



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HALYBURTON FFG-40

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington
Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: **SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40) Command History for Calendar Year 1997
(2) USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40) Welcome Aboard Package
(3) Biography of CDR Kevin Morrissey, USN
(4) Photo of CDR Morrissey

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), (3) and (4) are submitted.

K. Morrissey
K. Morrissey

Copy to:
Commander, Destroyer Squadron 28
USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40)

COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

1. Unit Mission: USS HALYBURTON's mission is to provide multi-role combat support in hostile areas. Primary mission areas include Air Warfare (AW), Surface Warfare (SUW), Undersea Warfare (USW), and Command/Communications Warfare (C2W). For AW and SUW, HALYBURTON uses the MK-92 fire control radar to target air and surface contacts for engagement with either the Standard Missile or MK-75 76mm gun. The ship also carries the Harpoon anti-ship cruise missile. The Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS) provides defense against short range missile threats. For USW it utilizes the SQQ-89 sonar suite, which includes the AN/SQR-19 Tactical Towed Array Sonar (TACTAS), and AN/SQS-56 hull mounted sonar. MK-46 and Mk-50 helo dropped and over-the-side torpedoes provide USW attack/defense capabilities. C2W support is provided by the AN/SLQ-32 (V)5 electronic warfare (EW) platform, with EW threat detection, correlation, and jamming capabilities. In addition to HALYBURTON's built-in warfighting features, SUW and USW capabilities may be further enhanced with an embarked SH-60B LAMPS helicopter detachment. The LAMPS platform provides radar coverage with its AN/APS-124 surface search radar, ESM support via AN/ALQ-142 threat receiver, and sonar information through sonobuoy deployment.

These systems are interfaced with the ship's built-in systems via HAWK-link, a line-of-sight digital radio link. This capability extends HALYBURTON's effective sensor range well beyond the visible horizon without alerting foreign forces to her position.

USS HALYBURTON belongs to Destroyer Squadron Twenty Eight, and is homeported at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. The ship regularly embarks a LAMPS MKIII helicopter detachment from HSL-44, NAS Mayport, Florida.

2. 1997 Significant Chronology:

1	JAN	Underway from La Maddelena, Italy
2	JAN	Awards Ceremony
4	JAN	Entered Port Suez, Commenced Suez Canal Transit
5	JAN	Transited Suez Canal
		Steel Beach Picnic in Great Bitter Lake
		Inchop COMFIFTHFLT
7	JAN	USS Halyburton Birthday Ceremony
8	JAN	Brief Stop for Fuel, Djibouti, Djibouti, Africa
		Elvis Lookalike Contest
		Rescue of Cutlass 475 Crew
9	JAN	Wardroom Dining In
11	JAN	Transit Strait of Hormuz
14	JAN	First Desert Duck visit of MEF-97
17	JAN	Moored Bahrain
		Conducted MEF turnover with USS S. W. Groves
18	JAN	Commencement of SHAREM 119 exercise briefs
		Embarked HS-6 Detachment
20	JAN	Martin Luther King Ceremony
21	JAN	Underway from Bahrain, SHAREM 119 Commences
30	JAN	SHAREM 119 Conclusion
		Holiday routine with swim call in Gulf of Oman
2-3	FEB	Escort operations with M/V Strong Virginian
4	FEB	Arrive Bahrain
5	FEB	Ship's Picnic at ASU Bahrain
6	FEB	CPO Mess vs. Wardroom Softball Game
12	FEB	Underway from Bahrain
12-21	FEB	Escort/Holding Operations
21-22	FEB	Maritime Interdiction Operations
		in Northern Arabian Gulf

23 FEB Port visit Kuwait City, Kuwait
 26 FEB Kuwait Liberation Day Reception
 27 FEB Underway from Kuwait City
 28 FEB-11 MAR Maritime Interdiction Operations
 12 MAR Port visit Doha, Qatar
 16 MAR Battle "E" Photo on pier
 16 MAR Underway from Doha, Qatar
 16-21 MAR Maritime Interdiction Operations
 17 MAR St Patrick's Day - Green Clothes Day
 21 MAR Talent Show
 22 MAR Arrive Jubail, Saudi Arabia
 22 MAR Reception on USS NICHOLSON (DD 982)
 23 MAR Embark Royal Saudi Arabian Navy Liaison Officers
 23 MAR Underway from Jubail, Saudi Arabia
 23-25 MAR Exercise NAUTICAL SWIMMER
 25 MAR Moor Jubail, Saudi Arabia
 26 MAR VADM Fargo, COMFIFTHFLT, Visit
 26 MAR Underway from Jubail, Saudi Arabia
 26 MAR-02 APR Escort Duties
 30 MAR Easter
 02 APR Port visit Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 05 APR Underway from Dubai, UAE
 05-07 APR Maritime Interdiction Operations
 07-09 APR Plane Guard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
 07 APR RADM Johnson, COMCARGRU 8, visit
 09-16 APR Maritime Interdiction Operations
 08-12 APR Commodore Wheeler, CDS 28, visit
 17 APR Moor, Bahrain
 19 APR Underway from Bahrain
 19-22 APR Maritime Interception Operations
 21 APR Change of Command, CDR Kevin Morrissey relieves
 CDR William H. Millward as Commanding Officer USS
 HALYBURTON (FFG 40)
 22 APR UNREP with USNS Yukon
 23 APR Transit Strait of Hormuz
 24 APR Swim Call Gulf of Oman
 26 APR Turnover with USS Nicholas
 28 APR Moor Aden, Yemen
 Ambassador Newton visit
 30 APR Underway from Aden, Yemen
 02 MAY BSF Djibouti, Djibouti
 03 MAY Freedom of Navigation Operation
 04 MAY Arrive Massawa, Eritrea
 07 MAY Underway from Massawa, Eritrea
 10 MAY Arrive Safaga, Egypt
 12-13 MAY Exercise EAGLE SALUTE
 Underway operations with E.N.S El-Zaffer
 14 MAY Underway from Safaga, Egypt
 15 MAY BSF Port Suez, Egypt
 Rendezvous with USS Nicholson and COMDESRON 18
 16 MAY Arrive Aquaba, Jordan
 17 MAY 10K Fun Run & Petra Tour
 18 MAY Underway from Aquaba, Jordan
 19 MAY Suez Canal Transit
 Inchop COMSIXTHFLT
 20 MAY UNREP with USS Arctic
 23 MAY Arrive Palma, Spain
 27 MAY Underway from Palma, Spain
 28 MAY Transit Strait of Gibraltar
 Inchop COMSECONDFLT
 31 MAY BSF Ponta Delgada, Azores

06	JUN	BSF Hamilton, Bermuda Commence Mid Cycle Assessment (MCA) Embark Tigers
06-09	JUN	MCA Tiger Cruise
09	JUN	Arrive NNSY Portsmouth
09JUN-09JUL		Post Deployment Leave Embark two Venezuelan Naval Officers
15	JUL	Underway from Portsmouth, NNSY Rendezvous with USS Ramage
18-21	JUL	OPERATION SAIL 200
18	JUL	Arrive Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA
20	JUL	Embark VIP's; Underway from Boston Rdvv with USS Constitution for PASSEX Return to Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston
21	JUL	Embark VIP's; Underway from Boston Rdvv with USS CONSTITUTION for PASSEX Arrive Salem, MA; Embark VIP's Rdvv with USS CONSTITUTION for PASSEX Return to Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston
28	JUL	Underway from Boston, MA for TOWEX Escort Operations Rdvv with USS GRASP and Ex-New York City
31	JUL	Rdvv with USNS MOHAWK and Ex-Bainbridge
01	AUG	FIFTH Fleet Awards Ceremony Rendezvous/turnover escort duties to USS Aubrey Fitch
02	AUG	UNREP with USNS Laramie
03	AUG	Arrive Savannah, GA
06	AUG	Underway from Savannah, GA
07	AUG	UNREP with USNS Bighorn
08	AUG	Arrive NAUTICUS Maritime Museum, Norfolk, VA
11	AUG	Berth shift to NNSY, Portsmouth
27	AUG	Ship's picnic Dam Neck, VA Officers vs CPO'S Softball Game
28-29	AUG	Command Inspection by CDS 28
29	AUG	Embark Moroccan Naval Officer Command Personnel Inspection
02	SEP	Underway from NNSY, Portsmouth Arrive Yorktown NWS for Ammunition Offload
04	SEP	Underway from Yorktown NWS
05	SEP	Transit New York Harbor and Hudson River Arrive USMA West Point, NY
06	SEP	Ship tours for USMA Cadets
07	SEP	Athletic Events with USMA
08	SEP	Underway from USMA West Point, NY Arrive Intrepid Museum New York City, NY
11	SEP	Underway from Intrepid Museum, New York City, NY
12	SEP	Arrive Port Jefferson, NY
12-14	SEP	Maritime Festival Port Jefferson, NY
15	SEP	Underway from Port Jefferson, NY
17	SEP	Arrive Portland, ME
20	SEP	Embark Commodore Wheeler, CDS-28
21	SEP	Underway from Portland, ME
23	SEP	UNREP with USS Platte Embark CDS-28 Staff
24	SEP	Arrive NNSY, Portsmouth, VA
29	SEP	Berth shift to NOB, Norfolk, VA
30	SEP	U/W UMI Rehearsal
06-10	OCT	INSURV
08	OCT	U/W INSURV UMI

14OCT-23DEC RAV
 10-14 NOV PLOT I - ETG
 27 NOV Thanksgiving Day Dinner
 01-04 DEC PLOT II - ETG
 04 DEC HALYBURTON Christmas Party - Norfolk Live
 05 DEC Children's Christmas Party
 15 DEC Fast Cruise
 19 DEC Berth Shift
 19-29 DEC Holiday Leave Section I
 29DEC-03JAN Holiday Leave Section II

3. JANUARY

On January 1, 1997 the USS HALYBURTON continued the Mediterranean transit of a scheduled Middle Eastern Force deployment. Moored in La Maddelena, Italy, the ship set out to sea on the morning of the 1st. HALYBURTON entered the FIFTH Fleet theater of operations on January 4, beginning the first leg of the 18-hour transit through the Suez Canal.

The crew relaxed after a long transit with the deployment's first steel beach picnic in the Great Bitter Lake. On the 7th, the crew celebrated the 13th birthday of USS HALYBURTON with a cake cutting ceremony on the mess decks. On the morning of the 8th, the ship pulled into Djibouti, Africa for a quick refueling. Underway later that day, the crew celebrated the birthday of the King, Elvis Aron Presley, with a look-a-like contest on the mess decks. DCFN Scott Humphries was voted to be Elvis reincarnate. That night, while continuing the transit of the Red Sea, HALYBURTON rushed to the rescue of three downed pilots from transit ship NICHOLSON. Fortunately, the Cutlass crew members were not seriously injured. HALYBURTON entered the Gulf on 11 January, 1997 when it passed through the Strait of Hormuz. Three days later the crew welcomed the Desert Duck helicopter which ferries supplies, passengers, and, most importantly, mail to ships in the Gulf. On the 17th of January, HALYBURTON moored in Bahrain to conduct a turnover with the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29). On the 21st, the ship was underway to conduct an undersea warfare exercise, SHAREM 119. The highly successful, ten day exercise concluded with a swim call in the Gulf of Oman.

4. FEBRUARY

HALYBURTON escorted the motor vessel Strong Virginian through the Strait of Hormuz at the outset of February, 1997. Mooring in Bahrain on the 4th, the crew relaxed with a picnic at ASU and a friendly softball match between the Chief Petty Officers Mess and the Wardroom. Underway on the 12th, the ship arrived in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) to assume holding duties of an anchored motor vessel found in violation of the U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq. After nine days at anchor, HALYBURTON proceeded north to conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) at the very tip of the Arabian Gulf. On the 23rd of February the ship pulled into Kuwait City, Kuwait where a Kuwait Liberation Day Reception was held. The ship left Kuwait on the 27th of February to resume MIO in the NAG until the 11th of March.

5. MARCH

After completing Maritime Interdiction Operations, HALYBURTON arrived in Doha, Qatar on 11 March where the crew enjoyed activities such as golf, swimming, and touring. News of HALYBURTON's selection as DESRON 28's Battle "E" winner inspired a Fightin' Bill Battle "E" formation on the pier. On the 16th, the ship was underway for MIO in the Northern Arabian Gulf. While in

the NAG, the crew enjoyed a "Green Clothes" St Patrick's day in celebration of reaching the deployment's "half-way" point. On the 21st, a talent show was opened to all crew members. Laughter and light banter was prevalent on the flight deck for the show. On the 22nd, HALYBURTON arrived in Jubail, Saudi Arabia to begin NAUTICAL SWIMMER, a joint Saudi-American exercise. After embarking two Royal Saudi Arabian Liaison Officers, HALYBURTON got underway with USS NICHOLSON and three Royal Saudi Navy ships. After successfully completing a night ENCOUNTEREX, tactical maneuvering exercises, flaghoist drills and a photo opportunity, all ships returned to Jubail for the debrief on the 25th. On the 26th VADM Fargo, COMFIFTHFLT, visited the ship just before it got underway to return to the Northern Arabian Gulf. Once again in the NAG, HALYBURTON began escort operations of four motor vessels found in violation of U.N. imposed sanctions. While escorting the vessels south, the crew closed out March on the 30th with an Easter visit from U.S. Navy chaplains. Holy services were held for crew members of all denominations and the crew enjoyed a "civilian clothes" day.

6. APRIL

On the 2nd of April HALYBURTON visited the Port of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The crew took advantage of good liberty conditions at local clubs and various recreational activities. Several crew members played the internationally famous Dubai Championship Golf Course. On the 5th, the ship returned to the Northern Arabian Gulf to continue Maritime Interception Operations. On 7 April, HALYBURTON assumed Plane Guard duty with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71). Operations with the carrier concluded with a visit from COMCARGRU EIGHT, RADM Johnson and a return to MIO. Commodore Wheeler, COMDESRON 28, visited HALYBURTON from the 8th to the 12th as the ship continued to monitor the NAG for sanction violators. HALYBURTON returned to Bahrain on the 17th of April. A pierside cookout was held while many of the crew members played basketball and worked out. Underway on the 19th, HALYBURTON continued Maritime Interception Operations in the Southern Arabian Gulf.

On the 21st of April, CDR Kevin Morrissey, USN, relieved CDR William H. Millward as Commanding Officer of USS HALYBURTON. The change of command ceremony was held, appropriately, on the flight deck while at sea.

HALYBURTON refueled at sea with the USNS Yukon on the 22nd of April and transited the Straits of Hormuz on the 23rd. A swim call was held in the Gulf of Oman on the 24th and the ship's arrival in Yemen on the 28th of April marked the first occasion in over thirty years that a warship from the United States visited the coastal republic. The port was busy with visits from the U.S. Ambassador, the Honorable David Newton, press conferences with the local media, and a reception, complete with a performance by a local folk dancing troupe, held on the flight deck for dignitaries and members of the ship's crew. HALYBURTON closed out April by departing Yemen early in the afternoon of the 30th.

7. MAY

The ship stopped in Djibouti, Djibouti for a quick refueling on the afternoon of the second of May. After leaving Djibouti, HALYBURTON conducted a Freedom of Navigation exercise while readying for liberty in the city of Massawa, Eritrea. Arriving on the 4th, members of HALYBURTON's crew pitched in to help rebuild a local library. The effort was well received by the local community benefitting from the efforts of the sailors. A reception was held on the bridge for the wardroom, the U.S. ambassador to Eritrea, and local dignitaries on the evening of the 5th. On the 7th, the ship left Eritrea bound for Egypt and Exercise EAGLE SALUTE.

The ship arrived in Safaga, Egypt on the morning of the 10th. The crew relaxed at the beaches and bars of a local resort. HALYBURTON and one Egyptian Navy ship, the E.N.S. El-Zaffer (DD-951), set out to sea on the 12

and 13th of May for exercise EAGLE SALUTE. The ships performed various missions together, ranging from a night encounter exercise to tactical maneuvering exercises. HALYBURTON returned to Safaga on the afternoon of 13 May and a debrief was held in a local Egyptian Navy headquarters on the morning of the 14 May. The ship left Egypt on the afternoon of 14 May, made a brief stop for fuel in Port Suez, Egypt and rendezvoused with the USS Nicholson and COMDESRON 18 for the Gulf of Aquaba transit.

The port of Aquaba, Jordan greeted the ship on the morning of the 16th of May. On liberty the crew took advantage of a variety of activities. Many of the ship's company traveled to the ruins of Petra, an ancient city near Aquaba while others participated in a 10K Fun Run held by the local husbanding agent. After leaving Jordan on the 18th, HALYBURTON rendezvoused again with COMDESRON 18 and the USS Nicholson for the May 19 transit of the Suez Canal and inchopt to COMSIXTHFLT. On the 23rd of May HALYBURTON pulled in to Palma de Mallorca, Spain where the entire crew relaxed on the sunny beaches and enjoyed the abundant nightlife. The ship pulled out of Palma early on the 27th and conducted a passing exercise with the ITS Pelosi. HALYBURTON transited the Strait of Gibraltar on the 28th and closed out the month of May with a brief stop for fuel in Punta Delgada, Azores.

8. JUNE

The first five days of June, 1997 were spent crossing the Atlantic Ocean. On the 6th, HALYBURTON stopped in Hamilton, Bermuda to refuel. The COMDESRON 28 Mid Cycle Assessment team embarked the ship to begin an evaluation of the ship's engineering plant. Over the next two days, several sets of engineering drills and General Quarter exercises ensued.

Bermuda also marked the beginning of the Tiger cruise. A total of 29 sons, brothers and fathers of the crew members embarked for the transit back to Portsmouth, VA. Along the way the crew demonstrated the many capabilities of the ship by holding a Flight Quarters demonstration, a gun shoot, and a man overboard drill.

USS HALYBURTON returned home to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA from the six month Arabian Gulf deployment on the morning of 9 June, 1997. This was the first return of a ship from deployment to Portsmouth since World War I. The mayor of Portsmouth, Commander NNSY, Commander DESRON 28, family and friends greeted the ship on the pier and the post-deployment leave period began.

9. JULY

The well earned post-deployment leave period ended on the 9th of July and the rested crew returned to work. After one week of upkeep, the ship set to sea on the morning of the 15th. Arriving at Charlestown Navy Yard in downtown Boston July 18th, HALYBURTON began its participation in the landmark event, Operation SAIL 200. On the 20th and 21st, HALYBURTON rendezvoused with and escorted the USS CONSTITUTION as she unfurled her sails and sailed under wind power for the first time in 116 years. Several hundred VIP's watched from HALYBURTON's main deck as the U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned warship made 4 knots of headway through the waters of Massachusetts Bay. The demonstration included a fly over by the Navy's Blue Angels as CONSTITUTION marked her 200th year of active duty service.

Upon completion of Operation SAIL 200, HALYBURTON sailors enjoyed several days of liberty in Boston. The crew took advantage of available Red Sox tickets, tours of several historical sites, and the active Boston nightlife. The scheduled underway for the morning of the 25th was delayed by bad weather and the port visit to Boston was extended through the weekend. Underway on the 28th, the ship closed out the month of July rendezvousing with the USS GRASP and Ex-USS NEW YORK CITY for tow ship escort duties.

10. AUGUST

HALYBURTON rendezvoused with the USNS MOHAWK and the Ex-USS Bainbridge as they joined the towing group enroute to the Panama Canal. Acting as an escort, HALYBURTON guided the ships for two days until USS Aubrey Fitch assumed escort duties off of the coast of Florida. On the 2nd of August, HALYBURTON conducted an at sea refueling with the USNS Laramie and held a ceremony recognizing the FIFTH Fleet award recipients for performance while deployed to the Middle Eastern theater. On the 3rd, the ship arrived in Savannah, GA where sailors golfed and toured the city while several thousand tourists visited the ship. On the evening of the 3rd, HALYBURTON hosted the Savannah chapter of the Navy League to a reception on the fantail. On the 6th, the ship set to sea for the return trip to Nauticus Maritime Museum in Norfolk, VA. Arriving on the 8th, HALYBURTON hosted several hundred tours before berth shifting back to NNSY Portsmouth on the 11th. The following two weeks were spent in preparation for the Command Inspection on the 28th and 29th. On the 27th, the ship's picnic was held in Dam Neck, VA for the crew and their families. Burgers, hot dogs and refreshments were enjoyed as the Wardroom officers laid waste to the Chief's Mess in a "friendly" softball match. Commander Destroyer Squadron 28 conducted a highly successful command inspection of HALYBURTON on 28 and 29 August.

11. SEPTEMBER

Following the completion of the command inspection, the ship left Portsmouth on the 2nd to conduct an ammunition offload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station. On the 4th HALYBURTON left Yorktown bound for the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY. A scenic trip up the Hudson river concluded on the afternoon of the 5th as the ship moored at the South Pier of West Point. Over the next three days, thousands of civilians and Army cadets toured the ship as the crew took the opportunity to attend an Army football game and tour the historic Academy. Army vs Navy golf, softball and basketball games were held featuring star players from HALYBURTON and the USMA staff officers, NCO's, and cadets. On the 8th of September, HALYBURTON left West Point and arrived the same day in New York City.

HALYBURTON sailors found New York City holds true to its reputation as the city that never sleeps. A wide variety of activities awaited the crew as many sailors attended a taping of the David Letterman show, a Mets game or the Broadway plays "Cats", "Miss Saigon" and "Les Miserables". The Intrepid aircraft carrier museum was open to the crew and several HALYBURTON sailors visited the Metropolitan Museums of Natural History and Art. Again, several hundred tourists visited HALYBURTON to catch a glimpse of what life is like in today's Navy. The ship left New York City on the 11th of September enroute to the Long Island city of Port Jefferson, NY.

HALYBURTON enjoyed a warm welcome from the Village Council of Port Jefferson. Immediately upon arrival several invitations to events at the local Maritime Festival were extended to the crew. Sailors enjoyed parties, dinners and receptions hosted by the village and the local fire department challenged the ship to a softball tournament. HALYBURTON's semi-pro golf contingent defeated the mayor's council in a local golf tournament while over four thousand people from Port Jefferson and surrounding areas toured the ship. The celebration concluded as the weekend was officially designated "HALYBURTON weekend" by the Port Jefferson Village Council on 14 September. On the 15th the ship left Port Jefferson for two days of training at sea and transit to Portland, Maine.

Portland offered many attractions to HALYBURTON sailors. The crew enjoyed the beautiful natural features of Maine and sampled the local nightlife during the three day port visit. COMDESRON 28, CAPT Wheeler, embarked and set to sea with HALYBURTON on the 21st of September. On the 23rd, the ship conducted an underway replenishment with the USS Platte. The ship embarked DESRON 28 staff and, after arriving at NNSY Portsmouth on the 24th,

the crew began preparations for an upcoming INSURV inspection. After berth shifting to NOB, Norfolk on the 29th, HALYBURTON closed the month of September with an Underway Material Inspection (UMI) rehearsal on the 30th.

12. OCTOBER

The first week of October, 1997, was spent on final preparations for a 06-10 October INSURV inspection. Four days of equipment and operational checks culminated in an 08 October UMI with the INSURV inspectors. At the completion of the underway portion of the inspection, HALYBURTON returned to Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Following this grueling inspection, HALYBURTON sailors enjoyed a light work week before the beginning of a scheduled three month Restricted Availability.

The Restricted Availability began on the 14th and lasted through the end of the year. Dreadnought Marine Incorporated was contracted to repair or overhaul several major systems throughout the ship. Among the equipment overhauled was Number 2 Ship Service Diesel Generator, the Boat Davit, the RAST system as well as multiple coolers and ventilation systems.

13. NOVEMBER

HALYBURTON's Restricted Availability continued through November. During the week of 10-14 November members of ETG Norfolk visited the ship to conduct PLOT I. Firefighting drills and equipment operation was observed by the seasoned inspectors while the crew continued the Availability. Thanksgiving dinner was served to the sailors onboard on the 27th of November.

14. DECEMBER

Following a well deserved Thanksgiving vacation the crew started December off quickly with a PLOT II inspection on the first of the month. Lasting through the fourth, additional guidance assist into the completion of the Availability was provided by ETG Norfolk. On the evening of the fourth a HALYBURTON Christmas party was held at Norfolk Live entertainment Club. Crew members accompanied by wives and girlfriends enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas dinner as door prizes were raffled off. The following evening a children's Christmas party was held at the Armed Forces YMCA. HALYBURTON youngsters enjoyed the Christmas spirit with cake and presents.

On the 15th of December a fast cruise was held to prepare the crew for upcoming Sea Trials. Following a 19 December berth shift, Holiday leave period one began and lasted until the 29th. After a full turnover on the 29th, Holiday leave period two began and lasted through the New Year.