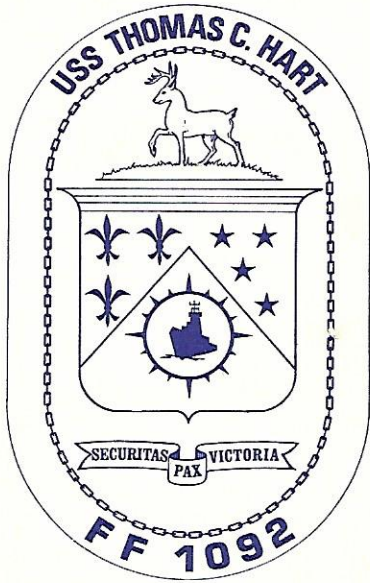


# CHANGE OF COMMAND



UNITED STATES SHIP THOMAS C. HART  
(FF 1092)

APRIL 14, 1977

# THE CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Change of Command Ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally restates to the officers and men of the ship the continuity of the authority of command. It is a formal ritual required to be held in front of the entire crew, which marks the completion of an exhaustive turnover of all assets of the command from the relieved to the relieving commander.

U. S. Navy Regulations, 1973, requires the Commanding Officer in company with his successor to inspect the command and cause the crew to be exercised at general quarters and general drills. The departing commander must deliver to his relief all unexecuted orders, regulations, orders in force and official correspondence, and must evaluate the fitness of all officers in his command before he is relieved. Keys to all magazines and other spaces must also be turned over.

Navy Regulations also stipulate that once relieved, the officer relieved, though without authority after turning over the command, is, until his final departure, entitled to all ceremonies and distinctions accorded him while in command.

The Change of Command of a naval ship is nearly unique in the world today; it is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another.



COMMAND AT SEA INSIGNIA

# THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Thursday, April 14, 1977

MILITARY AIRS

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

U. S. Atlantic Fleet Navy Show Band  
MUC Dennis R. Mahoney, USN, Director

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

INVOCATION

Captain John F. Laboon, Jr., CHC, USN  
Officer-in-Charge, Fleet Religions Support Activity, Atlantic

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

OPENING REMARKS

Captain Jerome Rapkin, USN  
Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

Commander John D. Rohrbough, USN

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

READING OF ORDERS

Commander John F. Bennett, Jr., USN

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

BENEDICTION

Captain John F. Laboon, CHC, USN

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS



**COMMANDER  
JOHN D. ROHRBOUGH  
USN**

Commander John D. Rohrbough, a native of Glenville, West Virginia, graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in June, 1958. His assignments at sea have covered ten years, including tours as Commanding Officer of the coastal minesweeper WOODPECKER (MSC 209), and the frigate THOMAS C. HART (FF 1092). While ashore, Commander Rohrbough earned his Master's degree in Air Ocean Environment from the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and served at the U. S. Naval Academy as instructor of oceanography and as a member of the Superintendent's staff.

Commander Rohrbough is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia and has served as a member of the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C.

Commander Rohrbough is married to the former Sylvia Satterthwaite of Greenville, North Carolina and has two sons, Laurence and Gregory.

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*The responsibility of the commanding officer for his command is absolute, except when, and to the extent, relieved therefrom by competent authority, or as provided otherwise in these regulations. The authority of the commanding officer is commensurate with his responsibility.*

— U. S. Navy Regulations, 1973

CDR John F. Bennett, Jr., a native of Washington, D. C., graduated from Yale University in 1960 and received his commission through the OCS program in December of that year.

Prior destroyer experience includes service as ASW Officer and First Lieutenant aboard the Norfolk based USS EATON (DD-510), Aide and Flag Lieutenant on the staff of Commander Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla Four, Weapons Officer in USS MANLEY (DD-940) out of Charleston, and a just completed tour as Executive Officer in USS JOHNSTON (DD-821) based in Philadelphia. He also commanded the USS PRIME (MSO-466) homeported in Long Beach, California.

Shore duty assignments have included duty as Engineering instructor at the NROTC Unit at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York and an overseas tour at the Military Assistance and Advisory Group in The Hague, Netherlands. He is a graduate of Destroyer School and the Armed Forces Staff College.

Commander Bennett has been awarded the Meritorious Service medal and the Navy Commendation medal with Combat "V" in addition to various ribbons from the Viet Nam and Cuban campaigns.

The son of Sophie B. Bennett and the late John F. Bennett, he is married to the former Diana Shepherd Bland of Chevy Chase, Maryland. They have two children; John III, 13 and David, 10.

**COMMANDER  
JOHN F. BENNETT, JR.  
USN**





## USS THOMAS C. HART (FF 1092)

### COMMANDING OFFICERS

CDR Ronald J. Forst, USN . . . . . July, 1973-May, 1975  
CDR John D. Rohrbough, USN . . . . . May, 1975-April, 1977

### STATISTICS

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

## SHIP'S HISTORY

USS THOMAS C. HART (FF 1092) is named in honor of the late Admiral Thomas C. 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 the sponsorship of Mrs. Reginald Bragonier, eldest granddaughter of Admiral Hart.

The ship is specially 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 two of the latest advances in Sonar (underwater sound detection). One, mounted in the hull at the bow, is capable of gaining surface or subsurface contacts at long ranges. The second, capable of being lowered 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 the LAMPS helicopter. Other major armament includes the 5"/54 caliber rapid fire gun with anti-air, anti-surface and shore bombardment capabilities; and a HARPOON surface-to-surface missile installation.

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 almost four years of commissioned service, USS THOMAS C. HART has deployed twice to the Caribbean Sea, once to the Mediterranean Sea and recently completed a major deployment to South America as part of UNITAS XVII.

