



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)
FPO NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09570-1925

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

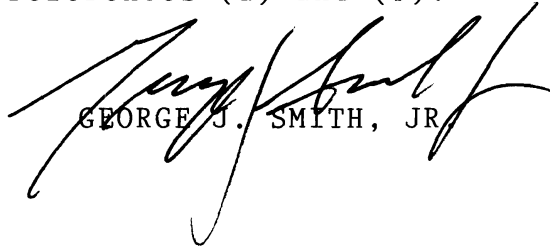
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From: Commanding Officer, USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)
To: Director of Naval History (OP09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
(b) COMNAVSURFGRU FOUR NAVGRAM 006/L1011

1. Following Command History covering the period from Ship delivery, December 1989 through February 1991, is submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b).


GEORGE J. SMITH, JR.

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFLANT (N0004)
COMNAVSURFGRU FOUR (006)

USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)

COMMAND HISTORY: COMMISSIONING - 28 FEB 1991

a. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: TO COUNTER THE THREAT TO OUR FORCES AND OUR ALLIES FROM ALL TYPES OF NAVAL MINES. MISSIONS INCLUDE MINE DETECTION, MINE NEUTRALIZATION, AND MINE CLEARANCE IN STRATEGIC U.S. AND FOREIGN PORTS AND KEY OCEAN AREAS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN VITAL COMMERCIAL SHIPPING LANES.

Senior Command: Commander, Naval Surface Group Four, Newport, Rhode Island.

Commanding Officer:

LCDR George J. Smith, Jr., is a native of [REDACTED]. He was educated in [REDACTED] Public Schools and received an NROTC scholarship to The Citadel in Charleston, SC.

After graduation and commissioning in 1976, Ensign Smith was assigned to USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) and served as Ship's Boatswain and later as MPA. He detached from AUSTIN in November 1979, and was ordered to Cruiser Destroyer Group Five as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Commander. Following two WestPac deployments, LT Smith attended Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School, and was ordered to USS MCCLOY (FF-1038) as Operations Officer. His second Department Head assignment was as Operations Officer onboard USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-27).

Upon completion of his Department Head tours, Lcdr Smith reported to Naval Military Personnel Command as Cruiser Destroyer Atlantic Placement Officer. One year later he assumed duties as Assistant Surface Captain Detailer.

LCDR Smith's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, navy Commendation medal, and Navy Achievement Medal, as well as numerous service awards, including the Arctic Service ribbon.

He is married to the former [REDACTED], also of [REDACTED]. They have three children -- [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Permanent Duty Station: Newport, Rhode Island

Ship's Complement: GUARDIAN has 6 officers, 7 Chief Petty Officers, and 68 men.

b. CHRONOLOGY

5 Dec 89	Ship delivery to US Navy
16 Dec 89	Ship's Commissioning, Newport, RI
22-23 Feb 90	Propulsion Examining Board Light-Off Examination

6-8 Mar 90	Commander, Naval Surface Group Four Crew Certification
9-13 Mar 90	First Underway Period
17 May 90	Depart Newport, RI
31 May-4 Jun 90	Port Visit, New Orleans, LA; World War II Mine Squadron Two Reunion
6 Jun-3 Aug 90	Combat systems Ship's Qualification Trials (CSSQT) Panama City, FL
8-9 Aug 90	Shakedown Training Readiness Evaluation, Mayport, FL
15 Aug 90	Arrive Newport, RI
28 Sep 90	Begin Fleet Training Unit Little Creek Shakedown Training
28 Oct 90	Arrive Newport, RI; Commence OPPE Preps
8-9 Nov 90	Propulsion Examining Board Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)
12-13 Dec 90	COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Re-look Inspection
14-16 Dec 90	MRCI Assist / MCM Refresher Training, Training Readiness Evaluation
16 Dec - 3 Jan 91	Holiday Upkeep / Standdown
January 1991	Named as Finalist in Francis Ney Food Service Excellence Award Competition
7-26 Jan 91	Mine Countermeasures Refresher Training, Charleston, SC
28 Jan - 3 Feb 91	Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI), Charleston, SC; Commander, Naval Surface Group Four Embarked
February 1991	Awarded COMNAVSURFLANT Retention Star; Runner-up for Golden Anchor Award
6 Feb 91	Arrive Newport, RI; Technical Availability, POM

c. NARRATIVE

Ship Delivery: On 5 Dec 89, LCDR George J. Smith, Jr., accepted the ship from the builder, Petersen Builders, Inc., of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

Ship's Commissioning: 16 Dec 89, after a heavy snowfall, USS GUARDIAN's Commissioning Ceremony was held, with Mrs. Elizabeth B. O'Neill, the ship's sponsor, in attendance. Also attending were Captain John F. Brunelli, Commander, Naval Surface Group Four; Commander Neil Collins, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin; and Ellsworth L. Petersen, President Petersen Builders, Inc. The guest speaker was the Honorable Ronald K. Machtley, Representative of the 1st Congressional District, Rhode Island.

Light-off Examination: The ship's first major inspection was completed with the an above average material grade. GUARDIAN had completed her first of many milestones.

Crew Certification: conducted by Naval Surface Group Four, the completion of this inspection allowed GUARDIAN to commence underway operations.

First Underway: GUARDIAN's first week underway was plagued by bad weather, with the Newport, RI fog forcing the ship to remain at sea for an extra day. The inexperienced crew performed extremely well, conducting a difficult first cruise without incident.

New Orleans, LA: Chosen as host ship for the World War II Mine Squadron Two Reunion, the crew experienced their first port visit in this outstanding liberty city. The reunion proved exciting for all, with young and old sailors exchanging "Sea Stories."

Combat Systems Ship's Qualification Trials: GUARDIAN was the first MCM to complete this training and inspection, held in Panama City, Florida. The crew was introduced to and training in Minehunting, Minesweeping, and Mine Neutralization techniques. The highly successful completion of this event was a major GUARDIAN milestone.

Training Readiness Evaluation: En route to Newport, GUARDIAN stopped in Mayport, FL, and successfully completed this evaluation in preparation for Shakedown Training.

At the completion of this deployment, crewmembers were entitled to wear the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the ship received its first award.

Shakedown Training, Little Creek, Virginia: This training and inspection, intensive in Damage Control and Engineering Casualty Control, was another major milestone. The skilled crew performed superbly and completed training with above average results. Inport Emergency Team Section Three was chosen as the most qualified Damage Control Team.

Operational Propulsion Plant Examination: With less than two weeks between two major inspections, GUARDIAN prepared for OPPE. Although some problems were encountered, she successfully completed OPPE. Equipment Casualties presented difficulties throughout the examination.

COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Re-look Inspection: In order to ensure readiness for a potential overseas deployment, an additional inspection was conducted to review the status of deficiencies identified during OPPE. No major discrepancies were found, and GUARDIAN was found to be fully prepared for the upcoming deployment.

Holiday upkeep / Standdown: The crew finally received a well deserved rest, after a full year of inspections and training. This much needed break allowed all to take leave and spend time with their families.

GUARDIAN was named a finalist in the Francis Ney Food Service Excellence Award Competition. The reputation as a "Great Feeder" has been well earned.

Mine Countermeasures Refresher Training: Conducted by Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center in Charleston, SC, this training allowed the crew to practice minehunting and minesweeping techniques in preparation for MRCI. GUARDIAN's highly successful completion of this training was indicative of the crew's performance throughout the year.

Mine Readiness Certification Inspection: Conducted by mine Warfare Inspection Group, in Charleston, SC, this inspection resulted in a recommendation for certification, the sole remaining requirement in preparation for a Middle East deployment in support of Operation DESERT STORM. Captain Arthur Schulz, Commander, Naval Surface Group Four, was embarked on GUARDIAN throughout this inspection.

Golden Anchor Competition: Nominated as COMNAVSURFLANT representative in the Golden Anchor Retention competition, GUARDIAN was awarded the SURFLANT Retention Star, and was the Runner-up for the Golden Anchor Award. GUARDIAN's 96 percent retention rate in 1990 demonstrated the motivation and dedication of her crew.