



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5)

To: Director of Naval History, 901 M Street, SE
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 1998 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5)

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography
(2) Welcome Abroad Pamphlet with Commanding Officer's Photograph
(3) Aerial Picture of USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5)

1. The following command history is submitted for USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5), homeported in Sasebo, Japan. USS GUARDIAN is commanded by CDR A. L. Woods, who relieved CDR R. P. Girrier on 18 SEP 98. GUARDIAN's mission is to clear vital sea-lanes of mines in coastal and offshore areas. GUARDIAN's ISIC is COMCMRON ONE.

GUARDIAN's UIC: 21406

Units under GUARDIAN's operational/administrative command: None.

GUARDIAN is home-ported at Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo (CFAS), in Sasebo, Japan.

2. Chronology:

01JAN-10FEB: IPT SASEBO, JAPAN
11FEB-13FEB: ENR KURE, JAPAN
14FEB-14FEB: IPT KURE, JAPAN
15FEB-25FEB: EXERCISE WITH JMSDF SUO NADA BAY, JAPAN
26FEB-28FEB: IPT KURE, JAPAN
01MAR-03MAR: ENR YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
04MAR-20MAR: IPT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
21MAR-25MAR: ENR SASEBO, JAPAN
26MAR-04MAY: IPT SASEBO, JAPAN
05MAY-07MAY: ENR OKINAWA, JAPAN
07MAY-12MAY: IPT OKINAWA, JAPAN
13MAY-15MAY: ENR SASEBO, JAPAN
16MAY-05JUL: IPT SASEBO, JAPAN
06JUL- 09JUL: ENR NIIGATA, JAPAN

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10JUL-12JUL: IPT NIIGATA, JAPAN
13JUL-13JUL: ENR MUTSU BAY, JAPAN
14JUL-28JUL: MUTSU BAY, JAPAN (MINEX/EODEX) 98-2JA
29JUL-31JUL: ENR OHMINATO, JAPAN
01AUG-01AUG: ENR AOMORI, JAPAN
02AUG-03AUG: IPT AOMORI, JAPAN
04AUG-07AUG: ENR KANAZAWA, JAPAN
07AUG-09AUG: IPT KANAZAWA, JAPAN
10AUG-12AUG: ENR CHINHAE, SOUTH KOREA
13AUG-26AUG: EXERCISE FOCUS LENS, IPT CHINHAE, SOUTH
KOREA
27AUG-28AUG: ENR SASEBO, JAPAN
29AUG-21OCT: IPT SASEB, JAPAN
22OCT-24OCT: ENR POHANG, SOUTH KOREA
25OCT-04NOV: EXERCISE FOAL EAGLE, SOUTH KOREA
05NOV-06NOV: ENR SASEBO, JAPAN
07NOV-31DEC: IPT SASEBO, JAPAN

3. The following Command History for USS GUARDIAN (MCM-5) has been recreated from the Deck Log, Engineering Logs, and PODs.

01 January to 31 January

GUARDIAN came off of a well-deserved holiday stand-down. Crew members returned back from holiday leave refreshed, and the inport duty sections were increased to 4 duty sections. Ship's maintenance and upkeep continued as crewmembers made preparations to get GUARDIAN underway for MINEX/EODEX 98-1JA, a joint exercise with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force in Suo Nada Bay. The Operations Department worked closely with PATRIOT (MCM-7) and MCMRON ONE staff to coordinate inport and underway training. Underway training provided valuable opportunities to practice Sea and Anchor Detail, Minehunting, MNV operations, EOD boat vectoring, Q-Route Surveys and Sonar Conditions Checks.

01 February to 29 February

Following training and maintenance in various areas of the ship, GUARDIAN was ready for MINEX/EODEX 98. GUARDIAN conducted numerous training evolutions in preparation for the transit to Kure, namely engineering casualty control and man-overboard drills. The ship was underway from Sasebo 11 February with the company of PATRIOT and arrived at Kure on 14 February. On the way to Kure, the crew polished their skills by conducting more minesweeping evolutions. Other commands that

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were present were MCMRON ONE. The two weeks consisted of conducting an intensive exercise with JMSDF, consisting of mine sweeping and mine hunting in Suo Nada Bay in which GUARDIAN, along with PATRIOT and JMSDF ships were assigned areas to clear simulated mines in vital shipping areas. The result of the exercise was that the crews gained experience at minesweeping and minehunting and both countries' naval forces built a better rapport and understanding of each other's operational capabilities.

01 March to 31 March

GUARDIAN began the month by escorting USS PATRIOT to Yokosuka Naval Base for dry docking. While inport Yokosuka, the crew enjoyed numerous sites in and around Tokyo. The ship continued routine upkeep, maintenance and training while inport Yokosuka. After being away from homeport for over a month and a half, GUARDIAN arrived back in her homeport of Sasebo on 25 March. The crew was happy to be back in Sasebo to see friends and family after an extended underway schedule. As a reflection of GUARDIAN's performance, she was awarded the COMNAVSURFLANT Battle "E" Award for 1997 which is given to ships with an effective and efficient state of operational readiness compared to other ships of the same class. GUARDIAN also earned the COMANVSURFLANT & CNO Safety Award and the COMNAVSURFLANT Green "H" Award. The Safety Award is given to ships that have suffered no major mishaps and implement an aggressive safety program, while the COMANVSURFLANT Green "H" Award is given to ships with an excellent program in promoting the general health of all crew members.

01 April to 31 April

During this month, the crew relaxed after arduous Seventh Fleet duty. Upkeep, training, and preparations were made for getting underway for Okinawa in May to conduct training exercises and make a port visit.

01 May to 31 May

The crew was looking forward to visiting Okinawa due to its westernized culture, excellent shopping, and beautiful beaches. The ship was underway on 05 May, and conducted a small arms familiarization firing exercise, enabling crewmembers to refresh skills on 9mm pistol, M-14 rifle, and M-60 machine gun employment. GUARDIAN arrived in Okinawa on 07 May after a two-day transit. For the next 5 days, the crew was able to enjoy the sights, shopping, and local culture while continuing routine maintenance and upkeep. On 12 May, GUARDIAN was on her way back to Sasebo and arrived back at her homeport on 15 May.

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01 June to 30 June

The month of June consisted of intense training for the entire ship. With an LTT-E beginning at the top of the month, the crew held steadfast in training for the various assessments. An assortment of training took place, including an all hands 3M-Seminar and Damage Control training evolutions.

01 July to 31 July

The crew, surprised that the upcoming surprise deployment that would last the entire summer, began making preparations to get underway on 06 July. Enroute to their first stop in Niigata, the Operations Department ran several tests of the SQQ-32 SONAR. GUARDIAN would reach Niigata five days later. After a week of challenging the rough weather and heavy seas of the North, the crew was ready for a port call to Niigata. This was one of three ports in which GUARDIAN served as representatives of the U.S. These cities had not had any contact with the U.S. military for more than 50 years. As the ship moored, GUARDIAN was greeted by a group of Japanese protestors. The tension, however, was eased as the crew put their best foot forward and made a positive impression, showing their roles as American Ambassadors.

01 August to 31 August

The month of August began as GUARDIAN arrived in Aomori, Japan. The crew enjoyed various tourist attractions as well as the gifts and souvenirs that the shops had to offer. A majority of the crew also took time to get involved with the community by participating in a parade of the annual NEBUTA Festival. GUARDIAN then continued onto Kanazawa for three days of liberty. As the ship traveled to Chinhae, South Korea for a 7 day exercise known as ULCHI FOCUS LENS. During this exercise, GUARDIAN would participate in various minehunting evolutions. There was also a visit by RADM Connally, MINEWARCOM.

01 September to 30 September

September was dedicated to maintenance and upkeep on equipment in addition to a TARGET assist through the month of October. Due to the availability of USS FRANK CABLE, GUARDIAN was able to receive assistance on quick acting water tight doors and numerous X-Ray fittings. The ship also conducted Loss of Gyro, Steering, and Low Visibility drills. On 18 September, GUARDIAN had a change of command. LCDR Woods relieved CDR Girrier as Commanding Officer.

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01 October to 31 October

Following maintenance for various shipwide equipment, GUARDIAN prepared for exercise FOAL EAGLE '98, conducting engineering casualty control and man overboard drills. The ship departed on 22 October for Pohang, South Korea for exercise FOAL EAGLE '98 with USS PATRIOT (MCM-7) and MCMRON ONE. The exercise consisted of minehunting assigned areas with the Republic of Korea Navy while at the same time deploying and coordinating with Explosive Ordnance assets to detect, locate, and neutralize mines in vital shipping areas. In the end the crews of both GUARDIAN and ROKN ships became more experienced in joint minehunting operations with a better understanding of each other's capabilities.

01 November to 30 November

Exercise FOAL EAGLE '98 would last until 04 November, and GUARDIAN would not leave until 05 November. After returning from Pohang, South Korea, the ship began making preparations for it's last event of the year: CART II. During CART II, Inspectors from Afloat Training Group would inspect the ship's training and readiness, and departmental knowledge. The inspectors had checked various programs such as Tag Out, Heat Stress, Legal Records, FOQM, Electrical Safety, Hearing Conservation, and QA programs. They also observed the Damage Control Training Team conducting Damage Control Drills in order to evaluate whether GUARDIAN is capable of training itself or not and whether or not the ship was capable of extinguishing a Main Space Fire effectively or not. In addition, the inspectors also inspected damage control equipment and the ship's own damage control PQS program and schools qualifications. Once CART II was over the crew continued upkeep and maintenance for the rest of the month.

01 December to 31 December

After successfully completing CART II, GUARDIAN began its holiday stand-down. With numerous personnel going on leave, traveling, and visiting friends and family for the holidays, the number of inport duty sections was decreased to three sections in order to maintain the fire parties and security force. The duty sections and SRF would do most of the ship's upkeep and maintenance. The command would end the year with a Christmas Party held at Harbor View Club at the end of the month.


A. L. WOODS