rec'd 5/29/90

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser FFG38/ 124
18 May 90

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

Subj: 1989 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS CURTS (FFG 38) 1989

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

2. Command composition and organization.

a. Command Mission. USS CURTS is a Guided Missile Frigate of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class and was designed to protect open ocean convoys. She fulfills a Protection of Shipping (POS) mission as an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) combatant for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys. To aid her in her mission, she carries the SH60B Anti-Submarine Helicopter, the SQS-56 Sonar/SQR-19 Towed Array and ship launched torpedoes. To protect against Air and Surface threats, CURTS is armed with Standard SM-1 Surface to Air Missile, the Harpoon Surface Missile and Otto Melara 76mm gun. For close-in defense, CURTS carries the Vulcan Phalanx 20mm Close In Weapon System.

b. Organizational Structure. Administratively, CURTS reports to Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN. Operationally, CURTS reports directly to Commander, Task Force Seventy-Five.

3. Chronology.

06 JAN 89 Underway for Controllable Pitch Propeller System Test, Combat Systems Exercises and Deck Landing qualifications for the Helicopter Detachment

07 JAN 89 Moor Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep

10 JAN 89 Underway for Northern Sea of Japan Special Surveillance Operations

16 JAN 89 Underway replenishment with USNS KILAUEA

21 JAN 89 Moor Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep

30 JAN 89 Underway for port visit to Sasebo, Japan

01 FEB 89 Moor Sasebo, Japan

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02 FEB 89	Underway for Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise 89-1JA (ASWEX 89-1JA with Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force)
07 FEB 89	Brief port visit to Kagoshima, Japan for ASWEX debrief (no-liberty)
09 FEB 89	Moor Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep and Middle East Force Deployment Preparations
19 FEB 89	Underway for Fleet Training Group Assist (mini-REFTRA)
23 FEB 89	Moor Yokosuka, Japan for Middle East Force Deployment preparations
01 MAR 90	Underway enroute Middle East Force Deployment
05 MAR 89	Underway Replenishment with USNS PONCHATOULA
06 MAR 89	Port visit to Subic Bay for fuel/repairs
10 MAR 89	Moor Singapore for port visit
11 MAR 89	Underway enroute Middle East Force Deployment
15 MAR 89	BSF in Colombo, Sri Lanka for fuel
19 MAR 89	Entered Strait of Hormuz - changed operational chain of command to Middle East Force
20 MAR 89	Anchor Bahrain for MEF turnover and upkeep
23 MAR 89	Underway for MEF operations
27 MAR 89	Escort M/V BRIDGETON under EARNEST WILL operations
31 MAR 89	Moor Bahrain for stores onload and upkeep
02 APR 89	Underway for MEF operations
03 APR 89	Escort M/V BRIDGETON under EARNEST WILL operations
13 APR 89	Moor Bahrain for upkeep
17 APR 89	Underway for MEF operations - escort for USNS SPICA and USS PUGET SOUND
24 APR 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
29 APR 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules

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02 MAY 89	Moor Bahrain for upkeep
06 MAY 89	Underway for MEF operations
09 MAY 89	VERTREP with USNS SPICA
10 MAY 89	Anchor for BSF Kuwait
12 MAY 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
17 MAY 89	USS STARK Memorial Ceremony
18 MAY 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
19 MAY 89	Lieutenant General Rogers, Deputy CINCENT, tours CURTS
21 MAY 89	Anchor BSF Kuwait
22 MAY 89	Underway for Kuwait Navy Exercises/Anchor Kuwait
23 MAY 89	Port visit Kuwait
26 MAY 89	Underway for MEF operations
29 MAY 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
04 JUN 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
05 JUN 89	Anchor Bahrain
07 JUN 89	Underway for MEF operations
11 JUN 89	Brief moor to Barge Hercules
13 JUN 89	Moor Bahrain
18 JUN 89	Underway enroute Phuket, Thailand
20 JUN 89	Exit Strait of Hormuz - changed operational chain of command to COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC
24 JUN 89	BSF in Colombo, Sri Lanka for fuel
27 JUN 89	Port visit Phuket, Thailand
01 JUL 89	Underway enroute Singapore
02 JUL 89	Anchor Singapore
03 JUL 89	Port visit Singapore
06 JUL 89	Underway enroute Subic Bay

09 JUL 89 Port visit Subic Bay

13 JUL 89 Underway enroute Hong Kong

14 JUL 89 Port visit Hong Kong

16 JUL 89 Underway enroute Yokosuka, Japan

17 JUL 89 Brief moor White Beach, Okinawa for fuel

22 JUL 89 Moor Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep and leave period

26 JUL 89 Underway/moor Yokosuka, Japan for weapons offload

10 AUG 89 Drydocked for DSRA-II

07 NOV 89 Commence Light-Off-Exam

18 NOV 89 Underway for Sea Trials

29 NOV 89 Underway for Sea Trials

05 DEC 89 Moor Subic Bay

11 DEC 89 Underway for Hong Kong

12 DEC 89 MISSILEX

14 DEC 89 Port visit Hong Kong

18 DEC 89 Underway for Yokosuka, Japan

22 DEC 89 Moor Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep

4. Narrative: The following is a month-by-month narrative of calendar year 1989.

a. January: Calendar Year 1989 picked up where 1988 left off with CURTS inport at her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. On 6 January, CURTS got underway to the Japan OPAREAS in order to conduct a controllable pitch propeller test, various combat systems exercises, and deck landing qualifications for the new helicopter detachment, HSL 43, DET 2B. All tests were completed satisfactorily, allowing CURTS to return to homeport on 7 January. CURTS remained inport Yokosuka until 10 January when she got underway to the northern Sea of Japan forspecial ASW surveillance operations. Once in the northern Sea of Japan, CURTS gained contact and tracked a Soviet submarine along with several Soviet ships and aircraft. On 16 January, CURTS was refueled by USNS KILAUEA in the northern Sea of Japan. After refueling, CURTS returned to Yokosuka, Japan and arrived on 21 January.

CURTS remained in an upkeep status in Yokosuka until 30 January, when she got underway for a one-day port visit to Sasebo, Japan prior to ASWEX 89-1JA.

b. February: CURTS arrived in Sasebo, Japan on 1 February for an ASWEX 89-1JA brief along with a reception in the evening with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The next day, CURTS got underway from Sasebo, Japan for the start of ASWEX 89-1JA along with USS HEPBURN (FF 1055) and USS OUELLET (FF-1077). Several Japanese ships and a Japanese submarine were also involved in the exercise. After several successful ASW exercises with the American and Japanese forces, CURTS finished ASWEX 89-1JA on 6 February and anchored in Kagoshima, Japan during the afternoon of 7 February for exercise debrief. After getting underway from anchorage, CURTS headed back to her homeport where she returned on 9 February for upkeep and Middle East Force deployment preparations. On 19 February, CURTS got underway for four days of pre-deployment training with Fleet Training Group, Yokosuka, Japan. During this training, CURTS conducted various damage control, combat systems, navigation and seamanship exercises before returning to Yokosuka on 23 February. Upon arrival on 23 February, CURTS successfully completed an aviation assist visit. CURTS continued with upkeep and Middle East Force preparation for the remainder of February inport Yokosuka, Japan.

c. March: On 1 March, CURTS got underway from homeport for a Middle East Force deployment to the Persian Gulf with the first stop enroute MEF being Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. While transiting to Subic Bay, CURTS conducted numerous exercises in damage control, anti-surface warfare, and anti-air warfare in preparation for the Persian Gulf. Prior to entering Subic, CURTS was refueled by USNS PONCHATOULA on the fifth of March. The next day, CURTS moored in Subic Bay for MEF training in visit boarding and search and small boat attacks. CURTS got underway that evening in order to conduct anti-air warfare training on the seventh of March before pulling into Subic again that evening for one night of liberty. CURTS got underway early on 8 March for a day and a half of liberty in Singapore before leaving during the afternoon of 10 March enroute MEF. CURTS made a refueling stop in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 15 March prior to conducting a turnover with the USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50) just south of the Strait of Hormuz on 19 March. That same day, CURTS also changed operational chain of command to Commander Middle East Force as she entered the Strait of Hormuz. CURTS anchored in Sitrah, Bahrain on 20 March for Middle East INCHOP briefs and liberty in Bahrain. On 23 March, CURTS got underway from anchorage for surveillance operations in the Strait of Hormuz eastern patrol area (SOHEPA) which was located at the south entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. On 26 March, CURTS accompanied the Motor Vessel BRIDGETON through the strait. Once the escort mission was completed, CURTS remained in SOHEPA until 31 March when she returned to Bahrain at Mina Sulman Pier.

d. April: On 1 April, CURTS left Mina Sulman Pier for anescort mission with MV BRIDGETON outbound from the Persian Gulf. CURTS completed the EARNEST WILL mission on 3 April and proceeded to SOHEPA to conduct routine surveillance operations from 4 April to 12 April. CURTS transited the Strait of Hormuz on 13 April, then anchored in Sitrah from 14-16 April outboard of USS PUGET SOUND (AD 43) for a three-day tender availability. Underway on 17 April, CURTS was assigned duties in the central Persian Gulf prior to anchoring in Jebal Ali, Kuwait for refueling on the afternoon of 22 April. After refueling, CURTS moved to the northern Persian Gulf to conduct operations with Mobile Sea Base (MSB) Hercules. On 24 April, CURTS moored alongside Hercules for a northern Persian Gulf operations brief. After getting underway from Hercules that evening, CURTS conducted operations in the vicinity of Hercules until 29 April when she moored alongside Hercules for refueling before continuing operations in NPG for the remainder of April.

e. May: On 1 May, CURTS left the northern Persian Gulf for Mina Sulman Pier in Bahrain for a four-day port visit starting on 2 May. On 4 May, Commander Joint Task Force Middle East, Rear Admiral Fogarty, made a visit to the ship culminating with a speech to the crew. On 6 May CURTS departed Bahrain for more northern Persian Gulf operations. On the morning of 12 May, CURTS moored alongside MSB Hercules for Security Force training and refueling. A memorial ceremony for the sailors who previously died on the USS STARK during an Iraqi air attack was conducted by the CURTS on 17 May. The next day, CURTS was once again refueled by Barge Hercules. On 19 May, Deputy CINCENT, Lt. General Rogers arrived by helicopter for a brief tour of the ship. CURTS continued to operate in the northern Persian Gulf until 20 May when she was relieved of NPG duties by USS ELROD (FFG 55). Upon relief, CURTS proceeded to Kuwait where she anchored overnight on 21 May for a refueling on the 22nd. After refueling, CURTS got underway from anchorage in order to conduct exercises with the Kuwait Navy. The exercises consisted of station-keeping, over-the-horizon-targeting, and flag hoist/flashing light drills. After a successful afternoon of training, CURTS anchored in Shuaiba Port, Kuwait for the night. The next morning, CURTS got underway from anchorage and moored pierside in Kuwait for a three-day port visit from 23-25 May. CURTS left Kuwait on 26 May and conducted more exercises with the Kuwait Navy while transiting toward the northern Persian Gulf operating area. CURTS relieved USS ELROD (FFG 55) of NPG duties that evening and remained there for the rest of May.

f. June: CURTS continued with operations in the NPG until 4 June when she moored to MSB HERCULES for refueling. After refueling, CURTS anchored in Sitrah from 5-6 June for a limited restricted availability, then headed back towards the northern Persian Gulf where she operated until 11 June. On 12 June, CURTS

was relieved of her duties in the NPG by the USS ELROD for the final time. CURTS moored at Mina Sulman Pier, Bahrain from 13-17 June, then proceeded out of the Persian Gulf on 18 June for a MEF turnover with the USS FORD (FFG 54) which was completed near SOHEPA on 19 June. Once the turnover was complete, CURTS proceeded to Phuket, Thailand for a port visit from 27-30 June. Enroute Phuket, CURTS refueled in Colombo, Sri Lanka during the afternoon of 24 June.

g. July: On 1 July, CURTS left Phuket, transited the Malacca Strait, then anchored in Singapore on the afternoon of 2 July. On 3 July, CURTS moved from anchorage to Sembawang Pier, Singapore until 6 July when she got underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Prior to reaching Subic Bay, CURTS detoured south in order to cross the equator and conduct a crossing-the-line ceremony on 7 July. CURTS remained at sea until 9 July when she pulled into Subic Bay for a four-day port visit. On 13 July, CURTS got underway from Subic Bay and commenced the first part of the Command Inspection with COMDESRON FIFTEEN. Late in the afternoon on 14 July, CURTS arrived in Hong Kong for a scheduled five-day port visit. Unfortunately, the threat of Typhoon Gordon caused CURTS to leave Hong Kong three days earlier than scheduled, on 16 July. CURTS then headed toward her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan for an arrival on 22 July at 1400 local time. Upon arrival, CURTS was greeted by a homecoming crowd, thus concluding her second major deployment. The twenty-sixth of July saw CURTS underway for anchorage in Tokyo Bay for an ammunition offload. After a safe offload, CURTS returned to Yokosuka that evening and remained there throughout July in upkeep status.

h. August: CURTS remained moored to the pier in a leave and upkeep status until 10 August when she moved to Drydock Five for the start of DSRA II. From 9-11 August, CURTS finished the command inspection with COMDESRON FIFTEEN, receiving a final grade of Satisfactory. Involved in the Command Inspection was a OMS Inspection, Legal Affairs Inspection and a NAVOSH Management Evaluation which were also evaluated as Satisfactory. The remainder of August was uneventful as CURTS continued with DSRA II at Drydock Five.

i. September: CURTS remained at Drydock Five for the whole month of September for DSRA II with SRF Yokosuka.

j. October: CURTS continued DSRA II at Drydock Five for all of October. CURTS also started preparations for the Light Off Exam (LOE) to be conducted during early November.

k. November: From 1-6 November CURTS continued with DSRA II and intensive preparations for LOE which was conducted 7-10 November. The Light Off Exam was a success as CURTS received a final grade of Satisfactory. On 15 November, CURTS got underway

for sea trials which included detect-to-engage, anchor windlass tests, a shaft brake test, sonar self-noise test, Streaming Nixie, Streaming AN/SQR-19 TACTASS, full power trials, steering gear tests, antenna radiation tests along with many other tests. Sea trials finished successfully on 16 November. CURTS remained inport Yokosuka until 27 November when she got underway for an ammunition onload of missiles, torpedoes, 76 mm shells, etc. CURTS safely finished the ammo onload that evening and moored in Yokosuka until 29 November when she got underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines and the Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE). CURTS remained enroute Subic Bay for the rest of November conducting preparations for the upcoming TRE.

1. December: December started where November left off, with CURTS enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for TRE. On 4 December, CURTS was refueled by USNS SPICA in the Subic OPEAREAS. That same day, CURTS successfully conducted a detect-to-engage with air services provided from FLECOMPRON FIVE. On 5 December, CURTS conducted a long-range surface gun firing exercise in the morning then moored to Alava Pier in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for the start of TRE on 6 December with Fleet Training Group, Yokosuka. CURTS got underway on 11 December and successfully completed a "tow and be towed" exercise with USNS SIOUX as part of the TRE. On 12 December, CURTS successfully completed a missile firing exercise off the coast of the Philippines near Poro Point. CURTS finished TRE on 14 December, receiving a final grade of Satisfactory. On 15 December, CURTS arrived in Hong Kong for three days of well deserved liberty. On 18 December, CURTS left Hong Kong enroute Yokosuka where she arrived on 22 December. CURTS remained in Yokosuka for the rest of the month in a holiday leave and upkeep status.

G. H. MONTGOMERY