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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DE WERT (FFG 45)

FLEET POST OFFICE

MIAMI 34090-1499

DECLASSIFIED

5750
Ser S00028
31 JAN 90



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From: Commanding Officer, USS DE WERT (FFG-45)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20370

Subj: SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1989

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS DE WERT (FFG 45) Command History for Calendar Year 1989 (U)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


A.T. CHURCH III

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: Nov 2005

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A. (C) Command composition and organization:

Mission: AAW and ASW with secondary mission areas in ASUW, ELW and CCC.

Commander: CDR A.T. CHURCH III, USN,

Home Port: Charleston, South Carolina

Aircraft: Embarked one SH-60B LAMPS MK III helicopter from HSL 42 Det 4

B. (C) Chronology of significant events:

4 Jan - Brief fuel stop, Mina Raysut, Oman
7 Jan - Transit Straits of Hormuz
8-12 Jan - Port visit Manama, Bahrain
22-24 Jan - Port visit Manama, Bahrain
25 Jan - CINCUSCENCOM, General Schwarzkopf, and COMIDEASTFOR, Rear Admiral Less, visited the ship
29-30 Jan - Ney Award semi-finalist inspection
7-10 Feb - Tender availability alongside USS ACADIA (AD 42)
25-27 Feb - Port visit, Manama, Bahrain
11 Mar - EMC [REDACTED], DE WERT's last Plankowner, departs the ship
12-15 Mar - Port Visit Dammam, Saudi Arabia
21-27 Mar Tender availability alongside USS PUGET SOUND (AD 38)
24 Mar - U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, Mr. Sam Zakhem, visited the ship
28 Mar - Aviation Mid-Deployment Corrosion Inspection
7 Apr - COMIDEASTFOR, Rear Admiral Fogarty, visited the ship
11-15 Apr - Port visit Manama, Bahrain
19 Apr - Brief fuel stop Jabel Ali, United Arab Emirates
24-26 Apr - Port visit Manama, Bahrain
27 Apr - Turnover with USS UNDERWOOD (FFG 36)
1 May - Brief fuel stop Mina Raysut, Oman
- Departed Arabian Gulf with USS O'BANNON (DD 987) and USS HAWES (FFG 53). CO USS DE WERT (FFG 45) OTC for Westward Transit
9 May - Transit Suez Canal
- Chop to CINCUSNAVEUR
16-18 May - Port Visit Rota, Spain
19-23 May - Port Visit Lisbon, Portugal
23 May - Chop to CINCLANTFLT
25 May - Brief fuel stop Ponta Delgada, Azores
31 May-2 Jun - Port Visit Bermuda
2-5 Jun - Tiger Cruise
5 Jun-6 Jul - Post deployment stand down, Charleston, South Carolina
11-14 Jul - CORTRAMID
15-19 Jul - Port visit Gloucester, Massachusetts
21 Jul - Combat Systems Assessment
27 Jul-2 Aug - Pre DSRA IMAV Mayport, Florida
2 Aug - Commence 5 month DSRA; Atlantic Drydock and Marine, Jacksonville, Florida
10 Oct - EMAT II
18 Oct - COMCRUDESGRU TWO, RADM Paulsen, visited the ship
16-17 Nov - Navywide Safety Standown

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4-8 Dec - EMAT III
19-20 Dec - Light-Off Examination
28-31 Dec - Sea Trials

C. (C) The year 1989 began in the Red Sea and at General Quarters for DE WERT. The ship was heading for Mina Raysut, Oman for a brief fuel stop under the tactical command of COMDESRON FOURTEEN, Captain Collins, embarked in USS O'BANNON (DD 987). USS O'BANNON (DD 987), USS DE WERT (FFG 45), AND USS HAWES (FFG 53) were transiting in formation to the Arab Gulf to begin a Middle East Force deployment. Detaching from the formation on the 2nd, DE WERT proceeded independently and arrived at Mina Raysut on 4 January. Getting underway a few hours later, the ship transited the Straits of Hormuz on 7 January and arrived at Mina Sulman, Bahrain on the 8th. DE WERT moored outboard of USS DOYLE (FFG 39) and began the transfer of Middle East Force turnover material, and the briefs on area operations. Representatives of the Administrative Support Unit, (ASU) Bahrain visited the same day and briefed their counterparts. On 9 January a staff contingent from the Commander, Joint Task Force Middle East (CJTfME) briefed the ship and that same afternoon the ship got underway to shift berths. On 11 January DE WERT anchored at Sitrah Anchorage and got underway on the 12th for the Northern Persian Gulf (NPG) Operations Area.

(S) On 13 January the ship relieved the USS REID (FFG 30) on station as Golf Sierra One (GS1). DE WERT's primary missions on this station were to provide support for the Mobile Support Barge, HERCULES (MSB), and to help escort United States flagged merchants as part of the ongoing operation EARNEST WILL. On 14 January, Army helicopters 07 and 08 flew aboard for briefings on air operations in the area. On 16 January an awards ceremony was held and 17 DE WERT sailors were authorized to wear insignia of the next higher paygrade. On 20 January the ship went alongside HERCULES to take on fuel and fresh water and provide MSB personnel with ship's store, barber, postal, and disbursing services. The ship turned over with REID on the 21st and moored at berth 9 Mina Sulman, Bahrain on the 22nd for a two day port visit. DE WERT got underway on the 24th for NPG and relieved REID that same evening. On 25 January the Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command, General Schwarzkopf, visited the ship along with the Commander Middle East Force, Rear Admiral Less. On 29 and 30 January DE WERT received Semi-finalist evaluation as part of the Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award program.

(S) On 5 February DE WERT moored at Mina Sulman, Bahrain outboard of USS LA SALLE (AGF 3). Deputy Commander Joint Task Force Middle East, BGen Nuber, toured the ship that afternoon. On 7 February DE WERT briefly got underway for Sitrah Anchorage and tied up alongside USS ACADIA (AD 42) for a scheduled 7-day Tender Availability. On 9 February an awards ceremony was held on the flight deck. The monthly logistics swing by the USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4) began late on the 9th and lasted well into the morning of the 10th. It occurred at anchorage via barge. An unexpected schedule change cut short the Tender Availability and DE WERT got underway on the afternoon of 10 February for NPG. Forced to return to Sitrah Anchorage on 11 February due to a casualty to the MK 13 missile launcher, the ship quickly fixed the problem, got underway late on the evening of the 12th, and relieved HAWES on 13 February. DE WERT moored alongside HERCULES on 18 February for water and fuel

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and provided services to MSB personnel. On 20 February a small VERTREP occurred with USS PEORIA (LST 1183) which brought the ship milk and fresh vegetables. DE WERT's LAMPS helicopter was used for the transfer. On 22 February 21 DE WERT crew members travelled by tug to HERCULES and viewed the USO show "Kissee Darnell Review". The ship turned over with HAWES on 24 February and during the return to Sitrah Anchorage conducted a freedom of navigation exercise. On 25 February DE WERT anchored at Sitrah for a short port visit and got underway once again on 27 February to relieve HAWES in NPG.

(S) On 2 March DE WERT anchored in the vicinity of HERCULES for some engineering maintenance and got underway later that same afternoon. On 4 March the ship moored alongside HERCULES to receive fuel and fresh water and provide personnel services. Holiday routine was observed on 5 March in observance of the deployment half-way day and a flight deck picnic and skeet shoot were held. On 8 March the ship VERTREP'd with WHITE PLAINS during its monthly logistic swing through the Arabian Gulf and on 10 March DE WERT endured a shamal, or dust storm, with visibility near zero for nearly 24 hours. On the 11th the ship once again moored alongside HERCULES and transferred EMC [REDACTED], DE WERT's last official plankowner, for helicopter transportation to Bahrain. EMC [REDACTED] had been aboard DE WERT for more than 6 years. Later that day the ship turned over GS-1 duties to HAWES and arrived in Dammam, Saudi Arabia on the 12th for a 3 day port visit filled with official calls, formal receptions, and various social events. On 15 March DE WERT got underway from Dammam and proceeded to Kuwait for fuel as part of the host nation program, but this event had to be cancelled due to problems obtaining diplomatic clearance. For the next five days DE WERT SERVED AS GS-1 in NPG. On 20 March DE WERT anchored near HERCULES to facilitate painting the sides, held a Captain's Call and awards ceremony, and turned over with HAWES before proceeding to Sitrah Anchorage where the ship moored alongside USS PUGET SOUND (AD 38) for a scheduled 7 day Tender Availability on the 21st. On 24 March DE WERT hosted Mr. Sam Zakhem, the United States Ambassador to Bahrain for lunch and a tour of the ship. Earlier that day DE WERT and PUGET SOUND were forced to shift anchorages due to the limited maneuverability of an arriving deep draft merchant vessel. The Tender Availability concluded on the 27th and DE WERT briefly got underway for anchorage at Sitrah. On 28 March a COMFAIRMED inspection team arrived for a mid-deployment audit of aircraft material condition, special maintenance programs, and ship aviation facilities. Later that afternoon DE WERT again got underway for NPG and assumed duties as GS-1.

(S) On April 3rd DE WERT anchored near HERCULES to work on cleaning the sides. On 5 April the ship moored alongside HERCULES for fuel and fresh water and to provide personnel services to MSB personnel. On 7 April the new Commander Middle East Force, Rear Admiral Fogarty, flew aboard for a briefing, lunch, and a tour of the ship. The tug STRIKER met the ship later that afternoon with milk, FFV, and newly reporting personnel. On the 10th, DE WERT again anchored in the vicinity of HERCULES and got underway late that evening for Bahrain. DE WERT arrived at Sitrah anchorage on the morning of the 11th and moored outboard of USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) in a three ship nest with PUGET SOUND, for work and technical assistance on the MK 13 missile launcher and the

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gas turbine engines. On 12 April the ship briefly got underway to go pierside at Mina Sulman. Word was received later that day that HSL 42 had been awarded their second consecutive CNO Annual Safety Award. DE WERT got underway on the 15th for operations in the Central and Southern Persian Gulf. On 16 April DE WERT observed the Soviet anchorage. On the 17th the ship, along with O'BANNON and USS JOHN YOUNG (DD 973), conducted an EARNEST WILL mission through the Straits of Hormuz. Returning through the Straits on the 18th, DE WERT escorted USNS SPICA for its April logistics swing through the Gulf. A VERTREP was conducted that afternoon. On 19 April the ship moored at Jabel Ali, United Arab Emirates for a few hours to take on fuel and observed the Soviet anchorage later that afternoon. On 21 April the ship, along with JOHN YOUNG escorted SPICA and PUGET SOUND back through the Straits of Hormuz and conducted a quick highline transfer with SPICA for a needed part. On the 22nd DE WERT conducted another EARNEST WILL mission escorting 2 merchants as they entered the Gulf. That same day the ship received a malfunctioning Army helicopter from O'BANNON and set a course for HERCULES in NPG for a transfer. On 23 April an Awards Ceremony was held on the flight deck and the helicopter was exchanged for one in good working order from HERCULES. On 24 April DE WERT anchored at Sitrah for its last port visit in Bahrain this deployment. That same afternoon a shamal passed through, nearly breaking loose a barge tied to the ship. Slight damage occurred to the hull, but it was soon fixed and the rapid actions of the crew prevented any serious damage. DE WERT got underway on the 26th, anchored on the morning of the 27th and received USS UNDERWOOD (FFG 36) alongside to port for turnover. DE WERT transited the Straits of Hormuz with HAWES and USS PAUL FOSTER (DD 964) on 28 April. Training exercises with the USS RANGER (CV 61) Battlegroup in the Gulf of Oman occurred on 29 April.

(S) On May 1st DE WERT and HAWES Moored at Mina Raysut, Oman for a brief fuel stop and got underway later that same day beginning the long transit back to Charleston in company with HAWES and O'BANNON. CDR A.T. CHURCH III served as Task Group Commander for the three ships of the MEF 1-89 Westward Transit Group. On May 8th the group anchored at Port Suez, Egypt and got underway on the 9th to transit the Suez Canal. Late on the 9th and on the 10th training exercises took place with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Battlegroup in the Eastern Mediterranean. Also on the 10th the ship conducted an underway replenishment with the USNS JOSHUA HUMPHRIES and received fresh fruits and vegetables as well. On May 12th the group rendezvoused with the USNS RIGEL during its monthly logistics cycle. The 13th began with a VERTREP via CH 53 helicopter from Naples which brought critically needed spare parts. DE WERT rendezvoused later that day with USNS JOHN LENTHAL and received over three weeks of back mail. On the 14th the ship VERTREP'd with HAWES and O'BANNON, giving them mail received the previous day. On May 16th the three ships moored at the Naval Station Rota, Spain for a two day port visit. Getting underway on the 18th, all three ships moored at Lisbon, Portugal on the 19th for a four day port visit. Leaving Portugal on the 23rd, the ships briefly moored at Ponta Delgada, Azores on the 25th for fuel before continuing the Atlantic transit. All three ships conducted mutual training for the next five days before mooring at Naval Air Station Annex Bermuda on the 31st for a two day port visit.

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(U) Getting underway from Bermuda on June 2nd, DE WERT picked up its Tiger Cruise participants that same afternoon and headed for Charleston. Various demonstrations and drills were conducted for the Tigers before the ships pulled into Charleston on June 5th and began a month long stand-down period. On the 19th a week long Diesel Inspection began and on the 26th, the ship received five midshipmen for approximately three weeks of shipboard training.

(U) On July 4th a Boy Scout Troop from Centerville, Virginia toured the ship and on July 5th DE WERT shifted berths to pier Z. The stand-down period ended on July 6th. The Command held its semi-annual physical fitness test on July 6th and 7th and hosted approximately sixty reservists from the USS FAHRION (FFG 22) over the weekend of the 8th and 9th. A Fast Cruise was held on the 7th and the ship got underway on July 10th for the Virginia Capes Operations Area. On July 11th DE WERT rendezvoused with the USS NICHOLSON (DD 982), USS TAYLOR (FFG 50), and USS SCOTT (DDG 995) and for the next three days hosted different groups of Second Class Midshipmen for training. On the evening of the 13th the ship UNREP'd with USNS HENRY J. KAISER. On July 14 DE WERT set a course for Gloucester, Massachusetts and anchored there the next morning for a four day port visit. The visit included continuous tours of the ship including a group from DE WERT Avenue in Taunton, Massachusetts, the hometown of the ship's namesake. The ship got underway on the 19th and arrived in Charleston on the morning of the 21st to embark evaluators for the Combat Systems Assessment. After a successful evaluation, the ship moored in Charleston that same evening. DE WERT again got underway on July 23rd for the Charleston Weapons Station for off-load in preparation for the upcoming overhaul period. On the 25th the ship returned to the Naval Station and then got underway on the afternoon of the 26th for the Mayport, Florida Naval Station, arriving the morning of the 27th. A pre-overhaul maintenance availability began that same day and the crew began the off-load of all material including all on board repair parts for an Integrated Logistics Overhaul.

(C) On 2 August DE WERT got underway for Atlantic Drydock and arrived later that same afternoon for a five month overhaul. Major alterations to the ship during this yard period included the addition of the SQQ 89 sonar suite which significantly increased the ship's ASW capabilities, and made it a more stable sea going platform. On August 2nd the ship's galley was shut down and the crew placed on commuted rations to purchase their own meals while work was being accomplished in the galley. On August 4th the crew moved off of the ship and on to a berthing barge. DE WERT came out of the water and entered the drydock on August 8th. A combined personnel inspection and awards ceremony took place on August 25th.

(U) On September 6th the overhaul 25% conference was held. The ship took advantage of the extended time in port by sending a large portion of the crew to short schools and team trainers. Additionally, DE WERT was a key participant in the local Mayport area navy sports competitions. Teams in bowling, softball, and basketball were all major forces in league play. On September 20th the berthing barge was evacuated and all personnel sent to the Mayport Naval Station BEQ in preparation for Hurricane Hugo. On September

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21st those crewmembers with families in Charleston, South Carolina were allowed to travel home to be with their families. Charleston turned out to be where Hurricane Hugo actually made landfall and the homes and property of several crewmembers were severely damaged.

(U) On October 6th a combination personnel inspection and awards ceremony took place on the berthing barge. On October 10th the EMAT II Team arrived to help the ship prepare for the Light Off Exam at the end of overhaul. On October 12th the overhaul 50% conference took place and on October 13th DE WERT undocked and moved to the sea wall at the shipyard. Both Commodore Lewis, Commander Destroyer Squadron SIX, and Rear Admiral Paulson, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two, visited the ship on October 18th. On October 19th several crewmembers participated in the Jacksonville area 'Beach Sweep 89' effort by picking up trash along a large section of beach. The ship was refueled on 23 and 24 October and Combat Systems Testing began on 25 October.

(U) On November 4th DE WERT wrapped up it's annual Combined Federal Campaign with a raffle and achieved 126% of it's assigned goal. On November 15th the Wives Support Group raised \$510.00 for "My Sister's House" a shelter for abused and battered wives and their children. On November 16th the ship began a two day Navy wide Safety Stand Down in response to several recent Navy safety-related accidents. The ship's galley reopened on November 17th and the crew moved back aboard the ship on November 20th. On November 22nd a personnel inspection was held and LCDR Sprague, the Prospective Executive Officer arrived on the 27th.

(U) On 4 December the EMAT III Team arrived to help the ship prepare for the Light Off Exam. DE WERT sponsored a Christmas party on 9 December in Charleston, South Carolina for crewmembers and their children. An Aviation Technical Assist Visit occurred 12-15 December and DE WERT successfully passed the Light off Exam on 18 and 19 December. A Fast Cruise took place on 21 December and the backload of repair parts from the Integrated Logistics Overhaul warehouse began that same day. Many crewmembers departed for the first holiday leave period 21-27 December. Sea trials took place 28-31 December and the ship returned to the Mayport, Florida Naval Station to begin a three week maintenance availability. OS1 [REDACTED] was selected as DE WERT'S Sailor of the Year.

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