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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser FFG38/162
23 May 1994

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

Subj: 1993 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS CURTS (FFG 38) 1993

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 carrier battle groups, amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups, and merchant convoys. To aid her in her mission, she possesses the AN/SQQ-89(V)2 antisubmarine warfare suite, two SH60B LAMPS Mark III helicopters, Mk-46 ship and air launched torpedoes, Mark 92 fire control system with Standard SM-1 surface to air missiles and Harpoon anti ship missiles, and the Otto Melara 76mm gun, and the Vulcan Phalanx 20mm Close in Weapon System.

b. Organizational Structure: Administratively, CURTS reports to Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN. Operationally, CURTS reports to Commander Task Force Seventy-Five, or Commander Task Force Seventy depending on tasking.

3. Narrative Chronology:

01 JAN: Moored in port Yokosuka, Japan. Holiday routine.

04 JAN: Officially start Drydock Restricted Availability Number 5. Major work accomplished while in dry dock: 4100 ton mod adding ballast to the ship; three new air cooled 400 hertz converters replaced the malfunctioning water cooled converters; 1B gas turbine engine HPT blades were replaced with experimental titanium coated blades; the propulsion train including the CPP were replaced; the bulkhead shaft seal was replaced; both fin stabilizers were replaced; three of four SSDGs had extensive work completed; ship's force completed a complete remodelling of Crew Complex Three; and both APU's were replaced.

05 JAN: Berthing shift from crew complex three to berthing barge.

07 JAN: Docking conference to review drydocking procedures.

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08 JAN: Defueled for berth shift to drydock.

11 JAN: Dry dock navigation brief.

12 JAN: Berth shift to drydock 4--0900 ship at sill, 0930 first line across, 1230 ship lands on blocks.

15 JAN: Frocking and awards ceremony for crew.
Dr. Martin Luther King commemorative service.

18 JAN: ASW Evaluation phase I team trainer starts.

19 JAN: Aviation certification tech assist visit starts

22 JAN: Aviation certification tech assist visit finishes. Successful completion of ASW evaluation phase 1 with a successful completion by both Blue and Gold teams.

25 JAN: LTT Phase 1A begins in Engineering Department.

29 JAN: LTT debrief emphasized need to improve logs and record keeping.

02 FEB: Duty section 1 In Port Emergency Party fire fighting team training at ATG in preparation for the Light Off Examination.

03 FEB: Ship's galley closes for floor replacement.

09 FEB: Duty section 2 In Port Emergency Party fire fighting team training at ATG in preparation for the Light Off Examination.

11 FEB: COMNAVSURFPAC Logistics and Financial management visit from Captain Andrews.

12 FEB: EMCM Mizukami re-enlistment ceremony.

16 FEB: Duty section 3 In Port Emergency Party fire fighting team training at ATG in preparation for the Light Off Examination. Organizational meeting for LOE POA&M. Ship's store assist visit held.

23 FEB: Duty section 4 In Port Emergency Party fire fighting team training at ATG in preparation for the Light Off Examination.

02 MAR: PO3 Navy Wide Exam conducted.

04 MAR: PO2 Navy Wide Exam conducted.

09 MAR: PO1 Navy Wide Exam conducted.

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13 MAR: Ship's picnic and softball game with USS McClusky.

16 MAR: Helo fire fighting team training conducted at ATG.

23 MAR: Ship wide safety stand down conducted in SRF training classrooms.

29 MAR: Aviation facilities certification: assist visit commences. TMA bearing only team trainer commences as ATG.

07 APR: Undocking conference held.

13 APR: Drydock flooded at 0800. Ship crossed drydock sill at 1200 and moves berth 9 for remainder of availability.

15 APR: Awards ceremony conducted on flight deck.

19 APR: EOSS shipcheck commences.

21 APR: Satisfactorily complete EOSS ship check.

23 APR: Complete dental inspection with satisfactory score.

03 MAY: LTT Phase B begins with equipment checks.

07 MAY: LTT Phase B concludes with most equipment incomplete.

10 MAY: Aviation Assist visit conducted with a few minor discrepancies.

01 JUN: Light Off Exam commences with administrative review of program and material safety checks.

02 JUN: Light Off Exam material checks continue; most equipment checks satisfactory.

03 JUN: Light Off Exam oral boards and material checks complete. LOE concludes with satisfactory score.

07 JUN: Fast cruise conducted to prepare for sea trials. Link 11 long look conducted with satisfactory score.

09 JUN: Underway for sea trials.

10 JUN: Sea trials continue. TACAN certification and measured mile completed.

12 JUN: Final day of DSRA5, complete diesel engine inspection.

14 JUN: CART II Commences with written exams.

15 JUN: Aviation Certification inspection commences in conjunction with CART II.

17 JUN: Incline experiment conducted.

18 JUN: CART II concludes. Navigation check ride out to ammunition anchorage. Ammunition on load.

19 JUN: Underway enroute Okinawa. Awards ceremony conducted for crew.

24 JUN: Precision anchor capstan tests, then moor pierside White Beach Okinawa.

26 JUN: Underway for rendezvous with Independence Battle Group returning from Spring Training.

27 JUN: Rendezvous Encounterex AAW DTE with Independence Battle Group. CURTS successfully closes to visual range of INDEPENDENCE

28 JUN: Replenishment at Sea with USS independence conducted.

30 JUN: Return to Yokosuka and embark ten First Class Midshipmen for Midshipmen cruise.

02 JUL: Awards ceremony conducted. First OPPE planning meeting held.

03 JUL: Ships picnic Briggs Bay.

07 JUL: Sexual harassment training conducted for crew via site TV.

09 JUL: Embark 4 Japanese and 4 US Midshipmen for USN JMSDF Midshipmen exchange.

10 JUL: Underway enroute Eta Jima JMSDF Naval Academy. Rendezvous with JMSDF ships and conduct 76MM gunnery practice.

11 JUL: Replenishment at sea with JDS SAGAMI completed safely. Submarine familiarization with Japanese submarine conducted.

12 JUL: Curts detached as Orange force for Encounterex.

13 JUL: Complete Encounterex and begin to transit Inland Sea for Kure port.

14 JUL: Arrive in port Kure; met by Peace protesters. Midshipmen debark for Eta Jima.

15 JUL: Tour of Eta Jima conducted.

16 JUL: Tour of Hiroshima Peace Park for crew.

19 JUL: Continue Midshipmen cruise: Depart for Chinhae, Korea. Transit Shimonoseki straits with 13 US Midshipmen embarked.

20 JUL: Conducted small arms qualifications for midshipmen.

23 JUL: Arrive in port Chinhae. Debark US Midshipmen and embark 12 Korean midshipmen. Curts is to be the only US Navy ship involved in Korean Midshipmen Exchange Program.

25 JUL: Underway for Korean Midshipmen Cruise.

28 JUL: Arrive Pusan, debark 10 of 12 Korean Midshipmen.

29 JUL: Depart Pusan with two Korean and thirteen US Midshipmen embarked enroute Yokosuka.

31 JUL: Final midshipmen interview boards conducted.

02 AUG: Arrive in port Yokosuka, debark US Midshipmen.

03 AUG: CSOSS implementation visit begins.

05 AUG: Complete an highly successful disbursing review.

06 AUG: Completed CSOSS implementation--later receive message citing CURTS as most successful CSOSS implementation in PAC Fleet.

09 AUG: Postal inspection completed. Underway for pre OPPE LTT.

13 AUG: Return to Yokosuka.

23 AUG: Underway for LTT OPPE preparations.

27 AUG: Return to port complete LTT.

29 AUG: US Navy Friendship Day Visit Ship. Several hundred Japanese visitors tour ship. Later reports include several Japanese Communist party members among the tourist aboard CURTS.

03 SEP: Aviation Readiness Exam begins.

04 SEP: Aviation Readiness Exam completed except for Surface Rescue Team Training.

08 SEP: Mock OPPE begins.

10 SEP: Underway for mock OPPE.

11 SEP: Return to port, upon completion of mock OPPE.

15 SEP: Underway for oppe preparation.

16 SEP: Return to port.

17 SEP: CPO initiation and frocking ceremony.

21 SEP: Review engineering administration programs in port helo hanger for final pre-OPPE inspection.

22 SEP: OPPE begins. Hot and cold material checks and oral boards conducted. Ship gets underway for underway portion.

23 SEP: Underway material checks continue for OPPE.

23 SEP: Return to port early OPPE successfully completed. HSL 51 begins onload.

27 SEP: GSMC Hakki commissioned. CURTS departs enroute Okinawa for Misselex. Helocopter fly on conducted.

28 SEP: Conducted anti air detect to engage exercise as a requirement for start of Misselex.

29 SEP: Modloc in oparea W-173 off Okinawa. Conduct successful BQM shot.

30 SEP: Backup day for Misselex, conduct AQM shot successfully.

01 OCT: Replenishment at sea with Andrew J. Higgins: Shallow Water Diesel exercise.

02-03 OCT: Plane guard for USS INDEPENDENCE.

04 OCT: Commence Annualex (MAREX 05JX). Replenishment at sea with Andrew J. Higgins. To avoid typhoons, battle group changes plans and relocates east of Okinawa.

05 OCT: Rendezvous with JDS Hatakaze and other JMSDF ships. Continue east to avoid storm.

06 OCT: Battle group turns west. Conduct Replenishment at sea with Andrew J. Higgins.

07 OCT: Conduct transit exercise.

08 OCT: Battle group turns north to regain PIM.

09 OCT: Replenishment at sea cancelled due to heavy seas.

10 OCT: Storm passes over battle group. In calmer seas, battle group proceeds north for exercise.

11 OCT: Conduct exercises for MAREX 05JX.

12 OCT: Finish annualex-MAREX 05JX. Turn south towards Yokosuka.

13 OCT: Moor in port Yokosuka.

17 OCT: Commence POM (Pre Overseas Movement) period.

18 OCT: COMIDEASTFORCE Area Intelligence brief.

21 OCT: Underway for ammo onload; then return to port.

23 OCT: Navy Ball held in Thew Gym.

25 OCT: Pre deployment hull cleaning conducted.

26 OCT: Environmental health survey begins.

27 OCT: Environmental health survey completed successfully.

28 OCT: Visit, board, search, and seizure organizational meeting in preparation for Red Sea Interdiction Operations.

01 NOV: Commence industrial hygiene survey.

03 NOV: Begin harpoon tactical qualification training.

05 NOV: Complete industrial hygiene survey.

09 NOV: Harpoon tactical qualification in brief.

10 NOV: Successful completion of Harpoon tactical qualification.

12 NOV: CWO4 Reagin's retirement ceremony conducted stbd helo hanger. Complete satisfactory CMS Inspection.

15 NOV: Fast cruise for final preparation for deployment. Dental Readiness Evaluation completed: first in PAC Fleet with zero discrepancies.

16 NOV: Berth shift for missile onload.

17 NOV: Underway for COMIDEASTFORCE deployment. Commence TSTA III training.

19 NOV: VBSS practice begins with exercise on USNS Kileaua.

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21 NOV: Replenishment at sea with Andrew J. Higgins.

22 NOV: Finish TSTA III training. ATG riders transferred to McClusky for FEP.

23 NOV: General quarters, mass casualty drills conducted.

24 NOV: Transit San Bernadino Straits--CURTS and MCCLUSKY escort USS HELENA on the surface through the Straits.

25 NOV: Commence FEP and Replenishment at sea with USNS PECOS.

26 NOV: Conduct VBSS drill with USNS KILAUEA.

27 NOV: Replenishment at sea with USNS PECOS. Conduct General Quarters Mass Conflag drill with satisfactory grade from ATG observers.

28 NOV: FEP completed. Commence Thai Passex; attempt to LINK with Royal Thai Navy Air Defence System unsuccessful.

29 NOV: Anchor out at Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

04 DEC: Underway; conduct opposed sortie with two Thai Navy Frigates.

06 DEC: Transit Malacca Straits.

14 DEC: Detach from Independence Battle Group enroute to Red Sea for Interdiction Operations. Change operation command to Task Group 152.1.

16 DEC: Transit Bab el Mendeb; enter Red Sea.

19 DEC: Arrive North Red Sea. Conduct turnover with USS Simpson.

20 DEC: Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Kelso, visits CURTS for Holiday greetings.

21 DEC: Commence VBSS Interdiction operations. Continue daily VBSS operations through the end of 1993.

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