

USS FORD Deployment 2011  
9 May to 22 May

Jason E. Hewitt LTjg, PAO

USS Ford's preparations for deployment started months before 9 May when she departed Everett. This tight schedule for repairs included an auxiliary propulsion unit, controllable pitch propeller system and local operating panel. Engineering department worked diligently to ensure parts arrived in a timely fashion and work was done around the clock to be ready for Ford's departure.

Ford started off her 2011 deployment with a packed day. Getting underway from Everett, the crew showed their professionalism by manning the rails while the ship exited the harbor. By late that afternoon, Ford was already conducting helicopter operations. It is impossible to mention by name all of the people who helped accomplish that great work, but this is a snapshot of week one. Electrician's Mate First Class Early put in extra personal time getting parts, troubleshooting and making repairs to the auxiliary propulsion breaker and the capstan in order to get underway safely. Electrician's Mate Second Class Joseph was a major force in overhauling and executing immediate repairs to communicate at night with other ships. He also contributed to major repairs on the self-service laundry for safety and morale of the crew. Electrician's Mate Fireman Apprentice Reyes also assisted in repairing the self service laundry and the circuit breaker for the auxiliary propulsion unit. Their motivation and dedication exemplified great teamwork and a positive attitude.

The first major order of business away from home port was running the Ship Electronic Systematic Evaluation Faculty Range for maintenance of the SLQ-32 and air navigation equipment. The ship also worked with a helicopter for aviation recertification. The schedule included an on-deck fuel transfer, helicopter in flight refueling, vertical

replenishment and emergency low visibility approaches. Several Sailors' hard work made the day a success. Boatswain Mate Third Class Fulk and Boatswain Mate Second Class Cronkrite led the flight deck team to a mishap-free day. While the entire flight deck crew performed superbly. Keeping the ship looking like new is one thing Deck division also does well and Seaman Burke and Seaman Scheffler played a key role in the preservation of missile magazine and other topside spaces.

The rest of the week was filled with antisubmarine warfare and engineering drills. The goal of the ASW was to fulfill Proficiencies 1, 2, and 12. Prof 1 consisted of an ASW complex scenario completely simulated. Prof 2 involved live tracking and firing a torpedo at an underwater target with TACTAS utilized. Prof 12 covered the use of attacking a submarine using a helicopter under ship's control. One of the drills involved maneuvers to avoid being hit by an incoming torpedo. During the antisubmarine exercises, the ship used TACTAS to aid in the detection of an underwater transmitter to represent a submarine. Operations Specialist Third Class Gordon's performance as a plotter enhanced the ASW team's ability to track their target. The execution of exercises involving helicopters was aided by the professionalism of the ship's Anti-Submarine Tactical Air Controllers Operations Specialist Second Class Jones, Operations Specialist First Class Munoz, and Operations Specialist Second Class Ware. On the evenings of 11 and 13 May, the engineering department ran casualty drills to practice for loss of propulsion and generators. May 16<sup>th</sup> concluded with a helicopter performing landings and takeoffs to complete flight operation requirements.

By the time Ford was leaving Hawaii, she was recertified in ASW and capable of accomplishing any task ordered by 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet. In the first week of deployment, Ford had shown qualities that will carry her crew through deployment.

Lastly Ford received some outstanding news today from the bureau of Naval Personnel that the March Navy-wide exam cycle results were released. The following list reflects those results:

IT2 Bierkorte	STG2 Blanscett	STG2 Brogdon
GM3 Crites	BM2 Cronkrite	YN2 Deleonsantiago
OS3 Gandall	OS2 Gordon	FC2 Gregory
HT3 Haddock	FC2 Hudson	STG2 Hutchinson
EN3 Kerbey	OS3 Larson	SH3 Omulo
GSM3 Reed	EN2 Reiter	BM3 Russo
GSM2 Ryu	IT2 Weiss	CS3 Zalenski

All in all it has been a great first three weeks with Ford leading the charge on many fronts. The crew of Ford has done phenomenal things in a short period of time and we will continue keeping you updated as more details arise. Take care and we hope all is well with USS Ford's friends and family support network.

I am very proud to sail with the entire crew of Ford. Your Sailors epitomize the high standards of those who go to sea in the U.S Navy. We couldn't do it without your support at home. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Donald Foss

Commanding Officer

