

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHOSIN (CG 65)  
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

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Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) 1997 Chronology  
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1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded for inclusion in historical files.



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## **1997 COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION, USS CHOSIN (CG 65)**

USS CHOSIN (CG 65), homeported in Pearl Harbor, HI, was commanded by Captain Mark Jackson Edwards. CHOSIN's Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) is Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group ONE (CCDG-1), Rear Admiral W. R. Schmidt. Rear Admiral Schmidt was relieved by Rear Admiral Timothy W. LaFleur in December 1997. LCDR Tuck Hord was relieved as Executive Officer in March 1997 by Lieutenant Commander Mike Smith. LCDR [REDACTED] continued to serve as Supply Officer throughout 1997. LCDR [REDACTED] was relieved as Combat Systems Officer by LT [REDACTED] in December, who fleeted up from Weapons Officer. LT [REDACTED] also reported aboard as Weapons Officer in November. LCDR [REDACTED] continued to serve as Engineering Officer throughout 1997. LT [REDACTED] relieved LT [REDACTED] in December as Operations Officer. Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) Thirty Seven Detachment SIX was CHOSIN's dedicated Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) team throughout the year during her Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf Deployment. LCDR Eric Dawson continued to serve as Officer in Charge (OIC) throughout 1997. The detachment included two SH-60B helicopters, Easyrider 62 and Easyrider 66.

## 1997 USS CHOSIN (CG 65) Command History

### JANUARY

- 1-5 January: Holiday Stand down continued. Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 6 January: Berth shift to conduct ammo onload, NAVMAG Lualualei, Hawaii. Returned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii pier B-23 late afternoon.
- 7 January: Conducted Fast Cruise.
- 8-14 January: Underway. Transit to San Diego, California.
- 15 January: Inport San Diego, California.
- 16-26 January: Underway, SOCAL OPAREA conducting FLEETEX with CONSTELLATION Battle Group.
- 18-20 January: Conducted Texas Thunder 97-2.
- 27-31 January: Inport San Diego, California. Conducted training availability, Intermediate level maintenance availability.

### FEBRUARY

- 1-9 February: Inport San Diego, California. Conducted training availability, Intermediate level maintenance availability.
- 4-5 February: Medical/Dental Readiness Evaluation.
- 10-21 February: Underway SOCAL OPAREA conducting JTFEX.
- 13 February: COMTHIRDFLT visits.
- 21 February: Anchored San Diego, California, onload Tigers for dependents cruise.
- 22-27 February: Underway Eastern Pacific, transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Conducted Tiger Cruise.
- 28 February: Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Berthed B-23.

## MARCH

- 1-3 March: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 4 March: Berth shift to NAVMAG Lualualei, Hawaii. Ammunition onload. Underway for MIDPAC OPAREA.
- 5 March: Return to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 06-31 March: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pre Overseas Movement/Leave and Upkeep period.
- 14 March: LCDR Smith assumes duties as Executive Officer.
- 17 March: MCPON visits CHOSIN.

## APRIL

- 1-2 April: Inport Pearl Harbor Hawaii.
- 3 April: Underway, MIDPAC OPAREA, conducting Ready For Sea trials.
- 4-7 April: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Ready for Sea.
- 8 April: Deployed to Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf.
- 8-23 April: Underway. Transit to Sydney, Australia.
- 14 April: COMCRUDESGRU ONE visits CHOSIN.
- 24-27 April: Inport, Sydney, Australia.
- 28-30 April: Underway. Transit Pacific/South Pacific ocean enroute Freemantle, Australia.

## MAY

- 1-2 May: Underway. Transit to Freemantle, Australia.
- 3-6 May: Inport, Freemantle, Australia.
- 7-16 May: Underway. Transit Indian Ocean enroute Arabian Gulf.

11 May: Crossed The Line at 0 00 N by 180 00 W. All slimy wogs expunged of Heffer dust etc.

16 May: INCHOPPED 5th Fleet AOR.

16-18 May: Underway. Tranist Northern Arabian Sea enroute Arabian Gulf.

19 May: Transit Strait of Hormuz.

20-31 May: Underway. Operations in Northern Arabian Gulf/CVOA 4.

21 May: COMFIFTHFLT visits CHOSIN.

## JUNE

1-2 June: Underway. Operations in Northern Arabian Gulf/CVOA 4.

3-8 June: Inport, Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates. Conducted voyage repairs.

9 June: Underway. Transit Arabian Gulf to Bahrain Bell.

10 June: Anchored Bahrain Bell for CO meeting aboard CONSTELLATION.

11-19 June: Underway, Operations in Northern Arabian Gulf/CVOA 4.

20-24 June: Inport, Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

25-27 June: Underway. Conducted Arabian Skies TBMD exercise in Arabian Gulf.

28-30 June: Underway. Operations in Arabian Gulf.

## JULY

1-8 July: Underway. Operations in Arabian Gulf.

1 July: COMCRUDESGRU ONE visits CHOSIN.

9-13 July: Inport, Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

14-28 July: Underway. Operations in Arabian Gulf.

26-28 July: Underway. Conducted Arabian Skies TBMD exercise in Arabian Gulf.

31 July: Conducted Mid Cycle Assessment for Engineering Department.

## August

1-7 August Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates

8-11 August: Underway. Operations in Arabian Gulf.

12 August: Underway. Transit Strait of Hormuz.

13-17 August: Transit Arabian Sea enroute Mauritius.

17 August: OUTCHOP 5th Fleet AOR.

17-20 August: Transit Indian Ocean enroute Mauritius.

21-24 August: Inport Port Louis, Mauritius.

25-27 August: Underway. Transit to Diego Garcia.

28 August: Brief Stop for Fuel, Diego Garcia.

28-31 August: Underway. Transit to Singapore.

## SEPTEMBER

1-2 September: Underway. Transit to Singapore.

3 September: Anchored Singapore Harbor. Brief Stop for Fuel.

4-7 September: Underway. Transit to Hong Kong.

8-11 September: Anchored Hong Kong Harbor.

12-16 September: Underway. Transit to Guam.

17 September: Inport Apra Harbor, Guam.

18-25 September: Underway. Transit to Hawaii.

26 September: Return from Deployment. Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

27-30 September: Post Deployment Upkeep, inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

## OCTOBER

1-26 October: Post Deployment Upkeep, inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

9-31 October: SQS-53D installation.

27-31 October: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

## NOVEMBER

1-11 November: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

12-13 November: Underway, Hawaiian OPAREA.

14 November: Offload ammunition, NAVMAG Lualualei.

15-20 November: Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

21-30 November: Intermediate Maintenance Availability, inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

## DECEMBER

1-14 December: Intermediate Maintenance Availability, inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

15-19 December: Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

20-31 December: Holiday Stand down.

## 1997 USS CHOSIN (CG 65) Command Narrative

USS CHOSIN (CG 65) began 1997 while in a holiday stand down period. This stand down lasted until the 5th of January, when CHOSIN's sailors returned to onload ammunition at Naval Magazine Lualualei and depart for Southern California. The bulk of January was spent in transit to or conducting FLEETEX 97-2 with the CONSTELLATION Battle Group. After a week's transit, CHOSIN arrived in San Diego, California, for 1 day of meetings prior to getting underway to start FLEETEX. During FLEETEX, CONSTELLATION Battle Group conducted a series of missile shoots. In the primary event, CHOSIN outperformed the Battle Group, destroying a high flying target nearly 80 nautical miles away. FLEETEX proved to be a challenging 10 day battle problem which forced CHOSIN to excel in her role as Theater Ballistic Missile Defense Commander and to exercise the full spectrum of her capabilities; including Maritime Boarding and Inspections, Air Interception Control, Naval Gunfire Support, and Undersea Warfare.

Following FLEETEX, CHOSIN spent two weeks in port San Diego, California, conducting a maintenance and training availability. During this time, CHOSIN used her proximity to the San Diego area training facilities to alleviate a variety of NEC shortfalls by sending sailors to the requisite schools. Mid February was spent in JTFEX, a complex joint exercise which integrated Air Force, Army, Marine and Navy units, requiring them to operate in a dynamic 10 day battle problem. After JTFEX, CHOSIN transited back to Pearl Harbor, arriving on the 28th of February.

March was spent in a pre deployment stand down period where sailors were allowed to go on leave and enjoy some quality time with their families. During the stand down period, CHOSIN was awarded the Battle Efficiency award for calendar year 1996. Also during March, a satellite email capability was installed which enabled CHOSIN sailors to enjoy timely communications with their families and friends from around the world while on deployment.

CHOSIN deployed on April 8. Her first port call was Sydney, Australia. En route to Sydney, CHOSIN participated in a 5 day USW exercise. Upon arrival in Sydney, CHOSIN sailors were hosted by the city and invited to participate in the annual ANZAC Day parade and festivities. Following this 4 day visit, CHOSIN transited to Fremantle.

CHOSIN started May with a 4 day port visit to Fremantle, a port city about 30 minutes drive from Perth. CHOSIN was invited to participate with the celebration of Fremantle Port's founding. This was the last liberty port for CHOSIN sailors prior to entering the Arabian Gulf and starting the meat of her deployment. Following the port visit, CHOSIN transited the Indian Ocean, and arrived in the Arabian Gulf on May 20 following a night transit of the Strait of Hormuz.

June and July were spent conducting operations in support of Operation Southern Watch and enforcing the United Nations Embargo on Iraq. CHOSIN spent most of the time acting as Air Warfare Commander, protecting CONSTELLATION Battle Group from inbound airborne threats. CHOSIN also served as Theater Ballistic Missile Defense Commander throughout the deployment. TBMD is a relatively new warfare area, so CHOSIN developed not only the doctrine but also the tactical training exercises which develop proficiency. These training exercises culminated in a series of events named Arabian Skies 97-2 and 97-3. The Arabian Skies series of exercises set new standards for future Battle Groups and Theater organizations to achieve.



When not performing duties as Air Warfare Commander, CHOSIN also inspected merchant vessels in the Northern Arabian Gulf. These duties involved patrolling the far Northern Gulf, intercepting and querying surface vessel traffic, and subsequently boarding and inspecting those vessels bound for or coming from Iraq, as well as those which fit certain "suspect" profiles. During MIO operations, CHOSIN boarded 7 vessels, and escorted one sanctions violator from the Northern Gulf to Bahrain, where the vessel was turned over to the United Arab Emirate Coast Guard for prosecution.

CHOSIN completed her Arabian Gulf deployment in August. Following a maintenance and upkeep period in port at Jebel Ali, CHOSIN was underway for a final few days of support for Operation Southern Watch. After completing her duties which included Regional Air Warfare Commander, CHOSIN turned over and transited the Strait of Hormuz. After completing the Strait transit, CHOSIN started her passage to Port Louis, Mauritius. During this transit, CHOSIN was forced to divert far to the west and pass near Somalia. This diversion was caused by continued high winds and seas, which were pounding the Arabian Sea.

During this transit, both the Executive Officer and the Navigator were in Mauritius aiding the small embassy staff in preparing for our arrival. On the 17th of August, CHOSIN OUTCHOPPED from Fifth Fleet's Area of Responsibility, and became part of Seventh Fleet. CHOSIN continued her transit down the coast of Africa and reached Port Louis, Mauritius (about 300 miles east of Madagascar) on the 21st of August.

During the ensuing 4 day port visit, CHOSIN sailors were treated to a brilliant time by the Mauritian government and people. As the first US Navy ship to visit in over 7 years, CHOSIN participated in a variety of social and diplomatic events. CHOSIN hosted a reception aboard ship on the evening of the 21st, which was co-hosted by CAPT Edwards and Ambassador Geisel, US Ambassador to Mauritius. The reception was attended by the British High Counsel, the French Ambassador, the Chief of Police of Mauritius, and the Deputy Prime Minister. The following day, Captain Edwards and Ambassador Geisel hosted a press luncheon where various topics including Mauritius/US history, the role of the US Navy in the region, and various sub-continent economic issues were discussed.

Following the hugely successful port visit, CHOSIN got underway on the morning of 25 August to begin her transit to Diego Garcia for fuel. CHOSIN arrived in Diego Garcia on the morning of 28 August, and completed her refueling by mid afternoon. Shortly after completing the refueling, CHOSIN was underway again bound for Singapore. CHOSIN transited across the Indian Ocean, transiting the Strait of Malacca on the Second of September, arriving off Singapore Harbor on the morning of the Third. CHOSIN anchored off Singapore's coast in the main anchorage, and while the ship refueled her sailors were allowed an evening of liberty. The following morning, CHOSIN was underway again, this time bound for Hong Kong. CHOSIN became one of the first independent ships to visit Hong Kong since its return to the People's Republic of China, from control by the United Kingdom.

CHOSIN spent 4 days enjoying the shopping, culture and nightlife of Hong Kong. On the morning of 12 September, CHOSIN weighed anchor and began her transit to Guam in order to refuel. CHOSIN arrived in Apra Harbor, Guam on 17 September, and during the day in port painted out the sides of the ship in preparation for the return to homeport. On 18 September, after 1 night of liberty for the crew, CHOSIN began her final transit of the 1997 deployment.

CHOSIN returned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Friday morning, 26 September, to a large gathering of family and friends who welcomed the crew home. The crew was treated to a variety of treats by the Wive's Club, including home made lei's. After the welcome home celebration, the crew began a 30 day post deployment standdown, which featured two weeks of duty section only and two weeks of half days. Additionally, this period was designated a leave and upkeep period so up to 50 % of the crew was permitted to go on leave.

Although much of the crew was on leave or liberty, CHOSIN still commenced installation of a major weapons system upgrade, the SQS 53D, which is a significantly improved computer suite for the bow mounted active/passive sonar system. This installation continued through November. Also in November, CHOSIN offloaded her Tomahawks at Naval Magazine Lualualei.

December was spent in an availability, preparing CHOSIN for the NEY inspection which took place the second week of December. During this inspection, CHOSIN's entire food service operation was evaluated. CHOSIN was subsequently awarded the 1997 CAPT Ney Award for Food Service Excellence (Medium Afloat Division). This award is limited to one ship per class in the entire navy. The remainder of December was spent preparing to take the ship into a yard period scheduled to commence in mid January 1998, and with a holiday stand down.