DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CURTS (FFG 38)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96662-1493

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CURTS (FFG 38)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B4), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY USS CURTS (FFG 38), YEAR 1988 1988

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1. Per reference (a), the Command History of USS CURTS (FFG 38) is hereby submitted.

2. JANUARY: Calendar Year 1988 picked up where 1987 left off, underway enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a brief stop before continuing to Long Beach for CURTS' Homecoming after the long Westpac/Indian Ocean Deployment. CURTS arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 12 January, in company with Battle Group Sierra, the USS MISSOURI (BB) Battle Group staying inport long enough to take on supplies and the twelve "Guest Tigers." Underway 12 January, CURTS conducted her Tiger Cruise which gave the "tigers" a taste of rough weather through which CURTS was able to hold steady on her course. Arriving in Long Beach with USS MISSOURI, CURTS was greeted by her homecoming crowd, thus concluding her first major deployment. CURTS remained inport Long Beach throughout the remainder of the month commencing her Leave and Upkeep period.

3. FEBRUARY: Continuing her Leave and Upkeep Period, CURTS remained in her homeport, Long Beach, until concluding this period 17 February. 8 through 12 February involved most of the crew, not in leave status, in a 3M assist visit conducted by COMNAVSURFGRU Long Beach's 3M Team. The Leave and Upkeep period was spent making preparations for IMAV 4 with SIMA San Diego. 18 February saw CURTS underway enroute Seal Beach for her ammo offload. Making her way through dense fog and conditions of almost zero visibility, CURTS successfully used Radar Assisted Piloting to safely navigate past the Seal Beach Jetty. After the completion of the ammo offload, CURTS returned to Long Beach the same afternoon. Inport until 20 February, CURTS was underway early a.m. conducting a very successful dependent's cruise throughout the day until her arrival inport San Diego prior to sunset. 21 February kicked off IMAV 4 of SIMA San Diego which lasted into the next month. While inport San Diego, CURTS accomplished the following; CMS Inspection Assist, Postal Inspection, Recreation Fund Special Services Audit/Inspection, SRBOC Certification, and the team trainer for Target Motion Analysis Bearings Only.

4. MARCH: Still participating in IMAV 4, CURTS continued to take advantage of the outstandinservices afforded her by SIMA San Diego. IMAV 4 lasted until 20 March. While inport San Diego during this period CURTS took advantage of the training and administrative services available in the area as she completed the following: FCIP Field Change Installment Program, Team Trainer for Target Motion Analysis Bearings and Frequencies, 20-5B Shipboard Combat Systems Trainer. CURTS was also able to complete her scheduled Aviation Assist Visit from 8 through 11 March then follow it up with a 14 through 18 March ASIR TA. Faced with the completion of IMAV4, CURTS conducted a Fast Cruise on 17 March to remove rust from the crew after being in a maintenance period for one month's time. 21 through 23 March saw CURTS underway once more independent steaming enroute SOCAL opareas where she conducted numerous Engineering Casualty Control Drills and tests on the repair work completed during IMAV 4.

Arriving at Seal Beach on the morning of 24 March, CURTS conducted a safe onload of ammunition before proceeding to Long Beach that evening. 25 through 27 March were spent in an upkeep period. 28 through 31 March, CURTS conducted CSRT and SESI with 31 March being the underway day.

5. APRIL: CURTS spent 1 through 10 April in an upkeep status at Long Beach. While inport Long Beach, she went through a Combat Systems Assist as well as a successful Supply Management Assessment, 7 through 8 April. Stepping back into an upkeep period from 15 to 17 April, CURTS remained inport Long Beach 18 through the morning of 27 April, in a Restricted Availablity status. That afternoon CURTS was underway, independently steaming throughout the local SOCAL opareas until her return to homeport on 30 April. 30 April began the Pre-Overseas Movement period in which CURTS made the final preparations for a homeport shift to Yokosuka, Japan effective in June.

6. MAY: Continuing through 22 May, CURTS remained in a Pre-Overseas Movement period at Long Beach as she finished the last details for what would eventually be a highly successful homeport shift to Yokosuka, Japan. 23 through 27 May spent underway in trails. 28 May through the remainder of the month was spent inport Long Beach in a final Long Beach upkeep period. This period of time was spent ensuring the details of the Japan transit were carefully planned out with USS RODNEY M. DAVIS who would be accompanying CURTS across the Pacific Ocean.

7. JUNE: 1 June marked the last day spent inport at Long Beach, California as CURTS, together with RODNEY M. DAVIS left their old homeport of Long Beach, CA. for the final time and made their way through the deep Pacific towards the Orient. While DAVIS entered Pearl Harbor early for deperming, CURTS took advantage of the scheduled MIDEASTFORCE exercise prepared for DAVIS during 7 and 8 June and successfully completed all scenarios provided. Conducting a brief port visit during 9 through 11 June at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, CURTS and DAVIS participated in the numerous required briefs required by CINCPACFLT while the ships refueled and took on the necessary supplies to sustain them throughout the remainder of the upcoming transit period. 12 through 20 June was spent in transit to CURTS' new homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. 18 June was the date of CURTS' OUTCHOP from Commander Third Fleet and her INCHOP to Commander Seventh Fleet. 21 June through the remainder of the month CURTS spent getting acquainted with her new homeport. The arrival of CURTS and DAVIS marked two new firsts: the first Oliver Hazard Perry class ships homeported in Japan as they replaced the USS KNOX and USS LOCKWOOD respectively, as OFRP ships; and the arrival of the first SH-60B Detachments to shore base at ATSUGI, Japan.

8. JULY: Continuing through 20 July, CURTS remained inport Yokosuka in an Upkeep status. CURTS was underway again on 21 July as she conducted a Group Sail in company with RODNEY M. DAVIS to the Okinawa Operation Areas. 22-23 July, CURTS participated in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Training provided for AN/SQQ-89 Training. Breaking away from the AN-SQQ-89 Training, CURTS participated in numerous Anti-Air Warfare Exercises and Air Services by CVW-5 out of Okinawa Japan. After completing the Air exercises, CURTS began her independent steaming enroute Pusan, Korea on 30 July. Arriving 31 July, CURTS began a Restricted Maintenance Availability period and port vist at her first Korean port.

9. AUGUST: Continuing through 5 August, CURTS found herself inport Pusan, Korea where she enyoyed the sights, sounds, and liberty of this port while the duty sections kept up with the work completed during the Restricted Availability period. 6 August CURTS was underway as she transited through Shiminoseki Strait enroute Yokosuka. Arriving Yokosuka on 8 August, CURTS remained inport until 15 August when she once again was underway through 18 August as she paid close attention to her engineering readiness. During this period of time a great deal of effort was devoted to Engineering Casualty Control Training Drills, General Quarters, Main Space Fire Drills, and Task Training. 19 August found CURTS inport Yokosuka where she prepared to receive the 3-M inspection team on 22 August. The 3-M inspection lasted until 25 August. 26 August, CURTS' Welfare and Recreation sponsored a ship's Mount Fuji Climb as many crewmembers participated in the climb to the top of Fuji. CURTS was underway 30 August for IERA with the EASTPAC Mobile Training Team through the remainder of the month.

10. SEPTEMBER: Arriving in Yokosuka the morning of 1 September, CURTS spent a busy day sending various crewmembers to briefs for the impending Battle Group Alpha Operations. 2 September, CURTS found herself enroute Sea of Japan for a set of short notice ASW Special Operations. While yet underway, 5 September marked the day that LCDR David Hamel relieved LCDR Charles Souder as Executive Officer. CURTS pulled into Hakodate, Japan for a brief stop for fuel before returning to her operations in the Sea of Japan which lasted until she was detached to join Battle Group Alpha and arrived Sasebo, Japan on the morning of 16 September. CURTS and Battle Group Alpha remained in port until 19 September when Battle Group Alpha continued to conduct exercises off the coast of South Korea throughout the time period that South Korea hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics. As a part of Olympic Support Operations, Battle Group Alpha displayed its presence both in the local waters and inport Pusan, Korea as CURTS and other Battle Group Alpha assets arrived in Pusan 27 September and remained until 30 September when they resumed their local operations in support of the Summer Olympics.

11. OCTOBER: Battle Group Alpha and CURTS continued the Olympic Support Operations through 5 October when the name of the exercises changed to Annualex 63G/Sharem 75. Despite inclement weather, Annualex 63G/Sharlem 75 charged forward as CURTS and other Pacfic Fleet ships joined together with the Japanese Maritime Defense Force ships for Anti-Submarine, Anti-Air, and Anti-Surface Warfare operations and exercises. At the conclusion of Annualex 63G/Sharlem 75 CURTS returned to her homeport mooring in Yokosuka on the morning of 14 October. CURTS spent the next two weeks in a Maintenance Availability status as she commenced RAV 6. While inport Yokosuka, the Medical Department was able to complete a Medical and Dental TAV. 24 October into the next month, CURTS was graced with the Navy Food Management Team Training Assist Visit. This inport period proved to be a critical time as CURTS prepared herself for yet two more major inspections and one major deployment, all scheduled to occur prior to the end of the year.

12. NOVEMBER: RAV 6 continued through 2 November and the Navy Food Management Team Training Assist Visit continued through 4 November. CURTS, however, remained in a Maintenance Availability Status through 7 November when she got underway for one day of local ops to conduct underway performance checks on her shipboard equipment. Upon returning to port, CURTS continued in a Maintenance Availability Status until 9 November.

10 through 13 November, CURTS was underway again preparing herself for her upcoming Operation Propulsion Plant Examination and for any contingency tasking placed on her shoulders. 14 through 16 November marked the time for more inport preparations for the ship's upcoming inspections. 17 November kicked off EASTPAC Mobile Training Team's Assist visit. CURTS was underway 19 through 22 November to support underway engineering training conducted by MTT. Returning to Yokosuka 23 November, CURTS remained inport through the end of the month in an Upkeep Status. During this period, CURTS conducted a 3-M stand-down 26 and 27 November prior to the highly successful completion of her 3-M reinspection held 28 to 30 November.

13. DECEMBER: CURTS remained inport through 4 December. 2 December was the offical turnover date for CURTS' LAMPS MK III Detachment as HSL FOUR THREE DET 2B relieved DET 2A. 5 December, CURTS was underway in the Philippine Sea for her Mock Operational Propulsion Plant Examination conducted by Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15 Staff. Upon Mock OPPRE's conclusion, CURTS arrived in Yokosuka 7 December where she remained until getting underway for Propulsion Examination Board's OPPE on 13 December. Returning to port 14 December, CURTS spent next several days correcting discrepancies for PEB's return visit and caucus on 17 December when it was determined that CURTS had successfully completed OPPE upon correction of several outstanding material discrepancies. 19 December was the day that CURTS was originally scheduled to deploy to the Middle East but her deployment was rescheduled for Jan '89 in view of changing developments in the Middle East. CURTS remained inport Yokosuka for the remainder of the year in an upkeep status.

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