

1992 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62)
FPO AP 96618 - 2760

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From: Commanding Officer, USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D
Encl: (1) Chronological Sequence of Events
(2) Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted for calendar year 1992.



C. B. REFO

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CINCPACFLT



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CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

JANUARY

01-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan
13-24 Pre-deployment Combat Systems Review (PCSR)
31 Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI) completed

FEBRUARY

01-09 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
10-13 U/W N. Pacific Ocean for Carrier Qualifications.
17 SHF QUICKSAT terminal installation complete.
18 Hosted the first Kanto Plain Tri-service (Army, Air Force, Navy) training for RPs, chapel assistants and chaplains.
14-29 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.

MARCH

01 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
06 RAS(A) USNS KILUAEA, 114 lifts.
12 CIWS TDU Shoot.
12 Class A AGM: Blueshirt injured by F-14 being towed resulting in amputation of both legs.
15 RAS(A) USNS KILUAEA, 28 lifts.
16 MRCI completed. DST buildup with zero discrepancies.
02-16 Enroute Subic Bay, R.P
17-20 Inport Subic Bay, R.P.
21-22 Underway, enroute Hong Kong, B.C.
22 Airwing NTPI completed.
21-22 OPLIFT of material from Subic Bay.
NWTPI/SAS Inspection.
23-26 Inport Hong Kong, B.C.
28 Short notice NTPI completed. Grade of satisfactory awarded.
27-31 U/W, enroute Yokosuka, Japan.
Operational Powerplant Examination (OPPE).
NWTPI/SAS Inspection.

APRIL

01-14 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
01-14 POM Yokosuka, Japan.
11 LT [REDACTED] relieved LCDR [REDACTED] as Ship's Maintenance Manager.
15-30 U/W, Enroute Sydney, Australia.
16 General Lee, Chairman, Republic of Korea, Joint Chiefs of Staff aboard for visit.
19 Easter sunrise service.
21 RAS (F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
25 Crossed the equator; Pollywog Initiations Completed.
26 RAS (F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. No fly day.
27 Implemented SFR 2-92.
29 Major General Peter Arnison, Commander 1st Division, Royal Australian Army aboard for visit.
26-29 Exercise Coral Sea.

MAY

01-04 Inport Sydney, Australia.
02 50th Anniversary Battle of Coral Sea Celebration parade
Battle of Coral Sea Celebration.
02 The Honorable Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense,
aboard for visit.
VADM Arthur, COMSEVENTHFLT reception aboard, 1000 guests.
03 Entertainer Neil Diamond aboard for visit.
03-04 Open house aboard for local citizens, over 100,000 guests
received aboard.
05 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
08 CIWS PACFIRE.
09 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
11 Commodore Peter Briggs, Naval Officer Commanding West
Australia, aboard for visit.
13 RDVS with USS BUNKER HILL and USS THACH.
14 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
15 No fly day.
05-31 U/W, enroute NAVCENT.
19 RAS(A) USNS KILUAEA, 207 pallets.
13 Class B AGM: Plane captain sustained injury to left hand
while attempting to stop a free wheeling helicopter tail
rotor during a move.
13 Class A Flight mishap: VFA-192 F/A-18 went into water
following catapult shot from catapult four with
insufficient flying speed. Pilot successfully ejected,
sustained major injuries.
19 RDVS with USS SAN JOSE. No fly day.
21 RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.
22 Inchop NAVCENT.
24 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. No fly day.
26 Transit Strait of Hormuz.
27 Class C mishap: troubleshooter from HS-12 sustained
serious injuries when blown from SH-3H transmissions
platform by exhaust from F/A-18C during flight operations.
28-29 Anchor Bahrain Bell.
29 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. No notice anchorage off
Qatar to test port anchor.
30- Exercise Impelling Victory.
30 ENS ██████████ assumes duties as Bull Ensign.
30 Chaff firing exercise.

JUNE

01-13 Operations in Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Desert
Storm.
02 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
04 RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.
04-05 Anchor Bahrain Bell.
06 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. CIWS TDU shoot.
08 Shaikh Sulman Bin Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Saudi Arabia,
aboard for visit.
10 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
10-12 Anchor Bahrain Bell.
11 Steel beach picnic, Arabian Gulf.
13 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

14-17 Inport Dubai, UAE.
 19 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 27 Refueled from M/V LAWRENCE H. GIANELLA-first ever CV to receive fuel from a civilian oiler.
 18-30 Exercises Beacon Flash/Eager Archer. North Arabian Sea and Gulf Of Oman.
 18 Transit out Strait of Hormuz.
 21 U.A.E. flagged vessel ADEL II discovered dead in water by VS-21 aircrew. Vessel towed to Oman anchorage by USS RODNEY M. DAVIS for further assistance.
 23 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 24 CIWS PACFIRE.
 25 Transit in Strait of Hormuz (Western Straits transit).
 26 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS and RAS(S/T) USNS KILUAEA.
 28 MCPON, AVCM(AW) [REDACTED] and prospective MCPON ETCM(SW) [REDACTED] aboard for visit.
 29 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

JULY

01-08 Inport Abu Dhabi, UAE.
 07 CDR S. Doyle relieved CDR S. Nelms as Executive Officer.
 09-31 U/W Arabian Gulf, Exercises Nautical Artist and Initial Link.
 10 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 13 RAS(T) USNS KILUAEA.
 14 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 15-18 Anchor Bahrain Bell.
 18 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 20 RAS(A) USNS KILUAEA, 39 tons of ordnance moved.
 20 Safety stand down.
 23 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 24 CIWS PACFIRE (2 mounts).
 26 RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.
 28 RAS(F) M.V. GIANELLA.
 31 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 23-31 Exercise Eagle Talon.

AUGUST

01 Exercise Nautical Artist and Initial Link.
 01-05 Inport Jebel Ali, UAE.
 06 RAS(F) M.V. GIANELLA.
 10 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 12 CIWS PACFIRE.
 14 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS and RAS(T) KILUAEA.
 07-12 Exercise Eager Mace (Kuwait). MARDET participation.
 06-17 U/W Arabian Gulf.
 07-10 CVOA 2.
 11-15 CVOA 3.
 09-10 Exercise Eager Mace.
 11 Transit out Straits of Hormuz.
 15-17 Exercise Arabian Knight (Saudi Arabia).
 17 Transit in Straits of Hormuz.
 17 CVW-5 air power demonstration for DV's.
 18 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS and RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.

18-22 Inport Abu Dhabi, UAE.
 24 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 25 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 27 RAS(F) M.V. GIANELLA.
 28 RAS(T) USNS KILUAEA.
 30 COMUSNAVCENT, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, LTGEN Michael Nelson and RADM Taylor, COMUSNAVCENT aboard for visit.
 23-31 U/W Arabian Gulf.
 27-31 Operation Southern Watch .
 30 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

SEPTEMBER

01-16 U/W Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch. Southern Watch Sorties: 1,346, Southern Watch Flight Hours: 4,340.
 03 Air Commodore Bruce Latton, RAF aboard for visit.
 07 Class C AGM: Plane captain from VAQ-136 slipped and fell from EA-6B boarding ladder, sustaining serious injuries.
 07 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 08 RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.
 09 RAS(S/T/V) USS SAN JOSE.
 10 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 13 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 02-10 Exercise Intrinsic Action.
 08-10 Exercise Eastern Eagle.
 15 Turnover with USS RANGER.
 16-17 Transit Strait of Hormuz.
 17 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS and RAS(S/T) KILUAEA.
 18-19 Missilex.
 20 INCHOP SEVENTHFLT.
 21 VADM K.A.S.D. Raju, Western Fleet Commander, Indian Navy aboard for visit.
 21 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 22 RAS(S/T/V) USS NIAGARA FALLS (VERTREP).
 CIWS PACFIRE.
 23 CIWS PACFIRE.
 24 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. Safety standdown.
 20-23 TORPEX.
 25-26 Transit Straits of Malacca.
 25 CDR (b) (6) assumed duties as Operations Officer from CDR (b) (6).
 26 Ordnance Offload with USNS KILUAEA, 229 lifts conrep and 212 lifts vertrep (900 tons ordnance).
 18-27 U/W, enroute Pattaya Beach, Thailand.
 28-30 Inport Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

OCTOBER

01 Inport Pattaya Beach, Thailand.
 02 RAS(F) USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.
 03 Offloaded ordnance to USNS KILUAEA, 168 lifts conrep and 137 lifts vertrep (700 tons).
 02-03 Naval Safety Center, Norfolk VA conducted Safety Survey.
 02-05 U/W, enroute Hong Kong.
 06-08 Inport Hong Kong.

09 Offloaded ordnance to USNS KILUAEA, 62 vertrep lifts (70 tons).
09-12 U/W, enroute Yokosuka, Japan.
13 Return to Yokosuka, Japan.
15 Commenced EISRA 93-1.
20 CDR (b) [REDACTED] assumed duties as Chief Engineer from CDR (b) (6) [REDACTED]
13-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan. EISRA commences.

NOVEMBER

01-30 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
25 Completed ISIC (CCG5) Command Administrative Inspection.
06 CAPT [REDACTED], CHC, USN, COMNAVAIRPAC Chaplain on board for Chaplain department inspection.
08 Navy Friendship Day open house.
12 Marine Corps Birthday Ball.
16 Implemented SFR 2-92.

DECEMBER

01-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
7 LCDR [REDACTED] relieved LCDR [REDACTED] as Communications Officer.
23 ENS [REDACTED] assumes duties as Bull Ensign.
23 Children's Christmas party held in Hangar Bay One.

Narrative

USS INDEPENDENCE, under the command of CAPT Carter B. Refo began 1992 at Pier Twelve, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. After a brief holiday leave period, the crew continued preparing Freedom's Flagship for her upcoming deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Combat systems grooming continued throughout the year, especially during the month of January. A COMNAVAIRPAC team arrived in mid-January to conduct a Pre-deployment Combat Systems Review (PCSR). No major discrepancies were discovered and the systems were deemed ready for deployment.

Also conducted during the month of January was the Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI). This inspection also allowed for valuable training to be conducted and was passed with flying colors.

The first at-sea period for 1992 was entirely devoted to carrier qualifications (10-13 Feb). Upon return to Yokosuka the ship's Chaplain Department hosted the first ever Kanto Plain Tri-service (Air Force, Army, Navy) training for religious program personnel and chaplains.

The first major at-sea period for the year commenced 02 March. On March 13th, while escorting an F-14 under tow on the flight deck an airman was caught under a tire and suffered serious injuries. Both legs were pinched by the weight of the aircraft. Emergency MEDEVAC was coordinated and the airman was expeditiously transported to Subic Bay Naval Hospital. Both legs were eventually amputated to some degree.

Following ammunition uploads on the 6th and 15th INDEPENDENCE paid the final port visit of an aircraft carrier to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines from 17-20 March. Spelling "Farewell Subic" on the flight deck with sailors was the most appropriate way to depart Subic. The event gained widespread media coverage. Gear remaining at Subic Bay still of use to the Navy was loaded onboard and carried to Yokosuka.

Further time was devoted to carrier qualifications enroute Hong Kong. While in transit of the South China Sea, NWTPI, NTPI and SAS inspections were accomplished without hitch.

A precision anchorage in Hong Kong harbor was conducted and well deserved liberty for the crew was the order of the day. The ship remained in Hong Kong from 23-26 March.

Underway on the morning of the 27th, INDEPENDENCE was on the received end of an Operational Powerplant Examination (OPPE) from 27-31 March. Significant effort went into preparations for this inspection and the hard work paid off with a passing grade.

INDEPENDENCE returned to Yokosuka on the first of April and turned around on the 15th enroute Sydney, Australia. A Shellback initiation ceremony was conducted on the 25th with hundreds of nasty pollywogs receiving the wrath of the Honorable King Neptune and court.

While enroute Sydney, purged of the pollywog scum, airwing support of Exercise Coral Sea offered significant and extremely valuable training. Prior to arriving in Sydney, INDEPENDENCE hosted numerous distinguished visitors and media for a wreath laying ceremony to honor the men of the Battle of Coral Sea.

INDEPENDENCE's visit to Sydney, Australia 01-04 May was a celebration in itself. During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, INDEPENDENCE was an instrumental player in all events. A flight deck spell out of "G'day Mates" achieved international media attention. During an open house held during three days in port, the ship hosted well over 100,000 visitors. One special visitor was entertainer Neil Diamond, receiving a personal tour of the ship from the Commanding Officer. A parade in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea was held on the 2nd of May with over 1,000 sailors and Marines participating in a march throughout downtown Sydney. The ship received four days of media coverage and live broadcasts which were responsible for a week of front page press coverage.

On May 2nd, the U.S. Secretary Of State, The Honorable Mr. Dick Cheney visited INDEPENDENCE. The Secretary had breakfast with the crew on the mess decks. Following breakfast, the Secretary addressed the crew in the hangar bay and fielded questions. After the address, the Secretary and party were given a tour of the ship COMSEVENTHFLT, VADM Arthur, hosted a banquet onboard for numerous local dignitaries, over one thousand guests in attendance.

Proceeding out of Sydney harbor on 5 May, INDEPENDENCE proceeded to transit to the south of Australia picking up escorts USS Bunker Hill and USS Thach outside of Perth, Western Australia.

Tragedy struck twice on the 13th of May. The first incident involved an HS-12 plane captain attempting to stop a free wheeling tail rotor during an aircraft move. This incident was evaluated as a Class B AGM. The second incident occurred during night flight operations. A VFA-192 F/A-18 entered the water following a catapult shot from catapult four with insufficient flying speed. The pilot safely ejected and was recovered in the port catwalk. INDEPENDENCE inchooped to COMUSNAVCENT on 22 May, to remain in the Arabian Gulf operating area for the next four months in support of Operations DESERT STORM and SOUTHERN WATCH.

Another serious personnel injury occurred 27 May when a troubleshooter from HS-12 was blown from the transmission platform of an SH-3H by the exhaust of an F/A-18 during day flight operations. The individual involved was later transported to medical facilities in Bahrain for further transport to Weisbaden AFB, Germany.

June, the second month of cruise, was full of intense operations in the Arabian Gulf. Following an overnight anchorage at Bahrain Bell a well deserved steel beach picnic was held 11 June on the flight deck for all personnel. Soon after exiting

the Straits of Hormuz 18 June, VS-21 aircrew discovered an U.A.E. flagged vessel, ADEL II, dead in the water victim of a major engineering casualty. Arrangements were made for the vessel to be towed by USS GRIDLEY to a nearby Omani anchorage.

INDEPENDENCE conducted the first ever transit into the Arabian Gulf utilizing the Western Straits transit scheme. The transit was uneventful, providing a significant savings in transit time.

On 27 June, INDEPENDENCE became the first CV to receive fuel from a civilian oiler, the MV Lawrence H. Gianella. MV Gianella proved to be an extremely stable platform and professional provider.

Embarked Carrier Airwing Five, commanded by Capt "Bud" Langston, flew in support of exercise Eager Archer 92-3 27-30 June. Training in the fundamentals of air warfare was the cornerstone of Eager Archer 92-3, stressing cooperation and teamwork between Kuwait and the United States.

The MCPON, AVCM(AW) Bushey and ATCM (SW) Hagan visited 28 June. SITE television conducted a extremely beneficial question and answer session with call-in questions answered by MCPON and his relief.

July began with eight days pierside in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Even though temperatures soared round the clock, the port visit provided crewmembers the opportunity to relax and see the sights of the Emirates. The American and Canadian Community of Abu Dhabi sponsored a North American National Days Celebration 02 July at the Abu Dhabi Marina Club for all hands. The celebration was extremely well attended and a welcome opportunity for relaxation and recreation with new friends in the Gulf.

Numerous replenishments, for fuel, stores and ammunition were conducted in July. Of note, during one single replenishment with the USNS KILUAEA on 20 July, 39 tons of ordnance were transferred. INDEPENDENCE and embarked airwing participated in many exercises while deployed to the Gulf region. Support was provided to the following exercises:

Al Hout	Impelling Victory	Neon Arrow 92-2
Neon Spark 92-2	Gulfex XII	Beacon Flash 92-3
Eager Archer 92-3	Eastern Sailor	Nautical Artist 92-2
Neon Spark 92-3	Initial Link 92	Gulfex XIII
Nautical Swimmer 92-4		

In response to Presidential tasking for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, INDEPENDENCE undertook the largest single influx of media on board an aircraft carrier in recent history. Embarking 22 media personnel the day before the Presidential announcement of the 32 Degree "no-fly" zone in Iraq, INDEPENDENCE was the centerpiece of all initial media coverage about Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Within two hours of the announcement, there were live reports directly from the ship to the rest of the world about the role of Naval aviation in the operation.

INDEPENDENCE's intense support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT STORM continued throughout her stay in the Gulf.

Replenishing for either fuel or stores on the average of every three days made for exceptional training opportunities for all concerned personnel.

Concluding her support to Operation SOUTHERN WATCH 15 September, INDEPENDENCE expeditiously crossed the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal enroute visits to Pattaya Beach, Thailand and Hong Kong.

On 21 September, RADM A.R. Tandon, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Indian Navy, and CAPT N.J. Singh, Commanding Officer, Aircraft Carrier VIRAAAT, flew aboard for a luncheon and tour with the Commanding Officer and Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet.

The transit of the Strait of Malacca involved much preparation which proved its worth with the resulting uneventful transit 25-26 September. Immediately following the transit, 900 tons of ordnance were offloaded to USNS KILUAEA (229 lifts conrep, 212 lifts vertrep).

Following a port visit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand 28 September-01 October, INDEPENDENCE offloaded 700 more tons of ordnance to USNS KILUAEA (168 lifts conrep, 137 lifts vertrep) in preparation for her upcoming homeport Extended Incremental Ship Repair Availability (EISRA).

Following a short Hong Kong port visit (06-08 Oct) INDEPENDENCE offloaded her remaining ordnance (70 tons, 62 vertrep loads) to USNS KILUAEA. INDEPENDENCE received a hearty welcome 13 October upon her return to Yokosuka, Japan. Inport leave periods commenced upon arrival allowing much of the crew the opportunity to return to the States for visits to families and allow others to explore new areas of the Western Pacific.

INDEPENDENCE concluded 1992 with a dedicated Extended Incremental Ship Repair Availability. EISRA included an extensive list of work projects, long enough to keep ship's work force and shipyard personnel busy through the end of January 1992. Once again Christmas equated to holiday leave either locally in the Western Pacific or back in the United States.

INDEPENDENCE's schedule for 1993 looks every bit as intense as 1992 and will no doubt again put her in the middle of the action.

Deployment Statistics (15 APR - 13 OCT 92)

Deck Load:	70 Aircraft
Deck Multiple:	78.1
Deck Density:	92.1
Sorties Flown Total:	9,986
Day/Night:	6,306/3,680
Total Flight Hours:	22,100
Catapult Launches:	8,857
Arrested Landings:	8,856
Southern Watch Sorties:	1,346
Southern Watch Flight Hours:	4,340
Flight Deck Aircraft Moves:	39,155
Hangar Deck Aircraft Moves:	5,300
Carrier Controlled Approaches:	5,123
AIC Runs	2,869
Underway Replenishments:	56
Water Distilled (gals)	60,311,041
Fuel (DFM) Consumed (gals)	22,087,473
Total Mail Transferred (lbs)	414,030
Total ATO Cargo Transferred (lbs)	286,850
Distance Travelled:	over 50,000 miles
CIWS PACFIRES:	45
TARPS Film Processed (feet)	41,603 (7.9 miles)
Bilateral Exercises Supported:	7
Aircraft Elevator Runs:	2,711
Aircraft "Crunches" on Flight Deck	17
Aircraft "Crunches" in Hangar Bay	9
Aircraft "Crunches" rate of 0.01 (one "crunch" per	2,232 moves)
Aircraft Fires:	0
Engine FOD:	9
VERTREPS:	18 (over 4,300 pallets)
UNREPS:	34
Overall FOD rate: 0.42 (9 FOD's over 21,438 flight hours)	

CV-62 Employment Statistics

	PCT U/W	PCT INPORT	PCT AWAY FM HOMEPORT
CY92	47.5	52.5	58.5