



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)  
FPO AE 09570-1175

*Rev 4/  
Mo drs*

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5750  
Ser 13/10  
13 Apr 98

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)  
To: Director, Naval History (OP-09BH)  
  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, JANUARY 1997 - DECEMBER 1997  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F  
  
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

*J. J. Costello*  
J. J. COSTELLO  
By direction

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To operate with aircraft carrier battle groups in extreme threat environments, providing primary anti-air protection for the Fleet. To detect, classify, and track hundreds of potential targets simultaneously in the air, on the surface, and under the sea. To destroy hostile targets using a variety of weapons: surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, ship and air-launched torpedoes and deck guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys.

ISIC: Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT

COMMANDING OFFICER:

14 NOV 96 - 31 DEC 97:

CAPT Charles S. Vogan Jr, USN,|

**USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)  
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS  
FOR 1997**

On 1 January, 1997, LEYTE GULF was deployed to the Mediterranean with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group. She was assigned duties as the Battle Force SIXTH FLEET Air Warfare Commander. HSL 42 Det 3 with two SH-60B helicopters (Callsigns PROUD WARRIOR 433/434) was embarked.

- 1 Jan Inport Naples, Italy ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71),  
USS NICHOLSON (DD-982), and USS HAYLER (DD-997). LEYTE  
GULF was under the Tactical Control (TACON) of Commander,  
Task Force SIX ZERO (who was Commander, Carrier Group  
EIGHT), embarked on USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- 5 Jan Departed Naples ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- 6 Jan Safety Standdown; Commenced Commander, SIXTH Fleet Under-  
Sea Warfare Exercise (C6F USWEX); Transited Strait of  
Messina
- 7 Jan Replenishment at Sea-Fuel (RAS(F)) with USS DETROIT  
(AOE-4)
- 8 Jan Transited Strait of Otranto; Entered Adriatic Sea;  
Relieved USS VELLA GULF (CG-72) as ADRIATIC REDCROWN
- 12 Jan RAS(F) with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN (T-AO-195)
- 14 Jan Concluded C6F USWEX; Relieved as ADRIATIC REDCROWN
- 15 Jan Departed Adriatic Sea enroute Antalya, Turkey ICW USS  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Transited Strait of Otranto; RAS(F)  
with USS DETROIT
- 16 Jan Visited by RADM G.G. Johnson, Commander, Task Force SIX  
ZERO and Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT
- 17 Jan Anchored Antalya, Turkey

22 Jan Held Damage Control Olympics

23 Jan Departed Antalya ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Safety  
Standdown

24 Jan Replenishment at Sea - Stores (RAS(S)) with USNS CONCORD  
(T-AFS-5)

25 Jan RAS(F) with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN

27 Jan Arrived Haifa, Israel ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and USS  
RAMAGE (DDG-61)

2 Feb Departed Haifa ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Safety  
Standdown; Commenced Exercise JUNIPER STALLION

3 Feb RAS(F) with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN

5 Feb Commenced/concluded Search and Rescue Operation (SAR) for  
downed S-3B aircraft (Callsign VIDAR 704)

7 Feb Concluded Exercise JUNIPER STALLION; Commenced transit to  
Western Mediterranean via Strait Of Sicily

8 Feb RAS(F) with USS DETROIT

11 Feb Commenced/concluded Passing Exercise (PASSEX) with HMS  
ILLUSTRIOUS Battle Group; Commenced French PASSEX  
(Exercise FAN/FEV)

12 Feb Commenced/concluded Surface launched, Land Attack Missile  
Exercise (SLAMEX); RAS(F) with USS DETROIT

14 Feb RAS(F) with USS DETROIT

15 Feb Concluded Exercise FRENCH PASSEX (FAN/FEV); RAS(S) with  
USNS CONCORD

16 Feb Arrived Livorno, Italy

23 Feb Departed Livorno ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Safety

Standdown

- 24 Feb Transited Strait of Messina
- 26 Feb RAS(F) with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
- 27 Feb Anchored Corfu, Greece
- 3 Mar Departed Corfu ICW USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT; Safety Standdown; Commenced Commander, SIXTH Fleet Invitational Exercise (C6F INVITEX)
- 5 Mar RAS(F) with USS DETROIT
- 7 Mar Concluded C6F INVITEX
- 8 Mar HSL 42 Det 3A (Callsign PROUD WARRIOR 433) transferred to USS VELLA GULF
- 9 Mar RAS(F) with USNS KANAWHA (T-AO-196)
- 10 Mar Arrived Rhodes, Greece
- 13 Mar Held Damage Control Extreme Games
- 14 Mar USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT departed for Suez Canal and rendezvous with USS VELLA GULF; LEYTE GULF remained inport Rhodes
- 15 Mar Departed Rhodes enroute Naples, Italy; Safety Standdown; Diverted to Adriatic Sea to support Operation SILVER WAKE (Albanian NEO)
- 16 Mar Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE TWO (embarked on USS HAYLER) relieved Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT as Commander, Task Force SIX ZERO; Transited Strait of Otranto
- 17 Mar Arrived Adriatic Sea; Shifted TACON to Commander, Task Force SIX ONE; Relieved USS HAWES (FFG-53) as ADRIATIC

REDCROWN and surface combatant supporting Operation SILVER WAKE; RAS(S) with USNS CONCORD; Rescued 20 Albanian refugees; Commenced Engineering Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA)

18 Mar Transferred 20 Albanian refugees to USS NASSAU (LHA-4) via CH-46

19 Mar Concluded MCA; RAS(F) with USNS KANAWHA

22 Mar RAS(F) with USNS KANAWHA

24 Mar Relieved as ADRIATIC REDCROWN by USS RAMAGE; Transited Strait of Otranto; Departed Adriatic Sea; Shifted TACON to Commander, Task Force SIX ZERO

25 Mar Transited Strait of Messina; Transited Strait of Bonafacio

26 Mar Arrived Toulon, France

28 Mar Shore Bunkered; USS HAYLER arrived and moored outboard

3 Apr USS HAYLER departed; LEYTE GULF departed Toulon

4 Apr Transited Strait of Bonafacio; Transited Strait of Messina

5 Apr Transited Strait of Otranto; Arrived Adriatic Sea; Shifted TACON to Commander, Task Force SIX ONE; Relieved USS RAMAGE as ADRIATIC REDCROWN and surface combatant supporting Operation SILVER WAKE

6 Apr RAS(F) with USNS PATUXENT (T-AO-201)

10 Apr RAS(F) with USNS PATUXENT; RAS(S) with USNS CONCORD

14 Apr Commenced/completed SLAMEX

16 Apr Relieved as ADRIATIC REDCROWN by USS RAMAGE; RAS(F) with USNS PATUXENT; Transited Strait of Otranto; Departed Adriatic Sea; Shifted TACON to Commander, Task Force SIX ZERO

17 Apr Transited Strait of Messina

18 Apr Arrived Naples, Italy

21 Apr Visited by Admiral T.J. Lopez, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Commander, Task Force SIX THREE

23 Apr Shore Bunkered; Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT relieved Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE TWO as Commander, Task Force SIX ZERO

24 Apr Departed Naples; Embarked HSL 48 Det 5 (Callsign VENOM 504) for further transfer to USS HAWES; Transited Strait of Messina

26 Apr Conducted Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS) in Gulf of Sidra

27 Apr Conducted Burial at Sea for JOCM John L. Caffey, USN(Ret)

28 Apr Anchored Izmir, Turkey; Commenced Exercise DISTANT THUNDER

30 Apr Departed Izmir ICW USS HAWES; Transferred VENOM 504 to USS HAWES; Safety Standdown

4 May RAS(F) with USNS PATUXENT

7 May Concluded Exercise DISTANT THUNDER; Commenced high speed (27 knots) transit to Gaeta, Italy

8 May Transited Strait of Messina

9 May Anchored Gaeta, Italy for Brief Stop for Personnel (BSP); Conducted VIP ship tours and capabilities demonstrations for NATO Commanders attending Commander, SIXTH Fleet TOMAHAWK Wargame; Departed Gaeta; Commence high speed (27 knots) transit to Strait of Gibraltar

10 May RAS(S) with USNS CONCORD

- 11 May THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group relieved as Battle Force, SIXTH FLEET by JOHN F KENNEDY Battle Group; LEYTE GULF relieved as Battle Force SIXTH FLEET Air Warfare Commander by USS HUE CITY (CG-66); RAS(F) with USS DETROIT; Transited Strait of Gibraltar; Commenced Trans-Atlantic transit enroute Bermuda
- 12 May Change of Operational Control (CHOP) from Commander, SIXTH Fleet to Commander, SECOND Fleet; Safety Standdown
- 15 May RAS(F) with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- 16 May Visited by Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT; Awards Ceremony
- 19 May Anchored Bermuda ICW THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group (USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, USS DETROIT, USS VELLA GULF, USS HAYLER, USS RAMAGE, USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS HAWES); Embarked 19 Tigers; Departed Bermuda ICW THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group
- 20 May Air Show and capabilities demonstration by THEODORE ROOSEVELT Air Wing and Proud Warrior 434; Detached from THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group; RAS(F) with USS DETROIT
- 22 May Proud Warrior 433 and 434 flew off from LEYTE GULF enroute Naval Station Mayport; LEYTE GULF arrived Naval Station Mayport; Concluded TIGER CRUISE; Commenced Post-deployment Standdown
- 16 Jun Commenced Shipboard Instrumentation and System Calibration (SISCAL) visit
- 17 Jun Concluded Post-deployment standdown; Commenced upkeep; Commenced Fleet Accounting And Disbursing Center, Atlantic

(FAADCLANT) visit

24 Jun Concluded FAADCLANT Audit

27 Jun Concluded SISCAL Audit

30 Jun Commenced TOMAHAWK/Torpedo Crossdeck to USS CARNEY  
(DDG-64); Commenced/concluded Chaff Crossdeck to USS  
OBANNON (DD-987)

1 Jul Concluded TOMAHAWK/Torpedo Crossdeck to USS CARNEY

7 Jul Commenced/concluded Small Arms Crossdeck to USS GETTYSBURG  
(CG-64)

8 Jul Commenced Ammunition Crossdeck to USS GETTYSBURG

9 Jul Concluded Ammunition Crossdeck to USS GETTYSBURG

14 Jul Commenced Aviation Certification (AVCERT) Technical  
Assistance Visit

16 Jul Concluded AVCERT Technical Assistance Visit

23 Jul Commenced/concluded Fast Cruise

25 Jul Concluded upkeep; Departed Mayport enroute Weapons Station  
Yorktown; Conducted Burial at Sea for YNC Richard P.  
Langlais, USN(Ret), and PFC Adrian Gregory Donnelly, (USA)

27 Jul Arrived Weapons Station Yorktown

28 Jul Commenced Ammunition Offload

30 Jul Concluded Ammunition Offload

31 Jul Embarked 27 Dependents; Departed Yorktown; Arrived Naval  
Station Norfolk, VA; Commenced upkeep

8 Aug Safety Standdown

11 Aug Departed Naval Station Norfolk; Arrived Norfolk Naval  
Shipyard; Commenced Restricted Availability (RAV);

Commenced defueling

12 Aug Concluded defueling

15 Aug RADM W.W. Copeland relieved RADM G.G. Johnson as  
Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT

19 Aug Vistited by Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT; Awards  
Ceremony; Concluded upkeep; Concluded RAV

20 Aug Commenced Extended Selected Restricted Availability (ESRA)  
at Norfolk Naval Shipyard

8 Oct Commenced AEGIS Light Off Phase One (ALO I)

17 Oct Concluded ALO I

21 Oct Commenced Pre-Lightoff-Training (PLOT) Visit II

23 Oct Concluded PLOT Visit II

7 Nov Awards Ceremony

10 Nov Commenced ALO II

12 Nov Commenced PLOT III

14 Nov Concluded PLOT III

21 Nov Concluded ALO II

26 Nov Safety Standdown

8 Dec Commenced Light-Off Assesment (LOA)

9 Dec Concluded LOA

10 Dec Crew move aboard

12 Dec Commenced/concluded Fast Cruise

16 Dec Concluded ESRA; Departed Norfolk Naval Shipyard for Sea  
Trials in the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Operating Area  
(OPAREA)

17 Dec Arrived Pier 24, Berth 5, Naval Station Norfolk; Commenced

upkeep

18 Dec ESRA Awards Ceremony; Commenced AVCERT Technical Assistance Visit; Commenced Christmas Holiday Standdown; Commenced Leave Period One

19 Dec Concluded AVCERT Technical Assistance Visit

29 Dec Concluded Holiday Leave Period One; Commenced Holiday Leave Period Two

31 Dec Inport Naval Station Norfolk

## NARRATIVE

1. COMSIXTHFLT's Well Done to the participants in COMSIXTHFLT INVITEX 97-1 - see Enclosure (4)
2. RADM Azzollini's thanks for LEYTE GULF's support of efforts to rescue refugees adrift at sea aboard the Albanian fishing vessel ROZAFa, conducted 19-20 March, 1997 - see Enclosure (4)
3. CINCUSNAVEUR's Well Done to the participants in Operation SILVER WAKE - see Enclosure (4)
4. COMNAVSURFLANT's Welcome Home and Well Done to the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group - see Enclosure (4)
5. Summary of Disbursing/Personnel Examination, concluded on 24 June 1997 - see Enclosure (4)
6. PLOT II Executive Summary - see Enclosure (4)
7. USS LEYTE GULF PLOT III ETG Executive Summary - see Enclosure (4)
8. LOA Assessment Report - see Enclosure (4)
9. ILO Report - see Enclosure (4)
10. Copy of Homeport Change memorandum from the Chief of Naval Personnel.
11. COMNAVSURFLANT 1997 Battle Efficiency Awards - see Enclosure (4)
12. Meritorious Unit Commendation authorization - see Enclosure (4)
13. Armed Forces Service Medal authorization - see Enclosure (4)
14. Type Commander Surface Ship Safety Award announcement - see Enclosure (4)
15. COMCARGRU EIGHT's congratulations on LEYTE GULF's selection as a Type Commander Surface Ship Safety Award recipient - see Enclosure (4)
15. Mediterranean Deployment 97-1 - On January 1, 1997, USS LEYTE GULF was deployed with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group. The JOHN F KENNEDY Battle Group relieved the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group on May 11, 1997 and LEYTE GULF returned to Mayport, Florida on May 22, 1997. On July 25, 1997, LEYTE GULF departed her homeport of Mayport, Florida for the last time, and arrived at her new homeport of Norfolk, Virginia on

Enclosure (3)

July 31, 1997.

16. Awards Received:

- Logistics Management Excellence Award (Eighth Consecutive)
- Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award (Second Consecutive)
- Maritime Warfare Excellence Award (Second Consecutive)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Second)
- Command and Control Excellence Award (First)
- Armed Forces Service Medal (First)
- Type Commander Surface Ship Safety Award (First)