



USS HOWARD DDG 83

the Dragon Times



January 2013

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USSHOWARD83>

Newsletter #3

USS HOWARD COMPLETES LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT



The USS Howard sits in dry dock, preparing to move pierside at CMSD.

BY: ETHAN FRANC

USS Howard (DDG 83) completed its Light-Off Assessment (LOA) following its "Dry-Docking Selected Restricted Availability period." The Howard crew demonstrated material readiness and operational proficiency only 20 days after undocking from the "Pride of San Diego British Aerospace Engineering Dry Dock."

The assessment took place at Continental Maritime San Diego, where Howard was docked prior to its sea trials.

USS Howard left the dry dock on the night of Nov. 24, and immediately began preparations for the LOA. Ships are generally given four weeks to prepare for the assessment following production completion. Howard completed damage control material assessment, engineering mobility ATG (Afloat Training Group) assessments, crew certification, and demonstrated readiness only 17 days out of dock and three days after production completion. The HOWARD crew

was not only able to pass the assessment but also received a score of 87.5%. The ship is now able to move directly onto sea trials and onward towards the rest of the training cycle.

LOA is an assessment performed by ATG to test if a ship is able to safely light-off and operate its engineering plant and take the ship to sea. Additionally, the damage control program was tested for satisfactory material condition and its ability to safely handle a casualty onboard. In concordance with this, ATG also analyzed Howard's training program and manning readiness. The engineers aboard Howard worked long hours and the entire crew and key members of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 23 (COMDESRON 23) supported to meet the tight deadline. The dedication of the crew made the difference in LOA success.

The commanding officer of Howard, Cmdr. David Zook, spoke of the effort given by the crew members.

"Howard and DESRON 23 really came together in the spirit of one team, one fight and worked side-by-side to improve material condition and ready Howard for sea. Our team overcame numerous challenges to meet and exceed minimum equipment and returned to the Navy a warship ready for sea."

Howard now moves on to its next set of evaluations and counts on continuing this success into the New Year and the upcoming training cycle.



UPCOMING EVENTS for HOWARD

January 2013 Sea Trials

February 2013:
Basic Phase Training

September 2013:
Advanced Training

December 2013:
Deployment



How We Survived the End of the World

By CTTSN SHIRLEY URIOSTEGUI

SAN DIEGO - Two thousand twelve has been one for the books, not only was it predicted that the world would end come December twenty first, but it was a year that showed that the Howard's crew and ship were top of the line. Looking back, it is hard to believe that this time last year the crew was hurrying through leave to prepare for INSURV. Two TMIs, one successful INSURV, dry docking, DSRA, Change of command and LOA later, we can now say good bye to twenty twelve, but the crew knows it was not a walk in the park. The real question is; how did you survive two thousand twelve?

Operation specialist seaman Sanchez says, "Family, and the fact that they will always be supportive. The birth of my niece reminded me that I am doing this for a great cause."

Gas Turbine Specialist Electrical Second Class Petty Officer (S/W) Clarke states, "My goals for the future kept me motivated, eyes on the prize."

Navy Career Counselor First Class Petty Officer (SW/FMF/SCW) Hamilton says, "Lots of prayer, being surrounded by good friends, and my

kid's future, is what keeps me going"

Operation Specialist Second Class Petty Officer (SW) Oshin agrees, "My children and going to church keeps me positive."

Logistic Specialist Second Class Petty Officer (SW) King advises, "Reading books with our own Howard book club keeps my mind occupied during my free time, its crazy how you slip into another "universe." I also just recently got a puppy, he really keeps me busy."

Find your motivation, whatever it may be, make the work place a peaceful exciting place, keep your head up and you'll be sure to survive anything. With two thousand twelve out of sight we now greet two thousand thirteen with great joy, huge expectations, and a little anxiety. Let's make it a good year Howard!



Dragons Heading For Drill

By FC3 Carl Miller

SAN DIEGO- USS Howard (DDG-83) has moved into the training cycle to prepare for deployment at the end of 2013. Everything from Casualty Control to Anti-terrorism Force Protection will be broken down to Fundamentals, and molded precision will be the result. "I'm looking forward to get back to a normal schedule after the dry dock period," said ET2 Jeffery Mikolay

'Training the way We Fight' is the motto moving forward while everyone is getting back in to the swing of things. The Engineer's have already begun the transition, working tirelessly around the clock for a successful completion of the Light Off Assessment. The daily routine consisted of crew members participating in fire, flooding, and casualty training environments getting familiar with equipment and proper procedure. As for Combat Systems, different threat situations will be the main focus on how we react to defend the ship. The Combat Systems Training Team plays a key role in the training effort by preparing scenarios for the system operators within

combat.

The Training Cycle is set up to build a ship's capability piece by piece in preparation for deployment. The first phase of the training is Basic Phase where the ship will work through two tiers of training. The first tier is mobility training where the ship will work on its ability to navigate, operate, and communicate while on the open sea. Then the second tier is unit tactical training where the ship will work on its combat operations. After completing the Basic Phase the ship moves into the Advanced Phase of training, working on its mission areas and coordinating with other ships. At the end of all this work the ship will then be ready to enter Sustainment Phase and go on deployment wherever the Navy needs us.

In conclusion, it's a team endeavor that all hands prepare for anything at any moment. With constant practice the USS Howard will be battle ready and hard charging to fuel the war fighting effort of the United States Navy.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Team HOWARD,

Thank you for an OUTSTANDING Year. We wrapped it up on a very high note, finishing our Docking Selected Restricted Availability on 21 December after we successfully completed Damage Control Readiness Assessment, Crew Certification, Light Off Assessment, dock trials, fast cruise, and contractor sea trials. In 27 days that HOWARD was out of dock the Crew did amazing things. There are not many ships that can say that they accomplished what HOWARD did in such a short time while

British Aerospace Engineering was still working production work from our maintenance availability. TEAM HOWARD came together in the spirit of One Team One Fight and improved HOWARD's material condition and readied our Engineering plant and Damage Control support equipment for Sea. Our team's efforts resulted in an Excellent first pass yield Score of 87.5 percent during Light Off Assessment. A measure of our technical ability and drive, HOWARD completed 98% of all checks and corrected 99% of all discrepancies. The only things that weren't complete were items that required parts or Depot or Intermediate Maintenance level support.

As we look back over the year, we can be proud of our accomplishments, of the stellar support to COMTHIRD Fleet tasking requirements, of the success we had at INSURV, of the productive docking availability, how we took advantage of the time in port to attend classes, complete schools and certifications, how we trained our Crew and team, and of how we took our Ship back and returned to the Navy a Warship ready for tasking.

Thank you HOWARD for all you do every day to make HOWARD Great! Your individual efforts really make a difference and I know that we will have an OUTSTANDING 2013!"

Article by:

CDR David Zook
Commanding Officer, USS
Howard (DDG 83)



This edition of the Dragon Times has been brought to you by the USS HOWARD Public Affairs Committee!

- ENS ETHAN FRANC
- CTM3(SW) REBECCA MARINACCI
- ET3(SW) DEREK MAY
- STG2 MATTHEW JOHNSTON
- FC3 CARL MILLER
- CTTSN SHIRLEY URIOSTEGUI
- CTTSN(SW) ROBERT SCHWEIZER





USS Howard Snapshot

From Undocking to Light-Off Assessment, the Howard crew has been working non-stop to get the ship back to sea. Look at our sailors at work!

