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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser FFG 38/072
14 MAR 1995

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

Subj: 1994 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS CURTS (FFG 38)

1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Change of Command Ceremony Program

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. With current upgrades, the ship is capable of Battle Group support in anti-submarine (ASW), anti-air (AAW) and anti-surface warfare (ASUW). To aid her in her mission, she carries the SH60B Anti-Submarine Helicopter, the SQS-56 Sonar/SQR-19 Towed Array and ship launched torpedos. To protect against air and surface threats, CURTS is armed with Standard SM-1 Surface to Air Missiles and a 76 mm gun. For close-in defense, CURTS carries the Vulcan Phalanx 20mm Close-In Weapons System (CIWS).

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

3. Chronology.

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| 15 JAN 95 | ON STATION IN ARABIAN GULF. |
| 01 FEB 94 | INPORT JEBAL ALI, UNITED ARABS EMIRATE |
| 02 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY TO NORTH ARABIAN GULF |
| 04 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS |
| 07 FEB 94 | MOORED BAHRAIN |
| 09 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY TO SINGAPORE |
| 10 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS |
| 12 FEB 94 | 0750 HELICOPTER DISCOVERED IRANIAN VESSEL IN DISTRESS; CURTS PROCEEDED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE |
| | 0810 VISUAL CONTACT WITH VESSEL |
| | 0850 RHIB MOTORED TO MEET MSV SHAHE AL HASAM #1205 |
| | 0900 RESCUE TEAM ABOARD; CREW APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. VESSEL'S CARGO 700 GOATS AND SHEEP, 23 PASSENGERS. PORT OF REGISTRY INDIA. LAST PORT SOMALIA EN ROUTE DUBAI. PROBLEM: CRACKED ENGINE HEAD. |

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| | 0930 DETERMINED THAT VESSEL CANNOT MAKE WAY THROUGH WATER. PROVIDED WATER FOR CREW. |
| | 1100 ALONGSIDE VESSEL TO PROVIDE FUEL AND OIL. MASTER RESQUESTS TOW TO NEAREST PORT. |
| | 1430 PLACED VESSEL UNDER TOW. |
| 13 FEB 94 | PROCEEDED TO RAS AL HADD, OMAN TO DELIVER MSV SHAHE AL HASAM. PLACED DISABLED VESSEL AT ANCHOR IN 95 FEET OF WATER AND TURNED OVER TO ROYAL OMANI POLICE AT 1300. |
| 14 FEB 94 | INDEPENDENT STEAMING EN ROUTE SINGAPORE. |
| 16 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. JOINED INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP. |
| 17 FEB 94 | CLASS CHARLIE FIRE IN NAVIGATION LIGHT PANEL. FIRE EXTINGUISHED AND RUNNING LIGHTS IMPROVISED UNTIL REPAIRS EFFECTED. |
| 18 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| 20 FEB 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS WHITE PLAINS. |
| 21 FEB 94 | APPROACHED STRAITS OF MALACCA. |
| | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| 24 FEB 94 | ARRIVED PIER FIVE SEMBAWANG, SINGAPORE. |
| 01 MAR 94 | UNDERWAY TO HONG KONG. |
| 03 MAR 94 | MANEUVERED VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO AVOID A CLOSE FISHING CONTACT IN GULF OF THAILAND. |
| 06 MAR 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| 07 MAR 94 | ARRIVED HONG KONG, MOORED TO BUOY A-50. |
| | LCDR B. D. QUERRY ASSUMED DUTIES AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER. |
| 08 MAR 94 | SHIFTED BERTHS TO PRINCE OF WALES BARRACK PIER, HONG KONG. |
| 12 MAR 94 | UNDERWAY TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 13 MAR 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. AIR POWER DEMONSTRATION WITH USS INDEPENDENCE, USS MOBILE BAY. |
| 17 MAR 94 | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 14 APR 94 | UNDERWAY TO ANCHORAGE FOR AMMO ONLOAD. |
| | RETURN INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 18 APR 94 | UNDERWAY TO OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 20 APR 94 | COMMENCED TORPEDO EVASION EXERCISE. |
| | SECURED FROM TORPEDO EVASION EXERCISE. |
| 21 APR 94 | ARRIVED WHITE BEACH, OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 22 APR 94 | UNDERWAY TO HONG KONG. |
| 25 APR 94 | ARRIVED INPORT TAMOR PIER, HONG KONG. |
| 29 APR 94 | UNDERWAY TO OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 02 MAY 94 | ARRIVED ARMY PIER, OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 03 MAY 94 | UNDERWAY YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| | PERFORMED BATTLE PROBLEM AND FIRE DRILL. |
| 06 MAY 94 | DEGAUSSING |
| | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 11 MAY 94 | CHANGED BERTHS, INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 13 MAY 94 | CDR MOODY PROPERLY RELIEVED BY CDR T. A. DELERY AS COMMANDING OFFICER, USS CURTS. |

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| 23 MAY 94 | UNDERWAY TO CHINHAE, KOREA TO PARTICIPATE IN RIMPAC 94. |
| | EMBARKED HSL-17. |
| 26 MAY 94 | ARRIVED CHINHAE, KOREA. |
| 28 MAY 94 | UNDERWAY TO PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, U.S.A. |
| 30 MAY 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| 05 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY AND VERTICAL REPLENISHMENTS WITH USS WHITE PLAINS. |
| 07 JUN 94 | FIVE SHORT BLASTS TO STARBOARD, POSSIBLE MAN OVERBOARD ABOARD USS WHITE PLAINS. |
| 08 JUN 94 | COMMANDER, ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON 51 VISITED. |
| 09 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS CIMARRON. |
| 12 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS CIMARRON. |
| 14 JUN 94 | ALTERED COURSE AND SPEED TO RENDER EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN FISHING VESSEL. |
| | CONDUCTED NIGHT RESCUE OF CIVILIAN USING RIGID HULL INFLATABLE BOAT (RHIB). |
| | HELICOPTERED PATIENT OFF CURTS TO MEDICAL FACILITIES. |
| 15 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS CIMARRON. |
| 16 JUN 94 | ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, U.S.A. |
| 22 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 27 JUN 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS CIMARRON. |
| 30 JUN 94 | CONDUCTED TOWING EXERCISE WITH USS RODNEY M. DAVIS. |
| 02 JUL 94 | CONDUCTED TEST OF CIWS. |
| 05 JUL 94 | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 06 JUL 94 | HELICOPTER DETACHMENT DEPARTED. |
| 12 JUL 94 | COMMENCED CART II |
| 19 JUL 94 | UNDERWAY TO CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA TO PARTICIPATE IN ASWEX 94-2K/SHAREM 107. |
| 22 JUL 94 | ARRIVED CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA. |
| 23 JUL 94 | REFUELING OPERATIONS. |
| 24 JUL 94 | UNDERWAY TO PUSAN, SOUTH KOREA. |
| 28 JUL 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN ERICSON. |
| 29 JUL 94 | NEAR COLLISION WITH KOREAN VESSEL MAYFLOWER, PASSED 100 YARDS OFF PORT SIDE. |
| 30 JUL 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN ERICSON. |
| 31 JUL 94 | CONDUCTED DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILL. |
| 02 AUG 94 | ARRIVED PUSAN, SOUTH KOREA. |
| 04 AUG 94 | UNDERWAY TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 06 AUG 94 | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 12 AUG 94 | LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT AUDIT. |
| 18 AUG 94 | UNDERWAY TO R-116 OPAREA TO PARTICIPATE IN MISSILEX 94-4. |
| 19 AUG 94 | ANCHORED OUTSIDE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 20 AUG 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS INDEPENDENCE. |
| 23 AUG 94 | ARRIVED BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| | UNDERWAY. |
| 24 AUG 94 | PERSONNEL TRANSFER WITH USS MCCLUSKEY, LT CHIN OF DESRON FIFTEEN. |
| 25 AUG 94 | MISSILE LAUNCHED. |
| | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |

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| 27 AUG 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS INDEPENDENCE. |
| | FIRED TORPEDO, PORT SIDE. |
| | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 15 SEP 94 | UNDERWAY TO SASEBO, JAPAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ASWEX 94-4JA/SHAREM 108. |
| | AMMO ONLOAD. |
| 17 SEP 94 | ARRIVED SASEBO, JAPAN. |
| 18 SEP 94 | REFUELED IN SASEBO, JAPAN. |
| 19 SEP 94 | UNDERWAY TO CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA. |
| 21 SEP 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH JDS SAGAMI. |
| 22 SEP 94 | TRACKED ACTIVE SONAR CONTACT. |
| 23 SEP 94 | MANEUVERED WITH JDS SETAGIRI. |
| 26 SEP 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS ROANOKE (AOE 7). |
| 28 SEP 94 | ARRIVED CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA. |
| 01 OCT 94 | COMMENCE TSTA I. |
| 03 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY TO MANILA, PHILLIPINES TO PARTICIPATE IN ASWEX 95-1US/1K AND COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR II INVASION OF LEYTE GULF. |
| 05 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| | MEDEVACED CREW MEMBER OF USS PUFFER. |
| 11 OCT 94 | ARRIVED OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 12 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY MANILA, PHILLIPINES. |
| 15 OCT 94 | ARRIVED MANILA, PHILLIPINES. |
| 17 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY TO LEYTE GULF, PHILLIPINES. |
| 19 OCT 94 | ANCHORED SAN PEDRO BAY, LEYTE GULF, PHILLIPINES. |
| 20 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 21 OCT 94 | UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. |
| 27 OCT 94 | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 30 OCT 94 | COMMENCED INSURV. |
| 01 NOV 94 | COMPLETED INSURV. |
| 09 DEC 94 | UNDERWAY TO OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 12 DEC 94 | ARRIVED OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| | UNDERWAY TO CONDUCT MISSILEX 95-1. |
| 14 DEC 94 | ARRIVED OKINAWA, JAPAN. |
| 15 DEC 94 | UNDERWAY TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |
| 17 DEC 94 | ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN. |

4. Narrative. The following is a month-by-month narrative of calendar year 1994.

a. January. CURTS greeted the year conducting boarding operations in support of the U.S. blockade on Iraqi trade.

b. February. After a brief inport period at Jebal Ali, United Arabs Emirate, CURTS began the journey home to Yokosuka, Japan. On 12 February 94, CURTS discovered a vessel in distress in the North Arabian Gulf. MSV SHAHE AL HASAM #1205, carrying 23 passengers and 700 assorted goats and sheep, requested a tow to the nearest port in order to effect repairs on a cracked engine head. CURTS provided food and water to the passengers and crew and delivered the ship to the Omani Royal Police at Ras Al Hadd, Oman. CURTS then proceeded to Sembawang, Singapore for five days of rest and liberty before continuing home.

c. March. CURTS got underway on 01 March 94 for Hong Kong. On 07 March 94, while moored to buoy A-50 in Hong King, LCDR B.D. Querry assumed the duties of Executive Officer. CURTS shifted to Prince of Wales Barrack Pier in Hong King the next day. CURTS continued toward Yokosuka on 12 March 94, participating in an air power demonstration with USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 69) on 13 March 94. CURTS arrived inport Yokosuka, Japan on 17 March for a month-long leave and upkeep period.

d. April. CURTS took on ammunition in mid-April and got underway to Okinawa and Hong Kong in order to execute a torpedo evasion exercise, battle problem, and degaussing. This was CDR M.L. Moody's final underway period with the crew of USS CURTS; even as the ship sailed back into Yokosuka on 03 May 94, preparations were underway for a change of command ceremony.

e. May. On 13 May 94, CDR T.A. Delery relieved CDR M.L. Moody as Commanding Officer of CURTS. Change of command ceremony program is attached (enclosures 1). Ten days later, the new captain took CURTS underway to Chinhae, South Korea, and ultimately, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a joint warfare exercise called RIMPAC 94. Units of the U.S. Seventh and Third Fleets, as well as units of several allies' navies participated in the exercise.

f. June. While en route to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, CURTS stopped to assist a commercial fishing vessel with an ill crew member on 14 June 94. After a night rescue in the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), the ship's corpsman determined that the patient was suffering from appendicitis and required immediate hospitalization. CURTS helicoptered the sick man to USS INDEPENDENCE for treatment and further transportation. CURTS turned west toward Japan once again on 22 June 94 after a week inport Pearl Harbor.

g. July. CURTS returned to Yokosuka on 05 July 94. HSL-51 helicopter detachment departed the ship the following day. CURTS set sail two weeks later in order to participate in ASWEX 94-2K/SHAREM 107, a joint exercise with South Korean naval units. After a brief visit to Chinhae, South Korea, CURTS returned to sea on 24 July 94. On 29 July 94, a South Korean merchant vessel nearly collided with CURTS, but the collision was narrowly averted thanks to the alacrity of CURTS' crew.

h. August. CURTS put into Pusan, South Korea on 02 August 94 for two days of upkeep and liberty before returning to Yokosuka on 06 August 94. After a very successful Logistics Management Audit, conducted by the Navy Supply Corps, CURTS went back to sea on 18 August 94 for MISSILEX 94-4. CURTS fired a missile and a torpedo during the exercise, conducted two underway replenishments with USS INDEPENDENCE, and returned to Yokosuka on 27 August 94.

i. September. CURTS departed Yokosuka on 15 September 94 in order to participate in ASWEX 94-4JA/SHAREM 108. During this exercise, CURTS conducted anti-submarine drills, and also ensured interoperability between U.S. and Japanese assets through an underway replenishment with JDS SAGAMI

and maneuvers with JDS SETAGIRI. CURTS arrived in Chinhae, South Korea and concluded the exercise on 28 September 94.

j. October. CURTS sailed south on 03 October 94 in order to participate in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the landing of U.S. forces at Leyte Gulf, Phillipines. CURTS anchored at San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, Phillipines on 17 October 94, and returned to Yokosuka on 27 October 94.

k. November. The delay of a Selected Restricted Availability left CURTS' schedule in turmoil in November 94. CURTS spent the month in a leave and upkeep status.

l. December. CURTS deployed one last time on 09 December 94 in support of MISSILEX 95-1. The ship assisted in the exercise as a launch and recovery platform for missile test drone, as well as carrying members of the U.S. Air Force responsible for coordinating Air Force assets. CURTS tied up in Yokosuka on 17 December 94, and after a short ammunition offload, spent the holiday period in a leave and upkeep status.

T. A. DELERY