



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS HAWES (FFG 53)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
MIAMI 34091-1507

DECLASSIFIED

5750  
FFG53:CO:TDM  
30 March 1990

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HAWES (FFG-53)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington,  
DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1989 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(2) USS DE WERT 292210Z MAY 89  
(3) Bow Hook Newspaper article of 27 OCT 89  
(4) COMNAVSURFLANT Norfolk VA 071540Z DEC 89

1. (U) The following Command History is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

a. (U) COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

- (1) Mission: USS HAWES primary missions are AAW, ASUW and ASW.
- (2) Intermediate Unit Commander: COMDESRON SIX.
- (3) Commanding Officer: Robert D. LIGGETT, Commander, USN.
- (4) Homeport: Charleston Naval Station, Charleston, South Carolina.
- (5) Type and Number of Aircraft: USS HAWES is normally assigned a two aircraft detachment of SH-60B LAMPS MK III Helicopters with callsigns "Magnum 442" and "Magnum 446". Aircraft and crew from Detachment One of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 44 (HSL-44).

b. (C) CHRONOLOGY:

- (1) January: Completed passage to the Northern Persian Gulf via the Mediterranean Sea and Suez Canal and assumed duties of GS-1, acting as an element of the Joint Task Force Middle East. Intermittent port calls to Bahrain were made during this period for maintenance and refueling.
- (2) February: Continued ship's employment as an element of Joint Task Force Middle East. Duties included providing escort for Kuwaiti vessels through the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Hormuz.
  - 9: Celebrated HAWES Forth Birthday.
- (3) March: Continued ship's employment with periodic port visits to Bahrain.
- (4) April: Continued ship's employment with periodic visits to Bahrain.
  - 2-5: Port Call Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
  - 25: Relieved on-station by USS ELROD (FFG-55).
  - 25: Final Port Call in Dubai.
  - 26: Transitted through the Straits Of Hormuz and began transit back to Charleston, S.C.

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1-15: Transit through Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea.  
12: OUTCHOP from COMIDEASTFOR and COMUSNAVCENT to COMSIXTHFLT.  
16-17: Port Call in Rota, Spain.  
19-24: Port Call in Lisbon, Portugal. CDR Liggett arrived onboard to relieve CDR SPEER.  
19-20: GIMTT visit.  
25: OUTCHOP from COMSIXTHFLT to COMNAVSURFLANT and COMSECONDFLT.  
27: Refueling stop in Azores.  
31: Arrive in Bermuda for Port Call and Change of Command.

(6) June:

1: Robert D. LIGGETT, CDR, USN relieved James W. SPEER, CDR, USN, as Commanding Officer, USS HAWES.  
2-4: Transit to Charleston, South Carolina.  
5: Arrived in Charleston, South Carolina completing MEF 1-89 deployment. Enclosure (2).  
6-30: Post Deployment leave period.

(7) July:

5-8: Underway for Midshipman Training Cruise in VACAPES OPAREA.  
17-25: Underway for FLEETEX with USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) in PUERTO RICAN OPAREA.  
26-30: Port Call in Fredricksted, St. Croix.  
31: Underway for FLEETEX with USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) in PUERTO RICAN OPAREA.

(8) August:

1-10: Continued FLEETEX with USS FORRESTAL (CV-59).  
1: Successful SVTT EXTORP Shoot (SELEX).  
7: Successful SM-1 Missile Shoot (SELEX).  
11: Arrived in Charleston, South Carolina.  
16: Underway in CHASN OPAREA for successful Combat Systems Assessment (CSA).  
24: Full Ammunition offload at Weapons Station Charleston, SC.  
28-31: Completed 20B5 Combat Systems Trainer.  
29: Completed successful 3M Inspection.

(9) September:

15: Entered Drydock No.1 at Charleston Naval Shipyard for the commencement of a five month DSRA.  
21: HAWES refloated in Drydock No. 1 for safety reasons due to the approach of Hurricane Hugo.  
21: HAWES is unable to sortie with Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWO and is secured in drydock for the storm by shipyard personnel.

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21-22: HAWES present in Charleston Naval Shipyard throughout the 18 hour onslaught of Hurricane Hugo. The ship experienced sustained winds in excess of 125 knots with the eye of the Hurricane passing directly over Charleston at approximately 1130 pm local time. The ship received minimal damage as a result of the Hurricane, however, the shipyard and the city of Charleston received major damage including loss of the water, telephone, and electrical services. All DSRA work suspended in order to concentrate on clean-up efforts. HAWES crewmembers gave vital assistance in the following weeks to numerous families of military and civilian personnel through working parties and Red Cross volunteer work. Enclosure (3).

29: DSRA work resumed. Clean-up efforts continued.

(10) October: HAWES DSRA continued throughout the month and ship remained in drydock.

(11) November: HAWES DSRA continued throughout the month and ship remained in drydock.

(12) December:

7: HAWES received mission area awards in AAW, ASUW, and ASW. Enclosure (4).

12: HAWES refloated in Drydock No. 1. DSRA work continued. William E. Marshall, LCDR, USN, relieved Hubert L. Broughton, LCDR, USN, as Executive Officer, USS HAWES.

18-27: 1st Christmas leave period.

28-31: 2nd Christmas leave period.

c. (C) NARRATIVE:

During the first half of the 1989 calendar year, HAWES was underway on an operationally intensive and highly successful Middle East Deployment. During this deployment, HAWES was an integral part of the escort missions for U.S. flagged merchant vessels through the Persian Gulf. The ship also compiled some very noteworthy statistics in the form of 153 days underway out of a 182 day deployment and 1300 accident-free flight hours by HSL-44, of which nearly 50 percent were conducted at night. Enclosure (2) is forwarded to provide more specific deployment details. The deployment was concluded with a "Tiger Cruise" from Bermuda to Charleston, SC for male family members and close friends of crewmembers. Following the end of the deployment, the ship and crew went into a much needed post-deployment standdown for the month of June. "Ever Ready", as the ship's motto states, HAWES was underway again in July and August for a midshipman summer training cruise and Phase III Pre-Deployment FLEETEX with the USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) in the Puerto Rican OPAREA. This underway period was marked by the successful completion of several important SELEX'S, which included an MK 46 exercise torpedo shoot and an SM-1 missile shoot. These successful exercises directly contributed to HAWES eventually receiving the mission area awards in AAW, ASUW and ASW.

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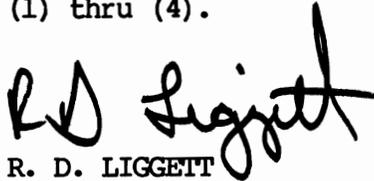
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Results of the mission area awards are contained in enclosure (4). Upon returning to Charleston in mid-August, HAWES passed the COMNAVSURFLANT Combat Systems Assessment with noteworthy results and this milestone was quickly followed by a successful 3M Inspection prior to entering Charleston Naval Shipyard in early September for a five month DSRA period. The yard period began smoothly, however, all work was suspended as HAWES was pounded by the powerful Hurricane Hugo which devastated most of the Caribbean area as well as the east coast of the United States as far north as Virginia. In the aftermath of the storm, numerous crewmembers selflessly devoted many off-duty hours to assist in the massive clean-up effort out in the city of Charleston. Throughout October and November, Charleston Naval Shipyard skillfully made up time lost due to Hurricane damage and HAWES was finally refloated in Drydock No. 1 on 12 December 1989 upon the completion of all hull work. HAWES closed out the 1989 calendar year with the Christmas leave period from 18 December 1989 to 02 January 1990. The entire year proved to be a very eventful time in the life of HAWES.

d. (C) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Provided for in enclosures (1) thru (4).

  
R. D. LIGGETT

Classified by: Multiple Sources  
Declassify: 1995 MARCH 30

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