



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)  
FPO AP 96662-1492

*Kevin 5/7/97*

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)  
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 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
  - (2) Chronology
  - (3) Narrative
  - (4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
  - (5) Operational Propulsion Plant Examination Report  
(010130Z MAR 96)
  - (6) Mid-cycle Assessment Report (27 SEP 97)
  - (7) Self Sufficient Ship of the Quarter (Q4 FY96) nomination  
(061755Z OCT 96)
  - (8) Report of Communications Security Material System (CMS)  
Inspection (19 APR 96)
  - (9) Navigation Check Ride Report (14 MAY 96)
  - (10) Bravo Zulu from Battle Group Commander for role in Desert  
Strike (021600Z SEP 96)
  - (11) Bravo Zulu from Commander, SEVENTHFLT Representative to  
Australia regarding Darwin port visit (310800Z OCT 96)
  - (12) COMNAVSURFPAC "Personal For" with comments on CROMMELIN  
Asset Testing (100820Z OCT 96)
  - (13) Fiscal Year 1996 Top Financial Performer Awards (CROMMELIN  
recognized for "superior financial performance")  
(190027Z NOV 96)
  - (14) Nomination for "Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award" by  
COMDESRON THREE ONE (300300Z DEC 96)
  - (15) Nomination for "Arleigh Burke Trophy" by COMDESRON THREE  
ONE (131827Z JAN 97)
  - (16) Nomination for "Chief of Naval Operations Annual Ship-  
Helicopter Safety Award" (171701Z JAN 97)
  - (17) 1996 Awards Cycle (311330Z JAN 97)
  - (18) Thank you from Al Amana Centre, Muscat, Oman for community  
service performed (18 SEP 96)
  - (19) Thank you from Sheraton Surabaya for hospitality during  
Surabaya, Indonesia flight deck reception (21 OCT 96)
  - (20) Thank you from North West Mobile Force for hospitality  
during Darwin, Australia flight deck reception (30 OCT 96)
  - (21) Thank you from The Beaufort Hotel for hospitality during  
Darwin, Australia flight deck reception (30 OCT 96)
  - (22) Thank you from Anglicare, Darwin, Australia for community  
service performed (30 OCT 96)
  - (23) Thank you from Ipswich Hospice Care, Brisbane, Australia  
for services rendered (07 NOV 96)

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (23) are submitted.

*C. J. PIERCE*  
C. J. PIERCE

USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)  
COMMAND HISTORY 1996

COMMAND COMPOSITION and ORGANIZATION

a. Mission: The USS CROMMELIN'S mission is to provide air, surface, and undersea protection for underway replenishment groups, convoys, amphibious forces, and other military and merchant shipping. In recent years, the United States has tasked many ships of the FFG-7 class (including the USS CROMMELIN) to provide escort and monitor services to U.S. and Allied-flagged merchant shipping in the Arabian Gulf.

b. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

1. Immediate senior command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One.

2. Units under operational/administrative control:  
NONE.

c. NAME OF COMMANDER: Andrew G. Sevald, Commander, United States Navy.

d. PERMANENT DUTY STATION: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

e. TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED: Two SH-60B's from HSL-37 Detachment 3 stationed at Barbers Point, Hawaii were embarked on two separate occasions:

- Easy Riders 61 and 64 during CARL VINSON BATTLE GROUP Work-Ups (01 February 96 - 25 March 96) and,
- Easy Riders 54 and 61 during subsequent deployment to the Arabian Gulf (20 May 96 to 20 November 96).

CHRONOLOGY

**January 1996**

- 01-07 -Embarked Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE.
- 01 -Inport Pearl Harbor.  
-Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Training (CMTQT).
- 04 -OS1(SW) [REDACTED] selected as CROMMELIN 1995 Sailor of the Year.  
BM1 [REDACTED] selected as CROMMELIN Senior Sailor of the Quarter (Q4); ET3(SW) [REDACTED] selected as CROMMELIN Junior Sailor of the Quarter (Q4).
- 08 -Underway for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) preparations.
- 12 -Inport Pearl Harbor.
- 16 -Visit by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE Operations Officer (Captain Gerken).
- 17 -CMTQ Inbrief and Administrative Review.  
-Visit by Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE (Captain Prather).
- 18 -CMTQ Scenarios. CMTQ outbrief.  
-CROMMELIN Winter Festival (Hale Koa Hotel).
- 24-25 -Commenced Security Standdown.
- 29-31 -Underway for "Mock OPPE".

**February 1996**

- 01 -Underway en route Southern California. Recover Easy Riders 61 and 64 from HSL-37 Detachment ONE, Barbers Point, Hawaii.
- 03 -Advance clocks 1 hour to conform with +9W time zone.
- 05 -Advance clocks 1 hour to conform with +8U time zone.  
-Long range War-at-Sea exercise with CARL VINSON Battle Group.
- 07-12 -Voyage repairs, San Diego, CA.
- 07 -Executive Officer Turnover (LCDR R.L. Long relieved by LCDR J.K. Kuhn)
- 13-20 -Underway for FLEETEX. Members of CARL VINSON TASK GROUP: USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70), USS SHILOH (CG 67), USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36), USS ARKANSAS (CGN 41), USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37).

- 17 -Visit by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Three.  
(RADM Moore)
- 21-26 -Upkeep, San Diego, CA.
- 26-29 -Battle Group Integrated Training (BGIT)/Amphibious  
Readiness Group Integrated Training (ARGIT) 96-1.
- 28-29 -Underway for OPPE.
- 29 -OPPE satisfactorily completed. Inport San Diego.

**March 1996**

- 01 -Ship's Picnic.
- 01-07 -Upkeep, San Diego, CA.
- 08-18 -Underway for Joint Task Force Exercise 96-1 (JTFEX 96-1).  
(JTFEX 96-1: More than 12,000 Sailors and Marines tested  
their ability to project combat power ashore during this  
major exercise 6-18 March. The US Navy Third Fleet  
Exercise involved 29 ships, and various types of fixed-wing  
aircraft and helicopters from the CARL VINSON Carrier Battle  
Group and Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group with 13 Marine  
Expeditionary Units embarked. US Navy and Marine Corps  
forces were joined in the exercise by Army, Air Force and  
Coast Guard units.
- 18 -JTFEX 96-1 successfully completed.  
-Inport San Diego for refueling and stores onload.
- 19 -Underway en route Pearl Harbor.
- 21 -Retire clocks 1 hour to +9V time zone.  
-March birthday meal and cake cutting ceremony.
- 23 -Retire clocks to +10W time zone.
- 24 -Steel Beach picnic.
- 25 -Inport Pearl Harbor.
- 26-27 -SESI

**April 1996**

- 01-12 -Combat Systems Readiness Review.
- 01-22 -Embarked COMDESRON THREE ONE.
- 03 -Presentation of Golden Anchor Award.  
-Visit by Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet,  
(ADM R. J. Zlatoper)

Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific,  
(RADM G.S. Holder), and Commander Destroyer-Squadron THREE  
ONE. (CAPT D. W. Prather)  
-Commence Intermediate Maintenance Availability 603  
(IMAV 603).

- 09 -Predeployment brief (sailors and families).
- 12 -Completed CSRR.
- 19 -Communications Security Material System (CMS) Inspection.

**May 1996**

- 01 -Dead stick move to pier B-26.
- 06 -Underway for Sea Trials.  
-Close-in-Weapon System (CIWS) shoot.  
-MK-30 torpedo shoot.  
-MK 75/76mm Gun shoot.
- 07 -Moored Naval Magazine Base, Lualualei for ammunition  
onload.  
-Underway. Moored pierside B-26 Pearl Harbor.
- 09 -Physical Readiness Test (PRT).
- 10 -PRT.  
-Awards Ceremony.  
-Commander, Destroyer-Squadron THREE ONE Luncheon (CAPT  
D. W. Prather) (in wardroom).
- 14 -Navigation Check Ride.
- 16 -Visit by Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific  
(RADM G. S. Holder).
- 17 -Underway for Family and Friends Cruise (offshore  
Honolulu/Waikiki).  
-Inport Pearl Harbor.  
-Embarked Pace Instructor (Mr. Michael Kniss).
- 20 -UNDERWAY FOR WESTPAC 96!  
-Land Easy Rider 54 and 61 from Barbers Point, Hawaii.
- 23 -Retard clocks 1 hour (+12Y time zone).  
-Cross the International Date Line (advance calendars to 25  
May) (-12M time zone).  
-Commence daily/nightly exercises with CARL VINSON Battle  
Group. Battle Group consisted of USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70),  
USS SHILOH (CG-67), USS CALIFORNIA (CGN-36), USS ARKANSAS  
(CGN-41), USS CAMDEN (AOE-2), USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37), and  
USS JEFFERSON CITY (SSN-759).

- 26 -Change of Operational Commander from Commander THIRD FLEET to Commander SEVENTH FLEET.  
-Retard clocks 1 hour (-11L).
- 28 -Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USS CAMDEN.  
-Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) with USNS NIAGARA FALLS.  
-Retard clocks 1 hour (-10K time zone).
- 29 -Visit by Commander, SEVENTH FLEET (VADM Archie Clemens).  
-Frothing Ceremony by COMSEVENTHFLT.  
-Retard clocks 1 hour (-9I time zone).
- 30 -Port Visit Tokyo, Japan. Moored, Harumi Pier, Berth C.  
-Welcome Ceremony; Official Calls.
- 31 -Volleyball Tournament versus JDS HARUYKI (DD-128) officers, chiefs, and crew.  
-Flight Deck reception for local civilian and military dignitaries.

**JUNE 1996**

- 01 -General Visiting.
- 02 -Underway, en route Hong Kong. Commence Battle Group training and flight operations.
- 03 -Refuel at Sea (RAS) with USS CARL VINSON
- 06 -RAS with USS CAMDEN.
- 07-11 -Port Visit Hong Kong. Moored, Ocean Terminal, Kowloon.
- 08 -Flight Deck reception for local civilian and military dignitaries.
- 11 -Community Relations Project.
- 12 -Underway en route Singapore. Commence Battle Group training and flight operations.
- 12-13 -Safety Stand-down.
- 16-20 -Port Visit Singapore. Moored PSA terminal.
- 18 -CROMMELIN wins CARL VINSON Battle Group's Soccer Tournament.
- 19 -Community Relations Project.
- 21 -Underway, en route Arabian Gulf. Commence Battle Group training and flight operations.
- 22 -Retard clocks 1 hour (-7G time zone).

- 24 -Retard clocks 1 hour (-6F time zone).  
-PN2(SW) [REDACTED] selected as the CARL VINSON Battle Group Junior Sailor of the Month.
- 25 -Retard clocks 1 hour (-5E time zone).
- 26 -CARL VINSON Battle Group rendezvous.
- 28 -Communications Shift to FIFTH FLEET.
- 29 -Change of Operational Commander to Commander, FIFTH FLEET.  
-Retard clocks 1 hour (-4D time zone).
- 30 -Retard clocks 1 hour (-3D time zone).  
-UNREP with USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). (Heavy 7 foot seas. Ship continuously took 20-25 degree rolls peaking at 35 degrees.)

**JULY 1996**

- 02 -Fuel at Sea (FAS) with USS CAMDEN.
- 02-11 -Maritime Interception Operations (Northern Arabian Gulf).
- 03 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 04 -Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the Constitution.  
-UNREP with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 05 -Intercepted and boarded two suspected United Nations sanctions violators. Vessels cleared to proceed to next port.
- 06 -Connected Replenishment (CONREP) and Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) with USNS NIAGARA FALLS.
- 07 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.  
-Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 08 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 10 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.  
-Refuel-at-Sea with HMS BRAMBLEAF.
- 13-16 -PORT VISIT BAHRAIN. Moored berth 7.
- 17 -Underway to Arabian Gulf.  
-Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).  
-Rendezvous with USS CALIFORNIA (CGN-36).  
-Commence Battle Group exercises.

Encl (2)

- 19-20 -Escort TARAWA Amphibious Readiness Group through the Strait of Hormuz.
- 20 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 21-25 -Exercise Rugged Nautilus 96 JTFEX-1.
- 24 -Connected Replenishment, Vertical Replenishment, and Refuel-at-Sea with USNS TIPPECANOE.
- 27-31 -Voyage Repairs, BAHRAIN.
- 31 -Underway to Arabian Gulf.

**AUGUST 1996**

- 02-05 -Exercise Rugged Nautilus 96 JTFEX-2.
- 03 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).  
-Visit by Commander, Destroyer-Squadron FIVE. (CAPT Hart)
- 06-07 -Safety Standdown.
- 06-11 -PORT VISIT BAHRAIN.
- 12 -Underway to Arabian Gulf.
- 13-19 -Maritime Interception Operations (Northern Arabian Gulf).
- 13 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 15-25 -Embark two Kuwait Liaison Officers. They were onboard to observe how we do Maritime Intercept Operations and Maritime Prepositioning Ship Protection Operations.
- 15 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 16 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 17 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 19-24 -Rate Training. The week was designed so that all advancement eligible personnel could have dedicated time for study/mentoring prior to the September exams. Divisional Chiefs and Leading Petty Officers are credited for executing this innovative plan.
- 19 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.



- 20 -Intercepted and boarded two suspected United Nations sanctions violators. Vessels cleared to proceed to next port.  
-"Hump Day" (half-way point of deployment).
- 20-24 -Protection for Maritime Prepositioning Ships.
- 25 -Vertical Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 26-27 -Port Visit Bahrain.
- 28-06 SEP -Maritime Interception Operations (Northern Arabian Gulf).
- 29 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 30 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.  
-Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 31-05 SEP -Escort for United Nations Sanctions Violator.

**SEPTEMBER 1996**

- 01 -Intercepted and boarded a suspected United Nations sanctions violator. Vessel cleared to proceed to next port.
- 07 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 08-12 -Port Visit Bahrain.
- 13 -Underway to Arabian Gulf.
- 15-17 -Port Visit Muscat, Oman.
- 16 -Community Relations Project.
- 18-21 -Escort ENTERPRISE Battle Group through Strait of Hormuz.
- 23 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 23-25 -Escort for United Nations Sanctions Violator.
- 26-27 -Mid-Cycle Assessment.
- 27 -Underway Replenishment with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).

**OCTOBER 1996**

- 01 -Visit by Commander, FIFTH FLEET (VADM T. Fargo).
- 03-04 -"DC DAYS". Designed to provide concentrated training support of required DC qualifications.
- 05-07 -Undersea Warfare Exercise with USS JEFFERSON CITY.

- 07 -Refuel-at-Sea with USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
- 08 -Change of Operational Commander from Commander FIFTH FLEET to Commander SEVENTH FLEET.  
-Advance clocks 1 hour (-5E time zone).
- 11 -Refuel-at-Sea with USNS TIPPECANOE.
- 12-15 -Port Visit Phuket, Thailand (at anchor).  
-Advance clocks (-7F time zone).
- 16-18 -"DC DAYS".
- 16 -Underway en route Surabaya, Indonesia.  
-Underway Replenishment with USNS TIPPECANOE.
- 19-23 -Upkeep SURABAYA, INDONESIA.  
-Sports Challenge with Indonesia Navy: soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf.
- 20 -Flight Deck reception for local civilian and military dignitaries.
- 22 -Community Relations Project.
- 27-30 -Port Visit Darwin, Australia.
- 28 -Flight Deck reception for local civilian and military dignitaries.
- 29 -Community Relations Project.
- 31 -Underway, en route Brisbane, Australia.

**NOVEMBER 1996**

- 01-02 -Transit of Torres Straits.
- 04 -Advance clocks (-10K time zone).
- 05-08 -Port Visit Brisbane, Australia.
- 06-07 -Community Relations Project.
- 07 -Flight Deck reception for local civilian and military dignitaries.
- 09 -Underway, en route Pearl Harbor.  
-"DC DAY"
- 13 -Cross the International Date Line.  
-Advance clocks 1 hour (+11X time zone).  
-Safety Stand-down.
- 14 -Advance clocks 1 hour (+11Y time zone).

- 15 -Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) Pago Pago, American Samoa.
- 20 -Fly-off Easy Riders 54 and 61.  
-Return to Pearl Harbor. WESTPAC 96 complete.
- 25-26 -Ammunition off-load, Naval Magazine Base, Lualualei.
- 27 -Post-deployment standdown.

**December 1996**

- 01-31 -Holiday Leave Period.
- 18 -Turn-over between Leave Period I and Leave Period II  
personnel.  
-Safety Stand-down.
- 02-31 -Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) 701  
("DC IMAV").

## 1996 NARRATIVE

SUCCESS. That one word best describes CROMMELIN in 1996. It started early in the year while passing two major exams. Momentum built as CROMMELIN joined the CARL VINSON BATTLE GROUP in an intense FLEET EXERCISE and an even larger-scale Joint Task Force Exercise. After a brief reprieve to spend time with family and friends, CROMMELIN sailed westward for a six-month deployment highlighted with operational victories at sea and community relations victories ashore.

The Combat Team trained long and hard during the previous holiday period for the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ). January was the time to prove what was believed by the officers and crew: "passing" was for other ships, "dominating" was CROMMELIN'S goal. The inspectors saw just that and certified CROMMELIN to carry the Harpoon Missile and launch against surface combatants.

An intense February ensued as CROMMELIN sailed to the Southern California region to participate in the CARL VINSON Battle Group Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX). This involved the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70), USS SHILOH (CG 67), USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36), USS ARKANSAS (CGN 41), as well as CROMMELIN for seven days of realistic, at-sea training. Only eight days later, the Engineering Team gave their blood, sweat, and tears in order to obtain their mission: dominate the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). After successfully completing that mission the inspectors certified CROMMELIN to get underway independently.

March started with a much appreciated upkeep in San Diego, then quickly rolled into the Joint Task Force Exercise 96-1 (JTFEX 96-1). This involved over 12,000 sailors and Marines testing their ability to project combat power ashore. Participants were 29 ships, various fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters from the CARL VINSON Battle Group and the TARAWA Amphibious Readiness Group. Navy and Marine forces were joined in the exercise by Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard units.

Upon return to Pearl Harbor March 25th, CROMMELIN enjoyed a more relaxed time to make final preparations for deployment. Also, it was a time to spend with loved ones and included a "Family and Friends Cruise" off the shores of Honolulu and Waikiki May 17th.

What ensued next (May 20th-November 20th) was the true purpose for why we train: DEPLOYMENT. One hundred and eighty days at sea might best be described by the numbers:

- Miles traveled: 34,358
- Fuel used: 1,671,426 gallons
- Water produced: 632,729 gallons
- Ports visited: 9 (Tokyo, Japan; Hong Kong; Singapore; Bahrain; Muscat, Oman; Surabaya, Indonesia; Phuket, Thailand; Darwin and Brisbane, Australia)
  
- Flight hours: over 1015
- Flight deck evolutions: over 300
- Refuelings at sea: over 40
- Connected replenishments: 3

Encl (3)

- Vertical replenishments: over 15
- Boardings in support of United Nations Sanctions against Iraq: 28
- Community relations projects: 7
- Flight deck receptions: 5
- Numerous transits through the Straits of Malacca, Strait of Hormuz, and Torres Straits

Bottom line: CROMMELIN's deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Gulf was a SUCCESS. Along with the many individual awards earned along the way, those making the deployment earned the Sea Service Ribbon and was recommended by Commander, FIFTH FLEET to receive the Navy Unit Commendation.

Upon return to Pearl Harbor November 20th, CROMMELIN off loaded ammunition, then enjoyed an extensive Post-deployment stand down and Holiday Leave period. December also was the start of the Intermediate Maintenance Availability which focused on Damage Control equipment.

CROMMELIN's routine successes were also recognized by superiors in the chain-of-command. In addition to the accolades earned in the beginning of the year for performance during the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) and the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE), CROMMELIN received several others. Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) nominated CROMMELIN for:

- the Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific (COMNAVSURFPAC) "Self Sufficient Ship of the Quarter" (Q4 FY96).

CROMMELIN was also recognized by COMNAVSURFPAC for "demonstrating superior financial performance throughout the fiscal year". Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE (COMDESRON THREE ONE), CROMMELIN'S Immediate Superior in the Chain-of-Command, nominated FFG-37 for:

- "Maritime Warfare Excellence",
- "Engineering/Survivability",
- the "Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award",
- the "Arleigh Burke Trophy",
- the "Chief of Naval Operations Annual Ship-Helicopter Safety Award"
- the "Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific Safety Award",
- the "Junior Officer Shiphandler Award" (LTJG [REDACTED]).