



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)  
FPO AP 96681-1172

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From: Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of Events  
(3) 1996 Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), USS BUNKER HILL's 1996 Command History is forwarded. Enclosures (1) through (4) document the ship's activities throughout calendar year 1996. Future inquiries may be referred to the ship's Executive Officer.

  
A. J. KOPACZ

# COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

## MISSIONS:

- o Primary:
  - Air Warfare (AW)
  - Undersea Warfare (USW)
  - Surface Warfare (SUW)
  - Strike Warfare (STW)
  - Electronic Warfare (EW)
  - Command, Control, & Communications (CCC)
  - Mobility (MOB)
  
- o Secondary:
  - Intelligence (INT)
  - Amphibious Warfare (AMW)
  - Mine Warfare (MIW)
  - Fleet Support Operations (FSO)
  - Non-Combat Operations (NCO)

## ORGANIZATION:

USS BUNKER HILL is a TICONDEROGA-class, guided missile cruiser. She is the sixth ship to be equipped with the Aegis AW system. As the first Baseline II cruiser, BUNKER HILL was the first equipped with the new Mk 41 Vertical Launching System (VLS) and the first to employ the Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS).

Throughout 1996, BUNKER HILL served in the administrative command of the Commander, Carrier Group FIVE. As such, it operated as a major component of the Forward-Deployed Naval Force and was permanently deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Within the SEVENTH Fleet Area of Responsibility, the ship was operationally assigned to:

- o Commander, SEVENTH Fleet
- o Commander, Task Force 70/Battleforce SEVENTH Fleet
- o Commander, Task Force 75/Surface Combatant Force, SEVENTH Fleet
- o Commander, Task Group 70.1/USS INDEPENDENCE Carrier Battlegroup

## SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS:

BUNKER HILL served as the INDEPENDENCE Carrier Battlegroup Air Warfare Commander throughout 1996 plus the Regional Air Warfare Commander in the Korean Area of

**Responsibility (AOR).** As such, BUNKER HILL is responsible for stationing and tactical employment of all primary air defense missile ships and the maritime fighter and surveillance portions of Carrier Airwing FIVE (CVW5) over water.

During 1996, BUNKER HILL embarked Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light FIVE ONE Detachment THREE.

#### DISCUSSION:

USS BUNKER HILL is one of the most capable combatants in the U. S. Naval arsenal, possessing some of the most advanced systems in the surface Navy. Accordingly, she is a keystone in the battlegroup's offensive and defensive capabilities. BUNKER HILL is fully capable of a broad array of missions, including:

- o providing broad area surveillance and battlespace management
- o area defense of a Navy, joint, or combined (allied) battleforce or multi-unit Surface Action Group (SAG)
- o strategic and tactical strike operations as a single unit or in command of missile and aircraft strike units
- o theater ballistic missile surveillance
- o sustained presence or combat operations in multi-threat, open ocean, or constrained littoral environments

The core of BUNKER HILL's tactical capability is the Aegis Weapons System -- a state-of-the-art, computer-assisted, nearly fully integrated weapons system that can provide real-time detection, identification, acquisition, tracking, targeting, and engagement of multiple contacts in a high density battlespace. The four components of the Aegis Weapons System, the SPY-1A Radar, the Weapons Control System, the Command and Decision System, and the Aegis Display System, are each supported by an AN/UYK-7 computer bank. Each component is integral to the Aegis System and capable of automatically managing the immense data presented in a multi-warfare environment, providing detailed displays of the tactical situation, identifying selected contacts, providing assessments of threat levels per contact, scheduling potential responses, and, if authorized by the command-level decision-maker, the automatic engagement of multiple air and surface contacts. All automated decisions are subject to rules, known as doctrine statements, that are embedded within the Aegis system or created and activated by the ship's tactical decision-makers as needed.

While management of the air battlespace is highly automated, the ship's tactical actions in response to surface, undersea, or land attack tactical situations are automated and integrated into the overall system to the extent necessary for coherent information distribution. Undersea warfare is predominantly accomplished by the ship's AN/SQS-53A Sonar, MK-46 torpedoes, ship or helo launched, and the Light Airborne Multi-Purpose Systems Mk III (LAMPS III). Surface

warfare is achieved through the Harpoon surface-to-surface cruise missiles and SM-2 missiles in surface mode, backed by the 5"/54 cal guns. Strike warfare is performed by the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) system. The ship conducts Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) employing its 5"/54 caliber battery.

All warfare areas are highly integrated with the ship's command and control systems, including its electronic warfare capabilities. Consequently, any tactical action by BUNKER HILL is likely the result of an integrated mix of ship's sensors and weapons, other ships' systems, and carrier-based or land-based tactical aircraft. BUNKER HILL is as much a command platform as it is a weapons platform.

An enhanced detection and engagement capability is provided by the embarked Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS), two SH-60B Seahawk helicopters. Multi-mission capable, these helos extend the ship's surface and undersea sensor ranges well beyond the horizon and can deliver two MK-46 torpedoes per sortie. They are used extensively for surface contact management and possess their own datalink for communications and sensor management with the ship.

The heart of the ship's main propulsion capability lies within its four LM-2500 Gas Turbine Engines and twin shafts with Controllable Reversible Pitch (CRP) Propellers. These are capable of driving the ship through the water at speeds in excess of 30 knots and can also stop the ship from any speed in approximately two ship lengths.

BUNKER HILL's extensive electrical power capability is provided by three Allison 501-K17 Gas Turbine Engines, coupled to generators, each producing 2500 KW and 4000 amps of electrical power.

The ship maintains a complement of 28 officers, 33 Chief Petty Officers (CPOs), and 389 enlisted crewmen, including aviation detachment, cryptologic, and other various embarked personnel.

## 1996 SHIP'S CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

| DATE               | EVENT  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>15 Dec - 02</b> | <b>Jan Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period</b>   |
| <b>05 - 12 Jan</b> | <b>MSL-EX 96-1 in Okinawa OPAREA</b>   |
| 05 Jan             | Underway with BUNKER HILL Surface Action Group (SAG)<br>Air Department embarked  |
| 08 Jan             | Air Department fly-off to Kadena for MSL-EX<br>Anchored, Okinawa Harbor<br>Moored, White Beach, Okinawa<br>Embarked Drone Launching Detachment<br>Underway   |
| 09 Jan             | Live fire of SM-2 vs AQM   |
| 10 Jan             | Refueled torpedo retriever MRB SEA DOG<br>Live fire of SM-2 vs BQM   |
| 11 Jan             | Live fire of SM-2 vs AQM   |
| 12 Jan             | Moored, White Beach, Okinawa<br>Debarked Drone Launching Detachment<br>Briefed CTF-76/COMPHIBGRU ONE concerning port visits to the PRC<br>IOT facilitate USS FT MCHENRY'S port visit preparations to Shanghai, PRC.<br>Underway<br>Air Department fly-on |
| <b>15 - 19 Jan</b> | <b>Port visit to Hong Kong</b>   |
| 15 Jan             | Moored to a buoy, Hong Kong  |
| 19 Jan             | Crewmember found dead in a Bos'n Storeroom. NCIS investigation commences, cause appears to be accidental.  |
| 20 Jan             | Underway, enroute Yokosuka.  |
| 24 Jan             | Air Department debarked  |
| 25 Jan             | Moored, Yokosuka, Japan  |
| 28 Jan             | USN/JMSDF combined AW Syndicate meeting  |
| 30 Jan             | IBG AW Syndicate   |
| 09 Feb             | Underway with USS INDEPENDENCE Battle Group<br>Air Department embarked   |
| 10 Feb             | RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)<br>Masuoka-san, "Mr. Navy", visits the ship  |
| <b>12 - 17 Feb</b> | <b>Exercise VALIANT USHER in the Yellow Sea</b>  |
| 14 Feb             | RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  |
| 18 Feb             | RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  |
| <b>19 - 23 Feb</b> | <b>Exercise ASW-EX 96-1 in the Philippine Sea</b>  |
| 21 Feb             | Conducted DIVTACS with JDS HAMANA, JDS SAWAGIRI, JDS HIEI, JDS YAMAGIRI, and USNS GUADALUPE.   |

22 Feb RAS with GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
23 Feb IBG Warfare Commanders breakfast and seminar on INDEPENDENCE with CTF-70  
ASW-EX Hot Wash-up on INDEPENDENCE with the JMSDF  
**24 - 25 Feb Port visit to Pusan, Republic of Korea**  
24 Feb Moored, Pusan  
26 Feb Underway with INDEPENDENCE Battle Group  
27 Feb CONREP with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS-7)  
RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
28 Feb Conducted rescue-at-sea of 10 Philippine nationals adrift in a small canoe 50 nm from land (South China Sea). Survivors were transported to Manila.

01 Mar RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
**02 - 04 Mar Port visit, Manila, Republic of the Philippines**  
02 Mar Anchored, Manila  
05 Mar Underway with INDEPENDENCE Battle Group  
06 Mar RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
**07 - 25 Mar Special Operations**  
07 Mar Detached from the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group to proceed to a position in the Taiwan Straits, southeast of Taiwan, to observe PRC SRBM test launches and PRC and Taiwanese military activity.  
08 Mar INDEPENDENCE Battle Group redirected to a position northeast of Taiwan.

12 Mar RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
15 Mar VERTREP with USNS NIAGARA FALLS (TAFS-3)  
18 Mar RAS with USNS TIPPICANOE (TAO-201)  
22 Mar RAS with USNS TIPPICANOE (TAO-201)  
24 Mar CONREP with USNS NIAGARA FALLS (TAFS-3)  
25 Mar INDEPENDENCE Battle Group Warfare Commanders Conference with CTF-70  
Detached to proceed into port  
26 Mar RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
27 Mar Air Department debarked  
28 Mar Moored, Yokosuka, Japan. Commenced SRA 6A

01 Apr Prospective Commanding Officer arrives onboard  
15 Apr RIMPAC Final Planning Conference  
16 Apr Change of Command. CAPT Anthony J. Kopacz relieved CAPT Gary W. Schnurrpusch in a ceremony held at the Benny Decker Theater, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka.  
17 Apr Commander-in-Chief's Official Call to USS Independence  
**22-30 Apr PERA Review**  
23 Apr Satellite Link 11 Testing

25 Apr INDEPENDENCE Battle Group Air Intercept Coordinator (AIC) Training  
 26 Apr INDEPENDENCE Battle Group AW Syndicate Meeting  
 27 Apr Complete SRA 6A  
 29 Apr Fast Cruise  
 30 Apr PERA Debrief

03 May Underway to Anchorage for Ammunition Onload, and returned to Yokosuka.

**04 May- 03 Jul EXERCISE RIM OF THE PACIFIC, 1996 (RIMPAC '96)**

04 May Underway  
 Air Department embarked  
 Full Power Trial

06 May "Quickdraw" Exercise  
 07 May EMATT USW Exercise  
 08 May RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
 09 May CIWS PACFIRE/5"/54 GUNNEX  
 RIMPAC Planning Conference

**10-14 May Port Visit, Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines**

10 May Moor, Subic Bay. Conduct topside and GFCS maintenance.  
 15 May Underway  
 17 May RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
 18 May RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
 19 May RAS with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS-7)  
**20 May Port Visit, Apra Harbor, Guam**  
 20 May Moored, Guam  
 Official Visit by the Governor of Guam and COMNAVMARIANAS  
 Conduct VLS repairs

21 May Underway  
 RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)

22 May MIO Exercise with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)  
 25 May RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)

**27 May - 01 Jun "Bilateral Force" Workups VIC Guam**

27 May RAS with JDS HAMANA  
 28 May Complete NSFS Qualifications  
 29 May Gunnery Exercise w/ JDS KIRISHIMA and JDS TACHIKAZE  
 30 May "Bilateral Force" Photo Ex  
 Combined AW/USW Exercise

**01 - 07 Jun "Bilateral Force" Transit Enroute Hawaii**

01 Jun "Bilateral Force" RAS with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS-7), USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200) and JDS HAMANA (AOE-424)

03 Jun CIWS Readiness Eval  
 CIWS EDU Shoot

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 05B Jun         | RAS with JDS HAMANA (AOE-424)                                       |
| 08 - 17 Jun     | <b>RIMPAC '96 Phase 4</b>   |
| 12 Jun          | RAS with JDS HAMANA (AOE-424)                                       |
| 13 - 16 Jun     | <b>Littoral Area Air Defense Exercise (LAAD - EX) / VANDAL - EX</b> |
| 16 Jun          | VANDAL - EX   |
|                 | RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)                                   |
|                 | Air Department fly-off for helicopter swap-out                      |
|                 | Surface Ship Radiated Noise Measurement                             |
| 17 - 22 Jun     | <b>Port Visit, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii</b>                             |
| 17 Jun          | Moor, Pearl Harbor  |
| 17 - 21 Jun     | <b>Performance Monitoring Team (PMT) Visit</b>                      |
| 17 - 21 Jun     | <b>Changeout of #3 Gas Turbine Generator</b>                        |
| 20 Jun          | Post RIMPAC Conference  |
| 22 Jun          | Pier shift to Ammunition Pier, Lau Lau Lei, Hawaii                  |
|                 | Missile Onload  |
| 23 Jun          | Underway with INDEPENDENCE Battle Group                             |
|                 | Air Department fly-on   |
| 26 Jun          | EMATT USW Exercise  |
| 29 Jun          | VERTREP with USNS KILAEUA (TAE-26)                                  |
|                 | RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)                                   |
|                 | VERTREP with USNS SPICA (TAFS-9)                                    |
| 01 Jul          | CIWS PACFIRE  |
| 02 Jul          | EMATT USW Exercise  |
|                 | SPY-1A Sphere Tracking Exercise                                     |
|                 | Air Department debarked   |
| 03 Jul          | Moor, Yokosuka, Japan   |
|                 | Precision Anchorage   |
| 03 - 17 Jul     | <b>SISCAL Visit</b>   |
| 03 - 26 Jul     | <b>Constant Tension Wench ShipAlt Installation</b>                  |
| 08 Jul - 10 Sep | <b>Selective Restricted Availability (SRA - 6B)</b>                 |
| 08 Jul          | Visit by NHK (Japanese Media)                                       |
|                 | HF E-mail Installation  |
| 08 - 12 Jul     | <b>Logistics Management Assessment (LMA)</b>                        |
| 08 - 13 Jul     | <b>ASIR Visit</b>   |
| 12 Jul          | Boatswain Mates' Olympics (BKH finishes first)                      |
| 14 - 19 Jul     | <b>ASIR/Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE)</b>                     |
| 15 - 19 Jul     | <b>Industrial Health and Safety Inspection</b>                      |
| 16 Jul          | Dispersing Inspection   |
| 19 Jul          | Secretary of the Navy - CMC Breakfast                               |
|                 | Industrial Health Survey Outbrief                                   |
|                 | ASIR Outbrief   |
| 26 Jul - 02 Aug | <b>Carigo/Weapons Elevator Assessment</b>                           |
| 29 Jul          | <b>Ammunition Offload</b>   |

**05 - 09 Aug Aviation Certification**  
**06 - 07 Aug Surface Rescue Team Trainer (SRTT)**  
**08 Aug ARE**  
**12 - 16 Aug Limited Team Trainer/Engineering (LTT(E))**  
**12 - 16 Aug PPAT**  
**12 - 16 Aug Combat Systems Material Condition Review (CSMCR)**  
**14 - 15 Aug .45 Cal Pistol Qualifications**  
**19 - 20 Aug Postal Assist Visit**  
**21 - 23 Aug Generator Testing Team Assessment**  
**27 Aug Visit by BGEN Emery, USAF and brief on current Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD) programs**  
**30 Aug DSRA-7 Work Definition Conference**  
**ARE Fire-fighting Drill**

**03 Sep Complete SRA 6B Departure Conference**  
**Underway to Anchorage A-12 for Ammunition Handling**  
**Underway for sea**

**04 Sep Conducted man overboard drills**  
**Air Department embarked**

**07 - 09 Sep Port Visit to Fukuoka, Japan**  
**07 Sep Anchored, Fukuoka, Japan**  
**Official call by U. S. Consulate, Fukuoka on CO, BUNKER HILL**

**08 Sep Reception held onboard for Fukuoka U.S.-Japan Club**  
**09 Sep Reception held ashore by the Fukuoka U.S.-Japan Club for USS BUNKER HILL**

**10 Sep Underway for Okinawa**  
**11 Sep Fly-off of Air Department for missile exercises**

**12 - 13 Sep Port Visit, White Beach, Okinawa**  
**12 Sep Moored, White Beach**  
**Embarked drone target team**

**14 Sep Underway**  
**16 Sep Launched BQMs in support of USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) and USS CURTS (FFG-38) missile exercises**

**18 Sep RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)**  
**19 - 20 Sep Transited San Bernadino Straits to South China Sea**  
**20 Sep Conducted "Quickdraw" Exercise**  
**21 Sep RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)**  
**22 Sep VERTREP with USNS SPICA (TAFS-9)**

**23 - 27 Sep Port visit to Hong Kong**  
**23 Sep Moored to buoy A-41, Hong Kong**  
**26 Sep Reception held onboard USS INDEPENDENCE**  
**28 Sep Underway**  
**Class "Alfa" fire in Main Engine Room NR 2 in uptake lagging for GTMs.**

Fire extinguished in 47 minutes. Temporary loss of starboard shaft and NR 2 GTG.

29 Sep Three-Quarter power restored.

30 Sep - 01 Oct **Transited San Bernadino Straits to the North Philippine Sea**

01 Oct RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)

02 Oct Gunnery Quarters  
Conducted VERTREP with USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)

04 Oct Moored, Yokosuka, Japan  
Debarked remainder of Air Department

04 - 14 Oct **Conducted repairs from fire in Main Engine Room NR 2**

06 Oct OSSN ██████████ ██████████ undergoes emergency appendectomy

15 Oct Friendship Day  
Underway to Sagami Wan, viewed airshow by CVW FIVE, and returned to Yokosuka.

26 Oct - 04 Nov **Exercise FOAL EAGLE in the Sea of Japan**

26 Oct RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)

27 Oct Conducted USW Exercise with ROKS KWANG JU, ROKS ULSAN, CVW FIVE and ROK aircraft

27 Oct Conducted and emergency recovery of Lightning 613 due to engine fire alarm. Indication proved false.

28 Oct Conducted night SUW Exercise with ROKS KWANG JU, ROKS ULSAN, and USMC aircraft vs USS CURTS

28 - 29 Oct **Transit enroute South China Sea**

29 Oct Joint Theater Ballistic Missile Defense exercise.

30 - 31 Oct **Transit enroute Sea of Japan**

03 Nov Official call by the CNO on USS INDEPENDENCE and USS CURTS.  
RAS with USNS GUADALUPE (TAO-200)

04 - 08 Nov **Exercise KEEN SWORD**

04 Nov ANNUAL-EX Photo-Ex  
VERTREP with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS-7)

09 - 12 Nov **Typhoon Evasion**

10 Nov RAS with JDS TOWADA (AOE-422)

12 Nov Moored, Yokosuka, Japan

28 Nov - 01 Dec **Thanksgiving Standdown**

11 - 13 Dec **Ammo Offload**

11 Dec Underway to Anchorage A-12 and returned

12 Dec Underway to Anchorage A-12 and returned

13 Dec Underway to Anchorage A-12 and returned

16 Dec - 04 Jan **Christmas Leave and Standdown Period**

18 - 21 Dec **Defueling**

19 - 23 Dec **1A Gas Generator Change-Out**

## **USS BUNKER HILL 1996 NARRATIVE**

The following are the highlights of the ship's activities throughout 1996. The year began with BUNKER HILL participating in MSL-EX 96-1 as Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) of a Surface Action Group (SAG). March brought two unexpected but noteworthy events as the ship conducted a rescue-at -sea and a special contingency operation in the Taiwan Strait. April included the ship's Change of Command and first major upkeep period of the year. In May and June, BUNKER HILL as part of the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62) Battle Group (IBG) participated in RIMPAC '96, a major exercise involving representatives from six Pacific navies. The second major upkeep period was conducted in July and August. In late September, the ship suffered an extensive lagging fire in a main space, resulting in a temporary loss of the starboard shaft. Full mobility was restored quickly and rapid repairs were completed in Yokosuka. In late October, BUNKER HILL participated in Exercises FOAL EAGLE and ANNUAL - EX in the Sea of Japan and the Okinawan OPAREA.

### **SAG Operations**

In preparation for Missile Exercise 96-1 annual qualifications, multiple ships were assigned to BUNKER HILL who acted as SAG commander. These included the USS HEWITT (DD 966), USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60), and USS THACH (FFG 43).

BUNKER HILL formed a Surface Action Group, aptly named the "BUNKER HILL Battle SAG," and led the group southward to Okinawa for the multi-platform MSL-EX 96-1. A battle group organization was implemented with the SAG with each ship assuming a different Warfare Commander role under BUNKER HILL's authority as the Composite Warfare Commander (CWC). Time was allocated to complete both "CO's Time", dedicated time for each ship to exercise itself in unit-level exercises, and SAG TACSITs, time during which the SAG would respond to lengthy combat action scenarios.

## **MSL-EX 96-1**

In the Okinawan OPAREA, the BUNKER HILL SAG was joined by F-14 and F/A-18 fighters and E-2C early warning aircraft from Carrier Airwing (CVW) FIVE. The objective was to conduct several multi-platform, live-firing missile exercises. BUNKER HILL served as Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) and Range Safety Officer. She coordinated the use of each of the ships' embarked LAMPS helicopters and the E-2Cs to clear the range of fishing boats, merchant shipping, and any vessels standing into harms way. Commander, Carrier Group (COMCARGRU) FIVE was represented as the Officer Conducting the Exercise (OCE) by two staff officers embarked on BUNKER HILL. In addition, BUNKER HILL embarked the target drone detachment from Okinawa and served as the target launch platform for many of the ships' targets. All other targets were launched by CVW FIVE A-6Es.

It was a very successful exercise because virtually all units completed their qualifications, including BUNKER HILL's two-for-two engagements in its own exercises.

## **DEATH OF A SHIPMATE**

Regrettably, BUNKER HILL's January port visit to Hong Kong, British Columbia was marred by the discovery of the body of a shipmate in the Aft Reel Storeroom. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) was notified and an agent sent. BUNKER HILL held a memorial service onboard and a crew representative escorted his body, carrying his personal belongings to the family having a funeral service in his home town.

## **INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP "WINTER TRAINING"**

February was to be a routine period of IBG training and port visits. Only INDEPENDENCE, BUNKER HILL, and USNS GUADALUPE steamed out of Japan as "IBG." The winter training period was mostly focused upon CVW FIVE flight qualifications as they returned to sea for the first time since ANNUAL-EX and COPE NORTH in November 1995. "Winter training" also encompassed two fleet

exercises, VALIANT USHER and ASW-EX 1-96.

Following completion of carrier qualifications, IBG proceeded to the Yellow Sea to conduct exercise VALIANT USHER with the Korean Navy, which also involved the USS BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) from Sasebo. The exercise proved an opportunity for the ship to plan and analyze the coordination of an air umbrella for the Amphibious Operating Area (AOA). This presented a greater level of complication in the identification process due to the number of helicopters and AV-8s flying in the AOA. Further, the close proximity to shore make the time distance problem extremely difficult as reaction time to land-based air threats is reduced dramatically.

Next, IBG proceeded to the Philippine Sea to join the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) for "ASW-EX 1-96." While smaller in scope when compared to "ANNUAL-EX" in 1995, this exercise proved to be equally challenging for the IBG, with Commander, Escort Flotilla (COMCORTFLOT) FOUR serving as the Surface and Undersea Warfare Commander. BUNKER HILL gained two contacts on JMSDF diesel submarines at extended ranges that provided valuable training and insight for both the JMSDF and COMCARGRU FIVE. The exercise concluded with a port visit to Pusan, Republic of Korea.

### **RESCUE-AT-SEA**

During IBG's transit to Manila for a port visit, one of BUNKER HILL's patrolling helicopters discovered a canoe adrift in the South China Sea about 50 nm from shore. Upon closer examination, ten Philippine nationals (eight males and two females) were onboard with no food and water. They suffered from dehydration, malnutrition and exposure. BUNKER HILL conducted the rescue, provided medical treatment and transported them to Manila.

### **ALERT IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT**

Upon conclusion of the port visit to Manila, an urgent alert was passed to the IBG that the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) was planning to conduct military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. This included launching several Short-Range Ballistic

Missile (SRBM) tests in close proximity to Taiwan. While the PRC's intentions could not be known for certain, the best assessment was that the PRC was attempting to destabilize the first democratic Taiwanese election during the same period.

BUNKER HILL was detached to operate off Taiwan in the South China Sea. Making a high speed run through the night, BUNKER HILL chopped to Commander, Task Force (CTF)-72 and observed multiple test launches using its AEGIS Weapons System capabilities.

BUNKER HILL nicknamed its' location "Wang Chung Station." INDEPENDENCE also had a modified location, approximately 300 nm east of Taiwan, called "Wonton Station." Additionally, the USS O'BRIEN (DD 976) was tasked to leave its training duties near Okinawa and join the IBG, while USS HEWITT and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41) were sortied from Yokosuka. Meanwhile, the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) Battle Group (NBG) was repositioned from the Arabian Gulf and directed to a location nearby.

During the operation, the Forward-Deployed Naval Force accomplished the following:

- o The forces were placed on station with short notice and fully capable to carry-out any tasking.
- o The complete and broad capabilities of an Aegis platform were reiterated.
- o BUNKER HILL remains the only combatant in the Navy that has conducted actual Ballistic Missile surveillance and tracking operations, ready to provide real-time information to a battle group.
- o The force was fully capable of incorporating the NIMITZ Battle Group into a completely integrated two-CV Battle Force as necessary.

### **CHANGE OF COMMAND**

After the ship's return from the Taiwan Strait, Prospective Commanding Officer, CAPT Anthony J. Kopacz, reported aboard.

The Change of Command ceremony was held at the Benny Decker theater as a result of inclement weather. As an indication of the strong support BUNKER HILL and the U. S. Navy receives from the local community, the ceremony was well attended by many representatives of the local government, business people, and the JMSDF. Also present were major Yokosuka support commands.

After his remarks, Rear Admiral J. O. Ellis, Commander, Carrier Group FIVE, presented the Legion of Merit to CAPT Gary W. Schnurpusch. CAPT Schnurpusch closed out his tour on BUNKER HILL by thanking the officers and crew for all their support and hard work. CAPT Anthony J. Kopacz then relieved CAPT Schnurpusch, assuming the duties as Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL. CAPT Schnurpusch's follow-on orders were as Chief of Staff, Commander, Carrier Group THREE.

### **SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITIES (SRAs)**

BUNKER HILL had two major yard periods in 1996, SRA-6A and SRA-6B. SRA-6A was conducted in April and SRA-6B was completed during July and August. Originally planned for over a two and one-half month inport period, the schedule had to be revised to reflect the emerging tasking in the Taiwan Strait. Short in duration, these periods were essential for BUNKER HILL to remain fully mission capable. The maintenance was conducted by Naval Ship Repair Facility (SRF), Yokosuka. SRF provides continuous maintenance during BUNKER HILL inport periods. This creates a unique environment in which Japanese Nationals provide technical and industrial support.

An understanding of the importance of those periods can be gained by a review of some major maintenance actions completed.

- o Complete resurfacing of the Flight Deck and Rapid Securing Device (RSD) replacement and subsequent groom.
- o Replacement of several Vertical Launching System (VLS) hatches and installation of a new Launcher Sequencing Unit (LSU).
- o Preparation of the Gun Weapon System for installation of the

"Big Five ORDALT," which will give BUNKER HILL capabilities comparable to a newer cruiser of the class.

- o Installation of the Navigation Sensor Systems Interface (NAVSSI), a new advanced electronic navigation system.
- o Nr. 3 Gas Turbine Generator (GTG) engine alignment.
- o Complete electric plant groom.
- o Replacement of Nr. 1B Steering Pump.

Repairs were not the only show in town. BUNKER HILL used the lengthy inport periods to complete numerous command inspections. The first inspection consisted of material checks of the flight deck and equipment by Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representatives (ASIR). The second was the inspection of the Flight Deck Fire Party, the Aviation Readiness Exam (ARE). As part of the engineering readiness cycle, Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific (ATGWP) sent a team to conduct a Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA). A separate team from ATGWP conducted training and certification of the search and rescue capabilities during the Surface Rescue Team Trainer (SRTT). Additionally, several assessment teams were aboard to inspect and validate equipment. Finally, BUNKER HILL pushed hard through the planning cycle for DSRA-7, due to begin in early January 1997.

### **EXERCISE RIM OF THE PACIFIC 1996 (RIMPAC)**

The next major event BUNKER HILL participated in this year was RIMPAC '96, a major exercise held every two years in the vicinity of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This year the IBG participated together with JMSDF units of CORTFLOT FOUR, under Rear Admiral Haneda embarked on the JDS HIEI (DDH 142). Together these two groups comprised the Opposition Force (OPFOR), which squared off against the USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63) Carrier Battle Group (KHG) and its' allied units. Canada, Australia, Chile, and the Republic of Korea were also represented.

The exercise was conducted in four phases. The first was the inport planning period, which began early in the year. The second phase consisted of battle group workups near Guam. A key element in this phase was the qualification of CVW FIVE aircraft, and as Air Warfare Commander, BUNKER HILL coordinated and ran numerous exercises. Shortly after the arrival of the Japanese contingent, the

battle group conducted the transit from Guam to the Hawaiian OPAREA. Exercises and drills constituted Phase III, which integrated the two forces into a single unit. Phase IV is where the rubber met the road, with the IBG taking off against the KHG in the context of a political situation based on possible real world scenarios.

Units of the Bilateral Force were assembled from three different locations. Yokosuka-based units, including BUNKER HILL, participated in all phases of the exercise. The JMSDF units joined for Phases III and IV. Hawaiian-based units joined for the final phase after completing their own work-ups.

#### Yokosuka-Based Units

USS INDEPENDENCE(CV 62)  
-CVW 5 and CCG 5 embarked  
USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)  
USS FIFE (DD 991)  
USS O'BRIEN (DD 975)  
USNS GUADALUPE (TAO 200)

#### Hawaiian-Based Units

USS CHOSIN (CG 65)  
USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60)  
USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)  
USS LEFTWICH (DD 984)  
USS HONOLULU (SSN 718)  
USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688)

#### JMSDF Units

JDS HIEI (DDH 142)  
-CCF 4 embarked  
JDS SAWAGIRI (DD 157)  
JDS YUUGIRI (DD 153)  
JDS YAMAGIRI (DD 152)  
JDS HAMANA (AOE 424)  
JDS KIRISHIMA (DDG 175)  
JDS TACHIKAZE (DDG 168)  
JDS UMIGIRI (DD 158)  
JDS SETOGIRI (DD 156)  
JDS NATSUSHIO (SS 584)

After visits to the Philippines and Guam the IBG conducted battle group level training. BUNKER HILL, as Air Defense Commander (ADC), was heavily involved in CVW FIVE's training. Going hand in hand with her responsibilities as ADC, were those of the Fighter Air Defense Identification Zone (FADIZ). The IBG engaged in a scenario similar to the RIMPAC scenario but on a smaller scale. This culminated in strikes against a mythical nation, with forces opposing the strikes. As a major initiative, the creation of the "Air Safety Cell" proved to be a resounding success.

On the 27 May, the Bilateral Force (BIF) was created. The Japanese units joined the IBG for a few days of work-ups in the vicinity of the Marianas. This not only included AAW, but also training in the whole spectrum of warfare. Most participants being without recent experience with foreign forces, exercises were geared to increasing inter-operability. BUNKER HILL, together with the other 5" gun-equipped ships, exercised its capabilities against a towed target. UNREPs were conducted with each others CLF ships.

This period concluded with the entire BIF conducting a bilateral UNREP as they began the transit to Hawaii. The force arrayed with the three CLF ships abreast of each other, while the combatants maneuvered around them. The transit to Hawaii was to include a commemoration to the end of World War II and a close-in photo-ex. In an unfortunate CIWS training mishap, an A-6E Intruder was lost without any personnel casualties.

The final phase was conducted off the coast of Hawaii, with the BIF opposed by the Multi-National Force (MNF), centered on the KITTY HAWK. The highlight of this phase came as the BUNKER HILL, PAUL HAMILTON and KIRISHIMA broke off as a SAG to oppose a landing by the MNF in BIF controlled territory.

BUNKER HILL and other Aegis ships conducted a special exercise, Littoral Area Air Defense Exercise (LAAD - EX). The exercise proved to be highly successful, providing ground work for further work. BUNKER HILL was also scheduled for a live fire shot of an SM-2 against a VANDAL, a supersonic target drone. The Aegis weapon system functioned perfectly. Unfortunately, other considerations precluded the successful engagement of the target.

### **CLASS "ALPHA" FIRE IN MAIN ENGINE ROOM NR TWO**

BUNKER HILL returned to sea following an eventful port visit to Hong Kong, British Columbia on 28 September 1996. That evening, the ship conducted a set of Engineering Casualty Control (ECC) Drills. As the Engineering Training Team was preparing to impose the next casualty, the Engine Room Operator reported a fire in the uptake lagging in Main Engine Room Nr. 2 (MER 2).

The crew responded quickly and manned their General Quarters stations. HALON 1301 was discharged into the space, effectively extinguishing the fire. Fire parties were changed out six times while cooling hot spots, desmoking the space and overhauling the fire until the final atmospheric test could be made.

As a result of the fire, both GTMs in the space and Nr 2 GTG were initially placed out of commission (OOC). Additionally, approximately 30 cables in a cable run were shorted out, rendering various other pieces of equipment OOC. Some were part of the ship's 400 Hz electrical distribution system. Others were control cables for the Gas Turbine Main engines (GTMs). Also, the flexible boot for Nr 1B GTM was damaged. Within 24 hours, ship's force was able to restore Nr. 1A GTM and Nr. 2 GTG, to service. Numerous lighting and electrical systems required several days to effect repairs.

Repairs to MER 2 took place during the ship's ten day inport period. With the assistance of SRF, BUNKER HILL not only got underway on time and fully mission capable for Exercise FOAL EAGLE, but also made its Friendship Day cruise without missing a commitment.

### **EXERCISE FOAL EAGLE**

BUNKER HILL participated in Exercise FOAL EAGLE, a major exercise held near the Korean Peninsula each year, for only last part of the exercise.

After making a 40 hour transit to a position west of Pusan, Republic of Korea, BUNKER HILL was ready for a joint TBMD exercise. Other players in the exercise included CVW FIVE's F-14s, acting as the targets, and an Army Patriot Missile battery. The object was to use queuing for the Patriot battery ashore with a SPY-1A track being transmitted from the BUNKER HILL

The impediments to a successful exercise were formidable:

- o Dissimilar communications and data link gear and procedures.
- o Unfamiliarity between the forces .

- o A long transit for the target aircraft from the INDEPENDENCE in the Sea of Japan to Pusan with limited tanking assets.

Despite the challenges, both runs were successful.

## **EXERCISE ANNUAL-EX 1996**

Immediately following Exercise FOAL EAGLE, BUNKER HILL participated in exercises ANNUAL-EX and KEEN SWORD. These exercises are vital to maintaining U.S.-Japanese interoperability and are conducted each year. The first exercise, KEEN SWORD, was conducted in the Sea of Japan. The remainder was unfortunately truncated due to deteriorating weather from Super Typhoon Dale.

For BUNKER HILL, ANNUAL-EX was a successful exercise and its last major event prior to entering dry-dock. Successes included numerous air warfare exercises, and throughout, BUNKER HILL once again displayed its formidable USW capability. She twice coordinated the localization and successful attack of enemy subs.

A unique aspect of the event was the use of deception techniques, including the use of deceptive lighting and selectively radiating certain emitters. After concluding the fixed-wing flights, the carrier battle group transited to its next operating area in a strict emissions condition. BUNKER HILL operated as a picket station in a surveillance and missile platform role in the Joint Engagement Zone (JEZ) and carrier protector, "CV Shotgun" where she performed point defense duties. This resulted in several successful high speed, deceptive transits.

The remainder of the year was spent in preparation for the January 1997 start of Dry-docking Ship's Restricted Availability (DSRA). A few days were spent at anchorage offloading ammunition in Yokosuka. This was the first complete offload of ammunition from BUNKER HILL since the fall of 1994. BUNKER HILL and her sister ship, JDS HATAKAZE (DDG 171) continued a strong tradition of exchanging goodwill and celebration during the holiday season. HATAKAZE presented BUNKER HILL with two "Katamatsu" decorations for the quarterdeck and BUNKER HILL reciprocated with a large Christmas wreath. 1996 was

completed with BUNKER HILL in a holiday leave and upkeep period, preparing to tackle the challenges ahead in 1997.

## 1996 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- o History of the BUNKER HILL
- o Ship's Photo and "Welcome Aboard" pamphlets
  - English language
  - Japanese language
- o Commanding Officers' photos and biographies
  - CAPT A. J. Kopacz (reporting)
  - CAPT G. W. Schnurrrusch (departing)
- o Change of Command program
- o Chain of Command onboard USS BUNKER HILL
- o Officers of USS BUNKER HILL
- o Chief Petty Officers of USS BUNKER HILL
- o Notification of Assignment to Primary and Collateral Duties, Boards, Councils and Committees
  - BUNKERHILLNOTE 1301, 19 SEP 96
- o Ship's Newsletters: "Sword of the Fleet"
  - January-April 1996
- o USS INDEPENDENCE Battle Group Meritorious Unit Commendation Citation
- o Series of 1996 "KUDO" messages
- o Series of newspaper articles, including:
  - SAG/MSL-EX operations
  - Taiwan Strait alert
  - Rescue at Sea
  - Change of Command
  - Public Affairs Officer press releases

## **HISTORY OF USS BUNKER HILL**

USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52) was built by Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries, Pascagoula, Mississippi. The second ship to bear the name, she was commissioned on 20 September 1986 in Boston, Massachusetts, within sight of the historic monument commemorating her namesake battle. The first namesake was CV-17, nicknamed the "Holiday Express" for conducting World War II raids on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Sunday. CV-17's combat actions earned her many awards including the Presidential Unit Citation and 11 Battle Stars. Today's namebearer was built as a state-of-the art, Aegis, major combatant with many expectations to carry the Navy into the 21st Century. BUNKER HILL joined the fleet as the first combatant to be configured with the Vertical Launch System (VLS), from which all missiles -- surface to air, antisubmarine rockets and Tomahawks -- are launched straight upward in rapid fire mode vice slower, conventional rail launchers. As a result, BUNKER HILL became known as the "Vertical Swordsman" and VLS became the Navy's launching system of choice on all subsequent combatants.

After commissioning, BUNKER HILL entered the Pacific Fleet via the Panama Canal and, following a series of Combat Systems Ships' Qualification Trials (CSSQT) near Hawaii in early 1987, she began short-notice work-ups to deploy to the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. BUNKER HILL made her first deployment in July 1987, nearly one year ahead of schedule. During that deployment, she provided the air warfare defense umbrella inside the Arabian Gulf for USS MISSOURI (BB 63) Surface Action Group, USS RANGER (CV 61) Carrier Battle Group and innumerable U.S. flagged tankers and ships transiting through the Straits of Hormuz. BUNKER HILL was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and 1987 Battle Efficiency "E" Award, her first, for operational readiness.

In August 1988 BUNKER HILL shifted homeport to Yokosuka, Japan and joined the USS MIDWAY (CV 41) Carrier Battle Group for a four-month deployment in the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet area and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and her second Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

From November 1990 through March 1991 BUNKER HILL deployed again to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. Serving as Air Warfare Commander (AWC) for the entire Arabian Gulf Battle Force, BUNKER HILL directed the tactical employment of Air Warfare (AW) for 26 ships and over 300 aircraft from six nations. BUNKER HILL identified and tracked over 65,000 aircraft without a single safety incident. BUNKER HILL also launched 28 Tomahawk cruise missiles against targets in Iraq. The ship was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three bronze stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

After returning to Yokosuka, BUNKER HILL underwent the first overseas Drydock Selected Restricted Availability for a TICONDEROGA Class Cruiser. In July 1991, she escorted MIDWAY to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for turnover to USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62). INDY became the new centerpiece of the Yokosuka battle group and serves as flagship for the Commander, Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Carrier Group FIVE.

In March 1992, BUNKER HILL was part of the last battle group to visit the U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. In April 1992 BUNKER HILL departed Yokosuka for a seven-month Arabian Gulf deployment -- her third. Again serving as the Arabian Gulf Battle Force AWC, the ship was instrumental in the planning and execution of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, the enforcement of the United Nations "no-fly zone" over Iraq. In 1992 BUNKER HILL was awarded her second Battle Efficiency "E" Award.

After conducting successful missile exercises near the island of Okinawa, BUNKER HILL participated in Exercise TEAM SPIRIT '93 and provided AW coverage for the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group, the USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) Amphibious Task Force and Commander, SEVENTH Fleet embarked in BLUE RIDGE. In September 1993 BUNKER HILL conducted a historic visit to the Russian city of Vladivostok.

In November 1993 BUNKER HILL deployed from Yokosuka for independent operations in the Sea of Japan before rejoining the

INDEPENDENCE Battle Group in the Arabian Gulf for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. BUNKER HILL was awarded the 1993 Battle Efficiency "E" Award, her third award and second consecutive. On March 17, 1994, she returned to Yokosuka marking completion of her fourth Arabian Gulf deployment.

After conducting her second overseas SRA in Yokosuka from April to July 1994, BUNKER HILL was off to sea again, providing AW coverage for INDEPENDENCE during short-notice operations in the Sea of Japan. BUNKER HILL was awarded the 1994 Battle Efficiency "E" Award, her fourth award and third consecutive. BUNKER HILL embarked Commander, Carrier Group FIVE in March 1995 and served as his flagship for a historic portvisit to Qingdao, People's Republic of China. BUNKER HILL was the first U.S. Navy ship to visit the PRC since 1989 and only the third Navy visit to China since 1945.

Mid-1995 included advanced battle group training and Exercise COBRA GOLD '95 in the Gulf of Thailand with the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group, USS BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Readiness Group and the Royal Thai military. Subsequently, BUNKER HILL completed her fifth deployment to the Arabian Gulf with the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group. The ship again served as the FIFTH Fleet AWC for the Arabian Gulf during Operations VIGILANT SENTINEL and SOUTHERN WATCH. BUNKER HILL also enforced U.N. sanctions against Iraq as a member of the Maritime Interception Force (MIF) and served as Ready Strike platform for Tomahawk contingency operations in the northern Arabian Gulf. BUNKER HILL received the Commander, SEVENTH Fleet, "1995 Award for Air Warfare Excellence" and the 1995 Battle Efficiency "E" Award, her fifth award and fourth consecutive.

BUNKER HILL served as the principal combatant in a multi-carrier battle group response to tensions between China and Taiwan in the Taiwan Strait in March 1996. For this unprecedented performance, BUNKER HILL was awarded her second Meritorious Unit Commendation. The ship also received the 1996 Battle Efficiency "E" Award, her sixth award and fifth consecutive, Commander, SEVENTH Fleet, "1996 Award for Air Warfare Excellence", her second consecutive and Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific 1996 Safety Award.

Today, BUNKER HILL continues to serve as a major combatant in the USS INDEPENDENCE Battle Group, particularly continuing as her Air Warfare Commander. Operations at "The Tip of the Spear" for BUNKER HILL routinely includes elements of all navies and air forces on the Pacific Rim. This includes the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, the Republic of Korea and the Royal Thai Navy as well as the United States' own Marine Corps, Army and Air Force units in the Pacific. Still setting the pace in overall air and strike warfare tactics in the SEVENTH Fleet, the "Vertical Swordsman" also leads the Western Pacific region's efforts in developing new littoral warfare doctrine and tactical thought in naval, joint service and allied combined operations for today and tomorrow.