

USS HOPPER (DDG 70) COMMAND HISTORY 2001

1. Command Composition and Organization:

- a. Command Short Title: USS HOPPER (DDG 70).
- b. Unit Identification Code: 21944.
- c. Mission: Multi-mission AEGIS destroyer. Operate offensively or defensively in a high-density, multi-threat environment independently or as an integral member of a battle group, surface action group, amphibious task group, or underway replenishment group. Primary missions include Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Undersea Warfare and Strike Warfare.
- d. Organizational Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31.
- e. Commanding Officer: CDR John J. Sorce.
- f. Permanent Duty Station: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

2. Chronology:

01 January - 10 January:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-13.
10 January - 14 March:	SRA 2001.
10 January - 14 March:	ILO Survey.
14 March:	Underway for sea trials.
15 March - 18 March:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI. Pier B-13.
19 March - 22 March:	Underway in local naval operating areas.
22 March:	Moored Naval Magazine Lualualei, pier W-4 for ammunition onload. Shifted to Pier B-13, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, HI.
22 March - 26 March:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI.
26 March - 30 March:	Underway, CSOSS II.
30 March:	Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor, pier H-2 for fueling. Shifted to pier M-1&2.
30 March - 06 April:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M -1&2.
02 April - 30 April:	Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Ready Duty Ship.
06 April:	Underway for dependant's cruise to Kona, Hawaii.
06 April:	Anchored Kona Harbor, Hawaii.
09 April:	Underway enroute Pearl Harbor, HI.
09 April - 19 April:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1&2.
13 April:	House of Representatives Delegation Staff tour.
19 April:	Embarked Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31.
20 April:	Underway for Hilo, Hawaii.
20 April - 22 April:	Inport Hilo, Hawaii.
22 April:	Underway enroute Pearl Harbor, HI.
22 April - 24 April:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1&2.
24 April - 27 April:	Underway for SILENT FURY.
27 April - 08 May:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
30 April - 02 May:	Hull Cleaning.
08 May - 11 May:	Underway for CART II.

11 May	- 18 May:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-17.
14 May	- 25 May:	SSUSW.
18 May:		Berth shift to K-10 for "Pearl Harbor" movie premier.
18 May	- 22 May:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier K-10.
22 May:		Berth shift to B-16.
22 May	- 30 May:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-16.
29 May	- 22 June:	PACTRAMID I.
30 May	- 01 June:	Underway for PACTRAMID I.
01 June	- 05 June:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-16.
02 June	- 30 June:	Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Ready Duty Ship.
05 June	- 08 June:	Underway for TSTA A.
08 June	- 12 June:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1&2.
11 June:		Visit, board, search, and seizure exercises in Pearl Harbor.
12 June	- 15 June:	Underway for TSTA A.
15 June	- 20 June:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
20 June	- 21 June:	Underway in local naval operating areas for engineering drills.
21 June	- 02 July:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
25 June:		Sea Plot installation.
02 July	- 03 July:	Underway in local naval operating areas to swing ship.
03 July	- 09 July:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
09 July	- 10 July:	Berth shift to H-2 for refueling. Underway in local naval operating area for TSTA A.
10 July	- 11 July:	Anchored in Sand Island Fleet anchorages overnight.
11 July	- 17 July:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
13 July:		Comprehensive Communications Assessment.
14 July	- 18 July	TSTA B.
16 July:		SRBOC and torpedo onload.
17 July	- 18 July:	Underway for TSTA B.
18 July:		Anchored in Sand Island Fleet Anchorages.
19 July	- 20 July:	Underway Demonstration.
20 July	- 23 July:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
23 July	- 27 July:	Underway for Navigation Check-ride.
24 July	- 26 July:	PCOSS Hollywood.
27 July	- 11 August:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
30 July	- 10 August:	SEMAT.
11 August	- 14 August:	Underway in local naval operating areas with USS PASADENA.
14 August		Moored to buoy in Pearl Harbor East Loch.
14 August	- 16 August:	Underway in local naval operating areas.
16 August	- 21 August:	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-23.

20 August - 22 August: Final Evaluation Problem.
21 August - 22 August: Underway in local naval operating areas for Final Evaluation Problem.

22 August - 20 September: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-23.
07 September: Host ship, CNS ESMERALDA.
11 September: Assumed Force Protection Condition DELTA in response to terrorist attacks. CDR J. J. Sorce, Commanding Officer, USS HOPPER acting COMDESRON 31.

20 September: Berth shift to Naval Magazine Lualualei, pier W-4 for missile onload.

20 Sep - 24 September: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-18.
24 Sep - 27 September: Underway in local naval operating areas for training.

27 Sep - 02 October: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1/2.
02 Oct - 04 October: Underway in local naval operating areas for training.

04 Oct - 11 October: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1/2.
11 October: Berth shift to pier H-2 for refueling.
11 Oct - 24 October: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1/2.
24 Oct - 26 October: Underway in local naval operating areas with JDS WAKASHIO (SS 687).

26 Oct - 01 November: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-13.
01 Nov - 03 November: Underway in local naval operating areas for gunnery training.

03 November: Conducted four (4) burials at sea.
03 Nov - 19 November: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier M-1/2.
05 Nov - 16 November: C5RA.
11 Nov - 03 December: Area Air Defense Ship duties.
19 November: Underway in local naval operating areas for guest cruise.

19 Nov - 03 December: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-25.
26 Nov - 30 November: SCBA installation.
27 Nov - 28 November: Force Protection Exercise with 3rd Battalion, USMC.

03 Dec - 07 December: Underway in local naval operating areas for Destroyer Squadron Exercise 2001.

07 December: LCDR David Cela relieved LCDR Werner Jurinka as Executive Officer.

07 Dec - 31 December: Area Air Defense Ship duties.
07 Dec - 31 December: Inport Pearl Harbor, HI, pier B-13.

3. Narrative:

2001 proved to be another busy year for USS HOPPER. The year began with a Selective Restricted Availability from January 10th through March 14th. This availability allowed HOPPER to receive the maintenance required to complete her Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). Upon completion of the availability, the ship sailed from Pearl Harbor to conduct sea trials on 14 March. On March 22, 2001, HOPPER shifted from Naval Station Pearl Harbor to Naval Magazine Lualualei for an ammunition onload. HOPPER was underway again from 22 through 26 March for a Combat Systems Operational Sequencing System (CSOSS II) in local naval operating areas. During this training period, HOPPER's combat crews expended ordnance from her MK-45 5" gun and both Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) mounts.

Following a short inport period, HOPPER was assigned as Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific's ready duty ship from 06 April to 30 April. On the 6th of April, HOPPER sailed with approximately 200 dependents and guests to Kona, on the leeward (west) side of the Big Island of Hawaii. After a few days on the beautiful Big Island, HOPPER and her guests returned to Pearl Harbor April 9th. After another short inport period, HOPPER sailed to the Big Island for the second time in April, this time to Hilo, on the windward (east) side of the island. While inport Hilo, HOPPER's crew enjoyed liberty but also gave of themselves in a community service project and painted a local school. HOPPER shipmates also took part in a parade for Hilo's Merrie Monarch festival. After returning to Pearl Harbor 22 April, HOPPER took part in SILENT FURY. During this exercise, HOPPER conducted numerous exercises, including a swept channel, Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Chaff (SRBOC) shoots, an underway replenishment, surface action group (SAG) transits, and a torpedo firing exercise.

HOPPER's IDTC was in full swing by May. The ship was underway on a few separate occasions during the month for training and assessment. The underway portion of Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II was from the 8th to the 11th of May. Single Ship Undersea Warfare (SSUSW) followed from the 14th through the 25th. HOPPER was underway in local Hawaiian naval operating areas for both periods. After a few days inport upon returning from SSUSW, the ship took part in the celebration marking the release of Disney's "Pearl Harbor." HOPPER's sharp crew gave hundreds of tours of the most capable ship in the fleet to visitors during the days leading up to the movie premier. From May 30th to the 1st of June, HOPPER was underway with the Japanese Maritime Safety Defense Force Ship (JMSDF) CHOKAI to conduct underway training for midshipmen on their summer cruises. During this underway period, the ship conducted Pre-Aim Calibration (PAC) fires of the MK45 5" gun and both CIWS mounts. HOPPER's flight deck crew also conducted some joint-service training by assisting U.S. Army OH-58 helicopters with their Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs).

June was yet another extremely busy month for training. HOPPER was also assigned as Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific's ready duty ship for the month. After spending the first few days of June inport, the ship was underway from the 5th through the 8th for the first phase of Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). The ship conducted numerous engineering casualty control exercises during this period. Upon returning to Pearl Harbor, HOPPER's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) teams conducted training on June 11th. HOPPER returned to sea again for TSTA from 12 to 15 June. Training this period consisted of more engineering drills and 5" and CIWS PAC fires. Engineering drills were also the focus of the underway training conducted 20-21 June.

HOPPER was inport Pearl Harbor again until the 2nd of July, when the ship returned to sea to swing ship. After another week inport, HOPPER finished the first phase of TSTA from the 9th to the 11th of July. This period also included one night spent at anchor in the fleet anchorages south of Sand Island, Oahu. The next week was spent inport, with a Comprehensive Communications Assessment held on 13 July. The second phase of TSTA began on 14 July. A SRBOC and torpedo onload took place on 16 July. HOPPER was underway for TSTA and her Underway Demonstration from 17 through 20 July, with the evening of the 18th spent at anchor in the Sand Island fleet anchorages. A few more days inport were followed by a very successful Navigation Check-ride from 23 – 27 July. HOPPER also took part in Prospective Commanding Officer School Ship (PCOSS) training for future attack submarine commanders during this week. Upon returning to homeport, HOPPER remained in Pearl Harbor until 11 August.

HOPPER departed Pearl Harbor with USS PASADENA (SSN 752) on 11 August to support her post-maintenance availability testing. After a few days inport following this period, HOPPER passed her Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) with flying colors on 22 August. After FEP, the ship was inport Pearl Harbor until 20 September. During this inport period, HOPPER was the host ship for CNS ESMERALDA (BE 43), a Chilean sail training ship, when she arrived 07 September.

HOPPER was in Pearl Harbor when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The ship and her crew went to General Quarters and quickly assumed Force Protection Condition Delta in the event of further attacks. All preparations were made to sortie quickly to sea if necessary. While some ships departed the harbor, HOPPER remained inport at a heightened security level. The ship shifted berths to Naval Magazine Lualualei on 20 September for a missile onload, then was inport until 24 September. HOPPER was at sea for training from 24-27 September, and again from 02-04 October.

The majority of the month of October was spent inport, with a short trip to the fuel piers on 11 October. The 24th-26th of October was spent training at sea with JDS WAKASHIO (SS 687), a Japanese diesel submarine. HOPPER conducted simulated missile launches, undersea warfare, submarine familiarization, and 5"/CIWS gunnery exercises during this period.

HOPPER departed Pearl Harbor and sailed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility near Kauai on the 1st of November to begin Naval Ship Fire Support (NSFS) training. The ship's NSFS crew received high praise from the missile range facility in the accuracy of their shots. Before returning to Pearl Harbor on 03 November, HOPPER's crew conducted four burials at sea in the Pacific south of Oahu. The ship was inport until 19 November, with a Combat Systems Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Readiness Assessment (C5RA) held from the 5th through the 16th. HOPPER was tasked with Hawaii area air defense duties from 11 November through 03 December. On the 19th of November, approximately 150 dependents and guests embarked HOPPER to sail with the ship for a short cruise. HOPPER's crew conducted gunnery exercises with the 5" gun and CIWS, a full power run, and fire-fighting/damage control demonstrations. A U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter conducted a search and rescue demonstration with a rescue swimmer, and two U.S. Air Force F-15 fighters did a low, high speed fly-by of the ship. Upon returning from this cruise, HOPPER was inport until 03 December.

HOPPER departed Pearl Harbor on 03 December with other ships in Destroyer Squadron 31 including USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60), USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37), USS REUBEN JAMES (FFG 57), AND USS FLETCHER (DD 992), along with USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723). These ships all took part in Destroyer Squadron Exercise 2001 (DESRONEX). The week was full of gunnery exercises, missile shoots, flight operations, underway replenishments, formation steaming, torpedo shoots, and VBSS exercises. Highlights of the week included HOPPER's successful sinking of a fishing vessel hulk target with her 5" gun during a gunnery exercise, and the firing of three standard missiles. HOPPER was also visited by ADM Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief, Pacific, on 05 December. LCDR David Cela relieved LCDR Werner Jurinka as HOPPER's Executive Officer on the 60th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 07 December 2001. HOPPER remained inport Pearl Harbor for the remainder of the year following her triumphant return from DESRONEX '01, and reassumed the duties as area air defense ship. A frocking ceremony was held on 17 December to promote shipmates and honor other award recipients.

2001 certainly was a busy year for USS HOPPER. Her inter-deployment training cycle helped the crew maintain their readiness and prepare for their upcoming deployment in 2002. The ship and her crew were prepared for anything following the terrorist attacks on the United States. Though fatigued by long

hours and increased security measures, they maintained their proficiency, readiness, and high morale. HOPPER's motto, "DARE AND DO," epitomizes the attitude of each and every sailor that walks the decks of this fine ship. She is ready for all challenges 2002 may bring.