



USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47)

Guided Missile Frigate
Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia
www.nicholas.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.

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.

USS Nicholas (FFG 47) is named for Major of the Marines Samuel V. Nicholas (1744-1790), the first officer commissioned in the Continental Naval Service, 28 November 1775 as Captain of the Marines. On 3 March 1776, as Senior Marine Officer in the Continental Navy, Nicholas led a small expeditionary force of some 234 Marines and 50 Sailors in the capture of forts Montague and Nassau in the Bahamas, this was the first amphibious operation carried out by the Navy-Marine Corps team.

Subsequently promoted to Major of the Marines on 25 June 1776, Nicholas recruited and also trained four companies of Marines for several new frigates then under construction in the boatyards near Philadelphia. Nicholas led three of those four companies to form a battalion, which later joined George Washington's Army for the latter battles in New Jersey, taking part in the Second Battle of Trenton and in the Battle of Princeton.

Nicholas utilizes two LM2500 gas turbine engines (the same engines as those installed in DC-10 aircraft) capable of sustaining speeds in excess of 28 knots and controlled by state-of-the-art computers resulting in a "ready to go" status in less than 10 minutes. The real heart of the ship's fighting spirit is her crew. High technology systems demand skilled technicians and professional leadership. Nicholas can meet the 21st Century challenges of modern naval warfare with approximately half the crew as older warships.

In conjunction with the reduced manning concept, the ship operates highly automated equipment in the areas of combat systems, navigation, ship control, propulsion, and ship support. In summary, the Perry class frigate is fully prepared to conduct quick reaction anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations whenever called upon.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 453 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 47 feet
Speed: 28+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 17 feet
Displacement- 4,100 tons full load
Complement- 17 Officers/198 Enlisted

SENSORS

AN/SQS-56 Digital Sonar
MK92 MOD 2 Fire Control System
AN/SPS-49 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar

AIRCRAFT

2 SH-60 Seahawk LAMPS MK III Helicopters

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 LM2500 Gas Turbines (40,000 Shaft Horsepower), 2 retractable 325 Horsepower engines for maneuvering or casualty operations

WEAPONS

MK75 76MM Otto Melara Cannon
Harpoon Anti-Ship Missiles
Standard (SM-1) AAW Missiles
MK15 Close-In-Weapons System (CIWS)
MK46 ASW Torpedoes
MK50 ASW Torpedoes

Electrical:
Services: