



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AA 34092-1466

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, 901 M Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20374-5060
Subj: 1997 Command History
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E CH-1

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 USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8) during the 1997 calendar year.

2. Command composition and organization.

a. Mission: Primary missions are Anti-Submarine Warfare (AN/SQQ-89 Suite, LAMPS MK III), Anti-Air Warfare (SM-1, 76mm), and Anti-Surface Warfare (Harpoon, 76mm). MCINERNEY has a secondary mission of convoy escort and has also been tasked with maritime interdiction operations.

b. Effective command structure as of 31 December 1997:

CDR Terry A. Bragg	Commanding Officer
LCDR Michael W. Dahlin	Executive Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Supply Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Combat Systems Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Chief Engineer
LT [REDACTED]	Operations Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Dispersing Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Combat Information Center Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Administrative Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Navigation Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	Ordinance Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	Main Propulsion Assistant
LTJG [REDACTED]	Communications Officer
ENS [REDACTED]	Electronics Readiness Officer
ENS [REDACTED]	Under Sea Warfare Officer
ENS [REDACTED]	Damage Control Assistant
ENS [REDACTED]	First Lieutenant
ENS [REDACTED]	Auxiliaries Officer

c. Losses:

- (1) LT [REDACTED]: 17 January to Destroyer Squadron 28, Virginia Beach, VA.
- (2) CWO2 [REDACTED]: 01 February to Fleet Reserve.
- (3) LT [REDACTED]: 07 March to AEGIS Combat Systems Center, Wallops Island, VA.
- (4) LT [REDACTED]: 09 March NROTC Unit, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- (5) LTJG [REDACTED]: 07 July to USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44).
- (6) CDR Dirk P. Deverill: 15 September to OPNAV (N09B20), Arlington, VA.
- (7) LT [REDACTED]: 01 October to OPNAV (N09B20), Arlington, VA.
- (8) LTJG [REDACTED]: 02 November to Naval Flight School, Pensacola, FL.
- (9) LT [REDACTED]: 01 December to Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, CA.

d. Gains:

- (1) LT [REDACTED]: 13 January from Surface Warfare Officer School Command, Newport, RI.
- (2) ENS [REDACTED]: 30 January from Surface Warfare Officer School Command, Newport, RI.
- (3) LTJG [REDACTED]: 26 February from USS OBANNON (DD 987).
- (4) ENS [REDACTED]: 03 May from Surface Warfare Officer School Command, Newport, RI.
- (5) LTJG [REDACTED]: 05 May from USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD 981).

(6) LT [REDACTED]: 13 August from Surface Warfare Officer School Command, Newport, RI.

(7) CDR Terry A, Bragg: 03 September from Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Charlotte, NC.

(8) LTJG [REDACTED]: 28 November from USS JOHN RODGERS (DD 983).

e. (1) Name of ISIC: Commander, Western Hemisphere Group

(2) Permanent Duty Station: Mayport, Florida.

(3) Aircraft Assigned: 1 SH-60B Seahawk with crew
HSL FOUR EIGHT DET TWO
Tailcode: "Venom 501"

f. Chronological Order of Events:

01-20 Jan:	Inport - Mayport, FL
21-24 Jan:	Underway - Escort services for USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74)
25 Jan - 09 Feb:	Inport - Mayport, FL
07 Feb:	MCINERNEY receives the Admiral's Award from Commander Western Hemisphere Group
10-14 Feb:	Underway - JAXOPAREA for Perspective Commanding Officer training and Deck Landing Qualifications
15 Feb - 08 Mar:	Inport - Mayport, FL
17 Feb - 07 Mar:	Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Mayport, FL
09 Mar:	Underway - South African Navy's 75th Anniversary Celebration Deployment
09-10 Mar:	Enroute - Bermuda
11 Mar:	Inport - Bermuda, brief stop for fuel
12-17 Mar:	Enroute - Cape Verde
18 Mar:	Inport - Cape Verde, brief stop for fuel
19-27 Mar:	Enroute - Walvis Bay, Namibia
22 Mar:	Polliwogs pay their respects to the court of Neptunus Rex and are initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep
28 Mar:	Inport - Walvis Bay, Namibia, brief stop for fuel
29-30 Mar:	Enroute - Simon's Town, South Africa
31 Mar - 04 Apr:	Inport - Simon's Town, South Africa, South African Navy Days Celebration

05 Apr: Enroute- Capetown, South Africa,
International Fleet Review

06-11 Apr: Inport - Capetown, South Africa

07 Apr: MCINERNEY hosts International Navy reception
sponsored by CINCUSNAVEUR

12-20 Apr: Enroute - Cape Verde

21 Apr: Inport - Cape Verde, brief stop for fuel

22-25 Apr: Enroute - Barbados

26-28 Apr: Inport - Barbados

29 Apr - 02 May: Enroute - Mayport, FL

03-14 May: Inport - Mayport, FL

15-19 May: Underway - Operation Standoff 1997

20 May - 15 Jun: Inport - Mayport, FL

20 May - 06 Jun: Intermediate Maintenance Availability

16-19 Jun: Underway - JAXOPAREA for Midshipmen training

20-22 Jun: Inport - Mayport, FL

23-26 Jun: Underway - JAXOPAREA for Midshipmen training

27-29 Jun: Inport - Mayport, FL

30 Jun - 02 Jul: Underway - Monitoring Space Shuttle launch

03 Jul - 08 Jul: Inport - Mayport, FL

09-14 Jul: Underway - JAX OPAREA for CIWS Block 1B
operational evaluation

15-17 Jul: Inport - Mayport, FL

18 Jul: Underway - JAXOPAREA for family day cruise

19 Jul - 11 Aug: Inport - Mayport, FL

21 Jul - 07 Aug: Intermediate Maintenance Availability

19-20 Aug Underway - JAXOPAREA for Deck Landing
Qualifications

20 Aug - 26 Sep: Inport - Mayport, FL

02-05 Sep: Aviation Certification

12 Sep: Change of Command - CDR Terry A. Bragg
relieves CDR Dirk P. Deverill

18 Sep: Aviation Readiness Evaluation

27 Sep: Underway - Counter Drug Deployment

30 Sep - 01 Oct: Inport - Port Au Prince, Haiti, for
community relations project

02 Oct: Inport - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, brief stop
for fuel

16-17 Oct: Inport - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, brief stop
for fuel

23-27 Oct: Inport - Montego Bay, Jamaica

28 Oct: Inport - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, brief stop
for fuel

01-06 Nov: Inport - Aruba, Netherlands Antilles

10 Nov: MCINERNEY seizes 2200 lbs of cocaine

14 Nov: Inport - Colon, Panama, brief stop for fuel

17-19 Nov: Inport - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, brief stop
for fuel
27 Nov - 01 Dec: Inport - Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
04 Dec: MCINERNEY seizes 1100 lbs of cocaine
08 Dec: Inport - Colon, Panama, brief stop for fuel
15-18 Dec: Inport - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, brief stop
for fuel
28-31 Dec: Inport - FT Lauderdale, FL

3. Historical Narrative.

After several months of local operations and inport maintenance, MCINERNEY departed as the United States Navy's representative to attend the South African Navy's 75th anniversary celebration.


This deployment began with a lengthy transit across the Atlantic and down the west coast of Africa that ended with MCINERNEY's arrival at the naval base in Simon's Town, South Africa, under a 21 gun salute. While in Simon's Town, 38 ships from thirteen nations joined together for a week of festivities that included receptions and parties for sailors and a defense industries exhibition. At the week's end, 38 ships departed Simon's Town for Capetown in a transit that included an International Fleet Review that was reviewed by South African President, Nelson Mandela. The visit to Capetown was highlighted by a reception that was hosted by MCINERNEY and sponsored by the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, ADM T.J. Lopez.

Throughout the summer months MCINERNEY conducted inport maintenance, as well as a series of operations off the coast of Florida, including Midshipman training and the Close In Weapon System Block 1B operational evaluation.

In September, CDR Dirk P. Deverill was relieved by CDR Terry A. Bragg as the Commanding Officer.

Shortly after the Change of Command, MCINERNEY deployed to the Caribbean to conduct counter narcotics operations. This deployment was highly successful and resulted in the seizure of 3300 lbs of cocaine. In November, a high speed chase of a speed boat trafficking cocaine resulted in the seizure of 2200 lbs of the drug. This was followed in December by the seizure of 1100 lbs of cocaine that was discarded into the water by smugglers operating in the region.

MCINERNEY closed out the year with a mid-deployment port visit to FT Lauderdale, FL., where she represented the U.S. Navy at the Car Quest Bowl football game festivities.


T. A. BRAGG