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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

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

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

DONALD D. HODGE
COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Organizational Structure:
   a. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE.
   b. Units under operational/administrative control: None.

2. Commanding Officer: 01JAN03 - 19OCT03: Robert B. Stewart, Commander, United States Navy; 20OCT03 - 31DEC03: Donald D. Hodge, Commander, United States Navy.

3. Permanent Duty Station: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

4. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: One SH-60B from Helicopter Light Squadron THREE SEVEN DET THREE was assigned for the 22OCT02 - 22APR03 Counter Narcotics Deployment.
JANUARY 2003

01-03 - Port Visit, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
03-17 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol
17 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
17-18 - Panama Canal Transit
18-21 - Transit to Mayport, Florida
22-31 - Inport, Mayport, Florida for Mid-Deployment Maintenance Period

FEBRUARY 2003

01-08 - Inport, Mayport, Florida for Mid-Deployment Maintenance Period (continued)
08-10 - Transit to Nassau, Bahamas
10-13 - Port Visit, Nassau, Bahamas
13-14 - Transit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
14-15 - Port Visit, RON Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
15-17 - Transit to Panama Canal
17-18 - Transit Panama Canal/Brief Stop For Fuel, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
18-23 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol
23 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica
24 - Recovered 39 Bales of Cocaine from Unknown Speed Boat off Coast of Costa Rica
23-28 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol

MARCH 2003

01-10 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol
07 - CROMMELIN rescues 10 Fishermen from Fishing Vessel Don Teo and returns them to Manta, Ecuador
10-13 - Port Visit, Manta, Ecuador, COMREL Project conducted
13-22 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol
22-26 - Port Visit, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
26-31 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol

APRIL 2003

01-05 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol
05 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Puerta Quetzal, Guatemala
05 - Out-Chop CUSNS/CTF 40
05-10 - Transit to San Diego, California
10-16 - Port Visit, San Diego, California
16-22 - Transit, to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
22 - Homecoming from 2002-2003 Counter Narcotics Deployment
22-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Encl (2)
22 - Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Begins
22-30 - Post Deployment FMAV

MAY 2003

01-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
23 - Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Ends
27 - Fast Cruise
30-31 - Family Cruise to Kauai, Hawaii

JUNE 2003

01-02 - Family Cruise to Kauai, Hawaii
02-03 - Inport, Pearl Harbor Hawaii
03-04 - Underway for DLQ's, Hawaiian OPAREA
04-18 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
17 - SMA Assist Visit
18-20 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
20-23 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
23-27 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
27-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
30 - RAS with USNS Tippecanoe

JULY 2003

01-07 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
05 - ATFP Phase I
07-08 - Underway for CART II, Hawaiian OPAREA
08-10 - Inport, Pearl Harbor Hawaii
10-11 - Underway for CART II/Initial Assessment, Hawaiian OPAREA
11-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
11-31 - FMAV/TSTA
14 - ATFP Phase II
28-31 - SMA

AUGUST 2003

01-05 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
01-05 - FMAV/TSTA
05-08 - Underway for TSTA I, Hawaiian OPAREA
08-11 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
11-15 - Underway for TSTA I, Hawaiian OPAREA
15-25 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
18-22 - TSTA
25-29 - Underway for TSTA II, Hawaiian OPAREA
25 - Ammo Offload, NAVMAG LUALUALEI
29-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
SEPTEMBER 2003

01-02 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
02-05 - Underway for TSTA II, Hawaiian OPAREA
05-15 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
09 - ATPP Phase III
15-16 - Underway for FEP, Hawaiian OPAREA
16-19 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
19-24 - Underway Demonstration Preps, Hawaiian OPAREA
23 - Underway Demonstration
24- - Ammo Offload, NAVMAG LUALUALEI
24-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
26-30 - SRA

OCTOBER 2003

01-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
01-31 - SRA
20 - Change of Command, CDR Donald D. Hodge assumes Command

NOVEMBER 2003

01-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
01-30 - SRA

DECEMBER 2003

01-04 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
03 - SRA Ends/ Fast Cruise
04-05 - Underway for Sea Trials, Hawaiian OPAREA
05-08 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
08-12 - Underway for Week One Work Ups, Hawaiian OPAREA
12-15 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
15-17 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
17-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
17-31 - Holiday Upkeep, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
CROMMELIN completed a demanding year of operations, exercises, training, and maintenance, which culminated in her selection as Commander Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE's Battle Efficiency winner for 2003. Other highlights from the past year included a highly successful Counter Narcotics Deployment to the Eastern Pacific, for which CROMMELIN was awarded both the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon. She also completed an unprecedented three-month Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, allowing CROMMELIN to become the first Emergency Surge Ready ship in Pearl Harbor. CROMMELIN rounded out the year with an extremely successful Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), preparing her for another year of continued excellence in all Surface Warfare disciplines.

Team CROMMELIN began the year enjoying a port visit to Panama City, Panama (Port Vasco Nunez De Balboa) to celebrate the New Year, having already been deployed for over two months in counter narcotics operations.

She followed up her port visit with a two-week patrol time off the coasts of Central and South America before returning to Panama for a night time transit of the Panama Canal January 17th-18th. The crew then sailed CROMMELIN north from the Caribbean side of Canal to Mayport, Florida for a planned two-week mid-deployment voyage repair availability.

After underway from Mayport, CROMMELIN transited south to Nassau, Bahamas for a port visit February 10th-13th, followed by a brief stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on February 14th and 15th to replenish fuel and supplies. CROMMELIN again transited the Panama Canal (this time south) over the evening of February 17th-18th before resuming Counter Narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific. The crew would remain on patrol from February 18th-March 10th, conducting a brief stop for fuel in Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica on February 23rd. CROMMELIN would go on to pursue an unknown speed boat, commonly referred to as a "go-fast", on February 24th, during which CROMMELIN retrieved 39 bales (approximately 2000 lbs) of cocaine that had been jettisoned by the crew of the go-fast. On the 7th of March, CROMMELIN rescued 10 fishermen off the coast of Ecuador who had been adrift for 3 days after their engine failed. They were returned to Ecuador, grateful to the crew of CROMMELIN.

A day later, CROMMELIN began a port visit in the South American fishing town of Manta, Ecuador. While inport Manta,
CROMMELIN Sailors participated in a two-day community relations project where a schoolhouse was restored.

CROMMELIN resumed patrol for the next nine days before pulling in for another port visit in Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama from the 22nd to the 26th of March. CROMMELIN then continued her counter drug patrol from March 26th-April 10th enroute to San Diego, CA for an April 10th port visit.

CROMMELIN outchopped COMUSNAVSOF/CTF 40/JIATF on April 10th pierside in San Diego. The ship remained inport San Diego until April 16th, when she began her transit back to homeport for a heartwarming homecoming April 22nd. Upon return from deployment, CROMMELIN began a month-long post-deployment stand down and maintenance upkeep period.

Following post-deployment upkeep, CROMMELIN conducted a fast cruise on May 27th before a Family Cruise to the island of Kauai May 30th to June 2nd. CROMMELIN would spend her June underway periods conducting type training, Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ’s) with HSL 37, and a Refueling-at-Sea with oiler USNS Tippecanoe, 30 June. While inport in June, CROMMELIN conducted a Supply Management Assessment (SMA) assist visit June 17th and administrative preps for her upcoming training cycle. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Training Phase I was also executed in June.

Command Assessment Readiness and Training (CART) II kicked off CROMMELIN’s Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) on 7-8 July along with Initial Assessment 10-11 July. This period also marked CROMMELIN’s first training cycle under the new Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTP). CROMMELIN was the first ship in Pearl Harbor to undergo FRTP. The training that followed included an import Tailored Ships Training Assessment (TSTA) period and accompanying maintenance availability from July 11th - August 5th. Also during this inport time, CROMMELIN underwent ATFP Phase II and achieved outstanding results on her Supply Management Assessment conducted July 28th-31st.

In August, CROMMELIN would alternate weeks underway and inport for TSTA Phases I and II. The crew offloaded some of the ship’s ammunition at the ammo depot located in Pearl Harbor’s West Loch, NAVMAG Lualualei, on August 25th. CROMMELIN’s final TSTA underway period was completed from September 2nd-5th before an import period September 5th-15th, which was used to prepare for her Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). ATFP Phase III was completed on September 9th, which finished off CROMMELIN’s ATFP certification process. In typical CROMMELIN fashion, FEP was
carried out with exemplary results on September 15th and 16th, receiving accolades from both COMDESRON 31 and ATG MIDPAC. After a weekend of recuperating from FEP, the crew of America’s Battle Frigate went to sea again to prepare for her engineering certification, Underway Demonstration (UD). CROMMELIN finished her Basic Phase certification with another striking display of engineering and material readiness on September 23rd, passing UD with an above average. CROMMELIN officially became “surge ready” at the conclusion of the FRTP. Following the offload of her remaining ammunition at Lualualei on September 24th, CROMMELIN started her nine-week Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) September 26th.

The ship remained in SRA from September 26th through December 3rd, undergoing numerous ship alterations and improvements. Among the most significant alterations was the removal of the MK-13 missile launcher and the removal of the STIR (Separate Track Illuminating Radar). The #4 Ship’s Service Diesel Generator (SSDG) was also completely overhauled, returning it to full service after being inoperable for a good portion of the previous year.

CDR Robert B. Stewart was relieved by CDR Donald D. Hodge on October 20th in a traditional Navy ceremony pier side Pearl Harbor.

CROMMELIN would once again put to sea December 4th-5th for sea trials, and after fine tuning all of her engineering and war fighting systems following her SRA period, CROMMELIN went to sea two more times before finishing out 2003. The first underway period December 8th-12th included Week One Work Ups (WOWU) operating with SH-60B Helicopters from HSL-37 Detachment Three. CROMMELIN’s last underway for 2003 from December 15th-17th included type training, helping her to remain surge ready. Upon return to Pearl Harbor on December 17th, CROMMELIN began her holiday leave and upkeep period, which would leave the crew well rested and prepared for 2004 pre-deployment preparations and continued surge readiness.
Chief of Naval Operations

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)
HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON LIGHT THIRTY-SEVEN
DETACHMENT THREE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service from 5 November 2002 to 5 April 2003.
The personnel of USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37) and Helicopter Anti-
Submarine Squadron Light THIRTY-SEVEN (HSL-37) Detachment THREE
made contributions of major significance to the international war
on narcotics, exercising extraordinary imagination and
resourcefulness in seizing over 5 Metric Tons of controlled
substances with a net value of over 120 million dollars. CROMMELIN
led the way in developing new techniques and tactics for relocating
jettisoned contraband. CROMMELIN also conducted three humanitarian
rescues, potentially saving the lives of 172 people. Additionally,
CROMMELIN and enhanced the Navy’s image with the civilian community
in Ecuador, by conducting two community relations projects and two
Project Hand-clasp deliveries touching the lives of hundreds of
residents and enhancing the Regional Commander’s Theater Engagement
Program. By their unrelenting determination, perseverance, and
steadfast devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of
USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light
THIRTY-SEVEN (HSL-37) reflected credit upon themselves and upheld
the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary,

[Signature]

V. E. CLARK
Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Operations