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From: Commanding Officer, USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)  
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1986

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40) 1986 Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Command History for calendar year 1986 is forwarded as enclosure (1).

  
L.J. GIANNOTTI

## USS HALYBURTON 1986 COMMAND HISTORY

HALYBURTON devoted the first three months of 1986 to preparations for the Mediterranean deployment in March. From 6-12 January, the ship was underway off the coast of Florida. The schedule included a port visit to Port Everglades, Florida, on 9 January. From 13 January until 4 February, the ship was inport preparing for FLEETEX 1-86. During this period the ship had a diesel inspection, Engineering Performance Monitoring Team Visit, and a Medical Administration inspection. On 5 February, HALYBURTON traveled upriver to the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, SC for a weapons onload.

From 6-25 February, the ship participated in FLEETEX 1-86. During this period the USS AMERICA battlegroup accomplished work-ups for the Mediterranean deployment. The USS AMERICA battlegroup entered the Mobile Sea Range on 12 February. This range provides Fleet Commanders with the capability to conduct free-moving exercises in a realistic open-ocean environment in order to improve AAW readiness. On Friday, 14 February, HALYBURTON participated in a successful missile shoot.

On 25 February, the ship returned to Charleston for final pre-deployment preparations. During the inport period the ship received the following assistance: a SLQ-32 groom, a Communications Assist Team Visit, and a Shipboard Elevator Improvement Plan.

On 10 March, HALYBURTON deployed to the Mediterranean with dual LAMPS MK III aircraft embarked. Two days later the ship joined the AMERICA battlegroup consisting of the USS TICONDEROGA, USS DETROIT, USS VREELAND, USS FARRAGUT, AND USS AYLWIN. On 16 March, HALYBURTON and VREELAND detached and proceeded ahead for Soviet submarine prosecution. HALYBURTON rejoined the battlegroup in the Mediterranean on 19 March. The

battlegroup proceeded to the Gulf of Sidra to conduct Freedom of Navigation exercises. HALYBURTON and DE WERT together maintained 24 hour air surveillance with the LAMPS MK III helicopter to identify air and surface threats.

At the conclusion of Freedom of Navigation exercises, the AMERICA and SARATOGA battlegroups proceeded to the Sicilian coast for turnover. HALYBURTON had a direct turnover with DE WERT. During this inport period a number of specific briefs were held.

On 2 April, HALYBURTON proceeded to her first Mediterranean port call at Ibiza, Spain. The ship was underway from Ibiza on 10 April. The Prospective Commanding Officer reported aboard the next day.

Operations again brought the ship to the Gulf of Sidra on 14 April. HALYBURTON was at General Quarters at 0145, 15 April, in support of joint USN/USAF air strikes. HALYBURTON's helicopters were available for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

An underway first Change of Command ceremony was held on Friday, 18 April, when CDR Craig R. Welterlen relieved CDR Robert K. Peters. In the next 36 hours the ship completed seven connected and vertical replenishments. On Monday, 20 April, HALYBURTON detached Battle Force Zulu enroute assignment as the sole U.S. ship in Naval-On-Call-Forces-Mediterranean (NAVOCFORMED).

On 23 April, while inport La Spezia, Italy, HALYBURTON joined a Turkish, Italian, and British ship to form NATO group NAVOCFORMED. Ships participating in this exercise included: HMS AURORA, ITS ALISEO, and TCG ALCITPE, under the command of Captain Toschi, ITN, embarked on ALISEO. Special ceremonies marked the start of this assignment as the national anthems of each country played and the NATO flag flew above each of the four ships moored together. The four week operation consisted of underway

periods and port visits, including Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 2-5 May; Augusta Bay, Sicily, 9-12 May; Antalya, Turkey, 16-18 May; and Ancona, Italy, 23-27 May. Operations included surface and air gun shoots, underway replenishments, anti-submarine exercises, and station-keeping. In Augusta, Sicily, HMS AURORA hosted a sports olympiad which included soccer, volleyball, Swedish longball, and relay races. Transiting to Antalya, the force participated in exercise "Distant Hammer." In this NATO war game, the deterrent force provided convoy escort for USNS PAWCATUCK, ITS VESUVIO, and TGC DERYA. Force deactivation occurred on 26 May, in Ancona, Italy.

HALYBURTON spent the last weekend in May in Split, one of Yugoslavia's largest industrial ports, located on the Adriatic coast. Hosts provided the crew with tours of the Yugoslavian Naval Academy, and the towns of Split, Trogir, and Dubrovnik. While in Split, the ship held a protocol luncheon with several important guests.

HALYBURTON then proceeded to Trieste, Italy, 3-6 June. While inport, the ship successfully completed an Aviation Corrosion Control inspection. HALYBURTON again held a protocol luncheon with many distinguished guests.

Following an at-sea period, the ship moored in Villefranche, France. Living on the French Riviera, the people showed very generous hospitality towards the crew. The ship hosted Mayor Joseph Calderoni and the Commander-in-Chief, French Naval Forces Mediterranean, VADM Gagliardi. Leaving Villefranche on 19 June, HALYBURTON proceeded to rendezvous with the USS AMERICA battlegroup and to participate in exercise Tridente.

On 28 June, the ship entered Naples, Italy, for the mid-deployment intermediate maintenance activity period with USS VULCAN. The IMAV was the first accomplished by the VULCAN for an FFG. During this period, the helo detachment was shore-based in Sigonella, Sicily. While inport, the Supply

department had a mid-deployment Corrosion Control inspection with outstanding results. The ship hosted a group of German Parliamentarians, and held an open house for American servicemen and their families. HALYBURTON departed Naples, Italy, on 21 July, with the Gas Turbine Mobile Training Team (GTMTT) embarked. The team came onboard for an assist visit prior to the September Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

On 28 July, the ship arrived in Tunis, Tunisia, for a diplomatic visit. The Tunisian and American communities proved to be excellent hosts. More than 25% of the crew were invited to the homes of embassy employees for dinner. The ship hosted an official visit by Tunisian dignitaries.

The Mediterranean deployment ended with a series of port visits, including Toulon, France, from 6-13 August, and Villefranche, France, from 15-25 August. During the Villefranche visit, the ship conducted a second IMAV with USS VULCAN.

Departing Villefranche, HALYBURTON ended the Mediterranean deployment with a port visit to Gibraltar for the turnover with the USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY.

Enroute continental United States, HALYBURTON held a successful Operational Propulsion Plant Examination and an outstanding Supply Management Inspection (SMI). On 10 September, the ship returned to its homeport, Charleston, SC, for a 30 day leave and upkeep period. During this timeframe, HALYBURTON commenced IMAV III with SIMA Charleston.

On 18 October the ship held a picnic at Charles Towne Landing. HALYBURTON was underway from 22-23 October to conduct sea trials. The ship conducted a family cruise on 24 October for relatives and friends of the crew.

The ship was underway 27-29 October for ASW operations. On 28 October, the ship conducted a Burial at Sea ceremony honoring Navy Veteran SK2 Vincent T. Williams, USN (RET.).

In November HALYBURTON again embarked two helicopters and participated in ISHAREM, an anti-submarine training exercise designed to test ASW warfare fundamentals in a heavy sea environment. HALYBURTON returned to homeport on 14 November.

The ship was underway twice in December, concluding with an ammunition offload prior to the start of a repair availability in January 1987. Christmas leave commenced on 19 December, 1986.

During 1986 HALYBURTON received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for Baltic Sea operations, the Navy Unit Commendation and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Freedom of Navigation exercises, and a First Deployment ribbon. The ship was also awarded her second Engineering Battle Efficiency award for 1986. In addition, HALYBURTON received the following divisional awards: Main Propulsion (2nd consecutive), Damage Control (2nd consecutive), Anti-submarine (2nd consecutive), Navigation/Deck Seamanship, Missile Efficiency, and 76 MM Gun Efficiency (2nd consecutive).

As a unit of Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, HALYBURTON is permanently assigned to Cruiser-Destroyer Group Two and Destroyer Squadron Six. In 1986 the ship operated as a unit of both second and sixth fleets. HALYBURTON's homeport is Charleston, South Carolina. Ship's company officers assigned at 31 December, 1986 are: Commanding Officer, Craig R. Welterlen, USN; Executive Officer, LCDR Sterling R. Spencer, USN; Combat Systems Officer, LT [REDACTED], USN; Engineering Officer, LT [REDACTED], USN; Ship Control Officer, LT [REDACTED], USN; Support Officer, LT [REDACTED], SC, USNR; Assistant Navigator, LT [REDACTED], USN; Damage Control Assistant, LT

██████████, USN; Combat Information Center Officer, LT ██████████  
██████████, USN; Main Propulsion Assistant, LT ██████████, USN; Anti-  
Submarine Warfare Officer, LTJG ██████████, USNR; Ordnance Officer,  
ENS ██████████, USNR; Electronics Readiness Officer, ENS ██████████  
██████████, USN; Disbursing Officer, ENS ██████████ ██████████, SC, USN. .  
HALYBURTON's Command Master Chief is BMCM Edward "D" Pinyon, USN.