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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS McCLUSKY (FFG 41)
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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DECLASSIFIED

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MCCLUSKY (FFG-41)
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History 1990

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

D. W. Prather
D. W. PRATHER

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SHIP'S HISTORY 1990

1. (U) Command composition and organization.

a. USS McCLUSKY (FFG-41), a guided missile frigate of the Oliver Hazard Perry class, is named after Rear Admiral Wade McClusky, a hero of the battle of Midway. Her primary mission is general escort duty of convoys, amphibious task forces, underway replenishment groups, battleships and carrier battle groups defending high value units against subsurface, surface and low level air threats. With her embarked air wing, two SH-60B helicopters, the LAMPS MK III team provides unprecedented capabilities in over-the-horizon surface detection, surveillance, and engagement of hostile warships and submarines.

b. The McClusky is a member of Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, the "Black Cat" squadron commanded by Captain Saulnier.

c. Commander Gregory L. Hansen served as the ship's commanding officer until 10 April 1990. A San Antonio, Texas native, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1969.

Commander Hansen's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (with combat "V"), the Navy Commendation Medal, The Combat Action Ribbon, and various unit, campaign and service ribbons.

Commander David W. Prather relieved Commander Gregory L. Hansen on 10 April 1990.

A native of Buckner, KY, Commander Prather graduated from the University of Louisville and was commissioned at Officer Candidate School, Newport RI in April 1971. He served his first tours as CIC Officer in USS Vogelgesang (DD 862) and USS Josephus Daniels (CG 27). Upon graduation from Department Head School in December 1975, he completed two Department Head tours as Commissioning Operations Officer in USS Peterson (DD 969) and Chief Engineer in USS Fairfax County (LST 1193). During these tours, he participated in numerous Caribbean special operations and Mediterranean deployments.

Following a tour in Washington, DC in the Officer Assignment Branch, he was assigned Executive Officer in USS Crommelin (FFG 37) in June 1984. During his tour, Crommelin completed a deployment to the Western Pacific and North Arabian Sea which included the first operational deployment of Navy's new LAMPS MK III Helicopter system.

In 1986, Commander Prather joined the Directing Staff of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, UK as part of the U.S. Navy Personnel Exchange Program. While at Greenwich, he taught Maritime and Geo-political Strategy to NATO and Non-NATO midgrade officers and civilians, initiated and edited the College's annual Maritime Strategy publication and conducted a major maritime conference on NATO's response to change in the 90's.

Commander Prather is married to the former Donna J. Allen of Louisville, KY. They have two children, Christine and Ryan. He possesses a Masters of Science Degree in Business Administration from Boston University. Among his decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

d. McCLUSKY's homeport and permanent duty station is San Diego, California.

e. USS McClusky deployed with HSL-45 det 12, an antisubmarine helicopter squadron detachment consisting of LAMPS MK III SH-60B's from 1 January to 15 March 1990.

2. (C) CHRONOLOGY

01 - 03 Jan	Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
04 - 09 Jan	Patrol Northern Persian Gulf
10 Jan	Brief Stop for Fuel Kuwait
11 - 12 Jan	Patrol Northern Persian Gulf
13 - 19 Jan	Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
20 - 23 Jan	Patrol Northern Persian Gulf
24 - 25 Jan	Inport Mina Sulman
26 - 29 Jan	Transit Straits of Hormuz
30 Jan	Chop 7th FLT
01 Feb	Brief Stop for Fuel Colombo, Sri Lanka
02 - 03 Feb	Enroute Phuket, Thailand
04 - 08 Feb	Visit Phuket, Thailand
09 Feb	Transit Straits of Malacca
10 - 11 Feb	Visit Singapore
12 - 13 Feb	Enroute Subic Bay, R.P.
14 - 18 Feb	Inport Subic Bay, R.P.
19 Feb	Enroute Hong Kong
20 - 26 Feb	Visit Hong Kong
27 Feb - 07 Mar	Transit Pacific Ocean
03 Mar	Chop 3rd FLT
08 - 10 Mar	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hi
11 - 14 Mar	Enroute San Diego, Ca
15 Mar	Arrive San Diego, Ca
16 Mar - 12 Apr	Inport San Diego, Ca
10 Apr	Change of Command
13 - 25 Apr	Law Enforcement Ops

26 - 30 Apr	Visit Eureka, Ca
01 - 04 May	Enroute San Diego, Ca
02 May	Shock Test with USS Chancellorsville (CG 62)
05 May - 10 Jun	Inport San Diego, Ca
09 - 10 May	Supply Management Assessment
11 - 15 Jun	All Comers at Sea Training
16 Jun - 16 Jul	Inport San Diego, Ca
19 - 20 Jun	Aviation Readiness Evaluation
13 Jul	Harpoon Recertification
16 - 20 Jul	INSURV
21 Jul - 12 Aug	Inport San Diego, Ca
30 Jul - 03 Aug	Immediate Superior in Command Engineering Readiness Evaluation
31 Jul - 04 Aug	Host Ship for Soviet Ship Visit
13 - 17 Aug	Combat Systems Assessment/ Training Readiness Evaluation
18 Aug - 03 Sep	Inport San Diego, Ca
04 - 22 Sep	Intermediate Refresher Training
23 Sep - 25 Sep	Inport San Diego, Ca
26 Sep - 03 Oct	Law Enforcement Ops
04 - 08 Oct	Visit Victoria, B.C.
09 - 12 Oct	Enroute San Diego, Ca
13 - 14 Oct	Inport San Diego, Ca
15 Oct - 04 Dec	Ship Repair Availability Campbell Shipyard, San Diego, CA
05 Dec	Underway for Sea Trials
06 - 31 Dec	Inport San Diego, Ca
18 - 19 Oct	Communications Security Material System Inspection
13 Dec	Medical Readiness Evaluation

3. (U) NARRATIVE

a. McClusky began the new year inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain during the second half of a Middle East Force Deployment. On Jan 3, she was underway for a Northern Persian Gulf patrol, which included a refueling stop at anchorage in Kuwait on Jan 10. Upon returning to Mina Sulman on Jan 13 for the final time, the mast-mounted sight was removed. After a short patrol of Northern Persian Gulf, McClusky headed south towards the Straits of Hormuz, completing a successful three month assignment to the Middle East Force.

b. On Jan 30, McClusky anchored alongside USS Rodney M. Davis in Fujayrah for a Middle East Force turnover before meeting up with the USS Gary and transiting to the Western Pacific. A refueling visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka on Feb 1 proved to be an excellent stop, providing all hands the opportunity to purchase many souvenirs. Even though the stop wasn't long enough to have liberty, many vendors sold their goods at the pier.

c. McClusky arrived in Phuket, Thailand on Feb 4 for a well deserved four days of outstanding liberty. Departing on Feb 8, McClusky transited the Straits of Malacca enroute Singapore. The Singapore visit allowed time to refuel and provide an evening of liberty.

d. McClusky's next port was Subic Bay, R.P., which provided the opportunity for a short maintenance availability. Full work days did not stifle the crew's enthusiasm for enjoying the local entertainment. The ship had a party at one of the local establishments. A good time was certainly had by all.

e. McClusky departed Subic Bay on Feb 18 bound for Hong Kong where the crew spent a marvelous five days of liberty. Crew members came away with many gifts, despite the inclement weather. Most of the crew members were accustomed to the calm waters of the Persian Gulf and were unprepared for the rough seas encountered after departing Hong Kong.

f. After inchooping Third Fleet on Mar 3, McClusky arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and embarked her Tiger Cruise participants. Many activities kept the Tigers quite busy throughout the transit to San Diego. It was a rewarding experience for the guests and crew as well.

g. McClusky arrived in San Diego on Mar 15 and was treated to a wonderful homecoming ceremony sponsored by the dependents. A leave and upkeep period followed, lasting until Apr 13.

h. On Apr 10 CDR Gregory L. Hanson was relieved of command by CDR David W. Prather during ceremonies at the San Diego Naval Station. The guest speaker was RADM Strasser, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Three.

i. On Apr 13, McClusky was once again underway and enroute to the tip of Baja, Mexico for three weeks of law enforcement operations teamed with HSL-45 DET 8A. Under the command of Joint Task Force Five, McClusky played a key role in the nation's war on drugs and was instrumental in tracking air and surface contacts of interest for the Coast Guard. Five vessels were boarded and none were seized. Upon completion of the Law Enforcement Operations the crew was rewarded with a port visit to Eureka, Ca. The small town of Eureka proved to be an

excellent liberty port. Scheduled activities included ship tours, a Veterans of Foreign War party, and a rhododendron festival and parade. On the return transit, McClusky and embarked LAMPS III participated in a torpedo exercise on the SCORE range receiving a grade of excellent from range observers. McClusky also served as an escort for the USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) while she conducted shock testing.

j. The inport time in May and June was spent training and preparing for upcoming inspections. McClusky achieved outstanding results during the Supply Management Assessment in May for all areas, with an average grade of excellent. A week of All-Comers At sea Training (ACAT), including a missile shoot, was completed during June. Following the completion of ACAT, McClusky enthusiastically participated in READIEX 90-2A as an orange unit harassing the USS Missouri Battleship Battle Group. McClusky also joined the blue forces of READIEX and dominated a major battle group ASW exercise, holding contact on the submarine for 95% of the exercise and assuming duties as the alternate ASW commander while simultaneously controlling P-3 and LAMPS III assets. McClusky started her inspection cycle by passing an Aviation Readiness Evaluation on June 19 and 20. The aviation inspection team reported zero discrepancies. INSURV was completed July 16 to 20, followed by an Immediate Superior in Command Engineering Readiness evaluation Jul 30 to Aug 3.

k. In June and July, McClusky passed on its high level of professionalism to prospective naval officers by hosting two sessions of CORTRAMID. McClusky also provided orientation and training for numerous First and Third class Midshipmen during training cruises throughout the summer. McClusky's Recertification of Harpoon Weapon Systems was completed satisfactorily on Jul 13.

l. From Aug 31 to Sep 4, McClusky had the privilege of participating in a very historic event by hosting the Soviet oiler Argun, visiting San Diego with two Soviet combatants. The arrival of the Admiral Vinogradov, Boyevoy, and Argun in San Diego on Jul 31 was followed by a ceremony with Adm Larson, Mayor O'Connor, and Adm Khvatov (Commander of Soviet Pacific Fleet) as speakers. The visit was a complete success and helped to build a solid foundation for a new basis of understanding between our two navies in these changing times. A Gator beach picnic, Admiral Kidd Club Reception, and tours of local naval facilities and tourist attractions were some of the more notable events in which McClusky crew members participated. The hard work and attention to detail that McClusky sailors showed in preparing the ship for this visit was evident to all who toured.

m. A Combat Systems Assessment and Training Readiness Evaluation were completed during the week of 13 Aug. McClusky earned an overall grade of average in all areas during Combat Systems Assessment.

n. McClusky completed a three week Intermediate Refresher Training from Sep 4 to 22 and was evaluated as ready for advanced training by Fleet Training Group San Diego. Highlights of the REFTRA include a successful mooring to a buoy, astern underway replenishment, and a major conflagration exercise. REFTRA also provided over 72 hours of dedicated ASW, culminating with successful MK-46 firings on the SCORE range. McClusky's grade for setting YOKE and ZEBRA was the highest achieved in the squadron to date.

o. Law enforcement operations in the Pacific Northwest conducted Sep 26 to Oct 3 once again brought McClusky back to the role of counter-narcotics. McClusky was again instrumental in the detection of surface and air contacts of interest, whose presence was quickly reported to Commander Joint Task Force Five. Upon completion of Law enforcement Operations, McClusky conducted a successful ammunition offload at Indian Island, WA and a well deserved visit to Victoria, British Columbia. Eager and ready to fulfill all assigned tasks, McClusky displayed her flexibility in adjusting to short notice tasking as an escort for a nuclear compartment tow from the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Columbia River.

p. On Oct 15, McClusky entered Campbell Shipyard for a comprehensive and ambitious work package in preparation for homeport change to Japan. Upon completion of successful dock and sea trials, McClusky completed SRA one week early, with 99% of the work complete, and within budget.

q. McClusky remained inport San Diego from 7 to 31 December in preparation for her upcoming change of homeport to Yokosuka, Japan.