DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD-964)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVISNT 5750.12F

1. Enclosed is the 1997 Command History for USS PAUL F. FOSTER as required by reference (a).

T. J. STREI, JR.

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1. **COMMAND ORGANIZATION**

a. USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964) was assigned to Destroyer Squadron NINE commanded by Captain M.E. Duffy, USN.

b, Commanding Officer, Commander T.S. Abernethy, USN, relieved Commander D.M. Armitage, USN, on 17 June, 1997.

c. Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander F.L. Ponds, USN.

d. On 31 December 1997, the following Department Heads were assigned:

OFFICER	BILLET
LT [redacted] (b) (6)	Operations Officer
LT [redacted]	Combat Systems Officer
LT [redacted]	Engineer Officer
LT [redacted]	Supply Officer
LTJG [redacted] (b) (6)	Navigator

2. **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**. The officers and crew of USS PAUL F. FOSTER began 1997 enjoying the last few days of the holiday leave and upkeep period in preparation for an Allied Surface Action Group Middle East Force deployment to enforce United Nations Sanctions against Iraq. During the winter, the ship underwent an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) and new SPS-40 and SPS-55 antennas, an EHF communications system upgrade for Tomahawk and a MITEL telephone system were installed. After completing a weapons onload at Naval Weapons Station Port Hadlock the ship headed south to the Southern California Operating Area (SOCAL) to conduct MEFEX Phase II with USS INGRAHAM (FFG 61), USS FITZGERALD (DD 62) and HMCS REGINA (PACMEF 97-1). For two weeks the ship conducted exercises in various mission areas, such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure Operations (VBSS); gunfire exercises; Tomahawk Strike exercise TEXAS THUNDER; and a surface-to-air missile exercise where USS PAUL F. FOSTER exercised her NATO SEASPARROW missile system against a low-altitude drone. Following the missile exercise, USS PAUL F. FOSTER operated briefly with USS CONSTELLATION Battle Group during FLEETEX 97-1 and returned to Everett for the pre-overseas movement leave and upkeep period, another maintenance availability and to conduct final training and briefings in Mine Warfare in preparation for the Middle East Force Deployment.

After a brief stop at Naval Weapons Station Port Hadlock to conduct a final on-load and a family day cruise, the ship, with COMDESRON NINE and HSL 47 Det 9 (LAMPS III) embarked, deployed on 21 February to the Arabian Gulf. The first leg of the deployment

included MEFEX Phase III to complete the final phase of observed training. USS PAUL F. FOSTER arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 27 February, the first port call of the deployment. The ship received stores and fuel, and COMDESRON NINE debarked.

USS PAUL F. FOSTER continued to train enroute from Hawaii to Hong Kong, with more publication, gunfire, VBSS and Quick Reaction Self-Defense exercises. On 7 March, the ship changed operational commanders to Commander, Seventh Fleet, and assumed duties and responsibilities as CTU 075.9.7. Arriving in Guam on 10 March the ship refueled and on-loaded four helicopter Penguin anti-ship missiles. The addition of the missiles greatly enhanced the ship's ability to conduct anti-surface warfare over-the-horizon engagements with her embarked LAMPS III helicopter. After a brief stop in the first "liberty port" of Hong Kong, the ship continued the westward transit, stopping for three day port visits in Singapore and Phuket, Thailand. While in Phuket, the crew enjoyed well deserved liberty and volunteers conducted a community relations project and issued PROJECT HANDLCLASP material at a retirement home and elementary school. Proceeding through the Strait of Malacca, the ship coordinated an ENCOUNTEREX, high-line transfer and ship maneuvering tactics (DIVTACS) with HMS BEAVER. Entering the Arabian Gulf on 3 April, the PACMEF 97-1 SAG chopped to Commander, Fifth Fleet and steamed for Bahrain for a turn-over with USS FLETCHER (DD 992) on the morning of 8 April while training nightly with the U.S. Marine detachment stationed at Al Manama pier. Security training scenarios included suicide small boat and swimmer attacks. USS PAUL F. FOSTER developed a comprehensive in port Rules of Engagement tailored for the existing threat. These Rules of Engagement were used as the foundation for the Maritime Inland Undersea Warfare Detachment Bahrain's Standard Operating Procedures. In addition to the protection afforded by ship's force, the MIUW detachment and the Marine Corps manned a patrol boat to assist in identifying small craft in the harbor and deterring would-be aggressors.

On 13 April, the ship departed Bahrain with COMDESRON 50 embarked for a short port visit to Dubai, United Arab Emirates and subsequently departed for the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) to conduct Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG). During the transit, the ship suffered a catastrophic casualty to the starboard Controllable Reversible Propeller (CRP). USS PAUL F. FOSTER returned to port in Bahrain to effect repairs in record time.

On 23 April, COMDESRON 50 embarked. Following repairs to the starboard CRP system, the ship got underway on 27 April to continue Maritime Interception Operations in the Northern Arabian

Gulf. On 2 May the starboard shaft suffered another casualty. USS PAUL F FOSTER proceeded to Jebel Ali to change out 2A GTM. On 10 May, she transited to Bahrain for completion of shaft repairs. On 14 May, she was again underway in the Northern Arabian Gulf conducting MIO.

The patrol of the Northern Arabian Gulf continued until 6 June, when the ship entered Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for a four day port visit. On 10 June, USS PAUL F. FOSTER transited the Strait of Hormuz and located an Iranian Kilo class submarine conducting operations in the Gulf of Oman. After the submarine was located, the ship maintained contact with it for two days. On 12 June, the ship broke off contact and headed west through the Strait of Hormuz and returned to the Northern Arabian Gulf to continue Maritime Interception Operations.

On 17 June Commander T.S. Abernethy relieved Commander D.M. Armitage as Commanding Officer in a change of command ceremony conducted while on station in the Northern Arabian Gulf. On the 21 June, USS PAUL F. FOSTER departed the Northern Arabian Gulf for the last time and headed for her final port call in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 23 to 27 June. The final tally for the Maritime Interception Operations was over 100 ships queried, 43 ships boarded and one ship diverted for sanctions violations. The ship remained in port through 3 July to conduct a turnover with the USS DAVID R. RAY (DD 971).

On July Fourth, USS PAUL F. FOSTER commenced her homeward transit in company with USS INGRAHAM, steaming through the Strait of Hormuz on the morning of 5 July. On the evening of 6 July, HMCS REGINA departed Muscat, Oman and rejoined PAUL F. FOSTER and INGRAHAM. The three ships steamed together and successfully engaged USS FITZGERALD in an ENCOUNTEREX the night of July 10, before entering Diego Garcia for fuel on the morning of 11 July.

USS PAUL F. FOSTER arrived in Fremantle, Australia for a three-day port visit on 19 July. While in port, she embarked seven midshipmen for a PACTRAMID cruise. After 3 days of rest and relaxation, she continued east to arrive in Sydney, Australia on 28 July. Following three days of liberty and a reception for the American Consul in Sydney, the ship continued east to Suva, Fiji, where she stopped for fuel.

From Sydney to Pearl Harbor, USS PAUL F. FOSTER steamed in company with USS FITZGERALD. In Hawaii, the ships were reunited with the remaining units of PACMEF 97-1. On 13 August, USS PAUL F. FOSTER off-loaded her TOMAHAWK, VLA and HARPOON missiles. With the offload completed on 14 August, she shifted berths to Pearl Harbor, where she debarked the Midshipmen and embarked 74 civilian guests and relatives to join in the last leg of the

journey home. During the Tiger Cruise, the guests were treated to demonstrations in surface gunnery, helicopter operations and close-in ship maneuvering to give them an appreciation for daily shipboard life. 21 August was Homecoming Day for USS PAUL F. FOSTER and her crew at Naval Station Everett. Here, she debarked the "Tigers;" the crew was reunited with family and friends and the ship commenced a post deployment leave and upkeep period. Throughout the next month, ship's force and shipyard workers began habitability improvement work throughout the ship, installed a plastic waste processor, corrected a structural flaw on the door of the helicopter hangar and hydro-blasted the CHT system. Additionally, generator number three was removed from the ship for rework by SIMA.

Post deployment leave ended for ship's company on 21 September. The ship remained in Everett, where upkeep continued in preparation for the upcoming SRA at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton.

On September 29, USS PAUL F. FOSTER got underway from Everett to offload ammunition at Naval Weapons Station Port Hadlock. Here, she safely offloaded her SEASPARROW missiles, torpedoes, CIWS, Chaff, small arms, and 5" rounds ammunition. With the offload completed on 30 September, USS PAUL F. FOSTER returned to Everett.

The First of October brought another opportunity for crew members to share their professional expertise with family and friends. The ship got underway with approximately 100 visitors onboard for a Family Day cruise in Puget Sound.

Underway once again on the Second of October, the ship shifted berths to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, in Bremerton, Washington for a 2 month SRA. Upon arrival at PSNS at 1130, the Officers and crew received welcome aboard briefs and met with their shipyard counterparts who would supervise work throughout the ship. Critical path work for the SRA included the plastic waste processor installation, helo hangar door repair, structural damage in the hull in #3 GTG and port shaft stern tube seal repair. In addition to repairs and grooming of a number of shipboard systems, the SRA work package involved the installation of the Battle Force Team Trainer (BFTT). BFTT allows the ship simulate multi-ship tactical warfare while in port. The ships involved in a BFTT may be located in any United States port and will appear to operate together, anywhere in the world- a valuable multi-ship, multi-threat Combat Information Center training system.

The selected availability at Bremerton ended on 23 November. The next day, USS PAUL F. FOSTER shifted berths back to Everett,

Washington. Soon after the Thanksgiving weekend, the ship was underway again, testing shipboard systems and completing the certification process for TACAN.

December 9 through 12, the ship was underway making preparations for the upcoming CARTII , marking the beginning of the next inter-deployment training cycle. Preparations included several engineering drill sets, small boat operations, navigation exercises, and an Arabian Gulf combat scenario. The underway also provided valuable training opportunities for the Junior ROTC cadets who accompanied the underway period.

19 December marked the beginning of the holiday stand down, offering the crew some well deserved rest and relaxation time with their families through the Fourth of January 1998.