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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GRAPPLE (ARS-53)

C/O FPO NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09570-3223

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From: Commanding Officer, USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53)

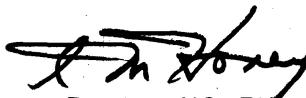
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY OF USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53)**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) Command History for 1989.

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


R. M. HONEY

USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) COMMAND HISTORY
FOR 1989

I. Command Composition and Organization

A. The primary mission of the USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) is salvage and rescue. To accomplish this mission, GRAPPLE is capable of debeaching stranded vessels, heavy lift from ocean depths, open ocean towing, manned salvage diving operations to a depth of 190 feet, off ship firefighting and performing emergency repairs to damaged vessels.

B. (1) Immediate Senior in Command: Commander, Combat Support Squadron EIGHT, Commander Stephen W. Delaplane, U.S. Navy.

(2) Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Commander Robert M. Honey, U.S. Navy.

(3) Homeport: Little Creek, Virginia.

II. CHRONOLOGY

HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP	01-09 JAN
FIELD CALIBRATION ACTIVITY REVIEW	10 JAN
VIBRATIONAL ANALYSIS CHESBAY	11-12 JAN
DMTT VISIT	17-20 JAN
U/W CHES LIGHT, BURIAL AT SEA	30 JAN
OPPE	16-17 FEB
AMMO OFFLOAD, W-1 ANCH/DEGAUSSING RUN	21 FEB
DRY DOCKING RAV, AFDM-7 SUSTAIN	23 FEB-24 MAR
2-M RECERTIFICATION	10 MAR
SEA TRIALS/RTN TO LCRK	24 MAR
PMA, MOON ENGINEERING	27 MAR-26 MAY
SUPPLY ASSIST VISIT	16 MAY
COSMIC RECERTIFICATION	19 MAY
BOILER INSPECTION	22 MAY

Enclosure (1)

DOCK TRIALS	23 MAY
3M ASSIST VISIT, LCRK	31 MAY-01 JUN
LANT FLEET READY DUTY SALVAGE SHIP	5-30 JUN
AVIATION CERT	07 JUN
PORT VISIT; WATERSIDE, NORFOLK	08-11 JUN
TOW OF EX-ARCTURUS, ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR TO NORFOLK, VA	16-23 JUN
DMTT, LCRK/CHES BAY	24-30 JUN
AMMO ONLOAD; YORKTOWN, VA	29 JUN
SALVOP OF M/V REGKEN, ST VINCENT	12-19 JUL
PORT VISIT BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS	19-24 JUL
PORT VISIT CASTRIAS, ST LUCIA	24-28 JUL
CHT CERTIFICATION; LCRK, VA	07 AUG
FOOD SERVICE TEAM ASSIST VISIT	07-11 AUG
CHANGE OF COMMAND; LCRK, VA	11 AUG
TRAINING READINESS EVALUATION; LCRK, VA	15-16 AUG
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT INSPECTION; LCRK, VA	21 AUG
PORT VISIT PERTH AMBOY, NJ	26-27 AUG
SALVAGE TRAINING, CHESBAY/VACAPES	5-14 SEP
INPORT CHARLESTON FOR HURRICANE HUGO	18-22 SEP
IX-516 BARGE SALVAGE, WPNSTA CHARLESTON, SC	22-28 SEP
TOW OF EX-ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN 617), CHARLESTON, SC TO NORFOLK, VA	30 SEP-03 OCT
DEPARTURE MATERIAL STATUS REVIEW	05-06 OCT
INTERIM REFRESHER TRAINING; LCRK, VA	10-26 OCT
TANDEM TOW, EX-CLAUDE V. RICKETTS (DDG 5) AND EX-FARRAGUT (DDG 39), FROM NORFOLK TO PHILADELPHIA	01-05 NOV
ENG PLANT ALIGNMENT/ON SITE CALIBRATION	02-22 NOV

Enclosure (1)

FLEET TRAINING UNIT LCRK HF SCHOOL SHIP	06-15 NOV
AAV/ARE; LCRK, VA	20 NOV
PRE-DEPLOYMENT IMAV; LCRK, VA	20 NOV-10 DEC
CAT; LCRK, VA	21 NOV
DIESEL INSPECTION; LCRK, VA	27 NOV-08 DEC
CMS INSPECTION; LCRK, VA	28 NOV
ASRR/CSRR/EXPLOSIVE SAFETY REVIEW/PAATLANT	04-08 DEC
CRAT VISIT; LCRK, VA	05 DEC
DMAT; LCRK, VA	11-14 DEC
HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP; LCRK, VA	15-26 DEC
DEPENDENTS CRUISE, VACAPES	27 DEC
HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP	28-31 DEC

III. Narrative

Following GRAPPLE's 1988 leave and upkeep period at Little Creek, Virginia, GRAPPLE spent the month of January and the first part of February preparing for an upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). Most of this time was spent adjusting and aligning the engineering plant and drilling the watch teams during underway periods in Chesapeake Bay. This culminated with the OPPE on 16 and 17 February, which resulted in a grade of above average.

After the OPPE, GRAPPLE off loaded all ammunition at "Whiskey" anchorage in Hampton Roads in preparation for entering drydock AFDM-7, SUSTAIN, at NOB. GRAPPLE entered the drydock on 23 February and remained until 24 March. On 24 March, after departing the SUSTAIN, GRAPPLE conducted sea trials in Chesapeake Bay and returned to Little Creek.

On 27 March GRAPPLE transited to Moon Engineering Company at Portsmouth, Virginia for a Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA). GRAPPLE remained at Moon Engineering until 26 May. During this time a supply assist visit, COSMIC recertification and boiler inspection were also conducted.

Enclosure (1)

GRAPPLE returned to Little Creek on 26 May. On 31 May and 1 June a 3M assist visit was conducted by Commander, Combat Support Squadron EIGHT. From 5 to 30 June GRAPPLE was designated as the Atlantic Fleet Ready Duty Salvage ship.

On 8 June GRAPPLE transited to Waterside at Norfolk for visit ship duties. GRAPPLE departed Waterside on 11 June and sailed for Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to conduct a tow of the target ship Ex-ARCTURUS to Norfolk. GRAPPLE arrived in Roosevelt Roads on 16 June, inspected the tow and departed with the tow on 17 June. The Ex-ARCTURUS was turned over to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard at "Whiskey" anchorage, in Hampton Roads on 23 June and GRAPPLE returned to Little Creek.

The Diesel Mobile Training Team (DMTT) conducted training on board GRAPPLE in the Chesapeake Bay from 24 to 30 June. GRAPPLE set sail on 5 July for Saint Vincent, West Indies, to conduct a salvage operation of the 165 foot M/V Regken at Kingstown Harbor, Saint Vincent, arriving on 12 July. The salvage operation was begun upon arrival and over the course of a week the vessel was completely surveyed by topside salvage personnel and salvage divers using SCUBA, and the MK1 and MK12 surface supplied diving rigs. Numerous holes were patched and six 6 inch diesel salvage pumps were rigged to dewater the vessel's cargo hold, engine room and crew's compartment. On 19 July, water was pumped from all flooded compartments and the vessel was wrenched from it's stranded position on the rock retaining wall at Kingstown Harbor by the GRAPPLE. The vessel was then towed out of the harbor and turned over to the Saint Vincent Coast Guard.

Upon completion of the salvage operation, GRAPPLE sailed to Bridgetown, Barbados and later to Castrias, Saint Lucia for port visits. GRAPPLE returned to Little Creek on 3 August to prepare for it's upcoming Change of Command and Supply Management Inspection (SMI), scheduled for 11 and 21 August, respectively.

During the month of August, GRAPPLE completed a CHT certification, Food Management Team Assist Visit, Training Readiness Evaluation and an SMI, where an overall grade of Excellent was achieved. GRAPPLE concluded the month of August with a port visit to Perth Amboy, New Jersey on the 26th and 27th.

GRAPPLE began the month of September conducting salvage training in Chesapeake Bay and the VACAPES opareas during the period 5 to 14 September. Open ocean surface supplied salvage diving training was conducted from a four point moor positioned over the wreck of the World War II cargo vessel 'John Morgan' off the coast of Virginia.

Enclosure (1)

On 16 September GRAPPLE set sail for Charleston, South Carolina to tow the defueled nuclear submarine EX-ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN 617) back to Norfolk. GRAPPLE was forced, however, to remain inport at Charleston Naval Base to weather Hurricane Hugo. GRAPPLE sustained only negligible damage during the hurricane, and, after Hugo passed, proceeded to provide assistance to the local Naval bases. GRAPPLE personnel surveyed the Cooper River from one of GRAPPLE's 35 foot work boats, using a depth finder to look for any obstructions and also surveyed damage incurred during the storm to various Naval Base and Naval Weapons Station craft. GRAPPLE was subsequently tasked to salvage the 295 foot IX-516 barge at the Naval Weapons Station, which was refloated and retracted from its stranding on the bank of the Cooper River at Red Bank Landing on 28 September.

After the Cooper River was reopened by the Coast Guard, GRAPPLE departed, conducted a tow-be-towed exercise with the USS THOMAS C. HART and set sail for Norfolk with the Ex-ANDREW JACKSON in tow on 30 September. GRAPPLE arrived in Norfolk on 3 October, turned over the submarine to Norfolk Naval Shipyard and then returned to Little Creek.

GRAPPLE conducted Refresher Training (REFTRA) at Little Creek and on the Chesapeake Bay from 10 to 26 October, in preparation for the upcoming spring 1990 Mediterranean deployment. Upon completion of REFTRA, GRAPPLE departed Norfolk with the Ex-CLAUDE V. RICKETTS and Ex-FARRAGUT in tow, for delivery to the Naval Shipyard Philadelphia. On the return trip from Philadelphia, GRAPPLE transited the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay.

GRAPPLE returned to Little Creek on 5 November. During the remainder of the month, GRAPPLE conducted an engineering plant alignment and calibration from the 5th through the 22nd, an aviation assist visit and aviation readiness evaluation on the 20th, began a pre-deployment Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with SIMA Little Creek on the 20th, began a diesel inspection on the 27th and conducted a CMS inspection on the 28th.

The diesel inspection was completed on 8 December and the IMAV with SIMA Little Creek was completed on 10 December. GRAPPLE engineers were then evaluated by the Diesel Mobile Assessment Team from 11 to 14 December. GRAPPLE concluded 1989 with its Christmas stand down, beginning on the 15th, and a dependents cruise conducted on the 27th.

Enclosure (1)