



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS HUE CITY (CG 66)  
FPO AA 34091-1186**

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w/ disk*

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**From:** Commanding Officer, USS HUE CITY (CG 66)  
**To:** Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

**Subj:** 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

**Encl:** (1) Command History  
(2) 3.5" Floppy Disk

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

*R. G. Hoffman, Jr.*  
R. G. HOFFMAN, JR.

USS HUE CITY CG 66  
COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001

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I. Command Composition and Organization:

USS HUE CITY (CG 66)  
FPO AA 34091-1186  
NAVAL STATION MAYPORT  
UIC: 21656

a. Command Mission Statement

- (1) The mission of HUE CITY is to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea in support of a carrier battle group or amphibious assault group. HUE CITY has been designed to defend against coordinated saturation attacks involving enemy surface ships, submarines, aircraft, and missiles. Additionally, HUE CITY is able to engage in offensive actions against the enemy through employment of long range anti-shipping missiles, and land attack missiles, and naval gunfire.
- (2) The twentieth of the Ticonderoga Class cruisers, USS HUE CITY is the first United States ship to bear this name and the only ship named after a battle of the Vietnam War.
- (3) At the heart of HUE CITY is the Aegis Weapons System, a significant advance in fleet air defense with the capability to counter all current and projected threats to the United States Navy's battle force. The Aegis Weapon System can rapidly fire and put in flight more missiles with greater accuracy than any other combat system.
- (4) The potency of the Aegis Weapons System was increased by the addition of Cooperative Engagement Capability in 1998. CEC brings revolutionary new air defense capability by distributing sensor and weapons data from existing systems to all other units and combining the information into a single common air picture. Thus, CEC enables the Vertical Launching System to be used against an enemy target that is being tracked by another CEC vessel.

b. Command Organization Structure:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) ISIC - Commander, Carrier Group Six | RADM Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN<br>RADM Steven J. Tomaszeski, USN      |
| (2) Commanding Officer -                | Captain Craig R. Knouse, USN<br>Captain Richard G. Hoffman, Jr.,<br>USN |
| (3) Executive Officer -                 | CDR Stephen C. Evans, USN<br>LCDR Mark A. Johnson, USN                  |
| (4) Chaplain -                          | LT Steven T. Orren, USN   |
| (5) Navigator -                         | LT(jg) Gary A. Harrington, USNR   |

- LT(jg) Ronald A. Hojonowski, USNR
- (6) Combat Systems Officer - LCDR David E. Ward, USN  
LT Hung Ba Le, USN
- (7) System Test Officer - CWO2 Timothy A. Rathburn, USN
- (8) Electronic Maintenance Officer - LT Matthew H. Schmitt, USN
- (9) Fire Control Officer - LT Javier Gonzalesocasio, USNR  
LT(jg) Christopher Harris, USNR
- (10) CF Division Officer - ENS Bernadette Pine, USNR
- (11) Operations Officer - LCDR Timothy J. Kott, USNR
- (12) Combat Information Center Officer - ENS Darrell L. Christensen, USNR
- (13) Electronic Warfare Officer - ENS Michael Escuirex, USNR  
ENS Whitney M. Booth, USNR
- (14) Communications Officer - ENS Ryan B. Ernst, USNR  
ENS Timothy Campo, USNR
- (15) Signal Warfare Officer - CWO2 Robert A. Praydis, USN  
CWO2 William R. Stocke, USN
- (16) Air Warfare Officer - LT(jg) Gina L. McCaine, USNR  
LT(jg) Christopher Harris, USNR
- (17) Training Officer - LT(jg) Gina L. McCaine, USNR  
LT (jg) Maria V. Navarro, USNR
- (18) Weapons Officer - LT Hung Ba Le, USN  
LT Douglas Sasse, USN
- (19) First Lieutenant - LT(jg) Thomas E. Frayne, USNR  
ENS Tamara L. Scaramozzi, USNR
- (20) Undersea Warfare Officer - ENS Kathryn N. Storm, USNR  
ENS Jenny A. Crain, USNR
- (21) Gunnery Officer - ENS Andrea L. Smith, USNR  
ENS Bernadette Pine, USNR
- (22) Strike Officer - LT(jg) Harry J. Brodeen, USNR  
ENS John Baggett, USNR
- (23) Chief Engineer - LCDR James A. Kirk, USN  
LCDR Brian D. Kirk, USN
- (24) Damage Control Assistant - LT(jg) Maria V. Navarro, USNR  
ENS Thomas Kolodski, USNR  
ENS Andrea L. Smith, USNR
- (25) Main Propulsion Assistant - LT Michael R. Strong, USN  
CWO2 Robert A. Gilbert, USN
- (26) Electrical Officer - LT(jg) Jessica E. Allmond, USNR  
ENS Tamara Scaramozzi, USNR  
ENS Jenny A. Crain, USNR
- (27) Engineering Training Officer - LT Dustin A. Demorest, USNR
- LT Stephen J. Ilteris, USN
- (28) Auxiliaries Officer - CWO2 Robert A. Gilbert, USN  
LT(jg) Ryan B. Ernst, USNR  
ENS Michael Escuriex, USNR
- (29) Supply Officer - LCDR Michael J. Gardella, USN
- (30) Disbursing Officer - LT(jg) Michael D. Winn, USNR  
LT(jg) Lynne M. Blackford, USNR
- (31) Food Service Officer - LT(jg) Lynne M. Blackford, USNR  
LT(jg) Michael D. Winn, USNR
- (32) Administration Officer - LT(jg) Jessica E. Allmond, USNR  
ENS Thomas Kolodzi, USNR
- (33) Command Master Chief - YNCM (SW/AW) Gary D. Rogers, USN  
CMDCM(SW) Mark Dubiel, USN

## II. Chronological Listing of Major Events

### JAN 01:

1-9 Holiday Leave & Upkeep  
1-31 SHIPALT CG47-590K P2 AFLOAT EQMT INSTALLATION  
9 MCPON visit  
10 CEC Operational Advisory Group Nr 10 (Norfolk)  
10-11 U/W JAXOA for Pre-Underway Demonstration Checks; ETT;  
TSTA  
SLAMEX 01-01  
11 JFKBATGRU COMM Conference  
12-15 IPT Mayport  
16-19 U/W JAXOA  
17 Underway Demonstration with N43  
18 HUE CITY's Change of Command  
SLAMEX 02-01  
19-31 IPT Mayport  
22-25 EW LTT  
SM ATG LTT  
22-26 Aegis/CEC Load Installation  
22 JFKBATGRU Link Seminar  
23 Air Defense Syndicate Meeting/Multi Tadil Conference  
24 CEC Training Readiness Review  
25-26 JFKBATGRU LINK-EX  
25 TECHEVAL Final CERT (Crystal City)  
26-28 Battle of Hue Memorial Weekend  
26 TECHEVAL MCP (Dahlgren)  
29-31 EW LTT  
CSMT  
29 MSI Brief  
Berth Shift  
29-31 JTIDS LTT  
30 Ammo Onload  
31 CS Program Onload  
Underwater Hull Cleaning

### FEB 01:

1-2 EW LTT  
1-4 IPT Mayport  
1 CEC TECHEVAL Pre-Sail Conference  
Underwater Hull Cleaning  
1-28 SHIPALT CG47-590K P2 AFLOAT EQMT INSTALLATION  
2 MCC Meeting - CEC/JFKBATGRU  
5-8 U/W ENR PROA  
5 CINCLANTFLT CEC Demonstration  
REXTORP Exercise  
7 TLAM EX  
8 SLAMEX 05-01  
9-19 U/W CEC TECHEVAL PROA  
9 RAS w/ USNS Leroy Grumman  
13 DLQs w/ HS-5  
14 RAS w/ USNS Leroy Grumman  
15 ENCOUNTEREX  
CODEL SIRACUSE VISIT  
16-23 Loss of Email and LAN capability due to computer  
casualty  
17 Black History Month Celebration

18 RAS w/ USNS Leroy Grumman  
20-21 U/W ENR Miami, FL  
22-25 Port Visit: Miami, FL  
26-27 U/W ENR VCOA  
28 U/W CEC TECHEVAL VCOA  
RAS W/ USS DETROIT  
SAGUNEX

MAR 01:

1-2 U/W CEC TECHEVAL VCOA  
3 U/W ENR MAYPORT FL  
4 INPT Mayport, FL  
12-16 ATG SUW/Harpoon LTT  
13 CEC LOS Removal  
15 SLAMEX  
16 Link Longlook  
GSCS Edward Cortes Retirement Ceremony  
19-23 ATG ASW LTT  
20 CEC OAG 10  
21 COMREL Project: Paint The Town  
23-31 SNFL; HUE CITY hosts HMS WESTMINSTER  
24 Baptism of Weston Avery Hall, son of SK2 (SW) Casey  
Hall  
26 CINCLANTFLT Fleet MCPON Visit  
26-29 PATT  
26-30 ICAS AIT  
26-31 FTC ASW LTT  
26-31 IMAV SIMA/SISCAL  
27 CFCP Shipcheck  
27-30 ATG STW LTT  
30 Class of 66 Leadership Award Ceremony  
Awardees: ENS Kathryn N. Storm, USNR  
SK1(SW) Mickey McDonald, USN

APR 01:

1 SNFL; HUE CITY hosts HMS WESTMINSTER  
1-6 ICAS AIT  
FTC ASW LTT  
1-12 IMAV SIMA/SISCAL  
3 Ammo Onload  
CCG6 I & W Meeting  
3-4 Enlisted Manning Conference  
5 JFKBATGRU Warfare Commander Conference  
6 HUE CITY's Potluck Dinner at Hanna Park  
9 OPEVAL SOE Brief  
Fast Cruise  
9-12 AWS Program Installation  
9-13 MK 86 GFCS ORDALT 16665  
11 CEC Pre-sail Conference  
12 CEC OTRR Meeting  
JTFEX 01-02 IPC Meeting (VA)  
13 CW02 Robert Praydis Retirement Ceremony  
17-30 U/W CEC OPEVAL PROA  
17 ULM-4 Range  
17-21 ATG DC LTT  
19 SLAMEX 15-01; Burial at Sea

20 Leapfrogs/Synthetic Lightline Transfer with USS THE  
SULLIVANS (CG 68)  
RAS w/ USNS JOHN LENTHALL

22 Burial At Sea  
ASWEX

23 SRBOC Firing  
DLQs w/ HS-15

24 FCPOA Dining-In

25 RAS w/ USNS JOHN LENTHALL  
SRBOC Firing

25-26 ASWEX w/ USS MEMPHIS

26 OT-1D Missile Firing Exercise (FU HUE)

27 OT-1E Missile Firing Exercise (FU HUE)  
SRBOC Firing

27-28 ASWEX w/ USS MEMPHIS

28 ASWEX Freeplay

30 CMEO Command Survey

MAY 01:

1-2 U/W CEC OPEVAL ENR NAVSTA MAYPORT

3-5 INPT Mayport, Fl

4 Wallops Range Safety Brief

5-12 U/W CEC OPEVAL VACAPES

5-12 ATG DC LTT

8 DLQs w/ HS-15

9 SRBOC Firing

10 OT-1I Missile Firing Event (FU HUE)

11 RAS w/ USS SEATTLE

11-12 TLAMEX-03

12 INPT NAVSTA MAYPORT

12-31 DFS for Portable Chlorine Injection System  
Installation on Nr. 3 and 4 A/C Plants

15 Safety Survey

18 Administrative Board for EMFA Martinez

21-25 Command PRT

22 Ammo Onload

29- IT-21 Installation

JUNE 01:

1-30 IT-21 Installation  
Captain's Cup Competiton

4-8 Explosive Safety Assist Visit  
SESI

4-6 CCG6 BGSPC TTGL/WCC

4-15 FTC ASW Team Trainer

12-24 Roving Sands Conference (Dahlgren)

19 AT/FP Conference

25-29 NSFS MTT

27 CMC Turnover

28 JFKBATGRU Warfare Commander Conference

30 Command Picnic

JULY 01:

1-27 IT-21 Installation

2 ETC Steven Scrambling's Commissioning Ceremony

2-6 CMTQ SUW LTT

2-27 IMAV SIMA

5-19 Flight Deck Resurfacing  
 10 Harpoon Handling LTT  
 12 GMC Ted Nelson's Retirement Ceremony  
 12-23 Cableway Inspection  
 16-20 Force Protection Conference  
 20 Community Relations Project - USO  
 23 Jacksonville Jaguar Visit  
 23-27 NSFS Team Qualification  
 AVTECH Assist  
 24 Helo LTT  
 25 Ammo Onload  
 30-31 Engineering LTT  
 Warfare Commanders Conference  
 AWS Program Installation  
 CAS Installation  
 Material Assessment Training  
 31 ICC Michael Caywer's Commissioning Ceremony

AUG 01:

1-3 Engineering LTT  
 Warfare Commanders Conference  
 1-31 MACHALT 485: LPAC Water Control on Nr. 1, 2, and 3  
 LPAC Systems  
 2 Fast Cruise  
 4 Dependents' Cruise  
 6 CMTQ  
 Computer Network Vulnerability Assessment  
 7-10 U/W TYT/TSTA/INSURV Rehearsal/MIDN Training  
 11-12 PVST Port Cananveral  
 13 ARR Mayport  
 21 U/W JAXOPA for INSURV Rehearsal  
 27-31 INSURV  
 28 U/W JAXOPA for INSURV UMI  
 31 HSL 48.10 Onload

SEP 01:

4 Ammo Onload (Harpoon)  
 5-7 U/W FEP Rehearsal/LTT/WOWU with HSL 48.10  
 7 JFKBATGRU C2X Presail Conference  
 10 CPO Pinning Ceremony  
 11-30 U/W FEP/C2X  
 11 U/W FEP JAX OPAREA  
 12 U/W Off Coast of VA for OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE  
 RAS w/ USS JOHN LENTHALL  
 13-19 U/W Storm Evasion/ASWPT  
 14 USS HUE CITY (CG 66) 10th Birthday  
 15 RAS w/ USS JOHN LENTHALL  
 16 Memorial Service for Victims of Sept 11 Terrorist  
 Attacks  
 18 RAS w/ USNS BIG HORN  
 20-30 U/W NPROA/SPROA JFKBATGRU C2X  
 20 SEPTAR FIREX  
 23 RAS W/ USS SEATTLE  
 24 Ship Self Radiated Noise Measurement Trials  
 25 TORPEX  
 27 NGFS Qualification  
 29 RAS W/ USS SEATTLE; SAMSLEX; Visit from RADM

Rutherford

OCT 01:

1-18 U/W C2X NPROA/SPROA  
1 BGSIT EMBARK  
2 RAS W/ USNS KANAWHA; E-5 Exam  
13 ITA; C2X Debrief; U/W ENR Cherry Point Operating Area  
for SINKEX  
13-17 C4ISR Checkout  
14 Burial at Sea  
15 TSSE; Warfare Commander's Summit (JFK)  
16 SINKEX w/ former USS GUAM  
17 RAS w/ USNS KANAWHA; U/W ENR MYPT  
18-31 INPT MYPT; HSL 48.10 Fly-off  
19 COMSECFLT Visit w/ VADM Dawson  
22-26 UMIDS Assist Visit; BFTT Installation; AVCERT MI  
Assist; NSIPS; FDHORN/Columnation; Battleforce  
Electronic Warfare Trainer Installation  
22-31 C5RA Phase I/SEMAT II  
IMAV/MACHALTS/VLS Hatch Repairs; Scullery Change-out;  
AT/FP Weapons Installation; TV-DTS Installation; FOSS  
MOD Installation  
23-24 WSN-7 Upgrade  
23-31 SHF Shipcheck  
25-27 MK 82 DIRECTOR SYSTEM ORDALT 20200  
26 ISAT II  
29-31 MACHALT 167-31011 QAWT/AT DOORS; HINGE UPGRADE HIGH  
TRAFFIC AREAS  
31 SHIPALT CG47-445K HELLFIRE ONLY AVORD SIAT

NOV 01:

1 SHIPALT CG47-445K HELLFIRE ONLY AVORD SIAT  
1-2 C5RA Phase I/SEMAT II; SHF Shipcheck; Scullery  
Change-out  
1-9 IMAV/MACHALTS/VLS Hatch Repairs; FOSS MOD  
Installation; TV-DTS Installation;  
AT/FP Weapons Installation; Sonar Dome Valve  
Replacement  
1-27 INPT MYPT  
2 Visit from RADM H. E. Ulrich, Commander, Task Force  
Excel  
5-9 Hull Cleaning; AVCERT; CIWS ORDALT; LMS11  
Installation  
5-6 Medical Readiness Assessment  
7-9 Air Defense Seminar (NAVSTA Mayport); SPS-73 S/C  
13 JTFEX FPC; CNO's Admiral Call onboard JKK  
13-15 NSIPS Installation  
13-20 CNVA PH II  
14-15 ACC  
14-16 AWS B/L 6.1.3.1 Installation  
14 TLAM Syndicate Meeting (NAVSTA Mayport)  
16 ISAT II  
19 C4I Fast Cruise  
19-21 MIO Fest  
20 FOTC Syndicate; Safety Standdown; JFK Pre-Sail  
Conference  
26 Communications Fast Cruise; C2F ATEX

27 XO Turnover  
28-30 U/W JAX OPAREA for JFKBATGRU Group Sail  
28 TACAN Certification; DLQs with HSL 48  
29 ASWEX; RAS w/ USNS Laramie; ADEX 1; Sea Turtle  
Exercise  
30 TRDF Calibration; SESEF Norfolk

DEC 01:

1 INPT Yorktown  
3-4 Yorktown Ammo Onload  
4 SURFLANT RADM Foley's visit  
4-5 U/W ENR Mayport  
4-6 EKMS Management Conference  
5 RAS w/ USNS Patuxent; PMS Standdown  
6 INPT Mayport; Link Symposium (Mayport)  
7 Ship's Christmas Party; RADM Antanitus of SPAWAR  
visit  
10- IMAV; TV/DTS Installation; Hull Cleaning; LMS  
Installation; Link 16 COI  
10-11 Supply Pre-Deployment Assist  
10-14 Dome Dive Gage Cal; C5RA Phase II; EC 98 AN/SQQ-89 MK  
116 MOD 7 BUILD 10/8E SOFTWARE  
13 Small Arms Safety Standdown  
17-31 HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP

## Summary of Ship Activities

USS HUE CITY (CG 66), the first United States ship to bear this name and the only ship named after a battle of the Vietnam War, is the twentieth in the TICONDEROGA Class of Aegis guided missile cruisers and the fourteenth to be built by Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, Mississippi. Her keel was laid on 20 February 1989. She was floated on 1 June 1990 and christened on 21 July 1991 by her sponsor, Mrs. Jo Ann Cheatham, the wife of Lieutenant General Earnest C. Cheatham, Jr., USMC (Ret.).

Following a year of pre-deployment preparations, HUE CITY sailed on 11 March 1993 for her maiden deployment to the Mediterranean Sea as Air Warfare Commander for the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT battle group. Principally operating in the Adriatic Sea, HUE CITY developed the air picture and transmitted it to command centers afloat and ashore. HUE CITY also monitored the safety of United Nations relief flights to Bosnia, ensuring Serbian aircraft did not violate no-fly zones, and enforced the maritime embargo in force against the former Yugoslavia. On 27 July 1993, Captain Clement H. Ward relieved Captain Thomas L. Eubanks as Commanding Officer, USS HUE CITY, in a ceremony held in Theole sur-Mer on the French Riviera. HUE CITY returned from deployment on 8 September 1993.

Early in 1994 HUE CITY completed her first Selected Restricted Availability, after which she sailed to the Caribbean for counter-narcotics operations. Before checking on-station, HUE CITY shot 105.06% points at the Vieques Naval Gunfire Range, and was subsequently awarded the Atlantic Fleet Gunnery Award for 1994. In April HUE CITY successfully completed her Logistics Management Inspection. While conducting refresher training near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in April HUE CITY was directed to serve as Destroyer Squadron 22 flagship in support of United Nations sanctions against Haiti. In June HUE CITY participated in the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) change of command in Pensacola, Florida. Afterwards, HUE CITY conducted a second set of counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean Sea. Pre-deployment training accelerated in August and October with the successful completion of Final Evaluation Period (FEP) training and

Operational Propulsion Examination (OPPE), respectively. In November, HUE CITY completed Composite Unit Training off of Puerto Rico, followed by a strong showing in Joint Task Force Exercise (95-1). Later that same year, HUE CITY sailed in support of the CNO's special LEAP project and provided sea-borne support in an attempt to track a ballistic missile trajectory - a feat not previously accomplished by an AEGIS cruiser. During 1994, HUE CITY was awarded the Navy's Community Service Award, the Chezek Award for highest naval gunfire score in the Atlantic Fleet, the Logistics Management Excellence Award (Blue E - first award), the Engineering & Survivability Excellence Award (Red E - first award), the Maritime Warfare Excellence Award (Black E - second award), the Command & Control Excellence Award (Green E - fourth award), and the Battle Efficiency (Battle 'E') Award.

HUE CITY sailed for her second deployment 22 March 1995 with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT battle group, again as Air Warfare Commander. HUE CITY took station in the Red Sea, where she provided air coverage and support to the Combat Air Patrols enforcing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. In May HUE CITY, along with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT, were ordered to the Adriatic Sea for 2 months to support national interests. After a brief visit to Cannes, France, HUE CITY returned to the Adriatic Sea as REDCROWN. Captain Theodore L. Kaye relieved Captain Clement H. Ward as Commanding Officer on 26 July 1995. HUE CITY returned home to Mayport from deployment in September of 1995 after completing an Intermediate Maintenance Availability and getting relieved by the MONTEREY in her deployment duties. Upon her return, HUE CITY was realigned from Carrier Group Eight to Carrier Group Two with USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). The year ended with the ship's second SRA. In 1995 HUE CITY earned the following awards: the Battle 'E' Award, a Navy Unit Commendation, the Southwest Asia Service medal, the second Sea Service Award, the second consecutive Community Service Award, and the NATO Medal.

1996 commenced with HUE CITY in the beginning of her Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). In March, HUE CITY performed an Operational Test Launch (OTL-190) of a Tomahawk Cruise Missile in the Gulf of Mexico. The trip concluded with a Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) qualification from the Vieques Operation Area. HUE CITY sailed for the Baltic Sea on 24 May 1996 to participate in operations involving forty-eight ships from thirteen nations. Upon arrival in

Germany, Commander Carrier Group Two, Rear Admiral Robert C. Williamson and his staff, embarked HUE CITY. The operations focused on tracking air, surface, and subsurface targets in a multinational task force. HUE CITY returned to homeport on 19 July 1996, where the remainder of the year was spent inport completing her inspections of the IDTC. During 1996 HUE CITY was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Community Service Award, the CNO's and Type Commander's Safety Awards, and the Battle 'E' Award.

HUE CITY completed COMPTUEX Phase II and Joint Task Force (97-2) in the spring of 1997 before setting sail for her third deployment. HUE CITY deployed on 29 April 1997 to the Mediterranean Sea as Air Warfare Commander for the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY battle group. HUE CITY participated in NATO exercise ILLES D'OR, Sixth Fleet's INVITEX 97, SHARK HUNT 97, and certified as REDCROWN, overseeing all air activity in the Adriatic Sea in support of operation DELIBERATE GUARD. On 5 July Captain Patrick T. Cassidy relieved Captain Theodore L. Kaye as Commanding Officer. HUE CITY hosted the honorable John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy, while underway in the Central Mediterranean. HUE CITY was relieved by USS CARNEY (DDG 64) and returned to Mayport on October 28. In December, HUE CITY began her Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) installation and TACINTEL II installation.

In the spring and summer of 1998, HUE CITY set sail to conduct operational testing and evaluation of the newly installed CEC equipment. In July, HUE CITY successfully qualified at the Vieques Air Warfare Testing Facility in her Naval Surface Fire Support warfare area. On 1 August HUE CITY changed from the operational control of COMCARGRU TWO to Commander, Western Hemisphere Group (COMWESTHEMGRU). In the same month HUE CITY completed her Engineering Certification and Propulsion Examining Board evaluation. From August 22-26 the entire Mayport Basin sortied for Hurricane "Bonnie." In December, HUE CITY hosted the Pearl Harbor Memorial ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, FL, conducted anti-submarine exercises, and participated in CEC testing. HUE CITY concluded 1998 with satisfactory completions of several ITDC inspections.

In 1999 HUE CITY sailed south for counter-drug operations in the Caribbean Sea. Later that year HUE CITY participated in Baltic Operations, a multinational sea exercise consisting of fifty-three vessels from twelve nations in the Western Baltic Sea. Numerous CEC

testing events were also performed to prove the feasibility of the new war fighting system.

The year 2000 began with the completion of a Selected Restricted Availability, Readiness For Sea Inspection and Sea Trials, Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Evaluation, the annual Battle of Hue Memorial weekend, and CEC Test Period Number 8. HUE CITY also set sail to conduct multinational exercises in South America while acting as the Flagship in UNITAS 2000 Caribbean phase. Upon HUE CITY's return from UNITAS 2000, she completed an Intermediate Maintenance Availability. HUE CITY set sail again for the Road to CEC OPEVAL U/W Testing Period Number 9 where she performed her first missile firing events since 1996. On July 4, HUE CITY performed duties as the Presidential Reviewing Platform for the International Naval Review (INR) 2000 in New York City. Following her trip to New York City, HUE CITY sailed to participate in Operation Sail (OPSAIL) 2000 in Boston, MA and Tall Ships OPSAIL in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Later that year, HUE CITY completed CEC Test Period Number 10, Supply Management Inspection, Engineering Initial Assessment (IA), Command Assessment Readiness Training II, and a final CEC Test Period with three live firing exercises. For 2000 HUE CITY earned the TYCOM Safety Award, Community Service Award, and the Battle Efficiency Award (3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive award).

## Summary of Activities for 2001

After returning from a holiday leave and upkeep period, HUÉ CITY began the year by successfully completing her Underway Demonstration with COMCARGRU SIX and a support team from CNSL N43. Just days later, HUÉ CITY welcomed her new Commanding Officer, Captain Richard G. Hoffman, Jr., while giving a fond farewell to her former Commanding Officer, Captain Craig R. Knouse. In late January, our ship honored the 33rd anniversary of the Battle of Hué with the annual Battle of Hué Memorial Weekend. This year's guest speaker Major General Ray Smith, USMC, (Ret.), who fought at Hué as Commanding Officer of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, gave an elegant tribute to his former soldiers for their bravery and determination. The event's second speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Tran, South Vietnamese Army (RET), who was a prisoner of war for thirteen years, gave thanks to the men and women who fought in Vietnam and presented flowers to his heroes from the Battle of Hué and to those who fight in its name.

In February, HUÉ CITY set sail for Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Technical Evaluation, which marked some of the final developmental testing of the CEC program. Joined by USS VICKSBURG (CG 69), USS CAPE ST GEORGE (CG 71), USS ANZIO (CG 68), USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV 67), USS WASP (LHD 1), USS CARNEY (DDG 64), and USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG 68), Phase I of CEC TECHEVAL consisted of several live drone tracking, a REXTORP exercise, and missile firing events. Our ship also participated in four highly complex Air Defense exercises that tested the capabilities of the CEC system and the ships' watchstanders. HUÉ CITY conducted six successful live missile firings against high speed, low altitude targets during Phase I. Dr. Hans Mark, former Secretary of the Air Force, was embarked during some of our final missile events to view the operations. In Phase II of CEC TECHEVAL, HUÉ CITY acted as data provider for the other ships in company as they conducted their drone tracking and missile firing exercises. The highlight of Phase II for HUÉ CITY was the successful demonstration of her air-gun capability by engaging a towed drone unit firing 24 rounds of 5-inch ammunition in three separate runs.

After returning from CEC Technical Evaluation in March, HUÉ CITY participated in the Standing Forces Naval Fleet by hosting HMS WESTMINSTER.

In mid April, HUÉ CITY set sail for CEC Operational Evaluation, the final underway period of CEC testing that marked the culmination of many years of hard work and three years of testing onboard HUÉ CITY. Again joined by USS VICKSBURG, USS CAPE ST GEORGE, USS ANZIO, USS JOHN F KENNEDY, USS WASP, USS CARNEY, AND USS THE SULLIVANS, Phase I consisted of Air Defense exercises, Leapfrog and DIVTAC maneuvering, and missile firing events (HUÉ CITY participated in 2 missile events). HUÉ CITY conducted her first lightline transfer with the USS THE SULLIVANS since the 1997 Mediterranean deployment during CEC OPEVAL. Additionally, numerous Anti-Submarine exercises were conducted with USS MEMPHIS (SSN 691) and some lucky HUÉ CITY Sailors participated in a crew exchange with members of the submarine for a few days while at sea. Phase II of CEC OPEVAL consisted of additional Air Defense exercises and missile firing events (HUÉ CITY participated in 1 missile events).

After returning to NAVSTA Mayport, HUÉ CITY conducted her Safety Survey while pierside for the summer for equipment changes and IDTC preparation. The most significant equipment change for HUÉ CITY was the IT21 Installation, a sophisticated communications upgrade. Along with IT21, the ship underwent an Intermediate Maintenance Availability and focused on preparations for INSURV. In June, HUÉ CITY welcomed a new Command Master Chief, CMDMC(SW) Mark Dubiel, and said goodbye to former CMC, YNMC(SW) Rogers. Additionally, HUÉ CITY completed her NSFS Team Qualification and Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification with flying colors.

After sitting pierside for three months during IT-21 Installation, the ship set sail again in August for her five year Inspection and Survey. Originally scheduled for October, HUÉ CITY stepped up its planning when the inspection date was moved forward by two months. After five days at sea rehearsing for INSURV and a short visit to Port Canaveral, the ship was prepared to face the Board of INSURV. HUÉ CITY earned a grade of outstanding on the inspection, which was noted by the Board as being one of the most prepared inspections to date for the Atlantic Fleet!

Early on September 11, HUÉ CITY got underway for her Final Evaluation Period (FEP). The morning's drills and evolutions started out well, but HUE CITY's success was soon overshadowed by the news of terrorist attacks on American soil. HUÉ CITY quickly shifted gears and

headed north in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE, providing air defense off the coast of Virginia. After conducting intensive surveillance operations for NOBLE EAGLE, HUE CITY steamed south to begin Composite Training Unit Exercises (COMPTUEX) with the John F. Kennedy Battle Group. The exercises varied from anti-submarine proficiency training, Maritime Interdiction Operations, air defense evolutions, communications testing and electronic warfare drills. During the first portion of COMPTUEX, HUE CITY hosted USSOUTHCOM and COMCARGRU 4, who each addressed the crew regarding our continuing mission and the importance of training for our upcoming deployment. Meanwhile, as the various scenarios increased in complexity for the battle group, HUE CITY stepped up her level of intensity with three missile firings against high-speed, inbound targets. Additionally, HUE CITY performed two over-the-side torpedo firings and the air detachment HSL-48's Venom performed one torpedo firing in conjunction with a simulated enemy submarine attack. The strike team onboard also had multiple opportunities to practice tomahawk mission planning and launches during their STOMP exercises. The finale of COMPTUEX consisted of a three-day "battle" for the JFKBATGRP against enemy surface and air forces. Upon the completion of COMPTUEX, HUE CITY again headed north to participate in a Sink Exercise (SINKEX) with the former USS GUAM.

Upon completion of the SINKEX, HUE CITY headed home to complete an Intermediate Maintenance Availability, C5RA Phase I, and SEMAT II. HUE CITY continued preparations for her upcoming deployment by setting sail with the JFK Battle Group for Group Sail in late November. Group Sail consisted of a variety of communications tests and certifications as well as Air Defense and Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercises. With the completion of the two-day event, HUE CITY headed north for Yorktown, Virginia, to begin her ammunition onload. Towards the end of HUE CITY's time in Yorktown, the crew received a special visit from RADM Foley, Commander, Surface Forces Atlantic. HUE CITY Sailors returned to homeport to continue the preparations required for six months at sea and began a maintenance and upkeep period before the holiday season.

In the year 2001 HUE CITY was awarded with the Southeast Region Project Good Neighbor Community Service Award, and CINCLANT Retention Honor Roll for 3rd QTR FY 01.