



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
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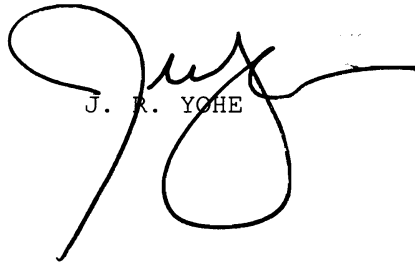
From: Commanding Officer, USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, 29MAR98

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.


J. R. YOHE

COMMAND HISTORY

PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT MAHAN/USS MAHAN (DDG 72)

1998

PART 1

Command Composition and Organization

UIC: 21946

Mission: To operate offensively in a high density multi-threat environment as an integral member of a Battle Group, Surface Action Group, Amphibious Task Group or Underway Replenishment Group to include striking targets along hostile shore lines. (DDG 51 Class Mission)

ISIC: Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six

Commanding Officer: Michael L. James, CDR USN

Homeports: Bath, Maine (010198-011698), Norfolk, Virginia (011698-123198)

COMMAND HISTORY

PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT MAHAN/USS MAHAN (DDG 72)

1998

PART 2

Chronology

JANUARY

1-15 INPORT Bath, Maine
6-9 CTT Development Test Assist (TRACOR)
12 Aviation Readiness Certification
12-13 Crew Certification Phase II
16 Homeport Shift to Norfolk, VA
 Navigation Check Ride Assist (RSG)
 Sailaway
17-20 INPORT Bath, Maine
21-23 U/W transit to Norfolk, VA
24-31 INPORT Norfolk, VA

FEBRUARY

1-6 INPORT Norfolk, VA
6-9 U/W Shakedown Cruise/Transit to Tampa, FL
9-16 INPORT Tampa, FL
10-12 Commissioning Ceremony Rehearsals and ship tours
11 Commissioning Committee Reception
12 Reception for USS MAHAN Association
13 Final Commissioning Ceremony Rehearsal
 Sponsor's Reception and lunch for Mrs. Arthur
 Commanding Officer's Reception at the Florida Aquarium
14 USS MAHAN Commissioning
15 Class of '72 tour
15-16 Ship tours
17-20 U/W transit to Norfolk, VA
21-24 INPORT Norfolk, VA
22-24 Combat DF Calibration (VACAPES)
28 INPORT Norfolk, VA

MARCH

1-15 INPORT Norfolk, VA
5 PSA Planning Conference
9-13 Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II
16 U/W transit to Yorktown Naval Weapons Station
16-18 Ammunition Onload Yorktown, VA
18 U/W transit to Norfolk, VA
18-25 INPORT Norfolk, VA
23-25 Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I, Fleet Training Group/Combat Systems Training Group (FTG/CSTG)
26-27 U/W TSTA I (FTG/CSTG) VACAPES
28-29 INPORT Norfolk, VA
30-31 U/W TSTA I (FTG) VACAPES

APRIL

1-3 U/W TSTA I (FTG) VACAPES
4-7 INPORT Norfolk, VA
6-10 TSTA I Engineering Training Group (ETG)
8-10 U/W TSTA I (ETG) VACAPES
Navy Environmental Health Clinic (NEHC) Industrial Hygiene Survey (U/W segment)
11-30 INPORT Norfolk, VA
13-17 NEHC Industrial Hygiene Survey (Inport segment)
20-30 Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT)
28-29 Navy Exchange Command (NEXCOM) Assist Visit

MAY

1-20 CSSQT
1-10 INPORT Norfolk, VA
4-8 Corrosion Control and Deck Surveys
11-12 U/W VACAPES
Link 4A Air Control Operations
13 Transit to Jacksonville OPAREA
14-15 U/W JAX OPAREA
16-19 INPORT Port Everglades, FL
20 U/W transit to Atlantic Underwater Testing Evaluation Center (AUTEC)
21-26 U/W AUTEC
23-25 Undersea Warfare Ship's Qualification Trial (USW SQT)

26-28 U/W transit to Roosevelt Roads, PR
28-31 INPORT Roosevelt Roads, PR
31 U/W Puerto Rican OPAREA (PROA)
Surface Gunnery Exercises

JUNE

1-30 CSSQT
1-4 U/W PROA
4-6 INPORT Roosevelt Roads, PR
6-11 U/W Underwater Testing Range
9-11 USW SQT (Over the Side Torpedo/Vertically Launched Anti-Submarine Rocket)
OTST/VLA
12 U/W North Vieques
13-15 U/W PROA, North Range
Link 11/16 Operations
15-17 INPORT Roosevelt Roads, PR
17-21 U/W PROA
18-19 Missile Exercises (MISSILEX)
19-21 Transit to St Maartin, Netherlands Antilles
21-25 INPORT St Maartin, Netherlands Antilles
25-26 U/W transit to Roosevelt Roads, PR
25-27 Combat Direction Finding (CDF) System Groom
26-29 INPORT Roosevelt Roads, PR
29-30 U/W Vieques Range, Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Qualification

JULY

1-15 CSSQT
1-3 U/W transit to Norfolk, VA
3-6 INPORT Norfolk, VA
6-7 Link 4A/11/16 Air Operations
Active Electronic Warfare (EW) Ship's Qualification Trials
6-8 U/W VACAPES (Wallops Flight Facility Range)
VANDALEX
8-10 Geodetic Gridlock
9 U/W VACAPES
9-13 INPORT Norfolk, VA
13-15 U/W VACAPES

CDF Systems Tests
 15-31 INPORT Norfolk, VA
 18 Brigadier General Sabti Bu-Ghaith, Chief, Military Education Department, Kuwait
 Armed Forces Visit
 27-29 Aviation Pre-Availability Tech Assist
 27-30 Final Contract Trail (FCT)
 30 Medical Readiness Assist Visit
 PSA Planning Conference 3
 31 ComNavSurfLant Recruiting Video Shoot

AUGUST

1-4 INPORT Norfolk, VA
 3-7 TSTA II (ETG)
 4-6 U/W TSTA II (ETG)
 6-18 INPORT Norfolk, VA
 8-16 SQQ-89(v) Upgrade Install (Phase I)
 10-14 Industrial Hygiene Survey (Follow-Up)
 13 ComDesron 26 Change of Command
 17-21 TSTA II (ETG)
 18-20 U/W VACAPS
 20 Engineering Certification (ECERT)
 20-21 INPORT Norfolk, VA
 21-24 U/W transit to Halifax, Nova Scotia
 24-26 INPORT Halifax, NS
 26-27 U/W transit to Portland, ME
 27-31 INPORT Portland, ME
 PSA Portland, ME

SEPTEMBER

1-30 PSA Portland, ME
 1 Enter Drydock
 Hull Inspection
 Blade Grinding
 LPAC #3 Install (hull opening cut in MER1)
 30 Undock MAHAN

OCTOBER

1-31 INPORT Portland, ME

1-31 PSA Portland, ME

NOVEMBER

1-16 INPORT Portland, ME

1-15 PSA Portland, ME

4 ISIC Light Off Assessment

9 Dock Trials

9-13 Aviation Certification

10 U/W Gulf of Maine

Post Repair Trials (Sea Trials)

16-20 U/W transit to Norfolk, VA

20 Underway Replenishment w/USNS BIG HORN

20-30 INPORT Norfolk, VA

23-25 Ship's Signal Exploitation Space Recertification

DECEMBER

1-3 U/W VACAPES

3-15 INPORT Norfolk, VA

4-11 SQQ-89(v)6 Upgrade Install (Phase II)

SLQ-32 DDI Console Install

7-8 EKMS Install

15-17 U/W VACAPES

16 Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's)

17-31 INPORT Norfolk, VA

COMMAND HISTORY

PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT MAHAN/USS MAHAN (DDG 72)

1998

PART 3

Narrative

The start of 1998 found the Precommissioning Unit MAHAN completing preparations for her first underway in Bath, Maine. Evaluations completed prior to Sailaway on the 16th included a Commander Tactical Terminal (CTT) Developmental Test Assist, Aviation Certification, Phase II of Crew Certification and Navigation Check Ride. These items complete, the ship got underway on the 16th bound for Portland, ME. The ship's first underway was notable in more ways than one, as the weather was very heavy and many of the crew, who had not put to sea before, were ill. Also the 16th was the official change of homeport for the ship to Norfolk, VA. Pulling in to Portland on the 17th, the crew began a three-day visit. The ship then got underway on the 21st, bound for Norfolk. The ship moored for the first time in her new homeport on the 24th and finished the month there.

February started with the Precommissioning Unit MAHAN adjusting plans to get underway for Florida as the scheduled Visit to Port Manatee, FL was cancelled due to heavy weather delaying the underway. Once in Tampa, preparations continued for the commissioning to be held on the 14th. At 1100 14 Feb 1998, the USS MAHAN was officially commissioned by the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Vice Admiral Henry C. Giffin, III, USN. The ceremony was started with a Welcome from the Executive Officer, LCDR Andrew A. King, USN who greeted guests and gave a brief history of the ship's namesake, RADM Alfred Thayer Mahan. Following the welcome, an Invocation was given by the Reverend Winston Wilson of the First United Methodist Church. Words were also shared by the following distinguished visitors: Mr. Allen Cameron, President Bath Iron Works, the Hon. Charles Canaday, Congressman 12th District of Florida and the Hon. George Nethercutt, Congressman 5th District of

Washington (State). VADM Giffin then officially placed the ship in service. The ship was then manned by the crew at the order of Mrs. Jennie Lou Arthur, the ship's sponsor. The USS MAHAN and crew then got underway on the 17th in transit to Norfolk, VA. The ship moored on the 21st and remained until the 24th, then proceeding back to sea to the Virginia Capes to complete calibration of the Combat Direction Finding System. The ship returned to NAVSTA NORFOLK, VA on the 27th.

The first half of March was spent inport. The first planning conference for the Post Shipyard Availability was held on the 5th, discussions having already begun behind the scenes for improvements and repairs. The second phase of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II) began on the 9th and lasted through the 13th. The ship got underway on the 16th bound for the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station for ammunition onload, mooring at the ammunition piers later that same day. The ammunition onload lasted three days, USS MAHAN returned to Norfolk on the 18th. During the stay inport from the 18th to the 25th, the first Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) began. Starting on the 23rd of March, TSTA I lasted through the 10th of April. The ship was underway the 26th and 27th for the Fleet Training Group (FTG) and Combat Systems Training Group portion of TSTA I. After a brief return to port from the 28th to the 29th, the ship returned to the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) to compete the FTG portion.

April began underway completing the remainder of the FTG portion of TSTA I. USS MAHAN and crew returned to Norfolk on the 4th for three days to drop off the FTG members and take on the Engineering Training Group (ETG) evaluators. Starting on the 6th, TSTA I ETG lasted through the 10th, the 8th through the 10th spent underway. Also completed during the underway was a portion of the ship's first Industrial Hygiene Survey for which there were no major discrepancies noted. USS MAHAN returned to Norfolk on the 11th, and remained inport for the rest of the month. Inport the Industrial Hygiene Survey continued through the 17th, again with no major discrepancies noted. On the 20th the Combat Systems Ship's Qualification Trail was began, an evaluation which lasted through mid July. Also at the end of the month the Navy Exchange Command made an assist visit from the 28th to the 29th.

The CSSQT continued throughout May, focus being from the 1st to the 20th. The ship went underway again on the 11th, ultimately bound for Port Everglades, FL. Link 4A Air Control was conducted in the VACAPES, 11-12 May. USS MAHAN entered the Jacksonville OPAREA I on the 14th and moored in Port Everglades on the 16th. Leaving on the 19th, the ship proceeded to the Atlantic Underwater Testing Evaluation Center to conduct Undersea Warfare trails from the 23rd to the 25th. The ship then proceeded to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads for a three day inport period from the 28th to the 31st. On the 31st, USS MAHAN departed for the Puerto Rican OPAREA to continue CSSQT, conducting surface gunnery exercises.

June began underway continuing CSSQT, the month was spent in and out of Roosevelt Roads, spending time on the Underwater Testing Range, North Vieques for Naval Gunfire Training, Link 11/16 Ops, and finally the ship's first MISSILEX on the 18th and 19th. The MISSILEX was conducted in company with USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55). The long training and evaluation period was capped off with a much deserved inport period in St Maartin from the 21 to 25 June. A further groom of the Combat Direction Finding System was conducted from the 25th to the 27th, during the transit back to Roosevelt Roads, continuing after mooring on the 26th. USS MAHAN left Roosevelt Roads on the 29th for the firing range at Vieques to complete qualifications in Naval Surface Fire Support.

July began with the USS MAHAN finishing NSFS qualifications and heading once more for Norfolk, mooring on the 3rd. The visit to homeport was short, the ship returned to the VACAPES for the next 12 days, completing Link 4A/11/16 Air Ops, Active EW Ship's Qualification Trials, VANDALEX, and continued Combat Direction Finding system tests. A notable occurrence during VANDALEX was that for the first time Eight Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers were together for the same event. During the inport period, the Aviation Pre-Availability Tech Assist was conducted, as was the Final Contract Trial, the first Medical Readiness Assist Visit, and the 3rd Post-Shipyard Availability (PSA) Planning Conference. The final event of the month was a Recruiting

Video Shoot at the direction of CNSL, USS MAHAN having been chosen as the platform for the filming.

August saw USS MAHAN inport for the first four days, then underway for the ETG portion of TSTA Phase II from the 4th to the 6th. The Engineering Certification (ECERT) conducted during this time was very well done, and it is worth mentioning that for the time USS MAHAN was the first Burke Destroyer to pass ECERT before PSA. The ship was inport from the 6th to the 18th, during which time the SQQ-89(v)6 upgrade was installed (phase I). An Industrial Hygiene Survey was conducted from the 10th to the 14th. The middle of the month was highlighted by the change of command ceremony for Commander Destroyer Squadron 26 being held aboard, Captain Robert J. Cox relieved Captain Lloyd F. R. Swift on the 13th. TSTA II continued, the ship getting underway for the VACAPES on the 18th in support. Also during the underway, Engineering Certification was conducted on the 20th. Preparations for PSA drew to a close as USS MAHAN got underway on the 21st for drydock in Portland, ME, first stopping in Halifax, Nova Scotia from the 24th through the 26th. USS MAHAN arrived in Portland, ME on the 31st for defueling and crew habitability transfer. USS MAHAN proceeded to drydock on the 1st of September.

USS MAHAN entered drydock and began the PSA period on the first of September and continued through the end of October. Normal PSA evolutions were performed; hull inspection, sea chest inspection, blade grinding, seal removal/replacement. A hull opening was made in MER 1 to allow the installation of a third LPAC. The rudders were also painted with an anti-corrosion coating. The drydock period of PSA continued through the remainder of the month, the ship undocked 30 September and moored pierside in Portland in order to continue PSA.

As November began, the pace quickened for the USS MAHAN. On the 4th the ISIC Light-Off Assessment was conducted, and dock trials were conducted on the 9th. The LOA went very quickly as MAHAN continued a growing reputation for preparedness. Also beginning on the 9th was the Aviation Certification, which lasted

through the 13th, yielding no discrepancies. USS MAHAN was underway on the 10th in the Gulf of Maine for Post Repair Trials, returning to Portland the same day. Transit for return to homeport began on the 16th in the form of a Group Sail with the USS Donald Cook (DDG 75). During the trip back to Norfolk, the USS MAHAN also performed an underway replenishment with the USNS BIG HORN. This was the first UNREP for the ship and crew, and was done without the benefit of previous pierside hookup training as is normally given. The ship entered port 20 November and remained there through the end of the month. During this inport period, the Ship Signal Exploitation Space (SSES) Recertification was conducted.

In December USS MAHAN was underway for Helicopter Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) for three days, returning to port on the 3rd. The ship remained inport through the 15th. During this inport period phase II of the SQQ-89(v)6 installation was completed, as was a Deceptive electronic countermeasures Decoy Integration (DDI) console install for the SLQ-32. While underway in the VACAPES from the 15th to the 17th, the ship conducted additional DLQ's. USS MAHAN was moored pierside Norfolk, VA for the remainder of 1998.

COMMAND HISTORY
USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
1998

PART 4
Supporting Documents

List of Contents:

- 1 CO's Family Letter and Focus for 1998 dated 12 January, 1998
- 2 Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
- 3 Commissioning Video
- 4 Commissioning Ceremony Booklet