

TECHEVAL prepares DDG-51 crew for final exam

Source: Cdr. John Preisel

The DDG-51 ship crew and Station test engineers recently completed a successful technical evaluation on the Gas Turbine Ship Land Based Engineering Site.

The TECHEVAL was a dress rehearsal for the site's 30-day operational evaluation beginning Feb. 15. The OPEVAL is being held to see how well the design integrates the ship's crew and whether the crew is fully able to operate the DDG-51 propulsion plant safely and to design specifications.

During the TECHEVAL the ship's crew completely ran the test site while NAVSSES engineers ran the water-brake and supporting facilities.

"The TECHEVAL required a great deal of professionalism and mutual respect for the two teams to operate together," said Commander John Preisel (0033D), the site's program manager. "It's difficult

to take two teams and make them one."

The TECHEVAL lasted 24 operating days. It began with three days of "fast cruises," which are 12-hour warmup periods. The evaluation also included safety checks, casualty control exercises, full power runs, economy trials, fault insertion and correction on control systems, independent steaming, underway replenishment, man overboard and other shipboard maneuvers.

Based on the TECHEVAL results, the ship design and operating procedures are being modified.

"Thanks go to all who helped successfully complete the TECHEVAL," said Cdr. Preisel. Leading the pack were DDG-51 chief engineer Lt. Kenyon Hiser; main propulsion assistant Lt. Fred Stein; MCS program manager Richard Cunningham (0033); test coordinators Lt. Mike Faucette and Thomas Morris (0033); GTS LBES test manager James McNamara (033C); senior



DDG-51 pre-commissioning crew members, GSE2 Joseph M. Doliana (left) and GSE2 Aaron P. Hunt, start a gas turbine engine at the PACC console on the site.

test engineers Timothy Ramsay (032C) and Andrew Shultz (032B); and engineering officers of the watch Joseph DiStefano (092B04), James Pensabene (092B04), Mark Robitaille (092B06) and Michael Zarrella (092B06).

Next month a test

director from the Operational Test and Evaluation Force will oversee the OPEVAL. The propulsion system design and integration, the normal operating and emergency procedures and the maintenance procedures will be evaluated.