



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53)
C/O FPO AE NEW YORK 09570-3223

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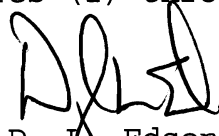
From: Commanding Officer, USS Grapple (ARS 53)
To: Director of Naval History, Naval Historical Center,
(Attn: N09BH) Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
20374-5060

Subj: USS GRAPPLE (ARS 53) COMMAND HISTORY CY 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Ship's Schedule CY 2001
(3) Narrative 2001

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.


D. L. Edson

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Commanding Officer

01 Jan 2001 - 08 Mar 2002: LCDR Alan P. Tupman

Executive Officer

01 Jan 2001 - 02 Aug 2001: LT Kurt A. Lewis
02 Aug 2001 - 31 Dec 2002: LT William J. Kaelber

First Lieutenant

01 Jan 2001 - 14 Jun 2002: LTJG [REDACTED]

Engineering Officer

01 Jan 2001 - 03 Jun 2002: LTJG [REDACTED]

Operations Officer

01 Jan 2001 - 08 Mar 2002: LTJG [REDACTED]

Supply Officer

01 Jan 2001 - 31 Dec 2001: LT [REDACTED]
31 Dec 2001 - 08 Mar 2002: ENS [REDACTED]

Command Senior Enlisted Advisor

01 Jan 2001 - 03 Jun 2002: SKCS [REDACTED]

Commanding Officer: A. P. Tupman, LCDR, USN

ISIC: Commander, Combat Logistics Squadron Two

Mission:

USS Grapple (ARS 53) is homeported out of Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia. Grapple is the newest of the 50 Class Rescue and Salvage vessels constructed for the U.S. Navy.

Grapple's mission is to provide rescue and salvage services to the fleet. Her capabilities include:

SALVAGE: A disabled ship may require varied assistance before towing can be attempted. In her 21,000 cubic feet salvage hold, the Grapple carries transportable cutting and welding equipments, hydraulic and electric power sources, de-watering gear, salvage and machine shops, and hull repair materials to effect temporary hull repairs on stranded or otherwise damaged ships. Grapple also has a 7 ½ ton capacity boom forward and a 40 ton capacity boom aft to off-load a disabled ship, and handle heavy equipment during salvage operations.

DIVING: The Mark 21 (MK-21) air diving system provides Grapple divers with the capability of tethered diving to depths of 190 feet of seawater on air and, with the use of a Fly-Away Mixed Gas System, depths of 300 feet of seawater on helium-oxygen mixtures. For shallow underwater inspections, searches, and other tasks that require mobility, divers can use SCUBA. The onboard recompression chamber is used for treatment of divers suffering from decompression sickness or for routine surface decompression.

TOWING: Grapple is capable of both rescue and open ocean towing. The ship can develop a bollard pull of 120,000 lbs with an installed double drum towing machine rove with 3,000 feet of 2 ¼ inch wire rope on each drum. The ship also has a traction winch for limited towing using a synthetic hawser.

BEACH GEAR: A stranded vessel may be retracted from the beach using up to six sets of beach gear and Stato anchors carried by Grapple. Two beach gear ground legs can be rigged on board Grapple, and up to four beach gear ground legs can be rigged on the stranded vessel. Utilizing modified legs of beach gear and the large spring buoys, Grapple can lay a multi-point open ocean moor to station herself for diving and ROV operations.

OFF SHIP FIRE FIGHTING: There are fire monitors located at the forward and aft ends of the O-4 Level (top of the pilothouse). A third fire monitor is located on the forecastle. These monitors are supplied with up to 1000 gallons per minute of either seawater or aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) to fight fires on other ships.

HEAVY LIFT: The heavy lift system is made up of bow and stern rollers, deck machinery, and tackle. The rollers provide a low friction fairlead for the lift wires or chain. The deck machinery and tackle supply the required hauling force of up to 150 tons, 75 tons to each lift. The two main bow rollers or the two stem rollers, each carrying one-half of the load, are used

to accomplish lifts to 150 tons. A static tidal lift of 300 tons can be made using the main bow rollers and stem rollers simultaneously with the tide.

SHIP'S SCHEDULE 2001

16DEC00-08JAN	HOLIDAY STAND DOWN
08JAN-25FEB	IPT LITTLE CREEK VA
16JAN-09FEB	FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
26-28FEB	U/W VACAPES
26FEB	ENGINE RUN-INS
27FEB	TOW AND BE TOWED EXERCISE WITH USS LABOON
01-08MAR	IPT LITTLE CREEK, VA
09-12MAR	U/W WLANT ENROUTE KEY WEST OPERATING AREA
13-18MAR	U/W KEY WEST OPERATING AREA
	ISO SPECWAR EXERCISE OPERATION BONNY DIVER
18-19MAR	U/W WLANT ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL
19-24MAR	IPT MAYPORT, FL
25-27MAR	U/W WLANT ENROUTE CHARLESTON, SC
28MAR-02APR	IPT CHARLESTON, NC
03-05APR	U/W WLANT ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA ISO TOW OF MTS-626
06-20APR	IPT LITTLE CREEK, VA
21-22APR	U/W WLANT ENROUTE CAPE HATTERAS ISO MONITOR EXPEDITION
23APR-09MAY	U/W FOUR POINT MOOR MONITOR EXPEDITION 2001
10-12MAY	U/W ISO MONITOR EXPEDITION 2001
12-14MAY	U/W ENROUTE LITTLE CREEK, VA
15MAY-17JUN	IPT LITTLE CREEK, VA
18JUN	U/W WLANT ISO FAMILY DAY CRUISE
19JUN-19JUL	IPT LITTLE CREEK, VA POM STAND DOWN
20JUL-02AUG	U/W TRANSIT FOR MEDITERRANEAN DEPLOYMENT
01AUG	INCHOP COMSIXTHFLT
03-11AUG	IPT GIBRALTAR, UK ROYAL SALVO DIVEX
12-16AUG	U/W WMED ENROUTE VALETTA, MALTA
17-28AUG	IPT VALETTA, MALTA
29-31AUG	U/W CMED ENROUTE LAMADDALENA, IT
01-07SEP	IPT LAMADDALENA, IT FOR IMAV SHIPCHECKS
08-19SEP	U/W CMED
08-11SEP	IVO MALTA ISO OPERATION JACKAL CAVE
11SEP	OPERATION JACKAL CAVE EMERGENT RECOVERY OF SDV AFTER DRYDOCK SHELTER MALFUNCTION
17SEP	UNREP W/ USNS LEROY GRUMANN
20SEP	IPT AUGUSTA BAY, IT
21-23SEP	U/W CMED ENROUTE GAETA, IT
24-29SEP	IPT GAETA, IT
30SEP-08OCT	U/E CMED, INDEPENDENT STEAMING
09-12OCT	IPT SOUDA BAY, GR
13-23OCT	U/W CMED ISO OPERATION BRIGHT STAR

23-26OCT	IPT AUGUSTA BAY, IT
27OCT-03NOV	U/W CMED, INDEPENDENT STEAMING
27-30OCT	DIVING OPERATIONS IVO SICILY, IT
04NOV	IPT AUGUSTA BAY, IT
05-06NOV	U/W CMED ENROUTE SOUDA BAY, GR
07-09NOV	IPT SOUDA BAY, GR
10NOV	U/W CMED ENROUTE AUGUSTA BAY, IT
11-12NOV	IPT AUGUSTA BAY, IT
13NOV	U/W CMED ENROUTE LAMADDALENA, IT
14-20NOV	IPT LAMADDALENA, IT ISO IMAV
21-22NOV	U/W WMED ENROUTE TOULON, FR
23-25NOV	IPT TOULON, FR
26NOV	U/W CMED ENROUTE LAMADDALENA, IT
27-29NOV	IPT LAMADDALENA, IT
30NOV-02DEC	U/W WMED ENROUTE ROTA, SP
30NOV	STANDBY TOW SERVICES USS SEAWOLF IVO NAPLES, IT
03-06DEC	IPT ROTA, SP
07-21DEC	U/W TRANSIT FROM MEDITERRANEAN DEPLOYMENT
07DEC	OUTCHOP COMSIXTHFLT
21DEC	ARR LITTLE CREEK, VA
22DEC-22JAN02	IPT LITTLE CREEK, VA - POST OVERSEAS MOVEMENT STAND DOWN

NARRATIVE 2001

Grapple utilized the first two months of the year for needed maintenance and training, finishing off February with engine run-ins and a Tow and be towed exercise with USS Laboon.

Soon after, Grapple was tasked to support SPECWAR exercise OPERATION BONNY DIVER in Key West, FL. During the transit back, Grapple towed MTS-626 to Little Creek, VA.

As the ready salvage asset for the East coast, Grapple became an integral part of MONITOR EXPEDITION 2001. Using a four point moor over the wreck, Grapple and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit divers, with guidance from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration historians, successfully cleared the turret for later excavation and preservation.

All of these tasks were accomplished while the crew diligently prepared for Mediterranean Deployment 2001. Grapple departed homeport on 20 July for a five-month deployment as the ready salvage asset for COMSIXTHFLT.

Upon Grapple's arrival into theater, the divers began ROYAL SALVO DIVEX and training with British divers in the Gibraltar waters. The training included harbor clearance utilizing actual wreckage within the harbor. This exercise provided a successful starting point for the numerous planned international exercises.

Grapple continued her interoperability training with Maltese divers before transiting to LaMaddalena, IT for IMAV shipchecks. With a productive few days in Italy working with USS Emory S. Land preparing for a November IMAV, GRAPPLE was ready to take on her next mission as primary chamber for SPECWAR during OPERATION JACKAL CAVE.

At 0200 local 11 SEP 01, SDV TEAM TWO experienced problems mating the SDV to her dry dock shelter. As seas increased, Grapple performed an emergent recovery of the SDV using the after boom and placing the vehicle on the fantail.

During preparations to return the SDV, Grapple received the first of three messages concerning a terrorist attack in the United States. With no e-mail, telephone, or

satellite television, GRAPPLE relied on communications with other ships to receive further tasking. She met with USS Nicholas, USS Kearsarge, USS Peterson, and USNS Leroy Grumman and steamed in formation for several days.

On September 17, 2001, Grapple performed the unusual task of underway replenishment. It was the first recorded alongside for any ARS in recent history. The success of this task allowed GRAPPLE to remain at sea for sustained period of time with no impact on mission readiness.

Three days later, Grapple arrived in Augusta Bay, Sicily to return the recovered SDV and receive her next mission. Grapple provided two flyaway dive teams to COMSIXTHFLT in support of increased force protection requirements after September 11. Both teams remained manned in Augusta bay and Souda Bay throughout the remainder of Grapple's deployment.

Despite the loss of ten percent of the crew, Grapple was able to continue with training, and to respond as the ready salvage asset for Sixth Fleet. This became apparent when she was unexpectedly tasked to tow a target sled in support of OPERATION BRIGHT STAR.

Grapple completed her maintenance availability with Emory S. Land and proceeded to Toulon, FR where the Friends of the United States Navy warmly welcomed her. Over twenty five percent of the crew enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in Toulon and Marseilles, FR.

USS Grapple returned home 21 DEC 2001 and enjoyed a much deserved holiday stand down with family until the end of the year.