# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S.S. MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG-27)
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**From:** Commanding Officer, **USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)**
**To:** Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Navy Department, Washington, DC 20374

**Subj:** **USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)** Command History 1983 (RCS: OPNAV 5750-1); forwarding of

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

**Encl:** (1) **USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)** Basic History

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Command History for **USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)** for the year ending 31 December 1983 is forwarded.

M. R. GOODWIN

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# USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)

## COMMAND HISTORY

## 1983

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

**USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)** was commissioned 13 November 1982 at Naval Station, Long Beach, California. The twenty-first ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class guided missile frigates, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** is presently homeported in San Diego, California under the administrative command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron NINE.

A highly versatile, multi-mission guided missile frigate, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** is capable of operating independently or in company with amphibious forces, convoys or carrier task forces. Displacing 3600 tons, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** is 445 feet in length with a beam of 47 feet. Main propulsion is provided by two marine-adapted General Electric LM 2500 Gas Turbine Engines delivering 40,000 shaft horsepower. Auxiliary Propulsion Units (APU) and a Controllable Reversible Pitch Propeller provide **MAHLON S. TISDALE** with a degree of maneuverability unique among warships her size. Armament includes a MK 13 Missile Launcher, a MK 75/76MM Rapid Fire Gun, two Triple Mount, MK 32 Torpedo Launchers and a MK 15 Close In Weapon System (CIWS).

Named for Vice Admiral Mahlon Street Tisdale, a World War II Cruiser-Destroyer Group Commander and former Commandant of Naval District San Francisco, Guided Missile Frigate **MAHLON S.TISDALE** was delivered to the Navy and placed "In Service Special" in Todd Pacific Shipyard, San Pedro, California, on 22 October 1982, at which time the crew moved aboard for the first time.

Under the command of Commander Michael R. Goodwin, USN, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** spent her first seven months of commissioned service undergoing extensive shakedown, testing and evaluation of ship's systems and crew training.

Beginning with a Post Delivery Availability in Todd Pacific Shipyard, San Pedro, California, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** experienced many of her "firsts" which included the first reenlistment on board (RM1 John Pregler, USN, on 22 October 1982), the first payday on board (29 October 1982), and the first Fast Cruise (30 October 1982). After months of preparation and planning **MAHLON S. TISDALE** was commissioned on 13 November 1982 at Naval Station, Long Beach, California. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral H. C. Schrader Jr., USN, Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Other dignitaries present included Commodore I. Carmichael, Commander Naval Base, San Diego, and the ship's sponsor Mrs. Kenneth Sanger, daughter of the late Vice Admiral Mahlon S. Tisdale.

Upon completion of the commissioning festivities, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** commenced preparation for crew certification and for the ship's first test, the Engineering Light Off Examination (LOE). Following the Thanksgiving holiday the ship commenced LOE 1 December 1982, and on 2 December 1982 the first of two Light Off Examination was completed. Commencing 4 December 1982, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** initiated final preparations for crew certification, during which the crew conducted several overnight fast cruises. On 10 December 1982, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** was underway on her maiden voyage from Long Beach, Naval Station enroute to the Southern California Operating Areas (SOCAL OPAREAS). **MAHLON S. TISDALE** returned to port the following day to commence preparation for the Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE), and for a second LOE. On 15 December 1982, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** was underway for a day's training at sea, returning to port that same afternoon. Between 15 December and 17 December 1982, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** conducted numerous fast cruises in support of LOE training. On 21 December 1982 the Mobile Training Team (MTT) arrived onboard to evaluate the ship's LOE training progress and that same day, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** got underway and returned to port in the afternoon after several hours of training. MTT completed it's training and evaluated the ship as being ready for LOE. On 23 December 1982, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** held its first Awards Ceremony onboard in which personnel were recognized for their outstanding performance during the ship's precommissioning period. The period 24 December thru 27 December 1982 and 29 December 1982 thru 2 January 1983 saw the ship in holiday standdown and upkeep. **MAHLON S. TISDALE** commenced the LOE on 5 January 1983 and upon it's successful completion (7 January 1983), **MAHLON S. TISDALE** began preparation for Shakedown Refresher Training (SRFT) to be conducted out of San Diego, California. **MAHLON S. TISDALE** got underway on 14 January 1983 for an extensive underway period which consisted of Acoustic Trials at Santa Cruz Island and extensive navigational exercises. On 16 January 1983, FFG 27 returned to Long Beach to embark dependents for its first Dependents Cruise and upon completion of the cruise and debarkation of dependents that same day at Naval Station, Long Beach, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** set out to sea enroute to San Diego, California to commence SRFT. The ship arrived in San Diego on 17 January 1983, and commenced its underway portion of SRFT. On 4 February 1983, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** completed its first SRFT. On the night of 4 February, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** began a transit back to Long Beach arriving 5 February. Upon arrival the ship entered the Sensory Accuracy Check (SAC) pier to commence ship sensor testing. The ship remained inport from 5 February to 14 February in preparation for its upcoming Weapons Systems Accuracy Tests (WSAT) which commenced on 14 February with the ship getting underway. After a successful testing period at sea, the ship returned to port on 17 February and commenced an upkeep period thru 21 February. 22 February saw **MAHLON S. TISDALE** UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO Tacoma, Washington, for the ship's first port visit. On 27 February the ship moored in Tacoma, Washington, for a four day port visit. On 3 March, the final day of the Tacoma port visit, the ship commenced a transit back to Long Beach, arriving inport 6 March. FFG 27 remained inport 7 thru 14 March for upkeep and preparation for Combat Systems Ship Qualifications Trials (CSSQT). On 15 March, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** got underway for the first of three weeks of CSSQT which consisted of numerous Air Tracking drills and gun and missile firings at sleds and drones. On 6 April, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** achieved her first successful SM-1 missile firing at a missile target drone. Arriving back in Long Beach the evening of 7 April, **MAHLON S.TISDALE** commenced preparations for Final Contract Trials (FCT). During the period 18-22 April the ship underwent HARPOON certification, after which **MAHLON S. TISDALE** entered its first Intermediate Maintenance Availability from 25 April thru 13 May. During this availability period, the ship completed Final Contract Trials by the Pacific Sub-board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). On 23 May **MAHLON S. TISDALE** entered Todd Pacific Shipyard, San Pedro, California, to

commence Post Shakedown Availability (PSA). From May thru September the ship was again back at its birthplace in the Todd Shipyard complex. Concurrent with PSA, the crew moved off the ship and into a unique home. Named by the crew "Tisdale Towers", it was a complex of house trailer barracks, dining facilities and office spaces constructed for the crew of each ship going through PSA. Major milestones accomplished during this period included drydock maintenance, an Inclining Experiment, completion of several major team trainer courses as well as major modifications to shipboard weapon systems and propulsion systems. On 2 September 1983, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** completed PSA, at which time the ship was moved to Naval Station, Long Beach to commence a three week upkeep and availability period. Leaving Long Beach, the ship made a two day stop at the Magnetic Silencing Facility Pier, San Diego to conduct deperming. Upon completion of the deperming period 27-29 September, the ship commenced an extensive underway period, 29 September thru 5 October, which included post PSA workups and an ADMIN Assist Visit from the COMNAVSURFPAC Mobile Training Team in preparation for the ship's upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). After completion of post PSA workups, the ship entered a general upkeep period, 6 thru 17 October. On 18 October **MAHLON S. TISDALE** got underway for Mobile Team Training (MTT) Phase II. Upon completion of MTT Phase II, 21 October, the ship was tasked to planeguard the **USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63).** While providing planeguard duties for CV 63, the ship conducted several Electronic Warfare Exercises and Engineering Casualty Control Drills. Upon completion of planeguard duties on 28 October, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** returned to San Diego to continue preparations for OPPE. The ship remained inport thru 13 November. On 14 November, **MAHLON S. TISDALE,** in company with **USS DUNCAN** got underway to act as a Surface Target Vessel for the **USS LA JOLLA (SSN 701).** The ship returned to port for upkeep on 18 November and remained inport for the weekend. On 21 November, **MAHLON S.TISDALE** got underway to conduct Engineering Casualty Control Drills in final preparation for OPPE. The ship returned to port on 23 November for upkeep. On 1 December, **MAHLON S. TISDALE** officially changed homeport from Long Beach to San Diego, and the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination commenced 6 December with all safety checks completed on the first day. On 7 December the ship commenced the at-sea phase and after successfully completing all required drills and examinations, returned to port on the same day. Soon after **MAHLON S. TISDALE**'s successful OPPE, the ship put out to sea on 13 December to participate in an exercise commanded by Commander Destroyer Squadron NINE. **MAHLON S. TISDALE,** in company with **USS REID, USS PAUL F. FOSTER,** and **USS CROMMELIN** conducted high tempo exercises covering the areas of communications, shiphandling, anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and electronic warfare. **MAHLON S. TISDALE** returned to San Diego on 15 December and commenced the Christmas Holiday standdown and upkeep through 31 December 1983.

Overall, 1983 was a year of intensive training and at sea operations for the crew of **MAHLON S. TISDALE.** Superior performance during all scheduled operations, trials, examinations, evaluations and inspections has built a solid reputation for **MAHLON S. TISDALE,** and the ship has set a hallmark for other ships in the class to attain.