



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DE WERT (FFG 45)

FLEET POST OFFICE

AA 34090-1499

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FROM: Commanding Officer, USS DE WERT (FFG 45)
TO: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH) Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20370

Subj: SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS DE WERT (FFG 45) Command History for Calender Year 1997

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

M. J. Streeter
M. J. Streeter

Copy to: Surface Warfare Officers School
Newport, RI

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: Nov 2005



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A. Command Composition and Organization

Mission: AAW and ASW with secondary mission areas in ASUW, ELW, and CCC.

Commander: CDR M. J. Streeter, USN

Homeport: Mayport, FL

Aircraft: Embarked one (1) SH-60B LAMPS MK III Helicopter from HSL-44

B. (C) Chronology of significant events:

01-05JAN/ HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP MAYPORT, FL
06-10JAN/ UNDERWAY JAXOA TAILORED SHIPS TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TSTA) II ENGINEERING TRAINING GROUP (ETG)
20-24JAN/ UNDERWAY JAXOA TSTA II ETG
24JAN/ ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION
27JAN-14FEB/ TSTA II COMBAT SYSTEMS TRAINING GROUP (CSTG) MAYPORT, FL
17FEB-21FEB/ UNDERWAY JAXOA TSTA II CSTG
22FEB-09MAR/ INPORT MAYPORT, FL
10-13MAR/ UNDERWAY JAXOA WOWU
15-18MAR/ PORT VISIT SAVANNAH, GA
16-17MAR/ COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT
17MAR/ DETACHMENT MARCHES IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
24-28MAR/ UNDERWAY JAXOA TYT
01-11APR/ COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW I/TARGET
21APR/ ENROUTE CHARLESTON, SC/RAST LANDING QUALIFICATIONS
HSL 44-DET TWO
22APR/ AMMO ONLOAD CHARLESTON, SC
23APR/ ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL/WAR AT SEA EXERCISE
24APR-04MAY/ INPORT MAYPORT, FL
30APR/ EMBARK HSL 44 DET TWO
05-28MAY/ INDEX PUERTO RICO OPAREA
07-08MAY/ PORT VISIT NAVAL STATION, ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR
29MAY-01JUL/ POM LEAVE AND UPKEEP MAYPORT, FL
28JUN/ EMBARK COAST GUARD SQUADRON FOUR TWO
01JUL/ EMBARK VC-6 DRONE DETACHMENT
02JUL/ DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE NSRR, PR/ UNITAS 38-97
05-11JUL/ PORT VISIT NSRR/PHASE ZERO UNITAS BEGINS
03JUL/ FIRST OF 28 DRONE LAUNCHES
15JUL/ PRACTICE RIGGING SHORE POWER TO USS SANDLANCE
15-17JUL/ PORT VISIT NSRR
19JUL/ REFUEL USS ZEPHYR AND USS SQUALL ASTERN
22-26JUL/ PORT VISIT PUERTO LA CRUZ, VE
02-06AUG/ PORT VISIT CARTAGENA, CO/COMREL PROJECT
09AUG/ TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
09-12AUG/ IPT RODMAN, PANAMA
15-17AUG/ PORT VISIT MALAGA, CO
21-24AUG/ PORT VISIT MANTA, EC/PROJECT HANDCLASP
26-30AUG/ PORT VISIT SALINAS, EC
31AUG-02SEP/ PORT VISIT PAITA, PE
06SEP/ UNREP WITH BAP MONTERO AND BAP VILLAVISENCIO
08-13SEP/ PORT VISIT CALLAO, PE
16-18SEP/ PORT VISIT IQUIQUE, CI
20SEP/ UNREP WITH AO ARAUCANO

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21-22SEP/ PORT VISIT PUERTO ALDEA, CI
24-27SEP/ PORT VISIT VALPARAISO, CI
27SEP/ UNREP WITH AO ARAUCANO
30SEP-01OCT/ PORT VISIT PUERTO MONTT, CI
02-05OCT/ TRANSIT STRAITS OF MAGELAN
05OCT/ PORT VISIT PUERTO WILLIAMS, CI
06-09OCT PORT VISIT USHUAIA, AR
12OCT/ UNREP WITH BNS GASTAO MOTTA
15-17OCT/ PORT VISIT PUERTO BELGRANO, AR
19-22OCT/ PORT VISIT BUENOS AIRES, AR
22-26OCT/ PORT VISIT MONTEVIDEO, UR
23OCT/ SECNAV VISIT
30OCT/ UNREP WITH BNS GASTAO MOTTA
02-06NOV/ PORT VISIT RIO DE JANEIRO, BR
09NOV/ UNREP WITH BNS MARATO
13-15NOV/ PORT VISIT RECIFE, BR
21NOV/ BSF NSRR/EMBARK ATG
22-24NOV/ MID CYCLE ASSESSMENT
25NOV/ ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL
26NOV-31DEC/ LEAVE AND STAND DOWN
17DEC/ SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

NARRATIVE:

DE WERT began 1997 in a leave and stand down period in Mayport, Florida which ended on 5 JAN 97. On 6 JAN, Engineering Training Group embarked for a Tailored Ship's Training Availability which was conducted underway in the Jacksonville Operating Areas (JAXOA) until 10 JAN. The next ten days were spent in Mayport for routine maintenance and final preparations for Engineering Certification which was completed underway from 20-24 JAN. The Propulsion Examining Board certified the Engineering Department citing only minor deficiencies. Shortly thereafter, Combat Systems Training Group began their scrutiny while in port Mayport on 27 JAN. From 17 FEB through 21 FEB, CSTG put Combat Systems through the paces while underway in JAXOA.

Upon completion of TSTA II, DE WERT took a short break from 22 FEB to 9 MAR for maintenance and upkeep prior to getting underway, from 10-13, MAR for a WOWU in JAXOA. Upon completion it was on to Savannah, Georgia to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. The ship arrived in Savannah 15 MAR firing the newly installed saluting battery as a test prior to its up-coming deployment. On 16 MAR, several members of the crew helped to refurbish the exterior of Ms. Alice Lane's home. The group, led by LCDR Robert Kallio, Executive Officer, spent two days on the project which received many accolades from the local press. Monday, 17 MAR found a small contingent of the crew "marching" in the St. Patrick's Day parade lead by CDR Matt

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Streeter, Commanding Officer. Escorting the CO in his red Cadillac convertible, provided by the local Navy League, were Ensigns Mike Weeldreyer and Andy Thomas dressed as leprechauns. They were a crowd favorite.

The ship returned to Mayport on 19 MAR and was underway again from 24-28 MAR for its Final Evaluation Problem and TYT. Upon return to homeport, DE WERT entered the first phase of a Combat Systems Readiness Review and TARGET Assessment from 1-11 APR, followed by an Intermediate Maintenance Availability until 20 APR. During the IMAV, number 3 Ship's Service Diesel Generator Rotor was removed cleaned and replaced by an outside contractor.

On 21 APR, DE WERT left Mayport enroute to Charleston, South Carolina to onload ammunition 22 APR. During the return transit on 23 APR, a War-at-Sea exercise was conducted with USAF fighters in the JAXOA. The ship was again in Mayport from 24 APR to 4 MAY for routine upkeep. On 30 APR, HSL 44 DET TWO embarked with one LAMPS MK III helicopter.

On 5 MAY, LCDR Robert Kallio was relieved by LCDR Sidney D. Kennedy as Executive Officer. Additionally, DE WERT got underway to participate in INDEX 2-97, during which the ship launched 3 SM1-MR missiles at towed air targets. The exercise lasted until 21 MAY with a port visit to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico 8-9 MAY. On 9 MAY, Rear Admiral Lyons, Commander, U. S. South Atlantic Force toured DE WERT. 18 MAY a tow and be towed exercise was conducted with USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974), and 19 MAY an underway replenishment was conducted with USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41). From 29 MAY through 1 JUL, the ship was in a pre-deployment leave and stand down period.

DE WERT departed Mayport on 2 JUL enroute to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in support of UNITAS 38-97. Embarked were Commander, Coast Guard Squadron 42 and staff, HSL 44 DET 2 with one LAMPS MK III helicopter, and a detachment from VC-6 with four drone launching systems. The third of July marked the first of 28 successful drone launches by VC-6 throughout the deployment. Two of the four drones used during UNITAS would be shot down during Anti-Air Warfare exercises.

UNITAS phase zero was officially kicked off at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads during a port visit from 5 to 11 JUL. Navies from five South American countries and the Netherlands participated in this phase. On 15 JUL, DE WERT anchored at NSRR and received USS SANDLANCE alongside to

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practice rigging shore power cables. Phase zero would set the pace for the rest of the deployment, many more evolutions would be conducted including astern refueling with USS SQUALL and USS ZEPHYR, an event which would take place several time throughout UNITAS.

DE WERT's first port call outside the United States was Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela from 22 to 26 JUL where the crew got their first taste of South American hospitality. Following Puerto La Cruz, the ship anchored at Cartagena, Columbia from 2 to 6 AUG where a small group of DE WERT sailors painted a school for mentally challenged children. On 9 AUG, DE WERT transited the Panama Canal, on board were 100 family and friends of service members stationed at Howard Air Force Base and the Naval Station at Rodman, Panama. Following the transit, the ship moored at the Naval Station until 12 AUG.

Next stop for the Task Force was the small Columbian naval base in Malaga 15-17 AUG. King Neptune, Ruler of the Raging Main visited DE WERT on 19 AUG to rid the ship of many slimy poly wogs. Following the festivities, a steel beach picnic was held on the flight deck in honor of the navies newest Shellbacks. After several more war games at sea, the ship arrived in Manta, Ecuador on 21 AUG, where CDR Streeter presented project handclasp materials to a local convent. Departing Manta on 24 AUG, the ship continued south to visit Salinas, Ecuador from 26-30 AUG.

A short trip from Salinas found the ship at anchor in Paita, Peru from 31 AUG to 2 SEP. Then it was underway for more exercises including a high line transfer with BAP MONTERO and BAP VILLAVISENCIO, of the Peruvian Navy on 9 SEP. DE WERT spent 8-13 SEP in Callao, Peru which is the port city of Peru's capitol, Lima. The crew discovered how much the South American people love soccer when Peru's national team won a big game. The entire city erupted in a celebration which caused much of the crew to return late from liberty. Fortunately, no one was hurt as a result of the over exuberant crowd.

Iquique, Chile was the next port-of-call from 16 to 18 SEP. While underway again, DE WERT conducted a replenishment at sea with AO ARAUCANO of the Chilean Navy. DE WERT then spent 21-22 SEP anchored in Puerto Aldea, Chile before heading south to Valparaiso, Chile from 24 to 27 SEP. On 27 SEP, the ship was received alongside AO ARAUCANO a second time, for refueling. From 30 SEP to 1 OCT, DE WERT anchored at Puerto Montt, Chile in preparation for her transit

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through the Straits of Magellan from 2 to 5 OCT. Much of the transit was spent at restricted maneuvering through the hazardous Chilean Inland Waterway. CWO2 Jordan King, who had been on DE WERT ten years previously as a second class Petty Officer, conned the ship past the spot where DE WERT had struck an unmarked rock while participating in UNITAS 28-87. On 5 OCT, DE WERT safely arrived in Puerto Williams, Chile to debark the two Chilean pilots who assisted during the transit through the Straits.

A short trip east and DE WERT anchored in the "Southern Most City in the World" Ushuaia, Argentina from 6-9 OCT. While in port, BMCS(SW) Jim Bartlett, BM1(SW) Rodney Smith and BM3 Jerico Stewart took the opportunity to reenlist. On 10 OCT, DE WERT began the trek north as the pace of underway operations had not diminished. 12 OCT the ship was received alongside BNS GASTAO MOTTA for refueling. 15-17 OCT, DE WERT visited Puerto Belgrano, Argentina, and then transited up the River Platte for a port visit in the Argentina capitol of Buenos Aires 19 to 22 OCT.

DE WERT then sailed back down the River Platte to stop in Montevideo, Uruguay from 22-26 OCT. Here, CDR Streeter presented Project Handclasp materials to a local orphanage. On 23 OCT, Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, Visited the Task Force and had supper with DE WERT's crew. on 27 OCT, DE WERT continued her push northward and on 30 OCT again refueled alongside BNS GASTAO MOTTA. From 2-6 NOV, the crew enjoyed the tropical port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After the final multinational exercise of UNITAS 38-97 off the coast of Brazil, DE WERT's last port call in South America was Recife, Brazil from 13 to 15 NOV.

On 21 NOV, DE WERT stopped briefly at NSRR for fuel and to embark members of Commander, Western Hemisphere Group and the Afloat Training Group for a Mid-Cycle Assessment while enroute to Mayport. On 25 NOV, DE WERT returned home to Mayport to friends and family waiting on the pier. From 26 NOV to 31 DEC the ship was in a post deployment, and holiday leave and stand down period. Sailor of the Year for 1997 was HT1(SW) Kevin Swem.

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