



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS JOHN L HALL (FFG 32)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN L HALL (FFG-32)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C.
20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer
(2) Photo of Commanding Officer

1. Per reference (a), the following history of JOHN L HALL (FFG-32) is submitted:

a. **Command Composition**

USS JOHN L HALL is the twenty-sixth ship of the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class of guided missile frigates. The mission of the ship is to provide in-depth force protection for military and merchant shipping, amphibious task forces and underway replenishment groups.

JOHN L HALL's immediate superior is Commander, Western Hemisphere Group. The ship is homeported in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The Commanding Officer of USS JOHN L HALL is CDR Douglas G. MacCrea, USN. CDR MacCrea relieved CDR Joseph Zacharzuk, USN on 27 November 1996.

b. **Chronology**

01 JAN 96 - 07 JAN 96	HOLUPK:	PASCAGOULA
08 JAN 96 - 21 JAN 96	UPK:	PASCAGOULA
15 JAN 96 - 18 JAN 96	AVCERT:	PASCAGOULA
22 JAN 96 - 26 JAN 96	TYTIPT:	CART II PASCAGOULA
27 JAN 96 - 21 FEB 96	UPK:	PASCAGOULA
30 JAN 96 - 31 JAN 96	LOAD:	AMMO ONLOAD PASCAGOULA
30 JAN 96 - 30 JAN 96	INSP:	MEDICAL QA INSPECTION
02 FEB 96 - 16 FEB 96	NOTE:	FLIGHT DECK RESURFACE
05 FEB 96 - 09 FEB 96	NOTE:	UNDERWATER HULL CLEANING
05 FEB 96 - 09 FEB 96	INSP:	EXPLOSIVE SAFETY INSPECTION
05 FEB 96 - 09 FEB 96	NOTE:	LMA ASSIST
12 FEB 96 - 21 FEB 96	NOTE:	CSRR PHASE I / TARGET
22 FEB 96 - 07 MAR 96	ENR:	MAYPORT
22 FEB 96 - 03 MAR 96	NOTE:	INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST SURVEY
22 FEB 96 - 04 MAR 96	TSTA1:	ETG ENR MAYPORT
24 FEB 96 - 04 MAR 96	OPS:	STANDOFF IV / SENTINEL LIFEGUARD
28 FEB 96 - 28 FEB 96	BSF:	KEY WEST
05 MAR 96 - 06 MAR 96	BSF:	KEY WEST
08 MAR 96 - 13 MAR 96	TSTA1:	FTG MAYPORT/JAXOA

14 MAR 96 - 16 MAR 96 ENR: PASCAGOULA
18 MAR 96 - 22 MAR 96 TSTA1: CSTG PASCAGOULA
25 MAR 96 - 20 APR 96 TSTA2: CSTG PASCAGOULA/ENR MAYPORT
18 APR 96 - 20 APR 96 ENR: MAYPORT
22 APR 96 - 26 APR 96 TSTA3: JAXOA
22 APR 96 - 26 APR 96 NOTE: WEEK ONE WORKUPS JAXOA
30 APR 96 - 03 MAY 96 FEP: JAXOA
30 APR 96 - 03 MAY 96 CMTQ: JAXOA
06 MAY 96 - 23 MAY 96 TYT: INDEX 96-1 PROA
06 MAY 96 - 23 MAY 96 OPS: PCO OPS 2-96 PROA
25 MAY 96 - 31 MAY 96 TRAV: MAYPORT
25 MAY 96 - 31 MAY 96 NOTE: CSRR II MAYPORT
25 MAY 96 - 31 MAY 96 IMAV: MAYPORT
01 JUN 96 - 02 JUN 96 ENR: PASCAGOULA
03 JUN 96 - 01 JUL 96 POM: PASCAGOULA
03 JUN 96 - 14 JUN 96 IMAV: PASCAGOULA
03 JUN 96 - 07 JUN 96 LMA: PASCAGOULA
02 JUL 96 - 25 NOV 96 DEPLOY: UNITAS 37-96
07 JUL 96 - 08 JUL 96 IPT: GUANTANUMO BAY, CUBA
11 JUL 96 - 13 JUL 96 EMBK: COMDESRON TWO; NSRR, PUERTO RICO
14 JUL 96 - 18 JUL 96 PHASE ZERO UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH ATLANTIC
19 JUL 96 - 31 JUL 96 PHASE ONE UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH ATLANTIC
21 JUL 96 - 25 JUL 96 VISIT: LA GUIRIEA, VENEZUELA
30 JUL 96 - 01 AUG 96 VISIT: ISLE DE MARGARITA, VENEZUELA
01 AUG 96 - 23 AUG 96 PHASE TWO UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH ATLANTIC
08 AUG 96 - 11 AUG 96 VISIT: SALVADOR, BRAZIL
15 AUG 96 - 20 AUG 96 VISIT: RIO DE JANIERO, BRAZIL
24 AUG 96 - 01 SEP 96 PHASE THREE UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH ATLANTIC
28 AUG 96 - 01 SEP 96 VISIT: MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
01 SEP 96 - 15 SEP 96 PHASE FOUR UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH ATLANTIC
01 SEP 96 - 04 SEP 96 VISIT: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
06 SEP 96 - 09 SEP 96 VISIT: PUERTO BELGRANO, ARGENTINA
06 SEP 96 - 06 SEP 96 DEBK: COMDESRON TWO; PUERTO BELGRANO, AR
06 SEP 96 - 06 SEP 96 EMBK: COMDESRON TWO EIGHT; PUERTO BELGRANO, AR
12 SEP 96 - 15 SEP 96 VISIT: USHUAIA, ARGENTINA
15 SEP 96 - 06 OCT 96 PHASE FIVE UNITAS 37-96, SOUTH PACIFIC
15 SEP 96 - 15 SEP 96 VISIT: PUERTO WILLIAMS, CHILE
16 SEP 96 - 18 SEP 96 TRANSIT: CHILEAN INLAND WATERWAY
21 SEP 96 - 23 SEP 96 VISIT: TALCAHUANO, CHILE
25 SEP 96 - 30 SEP 96 VISIT: VALPARAISO, CHILE
02 OCT 96 - 05 OCT 96 VISIT: COQUIMBO, CHILE
07 OCT 96 - 22 OCT 96 PHASE SEVEN UNITAS 37-96, EASTERN PACIFIC
07 OCT 96 - 07 OCT 96 VISIT: ILO, PERU
09 OCT 96 - 12 OCT 96 VISIT: CALLAO/LIMA, PERU
16 OCT 96 - 20 OCT 96 VISIT: CALLAO/LIMA, PERU
20 OCT 96 - 31 OCT 96 PHASE EIGHT UNITAS 37-96, EASTERN PACIFIC
24 OCT 96 - 28 OCT 96 VISIT: SALINAS, ECUADOR
30 OCT 96 - 31 OCT 96 VISIT: MANTA, ECUADOR
31 OCT 96 - 18 NOV 96 PHASE NINE UNITAS 37-96, EASTERN PACIFIC/SOUTH ATL
02 NOV 96 - 04 NOV 96 VISIT: MALAGA, COLOMBIA
06 NOV 96 - 10 NOV 96 VISIT: NAVAL STATION RODMAN, PANAMA
10 NOV 96 - 10 NOV 96 TRANSIT: PANAMA CANAL
14 NOV 96 - 18 NOV 96 VISIT: CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

20 NOV 96 - 20 NOV 96	DEMBK:	COMDESRON TWO EIGHT, NSRR PUERTO RICO
25 NOV 96 - 25 NOV 96	ARR:	PASCAGOULA, UNITAS 37-96 COMPLETED
27 NOV 96 - 27 NOV 96	CHANGE OF	COMMAND
28 NOV 96 - 31 DEC 96	PDUPK:	PASCAGOULA
02 DEC 96 - 13 DEC 96	IMAV:	PASCAGOULA

C. Narrative

JOHN L HALL attained several noteworthy operational and professional milestones throughout calendar year 1996. The officers and crew of JOHN L HALL diligently and aggressively prepared for a rigorous period of inspections, assessments, and operational commitments that included Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II (CART II), Aviation Certification / Aviation Readiness Exam (AVCERT/ARE), Operation SENTINEL LIFEGUARD, Operation STANDOFF IV, Tailored Ship Training Availability I/II/III (TSTA I/II/III), Week One Work Ups, Final Evaluation Period (FEP), Independent Deployers Exercise 96-1 (INDEX 96-1), Logistics Management Assessment (LMA), UNITAS 37-96, and CART I. Throughout a rigorous training and operational schedule JOHN L HALL maintained the maximum readiness rating in all mission areas for the majority of 1996. The superior results mentioned above attest to the dedication and effectiveness of the crew of JOHN L. HALL.

JOHN L HALL started the year with a series of inspections. AVCERT/ARE was passed with few discrepancies. CART II was noteworthy for the lack of material discrepancies. In particular Deck Division was praised for its "very high material readiness." Also during January and February, JOHN L HALL supported Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Stennis Space Center, MS in the SATCOM Initiative of ORCA Data Transmittal. The goal was to "exploit current SATCOM technology for the Navy to transmit ORCA data from a host ship (JOHN L HALL) to fleet ships using existing communication and computer resources on Navy ships" (NRL, handout, 30 JAN 96). ORCA is a submersible designed to collect oceanographic data and transmit it to a host ship. JOHN L HALL supported NRL in the testing of several means of wireless data transmission.

JOHN L HALL commenced TSTA I in February. TSTA I started in Pascagoula and was to be completed in Mayport. During the transit, Cuban fighters shot down two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft. JOHN L HALL was the first USN asset on the scene and immediately provided area support and force protection for Coast Guard cutters and aircraft performing Search and Rescue. JOHN L HALL was the first Navy ship on the scene for Operation SENTINEL LIFEGUARD. As noted by the CNO, "Your speedy response on 24 FEB 96, in the wake of the civilian aircraft shoot-down off Cuba, clearly demonstrated the professionalism, flexibility, and 'can-do' spirit of the Navy/Marine Corps team. Your actions served as a calming influence to a highly volatile situation...ADM Mike Boorda" (CNO WASHINGTON DC 151547Z MAR 96). During Operation STANDOFF IV, JOHN L HALL was one of three Navy ships performing escort duties for a "Brothers to the Rescue" flotilla that conducted a memorial service near Cuban territorial waters. "It was obvious you had anticipated every contingency and were ready to act quickly and decisively. It was a great comfort to know 'Big Brother' was watching over our cutters. This operation strengthened already outstanding relationships between the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense and will lead to even greater cooperation in the future...RADM R.T. Rufe sends" (CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL 052231Z

MAR 96). "The flexibility and responsiveness you demonstrated provided the Commander-in-Chief and National Command Authority with the necessary options to defuse a potentially tense situation...Admiral W.J. Flanagan, Jr. sends" (CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA 070900ZMAR 96). Similar congratulations for a job well done were received from VADM V. Clark (CJTTF 120 072358Z MAR 96), RADM J.E. Shkor (CARIBROC KEY WEST FL 270229Z FEB 96), VADM Katz (COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA 112305Z MAR 96), and RADM Amerault (COMWESTHEMGRU 071809Z MAR 96). The Bravo Zulu from CINCUSACOM summarized the operations: "You demonstrated the versatility of DOD forces, in concert with US Coast Guard forces, coming together as a joint fighting force...J.J. Sheehan (CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA 052315Z MAR 96).

TSTA I was completed in March. Combat System Officer of the Watch (CSOOW) proficiency, radio operators working knowledge, Data Base Managers, and SONAR personnel were noted as "particular strengths" (ATG MAYPORT, letter, 22 MAR 96). The true challenge for JOHN L HALL was the compressed schedule that the ship was operating under, as noted by the summary comments: "The enthusiasm demonstrated needs to be maintained throughout the remainder of the Basic Phase to allow for the compression of the ship's training schedule."

TSTA II was conducted 25 MAR - 20 APR. Specific praise was directed to the CSOOW organization and SONAR watchstander proficiency (CATG MAYPORT 221544Z APR 96). During this time, a tour was given to Air Force officers in Advanced Communications Officer Training at Keesler AFB. An Air Force officer summed it up in his thank you letter: "We have come away with more respect for the capabilities of the US Navy, and a feel for the Navy point of view. Any future joint actions can only be enhanced by this type of cooperation" (Air Education and Training Command, letter, 15 APR 96).

TSTA III was conducted 22-26 APR. Comments included "Seamanship Training Team's (STT) performance is among the best seen" and "Training Team members and watchstanders willingness to improve under the stress of a compressed schedule was exceptional" (ATG MAYPORT, letter, 26 APR 96). Week One Work Ups, normally accomplished as stand-alone training, were conducted simultaneously, and JOHN L HALL integrated Anti-Submarine Helicopter Squadron Light (HSL) 42 Det 6 into ship's operations. While operating in and out of Mayport, JOHN L HALL became the only LANTFLT ship to complete a Night Vision Goggle (NVG) compatible helo deck lighting modification. JOHN L HALL qualified Landing Signalman Enlisted (LSE) in NVG operations and after HSL 42 Det 6 completed their NVG qualification, the combination was the first and only LANTFLT NVG capable ship/aircraft team. JOHN L HALL was the Atlantic Fleet (LANTFLT) test platform for sustained NVG operations during its UNITAS deployment.

FEP was completed on 3 MAY. Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification was satisfactorily completed. The official message concluded "USS JOHN L HALL was well prepared for FEP and demonstrated a very positive and enthusiastic attitude which resulted in a very successful evolution" (CATG MAYPORT 071410Z MAY 96). Verbally, the senior member informed CO, JOHN L HALL "this was the best FEP yet under the current basic training cycle."

JOHN L HALL next proceeded to INDEX 96-1 and PCO OPS 2-96. While operating against USS MIAMI and USS ATLANTA, JOHN L HALL and the embarked HSL

42 Det 6 were able to fire four exercise torpedoes. Both ship launched exercise torpedoes successfully acquired their targets. JOHN L HALL was also able to test several ASW strategies against the SSN's. The most successful strategy/tactic was the use of APU's and deceptive lighting which enabled JOHN L HALL to cross the operating area without being attacked. JOHN L HALL also fired two missiles at drone targets during INDEX 96-1. The first missile "Achieved a glancing hit on target." The second missile "impacted the water at 4.0 sec due to a malfunction in the missile seeker head control circuit" (NWADIV CORONA CA 171217Z MAY 96). COMDESRON TWO noted that "As OCE for INDEX MISSILEX JOHN L HALL demonstrated exceptional planning and coordination that enabled both units to complete the required missile firing exercise" (CDS2 181814Z MAY 96). At the conclusion of INDEX 96-1, JOHN L HALL was assessed by COMDESRON TWO as being ready to deploy.

JOHN L HALL returned to Mayport for a week-long TRAV at the end of MAY. Type Commanders Communication Exercise (CCC-27-SF), NATO Secret, and Communications Readiness Assist Team (CRAT) inspections were conducted during this time period. All inspections were satisfactorily passed. Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Mayport was also onboard helping prepare the ship for deployment.

JOHN L HALL returned to Pascagoula in June for POM. While most of the ship enjoyed some pre-deployment leave, there was still a lot of work being done. JOHN L HALL passed LMA with an overall grade of "SATISFACTORY," Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) Phase II was conducted, and SIMA Pascagoula was onboard for an IMAV. JOHN L HALL underwent several major modifications. Recent UNITAS task forces have always included two FFGs. For UNITAS 37-96, JOHN L HALL was to be the only FFG assigned. This meant that JOHN L HALL had to be able to embark a Helo Det (HSL 42 Det 6), Drone Det (VC 6), Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) staff (CDS 2 and CDS 28), women, and two trimaran sled targets. With help from SIMA Pascagoula and innovative space management, this was accomplished while still keeping almost half of the Starboard Helo Hangar as a weight room. COMDESRON 28 noted this accomplishment, "Whether developing a plan for the successful embarkation of two separate DESRON staffs, a Drone det, LAMPS det, and women, providing AAW and ASUW target services, or planning freeplay exercises, these folks did it right and contributed to a truly successful deployment...Commodore Loren" (COMDESRON TWO EIGHT 211135Z NOV 96).

JOHN L HALL deployed 02 JUL 96 for UNITAS 37-96. UNITAS consisted of five months of FLEETEX-type exercises and port visits with the navies of South America. During Phase Zero (US Phase), Standing Naval Forces, Atlantic participated with US, South Africa, Brazil, Venezuela, and Colombia in true multi-national exercises. JOHN L HALL fired an exercise torpedo which successfully engaged a target while on the Armed Forces Weapons Test Facility (AFWTF) range during Phase Zero. JOHN L HALL also had the opportunity to assume the duties of all the warfare commanders during different UNITAS freeplays, including Officer-in-Tactical Command. JOHN L HALL became skilled at writing OPGEN's and OPTASK supplements. The planning and execution of exercises with eight South American countries greatly improved JOHN L HALL's operational ability in all warfare areas. JOHN L HALL spent the five month UNITAS deployment as the flagship for COMDESRON TWO and later COMDESRON TWO EIGHT. Under Sea Warfare (USW) operations were almost continuous against USS NARWHAL and diesel submarines from seven South American nations. The NVG

capability of HSL 42 Det 6 provided a tactical advantage during many freeplays and over-the-horizon exercises. "Your unique night vision goggle capability added a new dimension to this year's UNITAS and enhanced exercise play...RADM J.B. Ferguson III" (USCOMSOLANT 191142Z NOV 96). JOHN L HALL established a reputation for excellent performance during all exercises.

JOHN L HALL's exceptional performance continued while in port. "Your efforts extended outside the lifelines as well with your generous participation in Community Relations (COMREL) projects, Project HANDCLASP, and sports days...Commodore Loren" (CTU 138.0.4 192135Z NOV 96). JOHN L HALL sailors were also pen pals with the third grade class at Vancleave Elementary School in Gautier, Mississippi.

JOHN L HALL's versatility provided two unique services to the task force throughout UNITAS. The first was as drone launch ship and the second as target tow ship. JOHN L HALL and embarked VC-6 detachment were able to meet all commitments and immediately established and demonstrated a drone recovery capability in half the time of the previous year's UNITAS drone support ship. The prompt drone recoveries allowed the OTC opportunities for extra firing runs during the exercise period. JOHN L HALL's foresight to embark two trimaran towed targets ensured ASUW target services for the task force throughout the deployment. All UNITAS ships were able to shoot their primary gun systems at real targets to maintain AAW and ASUW proficiency.

In addition, JOHN L HALL served as flagship for USCOMSOLANT during the Uruguayan and Argentine phases and as submarine support ship for several difficult coordinated moors with USS NARWHAL during port visits. Showcasing JOHN L HALL's joint interoperability, the ship provided at-sea pilot proficiency deck landing qualification support to Army Blackhawk helicopters based in Panama.

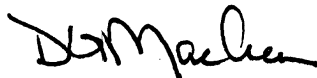
JOHN L HALL safely and professionally completed many navigational challenges. Hurricane evasion in transit to Puerto Rico at the start of UNITAS, a total of fifty-two sea and anchor details in foreign ports, transiting the Straits of Magellan and the Panama Canal, and finally hurricane evasion on the transit back to Pascagoula all made UNITAS more interesting.

USCOMSOLANT summarizes JOHN L HALL's participation in UNITAS as follows: "You set the standard for Task Force 138. As drone launch and target tow ship, you flawlessly executed multiple AAW and ASUW gunnery exercises, thus greatly enhancing training and interoperability with the navies of South America. Your superb performance of submarine support ship enabled your shipmates in USS NARWHAL to better enjoy well deserved liberty and personal services. As the UNITAS DESRON flagship, you provided the environment which allowed the DESRON to get the job done. You excelled as my flagship during Phases Three and Four, providing outstanding support for all operational and protocol events. Of these accomplishments, and the unflagging spirit and enthusiasm which you displayed, you can be justifiably proud...RADM J. B. Ferguson III" (USCOMSOLANT 191134Z NOV 96).

Finally from our Immediate Superior In Command (ISIC), "**Performance of JOHN L HALL during UNITAS deployment has been simply outstanding...RADM Amerault sends**" (COMWESTHEMGRU 182141Z NOV 96).

Upon return to Pascagoula, JOHN L HALL conducted a Change of Command. On November 27, 1996, CDR Douglas G. MacCrea relieved CDR Joseph Zacharzuk.

JOHN L HALL concluded 1996 with a one month Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMAV) by SIMA Pascagoula and holiday stand down.



D. G. MACCREA