



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG-27) ✓

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: FORWARDING OF COMMAND HISTORY (REPORT SYMBOL 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Highlights of 1986
(2) Narrative of 1986
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Change of Command Booklet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Command History for USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27) for the year ending 31 December 1986, is forwarded.

[REDACTED]
P. D. LEIBUNDGUTH

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1986

30 December 1985 - 3 February 1986	Operation Close-Look
10 March	Command Inspection
28 May - 4 June	OPPRE
12 June	Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE)
30 June	Received the following Departmental Awards: White Gunnery "E" Green Operations "E" Green Communications "C" Blue Supply "E" White ASW "E" White Missile "E" Electronic Warfare "EW"
14 July - 1 August	Refresher Training
25 August	Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT)
30 September	Supply Management Inspection (SMI)
3 - 17 October	Drydock (USS STEADFAST)
10 October - 19 November	POM Period
4 November	Change of Command
20 November	Depart San Diego for Deployment

Enclosure (1)

Command History for 1986
USS MAHLON S. TISDALE (FFG 27)

The year 1986 began with MAHLON S. TISDALE transiting south from her homeport in San Diego, California to participate in Operation Close-Look, a Drug Interdiction Operation with the U.S. Coast Guard. During the five week period in Central American waters, the embarked law enforcement detachment boarded over 30 U.S. and foreign flag vessels. As a result of this outstanding performance, the ship received the U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Not all of the time was spent at work during Operation Close-Look. The ship was able to make port visits in Panama and Acapulco, Mexico and also had the opportunity to cross the equator on 22 January. During the "Crossing the Line" ceremony, the ship's trusty ole shellbacks welcomed the "polywogs" to the realm of Neptunis Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main.

When the ship returned to her homeport in February, several days of "stand down" were authorized in order to allow the crew to spend some time with their families. The latter part of February and the month of March afforded the ship's Combat Systems and Engineering Department personnel with several training opportunities.

On 10 March, MAHLON S. TISDALE received her Command Inspection by the staff of Destroyer Squadron Seven. Results of the inspection showed that all of the ship's functions from training and PQS, to ship's security and damage control were all outstanding.

The months of April and May allowed the ship to continue the extensive and demanding material and administrative preparations required for an Operational Propulsion Plant Re-exam. Underway periods were used to conduct Engineering Casualty Control (ECC) drills.

On 28 May, the ship commenced the OPPRE. After successful safety and cold checks inport, the ship was underway on the 29th to conduct drills. Final satisfactory results were achieved on 4 June after passing a main space fire drill inport.

The month of June saw the ship's crew making preparations for TRE (Training Readiness Evaluation) scheduled for the 12th. During TRE all departments and mission areas were closely evaluated by Fleet Training Group personnel with satisfactory results.

Refresher training commenced on 14 July and ended on 1 August. During the three week period all combat systems warfare areas, as well as engineering and damage control were drilled and critiqued. Training featured one week of intense ASW operations, plus successful firing of a SM-1 missile at a target drone.

Enclosure (2)

An unfortunate incident occurred on 18 July. Just prior to starting a surface-to-surface gunnery exercise, a round of ammunition was accidentally fired from the gun. The round went through the ship's stack and impacted the CIWS (Close-In-Weapon System) enclosure. Mechanical as well as human error were to blame.

On August 25, the ship underwent CSRT (Combat Systems Readiness Test), in which all electronic equipment on the ship was tested. Overall results were outstanding reflecting the fine quality of MAHLON S. TISDALE's technicians. The ship was once again setting the pace of the ships for Destroyer Squadron Seven.

During the last part of September, MAHLON S. TISDALE was underway with the USS KITTY HAWK Battle Group for COMPTUEX 87-1. While at anchor the first day, the ship's engineers attempted to light-off the engines and rotate the shaft. The shaft would rotate momentarily, bind, then stop. MAHLON S. TISDALE went back into port using both APUs (Auxiliary Propulsion Units) and the services of two tugs. As a result, the ship went into the floating drydock, USS STEADFAST (AFDM-14), on 3 October until 17 October in order to replace a strut bearing.

On 10 October the ship began its POM period (Pre-overseas Movement). This allowed MAHLON S. TISDALE to let up to one half of the crew go on leave before departing for deployment scheduled November 20.

During the POM period, the ship was underway on 29 October to load ammunition at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, plus conduct two predeployment checks, SSRNM (Ship's Self Radiated Noise Measurement) and FORACS (Fleet Operational Accuracy Checks).

On 4 November 1986, Commander John R. THOMPSON, USN, was relieved by Commander Peter D. LEIBUNDGUTH, USN, at a Change of Command ceremony held onboard in San Diego, California.

USS MAHLON S. TISDALE departed San Diego on Thursday 20 November for a six month deployment to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. Ships in company included USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22) and USS HEPBURN (FF-1055).

During the transit, MAHLON S. TISDALE visited Pearl Harbor for Thanksgiving, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, and spent Christmas in Singapore.

The year came to a close for the crew of the MAHLON S. TISDALE at Colombo, Sri Lanka anchored alongside USS HEPBURN.

Enclosure (2)