



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS McCLUSKY (FFG 41) ✓**

**FLEET POST OFFICE**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96672**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

**5757**

**13 Sep 88**

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS MCCLUSKY (FFG-41)  
**To:** Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

**Subj:** SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) CNO ltr 5757 Ser SH/3361 dtd 10 Aug 88

**Encl:** (1) Command History for Period Ending 31 December 1986  
(2) Supporting Documents

1. In response to reference (a), enclosure (1) and (2) are resubmitted.
2. Command History for calendar year 1987 will be submitted by separate correspondence. Regret delay.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. L. Hansen".

G. L. HANSEN

## SHIP'S HISTORY 1986

### 1. Command composition and organization.

a. The USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41) named after Rear Admiral Wade McClusky, a hero of the Battle of Midway, is a guided missile frigate of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class. Her primary mission is general escort duty - of convoys, amphibious task forces, replenishment groups and aircraft carrier and battleship battle groups - defending high value units against subsurface, surface and low level air threats.

b. The MCCLUSKY is a member of Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Three - the "Little Beavers" Squadron - made famous during WWII when led by Admiral (then Captain) Arliegh Burke. Captain Todd A. Barthold commanded Desron 23 during 1986 and was MCCLUSKY's immediate superior in command.

e. MCCLUSKY's homeport and permanent duty station is San Diego, CA.

f. During 1986, MCCLUSKY deployed and worked with "OCEANLORD 23", a SH-60B LAMPS MKIII helicopter, from HSL-43 (Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron, Light Forty-Three).

2. (U) Chronology.

a. (U) 15 Jan: Commence First Deployment

b. (U) 31 Jan: Change of Command

c. (U) 1 - 4 Feb: Port Visit Singapore

d. (U) 25 Feb - 31 Mar: OPS in South China Sea and Gulf of Oman

e. (U) 1 - 5 Apr: Upkeep Masirah

f. (U) 13 Apr: Crossing the Line

g. (U) 15 - 18 Apr: Port Visit Diego Garcia

h. (U) 20 Apr - 12 May: Port Visits Mauritius, La Reunion, Seychelles, Mombasa

i. (U) 12 - 18 May: Upkeep Diego Garcia

j. (U) 18 May - 24 Jun: Gulf of Oman OPS, including port visit Muscat Oman

k. (U) 24 Jun - 8 Jul: Transit to CONUS via Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillippines

l. (U) 9 Jul - 19 Jul Transit Pearl Harbor and Tigers Embark Transit to San Diego

m. (U) 27 Jul - 7 Sep: Port-Deployment Standown and OPRE Preps

n. (U) 19 Sep: USS THATCHER (DD-514) Reunion

3. (U) Narrative:

a. (U) USS MCCLUSKY embarked on her first deployment on 15 January 1986. She was a part of Battle Group FOXTROT, headed by USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) and including: USS TRUXTUN, USS ARKANSAS, USS O'BRIEN, USS REASONER, USS LEWIS B. PULLER, and USS DAVID R. RAY. The Battle Group sailed directly for the Indian Ocean, with stops in Hawaii, Subic Bay, R.P., and Singapore. During the transit MCCLUSKY was used as a AAW early warning picket. During covert transits she was stationed off Camh Rahn Bay, Vietnam, and Goa, India.

b. (U) On 31 January 1986 CDR Robert B. Lynch was relieved of command by CDR John J. Felloney during ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Naval Station. The guest speaker was CAPT T. A. Barthold, COMDESRON 23.

c. (U) MCCLUSKY's port visit to Singapore gave the crew their first chance to visit a foreign country with such a diverse cultural heritage. Crewmembers visited the historic Raffles hotel and other landmarks. The ship was berthed at the Sembawang Naval Station.

d. (U) On 5 February MCCLUSKY participated in an exercise with the Malaysian Navy while transiting the Malacca Straits. She then proceeded ahead of the Battle Group to station off of Goa India, in order to assist ENTERPRISE in making a covert transit to Karachi, Pakistan. While the Battle Group headed to a port call in Karachi, MCCLUSKY assumed duties as Gulf of Oman patrol ship. She spent time patrolling the Gulf of Oman tracking Iranian aircraft and surface vessels, and escorting American merchant ships. During this time she had one encounter with an Iranian war ship, an LST, which tried to intercept an American merchant. The Iranian attempt was unsuccessful due to the fact that MCCLUSKY positioned herself between the two ships. MCCLUSKY transited the Gulf of Hormuz once while trailing an Iranian "SAAM" Class FFG. Upon being relieved by USS REASONER she reported to Masirah anchorage for a 5 day availability with USS HECTOR.

e. (U) During the five day period off of Masirah Island MCCLUSKY accomplished routine repair work and tried to determine the extent of damage to Nr. 4 SSDG, which had had a casualty during the patrol in the Gulf of Oman.

f. (U) On 13 April MCCLUSKY crossed into the Domain of Neptunus Rex. The crew was composed of a very large number of Pollywogs, but the trusty Shellbacks were able to ensure that each was witness to the wrath of Neptune.

g. (U) MCCLUSKY visited Diego Garcia for a short upkeep prior to going to the South Indian Ocean. There were ship's parties and USS HECTOR performed required repair work.

h. (U) The highlight of MCCLUSKY's deployment was her "Show the Flag" cruise of the Southern Indian Ocean. She made port visits in Pt. Louis, Mauritius; La Port Des Gallets, Isle De La Reunion; Victoria, Seychelles; and Mombasa, Kenya. In Mauritius, the MCCLUSKY visit coincided with the 200th anniversary of American contact with the island. Crewmembers took part in various festivities including a basketball competition and formal ceremonies. CDR Felloney was a speaker at the formal ceremony commemorating the event. In Reunion the agenda was much less formal. There was an exchange lunch held with the French Navy Petty Officers, and the crew availed themselves of the local sites and hotels. A tour of the island was provided by the French Navy, which included a look at a volcano that had recently erupted. Victoria, Seychelles was also informal. The only formal event was a party at the

residence of the Ambassador. The crew pitched in with a community project which involved the repainting of Victoria Orphanage. Mombasa, Kenya provided the crew with an opportunity to go on a safari and experience life in Africa.

i. (U) During her 5 day upkeep in Diego Garcia MCCLUSKY rebuilt Nr. 4 SSDG, (which had failed earlier in the Gulf of Oman) in seven days, cutting the previous time by half. In addition to the hard work put in by the crew on the SSDG other necessary voyage repair work was accomplished.

j. (U) Upon departing Diego Garcia, MCCLUSKY once again headed for the Gulf of Oman. She resumed her patrol duties as before and spent a routine patrol, encountering various Iranian C-130 aircraft and surface ships in the area, and had an unforgettable port visit to Muscat, Oman. The ship fueled in Fujarah from Hind Hashim, an oil barge from the United Arab Emirates. The final refueling was performed at the Sitrah Anchorage in Bahrain. On 25 June MCCLUSKY was relieved of her patrol duties by the USS COPELAND (FFG-25), and set sail for Subic Bay, Philippines, with the USS DAVID R. RAY and the USNS HASSAYAMPA.

k. (U) Arrived 5 July in Subic Bay. After taking on stores, MCCLUSKY continued its homeward voyage with the DAVID R. RAY in company with only one stop to go: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

l. (U) Arrived 19 July in Pearl Harbor and embarked our Tiger Cruise participants. Underway from Pearl Harbor on 20 July. Many activities kept the Tigers quite busy throughout the transit to San Diego. It was a rewarding experience for the crew and our guests.

m. (U) Arrived 27 July in San Diego and began a leave and upkeep period which lasted until 8 September. During this period several events took place, including: An Intermediate Maintenance Availability with SIMA, arrival conference with the USS JASON, Aviation Assist Visit, and the UHF DAMA installation.

n. (U) On 19 September the MCCLUSKY was selected as the host ship for the USS THATCHER Reunion. The World War II Destroyer USS THATCHER (DD-514) was one of the original "Little Beavers" of Destroyer Squadron 23 under Captain (later Admiral) Arleigh A. "31 Knot" Burke. Two-hundred and nineteen former shipmates enjoyed a day of festivities aboard MCCLUSKY (assigned to DESRON 23) which included a narrated cruise through the San Diego Harbor, a picnic on the flight deck, and many fond memories of an age gone by.

o. (U) The end of September saw the MCCLUSKY returning to business as usual as Commanding Officer's Assessment Training (CART) and preparations for OPRE Operational Plant Propulsion Recertification Examination (OPRE) kept the members of MCCLUSKY extremely busy.

p. (U) On 16 October MCCLUSKY successfully shot an SVTT torpedo on the SOAR range amidst hours of Engineering Casualty Control Drills in anticipation of the upcoming OPRE.

q. (U) Upon MCCLUSKY's return to port on 20 October, they began an ongoing availability with SIMA San Diego.

r. (U) 10 November MCCLUSKY passed the Aviation Recertification. The OPPRE which was originally scheduled for 2-4 December was unexpectedly changed to 24 November due to the inability of another ship in the squadron to meet it's scheduled date for OPPRE. MCCLUSKY passed the OPPRE with less restrictives than the previous year in which they set a record for FFG class ships.

s. (U) At the beginning of December, MCCLUSKY prepared for a ship's Restricted Availability at Campbell Shipyard in San Diego, CA. This preparation included many system checks throughout the ship. The ship proved to be in very good shape and the availability would be nothing more than a tune up. On 9 December MCCLUSKY's Supply Department participated in and passed a Supply Management Inspection (SMI). The year ended with a holiday and leave period from 15 December 1986 - 5 January 1987. MCCLUSKY entered the SRA at Campbell Shipyard on 5 January 1987.