

USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8)

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY Class Frigate

Named For: VADM Francis X. McInerney (1899 – 1956)

Design: SCB Number 261

Displacement: 3210 Tons light, 4100 Tons Full Load

Length: 455.25' (LAMPS III Capable)

Beam: 45'

Draft: 21' 11/12"

Machinery: Two LM-2500 Gas Turbines, 1 Shaft, 40,000 SHP

Armament: MK-113 MOD 4 Launcher for Standard missiles and Harpoon
Deleted in 2003.

Guns: 1 76mm 62 cal AA MK 75

1 20mm MK 15 Phalanx CIWS

ASW: 2 Triple MK32 Torpedo launchers for MK-46
Torpedoes

Aircraft: 1 or 2 SH-60B Seahawk LAMPS III

Sensors: Various SONAR and RADAR

Built By: Bath Iron Works

Laid Down: 16 January 1978

Launched: 4 November 1978

Commissioned: 15 December 1979

Sponsor: Mrs. Joan McInerney Kelley (Daughter of VADM McInerney)

USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) is one of fifty one OLIVER HAZARD PERRY Class frigates built to the SCB Number 261 design. Originally cast as a patrol frigate to complement the planned Sea Control Ship as a viable means of securing the sea lines of communication against Soviet attack, the class came to be viewed as a replacement for the older GEARING class destroyers. USS MCINERNEY was the second ship of the class to commission and is currently the oldest active unit. Her homeport is Mayport, Florida. Command Operations Reports on file in the collections of the Naval Historical Center range from 1979 – 1999, and 2002. The ship did not submit Command Operations Reports for 2000, 2001, 2002 – 2008.

Known Deployments:

Mediterranean: 3

Middle East: 2
North Atlantic: 1
UNITAS: 2

Known Awards:

Presidential Unit Citation: 0
Meritorious Unit Commendation: 2
Navy Unit Commendation; 1
National Defense Service Medal: 1
Navy Expeditionary Medal: 1
Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star: 1
Combat Action Ribbon: 1
Kuwait Liberation Medal: 1
Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation: 1

Noteworthy Accomplishments / Events:

1981: Ship served as test platform for LAMPS III system and the Recovery, Assistance, Securing, and Traversing System.

1984 – 1985: In Persian Gulf during Iran – Iraq Tanker War

1991: Participated in Operation Desert Storm. Served as an escort for USS WISCONSIN (BB-64)

1993: Counter Drug Operations in Caribbean

1994: Operated in support of Operation Support Democracy and UNITAS 35 - 94

1995: Operated in the Arctic as part of NATO exercise Strong Resolve

1997: Took part in a raid that captured 2200 pounds of cocaine

1999: Participated in UNITAS

2002: Last Command Operations Report indicates ship prepared to deploy to Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

Conclusion:

USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) is currently in her twenty-ninth year of active service. From a technological standpoint, the ship is not first of class. For the first years of her commissioned service the ship was used as a test platform for the LAMPS III and RAST systems which became operational on other units of the class. The ship participated in numerous exercises as well as combat operations, including escorting the battleship WISCONSIN (BB-64) off Kuwait. Although the vessel has numerous awards, she does not, as of 2002 have a Presidential Unit Citation. There are no known instances of a crewman earning a Medal of Honor and no President of the United States has served in USS MCINERNEY. There are blank years in her history since the ship did not submit Command Operations Reports. However, the ship's website does not list any significant events beyond those listed above.

Based on the information available, USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) does not meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources:

USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) Command Operations Reports on file in the collections of the Naval Historical Center. Available online at:
<http://www.history.navy.mil/shiphist/m/ffg8.htm>

Polmar, Norman. The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet 18th ed. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis 2005.

USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) Website:
<http://www.mcinerney.navy.mil/default.aspx>