



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54)

FPO AP 96683-1272

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IN REPLY REFER TO

5750

Ser DDG 54,082

22 MAY 2000

From: Commanding Officer, USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
805 Kidder Breese, SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998


Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Daily Chronology 1998
(3) Narrative History
(4) Commanding Officer Biography
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(6) SEAHAWK article of 02 Jan 98
(7) CURTIS WILBUR 140520Z Feb 98
(8) SEAHAWK article of 20 Feb 98
(9) COMLOG WESTPAC 091050Z MAR 98
(10) USDAO KUALA LUMPUR MY 170509Z MAR 98
(11) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 210926Z MAR 98
(12) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 211025Z MAR 98
(13) COMCARGRU FIVE 212246Z MAR 98
(14) CURTIS WILBUR 010716Z MAY 98
(15) SEAHAWK article of 29 May 98
(16) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 020709Z JUN 98
(17) CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI 082124Z JUN 98
(18) SEAHAWK article of 19 June 98
(19) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 190158Z JUN 98
(20) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 260725Z JUN 98
(21) CTF SEVEN ZERO 300542Z JUN 98
(22) SEAHAWK article of 07 Aug 98
(23) Summary of Engineering Drills from CART II of
1 Sep 98
(24) CART II Combat Systems Communication Final Report
of 2 Sep 98
(25) CART II Seamanship Final Report of 4 Sep 98
(26) CART II Medical Final Report of 4 Sep 98
(27) CART II Damage Control Final Report of 4 Sep 98
(28) CART II Final Report of 4 Sep 98
(29) USS CURTIS WILBUR Battle Efficiency Award Package

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- (30) CURTIS WILBUR 280020Z OCT 98
- (31) CTF SEVEN ZERO 080040Z DEC 98
- (32) COMDESRON FIFTEEN 090455Z DEC 98
- (33) CURTIS WILBUR 120010Z DEC 98
- (34) COMCARGRU FIVE 151210Z DEC 98
- (35) CURTIS WILBUR 3 1/2" UNCLASS Disk

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (38) comprise the 1998 Calendar Year history of USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54).


E. J. QUINN

USS CURTIS WILBUR COMMAND HISTORY 1998

SECTION I

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

1. Immediate Superior in Command:
Commander Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN
01 January – 31 December CAPT J. F. Ferguson
2. Commanding Officer, USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54)
01 January – 31 December CDR M. J. Fischer
3. Executive Officer
01 January – 02 November LCDR H. A. Graff
03 November – 31 December LCDR C. F. Williams

SECTION II

DAILY CHRONOLOGY 1998

09DEC97-15JAN98	IPT	HOLIDAY LV/UPKEEP YOKOSUKA, JA
15JAN-19JAN	U/W	INDY CQ'S/R-116
19JAN-22JAN	U/W	ENR SASEBO, JA
22JAN	IPT	SASEBO, JA
22JAN-31JAN	U/W	SHAREM 108
01FEB-02FEB	IPT	SASEBO, JA
09FEB-17FEB	IPT	POM YOKOSUKA, JA
17FEB-19MAY		DEPLOYMENT
17FEB-24FEB	U/W	XSIT
24FEB-02MAR	IPT	SINGAPORE
07MAR-11MAR	IPT	DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
16MAR-20MAR	IPT	TOWNSVILLE, AUSTRALIA
28MAR-03APR	IPT	GUAM
08APR-13APR	IPT	HONG KONG
17APR-22APR	IPT	OSAKA, JA
24APR-28 APR	IPT	TONGHAE, ROK
28APR-30APR	U/W	CSOF EX 98-2
30APR	IPT	TONGHAE, ROK

01 MAY-09 MAY	IPT SASEBO, JA
04MAY-20MAY	OS 0310 SCHOOL SHIP COI
11MAY-13 MAY	U/W DISTANT THUNDER
15MAY-19 MAY	IPT SHIMODA (BLACKSHIP)
19 MAY	U/W FAMILY CRUISE, RTP YOKOSUKA, JA
26 MAY	ANC AMMO OFFLOAD
01 JUN-01 AUG	IPT SRA
10-11 AUG	ANC AMMO ONLOAD
12-27 AUG	U/W SEA OF JAPAN
01-05 SEP	IPT CART II
08-21 SEP	U/W SHAREM 126
10-11 SEP	IPT CHINHAE
22 SEP-02 OCT	IPT CMTQ
23-30 SEP	IPT SEMIANNUAL PRT
07-09 OCT	U/W TSTA 1A
13-16 OCT	U/W TSTA 1B
18 OCT-10 NOV	U/W FOAL EAGLE 98
22-26 OCT	IPT INCHON, ROK
02 NOV	U/W XO LCDR GRAFF DEPARTED
05 NOV	IPT OKINAWA, JA

08 NOV	U/W FIREX ONE (94.43)
08-10 NOV	U/W TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JA
10-16 NOV	IPT YOKOSUKA, JA
16-23 NOV	U/W TSTA III
01-03 DEC	U/W ECERT PREPS
07-08 DEC	U/W ECERT
14-18 DEC	U/W TSTA III
18-31 DEC	IPT STANDDOWN

SECTION III

NARRATIVE HISTORY 1998

USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54) began 1998 in the Christmas leave and upkeep period. Upon getting underway on 16 January, CURTIS WILBUR conducted NSFS qualification en route Sasebo, Japan for USW Exercise SHAREM 108. SHAREM, a bilateral exercise conducted in the East China Sea with Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) surface ships and diesel submarines, tested anti-submarine warfare search tactics and sensor performance. After a Hot Wash-Up Conference in Sasebo, CURTIS WILBUR returned to Yokosuka, Japan for pre-deployment conferences and Pre-Overseas Movement period.

On 17 February, CURTIS WILBUR left Yokosuka to begin a four-month deployment, conducting type training en route a port visit in Singapore. After Singapore, CURTIS WILBUR proceeded to Australia for mid-March port visits in Darwin and Townsville. CURTIS WILBUR then headed northeast to Guam, where the ship convened a two-day Hardened Theater Air Coordination Center – Maritime Air Support Operations Center (HTACC-MASOC) working group during the first week of April. Turning west, CURTIS WILBUR steamed to Hong Kong, arriving on 8 April. After a five-day port visit in Hong Kong, CURTIS WILBUR sailed to Osaka,

Japan, where it conducted Typhoon Gun Shipcheck and commenced a Limited Team Trainer (LTT) in Combat Systems, Deck and Logistics.

Continuing LTT en route Tonghae, Republic of Korea, CURTIS WILBUR arrived on 24 April. After four days in Tonghae, CURTIS WILBUR got underway for Counter Special Operations Forces Exercise (CSOFEX) 98-2. As Officer in Charge of the Exercise, CURTIS WILBUR coordinated all aspects of exercise coordination, event planning, communications plan development, air control procedures, surface ship tactical employment, and bilateral C4I. Additionally, CURTIS WILBUR developed Joint Warfare Tactics with Land-Based Apache Attack Helicopter Detachments and USAF strike aircraft that became the baseline for future CSOFEX events. After the CSOFEX 98-2 Hot Wash-Up in Tonghae, CURTIS WILBUR steamed to Sasebo, Japan, commencing Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase One (CART I) en route. Continuing CART I upon arrival on 4 May, CURTIS WILBUR also served as the NEC 0310 School Ship for Operations Specialists.

CURTIS WILBUR participated in Operation DISTANT THUNDER in the Sea of Japan from 11 through 13 May, at the conclusion of which the ship sailed to Shimoda, Japan for the annual Black Ship Festival, arriving on 15 May. Departing Shimoda on 19 May for Yokosuka, Japan, CURTIS

WILBUR conducted a Family Day Cruise that included guided tour information on the announcing system, a steel beach picnic, a high-speed run and an awards ceremony during the one-day transit to homeport. CURTIS WILBUR returned to Yokosuka on 20 May for a two-week post-deployment upkeep period.

On 22 May, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Fifteen (COMDESRON FIFTEEN) embarked in CURTIS WILBUR for three weeks. CURTIS WILBUR offloaded ammunition on 26 May and fuel on 28 May. On 1 June, CURTIS WILBUR commenced a two-month Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) period. During the second week of June, CURTIS WILBUR conducted Pre-Lightoff Training (PLOT) I. PLOT II occurred during the third week of July. Training continued during July with Shipboard Training Team (SBTT), Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Training Team, and LTT for Logistics during the last two weeks of July. July concluded with a Fast Cruise in preparation for Sea Trials.

SRA and LTT (L) concluded during the first week of August. After a successful Lightoff Assessment (LOA), CURTIS WILBUR onloaded ammunition on 10 August and got underway for two weeks of Sea Trials and Independent Steaming Exercises on 12 August. After returning to Yokosuka on 28 August, CURTIS WILBUR conducted CART II and two weeks of

upkeep. The ship got underway on 8 September for SHAREM 126, a bilateral ASW exercise with ships and aircraft from the Republic of Korea Navy, conducting the presail conference in Chinhae, Republic of Korea on 10 September. At the conclusion of SHAREM 126, CURTIS WILBUR returned to Yokosuka on 21 September.

On 22 September, CURTIS WILBUR commenced Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Trainer (CMTQT), concluding training on 30 September. Two days later, on 2 October, CURTIS WILBUR completed the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification. CURTIS WILBUR commenced a one-week Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) IA on 5 October and TSTA IB on 13 October. After successfully completing both TSTAs, CURTIS WILBUR proceeded to Inchon, Republic of Korea for the Exercise FOAL EAGLE 98 presail conference. The ship participated in FOAL EAGLE 98, a bilateral exercise testing U.S. and R.O.K. interoperability, in the Yellow Sea from 26 October through 1 November.

Following FOAL EAGLE 98, CURTIS WILBUR headed to Okinawa. On 2 November, the Executive Officer, LCDR Holly A. Graff, departed during the transit to Okinawa; LCDR Charles F. Williams assumed duties as Executive Officer, and the ship arrived in port on 4 November. CURTIS WILBUR got underway from Okinawa on 6 November and successfully

completed FIREX 1 on 8 November with an overall score of 94.43% under extremely adverse weather conditions. CURTIS WILBUR also became the first Aegis Destroyer to conduct NSFS at the Okino Daito Jima Range. After earning NSFS qualification, CURTIS WILBUR returned to Yokosuka on 11 November and commenced TSTA IIA and IIB on 16 November.

On 7 December, CURTIS WILBUR completed a CINCPACFLT PEB Engineering Certification in a single day. The ship then conducted TSTA III from 14 to 18 December. At the completion of TSTA III, the Afloat Training Group certified all training teams and watchstanders as ready for the Final Evaluation Problem. On 19 December, CURTIS WILBUR commenced its holiday standdown period.