



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)

FLEET POST OFFICE

AE 09506-1191

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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CG 71/PAO/297

7 JUN 98

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Washington DC 20374-5060

Subj: SHIP'S HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition (U)

(2) Command Organization (U)

(3) Command Chronology (U)

(4) Command History Narrative (U)

(5) Command Awards (U)

(6) Supporting Documents (U)

(7) Messages of Interest (C) [IN CLASS FILE]

(8) Command CASREP Summary (C) [IN CLASS FILE]

1. I am submitting enclosures (1) through (8) in accordance with reference (a).


J. C. HARVEY, JR.

Copy to:

CNO (OP-09B)

COMNAVSURFLANT (N02L)

COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT

Declassify on: 29 May 2004

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COMMAND COMPOSITION

1. Mission. CAPE ST. GEORGE is a Ticonderoga Class guided missile cruiser, equipped with the most advanced technology and weaponry put to sea. The twin screw, twin rudder, gas-turbine powered, 9,600 ton combatant features the AEGIS Combat System with Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC). The AEGIS system integrates and automates in real time the functions of detection, control, engagement, and command in the three basic warfare modes: Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), and Surface Warfare (SUW). With its designed mission capabilities, CAPE ST. GEORGE is able to operate effectively in the presence of air, surface, and sub-surface threats.

2. Organizational Structure.

a. CAPE ST. GEORGE is part of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet under the administrative command of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group EIGHT (Rear Admiral Scott A. Fry). Operationally, CAPE ST. GEORGE is part of the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) Battle Group (IKEBATGRU) under operational control of Commander, Second Fleet. Operational control of CAPE ST. GEORGE was as follows during 1997:

Officer-in-Tactical Command (OTC)	Organization	Dates
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT	CTG 40.3	01 JAN - 16 MAY
COMSECONDFLT	CTF 024	16 MAY - 05 JUN
CINCUSNAVEUR	CTF 100	05 JUN - 22 JUL
COMSECONDFLT	CTF 024	22 JUL - 25 NOV
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT	CTG 040.3	25 NOV - 10 DEC
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT	CTG 029.6	10 DEC - 31 DEC

b. The ship's internal organization as of 31 December 1997 was as shown in enclosure (2), figure 1.

3. Units under operational/administrative control. Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility Detachment embarked 24 AUG to 20 SEP in support of All Services Combat Identification and Evaluation Team (ASCIET) 1997 exercise deployment.

4. Permanent duty station. Norfolk, Virginia.

5. Aircraft assigned.

a. British Royal Navy 209 Flight, 815 Squadron embarked CAPE ST. GEORGE as follows during 1997:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Event</u>
5 - 28 JUN	NAVY 444	BALTOPS '97

b. The "Grandmasters" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron, Light (HSL) FOUR SIX, Detachment EIGHT embarked CAPE ST. GEORGE as follows during 1997:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Event</u>
9 - 17 DEC	CUTLASS 460	Week One Work-ups (WOWU)

Figure 1:

USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)
1997 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

COMMANDING OFFICER
CAPT J. C. HARVEY, JR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LCDR M. R. HAGEROTT

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
BMCM(SW) D. D. EVERETT

COMBAT SYSTEMS	EXECUTIVE	SEAMANSHIP	OPERATIONS	SUPPLY	ENGINEERING	WEAPONS	AIR
LT [REDACTED]	LCDR HAGEROTT	LTJG [REDACTED]	LT [REDACTED]	LCDR [REDACTED]	LCDR [REDACTED]	LT [REDACTED]	LCDR [REDACTED]
CC	CMC	SD	OC	S-1	A	WA	
CE	EX (ADMIN OFFICER)	SN	OI	S-2	E	WF	
CT	3MC CMAA CCC SMDR CHAPLAIN PERSONNEL OFFICER		OT	S-3	MP R	WO WS	

USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)
1997 CHRONOLOGY

Dates	Event
1 - 30 JAN	Inport, Norfolk, VA (NORVA)
1 - 8 JAN	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period
1 - 16 JAN	Shipboard Instrumentation and System On-Site Calibration (SISCAL)
13 - 17 JAN	Pre-Logistics Management Inspection (LMA) Assist Visit
27 - 31 JAN	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) Phase II (including Propulsion Examining Board (PEB))
30 - 31 JAN	Underway, Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA)
1 - 18 FEB	Inport, NORVA
4 - 5 FEB	Command Inspection
10 - 14 FEB	Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) Tactical Training
18 - 21 FEB	Underway, VCOA for Fleet Training Group (FTG)-Supported Seamanship Training
19 FEB 97	UNREPs with USS SEATTLE (AOE 3); one day and one night
21 - 24 FEB	Inport, NORVA
24 - 28 FEB	Underway, VCOA for CSTG and ITT training
28 FEB - 17 MAR	Inport, NORVA
4 MAR	JTIDS Field Change 4 (C2P update) installed
15 MAR	Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) testing w/ USS WASP (LHD 1)
17 - 21 MAR	Underway, enroute Port Canaveral, FL for Engineering Certification (ECERT) and Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs)
18 MAR	UNREP with USS PLATTE (AO 186)

Dates	Event
20 MAR	ECERT achieved
21 - 24 MAR	Inport, Port Canaveral, FL CSG participates in Seafest '97
24 - 26 MAR	Underway, enroute NORVA
25 MAR	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE (T AO-203)
26 MAR - 28 APR	Inport, NORVA
1 APR	OL 224 CV-3893 Field Change 5 installed (Function Generator update, corrected EC-DITEG lock-up faults)
1 - 14 APR	Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System (JWICS) installed
4 - 9 APR	AN/USQ-124(v)3, TACINTEL Phase II, installed
14 - 18 APR	Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) II Logistics Management Assessment (LMA)
23 - 24 APR	Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) achieved
25 APR	Steel Beach Picnic for Dependents
28 APR -1 MAY	Underway, VCOA for training (pre-BALTOPS preparations)
30 APR	UNREP with USS PLATTE (AO 186)
1 - 23 MAY	Inport, NORVA
2 - 22 MAY	Industrial Maintenance Availability (IMAV)
5 MAY	CCDG 8 (RADM Hinkle) embarked
5 - 9 MAY	Aviation Facilities Tech Assist (TA) Visit
7 MAY	Spanish SECDEF visit
8 MAY	MK 86 ORDALT 16580 and 30443 installed (Multi-Function Fuze, NGFS/HSMST Training Mode, Data Reduction Monitor, NAVSSI Integration, and Operational Program update)

Dates	Event
9 MAY	SHIPALT CG47-60179D installed (VLS Vent modification)
10 MAY	Equipment Change USG-1(V)-001 installed (CEC equipment upgrade to IOC configuration)
12 MAY	SHIPALT CG47-0534K installed (UHF SATCOM upgrade) ORDALT 16593 installed (Harpoon Weapons System (HWS) configured for Harpoon Embedded Trainer (HET))
12 - 16 MAY	CIWS Material Review
13 MAY	AN-SQQ 89(V) Engineering Changes 46, 51, 52, 57, 60, 61, 74, 75, 83 installed (SQQ-89 Hardware upgrades to support Tactical Operational Software 002B)
14 MAY	AEGIS Program Baseline 5.C.2 installed
15 MAY	Equipment Change USG-1(V)-003 (CEC equipment upgrade to IOC configuration)
15 - 22 MAY	Standard-Tactical Receive Equipment Display (S-TRED)/ GALE LITE installed
16 MAY	WSN-5 Field Change 8 installed (Upgrade WSN-5 Hardware)
17 MAY	CSG Day at the Tides
19 - 22 MAY	European Theater Indications and Warning Communications System (ETWICS) installed
23 MAY	AN/USQ-101 Tactical Receive Equipment installed Underway U.S. Exercise Baltic Operations 1997 (BALTOPS 97) with USS ANZIO (CG 68) and USS ESTOCIN (FFG 15), enroute Portsmouth, UK. ANZ has TACON.
2 JUN	UNREP w/ RFA FORT VICTORIA (A 387)
3 - 4 JUN	UK/USN Passing Exercise (PASSEX)
5 - 8 JUN	Inport, Portsmouth, UK
5 JUN	CCDG-8 Chief of Staff (CAPT Geiger) embarked British Royal Navy 209 Flight, 815 Squadron embarks

Dates	Event
8 JUN	Underway, enroute Exercise CENTRAL ENTERPRISE 97 Embark 209 Flight NAVY 444, Super Sea Lynx Helicopter
9 - 12 JUN	Exercise CENTRAL ENTERPRISE 97
13 JUN	Inport, Gdynia, Poland
15 JUN	Thirty crewmembers deliver \$16,000 worth of medical and welfare supplies to Gdynia Children's Home
16 - 20 JUN	Underway, BALTOPS Phase 1: "Partnership for Peace" Phase with HDMS HVIDBJOERNEN (F 360), HDMS OLFERT FISCHER (F 355), FGS ROMMEL (D 187), and ORP KASZUB (240)
18 JUN	UNREP w/ RFA ORANGELEAF (A 110)
20 JUN	Inport, Kiel Germany VADM Boehmer, CNO of German Navy visit
21 JUN	Reception
23 - 27 JUN	Underway, BALTOPS Phase 2 with HNLMS DE REUYTER (F 806), FGS ROMMEL (D 187), and USCGC LEGARE (WMEC 912)
25 JUN	UNREP w/ RFA ORANGELEAF
27 JUN	Inport, Aarhus, Denmark
28 JUN	209 Flight, 815 Squadron debarks
30 JUN	Underway, enroute Wilhelmshaven, Germany
1 - 6 JUL	Inport, Wilhelmshaven, Germany
5 JUL	Reception
6 JUL	Underway, Enroute Amsterdam, Netherlands
7 - 10 JUL	Inport Amsterdam Netherlands CCDG 8 embarked
7 JUL	Reception
10 JUL	Underway, enroute Brest, France

Dates	Event
11 - 16 JUL	Inport Brest, France
15 JUL	Reception
16 JUL	Underway, enroute Cobh, Ireland
17 - 22 JUL	Inport Cobh, Ireland
18 JUL	Reception
19 JUL	Eighteen crewmembers paint and clean St. Coleman's Cathedral Drug and Rehabilitation Facility in Cobh
22 JUL	Underway, enroute NORVA
25 - 26 JUL	48 hour battle problem
28 JUL	Final Evaluation Period (FEP) Rehearsal
29 JUL	UNREP with USNS KANAWHA (AO-196)
29 JUL - 25 AUG	Inport NORVA
29 JUL - 3 AUG	CSG Holidays
4 AUG	AEGIS Program Baseline 5.C.3 and 5.C.YE installed
15 - 25 AUG	CCDG 8 embarked
22 AUG	AEGIS Tactical Assessment Capability (ATAC) Installed
25 AUG	Underway, enroute ASCIET 1997 Final Evaluation Period (FEP)
29 AUG	Begin ASCIET '97 (Engineering Tests)
29 - 31 AUG	Inport, Mobile, AL
31 AUG	Underway, ASCIET '97 Week 1
31 - 5 SEP	ASCIET '97 Week 1
3 SEP	CSG Regional Air Defense Commander (RADC)

Dates	Event
5 - 7 SEP	Inport, Mobile, AL
7 SEP	Underway, ASCIET '97 Week 2
7 - 12 SEP	ASCIET '97 Week 2
10 SEP	CSG Regional Air Defense Commander (RADC)
12 - 15 SEP	Inport, Pensacola, FL
15 SEP	Underway for USMC CEC Missile Exercise
15 - 16 SEP	USMC CEC Missile Exercise
16 SEP	Underway, enroute NORVA
18 SEP	UNREP with USS PLATTE
20 - 24 SEP	Inport, NORVA
24 SEP	Underway, enroute Naval Weapons Station Yorktown , VA (NWSY)
24 - 26 SEP	Inport NWSY Ammunition Offload
26 SEP	Underway, enroute NORVA Dependents' "Tiger" Cruise
26 SEP - 6 OCT	Inport, NORVA
29 SEP - 17 OCT	IKEBATGRU Warfare Commanders' Conference (WCC)
2 OCT	Safety Stand Down
6 OCT	Deadstick transit to Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Portsmouth, VA for Restricted Availability (RAV)
6 OCT - 24 NOV	Inport, NNSY RAV (R-05-0005)
27 - 31 OCT	Aviation Certification (AVCERT) Tech Assist (TA) Visit

Dates	Event
28 OCT	JTIDS Field Change 5 installed (Processor and documentation update for AN/URC-107)
29 OCT	AN/SQR-53C Equipment Change 63 (RACE condition) and 73 (Hardware and Firmware upgrade) AN/SQQ-89(V) Equipment Change 88 (OBT Firmware)
5 NOV	ORDALT 16527 (VLS Strikedown Crane Check Valve removal) and 16387 (Baffles and Cable Shielding added to VLS)
10 NOV	ORDALT 20257 (SPY Skid Heat Exchanger Handle installed)
12 NOV	OE-82C/WCS-1(V) Antennas (forward and aft) removed and replaced OE-82C/WCS-1(V) Field Change 2 (OE-82 Antenna Group modification) ORDALT 20221 (Logic Output Channel redesign for output stability during turn-on and turn-off) ORDALT 20240 (SPY Group Phase Wiring modification)
19 NOV	ORDALT 16609 (Mark 45 Mod 2 Gun Weapons System (GWS) Watch Dog Multi-Function Fuze and other system changes) IFF Field Change 1 (OE-120 Synchro Input correction)
19 - 20 NOV	Light Off Assessment (LOA)
13 - 25 NOV	CCDG 8 (RADM S. A. Fry) embarked
24 NOV	SHIPALT CG47-320K/320K MOD 1, Damage Control Console Auto Pump Logic modification
26 - 27 NOV	Underway, Virginia Capes Operations Area (VCOA) for Sea Trials
24 NOV	ORDALT 16605 (Mark 45 GWS Gun Mount corrosion prevention) ORDALT 20284 (FCS Antenna EMI reduction)
26 NOV	OJ-471 Field Change 11 and 21 (EMI Gasket and Cable installed) MACHALT-256-59002 (CIWS Venturi-type Flow Switch installed) SA-47-00515 (NAVSSI installed)
27 NOV - 9 DEC	Inport, NORVA

Dates	Event
1 DEC	ORDALT 20274 (FIS/RLEP Heat Sink removed) AMI-47-086 (VLS Air Regulator replaced)
1 - 3 DEC	CCDG 8 embarked
1 - 4 DEC	Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) completed
1 - 5 DEC	AVCERT completed
8 DEC	Embark HSL-46, Detachment 8 UNREP assist visit by USS SUPPLY (AOE 8) UNREP Assist Team
9 DEC	AN/SPS-49(V) ASRS (Removed and replaced SPS-49 Antenna and Pedastal) Underway, enroute New York City Escort operations w/ USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
10 DEC	CUTLASS 460 fly-on
10 - 12 DEC	Week 1 Workups (WOWU) Phase 1
12 - 15 DEC	Inport, New York City
15 DEC	Underway, enroute NORVA
15 - 17 DEC	WOWU, Phase 2
17 DEC	Inport, NORVA Debark HSL-46, Detachment 8
17 - 29 DEC	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period 1
29 DEC - 12 JAN	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period 2

USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)
1997 COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE

During 1997 CAPE ST. GEORGE maintained a full schedule of events, including extensive support of CEC testing, a truly tailored CART II and TSTA cycle, a wide variety of inspections, and operations in the North Atlantic, Baltic Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. CAPE ST. GEORGE operated out of homeport 135 days, steamed more than 19,501 miles, paid thirteen calls to eight foreign ports, and hosted over 14,000 guests. From June to July, CAPE ST. GEORGE embarked a British Royal Navy Super Sea LYNX detachment; conducted ten replenishments at sea, completed 398 launches, recoveries and deck landing qualifications; conducted 185 personnel transfers by helicopter; and performed 27 helicopter-in-flight-refuelings. CAPE ST. GEORGE maintained the standard of excellence which has characterized the ship since commissioning.

1997 began with a period of leave and upkeep in the ship's homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, but the ship's schedule soon accelerated. The early part of 1997 was filled with inspections: CART II, Command Inspection, ECERT, LMA, and CMTQ. CAPE ST. GEORGE achieved outstanding results on all inspections. Fleet Training Group (FTG), Atlantic worked with CAPE ST. GEORGE and COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT to develop the first truly tailored entire notional training cycle, focusing upon only those training assets required to amplify and reinforce an already active, qualified Integrated Training Program. COMNAVSURFLANT, VADM D. J. Katz, commented that CAPE ST. GEORGE's "benchmark execution of the CART-TSTA-CERT process not only set the standard for the waterfront, but allowed for the redistribution of scarce training resources to those ships with greater needs." (COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA 251845Z MAR 97).

The challenge of inspections, assessments, and TSTA-supported underway periods was complemented by a port visit to Port Canaveral, Florida, in support of that city's "Seafest '97." CAPE ST. GEORGE successfully completed an early Engineering Certification (ECERT) during the transit. COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT, RADM J. B. Hinkle, remarked, "An aggressive and unprecedented accelerated training schedule highlighted by early completion of Engineering Certification is proof of your overall commitment to the highest standards of professionalism and team work. Your steady strain approach to training and readiness sets a new standard for the fleet." (COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT 251417Z MAR 97).

Upon arrival in Port Canaveral, our primary mission became public relations support. The premier attraction of Seafest '97, Port Canaveral's largest annual festival, CAPE ST. GEORGE hosted over four thousand guests and enjoyed the outstanding climate, night life, and food of Seafest.

During the month of May, CAPE ST. GEORGE completed an Industrial Maintenance Availability, pierside in Norfolk.

On 23 May, CAPE ST. GEORGE departed on a two-month deployment to the Baltic Sea in company with USS ANZIO (CG 68) and USS ESTOCIN (FFG 15). Embarked on ANZIO was Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group (CCDG) EIGHT, RADM J. B. Hinkle, Jr. Embarked in CAPE ST. GEORGE was CAPT N. Geiger, CCDG-8 Chief of Staff. Other surface ships which participated in the deployment were USS THUNDERBOLT (PC 12) and USCGC LEGARE (WMEC 912).

During the deployment, CAPE ST. GEORGE participated in numerous important exercises, most notably: a United Kingdom/United States Navy (UK/USN) Passing Exercise (PASSEX), a UK/US air defense exercise which demonstrated the Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC); Central Enterprise '97, the premier air defense exercise of the NATO Central Region; and U.S. Exercise Baltic Operations 1997 (BALTOPS 97). During all of BALTOPS, CAPE ST. GEORGE served as the Air Safety Cell Coordinator, ensuring safety of flight during a period of high-intensity exercises.

The UK/USN PASSEX highlighted CAPE ST. GEORGE's Cooperative Engagement Capability, a revolutionary datalink which allows CEC-equipped units to share fire control quality track information. Selected to lead the planning and execution of a complex Air Warfare Serial in the littoral region of the western approaches to the Straits of Dover, CAPE ST. GEORGE designed and implemented a robust interoperability matrix incorporating voice nets, Tactical Datalinks 11 and 16, and CEC. U.S. Navy sensors and weapons systems were fused with European systems (predominantly the HMS INVINCIBLE Carrier Battle Group), creating a robust data sharing architecture which was successfully employed against aggressive air attacks by opposing European air forces. Operating in conjunction with USS ANZIO (CG 68) and a CEC-equipped P-3C ORION, CAPE ST. GEORGE successfully defeated the attack by waves of strike aircraft.

CENTRAL ENTERPRISE '97, a major annual NATO Central Region air defense exercise which included the participation of ten countries, was another outstanding success for CAPE ST. GEORGE. Acting as Sector Air Defense Coordinator (SADC), CAPE ST. GEORGE directed all overwater air defense against threats which included both conventional fighter and attack aircraft and simulated Theater Ballistic Missiles (TBMs). Upon arrival near the German coast, SADC immediately joined a robust Joint/Coalition Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) incorporating multiple two-way voice communications paths, Tactical Datalinks 11 and 16, and CEC. This Joint/Coalition IADS successfully employed Link 16/Interim JTIDS Message Specification capable E-3B NATO Airborne Early Warning (NAEW) AWACS platforms, a myriad of U.S. and allied fighter aircraft, and long and short

range SAM systems to simultaneously defeat high speed Air Breathing Threats and simulated Theater Ballistic Missile (TBM) attacks. Able to maintain a comprehensive and coherent air picture with the SPY-1 radar and CEC data link, CAPE ST. GEORGE controlled fighter Combat Air Patrol (CAP) aircraft and employed own ship's Standard SM-2 surface-to-air missiles to achieve supremacy in the tactical environment.

As Air Safety Cell Coordinator (Callsign: EAGLE) during BALTOPS '97, CAPE ST. GEORGE worked side by side with representatives from 13 nations to conceive and construct a reliable, yet flexible system to schedule, monitor, and safely deconflict all airborne events over two weeks of intense at sea operations. Using a "Trusted Agent White Cell" team staffed by ship's company and liaison officers from 8 participant nations, CAPE ST. GEORGE executed "EAGLE" duties, overcoming the challenges of compressed multi-national bordered airspace, diverse languages, and dissimilar airframe types to achieve a perfect safety record.

CAPE ST. GEORGE also planned and executed a combined UK/USN Electronic Warfare exercise and evaluation against a shore based new generation threat simulator. Requiring precision shiphandling combined with a closely scripted trials schedule, CAPE ST. GEORGE successfully maneuvered in the approaches to the Straits of Dover to accomplish all evaluation goals and objectives, including live fire of 36 rounds of chaff and an intricate measurement of the Advanced Baseline CG-52 Class radar cross-section. During BALTOPS, CAPE ST. GEORGE also became the first cruiser to operate overseas with the "GALE-LITE" Electronics Intelligence Analysis system which provided invaluable Electronic Warfare data to correlate platform and emitter data throughout the North Atlantic and Baltic regions.

The cornerstone of the deployment was BALTOPS itself, one of the largest and most successful military exercises of recent history. An annual invitational maritime exercise sponsored by the United States, BALTOPS is intended to promote joint and multi-national interoperability and to increase mutual understanding, confidence, respect, and familiarity within the Baltic region. This year, all surrounding nations in the region were invited as participants or observers, resulting in the participation of over fifty ships, submarines, and aircraft from thirteen nations for the 25th annual event. Phase I of BALTOPS '97, the Partnership for Peace phase, consisted of a number of exercises designed to improve the ability of nations to respond to maritime disasters and to conduct search-and-rescue at sea, coastal surveillance, customs enforcement, and other operations. Phase II consisted of a number of air warfare, air defense, shallow water operations, seamanship, mine warfare, and communication drills. BALTOPS '97 participant nations included: Denmark, Estonia,

Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

For the exercise, CAPE ST. GEORGE embarked a Royal Navy LYNX helicopter detachment, the first time ever a Royal Navy helicopter has embarked a U.S. Navy warship. Ship's company and the helicopter quickly adapted to working together, and the Mark 8 "Super Sea LYNX" became an indispensable tactical asset. The LYNX safely performed missions including VERTREP, hoisting, USW, SUW, and OTH-T. Controllers logged over 40 hours of ship/helicopter command and control of this highly capable sea-based airborne sensor and weapon platform, gaining invaluable operational experience alongside a Royal Navy air controller.

One highlight of BALTOPS '97 was a pass-in-review formation which included over thirty ships, plus dozens of helicopters and aircraft. The ships ranged in size from fast patrol boats and mine hunters to AEGIS cruiser and included the Russian Sovremenny-class destroyer BESPOKOINY, which was stationed two thousand yards abeam of CAPE ST. GEORGE.

During BALTOPS, CAPE ST. GEORGE sailors demonstrated their operational prowess not just during the myriad of successful exercises they conducted but also while "cross-decking" personnel exchanges to other ships. Over fifty crewmembers had the opportunity to spend a day onboard the vessel of a foreign navy, and CAPE ST. GEORGE received a like number of visitors. In addition to the outstanding training opportunities, the personnel exchanges greatly fostered mutual understanding, confidence, and respect between sailors of different nations.

Over the course of the deployment, CAPE ST. GEORGE made port calls to eight European ports in Great Britain, Poland, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, and Ireland. CAPE ST. GEORGE crewmembers experienced everything from formal receptions to MWR-sponsored tours, from international athletic events to community relations projects. Participating in Project HAND CLASP, CAPE ST. GEORGE crewmembers transported approximately \$16,000 worth of medical and welfare supplies to Gdynia, Poland. Thirty crewmembers assisted in delivering the supplies to the Gdynia Children's Home on 15 JUN. On 18 JUL eighteen crewmembers painted and cleaned the St. Coleman's Cathedral Drug and Rehabilitation facilities in Cobh, Ireland. Twelve crewmembers visited St. Coleman's Children's Home the next day and were received at a warm and touching reception.

In every port, CAPE ST. GEORGE hosted tours of the ship for the public, receiving almost ten thousand foreign visitors. CAPE ST. GEORGE also hosted numerous distinguished visitors including the United Kingdom's

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff equivalent, the Chief of Naval Operations of the German Navy, and the French Atlantic Fleet Commander-in-Chief. Over the course of five official receptions, CAPE ST. GEORGE entertained over 700 distinguished visitors and their guests. The U.S. Defense Attaché in Bonn, Germany, commented: "The two most important USN ship visits to take place in Germany this year have been an absolute successes due in no small measure to USS CAPE ST. GEORGE. The Inspector of the German Navy (CNO equivalent) has personally expressed his gratitude for the tour and briefing which he received in Kiel. The Kiel week reception aboard CAPE ST. GEORGE was by far the best shipboard reception in recent memory." Again, in Wilhelmshaven, CAPE ST. GEORGE was not only a main attraction for the annual festival "WOCHENENDE AN DER JADE" but also represented the U.S. on Independence Day. "U.S. Mission Germany could not have asked for a better ship to promote our interests in Germany." (USDAO BONN GE 091156Z JUL 97)

The superb, fast-paced training, the opportunity to participate in such a diversity of exercises, the incomparable liberty, and Northern Europe's incredible range of sights and experiences made the deployment one of the seminal events in CAPE ST. GEORGE's distinguished history.

After a few short weeks inport Norfolk, CAPE ST. GEORGE departed for the 1997 All Services Combat Identification and Evaluation Team (ASCIET) Exercise. ASCIET is an annual joint warfighting laboratory focused on improving combat identification among all branches of the Armed Forces. The perennial cornerstone of the exercise, CAPE ST. GEORGE was selected to serve as Regional Air Defense Commander (RADC) and Joint Interface Control Officer (JICO) during ASCIET '97. CAPE ST. GEORGE spearheaded the effort to employ multi-link joint operations among all four services. Through close coordination with service and civilian counterparts, CAPE ST. GEORGE helped identify several software changes necessary to develop a single integrated air "picture" in this most challenging air warfare arena. In addition, CAPE ST. GEORGE's performance and professionalism enabled the ASCIET staff to transition the exercise into the advanced phase of evaluating specific tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) one week ahead of schedule.

During ASCIET, CAPE ST. GEORGE made port calls to Mobile, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida. After departing Pensacola for the return transit to Norfolk, CAPE ST. GEORGE participated in two U. S. Marine Corps live fire missile exercises near the coast of Pensacola, Florida. Both engagements resulted in direct hits. The first was accomplished by an AIM-120 AMRAAM missile launched from a HMMWV (HUMRAAM). The second engagement was achieved by a Stinger Block I missile launched from an Avenger (AN/TWQ-1) fire unit utilizing recently developed "slew to cue" technology. Both

engagements were cued by the Navy's Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC). These cues were developed from data provided by a land based USMC AN/TPS-59(V)3 ground based radar and the AEGIS sensor suite in CAPE ST. GEORGE.

After a successful ammunition off-load at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia, CAPE ST. GEORGE conducted a "Tiger" Cruise for dependents. Several hundred friends and family joined ship's company for the day.

Shortly after returning from Yorktown, the ship transited to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a Restricted Availability (RAV) and Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). A successful Light Off Assessment, conducted by CCDG-8 and representatives from ATG, and a two-day sea trials cruise to the VACAPES OPAREA validated the repairs made during the RAV/IMAV.

In the first week of December, CAPE ST. GEORGE successfully completed Aviation Certification (AVCERT) and an Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE), achieving outstanding results. That same week, representatives from Naval Air Warfare Center, Lakenhearth, NJ installed a prototype Launch and Recovery Change, LRC-63, to the port RAST system for testing prior to its scheduled fleetwide introduction.

Successful completion of aviation certification was especially critical as CAPE ST. GEORGE was scheduled to conduct Week 1 Work-ups (WOWU) with an embarked LAMPS Mark III helicopter the very next week. On 8 December, the ship embarked Detachment 8 of HSL-46. The ship departed for New York City, and CUTLASS 460, a Block 1 SH-60B SEAHAWK, flew aboard the next day. Enroute to NYC, the ship conducted escort operations with USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69). This was an opportunity for training, especially for bridge and CIC watchstanders, in preparation for upcoming sustained carrier escort operations during COMPTUEX, JTFEX, and forward deployment.

On 17 December, CAPE ST. GEORGE began her Holiday Leave and Upkeep period, having been designated as IKEBATGRU Air Defense Coordinator (ADC) and selected to plan and execute the JTFEX 98-2 Theater Missile Defense Initiative (TMDI) proof of concept.

In 1997 advancement rates for E4-E6 rose to 14% above the Navy-wide averages. 20% of all enlisted crewmembers attended PACE courses in History, English, Math, Government, Business, and Psychology through Central Texas College. Their completion rate was 95%! Twenty members of the crew earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist designation in the past year, and

four officers attained their Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) qualification. Officer retention in CAPE ST. GEORGE was 100% in 1997, and fifteen crewmembers enrolled in the Navy Apprenticeship Program, increasing the total number of personnel enrolled to thirty-five.

USS CAPE ST. GEORGE (CG 71)
Command Awards

Battle Efficiency Award

COMNAVSURFLANT Type Commander Ship Safety Award

COMNAVSURFLANT "Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter" for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters of FY97.

1997 Fleet Recreation Awards Program

Nominated by COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT for the Atlantic Fleet Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Excellence Award for Calendar Year 1997

Nominated by COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT for Best Ship's Store Sales and Service Award for Calendar Year 1997.