



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32)

FLEET POST OFFICE

AA 34091-1488

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11 MAR 98

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 1997

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 Commander Douglas G. MacCrea, United States Navy.

### b. Chronology

|                       |  |                      |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| 01 JAN 97 - 06 JAN 97 | HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP:                | PASCAGOULA           |
| 07 JAN 97 - 17 FEB 97 | INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY:   | SIMA PASCAGOULA      |
| 28 JAN 97 - 29 JAN 97 | SEA TRIALS:                              | GULF OF MEXICO       |
| 03 FEB 97 - 04 FEB 97 | NOTE: MAYPORT ENGINEERING TRAINING GROUP |                      |
| 18 FEB 97 - 20 FEB 97 | ENROUTE:                                 | KEY WEST             |
| 20 FEB 97             | SERVICES:                                | GULF OF MEXICO WASEX |
| 21 FEB 97 - 23 FEB 97 | PORT VISIT:                              | KEY WEST             |
| 24 FEB 97 - 27 FEB 97 | ENROUTE:                                 | CHARLESTON           |
| 25 FEB 97             | SERVICES:                                | ATLANTIC OCEAN RDT&E |
| 28 FEB 97 - 02 MAR 97 | PORT VISIT:                              | CHARLESTON           |
| 03 MAR 97             | ENROUTE:                                 | NWS CHARLESTON       |
| 03 MAR 97 - 05 MAR 97 | OFFLOAD:                                 | NWS CHARLESTON       |

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|                       |  |                       |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 05 MAR 97             | ENROUTE:   | MAYPORT               |
| 06 MAR 97 - 11 MAR 97 | INTERMEDIATE AVAILABILITY:                       | MAYPORT               |
| 10 MAR 97 - 14 MAR 97 | NOTE: PRE LIGHT OFF TRAINING I                   |                       |
| 12 MAR 97 - 14 MAR 97 | ENROUTE:   | PASCAGOULA            |
| 15 MAR 97 - 16 MAR 97 | UPKEEP:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 17 MAR 97 - 31 MAR 97 | RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY:                         | PASCAGOULA            |
| 01 APR 97 - 23 MAY 97 | RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY:                         | PASCAGOULA            |
| 01 APR 97 - 23 MAY 97 | INTERMEDIATE AVAILABILITY C:                     | PASCAGOULA            |
| 07 APR 97 - 11 APR 97 | NOTE: PASCAGOULA/PRE LIGHT OFF TRAINING II       |                       |
| 06 MAY 97 - 08 MAY 97 | NOTE: PASCAGOULA/LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT            |                       |
| 19 MAY 97 - 20 MAY 97 | SEA TRIALS:                                      | GULF OF MEXICO        |
| 24 MAY 97 - 08 JUN 97 | RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY:                         | PASCAGOULA            |
| 24 MAY 97 - 08 JUN 97 | UPKEEP:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 09 JUN 97 - 11 JUN 97 | ENROUTE:   | MAYPORT               |
| 12 JUN 97 - 15 JUN 97 | INTERMEDIATE AVAILABILITY                        | MAYPORT               |
| 15 JUN 97             | OPERATIONS:                                      | MODE VIII MAYPORT     |
| 16 JUN 97 - 17 JUN 97 | ENROUTE:   | CHARLESTON            |
| 18 JUN 97 - 22 JUN 97 | PORT VISIT:                                      | CHARLESTON            |
| 23 JUN 97             | ENROUTE:   | YORKTOWN              |
| 24 JUN 97             | ARRIVE:  | YORKTOWN              |
| 24 JUN 97 - 25 JUN 97 | LOAD:  | YORKTOWN              |
| 26 JUN 97             | BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL:                             | NORFOLK               |
| 27 JUN 97 - 30 JUN 97 | ENROUTE:   | PASCAGOULA            |
| 01 JUL 97 - 09 JUL 97 | INPORT:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 10 JUL 97 - 12 JUL 97 | ENROUTE:   | GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA  |
| 13 JUL 97             | INPORT:  | GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA  |
| 14 JUL 97             | ENROUTE:   | CARIBBEAN SEA         |
| 15 JUL 97 - 25 AUG 97 | COUNTER DRUG OPERATIONS:                         | CARIBBEAN SEA         |
| 26 AUG 97 - 30 AUG 97 | NOTE: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT                       |                       |
| 26 AUG 97             | ENROUTE:   | PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI |
| 27 AUG 97             | INPORT:  | PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI |
| 28 AUG 97             | BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL:                             | GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA  |
| 28 AUG 97 - 30 AUG 97 | ENROUTE:   | PASCAGOULA            |
| 30 AUG 97             | ARRIVE:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 31 AUG 97 - 28 SEP 97 | UPKEEP:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 08 SEP 97 - 26 SEP 97 | INTERMEDIATE AVAILABILITY:                       | PASCAGOULA            |
| 29 SEP 97 - 30 SEP 97 | COMBAT SYSTEMS TRAINING GROUP:                   | PASCAGOULA            |
| 01 OCT 97 - 03 OCT 97 | LIMITED TEAM TRAINING INPORT:                    | PASCAGOULA            |
|                       | COMBAT SYSTEMS TRAINING GROUP                    |                       |
| 04 OCT 97 - 06 OCT 97 | INPORT:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 07 OCT 97 - 09 OCT 97 | ENROUTE:   | MAYPORT               |
| 10 OCT 97 - 13 OCT 97 | INPORT:  | MAYPORT               |
| 14 OCT 97 - 17 OCT 97 | LIMITED TEAM TRAINING:                           | JAX OP AREA           |
|                       | ENGINEERING TRAINING GROUP                       |                       |
| 18 OCT 97 - 19 OCT 97 | INPORT:  | MAYPORT               |
| 20 OCT 97 - 24 OCT 97 | RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY:                         | MAYPORT               |
|                       | AVIATION CERTIFICATION/AVIATION READINESS EXAM   |                       |
| 25 OCT 97 - 26 OCT 97 | INPORT:  | MAYPORT               |
| 27 OCT 97 - 29 OCT 97 | LIMITED TEAM TRAINING:                           | JAX OP AREA           |
|                       | FLEET TRAINING GROUP                             |                       |
| 30 OCT 97             | ENROUTE:   | KEYWEST               |
| 31 OCT 97             | ARRIVE:  | KEYWEST               |
| 31 OCT 97 - 02 NOV 97 | PORT VISIT:                                      | KEYWEST               |
| 03 NOV 97             | ENROUTE:   | MAYPORT               |
| 04 NOV 97             | ARRIVE:  | MAYPORT               |
| 05 NOV 97             | INPORT:  | MAYPORT               |
| 06 NOV 97 - 08 NOV 97 | COMMAND ASSESSMENT OF READINESS AND TRAINING II: | MAYPORT               |
| 09 NOV 97 - 10 NOV 97 | ENROUTE:   | PASCAGOULA            |
| 11 NOV 97             | ARRIVE:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 12 NOV 97 - 16 NOV 97 | UPKEEP:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 17 NOV 97 - 20 NOV 97 | NOTE: PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER TRAINING    |                       |
| 26 NOV 97             | DEPENDENTS CRUISE:                               | GULF OF MEXICO        |
| 27 NOV 97 - 31 DEC 97 | UPKEEP:  | PASCAGOULA            |
| 01 DEC 97 - 11 DEC 97 | LIMITED TEAM TRAINING:                           | PASCAGOULA            |
|                       | COMBAT SYSTEMS TRAINING GROUP                    |                       |
| 09 DEC 97             | CRUISE MISSILE TACTICAL QUALIFICATION:           | PASCAGOULA            |

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**c. NARRATIVE**

JOHN L HALL attained several noteworthy operational and professional milestones throughout calendar year 1997. The officers and crew of JOHN L HALL diligently and aggressively prepared for a rigorous period of inspections, assessments, and operational commitments that included Light Off Assessment (LOA), Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA), Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Exam (AVCERT/ARE), Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ), Operation STANDOFF 01-97, Operation MONITOR 3-97 and Counter-drug Operations. Throughout a rigorous training and operational schedule JOHN L HALL maintained the maximum readiness rating in all mission areas for the majority of 1997. The superior results mentioned above attest to the dedication and effectiveness of the crew of the JOHN L HALL.

JOHN L HALL's extraordinary performance has given COMMANDER WESTERN HEMISPHERE GROUP's staff the impression that JOHN L HALL is always ready and never a ship to worry about. This reputation began early and persisted throughout the year. During support of Operation STANDOFF 01-97, JOHN L HALL's mission objective of detection and monitoring was integral to the overall success of the operation. The outstanding effort received laudable remarks from RADM Shkor, CJTF 110 "... Your outstanding effort in support of Operation STANDOFF 01-97 contributed greatly to the success of the mission and is a credit to your operational readiness... I know that JOHN L HALL was ready to deal with every contingency." (CJTF ONE ONE ZERO 242250Z FEB 97)

Operation MONITOR 3-97 was another chance for JOHN L HALL to prove her operational readiness and tactical abilities. From initial planning to final execution, a clear tactical picture was presented which was critical to reducing uncertainty for the chain of command and policy makers. JOHN L HALL reacted to this dynamic operation with flexibility, innovation and professionalism.

Following a successful weapons off-load in Yorktown, Virginia, JOHN L HALL returned to Pascagoula for a two-month Restricted Availability (RAV). Contractors, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) and ship's force worked diligently to finish all work on time or ahead of schedule. Numerous improvements to one of the ship's enlisted berthing increased the quality of life onboard. Many equipment upgrades and

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configuration changes helped improve JOHN L HALL's mission readiness for the remainder of 1997.

After the RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY, JOHN L HALL prepared for and successfully completed a Light Off Assessment. Given the go ahead to resume her underway commitments, JOHN L HALL enjoyed a four day port visit in Charleston, South Carolina prior to her safe weapons on-load in Yorktown, Virginia. While in Yorktown the ship's sponsor, Doctor. Susan Godson, joined the Commanding Officer and the crew of JOHN L HALL in celebrating the ship's 15th year anniversary on June 15. JOHN L HALL returned to Pascagoula to prepare for the upcoming Counter-Drug Operation.

During June and the first half of July JOHN L HALL conducted CAREER ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR MIDSHIPMAN (CORTRAMID) for 90 3/C Midshipmen in two phases. Midshipmen gained their first fleet experience across all warfare areas. This was a positive experience for both the midshipmen and the crew. JOHN L HALL also hosted two Venezuelan shipriders as well as a Colombian Midshipman. Showcasing JOHN L HALL's cultural awareness, two Argentinean shipriders embarked for two weeks to experience life in the United States Navy. Each of these officers was fully integrated into the ship's routine to familiarize them with the ship's characteristics and systems.

In July, JOHN L HALL commenced a two month counter-drug deployment. On 27 July, as a part of an international counter-drug force, JOHN L HALL's superb detection and monitoring led to the prosecution and interdiction of two go-fast boats suspected of illegal narcotics smuggling. JOHN L HALL and her embarked helicopter expertly coordinated the efforts of several assets to pursue the suspect boats south toward Colombian waters where law enforcement officials were waiting to apprehend them. A determined boarding posture, maximum helicopter utilization, and willingness to quickly and efficiently change patrol priorities on a moments notice provided a solid deterrent to drug traffickers throughout the Caribbean theater and made a substantial contribution to the nation's counter drug efforts.

One month later, JOHN L HALL was called upon to conduct a short-notice Search and Rescue mission in waning daylight in the vicinity of New Bank, 120 nautical miles southwest of Jamaica. Approaching the area at high speed, JOHN L HALL launched the embarked helicopter to investigate. Unable to close the wreckage due to water depth, JOHN L HALL's helicopter was called upon to

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complete the rescue, recovering one person in good health. Once the survivor was retrieved, JOHN L HALL determined the vessel had run into Bajo Neuvo Reef and sank approximately 18 hours earlier. JOHN L HALL treated the survivor, providing medical aid and comfort.

On 26 August, JOHN L HALL conducted a highly successful community relations project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In an effort to improve the lives of more than 1,000 primary and secondary Haitian school children, 60 crew members from JOHN L HALL clamored aboard a school bus and headed into the hills of Port-au-Prince. The school, Ecole Republique De E. U. D'Amérique (School of the United States of America), consisting of only nine classrooms, was in dire need of refurbishment. Arriving under the watchful eye of members of the United States Support Group in Haiti, the Sailors immediately took to the task at hand, swarming like worker bees throughout the school's compound. Equipped with 80 gallons of paint, 200 board feet of lumber, electrical supplies, and a lot of elbow grease, the Sailors of JOHN L HALL managed to breathe new life into the school.

During the transit home from the two month counter-drug deployment, JOHN L HALL completed a successful Mid-Cycle Assessment. The Mid-Cycle Assessment dealt primarily with the engineering department, but the entire crew pulled together impressing the Afloat Training Group (ATG) inspectors that JOHN L HALL is a ship that is always ready.

September was as busy as the previous months. JOHN L HALL hosted assist teams from LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT (LMA) and AVIATION CERTIFICATION as well as a Combat Systems training visit from AFLOAT TRAINING GROUP (ATG) Mayport for the up coming Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ). In October JOHN L HALL got underway for Mayport to complete AVIATION CERTIFICATION and for a Training Availability. The flight deck crew and numerous duty section personnel were trained in various firefighting techniques.

JOHN L HALL returned to Pascagoula in mid November to provide underway training for Prospective Commanding Officers (PCO) from SURFACE WARFARE OFFICERS SCHOOL (SWOS) Newport, Rhode Island. The training was the highlight of the Prospective Commanding Officer course and provided them with the opportunity to observe command interaction prior to assuming command themselves. In late November, JOHN L HALL hosted nearly 250