCRUDESFLOT THREE

5 SEP-2 DEC RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (RAV) WITH AL LARSONS BOAT SHOP AT PIER 15, NAVSTA, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

27-29 SEP UPWARD SEMINAR

10-13 OCT COMMAND INSPECTION BY COMDESRON NINE

11 OCT COMCRUDESPACREP OLYMPIAD

17 OCT DAMAGE CONTROL PQS INSTALLED

26 OCT VISIT BY COMCRUDESPAC

27-29 NOV NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSIST TEAM VISIT

30 NOV UNDERWAY FOR MACHINERY SEA TRIALS IN SOCIAL OP AREAS

2 DEC UNDERWAY FOR NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, SEAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA FOR AMMUNITION LOADOUT AND RETURN TO NAVSTA LONG BEACH

4-8 DEC UNDERWAY TO PLANE GUARD FOR CORAL SEA IN SOCIAL OP AREAS AND TYPE TRAINING

9 DEC UNDERWAY FOR DEPENDENTS CRUISE IN SOCIAL OP AREAS

11-15 DEC UNDERWAY FOR TYPE TRAINING IN SOCIAL OP AREAS

11 DEC CONDUCTED FLEET OPERATIONAL READINESS ACCURACY CHECKS OFF SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

15-21 DEC CONDUCTED SONAR ACCURACY CHECKS AT NAVSTA LONG BEACH

18-20 DEC CONDUCTED COMBAT SYSTEM REVIEW TESTS AT NAVSTA LONG BEACH

21 DEC-4 JAN CHRISTMAS LEAVE AND STANDOWN PERIOD