



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HAWES (FFG 53)
FPO AE 09573-1507

Rayo 2/25/98
W/O Lbr
5750
Ser FFG53/023
6 Feb 98

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Chronology
(2) Descriptive narrative
(3) Port Visit: Venice, Italy
(4) Burial at Sea ceremony
(5) "Bravo Zulu" note to USS HAWES from USS CARR
(6) Port Visit: Brindisi, Italy
(7) Port Visit: Naples, Italy; SNFM Forces "Join-Up"
(8) Port Visit: Tunis, Tunisia
(9) SNFM Forces Commanding Officer's SITREP for SNFM forces
(10) "Happy Birthday" to USS HAWES
(11) Port Visit: Toulon, France
(12) Daily SITREP from Commander SNFM Forces acknowledging HAWES' detachment from SNFM Forces; HAWES' Farewell response
(13) Email regarding HAWES' Pen Pals
(14) Port Visit: Trieste, Italy
(15) Personal "Thank you" from COMCARGRU EIGHT and COMSIXTHFLT for INVITEX participation
(16) Port Visit: Bari, Italy; Turnover STANAVFORMED (SNFM) duties with USS CARR (FFG 52)
(17) Mid Cycle Assessment (MCA)
(18) "Bravo Zulu" to USS HAWES for excellence awards for the 01 January 1996 - 31 December 1996 award cycle
(19) Port Visit: La Maddalena, Sardegna; Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33)
(20) Port Visit: Tunis, Tunisia
(21) HAWES participates in Community Relations (COMREL) project, refurbishing a local church in Tunis, Tunisia.
(22) "Personal For" message from Commodore Golden to CDR Bigelow, regarding "Bravo Zulu" for Operation Silver Wake support
(23) Wreath Laying ceremony at the U. S. Military Cemetery in Tunis, Tunisia
(24) Some more feedback for HAWES' Pen Pals
(25) Congratulatory note from U. S. Embassy Tunis(Tunisia) to USS HAWES

- (26) Port Visit: Catania, Sicily
- (27) Port Visit: Varna, Bulgaria
- (28) Port Visit: Constanta, Romania
- (29) Port Visit: Odesa, Ukraine
- (30) "Bravo Zulu" from Charge D' Affaires, A.I. for HAWES' port visit to Romania
- (31) Port Visit: Novorossiysk, Russia
- (32) Port Visit: Izmir, Turkey
- (33) "Bravo Zulu" message from CINCUSNAVEUR for CJTF Silver Wake participants
- (34) Enlisted Warfare Qualifications Policy Changes
- (35) "Thank you" from ADM Larson for USNA Port Visit
- (36) Meritorious Unit Commendation Citation
- (37) Welcome Aboard pamphlet with Commanding Officer's biography insert
- (38) Color photograph of CDR D. D. Bigelow
- (39) 3.5" Diskette with cover letter, enclosures (1) and (2)

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for calendar year 1997 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 (38).

6. This cover letter and enclosures (1) and (2) are saved as MS Word 4.0.



D. B. FIGGELOW

Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Seven
COMMAND HISTORY
Chronology

01 - 04 Jan Port visit Venice, Italy.
04 Jan Safety Stand Up: Medical Training, "Back in the Saddle" Safety
04 - 05 Jan Patrol Adriatic Sea
06 Jan Burial at Sea ceremony (**see Enclosure 3**)
06 Jan Turnover Standing Forces (SFOR) CTG 436.01 duties to TCG ADATEPE
06 - 09 Jan Transit Adriatic / Central Mediterranean (CMED): Multi-mission Operations with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group units
10 - 16 Jan Port Visit: Brindisi, Italy (**see Enclosure 4**)
13 Jan "Bravo Zulu" note to USS HAWES from USS CARR (**see Enclosure 5**)
17 Jan DK1(SW) [REDACTED] selected as HAWES' Sailor of the Year for 1996. GSE2(SW) [REDACTED] and SM3 [REDACTED] selected as HAWES' Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively for 4th Quarter 1996.
17 - 19 Jan Transit Adriatic / CMED, enroute to Naples, Italy
20 Jan Observed DR. Martin Luther King's birthday
20 - 24 Jan Port Visit: Naples, Italy; SNFM Forces "Join-Up" (**see Enclosure 6**)
22 Jan Members of ship's company attend Papal Audience in Rome, Italy
25 - 31 Jan Standing NATO Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) Basic Combat Enhancement Training (BCET), CMED/Adriatic Sea
01 - 06 Feb Port Visit: Tunis, Tunisia (**see Enclosure 7**)
06 Feb SNFM Forces Commanding Officer's Situation Report (SITREP) for SNFM forces (**see Enclosure 8**)
07 - 12 Feb SNFM Intermediate Combat Enhancement Training (ICET)
09 Feb "Happy Birthday" to USS HAWES (**see Enclosure 9**)
13 - 21 Feb Port Visit: Toulon, France (**see Enclosure 10**)
21 Feb HAWES MED Deployment 97-1 Halfway Night Gala: Pizza, assorted cookies, and ice cream served on the mess decks, while BINGO, card games and movies entertained the crew. The ship's store held a three-day sale on selected items. TRBATGRU completes first half of MED Tour.
22 Feb-03 Mar Exercise DOGFISH 97, CMED
04 - 07 Mar Exercise INVITEX 97-1, Adriatic / CMED
06 Mar Command Assessment survey conducted
07 Mar Daily SITREP from Commander SNFM Forces acknowledging HAWES' detachment from SNFM Forces. HAWES' farewell response follows. (**see Enclosure 11**)

08 Mar Email regarding HAWES' Pen Pals (**see Enclosure 12**)

08 - 12 Mar Port Visit: Trieste, Italy (**see Enclosure 13**)

10 Mar COMCARGRU EIGHT and COMSIXTHFLT extend a "Well Done" and their personal "Thank You" for all participants in INVITEX 97-1. (**see Enclosure 14**)

13 Mar Port Visit: Bari, Italy; Turnover STANAVFORMED (SNFM) duties with USS CARR (FFG 52) (**see Enclosure 15**)

13 - 16 Mar Mid Cycle Assessment (MCA) (**see Enclosure 16**)

16 Mar "Bravo Zulu" to USS HAWES for excellence awards for the 01 January 1996 - 31 December 1996 award cycle. (**see Enclosure 17**)

19 - 22 Mar Port Visit: La Maddalena, Sardegna; Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33) (**see Enclosure 18**)

22 - 23 Mar CMED Operations

24 - 26 Mar Port Visit: Tunis, Tunisia (**see Enclosure 19**)

25 Mar HAWES participates in Community Relations (COMREL) project, refurbishing a local church in Tunis, Tunisia. (**see Enclosure 20**)

25 Mar "Personal For" message from Commodore Golden to CDR Bigelow, regarding "Bravo Zulu" for Operation Silver Wake support (**see Enclosure 21**)

26 Mar Wreath Laying ceremony at the U. S. Military Cemetery in Tunis, Tunisia (**see Enclosure 22**)

27 - 30 Mar CMED Operations

28 Mar Some more feedback for HAWES' Pen Pals (**see Enclosure 23**)

28 Mar Congratulatory note from U. S. Embassy Tunis (Tunisia) to USS HAWES (**see Enclosure 24**)

30 Mar Observed Easter Sunday

31 Mar-06 Apr Port Visit: Catania, Sicily (**see Enclosure 25**)

11 - 14 Apr Port Visit: Varna, Bulgaria (**see Enclosure 26**)

14 - 16 Apr Port Visit: Constanta, Romania (**see Enclosure 27**)

18 - 20 Apr Port Visit: Odesa, Ukraine (**see Enclosure 28**)

21 Apr "Bravo Zulu" from Charge D' Affaires, A.I. for Romania port visit (**see Enclosure 29**)

22 - 24 Apr Port Visit: Novorossiysk, Russia (**see Enclosure 30**)

28 - 30 Apr Port Visit: Izmir, Turkey (**see Enclosure 31**)

28 Apr-07 May Exercise DISTANT THUNDER, CMED

29 Apr "Well Done" to the CJTF Silver Wake Team from CINCUSNAVEUR (**see Enclosure 32**)

11 May Turnover Mediterranean Deployment duties to the USS JOHN HANCOCK

11 - 19 May Return transit from Mediterranean Ocean to Bermuda

19 May Anchorage in Bermuda for "Early Bird" offload and "Tiger" onload

19 - 22 May Return transit from Bermuda to Homeport Norfolk, Virginia

22 May-23 Jun Post Deployment Leave / Upkeep

23 Jun-26 Jun Pre-AVCERT Tech Assist

27 Jun Fast Cruise

30 Jun-02 Jul Pre INSURV underway rehearsal

01 Jul VADM Henry C. Giffin, III assumes command as Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic

04 Jul Independence Day

07 Jul-08 Jul Ammunition Offload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station

08 Jul Family Day Cruise

11 Jul Prospective COMDESRON 32, CAPT Reese visits

14 - 18 Jul Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV)

15 Jul Underway Material Inspection

18 Jul HAWES is found fit for further service by INSURV

21 Jul CAPT Reese assumes command as Commander Destroyer Squadron Three Two

28 Jul-01 Aug Engineering Training Group Pre Light-off Training I/II

29 - 30 Jul Command Semi-annual Physical Readiness Test

01 Aug Underway for Nauticus Visit

01 - 03 Aug Nauticus visit

04 Aug Underway to Norfolk Naval Shipyard

04 Aug-10 Oct Restricted Availability at Norfolk Naval Shipyard

26 - 29 Aug PQS Assist Visit

28 Aug Changeout of 1B Gas Turbine Engine

04 Sep Mid-Term Restricted Availability Conference

09 Sep MMCM(SS/SW/AW) James L. Herdt is selected as the new Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

08 Sep CNO announces planned policy changes to the Enlisted Warfare Qualification Standard (**see Enclosure 34**)

24 - 25 Sep COMDESRON 32 Drill Assessment Team Visit

30 Sep General Hue Shelton, USA assumes duty as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

03 Oct Overhaul of Engineering/Supply Berthing Complete

06 - 10 Oct Pre Light Off Training (PLOT III)

09 Oct Fast Cruise

06 - 10 Oct CINCLANTFLT Surprise Disbursing Audit

10 Oct Transit to Norfolk Naval Station

20 Oct Aviation Certification Tech Assist

27 - 30 Oct Underway VACAPES OPAREA

30 Oct-03 Nov Port Visit: Annapolis, MD

04 - 07 Nov Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Assist Visit

10 - 14 Nov Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II

14 Nov VADM William J. Fallon, USN relieved VADM V. E. Clark, USN as Commander Second Fleet

17 - 18 Nov Ammunition Onload, Yorktown, VA

19 - 25 Nov Intermediate Logistics Offload (ILO) Team Visit
20 Nov Command Personnel Inspection
20 Nov Navy Somkeout Day
21 Nov LCDR Ronald C. Merritt relieved LCDR Shawn D. Mank
as Executive Officer in HAWES
02 Dec HAWES awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation
for participation in Operation Silver Wake from
12 - 15 March 1997.
03 - 05 Dec Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I for
Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG), Inport
08 - 12 Dec TSTA I for CSTG and Fleet Training Group (FTG),
Underway in VACAPES OPAREAS
13 Dec HAWES Children's Christmas Party
15 - 19 Dec TSTA I for FTG, Inport
19 Dec-04 Jan Holiday Leave and Upkeep

Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Seven
COMMAND HISTORY
Narrative

The new year was celebrated in port Venice, Italy.

Stabilization Forces (SFOR) operations were conducted 04 through 06 January.

A Burial at Sea ceremony was conducted on 06 January, 1997 with full military honors, underway in the Adriatic Sea.

Dr. Martin Luther King JR. Day was observed 20 January.

On 22 January, HAWES crew members visited Rome, Italy and attended a Papal Audience in the courtyard in front of the Vatican. Afterwards, crew members had a few hours to visit the Sistine Chapel and local Italian shops and restaurants.

On 30 January, several crew members exchanged position with Greek sailors on the Greek frigate, HS HYDRA, in support of the Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) "CROSSPOLL" evolutions. ENS [REDACTED], OS2 [REDACTED], GSE2(SW) [REDACTED], and GMM3 [REDACTED] spent the day onboard, learning about differences in culture and underway operations of the Greek Navy.

USS HAWES celebrated its twelfth birthday on 09 February 1997. Congratulatory notes received from its sponsor, Ms. Ruth Hawes Watson and HAWES' adopted school in Norfolk, Virginia, Kemps Landing Magnet School.

MED Deployment 97-1 halfway night festivities were celebrated 21 February with much anticipation. Pizza, assorted cookies, and ice cream were among the various items on the appetizing menu. Games included rounds of BINGO, dominoes, and cards. Movies were shown throughout the night. A good time was had by all participants. Half-way through deployment, half-way to go.

HAWES detached from Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean (SNFM) on 06 March 1997 after a spirited "Sail Past" of six other ships in the SNFM battle group. Upon coming alongside the flagship, the Greek frigate HS HYDRA, "Cheer Ship" commenced. Firehoses with colored water were sprayed over the side, alarms sounded, and the full spread of national ensigns (one for each participating unit's country) were flown from the main halyard. Salutes were heartily exchanged and HAWES pulled away at Flank, 30 knots ahead. USS CARR would later relieve HAWES of her duties, on 13 March.

During the second port visit to Tunis, Tunisia, on 26 March, HAWES sailors participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the U. S. Military Cemetery of Tunis. This action was out of respect for those who gave their lives in the landings in, and occupation of, Morocco and Algeria and in subsequent fighting which culminated in the liberation of Tunisia.

Upon departure from Tunisia, the U. S. Embassy sent a congratulatory message to the officers and crew of HAWES for conducting an excellent port visit. "Faced with a daunting and demanding protocol schedule which began immediately on day one,

the crew proved to be flexible and exceptional hosts. The refined and gracious hospitality shown to the international community was superb."

On 30 March, HAWES observed Easter Sunday underway with a special Holiday routine, religious services and a special dinner.

Upon arrival in Catania, Sicily for the period 31 March to 06 April, HAWES commenced the necessary final preparations and repairs prior to transiting northeast to the Black Sea for a busy schedule of operations in April. The port visit was also a much needed time for crew rest and relaxation, as well as use of the Sigonella Air Base NEX and Commissary facilities. On the morning of 07 April, HAWES promptly set sail for the Black Sea.

Black Sea operations began with the northbound transit of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Turkish Straits on 10 April.

HAWES pulled into the first of four Black Sea ports, Varna, Bulgaria on 11 April. Despite chilling late-winter winds, the crew enjoyed touring the small city of Varna, taking in the local shops and two evenings of Bulgarian folk dancing and dining. As a whole, this would eventually be voted the most-entertaining port visit in the Black Sea.

Next on the agenda was an adventurous transit north to Constanta, Romania. Departure from Varna occurred early morning on 14 April; this would turn out to be the roughest transit in the Black Sea, with winds consistently 30-40 knots from the North and sea states 7-15 feet. With arrival at the outer harbor of Constanta late in the evening on the 14th, also came the peak of the worse storm in 30 years and unusually cold weather. The harbor was closed with the exception of our arrival; all other ships were forced to ride the storm out at sea.

In Constanta, the highlight of the visit was a tour to Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle) in central Romania. Close to one third of the crew departed for a twenty-two hour trek throughout the Romanian country-side, stopping at the Peles Castle (former royal residence in Sinaia), Poiana Brasov ski resort with lunch at the "Outlaw's Hut" Restaurant, Bran Village and Castle, and Romainia's capital of Bucharest. Shopping in town proved to be the most-profitable with crystal and china being the popular purchases.

Departure from Constanta was in the morning of 17 April with an overnight transit to Odesa, Ukraine, and arrival the next morning. Odesa was a welcome port visit, in the heart of the city and close to the welcoming crowds. Although the architecture of the city has suffered from years of weather, the people of Odesa showed much western influence and were very sociable to the crew of HAWES. Tours were held as in the other Black Sea ports, with enthusiastic attendance and always more people than time allowed. Some crew members participated in a spirited wreath laying ceremony with about 75 cadets of the Ukrainian Military Academy; following the ceremony, tours of the

city were presented. Finally, during the night before departure, approximately thirty crew members attended an entertaining and picturesque Odesa Opera and Ballet theater, followed by one last night of restaurants and shopping.

Departure occurred on 21 April with a day and half transit through the Black Sea to the last port visit of Novorossiysk, Russia, a naturally deep harbor set in the northeastern corner of the Black Sea. Despite the poor weather for arrival of winds and occasional precipitation, the next few days turned out nicely with a reception onboard for the guests of the Mayor of the city during the second evening inport. Sightseeing of the vineyards across the countryside were popular tours and daily interactions with the people of Novorossiysk was both intriguing and entertaining, as the HAWES sailors attempted to communicate and exchange emblems of American society with Russian citizens. All crew members left Novorossiysk with a finer appreciation for the one-time enemy of the United States.

Departure was during the late morning of 25 April with a fast transit across the widest part of the Black Sea, to the outbound transit of the Turkish Straits on 26 April.

The final port visit of Mediterranean Deployment 97-1 was in Izmir, Turkey in conjunction with the planning conferences for the Turkish exercise Distant Thunder. HAWES anchored in the outer harbor of Izmir, enjoying two short days filled with shopping in the Turkish Bazaar and gold jewelers in the heart of the city. Once the two days were complete and HAWES crew had "spent their last dollars overseas," the anchor was weighed for nine days of operations.

Finally, on 07 May, HAWES said "Goodbye" to their Turkish counterparts, and headed west for turnover duties with the USS JOHN HANCOCK. The final tasking occurred 11 May near the Straits of Gibraltar, and HAWES departed westbound at twenty knots, headed for homeport Norfolk, Virginia, via a short stop in Bermuda on 19 May for "tiger" onload and "early bird" offload.

On a beautiful sunny day, after three fun filled Tiger Cruise days, HAWES moored port side to pier five berth two to meet our loved ones. Hundreds of family and friends were on the pier to greet us. But, before the brow was opened to visitors the Commanding Officer officially tagged out the ship from operation with an enormous bright red danger tag, which he personally signed and hung at the quarterdeck for all to see. Leave and stand down period one commenced 22 May.

Everyone returned safe and well rested from leave and stand down on 23 June, ready to face an impending INSURV inspection.

The Senate confirmed the President's nomination of VADM Henry C. Giffin, as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet on 01 July.

Fast Cruise had a fair number of glitches, as expected after weeks of stand down but, it helped to restore our proficiency in conducting safe and successful underway evolutions. On 30 June

the training paid off when we commenced a very profitable pre-INSURV underway rehearsal. The schedule of events was smoothed out and everyone rehearsed their INSURV tasks. DESRON staff evaluated many areas of our preparations for a "pre-look". During the next two weeks the ship diligently corrected the last few discrepancies and improved on coordination of events. Our goal was to "keep the inspection moving" and to pack the underway material inspection day with continuous events. We met our goal, on 18 July HAWES was found fit for further service. Commodore Reese took note of our efforts and accomplishment. He remarked that "HAWES met the challenge and surpassed most other ships in the fleet... HAWES is a clean, well managed ship."

In the midst of all of the INSURV preparations, HAWES also conducted a very efficient ammunition offload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station from 07 through 08 July. On the return trip from Yorktown, families were allowed to embark for a day cruise down the York River. The day was clear and sunny, and all of the family members enjoyed the trip.

Commodore Reese relieved Commodore Benkert as Commander Destroyer Squadron Three Two in a ceremony held onboard USS RAMAGE (DDG 61) in Newport, Rhode Island on 21 July.

The Engineering Department took its first step in the new training cycle during the week of 28 July. Engineering Training Group came aboard to conduct Pre Light-off Training phase one and two. Their review of programs and material set goals the department needed to reach for the Engineering Certification.

On the way to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, a weekend stop was made at Nauticus. Hundreds of tourists visited the ship. The duty sections worked hard all weekend to ensure a professional presentation of the ship.

Monday morning, 04 August, HAWES arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard to commence a two month Restricted Availability period.

Weeks of training and preparation paid off when the PQS Assist Visit from the Readiness Support Group reviewed our records in late August. The inspector complimented the program's thoroughness and commented that it was one of the best administered PQS programs he had seen.

The change out of 1B Gas Turbine Engine happened quickly and smoothly on 28 August. The quick change out was a testament to Gas Turbine Engine Technology. A comparable engineering change out on a steam ship would have taken many weeks or maybe even months.

At the half way point of the restricted availability (RAV), ship's force and Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) work was right on track. The renovation work in Engineering and Supply Berthing was impressive. The entire berthing was gutted and new decking, bunks, and lockers are being installed. The end product will be something the crew will take pride in. The Alteration and Installation Team (AIT) contractors were also racing against the RAV "clock" to complete their jobs before we leave the

shipyard. The Torpedo Magazine modification proceeded on schedule. This modification will enable HAWES to carry MK 50 torpedoes and Penguin anti-surface missiles. The MK 50 will enhance the undersea warfare mission by giving us faster, longer range torpedoes. These new torpedoes also have a shaped charge warhead which can penetrate a double hull. The Penguin missiles will give our embarked helicopters offensive anti-surface warfare capability. The AIT contractors installing the plastic waste processor are a little behind schedule, but they will quickly gain on their project when the bulk of the machinery is installed. The plastic waste processor is part of a navy wide effort to protect the environment and to be conservation minded. Nearly all deployable navy ships are receiving a plastic waste processor. After the installation, all of the plastic waste generated by the ship, when underway, will be compacted by the processor and stored until the ship pulls into port. The compacted plastic will then be taken to a recycling station or be properly disposed.

During the last week of September, a couple of weeks prior to the Engineering Light Off Assessment, the DESRON Drill Assessment Team visited to evaluate our Inport Emergency Teams. The teams did well and HAWES took one more step towards engineering readiness.

On 03 October the civilian contractors and ship's force tiger team completed the overhaul of Engineering/Supply Berthing, one week early. The early completion was great for morale and scheduling. The crew was able to move off the berthing barge and get settled in before Pre Light Off Training (PLOT III) started. Personnel were able to concentrate their full attention on the PLOTT III training. This was key to the impressive presentation of the engineering plant readiness.

The results of the PLOTT III training impressed even the Commodore, who upgraded the training to a Light Off Assessment (LOA) certification. The Engineering Department and the entire ship worked for weeks preparing for the training. Two Main Space Fire Drills per week and daily practice of hot and cold checks for the ten weeks of the shipyard availability paid off. This achievement also boosted morale and improved the ship's schedule.

Getting underway on ship's power to leave the shipyard on 10 October was a satisfying reward for our efforts. If we had not performed so well, tugboats would have pushed the ship up to Norfolk Naval Station while the ship was dark and lifeless. HAWES left the shipyard, to begin work-up training, in control of her destiny.

The first opportunity to shed the drudgery of a two and one half month Restricted Availability and inport routine came on 27 October when we cast off lines to conduct independent underway training in the VACAPES OPAREA. Junior Officer ship handling, General Quarters, small boat operations, Combat Systems Training Team scenarios, and gun shoots highlighted the three days of fun

and training. A ship is meant to be at sea. After months of inport maintenance, everyone enjoyed the time underway.

A port visit to Annapolis, MD capped off the week of training. The crew enjoyed liberty and sight seeing in the historic town. The Captain dined with the Midshipmen for lunch in King Hall and the crew hosted tours of the ship for over 500 midshipmen. Ten Midshipmen embarked for the return transit and sea and anchor detail back to Norfolk, VA, and experienced their first steel beach picnic (in November) in the Navy.

After all of the fun of independent underway training we jumped right back into the scrutiny of another inspection team from 04 through 07 November. HAWES fared well even though the Logistics Management Assessment Team Assist Visit was scheduled on short notice with little time to prepare. The inspection concluded that our preventative maintenance accomplishment rates were above average and that our equipment validations were well above standards. Preventative maintenance procedure spot checks went well but, work needed to be done on Damage Control Petty Officer qualifications.

The very next week the scrutiny was increased as HAWES had to validate its Command Assessment of Readiness and Training. Volumes of checklists were utilized by the officers and crew to assess HAWES' readiness for training. Every aspect was covered from damage control to personnel qualifications to administration, etc. The ship had to make an honest inspection and assessment of itself. Then, during the week of 10 through 14 November, a score of Afloat Training Group (ATG) personnel came aboard to evaluate HAWES' assessment and decide how HAWES was to continue on with the training cycle. Specifically, the Captain and ATG decided which weak areas needed to be trained on during the rest of the Tailored Ship's Training Availabilities (TSTAs) based on the ship's self assessment, which was found to be accurate.

For the last two weeks of November the focus was on correcting as many material discrepancies and administrative shortcomings as possible before December when the TSTA starts. But, also during those two weeks HAWES conducted an ammunition onload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station. All of the rounds needed for training during TSTA were unloaded during a quick two days between 17 through 18 November.

On 20 November the crew assembled on the Flight Deck in Dress Blues for a Command Uniform Inspection. The inspection corresponded with the Executive Officer Turnover. LCDR Ronald C. Merritt had the chance to inspect his men before relieving LCDR Shawn D. Mank as Executive Officer on 21 November. The crew looked exceptionally smart for the inspection.

On the 02 December HAWES was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for participation in Operation Silver Wake from 12 through 15 March 1997.

The beginning of December also marked the beginning of the TSTA's. The TSTA's will extend through January to mid May and will prepare us for deployment. The different phases of training exercise single ship operations, then multi-ship operations, and finally battle group operations. During the first week of December the Combat Systems Department locked themselves in the Combat Information Center (CIC) to practice for their Cruise Missile Training Qualification. Day after day they ran drill after drill. The next week Seamanship and Navigation was stressed as HAWES operated in the VACAPES OPAREAS. Two anchoring evolutions, an underway replenishment, small boat operations (including putting the Search and Rescue Swimmer in 50 degree waters), and General Quarters filled the week. Watchstanders exercised their knowledge of the Commanding Officer's Battle Orders, emergency control procedures, as well as normal operating procedures. These were exciting and fun filled times packed with a lot of hard work and sweat.

The family members of HAWES started their holiday season with a cheery children's party at Chuck-E-Cheese. On 13 December, Santa set up his chair and listened to the children's Christmas wishes, while the parents took pictures and socialized. A few days later HAWES began its holiday leave and upkeep period, which lasted for two weeks and ended on 04 January 1998.