



USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)

Guided Missile Frigate
Homeport: Pascagula, Mississippi
www.groves.navy.mil

The FFG 7 class ship is a single screw, gas turbine powered, guided missile frigate (FFG). The main propulsion system includes two General Electric LM2500 gas turbines driving a single five blade controllable pitch propeller through a conventional main reduction gear, shaft and clutch.

USS Stephen W. Groves is the lead production ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class of guided missile frigates. This is the Navy's largest class of destroyer-type ships built since World War II. Groves' mission is to provide multi-threat protection for military and merchant shipping, amphibious task forces and underway replenishment groups.

Groves' advanced systems and technology combined with a highly skilled crew and professional leaders set her apart as one of the most capable ships in the fleet. Groves will remain a vital component of the United States Navy in support of operations worldwide to protect Democracy and Freedom.

The concept of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class began in 1971 when the Navy initiated a program to build 50 ships known as Patrol Frigates. The need for this program grew from the continued requirement for the United States to control sea lanes and keep them open for the transport of needed military or commercial material.

Second in the class, later designated Guided Missile Frigates, Groves was designed to provide protection for military and mercantile convoys. Her specific abilities are three-fold: to detect and attack submarines, destroy anti-ship missiles launched from enemy subs, aircraft of surface ships, and to destroy enemy surface ships.

In today's defense environment, the ability to respond rapidly and effectively is the key to success. All of Groves' systems are designed with this in mind. The propulsion system is a computer-controlled gas turbine power plant, a marine version of those found in the Air Force C-5A and the DC-10 aircrafts. It can be brought "on the line" in one-eighth the time required for a steam or nuclear-powered ship.

The Combat System is a new and innovative design, providing a computerized command and decision system interfaced with the ship's weapons and sensors. Should the need arise, Groves can defend itself or the convoy it is escorting with surface-to-surface or surface-to-air missiles, a rapid firing gun, ASW torpedoes, or using the embarked LAMPS helicopters to counter any threat it may face.

The guided missile frigates (FFG) bring an anti-air warfare (AAW) capability to the frigate mission, but they have some limitations. Designed as cost efficient surface combatants, they lack the multi-mission capability necessary for modern surface combatants faced with multiple, high-technology threats.

They also offer limited capacity for growth. Despite this, the FFG 7 class is a robust platform, capable of withstanding considerable damage. This "toughness" was aptly demonstrated when *USS Samuel B. Roberts* struck a mine and *USS Stark* was hit by two *Exocet* cruise missiles. In both cases the ships survived, were repaired and returned to the fleet. *USS Stark* was decommissioned in May 1999.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 453 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 47 feet
Speed: 28+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- feet
Displacement- 4,100 tons full load
Complement- 30 officers/390 enlisted
Marines- 30 officers/ 770 enlisted

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 LM 2500 Gas Turbine Engines
2 shafts, 40,000 Shaft Horsepower
Electrical:
Services:

SENSORS

AN/SQS-56 Digital Sonar
MK 92 MOD 2 Fire Control System
AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar

WEAPONS

MK 75 76MM Otto Melara Cannon
MK15 Close in Weapon System
MK 46 ASW Torpedoes
MK 50 ASW Torpedoes
2 Mk 38 Mod 0 25MM Cannons
2 MK 32 Torpedo Tube Mounts

AIRCRAFT

2 SH-60 SEAHAWK LAMPS MK II Helicopter