

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY USSGRAPPLE (ARS-53) C/O FPO NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09570-3223

5750 Ser 07/148 **26 APR 1988**

From: Commanding Officer, USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) Command History for 1987

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

MISTARY.

USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1987

Command Composition and Organization

A. The primary mission of the USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) is to assist in advance force operations, worldwide, in support of national policy. In combat, GRAPPLE will be employed to support protection of forces ashore through post-assault salvage operations in close proximity to the shore.

The GRAPPLE is designed to perform combat salvage, lifting, towing, offship firefighting, diving operations, and emergency repairs.

- B. (1) Immediate Senior in Command: Commander, Service Squadron EIGHT, Commander Robert G. Bruce, U. S. Navy.
- (2) Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Commander Timothy B. Stark, U. S. Navy.
 - (3) Homeport: Little Creek, VA.

I. Chronology

Command Assist Team Visit Aviation Assist Team Fleet Accounting & Disbursing Center Visit Personnel & Administration Assist Team Engineering Operational Sequencing System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise DECAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-l	Fast Cruise	5 Jan 87
Fleet Accounting & Disbursing Center Visit Personnel & Administration Assist Team 6-8 Jan 87 Engineering Operational Sequencing 6-16 Jan 87 System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise 12-13 Jan 87 DECAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown 14 Jan 87 Training Readiness Evaluation 15-16 Jan 87 Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA 19 Jan 87 Arrive FT Lauderdale 21 Jan 87 U/W DLSS Certification 22 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 Salv OPS AUTEC Range 25-27 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA 02 Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) 04-22 Feb 87 WCAP Physical Security Assist Team 04-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection 05 Feb 87 Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Evaluation 17-19 Feb 87 Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit 23-27 Feb 87 Noise and Heat Stress Survey 97 Final Contract Trials 79-13 Mar 87 Final Contract Trial Retrial 23-26 Mar 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Command Assist Team Visit	6 Jan 87
Personnel & Administration Assist Team Engineering Operational Sequencing System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise DEGAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA 19 Jan 87 Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification 19T Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Coff-load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Pinal Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 6-8 Jan 87 6-16 Ja	Aviation Assist Team	6-7 Jan 87
Engineering Operational Sequencing System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise DECAUSS, Load AVMO Yorktown 14 Jan 87 Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA 19 Jan 87 Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification 12 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Wilder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team 04-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Assess Team 16 Feb 87 Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Pinal Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87		
System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise DECAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Walter Homeport Little Creek, VA O2 Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team O4-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 12-13 Jan 87 12-13 Jan 87 12-13 Jan 87 12-14 S7 12-15 Feb 87 12-17 Feb 87 12-17 Feb 87 12-18 Feb 87 12-19 Feb 87 13-18 Feb 87 14 Jan 87 15-16 Jan 87 15-16 Jan 87 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 18-18	Personnel & Administration Assist Team	6-8 Jan 87
System Hot Plant Checks/Training Readiness Avail DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise DEGAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT William Strive Homeport Little Creek, VA IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) U/W DLSS Certification OF Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) U/W OFF AUTEC Range III Jan 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) U/W OFF BROTE STROME STRO	Engineering Operational Sequencing	6-16 Jan 87
DECAUSS, Load AWMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA 19 Jan 87 Arrive FT Lauderdale 21 Jan 87 U/W DLSS Certification 22 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 23-27 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA 02 Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) 04-22 Feb 87 WCAP Physical Security Assist Team 04-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection 05 Feb 87 Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit 23-27 Feb 87 Noise and Heat Stress Survey 90 Mar 87 Final Contract Trials 90-13 Mar 87 Final Contract Trial Retrial 09-13 Mar 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87		
DEGAUSS, Load AMMO Yorktown Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification 19 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Coff-load Deep Drone 25-27 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA 02 Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) 04-22 Feb 87 WCAP Physical Security Assist Team 04-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection 05 Feb 87 Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey 90 Mar 87 Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial 09-13 Mar 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	DEPERM, NJROTC Sea Cruise	12-13 Jan 87
Training Readiness Evaluation Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA 02 Feb 87 IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) 04-22 Feb 87 WCAP Physical Security Assist Team 04-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey 02 Mar 87 Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87		14 Jan 87
Depart Homeport Little Creek, VA Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 23-24 Jan 87 IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team O4-06 Feb 87 Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 19 Jan 87 21 Jan 87 22 Jan 87 23-24 Jan 87 24-25 Peb 87 02 Feb 87 04-02 Feb 87 04-02 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 05 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 O2 Mar 87 Final Contract Trials O9-13 Mar 87 Final Contract Trial Retrial O23-26 Mar 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87		15-16 Jan 87
Arrive FT Lauderdale U/W DLSS Certification 1PT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range 1PT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 1PT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 1PT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 1PT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 29-30 Jan 87 29-40 Jan 87 29-30 Jan 87 29-30 Jan 87 29-30 Jan 87 29-30 Jan 87 29-31 Jan 87 29-13 Mar 87 29-13 Feb 87 29-13 Mar 87 29-14 Mar 87 29-15 Mar 87 29-16 Mar 87 29-17 Mar 87		19 Jan 87
IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 23-24 Jan 87 25-27 Jan 87 25-27 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 04-22 Feb 87 04-22 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87		21 Jan 87
Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone Depart FT Lauderdale Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Operational Propulsion Plant Training 25-27 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 04-22 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	U/W DLSS Certification	22 Jan 87
Salv OPS AUTEC Range IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone 28-30 Jan 87 Depart FT Lauderdale 31 Jan 87 Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) 04-22 Feb 87 WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit 09-11 Feb 87 Safety Standown 12-13 Feb 87 Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 28-30 Jan 87 02 Feb 87 04-22 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87	IPT Port Everglades Load Deep Drone	23-24 Jan 87
IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone Depart FT Lauderdale Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contrat Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 23-20 Jan 87 24-30 Jan 87 25-30 Jan 87 26-30 Jan 87 27 Feb 87 28-30 Jan 87 24-22 Feb 87 24-26 Feb 87 25-26 Mar 87 27 Feb 87 28-30 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 28-30 Jan 87 24-22 Feb 87 24-26 Feb 87 25-26 Mar 87 26-26 Mar 87 27-26 Mar 87		25-27 Jan 87
Depart FT Lauderdale Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair) WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 31 Jan 87 02 Feb 87 04-22 Feb 87 04-06 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 09-13 Mar 87 70-13 Mar 87	IPT Port Everglades Off-load Deep Drone	28-30 Jan 87
IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair)04-22 Feb 87WCAP Physical Security Assist Team04-06 Feb 87Steering Inspection05 Feb 87Food Management Assist Visit09-11 Feb 87Safety Standown12-13 Feb 87Command Readiness Assess Team16 Feb 87Aviation Readiness Evaluation17-19 Feb 87Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit23-27 Feb 87Noise and Heat Stress Survey02 Mar 87Final Contract Trials09-13 Mar 87Final Contrat Trial Retrial23-26 Mar 87Operational Propulsion Plant Training30 Mar-03 Apr 87		31 Jan 87
WCAP Physical Security Assist Team Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 04-06 Feb 87 05 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 99-13 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Arrive Homeport Little Creek, VA	02 Feb 87
Steering Inspection Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 05 Feb 87 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 09 Mar 87 99-13 Mar 87 30 Mar -03 Apr 87	IMAV (Rudder Stock Seal Repair)	04-22 Feb 87
Food Management Assist Visit Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contrat Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 09-11 Feb 87 12-13 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87 30 Mar -03 Apr 87	WCAP Physical Security Assist Team	04-06 Feb 87
Safety Standown Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 12-13 Feb 87 16 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87	Steering Inspection	05 Feb 87
Command Readiness Assess Team Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Pinal Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 16 Feb 87 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87	Food Management Assist Visit	09-11 Feb 87
Aviation Readiness Evaluation Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 17-19 Feb 87 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Safety Standown	12-13 Feb 87
Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contract Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 23-27 Feb 87 02 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Command Readiness Assess Team	16 Feb 87
Noise and Heat Stress Survey Final Contract Trials Final Contrat Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 02 Mar 87 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Aviation Readiness Evaluation	17-19 Feb 87
Final Contract Trials Final Contrat Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Diesel Mobile Training Team Visit	23-27 Feb 87
Final Contract Trials Final Contrat Trial Retrial Operational Propulsion Plant Training 09-13 Mar 87 23-26 Mar 87 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Noise and Heat Stress Survey	02 Mar 87
Operational Propulsion Plant Training 30 Mar-03 Apr 87	Final Contract Trials	09-13 Mar 87
	Final Contrat Trial Retrial	23-26 Mar 87
	Operational Propulsion Plant Training	30 Mar-03 Apr 87
	Mock Operational Propulsion Plant Exam	16-17 Apr 87

Enclosure (1)

Operational Propulsion Plant Training Ches Bay Operational Propulsion Plant Training Ches Bay Operational Propulsion Plant Exam DMSR Refresher Training Post Shakedown Availability SSR-1 Field Change DAMA Installation Intermediate Maintenance Availability Concurrent SIMA Little Creek	20-24 Apr 87 27-29 Apr 87 30 Apr-1 May 87 04 May 87 05-28 May 87 01 Jun-31 Jul 87 09-19 Jun 87 15-30 Jun 87 1-31 Jul 87
Training Readiness Availability Engineering Operational Sequencing System Configuration Checks	06-17 Jul 87 13-17 Jul 87
Sea Trials/Dependents Cruise SALVTRA Restricted Availability/CSRR Phase I, II Pre-Overseas Movement Depart Little Creek VA Conduct Tow OPS: USS FEARLESS, USS INFLICT USS ILLUSIVE	03 Aug 87 03-21 Aug 87 24-28 Aug 87 29 Aug-03 Sep 87 06 Sep 87
Refueled/Replenished by USS CANISTEO while towing	12 6 07
MSO's Arrive Rota, Spain Depart Rota, Spain Arrive Haifa, Israel	13 Sep 87 24 Sep 87 27 Sep 87 09 Oct 87
Inport Logistics Replenishment USNS SIRIUS Depart Haifa, Israel Transit Suez Canal (Southbound)	09 Oct 87 12 Oct 87 15 Oct 87
Arrive Djibouti, BSF Depart Djibouti ENR Gulf of Oman	21 Oct 87 21 Oct 87 21 Oct-2 Nov 87
FAS W/USNS HASSAYAMPA Depart Gulf of Oman Breakaway from Minesweepers	02 Nov 87 02 Nov 87
ENR Port Suez Transit Suez Canal (Northbound) Celebrated GRAPPLE's 1st Birthday	02-12 Nov 87 13 Nov 87 15 Nov 87
Arrive Augusta Bay Depart August Bay	18 Nov 87 19 Nov 87
Logistic Replenishment/VERTREP-USS CONCORD Arrive Naples Depart Naples	20 Nov 87 20 Nov 87 23 Nov 87
Arrived Training Anchorage Palermo/ Conducted Surface Supplied Diving 160 FSW Arrived Palermo, Sicily	24-26 Nov 87 27 Nov 87
Depart Palermo, Sicily Arrive Menzel Bourguiba, TU RAV	01 Dec 87 02 Dec 87 02-16 Dec 87
Depart Menzel Bourguiba, TU Arrive Augusta Bay, Sicily BSF/BSC Logistic Replenishment USNS RICEL	17 Dec 87 18 Dec 87
Depart Augusta Bay, Sicily Pachino Target Buoy Inspection/Sicilian Coast	18 Dec 87 19 Dec 87

Arrive Naples, Italy	20 Dec 87
Depart Naples, Italy	27 Dec 87
Arrive San Remo, Italy	30 Dec 87
Depart San Remo, Italy	04 Jan 88

II. Narrative

Following GRAPPLE's holiday leave and upkeep at the end of 1986, and a number of assist visits in early January 1987, GRAPPLE departed Little Creek to conduct Deep Search Operations using the Deep Drone Remote Operated Vehicle in the Bahama Islands. Final certification of the ships diving systems was granted during this period. Upon return to homeport, Little Creek, VA., GRAPPLE continued its first operational year of assist and training visits. Final Contract Trials were completed in March, followed by the successful completion of her Operational Propulsion Plant Exam and Refresher Training. Prior to her six month deployment, GRAPPLE and her crew completed an IMAV and Salvage Training.

On September 6, 1987 GRAPPLE set sail for the Gulf of Oman with the following minesweepers in tow: USS INFLICT, USS ILLUSIVE, and the USS FEARLESS. Embarked on GRAPPLE was Commander, Middle East Force, Mine Counter Measures, Atlantic Fleet. GRAPPLE's mission became the longest transit in tow by one vessel of three ships of more than 9000 nautical miles with eight tow connect and disconnect evolutions and watering. During this transit, GRAPPLE conducted the first multiship astern refueling and watering during towing evolutions. Another first for GRAPPLE was an astern refueling with the USS CANISTEO while GRAPPLE was towing the minesweepers across the Atlantic.

After stops in Rota Spain, Haifa Israel, and Djibouti, Africa, GRAPPLE completed her first mission by breaking away from the minesweepers on 2 November 1987 in the Gulf of Oman. Enroute to the Mediterranean, GRAPPLE conducted her first alongside replenishment with the USNS HASSAYAMPA in the North Arabian Sea.

Following stops in Augusta Bay, Sicily; Naples, Italy, and Palermo, Sicily; CRAPPLE arrived in Menzel Bourguiba Tunisia for a Restricted Availability. This was to mark the first availability for a U.S. Navy ship in this port in six years. Of all the port visits, Menzel Bourguiba had the most difficult language barrier. With assistance from the American Embassy, CRAPPLE was able to adapt to life in Tunisia. A surprise for CRAPPLE however, was the unforseen cost of telephone usage during the stay in Menzel Bourguiba. This subject was addressed to Naval Regional Contraction Center, Naples, in hopes to forewarn other ships that may visit.

After a quick refueling in August Bay Sicily, GRAPPLE's next mission was to inspect the Pachino Target Buoy off the Sicilian Coast. GRAPPLE continued to Naples for a Christmas break and finished the year with a port visit in San Remo, Italy.