



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HAWES (FFG 53)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS HAWES (FFG 53)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

- Encl:
- (1) Chronology
 - (2) Descriptive narrative
 - (3) Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) TWO
 - (4) HAWES "adopts" the Kemps Landing Magnet School in support of the Adopt-A-School program
 - (5) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Howgozit"
 - (6) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Engineering Readiness Process Improvement Input"
 - (7) "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders, Commanding Officers, regarding "COMPTUEX Guidance"
 - (8) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to CDR Peppe (CO, USS ATLANTA), regarding "Submarine Hospitality"
 - (9) "Personal For" message from Chief Staff Officer (DESRON THREE TWO) to Commanding Officers, regarding Commanding Officers Meeting
 - (10) "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to Commanding Officers, regarding Warfare Commanders Conference Preparations
 - (11) Midshipmen Embarked for Summer Training
 - (12) "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders, Commanding Officers, regarding Battle Group Quality Implementations
 - (13) TSTA THREE: Final Evaluation Period (FEP) Rehearsal (VCOA)
 - (14) All-Hands Safety Stand-Down
 - (15) "Personal For" message from VADM Clark to Commanding Officers, regarding Commander's Call and Hurricane Bertha"
 - (16) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Support"
 - (17) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to RADM Johnson, regarding "Safety Standdown"

- (18) Composite Training Units Exercise (COMPTUEX), Puerto Rico Operating Area
- (19) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to Commander, HELANTISUBRON SEVEN
- (20) Port Visit: San Juan, Puerto Rico
- (21) "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to CDR Sanford, regarding "Port Visit San Juan 22-25 Aug"
- (22) "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Ramblings..."
- (23) "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to CDR Sanford, regarding "Ship Visit USS HAWES"
- (24) "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to Commanding Officers, regarding "Feedback"
- (25) "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders and Commanding Officers, regarding COMPTUEX Performance
- (26) Change of Command, Plan of the Day and Program
- (27) CDR Sanford's Relief of Command speech
- (28) Ship Visit by Reunionees of the former USS FRANCIS M. ROBINSON
- (29) Port Visit: Rota, Spain; Turnover with USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY to assume STANAVFORMED duties
- (30) "Personal For" message from CDR Bigelow to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding Venom 504 Helicopter Status
- (31) "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to Commanding Officers, regarding "Anticipated O&MN Funding Shortfall"
- (32) Port Visit: Trieste, Italy
- (33) Port Visit: Venice, Italy
- (34) Welcome Aboard pamphlet with Commanding Officer's biography insert
- (35) Color photographs of CDR J. A. Sanford and CDR D. D. Bigelow
- (36) 3.5" Diskette with cover letter, enclosures (1), (2), (4) through (12), (16), (17), (19), (20), (22), (25), (27), and (29) through (33)

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for calendar year 1996 for USS HAWES (FFG 53) (UIC: 21234) is submitted for review.

2. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission: Multi-mission platform capable of performing in a variety of roles ranging from convoy escort to anti-air and

anti-surface warfare. The addition of Naval Tactical Data System, Light Airborne Multi-Purpose helicopters, and the Tactical Towed Array System (TACTAS) has given USS HAWES a combat capability far beyond the class program expectations of the mid-1970's, and has made the ship an integral and valued asset in virtually any war-at-sea scenario.

b. Organizational structure: The immediate senior command is Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three Two (UIC: 0137A). Aircraft assigned to the unit are supplied by Helicopter Squadron Light, Detachment Five, from Mayport, Florida (UIC: 55151).

c. Name of commander: David D. Bigelow (CDR, USN).

d. Permanent duty station: Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia.

e. Type and number of aircraft assigned: One SH-60B LAMPS Helicopter. Maximum capability is two helicopters.

3. Chronology is contained in enclosure (1).

4. Descriptive narrative is contained in enclosure (2).

5. Supporting documents are contained in enclosures (3) through (36).

5. This cover letter, enclosures (1), (2), (4) through (12), (16), (17), (19), (20), (22), (25), (27), and (29) through (33) are included in computer file format in enclosure (36), as Word Perfect 6.0a and ASCII format.


D. D. BIGELOW

Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Six

COMMAND HISTORY

Chronology

29 Dec - 08 Jan Second Christmas Leave Period
01 Jan Admiral Arleigh Burke passed away
02 Jan Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA) commences
15 Jan Dr. Martin Luther King JR. Day
18 Jan Navy Food Management Team Assist
22 - 29 Jan 76mm Gun Mount Ordnance Alterations
22 Jan Micro-Miniature Repair Recertification
24 Jan EOSS Ship check
25 Jan Anti-Surface Warfare Exercise: TRBATGRU SLAMEX
(14-95)
25 Jan Yellow Fever shots given to everyone
26 Jan Shipwide Zone Inspection
29 Jan SRA Space Turnover
30 Jan Light-Off Assessment (LOA) ONE
30 Jan - 02 Feb Ordnance Handling Assist Team Visit
31 Jan STG1(SW) [REDACTED] selected as DESRON THREE
TWO Sailor of the Year for 1995.
05 Feb Magazine Sprinkler Safety Inspection
06 Feb LOA TWO
06 - 07 Feb TEMPEST Inspection
08 Feb USS HAWES on the World Wide Web at URL
<http://www.navy.mil/homepages/uss-hawes>.
09 Feb SRA Ends
13 Feb Dock Trials / Fast Cruise
15 Feb Second Day for Dock Trials / Fast Cruise
15 Feb Sea Trials, Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA)
20 Feb Underway (U/W) for Yorktown, Virginia
21 - 22 Feb Onload Yorktown, Virginia
22 Feb U/W from Yorktown, Virginia
23 Feb Returned to port Norfolk, VA
24 - 25 Feb Visit Ship
27 Feb - 01 Mar Command Assessment of Readiness and Training
(CART) TWO (**see Enclosure 3**)
04 - 08 Mar Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) ONE:
Engineering Training Group (ETG) (VCOA)
11 - 15 Mar Personnel/Admin Training Group (PATG) Visit
11 - 15 Mar Aviation Certification (AVCERT) Tech Assist Visit
11 - 15 Mar COMDESRON THREE TWO Flagship
11 - 15 Mar TSTA ONE: Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG)

Enclosure (1)

(Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia (NORVA))

13 Mar CMS Advice and Assist Visit

13 Mar Postal Assist Visit

14 - 15 Mar Semi-annual physical fitness test

15 Mar HAWES "adopts" the Kemps Landing Magnet School in support of the Adopt-A-School program. (see **Enclosure 4**)

18 - 29 Mar TSTA ONE: Force Training Group (FTG) (VCOA)

23 Mar Burial at Sea at 0830

24 Mar "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Howgozit" (see **Enclosure 5**)

25 Mar 76mm PACFIRE

26 Mar "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Engineering Readiness Process Improvement Input" (see **Enclosure 6**)

29 Mar "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders, Commanding Officers, regarding "COMPTUEX Guidance" (see **Enclosure 7**)

01 - 02 Apr Make-up for Semi-annual physical fitness test

01 - 04 Apr Navy Food Management Team Visit

01 - 05 Apr TSTA TWO: CSTG (NORVA)

01 - 05 Apr Explosive Safety Inspection

01 - 05 Apr Industrial Hygiene Survey (EPMU-2)

05 Apr "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to CDR Peppe (CO, USS ATLANTA), regarding "Submarine Hospitality" (see **Enclosure 8**)

08 - 12 Apr TSTA TWO: Engineering Training Group (ETG) (VCOA)

08 - 12 Apr SOSMRC/PCO Visit

10 Apr High Power Demonstration of Main Engines

15 - 19 Apr Environmental Health Survey (EPMU-2)

15 - 19 Apr TSTA TWO: CSTG (NORVA)

16 Apr Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) / TARGET Pre-brief

22 Apr Shift to Summer Uniforms

23 Apr DNA Sampling for Administration and Supply Departments

29 Apr "Personal For" message from Chief Staff Officer (DESRON THREE TWO) to Commanding Officers, regarding Commanding Officers Meeting (see **Enclosure 9**)

29 Apr - 03 May TSTA TWO: CSTG (VCOA)

03 May Ship Service Diesel Generators (SSDGs) Inspection

Enclosure (1)

06 May Mk-92 Weapon System Cooling Ordnance Alteration (ORDALT)

06 - 09 May DNA Sampling for Engineering Department

07 May #1 Electrical Switchboard Cleaning

08 - 24 May Venezuelan Officers embarked

08 May Fast Cruise

09 May #4 Electrical Switchboard Cleaning

10 May Nixie Combat IC Swbd, High Speed Fleet Broadcast Upgrades

13 May VBSS Training and Merchant Vessel Familiarization

13 May Underwater Hull Cleaning

13 - 17 May PARSE Elevator Assessment

13 - 17 May CIWS 60 HZ Suppressor and Safety Inspection

13 - 17 May AN/WSN-2 Gyro Improvements

13 - 17 May NTCS-A Software Upgrade

14 May "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to Commanding Officers, regarding Warfare Commanders Conference Preparations (**see Enclosure 10**)

17 May Helicopter Fire-fighting Team Evaluation

20 May High Power Demonstration of Main Engines

21 May ALNAV Note 026/96. Passing of the Chief of Naval Operations. ALNAV Note 027/96. Assumption of Duty.

20 - 24 May TSTA TWO: Engineering Certification, PEB (NORVA)

27 May - 21 Jun Midshipmen Embarked for Summer Training (**see Enclosure 11**)

28 May Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase I

31 May Kemps Landing Graduation rehearsal

01 Jun Kemps Landing Magnet School Graduation onboard

01 - 21 Jun Embark Venezuelan Officers

05 Jun "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders, Commanding Officers, regarding Battle Group Quality Implementations (**see Enclosure 12**)

10 - 14 Jun TSTA THREE: Final Evaluation Period (FEP) Rehearsal (VCOA) (**see Enclosure 13**)

15 - 17 Jun Hydrogen Sulfide Detector Install

17 - 28 Jun Warfare Commanders Conference

17 - 21 Jun Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) / Aviation Certification (AVCERT)

19 Jun Warfare Team Trainer

19 Jun Command Advancement Promotion Board

19 Jun Small Arms Range Qualification

24 - 25 Jun Fire-fighting Team Evaluation

24 - 27 Jun VBSS Training

Enclosure (1)

24 - 28 Jun Indoctrination for New Personnel
 26 Jun Damage Control Team Trainer
 01 Jul All-Hands Safety Stand-Down (**see Enclosure 14**)
 02 Jul Pre-FEP Fast Cruise
 03 Jul Mock CMTQ Exams for watchstanders
 04 Jul INDEPENDENCE DAY, Four-day Holiday before Final
 Evaluation Period (FEP)
 08 - 11 Jul FEP (VCOA)
 12 Jul All Hands Hurricane Evasion Training (Site TV)
 13 Jul Underway evading Hurricane Bertha
 13 Jul "Personal For" message from VADM Clark to
 Commanding Officers, regarding Commander's Call
 and Hurricane Bertha" (**see Enclosure 15**)
 13 Jul "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to
 COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Support" (**see
 Enclosure 16**)
 14 Jul (Sunday) Return to Norfolk, VA
 22 Jul "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to RADM
 Johnson, regarding "Safety Standdown" (**see
 Enclosure 17**)
 19 Jul - 01 Aug Non-Skid Resurfacing
 22 - 26 Jul Underwater Hull Cleaning
 22 - 26 Jul Collection and Holding Tank (CHT) System Cleaning
 22 Jul - 04 Aug Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) TWO
 26 Jul XO Turnover: CDR (SEL) R. G. Bowdish, relieved by
 LCDR S. D. Mank
 30 Jul Small Arms Range Qualification
 31 Jul - 02 Aug Damage Control Olympics
 02 Aug Underwater Hull Cleaning
 02 Aug Non-Skid Resurfacing
 06 Aug COMDESRON THREE TWO Change of Command
 08 Aug - 06 Sep Composite Training Units Exercise (COMPTUEX),
 Puerto Rico Operating Area (**see Enclosure
 18**)
 14 Aug "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to
 Commander, HELANTISUBRON SEVEN (**see Enclosure 19**)
 16 Aug MISSILEX
 22 - 25 Aug Port Visit: San Juan, Puerto Rico (**see Enclosure
 20**)
 26 Aug "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to CDR
 Sanford, regarding "Port Visit San Juan 22-25 Aug"
 (**see Enclosure 21**)
 29 Aug "Personal For" message from CDR Sanford to
 COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding "Ramblings..."

Enclosure (1)

(see Enclosure 22)

30 Aug "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to CDR Sanford, regarding "Ship Visit USS HAWES" (see Enclosure 23)

30 Aug "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to Commanding Officers, regarding "Feedback" (see Enclosure 24)

01 - 03 Sep Integrated Training Assessment (ITA) Begins

04 Sep "Personal For" message from RADM Johnson to Commanders and Commanding Officers, regarding COMPTUEX Performance (see Enclosure 25)

09 Sep - 07 Oct Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with SIMA NORVA

11 - 16 Sep Nauticus Ship Visit

13 Sep Change of Command (see Enclosure 26 and 27)

18 Sep Pre-Deployment Supply Assist

19 Sep Small Arms Range Qualification

19 Sep Medical Quality Assist Visit

30 Sep - 04 Oct Semi-annual physical fitness test

01 - 04 Oct PARSE Visit

01 Oct Medical Readiness Formal Inspection

01 Oct Ship Visit by Reunionees of the former USS FRANCIS M. ROBINSON (see Enclosure 28)

02 - 04 Oct Damage Control Olympics consisting of Pipepatching, Hose handling, and P-100 Operations.

07 Oct Fast Cruise

09 - 23 Oct Joint Fleet Exercise (JTSEX) (VCOA)

25 Oct - 25 Nov Prior Overseas Movement (POM)

28 Oct Shift to Winter Uniforms

01 - 03 Nov CHT Cleaning

05 Nov Radiation Day for ship's radars and radios systems

06 Nov POM Leave Turnover Day

18 Nov Handclasp Materials Onload for deployment

20 Nov POM Leave ends

20 Nov Fast Cruise for deployment preparations

25 Nov Departure for Mediterranean Deployment (97-1)

27 Nov Rendezvous between the DESRON THREE TWO and the Amphibious Readiness Group

08 - 13 Dec Port Visit: Rota, Spain; Turnover with USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY for STANAVFORMED duties (see Enclosure 29)

12 Dec "Personal For" message from CDR Bigelow to COMDESRON THREE TWO, regarding Venom 504 Helicopter Status (see Enclosure 30)

Enclosure (1)

13 Dec "Personal For" message from COMDESRON THREE TWO to
Commanding Officers, regarding "Anticipated O&MN
Funding Shortfall" (**see Enclosure 31**)
20 - 27 Dec Port Visit: Trieste, Italy (**see Enclosure 32**)
30 Dec - 04 Jan Port Visit: Venice, Italy (**see Enclosure 33**)

Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Six

COMMAND HISTORY

Narrative

The second Christmas Leave period began 29 December and ended 08 January. On 01 January, Admiral Arleigh Burke passed into history. He is survived by the former Roberta "Bobbie" Gorsuch, his wife since 1923. He was interred at the U. S. Naval Academy cemetery with full honors on Thursday, 04 January. As authorized and directed by the Secretary of the Navy, the Ensign onboard all U. S. Navy ships, and all Naval bases, stations, and facilities was flown at half mast in honor of Admiral Burke until sunset on 04 January.

On 02 January, HAWES commenced its Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA) under the supervision of Dreadnaught Marine at the Norfolk International Pier (NIT). Ship's company moved to the Comfort Inn (Flash Town Point), 930 Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk, for off-ship berthing during the duration of the SRA. Transportation to and from the hotel was provided via the ship's MWR van. The Collection and Holding Tank (CHT) system on the ship was secured 03 January for repairs until approximately the 23rd of January. Duty section berthing and all messing occurred on the barge located aft of the ship.

During the weekend of 06 - 07 January, a severe snow storm brought the Hampton Roads area to a near shutdown with a total accumulation of seventeen inches.

Petty Officer Indoctrination for crewmen selected for advancement to Petty Officer Third Class in September 1995 was held from 08 - 12 January onboard the berthing barge.

Dr. Martin Luther King JR. Day was observed 15 January.

76mm Gun Mount ordnance alterations were conducted 22 - 29 January. These ORDALTs consisted of internal refurbishments of the cooling system and motor bearings.

XO's Note: "BZ to the Engineers, ECCET, DCCT, and Fire Parties for successfully validating the Main Space Fire portion of the LOA. This was originally scheduled during the week of 05 February, but you made it happen two weeks early (22 - 25 January). Well Done!"

During the period of 23 - 29 January, the ship's store was temporarily relocated to the berthing barge while the actual store was repainted with a new design and color scheme. Inputs were taken for suggestions of a new store name. Deadline was 30 January, with the result being "Pirate's Cove."

Enclosure (2)

Upon completion of the CHT overhaul on 25 January, ship's company starting moving back to the ship for messing and berthing.

On 30 January, COMDESRON THREE TWO nominated USS HAWES for the 1995 Phalanx CIWS Maintenance Excellence Award. HAWES' technicians maintained 100 percent CIWS readiness while deployed to the Mediterranean Sea during MED Deployment 95-2. In particular, HAWES operated independently for a majority of its MED Deployment from 22 March through 19 September 1995 and successfully represented our Navy during Operation Sharp Guard and Black Sea OPS. In addition to meeting the minimum requirements for the award, HAWES' CIWS training, space and equipment material condition, and systems performance were outstanding.

On 31 January, STG1(SW) [REDACTED] was selected as DESRON THREE TWO's Sailor of the Year for 1995.

On 3 February, HAWES sailors participated in the NAB Little Creek (Rockwell Hall), Southeast Virginia (Area two) Special Olympics annual basketball tournament from 0830 to 1700. Volunteers served as buddies, time keepers and score keepers for the event. More than 300 athletes from Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake participated. DC2 [REDACTED] was HAWES' representative for the Polar Bear Club of Norfolk in support of the Special Olympics. Pledges were taken and approximately eight people participated in the swim.

On 05 February, approximately 20 crew members participated in the Bone Marrow drive aboard USS NASSAU.

On 08 February, USS HAWES became a part of the technology race by joining the World Wide Web at URL <http://www.navy.mil/homepages/uss-hawes>.

The SRA ended 09 February, with Dock Trials, Fast Cruise, and Sea Trials (Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA)) following within the next week.

Effective at 1030, 16 February, RADM G. G. Johnson relieved RADM W. F. Fallon as Commander, THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group and Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT, HAWES' Group Comamnder.

With the SRA completed and Sea Trials satisfactory, HAWES proceeded to is weapons onload on 20 February, underway to Yorktown, Virginia. Underway from Yorktown, Virginia on 22 February, XO's note for the POD read: "Great job of getting the ship underway for the first since the SRA! Also, BZ for a safe and efficient ammo onload. Bring on CART 2!"

On 23 February, HAWES returned to port Norfolk, VA, albeit with a particularly challenging Low Visibility Sea and Anchor

Enclosure (2)

maneuvering detail. XO's Note: "Bravo Zulu to all involved for an outstanding low visibility, Sea and Anchor detail. Well done." HAWES was next tasked with ready duty ship for public tours and conducted Visit Ship for the following weekend of 24 - 25 February. On 27 February, an awards ceremony was held onboard along with a brief audience with the new Commander, THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group.

"Leap-day" was observed 29 February.

On 05 March, COMSECONDFLT Changed Command: "As I turn over command to VADM Clark today, I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to all men and women of SECONDFLT and to the TYCOMS and their staffs for the superb support during the past 20 months. From Haiti operations, to hurricane Felix evasion, to the joint task force exercise sorties, no one could have asked for a better team of professionals to execute our taskings, do them right, and do them safely. And we all learned some things as we went along. I know SECONDFLT will continue to flourish under the strong leadership of VADM Clark, and know all of you will continue to give 100 percent. I will watch with great pride. Again, my personal thanks to each of you. All the best, VADM Jay Johnson."

Assumed COMDESRON THREE TWO Flagship responsibilities 11 - 15 March.

On 13 March, at 1800-1900, NJROTC students from Cleveland High School in St. Louis, Missouri visited the ship.

The Semi-annual physical fitness test was held 14 - 15 March, with a makeup session 01 - 02 April.

On 08 April, several prospective Commanding Officers (and one curious submarine officer) joined HAWES during its TSTA TWO training cycle. XO's Note: "Welcome aboard to our PCO guests CDR Cain (PCO, USS Clark), CDR Sprague (PCO, USS Kauffman), CDR Wray (PCO, USS Carr), ETG, and LTJG [redacted] [submarine officer] of the USS Atlanta."

On 13 April, approximately 13 HAWES' sailors participated in the United Cerebral Palsy Annual "Walk with us-a-thon" at the Virginia zoo.

On 17 April, an awards ceremony was held onboard along with a brief audience with COMDESRON THREE TWO, Commodore Parker.

Shifted to Summer Uniforms 22 April.

On 08 May, 67 Educators for NRD Atlanta came aboard for an orientation visit to see what the capabilities of a U. S. Navy Frigate portrayed in the warfighting and peace-keeping strategy of the U. S. Navy.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day was observed 10 May.

On 21 May, the Secretary of the Navy released ALNAV Note

Enclosure (2)

026/96 (Passing of the Chief of Naval Operations) and ALNAV Note 027/96 (Assumption of Duty). "It is with great sadness that I must confirm that our Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Boorda, died 17 May 1996, from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay L. Johnson, is acting CNO until further notice."

On 28 May, a frocking ceremony for all petty officers selected for advancement in the March 1996 Advancement Exams was held onboard along with a brief audience with COMCARGRU EIGHT.

On 29 May, COMDESRON THREE TWO issued the following Well Done note: "Congratulations on the results of your ECERT. Successful completion of this certification is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the entire HAWES Team. A special BZ to your Engineers for their commitment to the highest of engineering standards and their leadership in spearheading the crew's successful effort in achieving this demanding goal. Your hard work will benefit all hands during the upcoming months and through our deployment. I'm confident of your continuing success." Best Wishes, Commodore Parker.

On 01 July, the Norfolk Naval Base area telephone Area Code changed from 804 to 757.

INDEPENDENCE DAY and a four-day holiday before the Final Evaluation Period (FEP) was observed for 04 - 07 July.

FEP was conducted in the VCOA during the period 08 - 11 July. Hurricane Bertha preempted a previously-scheduled port visit to Port Canaveral, Florida; this visit was originally scheduled as a relaxation visit after FEP, for a time when crew members could take a break with their families and enjoy the local area of Port Canaveral. The ship eventually returned to Norfolk, VA on Sunday, 14 July.

On 18 July, CINCLANTFLT released this note: "Once again LANTFLT readiness was tested by Hurricane Bertha. Sound judgement, preparation and teamwork were the decisive factors in controlling a destructive and life threatening situation. From detailed weather forecasts, smartly executed emergency sorties of ships and aircraft and superb base operations support, you performed superbly. your unyielding commitment to ensuring the safety of the fleet reinforced your reputation as the finest Sailors in the world. The resourcefulness you displayed in the face of adversity is a source of great personal and professional pride for all Atlantic Fleet. Remember this is just the start of the hurricane season. I am sure we will be tested again. ADM W. J. Flanagan, JR. sends."

On 26 July, the position of Executive Officer was passed

Enclosure (2)

from CDR (SEL) R. G. Bowdish to LCDR S. D. Mank.

On 01 August, CO's note for the POD: BRAVO ZULU!!! "Special recognition to the engineering watchstanders and members of the Duty Section Two Inport Fire Party for their quick reaction to the fuel oil leak in AMR2 yesterday. You acted with speed and precision and averted what could have been a disaster for the ship. Keep up the great work!"

The Change of Command preparations were begun well before COMPTUEX (08 August - 06 September). The ship was moved to downtown Norfolk, Virginia to the Nauticus Naval Museum at the Waterside park area for the ship's visit duration of 11 - 16 September. The Change of Command occurred on Friday, 13 September 1996; CDR James A. Sanford was relieved by CDR David D. Bigelow. (see Enclosure 26 and 27)

On 01 October, reunionees of the former USS FRANCIS M. ROBINSON visited the ship as representatives of the last of the World War One destroyer escorts; their visit marked the "passing of the torch" from the old destroyer escorts to the new frigates. (see Enclosure 28)

On 25 October, POD note from the Captain: "The Commodore was aboard today. We talked about JTFEX. He and the Admiral were both very pleased with HAWES' performance during this underway. Whether we were engaging opposition forces aircraft, finding submarines, boarding suspect merchant vessels, replenishing, operating helicopters, every department was challenged and every department met the challenge head on--and won. Good on ya'! Enjoy the POM period, enjoy your leave (if you're taking some) and we'll see you when it's time for cruise."

Prior Overseas Movement occurred 25 October - 20 November. Shifted to Winter Uniforms 28 October.

On 22 November, XO's Welcome Aboard Note: "Welcome aboard to LT Noriaki Wada of the Brazilian Navy. LT Wada will be with us for the deployment as part of a Personnel Exchange Program between the Brazilian and U.S. Navy. For those who are wondering about the officer who appears to be Japanese, that's LT Wada! Welcome aboard shipmate!"

On 25 November 1996, USS HAWES departed for the Mediterranean Deployment (97-1), to return 23 May 1997.

Enclosure (2)