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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)  
FPO NEW YORK 09598-2871

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[REDACTED] (UNCLAS upon removal of enclosure (23))

From: Commanding Officer, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington, D.C.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1990, OPNAV 5750/1 REPORTING

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl: (1) USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Welcome Aboard Brochure
- (2) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photograph
- (3) Executive Officer's Biography and Photograph
- (4) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Organization
- (5) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Line Chronology 1990
- (6) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Chronology of 1990 Distinguished Visitors/Media
- (7) Photograph of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- (8) Daily operating schedules
- (9) Weekly operating schedules
- (10) Videotape copy of "City at Sea"
- (11) Fleetex planning considerations
- (12) Press release for lost EA-6B aircraft
- (13) Personnel Office command history input
- (14) Deck Department evolutions
- (15) Operations Department command history input
- (16) Marine Detachment command history input
- (17) Safety Department command history input
- (18) Communications Department command history input
- (19) Air Department command history input
- (20) Weapons Department command history input
- (21) Dental Department command history input
- (22) CRMD command history input
- (23) Reactor Department command history input (IN CLASS FILE)
- (24) Supply Department command history input
- (25) Sample "Rough Rider" newspapers
- (26) Sample "Rough Rider" familygrams
- (27) Port guides for Fort Lauderdale, St. Thomas and Trinidad
- (28) Press clip file
- (29) Medical Department command history input

Encl. not retained!

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) keeps the sea lanes of trade and communication open by projecting air superiority to all points on the globe. She carries out a wide variety of missions, including anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and electronic warfare, by

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maintaining her equipment and men in the highest state of readiness. She also shares, with other Navy ships, a mission of replenishing other ships at sea and performing various non-combat missions such as rescue at sea of vessels in distress and transport of refugees and others in need of assistance. Enclosure (1) elaborates on the command mission.

b. Organizational Structure and Home Port. Captain Charles S. Abbot is the Commanding Officer. Enclosure (2) contains his biography and photograph. Captain Ronald L. Christenson is the Executive Officer. His biography and photograph are contained in enclosure (3). THEODORE ROOSEVELT's organization, including Department Heads, staff members and collateral duty assignments, is shown in enclosure (4). USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia and assigned to Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT.

c. Chronological Listing of Significant Events. Enclosure (5) is a chronological listing of significant events, and enclosure (6) contains a chronological list of distinguished visitors and media during the year. Enclosure (7) is a photograph of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71). Enclosure (8) is the daily operating schedule, and enclosure (9) is the weekly operating schedule.

## 2. Narrative

a. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) began a very busy 1990 in her homeport of Norfolk, Virginia. On January 24, she got underway for Fleet Carrier Qualifications (FCQ) in the Virginia Capes operating area. Squadrons participating included VA-128, VFA-106, VAW-120 and VF-101. During this period, Operations Department conducted a successful exercise of the Close-in-Weapons System (CIWS).

b. A camera crew from the Arts and Entertainment Network embarked THEODORE ROOSEVELT for five days during this FCQ. The resulting production "City at Sea" was widely aired, providing valuable and positive publicity for this command and the Navy in general. The production focused on the command overall, and the team effort required to operate an aircraft carrier. Enclosure (10) is a copy of that production.

c. Much of the month of February was spent in Norfolk, but there was still a great deal of activity. On February 15, the eyes of the world were on THEODORE ROOSEVELT, as she played host to Vladimir Lapygin, Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and State Security. In addition to Chairman Lapygin and his entourage, guests that day included U.S.

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Representatives Les Aspin, Jim McCreery and Owen Pickett, as well as ADM Kelso (SACLANT/CINCLANT), VADM Johnson (COMSECONDFLT), VADM Donnell (COMNAVSURFLANT), VADM Ready (COMNAVAILANT), RADM Morris (COMCARGRU EIGHT), RADM Gee (COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT) and RADM Carlson (COMNAVBASE Norfolk).

d. The Venerable Michael Henley, Chaplain of the Fleet, British Royal Navy visited THEODORE ROOSEVELT on February 20. The ship got underway for another Fleet Carrier Qualification on February 22, again to the Virginia Capes operating area. Squadrons participating in this FCQ included VA-42, VF-106, HS-1 and VRC-40. Once again, a successful CIWS shoot was conducted. During this underway period, ABC Sports and Indy-car driver Rick Mears were aboard for two days, videotaping an insert which was aired during the 1990 Indianapolis 500.

e. THEODORE ROOSEVELT hosted a number of distinguished visitor embarks during this FCQ, including VADM Bengt J. Schuback, the Swedish Chief of Naval Operations, on February 22 and 23.

f. March 1-9, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was moored at Pier 11 North in Norfolk, then on March 9, she was underway for another FCQ to the Virginia Capes. VF-41, VF-84, VFA-87, VAW-124, VS-24 and HS-9 were the squadrons embarked. The scheduled CIWS exercise was successful.

g. Back in homeport on March 16, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was presented the Battle "E" award for calendar year 1989 in a ceremony aboard the ship on March 19. The ship hosted Dr. Antonia Novella, the U.S. Surgeon General on March 28, then RADM C.A. Ciardello, the CINCLANTFLT Dental Officer on March 30. On April 10, GEN Bengt Gustafsson, the Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces paid a visit, and on April 20, THEODORE ROOSEVELT hosted the Azalea Queen Festival Dinner.

h. On April 24, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was underway again for a Fleet Carrier Qualification, again in the Virginia Capes operating area. VF-101, VFA-106, VA-42, VAW-120 and HS-9 were the participating squadrons. Betty Francis, a reporter from WTKR (the Norfolk CBS-affiliate) embarked during this FCQ, to do a story on night carrier qualifications. This story featured one pilot's training, from the beginning to his first night landing.

i. Other visitors during this FCQ included the Honorable Craig King, the General Counsel of the Navy (April 26-27), Mr. Fred Korth, former Secretary of the Navy and other SECNAV guests (April 28-29) and Mrs. Barbara Lehman, the wife of former SECNAV

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John Lehman and seven other guests of the Commanding Officer (April 29-30).

j. THEODORE ROOSEVELT had a brief in-port period from May 1-8. On May 4, TR hosted the Change of Command Ceremony for Commander, Second Fleet. VADM Michael P. Kalleres took over the reins of command from VADM Jerome L. Johnson. The crew of THEODORE ROOSEVELT showed their adaptability when they moved the set-up from the Flight Deck to the Hangar Deck in less than one hour, due to inclement weather. The ship then got underway for Refresher Training in the Virginia Capes operating area. The Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay embarked with the ship, as did Carrier Air Wing EIGHT. After 10 days of intensive training and drilling in damage control and other areas, the instructors from FTG pronounced THEODORE ROOSEVELT and CVW-8 in an outstanding state of readiness.

k. After the successful REFTRA, the crew was treated to a well-deserved port visit in Port Everglades, Florida from May 18-22. After four days of fun in the Ft. Lauderdale sun, male family members and friends of the crew embarked on a Tiger Cruise back to Norfolk, from May 22 to May 24. While embarked, the guests were treated to a real taste of life at sea on a carrier, including static displays, demonstrations and an air show.

l. THEODORE ROOSEVELT was in port, Norfolk, from May 24 to June 16. During this time, there were tours given to nine groups of distinguished visitors.

m. On June 9, command of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) changed hands, as CAPT C.S. Abbot assumed the helm from CAPT D.W. Ritt in a ceremony held on TR's Flight Deck. VADM Paul Ilg, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, was the guest speaker.

n. On June 16, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was underway again, this time for a one-day Dependent's Cruise. Several thousand family members and friends of the crew embarked for a day of air power demonstrations, static displays and a hangar deck picnic. Upon her return to Pier 12 North at Norfolk Naval Base, THEODORE ROOSEVELT remained in port until June 20, when she was again underway, this time for Advanced Phase training in the Puerto Rico operating area.

o. CVW-8 and Commander, Carrier Group FOUR were embarked in THEODORE ROOSEVELT during Advanced Phase, which was intended as a test of the ship's ability to operate with a carrier battle group. Other units in the battle group included USS PREBLE, USS

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VREELAND, USS MEMPHIS, USS JOHN MARSHALL, USS RICHMOND K. TURNER, USNS HENRY J. KAISER and USS PLATTE. Phase one of the training lasted until July 2, when the ship made a port call to Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. As the crew enjoyed four days of liberty in this tropical paradise, the ship hosted local dignitaries at a Sunset Parade on July 4.

p. Advanced Phase II began on July 6. Upon the successful completion of the exercise, the ship made a port call to Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. THEODORE ROOSEVELT made history by being the first U.S. aircraft carrier to do so. Prior to pulling into Port of Spain, the ship hosted a group of Trinidadian media on July 19-20, as well as the Honorable Charles A. Gargano, U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and several Trinidadian dignitaries. Another Sunset Parade was held July 21, with music provided by a Trinidadian military band and a steel drum band. The ship departed Port of Spain on July 20, with most of the crew expressing warm feelings about the hospitality they had received.

q. THEODORE ROOSEVELT returned to Norfolk on July 27, and spent an extended in port period at Pier 12 North, remaining in homeport until September 25. As the crew rested up from Advanced Phase, they stayed busy, and of course, the ship continued to host visitors, including Marie James, a Congressional staffer for Rep. Newt Gingrich, and David Tranter, the Department Head of the Atomic Coordination Office, British Embassy.

r. Following the extended in port period, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was underway for an FCQ on September 25. Squadrons taking part included VF-125, VFA-106, VA-128, VA-42, VF-101, VAW-120, VS-27, VRC-40 and HS-9. This was a very busy FCQ, with 1,521 catapult launches and arrested landings recorded. The ship returned to Norfolk from the Virginia Capes operating area on October 3.

s. After a short break, THEODORE ROOSEVELT was underway for Fleet Carrier Qualifications again on October 10. This time, CVW-8 was embarked for qualifications, including squadrons VFA-87, VFA-15, VS-24, HS-9, VAQ-141, VAW-124, VA-65, VA-36, VF-41 and VF-84. Starting the exercises in the Virginia Capes operating area, the ship gradually moved south, making port in Port Everglades, Florida on October 12.

t. THEODORE ROOSEVELT was the centerpiece for the Broward Navy Days celebration while in Ft. Lauderdale, hosting thousands of guests during a two-day open house period. On October 15, she got underway again, continuing the Fleet Carrier Qualifications in the Jacksonville operating area. She returned to Norfolk on October 19.

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u. On October 22, ADM Torolf Rein, the Chief of Defense Staff, Norway visited THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

v. October 31 found THEODORE ROOSEVELT underway for FLEETEX 1-91. COMCARGRU EIGHT and CVW-8 were embarked. Other ships in the battle group included RICHMOND K. TURNER, LEYTE GULF, VULCAN, VREELAND, SANTA BARBARA, PLATTE, HAWES and CARON.

w. This intensely busy exercise was highly successful, and included dual carrier battle group operations with USS America (CV 66) and her battle group from November 16-18. THEODORE ROOSEVELT returned to homeport on November 19. Enclosure (11) lists planning considerations for FLEETEX 1-91.

x. Only one day after her return, the ship was once more in the national spotlight, as she hosted the NBC "Today Show" on her Flight Deck November 20-21. Anchors Bryant Gumbel, Deborah Norville, Joe Garagiola and Willard Scott talked to a number of high-level military and civilian officials during the two days of filming, primarily about military readiness and the crisis in the Arabian Gulf. The crew enjoyed hosting the show, and the resulting publicity for the ship and crew showed the Navy in a very favorable light throughout the nation.

y. The next five weeks were very busy for the crew and air wing, as they readied themselves for the upcoming deployment. Despite the preparations, the ship still found time to host distinguished visitors, including the Honorable Edward Derwinski, Secretary for Veterans Affairs (December 2), RADM Brent Baker, Chief of Information (for Media Training of deploying COs, December 10) and VADM J.K. Ready, COMNAVAIRLANT (December 19).

z. On December 28, the THEODORE ROOSEVELT battle group deployed to join the forces in the Middle East participating in Operation Desert Shield. A large group of media representatives (including representatives of the major television networks) embarked for a portion of December 29, evidence of the high media interest in the deployment.

aa. On the final day of the year, December 31, members of THEODORE ROOSEVELT's crew and HS-9 showed their readiness in an emergency, as they quickly rescued the crew of an EA-6B aircraft that went into the water after an arresting gear cable parted when the aircraft was attempting to land. Enclosure (12) gives more details of this rescue.

bb. During 1990, 1,213 sailors reported aboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT for duty, and 587 transferred. Other personnel-related matters are covered in enclosure (13).

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3. Supporting Documents. The following supporting documents are also included in this command history:

- a. Deck Department evolutions in 1990 - enclosure (14)
- b. Operations Department command history input - enclosure (15)
- c. Marine Detachment command history input - enclosure (16)
- d. Safety Department command history input - enclosure (17)
- e. Communications Department command history input - enclosure (18)
- f. Air Department command history input - enclosure (19)
- g. Weapons Department command history input - enclosure (20)
- h. Dental Department command history input - enclosure (21)
- i. Command Religious Ministries Department command history input - enclosure (22)
- j. Reactor Department command history input - enclosure (23)
- k. Supply Department command history input - enclosure (24)
- l. Sample "Rough Rider" newspapers from 1990 - enclosure (25)
- m. Sample "Rough Rider" familygrams from 1990 - enclosure (26)
- n. Port guides for Ft. Lauderdale, St. Thomas and Trinidad and Tobago - enclosure (27)
- o. Press clip file for 1990 - enclosure (28)
- p. Medical Department command history input - enclosure (29)

  
C. S. ABBOT