



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Report
(6) Aviation Readiness Examination Report
(7) Final Evaluation Period Report
(8) Engineering Certification Report
(9) Communications Security Material System Inspection Report
(10) Navigation Check Ride Report
(11) Logistics Management Assessment Report

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (11) are submitted.

C. J. Pierce
C. J. PIERCE

**USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)
COMMAND HISTORY 1997**

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

- a. **Mission.** 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 USS CROMMELIN) to provide escort and monitor services to U.S. and Allied flagged merchant shipping in the Arabian Gulf and to enforce the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

- b. **Organizational Structure.**
 - 1. Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC): Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One.

 - 2. Units under operational/administrative control: None.

- c. **Commanding Officer.** Charles ("Chuck") J. Pierce, Commander, United States Navy.

- d. **Permanent Duty Station.** Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, United States of America.

- e. **Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned.** SH-60B

CHRONOLOGY

January 1997

- 01-31 - Moored, Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor.
- 01-06 - Holiday Leave and Upkeep period.
- 06 - Secure from Holiday leave and Upkeep period, commence PRAV-2.
- 06-31 - PRAV-2.
- 28-31 - Hosted Indonesian Training Ship KRI ARUNG SAMUDRA during her port visit to Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 31 - USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37) Change of Command Ceremony. CDR Andrew G. Sevald, USN is properly relieved by CDR Charles ("Chuck") J. Pierce.

February 1997

- 01-28 - Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Pier B-15.
- 01-28 - PRAV-2.
- 01-03 - Hosted Indonesian Training Ship KRI ARUNG SAMUDRA during her port visit to Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, Hawaii. Departed 0900, 03 February 1997.
- 12-20 - LATR
- 01-28 - ILO
- 01-28 - PLOT I and PLOT II
- 25-28 - Conducted Aviation Certification (AVCERT) and Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE). Inspections conducted by COMNAVSURFPAC San Diego inspectors. CROMMELIN was rated as satisfactory in both areas.

March 1997

- 01-24 - Moored Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 01-20 - PRAV-2.
- 20-22 - Conducted Light-Off Examination (LOA). Examination observed by COMDESRON 31 inspectors. CROMMELIN successfully passed ISIC's inspection with a grade of satisfactory.
- 23 - Conducted Fast Cruise alongside Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 24 - Underway from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to Hawaiian Opareas for shakedown cruise.
- 24 - Moored, Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 24-29 - Hosted Colombian Training Ship ARC GLORIA during her port visit to Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 26 - Hosted Tours for 75 Colombian Midshipmen from ARC GLORIA. Hosted luncheon for CAPT Mareno, Colombian Navy and his staff after hosting wreath laying ceremony at USS ARIZONA memorial.
- 28 - Defense Auditor, United States General Accounting Office, arrives for visit of USS CROMMELIN.
- 28 - Hosted Reception for Colombian Navy Midshipmen and Officers of ARC GLORIA.
- 31 - Conducted dead stick move from Pier B-22 to Pier B-26, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

April 1997

- 14-18 - INSURV
- 17 - Underway, from Pier B-26, to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for INSURV operational inspection and full power demonstration.
- 21 - Ammunition Onload.
- 28-30 - CART II

May 1997

- 02-05 - Hosted the JDS MATSUYUKI on her training deployment port visit to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 02 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One, hoists his flag onboard CROMMELIN.
- 02 - CAPT Donald Prather, USN, breaks his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN. CAPT Frank Guest, USN, relieved CAPT Prather as Destroyer Squadron Three One onboard USS CROMMELIN. CAPT Guest hoists his flag onboard CROMMELIN.
- 02 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One, breaks his flag onboard CROMMELIN.
- 03-04 - Hosted tours for approximately 150 Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Midshipmen and Officers.
- 05-09 - TSTA I

June 1997

- 01 - Moored, Pier B-25, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 03 - Underway from Pier B-25, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Pier W-2, Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii.

- 03 - Moored, Pier W-2, Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii.
- 03-05 - Conducted ammunition onload, Pier W-2, Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii.
- 05 - Underway from Pier W-2, Naval Magazine Lualualei, Hawaii to Pier M-1, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 05 - Moored, Pier M-1, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 09 - Underway from Pier M-1, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Hawaiian Local Operating Areas, for type training in preparation for TSTA I.
- 10 - Received call from Office of Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, United States Coast Guard Honolulu Group concerning a distress signal from a sailboat approximately 600 NM Northwest of Oahu. CROMMELIN dispatched to last known position of the sailboat to rescue appendicitis stricken Sailor. Picked up USCG Helicopter RESCUE 6524 enroute with MEDEVAC team.
- 11 - Dispatched RESCUE 6524 to pick up the stricken mariner from the sailboat. MEDEVAC team successfully stabilized the patient and prepared him for transport to Tripler Army Medical Center.
- 11 - Received RESCUE 6524 on deck with patient. CROMMELIN directed to steam back to Oahu at full speed to rush patient to hospital facilities. USCG C-130 aircraft remained in the area to direct the sailboat to Oahu.
- 12 - Set flight quarters to dispatch RESCUE 6524 to NAS Barbers Point with MEDEVAC crew and patient. Patient subsequently received by ambulance for further transport to Tripler Army Medical Center.
- 12 - Resumed type training in Local Hawaiian Opareas.
- 13 - Anchored in U.S. Naval anchorage area outside Honolulu Harbor.

- 13 - Underway from anchorage at U.S. Naval anchorage area to Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 16 - Underway from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for Tailored Ship Training Availability Phase I. Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific riders embarked.
- 20 - Moored, Pier B-17, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 23 - Underway, from Pier B-17, Naval Station Pearl Harbor to Pier 2, Nawiliwili, Kauai for dependents cruise. Approximately 65 dependents embarked.
- 23-27 - Moored, Pier 2, Nawiliwili, Kauai dependents cruise port visit.
- 24 - Hosted reception on the flight deck for Commander Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai and Kauai Town Mayor and approximately 50 VIP's.
- 24-25 - Conducted community relations project in Kauai, restoring a dilapidated church and removing wild plant overgrowth on several areas of Kauai.
- 27 - Moored, Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 27 - Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, hoists his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.

July 1997

- 01-31 - Upkeep, 704-1.
- 16 - Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, hoists his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.
- 30 - Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, breaks his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.

August 1997

- 04 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One, hoists his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.
- 04 - Underway, from Pier M-3 to Local Hawaiian Opareas for PCOSS HOLLYWOOD exercises in Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai Opareas. During the initial movement from the pier, a breasting camel got stuck in between CROMMELIN and the pier causing a 1'X5' gouge on the starboard quarter below the main deck and above the waterline.
- 04 - Moored, Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for repairs.
- 04 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One, breaks his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.
- 06 - Repairs complete. Underway from Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai Opareas for PCOSS HOLLYWOOD exercises.
- 07 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One arrives via HSL 37 EASY RIDER 64 and hoists his flag onboard USS CROMMELIN.
- 08 - Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three One breaks his flag onboard CROMMELIN and departs to USS WILLAMETTE via PMRF OUTRIDER helo.
- 08 - UNREP with USS WILLAMETTE.
- 09 - Moored, Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 11 - Underway, from Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Pier W-4, Naval Magazine Lualualei for ammunition onload.
- 11 - Underway from Pier W-4, Naval Magazine Lualualei to Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

- 12 - Underway from Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea for type training in preparation for TSTA II.
- 15 - Moored, Pier 9, Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, Hawaii. Conducted tours for over 3000 visitors onboard CROMMELIN.
- 19 - Underway from Pier 9, Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for TSTA II. Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific evaluators are embarked.
- 22 - Moored, Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 26 - Underway, from Pier B-22, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for type training in preparation for engineering certification (ECERT).
- 29 - Moored, Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

September 1997

- 05 - Underway, from Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for type training in preparation for ECERT.
- 08 - Moored, Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 08 - CDR(Sel) Rene R. Del Rosario, USN, relieves CDR(Sel) James K. Kuhn, USN, as Executive Officer.
- 08-30 - IMAV
- 09-12 - Pearl Harbor Visit Ship
- 17 - Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific hoists his flag on CROMMELIN.
- 23 - Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific breaks his flag on CROMMELIN.

October 1997

- 01-12 - IMAV
- 08 - Underway, from Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, in Hawaiian Opareas for type training.
- 10 - Moored, Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 14 - Underway, from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, in Hawaiian Opareas for TSTA II.
- 17 - Moored, Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 20 - Aviation Safety Stand-down
- 21 - Inport refueling
- 22-23 - Hull Cleaning
- 27 - Underway, from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, in Hawaiian Opareas for TSTA II.
- 31 - Moored, Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

November 1997

- 04 - Underway, from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for ECERT.
- 05 - Moored, Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 08-30 - Ready Destroyer for Middle Pacific.
- 12 - Underway, from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for TSTA III.
- 14 - Moored, pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 18-21 - Logistics Management Assessment conducted. Received a grade of satisfactory.

- 24 - Underway, from Pier B-15, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opares for Navigation Check Ride, Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification, and Final Evaluation Period.
- 26 - Moored, Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

December 1997

- 01-05 - Ready Destroyer
- 01-05 - Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection
- 02 - NAVOSH Management Evaluation
- 05 - Underway, from Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Aloha Towers for ship tours in remembrance of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- 05 - Moored, Pier 9, Aloha Towers Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 06-07 - Conducted tours for approximately 800 civilians.
- 08 - Underway, from Pier 9, Aloha Towers Honolulu, Hawaii to sea, Local Hawaiian Opareas for Week One Work-ups with HSL-37.
- 12 - Moored, Pier M-3, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 13-31 - Leave and Upkeep

1997 NARRATIVE

TRAINING. That one word best describes CROMMELIN in 1997. It began early in the year with PRAV-2, and continued through to December as CROMMELIN readied herself for deployment. What started with PRAV-2, ended in late November when LMA was completed. The ship then welcomed a much appreciated leave and upkeep period.

The year started with a change-of-command in January with CDR Charles ("Chuck") J. Pierce relieving CDR Andrew G. Sevald as the Commanding Officer of USS CROMMELIN.

February was busy for Operations Department as Aviation Certification (AVCERT) and Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) were completed. CROMMELIN was certified to land, launch and service helicopters and the flight deck was once again available for flight operations.

March saw CROMMELIN pass her Light Off Assessment with flying colors and then it was time for a little rest and social functions. A reception was held for the visiting Colombian training ship ARC GLORIA.

INSURV's Board of Inspectors arrived in April. They left four days later with smiles on their faces as they thoroughly inspected the ship and concluded that CROMMELIN was fit for further service.

CROMMELIN then hosted her second Change-of-Command. Destroyer Squadron Three One, CAPT Donald Prather, USN, who was a previous Executive Officer in CROMMELIN, chose to have his Change-of-Command on his old ship. The flight deck was decorated once again, and over 100 people enjoyed the festivities.

As the ship was undergoing TSTA I, a distress call was received. CROMMELIN steamed north at flank speed for over 15 hours, launched a Coast Guard helicopter flown in for the mission, and MEDEVACED the patient to Tripler Army Medical Center in under 36 hours. Three hours after being admitted to Tripler, he underwent surgery for appendicitis.

As CROMMELIN was getting underway for PCOSS HOLLYWOOD, a breasting camel got stuck in between CROMMELIN and the pier. The incident opened a 1'X5' gouge in the starboard quarter of her hull. The damaged area was repaired in only three days. CROMMELIN got underway and still met the commitment for which she was intended.

August also saw the first UNREP of the year for the ship with USS WILLAMETTE providing the fuel. As the month came to a close, CDR(Sel) Rene R. Del Rosario, USN, relieved CDR(Sel) James K. Kuhn, USN, as Executive Officer.

CROMMELIN stared at a bear for two months and the bear stared back. In the end, CROMMELIN came out on top as the Engineering Certification (ECERT) was conquered by all hands. Concurrent with ECERT, the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Team (CMTQ) was praised to be the best on the waterfront by ATG observers.

On the surface, the year may seem to be rather uneventful. However, the exact opposite was true. The crew helped to save at least one life, and prepared itself in fine fashion for its deployment in February of 1998. The training received throughout the year will ensure that all CROMMELIN Sailors return home from deployment safe - the bottom line in this command's mind.