

[2001 CHR]
TLH

Command Composition and Organization

Name: USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54)

UIC: 21640

Commanding Officer: CDR D. P. Roane JR.

Mission: The general mission of DDG 51 is to operate offensively in a high-density multithreat environment as an integral member of a battle group or surface action group (SAG) to include striking at targets along hostile shorelines and well inland. In addition, DDG 51 provides its own anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-surface warfare (ASUW), and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) defense and can effectively provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military units.

Organization:

Destroyer Squadron Fifteen

Battle Force Seventh Fleet

Home Port: San Diego, CA

Forward Deployed: Yokosuka, JA

USS CURTIS WILBUR HISTORY

16 DEC 00-13 JAN 01	STANDOWN (YOKOSUKA, JAPAN)
16 DEC 00-15 JAN 01	NAVMACS II INSTALL
23-25 JAN 01	UNDERWAY
26-27 JAN 01	I/P CHINHAE, KOREA
28-29 JAN 01	TACEVALEX
30 JAN-07 FEB 01	SHAREM 136
08 FEB 01	BSF CHINHAE, KOREA
09 FEB 01	UNDERWAY
10 FEB 01	BSF OKINAWA, JAPAN
11-15 FEB 01	UNDERWAY
16-19 FEB 01	I/P DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
20-21 FEB 01	UNDERWAY
22-24 FEB 01	I/P DILI, EAST TIMOR (U.N. PRESENCE MISSION)
25 FEB 01	UNDERWAY
26 FEB 01	BSF DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
27 FEB-06 MAR 01	UNDERWAY
07 MAR 01	BSF OKINAWA, JAPAN
08-13 MAR 01	UNDERWAY
14 MAR-20 MAY 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
20 APR-11 MAY 01	DRY DOCK
21-22 MAY 01	SEA TRIALS
23 MAY-11 SEP 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
11 JUL-12 SEP 01	SRA
11 SEP 01	ATTACK ON CONUS
12-14 SEP 01	ANCHORAGE (AMMO ONLOAD)
15-16 SEP 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
17-19 SEP 01	SEA TRIALS
20 SEP 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
21-29 SEP 01	BG SEA TRIALS
30 SEP 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
01 OCT-12 DEC 01	OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
13-16 DEC 01	I/P PHUKET, THAILAND
17-22 DEC 01	UNDERWAY
23-31 DEC 01	I/P YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

USS CURTIS WILBUR Command History Narrative

CURTIS WILBUR's first underway of the year was for operations to conduct the first TACEVALEX; an experiment and training evolution with two SSNs to collect data on the performance of the MK-48 ADCAP torpedo in the Yellow Sea. Next, CURTIS WILBUR participated in the SHAREM 136 Undersea Warfare Exercise (USW); a bilateral exercise with the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) designed to develop and test tactics for countering diesel submarine threats in shallow waters. That exercise demonstrated the viability of using multiple surface action unit's (SAU) and surface action group (SAG) commanders to effectively employ USW assets.

Operations in support of United States Group East Timor (USGET) followed the Korean exercises. The transit south presented an opportunity to hold a crossing the line ceremony where over 100 "wogs" were christened "shellbacks" as the ship crossed the equator (first time in two years). A four day port visit prepared the crew for three days working with the USGET team, where the crew provided humanitarian relief for the people of Dili, East Timor. Three hundred and twenty three sailors provided 275 man-days to repair and refurbish two schools, which included overhauling electrical systems, toilets, plumbing, adding furniture, and teaching equipment. A team of engineers taught a workshop for local repairmen in pump and plumbing repair. CURTIS WILBUR hosted a group of Timor Lorosae police academy students who toured the ship, interacted with the crew, and took part in instruction by the Depart of Justice's international criminal investigative training assistance program. A group of 140 local boy and girl scouts were given ship tours, fire hose handling demonstration, and a "steel beach picnic". The scouts took part in a cultural exchange and played games with the crew, who then answered questions about their careers and the United States. The crew received two BZs from Commander, SEVENTH Fleet and USCINCPAC for their efforts in Dili.

Plans for an extended underway in support of KITTY HAWK Battle Group operations were shortened to OPFOR operations in the vicinity of Okinawa, Japan with the KITTY HAWK Battle Group and the Japanese Maritime Defense Force (JMSDF). CURTIS WILBUR participated in divtacs and SAG vs. SAG with the JMSDF.

An emergent dry-docking to repair defective strut bearing staves prevented the ship from participating in exercise TANDEM THRUST 01. CURTIS WILBUR began 67 jobs in the three weeks before a selected restricted availability (SRA) following dry-docking. During the nine week long SRA (11 July- 12 September), CURTIS WILBUR received upgrades/alterations to SPY, UYK-43 computers, SQQ-89 sonar suite, ADS, FCS, SQS, and the installation of Common Data Link Management system (CDLMS) and dual High Speed Datalink (HSD) antennas. The availability was quite extensive. Ten NAVSEA K-alts, four SPAWAR K-alts, six D-alts, 21 AER's, seven ORALTS, and 318 repair jobs were completed in the ship's repair force (SRF) work package. The overall SRF work package was estimated at 23,256 man-days and farm out work amounted to only 2,734 man-days. New system installations included MK53 "Nulka", dual 25mm chain gun mounts, WSN-7 navigation gyros, Battle Force Team Trainer (BFTT) installation, and new hellan strainers for AEGIS cooling skids.

SRA 4 ended one day after 11 September. Unfortunately, not all new system tests were complete as CURTIS WILBUR put to sea to rearm and conduct sea trials. Immediately after ship's sea trials, CURTIS WILBUR joined KITTY HAWK in her sea

trials, functioning as the alternate air warfare coordinator (AC) during carrier qualifications and sea trials. CURTIS WILBUR took part in port break-in, and break-out evolutions in this time of heightened threat warning and security posture. To support battle group operations and force protection requirements, CURTIS WILBUR coordinated and developed link operations with Japanese Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) Basic Air Defense Ground Element (BADGE) radar sites, establishing greater interoperability and coordination between the Japanese and US military.

The KITTY HAWK Battle Group departed Yokosuka 01 October. The force transited to the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation ENDURE FREEDOM. While transiting the Strait of Malacca, CURTIS WILBUR spotted and maintained contact on a fishing vessel in distress, aiding USS GARY in the recovery of the five crew members of the small vessel. While in the FIFTHFLEET area of operation, CURTIS WILBUR performed duties as KITTY HAWK Battle Group air warfare coordinator, in addition to the full range of responsibilities associated with carrier escort duties. The crewmembers who located the sunken vessel in the Strait of Malacca were hosted aboard KITTY HAWK and met with the Secretary of the Navy. Members of the Miami Dolphins cheerleaders came aboard, conversing with and signing autographs for the crew. The battle group left the FIFTHFLEET and conducted a much needed liberty port call in Phuket, Thailand after 74 consecutive days at sea. The crew enjoyed the tropical paradise for three days by taking advantage of the local scenery, shopping, and entertainment.

CURTIS WILBUR's returned to Yokosuka after 84 days away from home just two days before Christmas.