



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) Command History for 2000
(2) Commanding Officer Biographies (2)
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Ship Photograph

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


P. J. LEONE

USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS SAFEGUARD's (ARS 50) assigned mission in wartime is to serve as an element of the Combat Logistics Support Force providing salvage, repair, diving and rescue services to the Fleet at sea. SAFEGUARD is under operational control of Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, and is home ported in Sasebo, Japan. SAFEGUARD routinely operates independently in the Western Pacific Ocean. SAFEGUARD's Commanding Officers were LCDR J. G. Gray and LCDR R. P. Mitchell.

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-09 Jan	Inport Sasebo, Japan
10 Jan	Sasebo, Japan/Pre-Aeronautical Ship's Installation Report (ASIR) Assist,
11-12 Jan	Inport Sasebo, Japan
13-14 Jan	Fuel Offload
15-18 Jan	Inport Sasebo, Japan
19 Jan-22 Mar	Selected Restricted Availability (SRA)
24-28 Jan	LTT-E
8-9 Feb	Search and Rescue Readiness Team Trainer Evaluation (SRTTE) Assist
22 Feb	ASIR Tech Assist
28-29 Feb	LTT-C
06-08 Mar	Search and Rescue (SAR) Evaluation
07 Mar	Fuel Onload/Towing Machine Operational Test
08 Mar	Stores Onload
09 Mar	Towing Machine Operational Test
10-11 Mar	Dry Stores Onload
13-21 Mar	Combat Systems Testing
16 Mar	Refueling
17 Mar	Salvage Gear Onload
20-21 Mar	Equipment Light-off/Lube Oil Onload
23 Mar	Inport Sasebo, Japan
24 Mar	Sea Trials
27-31 Mar	Inport Sasebo, Japan/LTT-C/D/E
03-07 Apr	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II
07-21 Apr	Inport, Sasebo, Japan/LTT-D/C/E
24 Apr	En route Chinhae, Korea
25 Apr	Inport Chinhae, Korea for Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN)-United States Navy Salvage Exercise (SALVEX)
25 Apr-03 May	Beach Gear, Towing, Debeaching, Multi-point Moor and Heavy Lift Operations with ROKN
04-07 May	En route Yokosuka, Japan
08-19 May	Inport Yokosuka, Japan for Training Availability (TRAV) period
19-23 May	Tailored Ships Training Availability A (TSTA A)
24-26 May	En route Sasebo, Japan
26 May-06 Jun	Pre-deployment Preparations
08-13 Jun	En route Manila Bay, Philippines

14-26 Jun	EXERCISE COOPERATION AFLOAT READINESS AND TRAINING (CARAT) 2000/Anchorage Cavite, Philippines
27 Jun-02 Jul	En route Sattahip, Thailand
03-13 Jul	EXERCISE CARAT 2000 Thailand/Salvage Operations
14-16 Jul	EXERCISE CARAT 2000 Thailand/Anchor Search, Pattaya, Thailand
16-26 Jul	En route Palau
26 Jul-02 Aug	Salvage Operations Palau
02-07 Aug	En route Brunei
07-10 Aug	EXERCISE CARAT 2000 Brunei
10-14 Aug	En route Lumut, Malaysia
14-24 Aug	EXERCISE CARAT 2000 Malaysia
24-31 Aug	En route Penang, Malaysia
01-05 Sep	At Anchor, Phuket, Thailand
05-10 Sep	En route Singapore
11-21 Sep	EXERCISE CARAT 2000 Singapore
22 Sep-01 Oct	Upkeep Singapore
02-12 Oct	EXERCISE PACIFIC REACH 2000, South China Sea
13-20 Oct	En route Okinawa, Japan
21 Oct	Inport Okinawa, Japan/Refuel
22-23 Oct	En route Pohang, Korea
24 Oct-09 Nov	EXERCISE FOAL EAGLE 2000
09 Nov-05 Dec	Post Deployment Upkeep
05 Dec	Change of Command/LCDR Mitchell relieves LCDR Gray
06-15 Dec	LTT-D/C/E
16-31 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan/Holiday Upkeep

3. NARRATIVE

a. After completing the SRA period, SAFEGUARD commenced 2000 by conducting the first ARS 50 class tow of an LSD 41 class ship (USS GERMANTOWN LSD 42).

b. During SALVEX 2000 in Korea, SAFEGUARD furthered bilateral relations with the ROKN through a plethora of salvage evolutions including heavy lift projects, joint diving operations and debeaching of an LST. Various legs of beach gear were deployed during this operation.

c. During EXERCISE CARAT 2000, SAFEGUARD raised and relocated over 5,000 tons of derelict foreign shipping, logged over 1,000 hours of incident-free bilateral dive operations and conducted multiple emergent ship's husbandry dives on five U.S. Navy ships and numerous foreign vessels. EXERCISE CARAT provided opportunities for SAFEGUARD to conduct salvage exercises in addition to real-world salvage operations. The underwater ship's husbandry included inspections, cleanings and debris removal and supporting the readiness of Task Force (TF) 712. SAFEGUARD also supported ships outside TF 712 by completing emergent repairs at sea on USS CAMDEN (AOE 2) and USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37). Both ships were assigned to the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) Battle Group enroute to the Arabian Gulf.

d. During a scheduled break in the EXERCISE CARAT 2000 schedule, SAFEGUARD performed real world salvage operations which included raising, towing, and disposal of a derelict World War II LCU in Palau.

e. While participating in EXERCISE PACIFIC REACH 2000, SAFEGUARD supported the successful combined operational employment of three foreign Navy submarines, becoming the first U.S. Navy ship to conduct such operations.

f. Throughout EXERCISE FOAL EAGLE 2000, SAFEGUARD supported numerous SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV)/Special Warfare operations, recovering 15 Special Warfare and SAFEGUARD personnel in challenging open ocean conditions.

g. In December 2000 at a ceremony held at berth India-10, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan, LCDR Gray was relieved by LCDR Mitchell as Commanding Officer of SAFEGUARD.

h. Community Service Action: SAFEGUARD's crewmembers participated in several community relation projects such as visiting a Catholic orphanage in Nagasaki, Japan. During EXERCISE CARAT 2000, SAFEGUARD worked with local dive companies to clean beaches and reefs off Pattaya, Thailand, removing over 500 pounds of garbage from the ocean floor. In Singapore, SAFEGUARD's crew spent a day with the occupants of a nursing home, assisting them in their daily routine and providing entertainment.

i. SAFEGUARD's performance statistics for the year 2000 are as follows:

- (1) Over 1,500 hours of hazardous surface supplied and SCUBA dives.
- (2) Over 5,000 tons of shipping salvaged.
- (3) Successful completion of towing and debeaching operations.