



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32) ✓  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington DC

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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D  
(b) Chief of Naval Operations ltr of 31 JUL 87

Encl: (1) Basic Narrative

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. The Commanding Officer for USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32) for the year of 1986 was Commander Bob R. Patton, USN. USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32) is assigned to Destroyer Squadron EIGHT and homeported in Mayport, Florida.

*T.W. Moore*  
T. W. MOORE

USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG-32), COMMAND HISTORY 1986

The first day of 1986 saw the Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate, USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32), in her home port of Mayport, Florida. For the first two weeks, the tempo was unusually slow due to holiday leave and upkeep. On 10 January a fast cruise was held to reacquaint the crew with underway operations in preparation for Jacksonville area operations (JAXOPAREA). That afternoon, USS JOHN L. HALL was underway for the first time for the new year. While underway, preparations for INSURV were made. Some of the many preparations included; full power, crash backs, steering tests, nixie streaming, motor whale boat test, and anchoring evolutions. To assist in the preparations for the intensive and thorough INSURV Board, members of the DESRON EIGHT staff embarked on 15 January to provide assistance and guidance. Returning on the afternoon of the 15th she spent the next six days inport preparing for the INSURV inspection.

On 27 January the INSURV Board arrived and commenced their inspection. Upon completion 31 January, USS JOHN L. HALL received very high marks. The post INSURV IMAV to correct noted discrepancies commenced 3 February. Concurrent with the IMAV, USS JOHN L. HALL once again commenced several weeks of training. The training included sonobouy, EW, UNREP, ORATS and Communication drills.

On 18 February, USS JOHN L. HALL left Mayport enroute to operations in Central America. During these operations, USS JOHN L. HALL operated with USS IOWA (BB 61). Arriving off of Cristobal, Panama on 22 February, USS JOHN L. HALL transited the strategic canal. On the Pacific side, she

moored at Rodman, Panama. After a few days off in Rodman, USS JOHN L. HALL and USS IOWA set sail for Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, sailors and marines from the two ships participated in several civic action projects, including refurbishing two schools and two orphanages. The donation of "Project Handclasp" items also greatly added to the success of the visit. March 2nd saw USS JOHN L. Hall underway once again, the destination this time was Quetzal, Guatemala.

After a short stay in Quetzal, USS JOHN L. HALL set sail for Rodman, Panama on March 7th. Arriving at Rodman two days later, USS JOHN L. HALL made preparations to transit the Panama Canal once more, on 10 March. On 11 March, USS JOHN L. HALL detached for a liberty stop at Cozumel, Mexico. After several relaxing days in Cozumel, USS JOHN L. HALL got underway on 17 March to begin the journey home to Mayport.

Returning home on 19 March, USS JOHN L. HALL conducted a week of Damage Control Mobile Team Training (DCMTT).

The first week in April brought word that USS JOHN L. HALL had been picked as a finalist for the Captain Edward F. Ney award for food service excellence. USS JOHN L. HALL was a finalist for medium afloat units which included all DD, DDG, FF, and FFG's in the Navy.

On the first of April, USS JOHN L. HALL got underway in the JAXOPAREA to participate in ASW training. Returning to Mayport, the week of 7 April USS JOHN L. HALL's Combat Systems team underwent intensive inport training in preparation for April's FLEETEX 2-86.

FLEETEX 2-86 involved over 25 East coast ships operating out of three ports. The exercise was designed to improve fleet readiness and enhance the

ability of the battle force to operate together. As part of the exercise, participants trained throughout a broad spectrum of naval warfare.

Underway on 14 April USS JOHN L. HALL joined other units of the Second Fleet and immediately commenced exercises. A swept channel mine field break out was held followed the next day by gun and torpedo exercises. Continuing the high tempo operations, USS JOHN L. HALL's crew received valuable training, in a realistic environment. As a member of the "Orange" forces USS JOHN L. HALL received praise for her overall performance, including a very successful ASW prosecution of USS PHOENIX. On April 29th, a "battle hardened" crew detached from FLEETEX 2-86 better prepared and more experienced.

USS JOHN L. HALL commenced a rigorous CSRR (Combat Systems Readiness Review) upon returning to Mayport in early May. This review is aimed at fully testing a ship's overall combat systems readiness. As part of the review, USS JOHN L. HALL was required to participate in a wide range of combat systems exercises. Despite extensive underway OPS during FLEETEX, JOHN L. HALL was found to be in excellent combat systems condition, receiving high praise from MOTU Twelve and RSG Mayport for one of the finest performances in DESRON EIGHT .

On May 9th an inspection team arrived to determine USS JOHN L. HALL's food service quality as a Ney Award finalist. USS JOHN L. HALL passed with flying colors, receiving the first place award for food service excellence.

On 28 May, USS JOHN L. HALL once again got underway for the JAXOPAREA. The tempo this time was extremely intensive with the Engineers running the

show conducting many damage control and engineering exercises. After several days of exercises USS JOHN L. HALL returned home.

The week of 3 June, USS JOHN L. HALL commenced a three week IMAV.

On 23 June, the JAXOPAREA was the destination once again to conduct drills and exercises. USS JOHN L. HALL returned home on June 25th.

The month of July brought final preparations for UNITAS XVII. USS JOHN L. HALL was selected to participate in this annual deployment with only a few months notice. The deployment would take over four months and take the ship around the South American continent, the first FFG-7 class ship to do so.

Leaving Mayport at 0915 on the 22nd, USS JOHN L. HALL quickly accelerated the tempo of operations. On the transit to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, USS JOHN L. HALL rendezvoused with TU 21.6.5. In conjunction with the other units, USS JOHN L. HALL conducted many drills and held several training sessions in preparation for the upcoming deployment. Arriving in Roosevelt Roads on the 26th, several conferences and planning meetings were held.

Upon leaving Roosevelt Roads on 30 July, USS JOHN L. HALL chopped to the operational control of COMDESRON TWO SIX under the command of CAPT T. S. LYNCH and the tactical control of USCOMSCLANT (CTF 138) under the command of RADM D. F. CHANDLER. Among the US UNITS participating in the UNITAS XXVII deployment were USS HAYLER (DD-997) (CTF 138 embarked), USS LAWRENCE (DDG-4) (COMDESRON TWO SIX embarked), USS HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196), USS BOULDER (LST-1190), USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585), USS SCAMP (SSN-588), USS ARIES (PHM-5), USS TAURUS (PHM-3), USCGC DILIGENCE

(WMEC-616), VP-16 DET, VP-49 DET and HSL 34. For the entire deployment USS JOHN L. HALL embarked an AFWTF drone detachment, to be used for tracking and target services. During the deployment USS JOHN L. HALL conducted thirteen successful drone exercises. The entire UNITAS deployment was organized into eight phases. Phase one operations included operations with Venezuelan and Colombian naval forces in the Puerto Rican OPAREAS from 26 July to 3 August.

On the morning of 30 July all U.S. ships, together with Venezuelan and Colombian forces, got underway. USS JOHN L. HALL and the PHM's participated in various gunnery exercises. Various ASW and war at sea (WAS) exercises were held, by splitting the forces into opposing Blue and Orange forces. Along with other forces, USS JOHN L. HALL returned to Roosevelt Roads for debriefing and more coordination meetings. On August 4th the UNITAS forces were underway once again with USS JOHN L. HALL and the PHM's participating as an opposing Orange force unit along with the PHM's in OIH-T exercises.

La Guarira, Venezuela was the first South American port visit of the deployment. Arriving on the 7th, USS JOHN L. HALL and the rest of the task force left the morning of the 9th. In this port, as in almost every visit, much of the time ashore was spent in debriefs, critiques, and various diplomatic functions, including luncheons, receptions and press conferences.

Underway on the 9th, Phase One concluded with a multi-threat exercise with Venezuelan Air Force units. Phase Two began with maneuvering drills on the transit to Cartagena, Colombia. On 11 August CTF 138 was notified by CINCLANTFLT via HICOM net that the U.S. registered M/V Pamela was in

distress. USS JOHN L. HALL was detached to assist. Arriving at the scene in a few hours, USS JOHN L. HALL was able to render assistance and escort the Pamela to safety. On 12 August USS JOHN L. HALL arrived in Cartegena.

On the morning of the 14th the UNITAS units engaged in ASW exercises against participating submarines. Phase Two Alpha ended after several days of various exercises, drills, and training, including several drone tracking exercises. On 18 August USS JOHN L. HALL transited the Panama Canal, arriving at Rodman, Panama late on the 18th. Phase Two Bravo commenced (now in the Pacific) on 20 August with the arrival of Ecuadorean units (two corvettes and a sub). Underway operations took place between 22 and 24 Aug. Exercises consisted of Blue vs Orange ASUW exchanges. Phase Two concluded when the Colombian corvette ARC CALADAS (CM-52) detached.

Phase Three was conducted with US and Ecuadorean units exclusively. Ecuador deployed a destroyer, five corvettes, and two subs. On the 24th of August, the UNITAS task force conducted Crossing the Line ceremonies. The task force arrived at Manta, Ecuador the morning of 25 August. From arrival until 29 August the forces enjoyed their first four-day port visit. On 31 August both the LAWRENCE and USS JOHN L. HALL conducted successful missile shoots followed by successful ASW freeplay. Inport Manta once again from 1 - 3 September, the units conducted hot washups, planning, and general upkeep. On the 4th, USS JOHN L. HALL sortied with other US units enroute to Paita, Peru.

Phase Four operations with Peru (five corvettes and four subs) began with four days inport from 6 - 10 September. Underway on the 10th, the task force conducted a series of extensive exercises, which highlighted ASW

training. On the morning of the 11th a combined AAW/ASW multi-threat exercise was conducted against transiting surface forces. On the 13th USS JOHN L. HALL participated in live NGFS firings. On the 14th USS JOHN L. HALL along with other units anchored at Pisco, Peru. The 15th of September was spent in the off loading of stores from the HARLAN COUNTY to the USS JOHN L. HALL. Heavy concentrations of jelly fish and sand storms forced several ships of the task force to sea, including the USS JOHN L. HALL (for a three hour period 16 September and again for an hour on 18 September). After refueling from the Peruvian tanker LOBITOS on 18 September, USS JOHN L. HALL and the rest of the task force was underway once again this time for Valparaiso, Chile.

Phase Five commenced with the rendezvous of U.S. units and the Chilean oiler ARACUANO 250 miles north of Valparaiso. USS JOHN L. HALL arrived in Valparaiso on September 22nd and was able to enjoy a four day inport period before getting underway again on 26 September. The Chilean Navy deployed three destroyers, three subs and several patrol boats. The two and one-half days of underway operations included opposing Blue vs Orange free plays, AAW exercises using USS JOHN L. HALL's drones, and ASW training. On 28 September USS JOHN L. HALL and other U.S. units began an eight day VOYREP (voyage repair) period at the ASMAR shipyard in Talcahuano, Chile. Many crew members took advantage of the break in order to ski at Termas De Chillan, one of the most beautiful ski resorts in the country.

USS HAYLER, USS LAWRENCE and USS JOHN L. HALL sortied on 7 Oct, conducting various drills and a RAS from the oiler MONTT enroute to the

Golfo de Penas where a 24 hour ASW TACEVAL was conducted with three Chilean Navy diesel subs.

From 11 Oct until late 12 October USS JOHN L. HALL and the U.S. task force transited the Chilean Inland Waterway, sailing over 650 miles of restricted waters. During the transit surface/air attack vulnerability exercises with Chilean aircraft and patrol boats were conducted.

A four day visit to Punta Arenas, Chile's southern most city, commenced on 12 October. Off-loading their Chilean pilots, the US task force transited the eastern end of the Straits of Magellan. USS JOHN L. HALL's transit was noteworthy as the first FFG-7 class ship to make the journey through these treacherous straits. An all U.S. task force made the six day transit to Montevideo, Uruguay.

Phase seven began with a short visit to Montevideo from 22 until 24 October. Operations with the Uruguayan Navy (two Destroyer escorts and several patrol boats) began on 24 October. Many exercises were held, including comm and maneuvering drills and a drone TRACKEX. Returning to Montevideo on the 26th with USS LAWRENCE, USS JOHN L. HALL engaged in several diplomatic functions including tours and symposiums. After an enjoyable stay, USS JOHN L. HALL was underway again on 30 October; destination Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Phase Eight began with USS HAYLER rendezvousing with units from the Brazilian Navy (MINAS GERAIS (CV), three destroyers, two frigates, and one sub). These units conducted an ENCOUNTEREX against USS JOHN L. HALL and LAWRENCE as they proceeded north. The next day, 2 November, USS JOHN L. HALL conducted a DRONEX. On the 3rd the task force arrived at Rio De

Janeiro. Inport schedules from 3 - 10 November were very busy with many symposiums, inport training exercises, and normal protocol events.

Highlights included a visit by the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM C. A. TROST, on the afternoon of the 8th and a reception in his honor held aboard USS HAYLER. At Rio the U.S. forces were joined by the USS SCAMP and USS BOULDER.

On 11 November the task force sortied, ending an enjoyable visit to beautiful Rio De Janeiro. The first planned exercise was a minefield breakout followed by an opposed sortie. The weather situation deteriorated on the 12th and 13th, causing several exercises to be canceled. On the 15th USS LAWRENCE and NITEROI (F-40) successfully scored kills during a DRONEX. On the 17th the task force was split into opposing Blue vs Orange forces to conduct a WASEX. The 18th and 19th emphasized ASW exercises. On the afternoon of 19 NOV the task force arrived at Recife, Brazil to begin another round of inport events. On 24 November USS JOHN L. HALL completed her last UNITAS port visit. Only a refueling stop in Roosevelt Roads stood between the ship and home.

During the journey north, exercises were conducted among the transiting U.S. ships in addition to preparing for home and the coming upkeep period. On 26 November a Crossing the Line ceremony was held for those members who joined the ship in mid-transit. The following day, Thanksgiving, holiday routine was observed.

USS JOHN L. HALL arrived in Roosevelt Roads on 1 December, refueled, loaded stores, and was underway the next day. Prior to arrival Mayport USS JOHN L. HALL received word from COMDESRON TWO SIX, that the she was

designated Top Operator for UNITAS XXVII. According to Commodore LYNCH, COMDESRON TWO SIX, "JOHN L. HALL was the top operator as demonstrated in the execution of every assigned tasking...from my vantage, no one did it better than JOHN L. HALL on UNITAS XXVII."

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, 6 December USS JOHN L. HALL returned to Mayport.

The remainder of the year, was uneventful. JOHN L. HALL returned from a highly successful deployment and spent the rest of December enjoying a well deserved holiday upkeep period.