



USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8)
 FLEET POST OFFICE
 MIAMI, FL 34092

FFG8/GLR:ps
 5750
 Ser 89-82
 1 March 1982

From: Commanding Officer, USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8)
 To: Chief of Naval Operations
 Subj: 1981 Command History Report (OPNAV 5750-1)
 Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is submitted for the purpose of preserving significant information concerning the activities conducted by the officers and crew of the United States Ship MCINERNEY (FFG-8) during the 1981 calendar year.

2. Shipboard Command Structure.

a. Effective Command Structure as of 31 December 1981:

CDR John Stoddard BERG, USN	Commanding Officer
LCDR Gary Lee RICKMAN, USN	Executive Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], USN	Combat Systems Officer
LCDR [REDACTED], USN	Engineer Officer
LT [REDACTED], USN	Ship Control Officer
LT [REDACTED], SC, USN	Support Officer
LT [REDACTED], USN	Combat Information Center Officer
LT [REDACTED], USN	Communications Officer
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	Ordnance Officer
ENS [REDACTED], USN	Disbursing Officer
CW03 [REDACTED], USN	Electronic Readiness Officer
CW03 [REDACTED], USN	Main Propulsion Assistant
CW03 [REDACTED], USN	Prospective Electronic Readiness Officer

b. Losses:

- (1) LT [REDACTED], USN: 5 October 1981 transferred to FFG-7 Class Fleet Introduction Team, Bath, Maine.
- (2) LT [REDACTED], SC, USN: 15 May 1981 transferred to Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California.
- (3) LCDR [REDACTED], USN: 21 May 1981 transferred to Naval Military Personnel Command, Washington, DC.
- (4) CDR [REDACTED], USN: 13 October 1981 transferred to Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC.
- (5) LT [REDACTED], USN: 29 December 1981 transferred to Pre-commissioning Unit USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62), Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach California.

c. Gains:

- (1) LTJG [REDACTED], USN: 21 February 1981 duty from Naval

Gunners Mate School, Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

(2) LT [REDACTED] SC, USN: 24 April 1981 duty from Naval Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia.

(3) LT [REDACTED], USN: 4 May 1981 duty from Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island.

(4) LT [REDACTED], USN: 13 May 1981 duty from Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island.

(5) ENS [REDACTED] USN: 31 August 1981 duty from Naval Supply Corps School, Athens, Georgia.

(6) LCDR Gary Lee RICKMAN, USN: 12 October 1981 duty from USS DALE (CG-19).

(7) CWO3 [REDACTED], USN: 24 December 1981 duty from Fleet Combat Training Center Atlantic, Dam Neck, Virginia. Prospective Electronic Readiness Officer.

3. Histrocial Narrative.

Since 6 January 1981, United States Ship MCINERNEY (FFG-8) has been employed in support of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Project 189; the Operational and Technical Evaluation of the SH-60B SEAHAWK Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) MK-III aircraft and associated shipboard systems, including the Rapid Assist Securing and Traverse (RAST) System. Operations and Technical Evaluations of CNO Project 189 included flight envelope development, ship-aircraft sensor interphase, Open-Ocean Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) scenarios (including the first MK-46 torpedo dropped by a SH-60B aircraft), Over-The-Horizon Detection and Targetting, communications relay, medical evacuation, and hot in-flight refueling (HIFR) evolutions. In support of the evaluation program, many of the flight evolutions, particularly during the flight envelope development were deliberately conducted under adverse weather conditions and in high sea states.

During 1981, 1008 helicopter landings were made on MCINERNEY including 242 night landings. This constituted 468.4 flight hours. Seven of these landings were in-flight emergencies or conducted under emergency conditions. The timely and correct response by ship's company were instrumental in averting possible disaster. This experience will determine standard operating procedures for the fleet introduction of the LAMPS MK-III Weapon System. MCINERNEY is presently the first and only frigate/destroyer type warship within the United States Navy to have embarked, supported, and operated a two aircraft LAMPS MK-III detachment.

4. Chronological Order of Events:

1981

06 January Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Jacksonville Operating Areas (JAXOAS) in support of SH-60B "SEAHAWK" aircraft Flight Envelope Development.

07 January Following take-off on the first flight of the day, SH-60B BUNO 161169 experienced Automatic Flight Control

System (AFCS) malfunctions. The AFCS malfunction forced MCINERNEY to return to Mayport, Florida in order to allow contractor personnel to further troubleshoot the aircraft.

- 09 January Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of Flight Envelope Development.
- 14 January Inport Mayport, Florida.
- 19 January Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of Flight Envelope Development.
- 22 January Inport Mayport, Florida.
- 28 January Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of Flight Envelope Development.
- 31 January For the first time, a maneuvering, straightening, and traversing evolution was conducted while the ship was experiencing rolls. With the SH-60B aircraft in the starboard Rapid Securing Device (RSD), the ship experienced rolls up to 12 degrees.
- 01 February While maneuvering to obtain envelope data, a combination of a 26 degree roll and a cresting swell wave caused both port and starboard flight deck edge safety net frames to crack at their support braces. Upon closer investigation by ship's personnel, it was discovered that only three of fourteen deck edge safety nets remained intact. This accident precluded further at-sea LAMPS MK-III Flight Envelope Development testing.
- 02 February Inport Mayport, Florida. With the existing data collected, a preliminary flight envelope for FFG-8/SH-60B flight operations was promulgated.
- 06 February Commenced LAMPS MK-III Ship/Air Shakedown preparations. Flight deck edge safety nets repaired.
- 11 February Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of LAMPS MK-III Ship/Air Shakedown training.
- 13 February Inport Mayport, Florida.
- 17 February Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of LAMPS MK-III Ship/Air Shakedown training.
- 19 February Inport Mayport, Florida. LAMPS MK-III Ship/Air Shakedown training successfully completed.
- 22 February Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center (AUTEK), Andros Island, Bahamas in support of CNO Project 189.

27 February Inport Freeport, Bahamas. Refuel and crew rest.

03 March Underway from Freeport, Bahamas enroute AUTEK Operating Areas.

06 March Both embarked SH-60B "SEAHAWK" helicopters were flown off MCINERNEY to the Sikorsky facility located in West Palm Beach, Florida in order to undergo required maintenance inspections.

Inport Port Canaveral, Florida.

07 March Underway from Port Canaveral, Florida enroute Mayport, Florida.

Inport Mayport, Florida.

11 March Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute AUTEK Operating Areas.

12 March Aircraft BUNO 161173 arrived back on board from the Sikorsky facility, West Palm Beach, Florida. Aircraft BUNO 161172 not available due to stabilator and center-box problems.

Post flight inspection of BUNO 161173 revealed structural damage to the rotor head. MCINERNEY proceeded to Mayport, Florida. Scheduled AUTEK operations (12-15 March) are cancelled.

14 March Inport Mayport, Florida.

16 - 20 March Harpoon Certification Visit.

22 - 28 March Gas Turbine Mobile Team Training (MIT) Visit.

23 March Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute AUTEK Operating Areas.

29 March Inport Freeport, Bahamas. Brief stop for fuel.

31 March Underway from Freeport, Bahamas enroute AUTEK Operating Areas in support of CNO Project 189.

02 April Departed AUTEK Operating Areas enroute Mayport, Florida.

03 April Inport Mayport, Florida.

06 April Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Charleston Operating Areas in support of LAMPS MK-III Open-Ocean ASW Testing/CNO Project 189. Open-ocean testing phase objectives were to provide COMOPTEVFOR observers with

a technical assessment of the LAMPS MK-III system capabilities in the redetection, classification, and subsequent simulated attack of a target SSN in an open ocean ASW scenario.

10 April Inport Mayport, Florida.

13 April Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Charleston Operating Areas in support of Open-Ocean LAMPS MK-III Testing/CNO Project 189.

16 April Inport Mayport, Florida.

18 - 23 April Gas Turbine Mobile Training Team (MIT) Visit.

20 April Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of Gas Turbine MIT evolutions and CNO Project 189.

21 - 22 April Conducted electronic support measures functional flight testing utilizing the services of EMPASS aircraft.

23 April Conducted aircraft fly-off.

Inport Mayport, Florida.

Open-Ocean Testing Phase of CNO Project 189 successfully completed.

27 April Underway from Mayport, Florida in support of CNO Project 189.

28 April Inport Mayport, Florida.

06 May Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute JAXOAS in support of the underway phase of the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

07 May Inport Mayport, Florida.

19 May Admiral A. J. WHITTLE, USN, Chief of Naval Material visits on board.

21 May Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the Bermuda Operating Areas. Subject testing is delayed due to mechanical difficulties with embarked LAMPS MK-III aircraft. Proceeded to homeport.

23 May Inport Mayport, Florida.

Aircraft discrepancies were corrected. Commenced CNO Project 189 Phase OT-II/RAST System Operational Evaluation and OT-IIA/LAMPS MK-III System Operational Evaluation.

26 - 28 May Conducted at-sea flight evolutions in the Bermuda Operating Areas in support of CNO Project 189.

28 May Inport Naval Air Station (NAS) Annex, Bermuda.

01 June Underway from NAS Annex, Bermuda enroute to Mayport, Florida.

03 June Inport Mayport, Florida.

04 June Communications Readiness Assist Team (CRAT) Visit.

10 June Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the Bermuda Operating Areas.

13 June Conducted underway replenishment with USNS MARIAS (TAO-57).

13 - 17 June Conducted three ASW events with USS GARCIA (FF-1040). This was the first time that the LAMPS MK-III Weapon System was utilized in conjunction with a Towed Array System (TAS).

18 June Inport Norfolk, Virginia. Conducted aircraft fly-off.

19 June Underway from Norfolk, Virginia enroute to Wilmington, North Carolina.

21 June Inport Wilmington, North Carolina in support of the United States Navy's participation in the 40th birthday celebration of the USS NORTH CAROLINA (BB-55).

24 June Underway from Wilmington, North Carolina enroute to Mayport, Florida.

25 June Inport Mayport, Florida.

26 June Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Independent Steaming Evolutions (ISE) within the JAXQA.

Inport Mayport, Florida.

06 July Commenced Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). IMAV scheduled to end 18 August.

17 July Host ship for HMS ANTELOPE (F-170) during her visit to Mayport, Florida.

20 - 24 July Safety Survey conducted.

21 July Medical Administrative Inspection conducted.

18 August Completed IMAV.

20 August Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Norfolk, Virginia deperming facility.

24 August Inport Norfolk, Virginia. Commence deperming operations.

24 - 26 August Conducted deperming operations.

25 August Royal Saudi Arabia Chief of Naval Operations Commodore Mohammed, Awn-Sharaf Al-Barakati visits on board.

27 August Underway from Norfolk, Virginia deperming facility enroute to Mayport, Florida.

28 August Inport Mayport, Florida.

12 September Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico in support of CNO Project 189.

15 September Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Brief fuel stop.

16 September Underway from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico enroute to the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility (AFWTF) Operating Areas located off of Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

Conducted two missile firing exercises. Both missile firing exercises evaluated as hits.

17 September Inport Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

17 - 20 September Conducted daily LAMPS MK-III flight mission scenarios on the AFWTF Underwater Tracking Range (UTR) while pierside Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

20 September Underway from Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Brief fuel stop.

Underway from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico enroute to AUTEK Operating Areas in support of CNO Project 189.

21 - 27 September Conducted LAMPS MK-III mission scenarios on the AUTEK Range.

28 September Inport Freeport, Bahamas. Crew rest and refuel.

30 September Underway from Freeport, Bahamas enroute to AUTEK Operating Areas in support of CNO Project 189.

02 October Completed NPE-III at-sea testing phase of CNO Project 189. MCINERNEY has successfully completed nine months of safe LAMPS MK-III flight evolutions.

03 October Inport Mayport, Florida.

13 October Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute Yorktown, Virginia Bicentennial celebration.

15 October Anchored off of Yorktown, Virginia in support of the Yorktown Bicentennial celebration.

15 - 19 October General visiting conducted on board.

20 October Underway from Yorktown, Virginia anchorage enroute to Norfolk, Virginia. Brief fuel stop.

LAMPS MK-III aircraft fly-on conducted.

Inport Norfolk, Virginia. Commence refueling operations and on-load of LAMPS MK-III Air Detachment.

Underway from Norfolk, Virginia enroute to the JAXOA in support of LAMPS MK-III/CNO Project 189 at-sea operations scheduled for 22 - 23 October.

21 October Because of aircraft system malfunctions, operations scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of October were cancelled. MCINERNEY enroute to Mayport, Florida.

23 October Inport Mayport, Florida.

26 October Conducted Flight Deck Drainage System Tests to assess the effectiveness of the RAST drainage system, flight deck drainage system and hangar door seals.

27 October Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the JAXOA in support of CNO Project 189.

28 October Inport Mayport, Florida.

03 November Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the Caribbean Operating Areas in support of READEX 1-82.

06 November MCINERNEY inchopts to CTG 20.1 and joined up with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) Battle Escort Group.

06 - 14 November READEX 1-82 Operations.

09 November At 0850 local, while operating in Puerto Rico Operating Area W373A, AFWIF Control notified MCINERNEY that a personnel casualty had occurred on board a AFWIF service craft and requested assistance. At 0918 local, MCINERNEY maneuvered alongside the service craft and HMC [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, boarded subject craft to administer medical attention. Seaman [REDACTED] USN, was treated for

possible shock and concussion and was subsequently transferred to MCINERNEY via litter and medevaced to the Naval Station Regional Medical Center, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. This was the first Search and Rescue (SAR) mission ever conducted by embarked LAMPS MK-III SH-60B aircraft.

- 10 November Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Brief fuel stop.
- 11 November Underway from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico enroute to rejoin READEX 1-82.
- 12 November Vice Admiral Cox, Royal Navy, and two staff officers visit on board.
- 14 November Participation in READEX 1-82 completed. Outchop to CTU 040.3.1 and resumed at-sea operations on the AFWTF ranges in support of CNO Project 189.
- 14 - 18 November LAMPS MK-III flight mission scenarios are conducted daily on the AFWTF Underwater Tracking Range (UTR).
- 16 November Inport Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands.

The Honorable George Sawyer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Shipbuilding and Logistics visits on board.
- 18 November Underway from Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands enroute to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Brief fuel stop.

Underway from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico enroute to the Western Atlantic in support of CNO Project 189.
- 19 - 22 November Conducted daily LAMPS MK-III flight mission scenarios in support of CNO Project 189.
- 23 November Inport Mayport, Florida.
- 30 November Members of the House Appropriations Committee Survey and Investigative staff on board to discuss LAMPS MK-III related matters.
- 04 December Underway from Mayport, Florida enroute to the Canadian Operating Areas, Nova Scotia, Canada.

During the late evening, sea state conditions increase to a low condition five.
- 06 December Discovered numerous superstructure cracks.
- 07 December Inport Newport, Rhode Island. Brief fuel stop. Following investigation of superstructure cracks, it was decided to cancel scheduled LAMPS MK-III North Atlantic

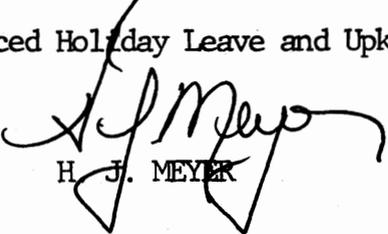
at-sea operations.

Aircraft fly-off conducted.

11 December Underway from Newport, Rhode Island enroute to Mayport, Florida.

14 December Inport Mayport, Florida.

15 December Commenced Holiday Leave and Upkeep.



H. J. MEYER

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