

CHANGE OF COMMAND



**United States Ship
THOMAS C. HART
FF-1092**

21 November 1987



THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfiring and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are most ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is duty which richly deserves the highest, time honored title of the seafaring world -- "CAPTAIN".

THE CEREMONY

The Change of Command Ceremony is a time honored tradition which formally restates to the officers and men of the command, the continuity of command. It is a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of the command. The Change of Command of a naval ship is unique in the world today; it is the transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another individual.

USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092)

COMMANDING OFFICERS

CDR ROBERT J. FORST, USN July 1973 - May 1975
CDR JOHN D. ROHRBOUGH, USN May 1975 - April 1977
CDR JOHN R. BENNETT, JR., USN April 1977 - June 1979
CAPT JOHN D. PEARSON, USN June 1979 - June 1981
CAPT F. RICHARD WHALEN, USN June 1981 - June 1983
CAPT J. L. MACMICHAEL, USN June 1983 - October 1985
CDR LOUIS A. NICK, JR., USN October 1985 - November 1987

**Rear Admiral
R. P. ILG
United States Navy**

**Commander Carrier
Group SIX**



Rear Admiral Raymond Paul Ilg was born on June 11, 1938, in Lowell, Massachusetts. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy and upon graduation was commissioned as Ensign on June 8, 1960. He completed flight training at Pensacola, Florida, and was designated a Naval Aviator in January 1962.

Rear Admiral Ilg's first assignment was VA-125 at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California, for Fleet Replacement Training. Upon completion of his training, Rear Admiral Ilg completed two Western Pacific deployments with VA-22 in USS MIDWAY (CV-41). In October 1965, he was appointed Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Carrier Division SEVEN.

Rear Admiral Ilg was then assigned to the Flight Test Division, Patuxent River, Maryland, from November 1966 through December 1969. After training as a Fleet Replacement Pilot in the A-6 Intruder he was ordered to VA-65 in October 1970 as Operations Officer and, subsequently, to VA-42 where he served as Executive Officer. In July 1973 Rear Admiral Ilg reported as Executive Officer of VA-176 and assumed command in June 1974 where he served until October 1975. His subsequent assignment was to Naval Nuclear Power School, Mare Island, California and upon completion he reported to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) as Operations Officer and served as Executive Officer from April 1978 through August 1979.

Rear Admiral Ilg then assumed command of the Fleet Replenishment Ship USS WABASH (AOR-5) in January 1980, and relinquished command in July 1981. He subsequently served as Commanding Officer USS NIMITZ (CVN-69) from January 1982 to September 1984.

September 1984 to July 1985 he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policy and Intelligence for Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT).

From July 1985 to June 1986 he served as Director, Tactical Air, Surface and Electronic Warfare Development Division within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Rear Admiral Ilg assumed his present assignment as Commander Carrier Group SIX in August 1986.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, numerous Air Medals, and Navy Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, and various ribbons for participation in the Vietnam conflict.

Rear Admiral Ilg is married to the former Bonnie Shetley Thurber of Alta Loma, California. They have two daughters, Tamara and Brenda.



**Commander
LOUIS A. NICK, Jr.
United States Navy**

Commander Nick was born 24 November 1945 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was graduated from Louisiana State University in New Orleans with a BS in Physics. Following completion of Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned in February 1968.

His first assignment was Nuclear Power Training at Mare Island, California and Idaho Falls, Idaho. In March 1969 he reported for duty in USS BAINBRIDGE (CGN-25) where he was assigned as Auxiliaries Division Officer. He was next assigned to the Department Head Course at U.S. Naval Destroyer School (now Surface Warfare Officers School), followed by a tour as Weapons Officer in USS VOGELGESANG (DD-862) from May 1972 until 1973. Commander Nick was then assigned to USS CALIFORNIA (CGN-36) Precommissioning Unit at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Newport News, Virginia, as Prospective Navigator. That assignment continued in USS CALIFORNIA (CGN-36) after her commissioning until July 1975. From August 1975 until her commissioning in September 1977, he was assigned to TEXAS (CGN-39) Precommissioning Unit at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company as Prospective Main Propulsion Assistant. Shortly after commissioning of USS TEXAS, Commander Nick was transferred ashore to the Officer of the CNO (OP-39) in Washington, DC. In August 1979, he was again assigned to USS TEXAS for a temporary five-month assignment as Engineer Officer. He then completed a tour as Damage Control Assistant in USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) in September 1981, followed by a tour of duty as Chief Engineer of USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) from November 1981 until April 1985. He assumed command of THOMAS C. HART on 15 October 1985.

Commander Nick wears the Meritorious Service Medal (with a Gold Star) and Navy Achievement Medal.

Commander Nick is married to the former Alyson Spoule of Seattle, Washington. They have a daughter, Heather Anne, and a son Louis.

**Commander
JAMES D. STEVENS
United States Navy**



Commander Stevens, the son of QMC and Mrs. L. J. Stevens (USN, RET), was raised in Sacramento, California, and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1969.

Following nuclear power training he served as Damage Control Assistant in USS HARWOOD (DD-861) and as Damage Control Assistant in USS TRUXTON (CGN-35). He was next assigned to USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) Precommissioning Unit as Main Propulsion Assistant. After a tour at the Navy Military Personnel Command as the nuclear assignment officer, Commander Stevens attended the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Course and served in USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) as Electrical Officer and Reactor Controls Assistant. In September 1984 he completed a tour as an instructor at the CNO Senior Officer Ship Material Readiness Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Commander Stevens served as Chief Engineer in USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) from September 1984 until May 1987 during construction and initial shakedown.

Commander Stevens wears the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Commander Stevens is married to the former Nancy Nolte of Helena, Montana. They have a daughter, Nataline, and a son, Darren. The Stevens family resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Arrival of Guests and Participants

The National Anthem

Invocation

REVEREND ROBERT A. LARSON
Providence Presbyterian Church
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Remarks

REAR ADMIRAL RAYMOND P. ILG, USN
Commander Carrier Group SIX

GRAM

Remarks and Reading of Orders by
COMMANDER LOUIS A. NICK, JR., USN

Reading of Orders and Remarks by
COMMANDER JAMES D. STEVENS, USN

Presentation of Commissioning Pennant
MASTER CHIEF SONAR TECHNICIAN
DONALD L. TROUTT, USN

Benediction
REVEREND ROBERT A. LARSON
Providence Presbyterian Church
Virginia Beach, Virginia

SHIP'S HISTORY

USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092) is named in honor of the late Admiral Thomas Hart, United States Navy Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet from 1939-1942, and is the first ship ever to bear his name. She is one of a series of 27 frigates built by Avondale Shipyards, Inc., Westwego, Louisiana. The keel was laid on October 8, 1971 and the ship was launched on August 12, 1972. She was commissioned in Boston, Massachusetts on July 28, 1973 under sponsorship of Mrs. Reginald Bragonier, eldest granddaughter of Admiral Hart.

The ship is especially designed to locate and destroy enemy submarines and can screen as part of a carrier task group or convoy escort at long ranges from home base. She is equipped with the latest advances in sonar (underwater sound detections). One, mounted in the hull at the bow, is capable of gaining surface or subsurface contacts at long range. The second, capable of being towed to various depths to improve submarine detection, is towed astern. These two shipboard systems are complemented by HART'S manned anti-submarine jet helicopter (a LAMPS SH-2F) which is capable of submarine detection at extended distances from the ship.

Once an enemy submarine is detected by these sensors, HART'S principal armament for destruction is the homing torpedo. Placed in the general vicinity of an enemy submarine, the torpedo will seek out and destroy its target. The three systems installed to deliver the torpedo to its target area include torpedo tubes, the ASROC (anti-submarine rocket) launcher, and LAMPS. HART'S other weapons systems include a rapid fire gun with anti-surface, and shore bombardment capabilities. A Harpoon surface-to-surface missile installation, with beyond the horizon anti-ship capability and a Vulcan Phalanx, close-in weapons support system providing close-in anti-air capabilities.

The ship is powered by a modern, clean burning 1200 pound steam system which develops 35,000 shaft horsepower and can propel the ship at speeds of up to 27 knots.

USS THOMAS C. HART also reflects significant improvements in habitability. Virtually all compartments are air conditioned. The ship's store, laundry and barber shop represent vast improvements over older counterparts and a crew's lounge is designed into the ship. Berthing spaces are outfitted with bunk-locker combinations, reading lamps and television while other improvements continue to be made throughout the ship as part of an ongoing habitability program.

In fourteen years of commissioned service, USS THOMAS C. HART has deployed twice to the Caribbean Sea, four times to the Mediterranean Sea, once to South America as part of UNITAS XVII and twice to the Persian Gulf. The ship received the Secretary of the Navy Meritorious Unit Citation for the 1983 Persian Gulf deployment. Other awards include the 1983 CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award for retention, the COMNAVSURFLANT Admirals Cup, the 1983 CINCLANTFLT Sportsmanship Award, the 1980 COMNAVSURFLANT Anti-submarine Warfare Award, and the 1985 CNO Safety Award.



STATISTICS

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| Length | 438 feet |
| Beam | 47 feet |
| Draft | 24 feet |
| Full-load displacement | 4,100 tons |
| Shaft horsepower | 35,000 |
| Maximum speed | 27 knots |
| Officer complement | 17 |
| Enlisted complement | 228 |

WARDROOM OFFICERS

LCDR DAVID P. AUSTIN Executive Officer
LCDR OLIVER M. READ IV Operations Officer
LCDR KEVIN MORRISSEY Weapons Officer
LT BRIAN T. McCANN Chief Engineer
LT GARRY N. COLLINS Supply Officer
LT RONALD W. SPIKER Prospective Chief Engineer
LT FREDRIC W. LONGENECKER Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer
LTJG WILLIAM K. HAMLET Navigation Officer
LTJG WILLIE L. METTS Combat Information Center Officer
LTJG SEAN F. PATTON Main Propulsion Assistant
LTJG CHRISTOPHER J. WEILER Electronics Material Officer
LTJG WILLIAM E. KORDYJAK Damage Control Assistant
LTJG STEPHEN V. SLEEM First Lieutenant
LTJG DANIEL W. GRUBBS Communications Officer
LTJG STEVEN C. NEWMAN Disbursing Officer
LTJG EDWARD G. HOPKINS Electrical Officer
ENS JAMES T. BLACK Gunnery Officer

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

STCM(SW) D. J. TROUTT

SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

OCS(SW) E. L. CROW

MMCS H. H. MULLINEX

GMCS(SW) R. J. PHILLIPS

BTCS(SW) T. L. PRICE

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

MSC(SW) O. L. CALLANTA

PNC J. E. DERROW

HMC F. P. ESTRADA

STGC S. C. GRAHAM

MAC T. L. HALE

RMC J. W. LAMBERT

QMC(SW) E. B. LEONARD

YNC J. A. MACY

SKC J. P. MCGOURN

GMC(SW) W. L. PENN

FCC J. E. PILLOW

BMC D. M. PRYOR

EWC J. W. ROBINSON

FCC(SW) R. D. SHEPHERD

MMC R. M. WILLIAMS



The shield of USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092) symbolizes the mission of the first ship to bear Admiral Hart's name and recreates the substance of the Hart family crest. It was designed after consultation with members of the ship's company.

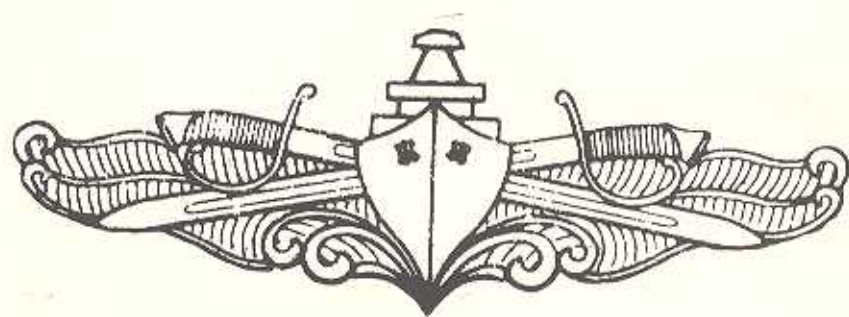
The horned stag, a "hart", is found on the family shield. The fleur-de-lis is also found on the coat of arms, and the three presented here represent faith, wisdom and valor, as well as the City of New Orleans, Louisiana the locale in which Hart's keel was laid and the majority of her construction completed.

The four stars represent the rank of admiral attained by Thomas C. Hart.

The compass rose surrounding the distinctive silhouette of the FF-1078 class ocean escort represents the Navy's world control of the seas and Hart's capabilities to respond in the nation's service whenever and wherever she is needed.

The Latin words *Securitas, Pax, Victoria*, are translated "Security, Peace, Victory". Their use was inspired by a passage from a speech delivered by President John F. Kennedy in June 1963:

*Control of the seas means security,
control of the seas means peace,
and control of the seas can mean victory.*



DESTROYER SQUADRON TEN

