



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

5750

Ser MCM 5/015

01 March 98

*Rec'd 3/31/98
w/o disk*


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 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for the period 01JAN97 through
31DEC97

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


R. P. GIERRIER

USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5) COMMAND HISTORY

Command Composition and Organization:

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

Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE,
Ingleside, Texas

Name of Commanding Officer: LCDR Robert P. Girrier
15Mar97-31Dec97
LCDR Alan C. Westphal
01Jan97-14Mar97

Permanent Duty Station: Sasebo, Japan

01JAN97-06JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Holiday Standown period.
07JAN97-07JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Commander, Amphibious Group ONE, Chief of Staff, Captain Bray Visits.
08JAN97-12JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Holiday Standown period continues.
13JAN97-13JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
14JAN97-14JAN97 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for MCM training.
15JAN97-15JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Commander, Amphibious Group ONE, Rear Admiral Chaplin visits.
16JAN97-16JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Arrival conference for Restricted Availability with USS FRANK CABLE.
16JAN97-21JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Ship's Restricted Availability (RAV).
22JAN97-24JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Logistic Management Assessment (LMA). RAV continues.
25JAN97-28JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. RAV continues.
29JAN97-29JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Conducted Navy Rights and Responsibility workshop for all-hands.
30JAN97-30JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Restricted Availability Outbrief.
31JAN97-31JAN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan.
01FEB97-04FEB97 Underway enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
05FEB97-09FEB97 Inport Yokosuka, Japan. Liberty port. Refueled.
09FEB97-09FEB97 Underway enroute to Kure, Japan. Conducted communications gear survey.
10FEB97-12FEB97 Underway enroute to Kure, Japan.

13FEB97-14FEB97 Inport Kure, Japan. Conducted preparations for MINEX-EODEX 97-1JA, a joint exercise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force. Refueled.

15FEB97-24FEB97 Underway Saiki OPAREA - MINEX-EODEX 97-1JA. Refueled.

24FEB97-25FEB97 Underway enroute Saiki, Japan.

25FEB97-28FEB97 Inport Saiki, Japan for port visit. Refueled.

28FEB97-01MAR97 Underway enroute to Sasebo, Japan.

01MAR97-13MAR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep and preps for change of command. Refueled.

14MAR97-14MAR97 LCDR Robert P. Girrier assumed command.

15MAR97-19MAR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep and inport drills.

19MAR97-19MAR97 Underway Sasebo local OPAREA conducting general general shipboard drills and exercises.

19MAR97-27MAR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep and exercise preps.

27MAR97-27MAR97 Underway Sasebo local OPAREA for TSTA I.

27MAR97-28MAR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan overnight.

28MAR97-28MAR97 Underway Sasebo local OPAREA for TSTA I.

29MAR97-29MAR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan, Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Rear Admiral Conley visits.

30MAR97-01APR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Made preparations ISO Q-route surveys and preps for exercises in Pohang and Dong Hae, Republic of Korea.

01APR97-02APR97 Underway Maebata Pier, Ammo onload. Underway enroute Pohang, Republic of Korea.

02APR97-03APR97 Inport Pohang, Republic of Korea.

03APR97-03APR97 Underway Pohang, Republic of Korea. Aerial mine drop exercise.

03APR97-04APR97 Inport Incheon, Republic of Korea. Made preparations ISO exercise and Q-route surveys.

05APR97-07APR97 Underway Pohang OPAREA - MCMEX 97-2K.

07APR97-08APR97 Underway enroute Dong Hae OPAREA - MCMEX 97-2K.

09APR97-11APR97 Underway Dong Hae OPAREA - MCMEX 97-2K and Q-Route surveys.

12APR97-14APR97 Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan. Refueled.

14APR97-20APR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Inport Drills. Refueled.

21APR97-24APR97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-E. Engineering Evolutions and Drills.

25APR97-07MAY97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Ship's Restricted Availability (RAV). Preps for TSTA II.

08MAY97-21MAY97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. TSTA II.

22MAY97-29MAY97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Preps for E-CERT.

29MAY97-29MAY97 Underway Sasebo local OPAREA, ISO E-CERT.

29MAY97-13JUN97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Preps for Exercise Mercury. Refueled.

13JUN97-15JUN97 Underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.

15JUN97-15JUN97 Inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Conducted brief stop for fuel.

15JUN97-25JUN97 Underway enroute Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Conducted training ISO TSTA III. Refueled.

25JUN97-28JUN97 Inport Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia for port visit. Refueled.

28JUN97-02JUL97 Underway enroute Sembawang, Singapore. Conducted training ISO TSTA III. Refueled.

02JUL97-05JUL97 Inport Sembawang, Singapore for upkeep. Refueled.

05JUL97-05JUL97 Underway enroute Tuas Naval Base, Singapore.

05JUL97-09JUL97 Inport Tuas Naval Base, Singapore. Conducting preparations ISO Exercise Mercury.

09JUL97-11JUL97 Underway Singapore OPAREA (Singapore Straits) ISO exercise Mercury.

11JUL97-12JUL97 Inport Tuas Naval Base, Singapore.

12JUL97-12JUL97 Inport Tuas Naval Base, Singapore. Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, Captain Haggart visits.

13JUL97-18JUL97 Inport Sembawang, Singapore for Ship's Restricted Availability and Port visit. Refueled.

18JUL97-18JUL97 Inport Sembawang, Singapore. Dining-Out at COMLOGWESTPAC Terror Club.

18JUL97-21JUL97 Inport Sembawang, Singapore. Port visit.

21JUL97-22JUL97 Underway enroute Kuching, Malaysia via the equator.

22JUL97-24JUL97 Underway enroute Kuching, Malaysia. Conducted training ISO TSTA III.

24JUL97-29JUL97 Inport Kuching, Malaysia. Port visit. Refueled.

29JUL97-05AUG97 Underway enroute Hong Kong, Republic of China. Conducted training ISO TSTA III. Refueled.

05AUG97-11AUG97 Inport Hong Kong, Republic of China. Port visit. Refueled.

11AUG97-15AUG97 Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan. TSTA III.

15AUG97-15AUG97 Arrive Sasebo, Japan.

15AUG97-25AUG97 Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.

26AUG97-27AUG97 Underway Sasebo OPAREA ISO FEP.

27AUG97-28AUG97 Inport Sasebo, Japan.

28AUG97-28AUG97 Underway Maebata Pier, Sasebo, Japan. Ammo Offload.

29AUG97-29AUG97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Defueled.

30AUG97-08SEP97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Preps for IDSRA.

08SEP97-09SEP97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. IDSRA begins. ILO begins.

09SEP97-09SEP97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Ship Repair Facility Yokosuka, Captain Conners visits. DSRA Continues. ILO.

10SEP97-14SEP97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. Conducted training ISO LOA. ILO.

14SEP97-14SEP97 Underway for Drydock #2, Sasebo, Japan. ILO.

15SEP97-30SEP97 In Drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues at Drydock #2. ILO.

01OCT97-09OCT97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. Conducted training ISO LOA. ILO.

09OCT97-09OCT97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. Commander Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral Chaplin visits. DSRA continues.

10OCT97-03NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. Conducted training ISO LOA.

03NOV97-05NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. LTT-E begins.

05NOV97-05NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. Commander Logistics Forces Western Pacific, Rear Admiral Loeffler visits. DSRA continues. LTT-E Continues.

06NOV97-07NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, Captain Dewey visits. DSRA continues. LTT-E Continues.

08NOV97-21NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. Conducted training ISO LOA.

21NOV97-21NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. Commander, Naval Forces Surface Pacific, Vice Admiral Krekich and Commander, Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral Chaplin visit. DSRA continues. ILO.

22NOV97-25NOV97 In drydock at SSK Sasebo, Japan. DSRA continues. ILO.

26NOV97-26NOV97 Undock from SSK Drydock #2.

27NOV97-02DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Conducted training ISO LOA. Refueled. DSRA continues. ILO

03DEC97-05DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. LTT-E. DSRA continues. ILO.

06DEC97-14DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Conducted training ISO LOA. Refueled. DSRA continues. ILO.

15DEC97-17DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Light Off Assessment. ILO.

18DEC97-23DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Preps for Sea Trials. ILO.

24DEC97-24DEC97 Underway Sasebo OPAREA for Sea Trials. ILO.
24DEC97-26DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. Holiday leave and
upkeep. DSRA ends. ILO.
27DEC97-31DEC97 Inport Sasebo, Japan. ILO ends.

NARRATIVE

GUARDIAN's new year began with a well deserved holiday leave and upkeep period after Operation VALIANT SEARCH. This was an end of '96 operational commitment that came about following the accidental jettison of a MK-83 bomb by an aircraft, and loss of two sunken LARC amphibious vehicles operating in heavy weather. On 7 January 1997, Amphibious Group ONE Chief Staff Officer, Captain Bray visited the ship. One week later, GUARDIAN was underway conducting Mine Countermeasure Training. On 15 January 1997, after returning to port, Commander Amphibious Group One, Rear Admiral Chaplin arrived and praised GUARDIAN for her efforts during Operation VALIANT SEARCH. GUARDIAN then underwent a Restricted Availability (RAV) with USS FRANK CABLE. Concurrently, a Logistic Management Assessment (LMA) was satisfactorily completed and ensured GUARDIAN the Logistics Blue Efficiency Award. Navy Rights and Responsibility training for all crewmembers, the completion of RAV, and final preparations for a trip to Yokosuka, Japan, and MINEX/EODEX 97-1JA ended the month.

Enroute Yokosuka, Japan, GUARDIAN encountered inclement weather with heavy seas. Yokosuka was a good opportunity for liberty in the local area and Tokyo. Enroute to MINEX/EODEX 97-1JA, GUARDIAN underwent an antenna survey, checking emissions at the Shipboard Electronic Systems Evaluation Facility. GUARDIAN

then performed superbly in MINEX/EODEX 97, a complex joint mine warfare exercise with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. The exercise was concluded with a "Victory Dinner" in Saiki, Japan.

Upon returning to Sasebo in early March, GUARDIAN shifted focus in order to prepare for an upcoming Change of Command ceremony for LCDR A. C. Westphal and LCDR R. P. Girrier. The Change of Command was held 14 March 1997 with Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, Captain Haggart present. The next two weeks were spent concentrating on TSTA I and preparations for MCMEX 97-2K. A Navigation Check Ride was satisfactorily completed during the transit out of Sasebo harbor. Various minesweeping operations and Q-Route surveys were conducted in the Dong Hae OPAREA during MCMEX 97-2K. GUARDIAN served as OTC for the surveys and was responsible for the operational planning of U.S. and Korean ships involved. As a result, 100 percent of tasking was attained in Dong Hae, Korea, a critical port south of the DMZ. Upon completing the exercise, GUARDIAN made preparations for an Engineering LTT prior to Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA II).

GUARDIAN demonstrated continued success during TSTA II, with all training teams and watchstanders being assessed at the TSTA III level. Engineering Certification (ECERT) preparations followed, resulting in a highly successful PEB ECERT which was

completed in only one day. GUARDIAN was now ready for deployment.

13 June 1997 marked the beginning of GUARDIAN's first ever south East Asia deployment. The two month cruise started with a three day portcall in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, following a quick refuel in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, and a ten day transit conducting training in support of TSTA III. Following Kota Kinabalu, the ship sailed to Tuas Naval Base, Singapore to conduct planning and preparations for Exercise Mercury. After completing exercise Mercury in the Singapore operating area, a two week port visit in Singapore followed. GUARDIAN also conducted a Restricted Availability and refueling while inport. Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, Captain Haggart, visited the ship on 12 July 1997. On 18 July 1997, the ship hosted a dining out at the Terror Club with Commander, Logistics Forces Western Pacific, Admiral Bepko attending. GUARDIAN left Singapore, heading south across the equator to Kuching, another Malaysian port visit. During this transit, training in support of TSTA III continued. After a five day port visit in Kuching, the ship was once again underway conducting training in support of TSTA III and enroute for Hong Kong, Republic Of China.

Inclement weather precluded GUARDIAN's port entry into Hong Kong on time. Once inport, Hong Kong would be the final port visit during this voyage before heading home to Sasebo, Japan.

While enroute Sasebo, the ship completed TSTA III and was recommended for FEP credit by the Afloat Training Group, Training Liaison Officer (TLO). A two day Final Evaluation Period (FEP) followed a one week standdown inport Sasebo. After completing FEP, GUARDIAN finished the month with an ammo offload at Maebata pier and defueling in Sasebo in preparation for Intermediate Dry-dock Ship's Repair Availability (IDSRA) to commence 8 September 1997.

IDSRA would be completed concurrently with Integrated Logistics Overhaul (ILO). On 9 September 1997, Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, Captain Connors visited the ship. The ship shifted to dry-dock on 14 September 1997. With numerous alterations and installations, the Availability was professionally managed and would be completed two days early. On 9 October 1997, Commander, Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet, Rear Admiral Chaplin visited. Engineering LTT was conducted during the first week of November. On 5 November 1997, Commander, Logistics Forces Western Pacific, Rear Admiral Loeffler visited the ship. Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, Commodore Dewey visited on 6 November 1997. On 21 November 1997, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, Admiral Krekich and Admiral Chaplin visited. The ship undocked on 26 November 1997. During IDSRA, GUARDIAN made preparations for a Light Off Assessment (LOA). With another Engineering LTT

conducted in early December, LOA would be successfully completed on 17 December 1997. Sea trial preparations and completion followed, just prior to Christmas. The crew then enjoyed Christmas.