



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)
FPO AP 96666-1925

Recd 5/7/97

5750

Ser MCM 5/022

10 Mar 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Naval
Yard, 901 M. Street, SE, Washington DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for the period 01JAN96 through 31DEC96

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

A C Westphal

A. C. WESTPHAL

USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5) COMMAND HISTORY

Command Composition and Organization:

Mission: To conduct minehunt and minesweep operations against moored and bottom mines of contact, magnetic influence, acoustic influence and combination influence varieties.

Immediate Senior Command: Commander Mine Counter Measures Squadron One, Ingleside, Texas

Name of Commanding Officer: LCDR Alan C. Westphal

Permanent Duty Station: Sasebo, Japan

01JAN96-04JAN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Holiday Leave and Homeport Shift Preparations.
04JAN96-18JAN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. CART II Preparations.
19JAN96-20JAN96 Rotational Crew Foxtrot departs from Corpus Christi, TX for Sasebo Japan.
20JAN96-01FEB96 Turnover of USS GUARDIAN to Rotational Crew Foxtrot.
02FEB96-02FEB96 Rotational Crew Foxtrot became permanent crew of USS GUARDIAN.
03FEB96-08FEB96 Inport Sasebo, Japan doing various drills in preparation for MINEX/EODEX in Kure, Japan.
09FEB96-12FEB96 Underway enroute to Kure, Japan.
12FEB96-14FEB96 Inport Kure, Japan conducted preparations for MINEX/EODEX a joint exercise with the Japan Maritime Defense Force. Refueled.
14FEB96-25FEB96 Underway Saiki OPAREA - MINEX/EODEX 96. Refueled.
25FEB96-26FEB96 Underway enroute Saiki, Japan.
26FEB96-28FEB96 Inport Saiki, Japan for port visit. Refueled.
28FEB96-01MAR96 Underway, enroute to Sasebo, Japan.
01MAR96-07MAR96 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.
08MAR96-08MAR96 Inport Sasebo, Japan Rear Admiral Ueda, Vice Commandant, of the Japanese Joint Staff college visits.
08MAR96-26MAR96 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep, safety standown and Inport drills.
27MAR96-27MAR96 Underway Sasebo local OPAREA ISO Q-Route exercise in Inchon, Republic of Korea.
28MAR96-31MAR96 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.
01APR96-03APR96 Underway enroute Inchon, Republic of Korea.
03APR96-05APR96 Inport Inchon, Republic of Korea. Made preparations ISO of Q-Route surveys. Refueled.
06APR96-08APR96 Underway Inchon OPAREA - Q-Route surveys.
08APR96-09APR96 Inport Inchon, ROK for liberty and Phase I Q-Route debriefs.
10APR96-13APR96 Underway Inchon OPAREA for Phase II of Q-Route surveys and DC training.

13APR96-15APR96 Inport Inchon, ROK for Hot wash up Phase II and liberty. Refueled.

15APR96-16APR96 Underway Inchon OPAREA ISO Phase III of Q-Route surveys.

17APR96-20APR96 Inport Inchon, ROK for liberty.

21APR96-22APR96 Underway enroute Yosu, ROK.

23APR96-25APR96 Underway Yosu OPAREA ISO of Q-route surveys.

25APR96-26APR96 Inport Yosu for liberty.

26APR96-27APR96 Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan.

27APR96-01MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

01MAY96-01MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Noise survey conducted.

02MAY96-08MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

09MAY96-09MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan Rear Admiral Doran visits.

10MAY96-12MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

13MAY96-16MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan TARGET and Combat Systems Assessment.

17MAY96-19MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

20MAY96-20MAY96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for MCM training.

21MAY96-21MAY96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

22MAY96-24MAY96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for Independent Ship Exercises.

25MAY96-05JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Combined INSURV/MRCI preparations.

05JUN96-05JUN96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for Engine grooming. Continued INSURV/MRCI preparations.

06JUN96-08JUN96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for INSURV/MRCI preparations.

08JUN96-09JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Final INSURV/MRCI preparations.

10JUN96-13JUN96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for Independent Ship Exercises ISO INSURV.

14JUN96-14JUN96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for Independent Ship Exercises ISO MRCI.

15JUN96-23JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

24JUN96-24JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. MRCI concluded.

24JUN96-27JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

28JUN96-28JUN96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Japanese TV crew films USS GUARDIAN.

29JUN96-01JUL96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

02JUL96-03JUL96 Underway enroute Cheju Do, Republic of Korea.

03JUL96-06JUL96 Inport Cheju Do, ROK for port visit.

07JUL96-08JUL96 Underway. Enroute Pohang, ROK.

09JUL96-12JUL96 Inport Pohang. Conducted Preparations for Exercise VALIANT USHER. Refueled.

12JUL96-14JUL96 Underway Pohang OPAREA - Exercise VALIANT USHER.

14JUL96-15JUL96 Underway. Enroute Sasebo, Japan.

16JUL96-16JUL96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

17JUL96-19JUL96 Berth Shift to Drydock 2 for shelter from Typhoon.

20JUL96-22JUL96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

22JUL96-01AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Ship's restricted availability begins for ship modification to IF engine mounts and AFFF system. Begin CART I self assessment. Defueled.

02AUG96-02AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. San Diego Charger
 Cheerleaders visit USS GUARDIAN.
 02AUG96-12AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Ship's restricted
 availability continues.
 12AUG96-13AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-E. SRA
 continued.
 13AUG96-15AUG96 Berth Shift to Drydock 2 for shelter from
 Typhoon. LTT E continued.
 16AUG96-23AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-E debrief.
 SRA continued. Diesel Inspection.
 24AUG96-27AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. SRA continued.
 27AUG96-30AUG96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. COMINEWARCOM (Rear Admiral
 Pearson) visits. SRA continued.
 31AUG96-11SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. SRA concludes. Refueled.
 12SEP96-13SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. COMCMRON ONE (Captain
 Haggart) visits.
 14SEP96-15SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
 16SEP96-18SEP96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA ISO CART II preparations.
 19SEP96-23SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Continued
 CART II Preparations.
 24SEP96-26SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. COMREGSUPPGRU INGLESIDE
 (Captain O'Donnell) visits. Continued CART II
 Preparations. Refueled.
 27SEP96-29SEP96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Continued CART II
 Preparations.
 30SEP96-04OCT96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Continued CART II.
 05OCT96-05OCT96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA ISO CART II.
 06OCT96-07OCT96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
 08OCT96-09OCT96 Underway Sasebo OPAREA. Conducted Independent
 ship exercises, preparation ISO FOAL EAGLE.
 10OCT96-14OCT96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
 15OCT96-18OCT96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Supply Assist.
 19OCT96-21OCT96 Underway. Enroute Pohang, ROK for exercise FOAL
 EAGLE.
 21OCT96-25OCT96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Refueled.
 26OCT96-30OCT96 Underway Pohang OPAREA ISO exercise FOAL EAGLE.
 31OCT96-01NOV96 Underway. Enroute Pusan, ROK for liberty port.
 02NOV96-05NOV96 Inport Pusan, ROK for liberty.
 05NOV96-06NOV96 Underway. Enroute Sasebo, Japan.
 07NOV96-08NOV96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
 08NOV96-11NOV96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. CAPT Kelly visits.
 12NOV96-15NOV96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-D and LTT-R visits.
 16NOV96-17NOV96 Underway. Enroute Chinhae, ROK ISO Q-Route
 survey.
 18NOV96-20NOV96 Underway Chinhae OPAREA ISO Q-Route survey.
 21NOV96-22NOV96 Inport Chinhae, ROK. Refueled.
 23NOV96-23NOV96 Underway. Enroute to Pusan, ROK.
 23NOV96-26NOV96 Inport Pusan, ROK. Liberty port. Refueled.
 26NOV96-27NOV96 Underway. Enroute Sasebo, Japan.
 28NOV96-03DEC96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Refueled.
 04DEC96-06DEC96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-E.
 07DEC96-14DEC96 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
 15DEC96-17DEC96 Underway. Enroute Okinawa, Japan ISO Operation
 VALIANT SEARCH.

18DEC96-19DEC96 Underway Naha OPAREA, ISO VALIANT SEARCH.
20DEC96-20DEC96 Inport Naha, Japan. Refueled.
21DEC96-22DEC96 Underway Naha OPAREA, ISO VALIANT SEARCH.
22DEC96-23DEC96 Inport Naha, Japan for liberty. Refueled.
23DEC96-23DEC96 Underway Okinawa in search of missing LARCs.
23DEC96-26DEC96 Underway. Enroute Sasebo, Japan.
26DEC96-31DEC96 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Holiday Standown period.

NARRATIVE

MCM Rotational Crew Foxtrot began the new year by making a seamless turnover with MCM Rotational Crew Delta, to become the permanent crew of USS GUARDIAN. Immediately following turnover, the crew began preparing for MINEX/EODEX 96-1JA. With less than two weeks of preparation, USS GUARDIAN performed stellarly in a complex joint mine warfare exercise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

Rear Admiral Ueda, Commandant of the Japanese Joint Staff College visited the ship in March. This was the first of a series of dignitaries that GUARDIAN would host. The rest of the month was spent doing much needed maintenance and preparations for Q-Route surveys in April. These training evolutions proved invaluable; helping the crew maintain the proficiency obtained throughout MINEX/EODEX 96-1JA.

GUARDIAN's trend of superior performance was evident during the April Q-Route survey in the vicinity of Inchon, ROK. GUARDIAN was the operational planner and OTC over four ships from the U.S. and ROK navies. At the end of the exercise, there was a much deserved break for the crew in Inchon with visits to Seoul.

In May, the crew and ship went into a three week RAV. During this time, several pieces of equipment were repaired, more maintenance accomplished, and members of the crew were sent to Damage Control Fire Fighting Team Training. The month was also highlighted by a visit from COMPHIBGRU ONE (Rear Admiral Doran), a TARGET assist, and a Combat systems assessment. Towards the end of the month of May, the ship got underway in the Sasebo OPAREA to conduct numerous mission oriented drills and engineering casualty controls drills in preparation for a combined INSURV/MRCI. The combined INSURV/MRCI was finally held 10-24 June with outstanding results. With the combined INSURV/MRCI successfully behind them, the crew of GUARDIAN was given one week in port for rest and recreation before getting underway again.

July proved to be a month in which GUARDIAN improved on its standard of excellence. The month began with a three day port visit to the Korean resort island of Cheju Do. This short trip was a well deserved reward for a job well done during INSURV/MRCI. While enroute from Cheju Do to Po Hang, GUARDIAN finished final preparations for exercise VALIANT USHER.

As OTC of VALIANT USHER 96-7K, GUARDIAN demonstrated its superior leadership. As a result of GUARDIAN's hard work and leadership, 100 percent of tasking was completed.

At the end of exercise VALIANT USHER, GUARDIAN returned home for a two month RAV in order to complete repairs, receive an SSDG raft modification and a vital AFFF ship alteration. At the beginning of the RAV period, GUARDIAN was moved to drydock shelter to ride out a typhoon. After the storm, the ship continued its RAV period until the middle of August when the ship once again sought shelter in drydock from a second Typhoon. Admiral Pearson, COMINEWARCOM, visited the ship towards the end of the month. All repairs and modifications were completed in September. The rest of the month was spent finishing preparations for CART II.

After spending 30SEP96-05OCT96 being assessed for CART II, the

ship got underway for exercise FOAL EAGLE 97-1K, a joint exercise with the Republic of Korea Navy. GUARDIAN's performance in FOAL EAGLE 97-1K earned her plaudits from Commander, MCM Squadron One attesting that among the fourteen participating ships, GUARDIAN "outperformed every other ship in the combined MCM Force." With the end of the exercise came a reprieve in Pusan, ROK for a few days liberty. After liberty in Pusan GUARDIAN returned to Sasebo, Japan for Limited Team Training assists in Damage Control and Logistics during the second week of November. The rest of the month was filled with Q-Routed surveys in the Chinhae, ROK OPAREA.

December was highlighted with the ship's Christmas party and an LTT Engineering. GUARDIAN prepared herself for a holiday standdown only to make last minute preparations to get underway for VALIANT SEARCH, an operation in which GUARDIAN was tasked to locate an accidentally jettisoned MK-83 bomb. Upon recovering the bomb, GUARDIAN was assigned to locate and mark two sunken LARC amphibious vehicles. Christmas was spent enroute Sasebo, Japan and GUARDIAN spent the rest of the year in holiday standdown.