

USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)

SHIP'S HISTORY 1987

DATE	EVENT
13 FEB	USS MOBILE BAY COMMISSIONS WITHOUT CEREMONY AT INGALLS SHIPYARD PASCAGOULA, MS. CAPT F.R. WHALEN ASSUMES COMMAND
16 FEB	MOBILE BAY DEPARTS PASCAGOULA AND ARRIVES MOBILE, ALA. STATE DOCKS IN PREPARATION FOR ACTUAL COMMISSIONING CEREMONY.
21 FEB	COMMISSIONING CEREMONY. CONTINUE PORT VISIT MOBILE.
05 MAR	DEPART MOBILE ENROUTE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA FOR SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING.
08 MAR	ARRIVE GUANTANAMO.
26-27 MAR	OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION.
30 MAR	DEPART GUANTANAMO ENROUTE FT. LAUDERDALE FL.
02 APR	ARRIVE FT. LAUDERDALE (PORT EVERGLADES) FOR PORT VISIT.
06 APR	DEPART FT. LAUDERDALE ENROUTE WEAPON STATION CHARLESTON S.C.
07 APR	ARRIVE WEAPON STATION CHARLESTON, S.C.
07-15 APR	WEAPONS ONLOAD IN SUPPORT OF SHOCK TRIALS.
16 APR	DEPART CHARLESTON ENROUTE MAYPORT FL.
17 APR	ARRIVE MAYPORT FL. INPORT FOR PRE-SHOCK PREPARATIONS
18 APR-13 MAY	
14 MAY	DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE PORT CANAVERAL, FL.
14-18 MAY	AT SEA TRAINING FOR SHOCK TRIALS.
18 MAY	ARRIVE PORT CANAVERAL, FL.
20 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT ONE. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
27 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.

SHOT TWO UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO MALFUNCTIONING DETONATOR.

29 MAY UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.  
SHOT TWO UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO ASSIST SHIP CASUALTY.

01 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.  
SUCCESSFUL.

06 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SHOT THREE. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.

11 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SHOT FOUR. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.

11-15 JUN INPORT PORT CANAVERAL FOR SHOCK WEAPON OFFLOAD.

16 JUN DEPART PORT CANAVERAL ENROUTE MAYPORT FL.

17-23 JUN INPORT MAYPORT FL.

23 JUN DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE PASCAGOULA, MS

26 JUN ARRIVE PASCAGOULA,MS.

26 JUN BEGIN POST-SHOCK AVAILABILITY (26 JUN-27 JUL).

27 JUL DEPART PASCAGOULA ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.

29 JUL BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL MAYPORT, FL.

29 JUL DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA

31 JUL ARRIVE NORFOLK NAVAL STATION FOR DEPERMING TREATMENTS

03 AUG TRANSIT TO ELIZABETH RIVER DEPERMING CRIB

04 AUG UNDERGO DEPERMING

05 AUG RETURN TO NORFOLK NAVAL STATION

06 AUG DEPART NORFOLK ENROUTE US NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

06 AUG ARRIVE ANNAPOLIS ANCHORAGE.

06-10 AUG PORT VISIT US NAVAL ACADEMY IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
ANNUAL PARENTS WEEKEND.

10 AUG DEPART ANNAPOLIS ENROUTE WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON, SC.

12 AUG ARRIVE WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON. ONLOAD COMBAT SYSTEMS  
SHIP QUALIFICATIONS TRIALS (CSSQT) WEAPONS.

14 AUG DEPART CHARLESTON ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.  
15 AUG ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL.  
15 AUG COMMENCE DOCKSIDE CSSQT PREPS.  
08 SEP DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE ATLANTIC UNDERSEA TEST AND  
EVALUATION CENTER (AUTEC), ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS.  
09 SEP ARRIVE VICINITY AUTEC. COMMENCE ANTISUBMARINE PORTION  
OF CSSQT.  
12 SEP DEPART AUTEC ENROUTE ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS TEST  
FACILITY (AFWTF), ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO.  
14 SEP BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR  
15 SEP DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE VIEQUES ISLAND FOR  
NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT (NGFS) QUALIFICATIONS.  
17 SEP COMPLETE NGFS QUALS. TRANSIT TO ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR.  
18 SEP ARRIVE ROOSEVELT ROADS FOR FUEL, STORES ONLOAD.  
21 SEP DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE MISSILE FIRING RANGE.  
21 SEP COMMENCE LIVE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE FIRINGS.  
24 SEP COMPLETE LIVE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE FIRINGS.  
25 SEP ANCHOR ST. THOMAS FOR PORT VISIT.  
28 SEP DEPART ST THOMAS ENROUTE ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR.  
29 SEP ARRIVE ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR FOR FUEL ONLOAD.  
30 SEP DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE NASSAU, BAHAMAS.  
02 OCT ARRIVE NASSAU, BAHAMAS FOR PORT VISIT.  
06 OCT DEPART NASSAU ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.  
08 OCT ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL.  
08--26 OCT INPORT MAYPORT FOR FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT)  
PREPARATIONS.  
26 OCT DEPART MAYPORT FOR TRAINING EXERCISES VICINITY  
JACKSONVILLE OPERATION AREA (JAXOA).

30 OCT RETURN MAYPORT, FL. CONTINUE FCT PREPS.

18 NOV DEPART MAYPORT FOR FCT REHEARSAL JAXOA

19 NOV RETURN TO MAYPORT TO EMBARK DEPENDENTS. DEPART  
MAYPORT FOR DEPENDENTS CRUISE. RETURN TO PORT THAT  
AFTERNOON. CONTINUE FCT PREPS.

01 DEC DEPART MAYPORT FOR FCT. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.

02 DEC INPORT MAYPORT TO COMPLETE FCT.

16 DEC COMMENCE HOLIDAY LEAVE AND STANDDOWN PERIOD THROUGH  
REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1987.

31 DEC MOBILE BAY WINS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF US ATLANTIC FLEET  
(CINCLANTFLT) GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN PERSONNEL RETENTION FOR 1987.

USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)  
SHIP'S HISTORY NARRATIVE

1. INTRODUCTION.

USS MOBILE BAY'S EMPLOYMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987 CAN BE DIVIDED IN TO SEVEN DISTINCT MAJOR EVOLUTIONS:

- COMMISSIONING
- SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING AND ACCELERATED OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION (OPPE) CERT.
- SHOCK TRIALS
- POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY
- DEPERMING
- COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT)
- FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT)

2. THE FOLLOWING NARRATIVE WILL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN EACH OF THESE SEVEN EVOLUTIONS:

A. COMMISSIONING:

THE COMMISSIONING OF USS MOBILE BAY TOOK PLACE IN MOBILE ALABAMA ON 21 FEB. OVER 6000 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO WITNESS FORMER SENATOR AND REAR ADMIRAL JEREMIAH DENTON AND COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN FRANK RICHARD WHALEN BRING THIS SHIP TO LIFE. CAPTAIN WHALEN ASSUMED COMMAND AND REPORTED FOR DUTY TO REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL P. KALLERES, COMMANDER CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP TWELVE (CCDG-12). MOBILE BAY'S HOMEPORT IS MAYPORT, FLORIDA.

B. SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING (REFTRA):

REFTRA COMMENCED ON 08 MARCH AND ENTAILED A RIGOROUS THREE WEEK SCHEDULE AT FLEET TRAINING CENTER (FTC), GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA (GTMO). THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF THIS PARTICULAR REFTRA WAS TO TRAIN MOBILE BAY CREW MEMBERS IN THE PROPULSION AND AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT FUNDAMENTALS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPENDING SHOCK TRIALS. MOBILE BAY SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE OPPE CERTIFICATION JUST THREE WEEKS AFTER COMMISSIONING; AN ACCOMPLISHMENT NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED BY A NAVY VESSEL.

C. SHOCK TRIALS:

DESIGNED TO TEST THE COMBAT SURVIVABILITY OF AN AEGIS CLASS CRUISER EQUIPPED WITH THE VERTICAL LAUNCH MISSILE SYSTEM (VLS), TOMAHAWK WEAPONS SYSTEM (TWS), AND THE RECOVERY, ASSIST, SECURING, AND TRAVERSAL (RAST) SYSTEM, SHOCK TRIALS SUBJECTED THE SHIP TO A SERIES OF FOUR LARGE DETONATIONS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE. EACH DETONATION TOOK PLACE OFF THE COAST OF CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, ONE A WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS. WITH EACH DETONATION MOVING PROGRESSIVELY CLOSER TO THE SHIP (AND HENCE PROVIDING A STRONGER SHOCK FACTOR), SHIP'S DESIGN ENGINEERS, NAVAL ARCHITECTS, AND SHIP'S COMPANY WERE GIVEN AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT HOW THEIR SHIP WILL RESPOND IN A COMBAT "NEAR MISS" EXPLOSION CLOSE ABOARD FROM AN ANTISHIP CRUISE MISSILE.

D. POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY:

IN POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY, INGALLS SHIPYARD IN PASCAGOULA, MS REPAIRED ALL DAMAGE FROM THE SHIP'S SHOCK TRIALS. WHILE THE DAMAGE TO THE SHIP WAS QUITE MINIMAL AND LESS THAN EXPECTED,

THE AVAILABILITY, ALREADY FUNDED AS PART OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, CALLED FOR A TWO WEEK DRYDOCKING FOLLOWED BY A TWO WEEK WATER-BORNE TEST AND EVALUATION PERIOD TO ENSURE THAT THE SHIP WAS RETURNED TO SERVICE IN PRE-SHOCK CONDITION.

E. DEPERMING:

DEPERMING IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH A SHIP'S MAGNETIC SIGNATURE IS REDUCED TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. THE DEPERMING FACILITY, CALLED A "CRIB" IS LOCATED IN NORFOLK VIRGINIA IN THE ELIZABETH RIVER. THE SHIP PULLS IN TO THIS CRIB, MOORS, AND THEN IS COMPLETELY WRAPPED IN HEAVY COPPER CABLES. THESE HEAVY GAUGE CABLES, WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY 2.5 LBS PER FOOT, ARE SPACED ABOUT TEN FEET APART ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE SHIP AND COMPLETELY SURROUND THE SHIP'S HULL AND SUPERSTRUCTURE. THE DEPERMING FACILITY THEN PULSES APPROXIMATELY 100000 AMPERES OF CURRENT THROUGH THESE CABLES CREATING A LARGE MAGNETIC FIELD. THIS FIELD SERVES TO ALIGN THE FERROUS MOLECULES IN THE SHIP'S STEEL ALONG A SINGLE AXIS THEREBY REDUCING THE MAGNETIC SIGNATURE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SIGNATURE REDUCTION IS TO REDUCE THE SHIP'S VULNERABILITY TO MAGNETICALLY TRIGGERED MINES.

F. COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT):

CSSQT IS THE MAJOR WEAPONS TESTING PHASE IN A NEW CONSTRUCTION SHIP'S LIFE. MOBILE BAY FIRED HER 5" GUNS, LAUNCHED TORPEDOES, ENGAGED TOWED DRONE TARGETS WITH THE CLOSE-IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS (CIWS), AND FIRED SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES AT UNMANNED TARGET DRONES FLYING

REAL WORLD MISSILE THREAT PROFILES. ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL RESULTS ARE CLASSIFIED, THE AEGIS WEAPONS SYSTEM PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE CSSOT, WITH THE HIGHLIGHT BEING NINE PERFECT DRONE KILLS OUT OF NINE PRESENTATIONS IN THE MISSILE FIRING PHASE.

3. FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT)

THE LAST IN A SERIES OF MAJOR EVENTS IN 1987, FCT REPRESENTED THE END OF THE CONTRACTOR'S WARRANTY PERIOD ON THE NEW SHIP. CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY (INSURV), FCT WAS AN IN-DEPTH MICROSCOPIC LOOK AT EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON MOBILE BAY. ONCE THE BOARD WAS SATISFIED WITH BOTH THE CONDITION OF THE EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY ONBOARD AND WITH THE CREW'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THAT EQUIPMENT, THEY THEN CLOSED THE CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZED THE FINAL PAYMENT BE MADE TO THE BUILDER. THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS MADE ON 04 DEC 1987.

3. THIS CONCLUDES USS MOBILE BAY'S SHIP HISTORY FOR CY 87.

THE POINT OF CONTACT IS LT. WILLIAM S. SPANN -