



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MILIUS (DDG 69)  
FPO AP 90672-1286

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9 Apr 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS MILIUS (DDG 69)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS MILIUS (DDG 69) COMMAND HISTORY 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Microsoft Word file USS MILIUS COMMAND HISTORY 2003

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) and the following information is submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Command short title: USS MILIUS (DDG 69)

b. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 21943

c. Mission: To operate offensively as a unit of a Carrier Battle Group and a Surface Action Group, and in support of underway replenishment groups and the marine amphibious force in multi-threat environments that include air, surface, and sub-surface threats.

d. Organizational Structure:  
Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC): Destroyer Squadron SEVEN  
Units under MILIUS control: None

e. Name of Commander: CDR Jeffrey A. Harley (01Jan03 - 15Apr03)  
CDR John S. Mitchell III (15Apr03 - 31Dec03)

f. Permanent Duty Station: 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Naval Station, San Diego,  
CA

g. Aircraft assigned: None

  
JOHN S. MITCHELL III

Copy to:  
File

JANUARY 2003

Underway Arabian Gulf.	1-24
Main Space Fire Drill. Unrep with USS RAINIER.	1
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping.	3
Integrated Training Team Period.	4
Helo crash drill.	6
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping.	6
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	7
LEDET Alert 30.	7
Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	8
Unrep with USS Rainier. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	9
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	10
Chemical Biological Radiological Defense Period.	11
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	11
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping. VBSS Feet Wet.	12
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping. VBSS Feet Wet.	13
Helo Crash Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	13
VBSS Alert 30. VBSS Feet Wet. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	14
VBSS Alert 30. Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	15
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	16
CNO/MCPOC/Chief of Chaplains Official Visit.	17
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	17
Unrep with USS RAINIER. Small arms pacfire.	18
Chemical Biological Radiological Defense Drill Period.	18
Beer Day.	20
Engineering Casualty Control Drills. Feet Wet for Health and Comfort.	20
Main Space Fire Drill.	21
Main Space Fire Drill. CBR Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	22
Inport Bahrain.	25-28
Underway Arabian Gulf.	29-31
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	29
Re-embark XJ staff.	30
VBSS Alert 30.	30
VBSS Alert 30. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	31

January saw the MILIUS crew busy supporting the MIO effort in the Gulf with round-the-clock helicopter and small boat operations. Despite her central role in this effort, VBSS operations, and the presence of the MIO CDR aboard, she still found time for various types of drills and training. An exceptionally long underway period allowed the crew to participate in the Constellation Battle Group's first "Beer Day." The first of

several short port visits to Bahrain at the end of the month gave the crew some well-deserved liberty. The highlight of the month was the visit to MILIUS of three distinguished guests: the Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Chaplains, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

#### FEBRUARY 2003

Underway Arabian Gulf.	1-21
VBSS Alert 30.	1
VBSS Alert 30.	2
Unrep with USS RAINIER. CIWS/5in Pacfire.	3
Helo Crash Drill. VBSS Alert 30.	4
Assume duties of Comiskey Guardship.	4
VBSS Alert 30. Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	5
VBSS Alert 30.	6
VBSS Alert 30. ITT Training Period. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	7
VBSS Alert 60. Car Park Mapping.	8
VBSS Alert 60. Car Park Mapping.	9
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping.	10
Helo Crash Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	10
VBSS Alert 60.	11
VBSS Alert 30. Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	12
VBSS Boardings Comiskey.	13
VBSS Alert 30. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	14
Unrep with USS RAINIER. ITT Period. VBSS Feet Wet.	15
VBSS Alert 30. Car Park Mapping. LEDET Feet Wet.	16
LEDET Feet Wet. VBSS Feet Wet.	17
Helo Crash Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	17
LEDET Feet Wet. Car Park Mapping. VBSS Feet Wet.	18
RADM Costello visit.	18
Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	19
VBSS Day Patrol. Car Park Mapping. LEDET Feet Wet.	19
LEDET Feet Wet. VBSS UNSCR 986 Comiskey Boardings. VBSS Feet Wet.	20
SM staff transfer to USS VALLEY FORGE.	20
Damage Control Material Standdown.	21
Unrep with USS CAMDEN. 5in Pacfire.	21
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	21
Inport Bahrain.	22-25
Underway Arabian Gulf.	26-28
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	26

Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	28
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In February there was a shift of emphasis for MILIUS from supporting the MIO efforts of others to conducting more operations ourselves. Our VBSS teams were training or operating almost daily throughout the month. The Australian "SM" staff, formerly "XJ," disembarked for the last time mid-month, to the disappointment of most of the crew who had truly enjoyed having them aboard. Another stop in Bahrain at the end of the month marked the last liberty port the crew would enjoy for more than two months.

### MARCH 2003

Underway Arabian Gulf.	1-30
ITT Period. Unrep with USS CAMDEN.	1
VBSS UNSCR 986 and Health & Comfort Boardings.	2
VBSS UNSCR 986 and Health & Comfort Boardings.	3
Helo Crash Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	3
STT Training Period. VBSS UNSCR 986 and Health & Comfort Boardings.	4
VBSS UNSCR 986 and Health & Comfort Boardings.	5
Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	5
E-6 Exam.	6
KAA VBSS Teams Feet Wet. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	7
Integrated Training Team Period.	8
Transfer one rhib/2 crews/one VBSS Team plus gear to HMAS KANIMBLA.	8
5 inch/CIWS Pacfire. Unrep with RFA BAYLEAF.	9
Helo Crash Drill. Rhib return from HMAS KANIMBLA.	10
Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	12
E-5 exam. VBSS KAA Team training.	13
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	14
CO USS SHILOH visit.	15
5 inch/CIWS Pacfire.	15
Integrated Training Team Period.	15
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	16
Helo Crash Drill.	17
Small Arms Pacfire.	18
TLAM launch (8).	20
E-4 exam.	20
TLAM launch (1)	21
Unrep with RFA ORANGELEAF.	21
TLAM launch (9).	22
Safety Stand Down.	22
TLAM launch (3).	24

Helo Crash Drill.	24
TLAM launch (5).	25
TLAM launch (2).	26
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	27
Inport Bahrain for TLAM onload.	31

March proved to hold the highlight of the deployment for MILIUS when we participated in the first salvo of the war as well as many salvos thereafter. We were directed to Bahrain at the end of the month to replenish our supply of TLAMs. MIO operations slowed considerably in favor of other duties more war-oriented. Despite the pace of operations the command continued to make time for damage control drills with the training cycle in mind.

#### APRIL 2003

Underway Arabian Gulf.	1-13
Main Space Fire Drill.	2
ITT Training Period.	5
PCO arrives via helo.	5
Command turnover commences.	6
Flying Squad Drill.	7
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	8
Main Space Fire Drill.	9
Small Arms shoot. STT Training Period.	10
ITT Training Team Period.	12
Inport Bahrain.	14
Underway Arabian Gulf.	15-28
Change of Command.	15
Main Space Fire Drill.	16
Advance clocks to -4D.	17
Transit Strait of Hormuz.	17
Advance clocks to -5E.	18
5 inch/CIWS Pacfire.	18
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	19
Chop to Seventh Fleet.	20
Small Arms shoot. Helo Crash Drill.	21
Main Space Fire Drill. Vertrep/HIFR/Helo Crash Drills.	23
Advance clocks to -6F.	23
Advance clocks to -7G.	25
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	25
Unrep with USS RAINIER. Flying Squad Drill.	28

Advance clocks to -8H.	28
Inport Bunbury, Australia.	29-30

The first half of April was dedicated primarily to unloading extra Tomahawks and preparation for the change of command. Immediately upon the conclusion of the ceremony MILIUS headed south to depart the Arabian Gulf and begin the transit to Australia. The daily focus became gearing up for the IDTC which would soon follow the projected DSRA beginning in August. The end of the month saw the first liberty port in what seemed an eternity for the crew in Bunbury, Australia. The only US Navy ship to visit Bunbury at the time, MILIUS crewmembers presented themselves as excellent representatives of their country.

#### MAY 2003

Inport Bunbury, Australia.	1-4
Underway en route Hawaii.	5-21
Helo Crash Drill.	5
Helo Crash Drill. Pacfire Period. Engineering Evolutions/Drills.	6
Safety Standdown.	6
Main Space Fire Drill. Engineering Drills.	7
Small Arms shoot (9mm).	8
Indonesian Straits Transit (Force Protection & Navigation Detail).	9
Advance clocks to -9I.	9
Integrated Training Team Period. Unrep with USNS ERICSSON.	10
CDS7 visit	10
Rescue of Indonesian ferry	10
Swim call.	11
"Crossing the Line" ceremony.	12
Flying Squad Drill. Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	12
Advance clocks to -10K.	13
Vertical Replenishment. Main Space Fire Drill. Unrep with USNS ERICSSON.	14
Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	14
Engineering Evolutions/Drills. Small arms shoot.	15
5 inch pacfire. Small arms shoot.	16
Unrep with USNS ERICSSON. Advance clocks to -11L.	17
5 inch pacfire. Advance clocks to -12M.	18
California Highway Patrol Motor Vehicle Safety Standdown.	18
Helo Crash Drill. Small arms shoot (M-14). Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	19a
Retard clocks to +12Y.	19a
Chop to C3F.	19b
Unrep with USS RAINIER. Integrated Training Team Period. Chaffex.	19b

Engineering Casualty Control Drills.	19b
Senior Sailor of the Quarter Board.	20
Advance clocks to +11X.	20
Emattex. Advance clocks to +10W.	21
Inport Pearl Harbor, HI.	22-26
Optimal Manning Survey.	23-25

Embark Tigers.	26
Underway en route San Diego, CA.	27
Unrep with USS RAINIER.	27
5 inch pacfire. Advance clocks to +9V.	28
Small arms shoot. .50 cal Tiger demonstration. Advance clocks to +8U.	30
Divtacs Demonstration. Man Overboard Drills. .50 cal shoot demonstration.	31
Advance clocks to +7T.	31

May was a month of transit punctuated by a port visit to Pearl Harbor, HI. On the evening of 10 May and morning of 11 May, MILIUS conducted a rescue of the Indonesian inter-island ferry KLN ALIRAN. The vessel had been stranded over thirty miles from land for 3 days with 27 people aboard. MILIUS towed the vessel to a nearby island and ensured the safety of all onboard. Thirty-six Tigers were embarked for the final underway to San Diego. Preparation for the DSRA and IDTC continued throughout the month. Morale events included the Shellback Initiation at the equator and a rare swim call in the Indonesian Straits.

#### JUNE 2003

Return to homeport San Diego; begin post-deployment standdown	2
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June was a month of post-deployment leave and standdown. Preparations continued for the upcoming DSRA and IDTC.

#### JULY 2003

End of post-deployment standdown and leave	2
Underway SOCAL OPAREA	15-18
NSFS Spotter Services	17
Family Day Cruise	21
Underway SOCAL OPAREA enroute NWS Seal Beach	21
Inport NWS Seal Beach, CA for ordnance offload	22-23
Underway SOCAL OPAREA	23-24
VADM Mullen ship visit	24
Inport NS San Diego	24
Supply Management Assessment	28-01AUG
Defueling	28-01AUG

Antenna Removal	28-01AUG
BFTT Install Preps	28-01AUG

July was a month dominated by preparations for the upcoming DSRA, including ordnance offload and defueling. VADM Mullen, the Vice Chief Of Naval Operations, visited MILIUS to discuss Optimal Manning. In addition, about one hundred family and friends were embarked for a Family Day Cruise prior to the transit to NWS Seal Beach.

#### AUGUST 2003

PRT/MILIUS Family Picnic	1
Surface Line Week	4-10
Drydocked at Southwest Marine	6
DSRA	6AUG-9OCT
Welcome Home Padres Game	21

August marked the start of the DSRA period when MILIUS went into drydock at Southwest Marine San Diego. Several morale events, such as a family picnic, Surface Line Week, and the Welcome Home Padres Game, helped the crew relax throughout the month.

#### SEPTEMBER 2003

ASIR Tech Assist	2-5
End of drydock period/ship moves to Continental Marine	6
CMS A&A Assist	8
Damage Control LTT	8-12
Gun Qualification at NASNI	9
Aviation LTT	9-10
9mm Gun Qualification	15
ASIR	22-26
Comms Suite Groom	22-26
HP and LP Air Groom	22-26
AEGIS Groom	22-30
CSMTT	22-26
Gun Qualification at 32 <sup>nd</sup> St	23
Aviation Assist Visit	26

September was filled with DSRA activity. The ship moved from the drydock at Southwest Marine San Diego to Continental Marine San Diego to complete the SRA pierside. The ship had several system grooms coinciding with the DSRA. Preparations also continued for the upcoming training cycle, including several assist visits. Numerous firearm qualification shoots were held to ensure that the crew would be able to support all inport and force protection watches.

#### OCTOBER 2003

9mm gunshoot at NASNI	2
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Crew moves aboard ship	2-3
Personnel Security Assist Visit	6
Engineering CART II Dress Rehearsal	6-7
Aviation Readiness Qualification	6-10
Fast Cruise/Refueling	7
Dock Trials	8
Sea Trials/End of DSRA	9
Return to NS San Diego	10
Damage Control LTT	14-17
Force Protection Standdown	15
SLAMEX	16
Deadstick berth shift	16
Force Protection Exercises	20-24
Underway enroute NWS Seal Beach	27
Inport NWS Seal Beach/Ordnance Onload	27-29
Underway enroute San Diego	29
Unusual vibrations from port shaft	30
Major fuel oil leak in MER 1	30
Return to NS San Diego	30

October marked the end of the DSRA with a successful Sea Trial. The ship continued preparations for CART II. The ship also conducted an ordnance onload at NWS Seal Beach. A week of force protection exercises helped to enhance MILIUS' force protection training and capabilities. While returning to San Diego from NWS Seal Beach on 30 OCT, the ship suffered massive vibrations from the port shafting and returned to port a day early to allow divers to investigate the cause. Unrelatedly, a major fuel oil leak occurred in Main Engine Room Number 1 on 30 OCT shortly after the massive vibrations occurred. The cause was determined to be a failure of a fuel oil service system unloading valve.

#### NOVEMBER 2003

CART II	3-7
Underway SOCAL for shakedown	13
Refueling at naval fuel farm	13
Inport NS San Diego	14
Ammunition Strikedown Equipment Assessment	17-21
VIRTUAL FLAG 04-2	17-21
CNSP Radiation Hazard Assist Visit	17-21
TSTA (Damage Control)	17-21
NSFS Team Trainer	18-19
RADM Shuford Visit for VIRTUAL FLAG 04-2	19
TSTA (ASW and Engineering)	22-24
Underway SOCAL OPAREA	22
NIXIE/TACTAS Stream	22

MILIUS' Birthday Celebration	22
Deck Landing Qualifications	22
Main Space Fire Drill	26
Inport NS San Diego	26

November marked the beginning of the Basic Phase of MILIUS' Inter-deployment Training Cycle with CART II. CART II was held inport San Diego due to the ongoing shafting inspection after the unusual vibrations that occurred in late October. There was no permanent damage found to the shafting, and the ship had a successful shakedown in which no unusual vibrations appeared. In the middle of the month MILIUS was the first U.S. Navy ship to participate in VIRTUAL FLAG, a joint force wargame exercise that aims at improving interoperability between all services. RADM Jacob Shuford, Commander, CRUISER-DESTROYER GROUP 3 visited to observe the exercise. Numerous Tailored Ship Training Availabilities were also held in several areas. Morale events included a MILIUS birthday celebration.

#### DECEMBER 2003

TSTA (Damage Control)	1-5
Firing Zone Cutout Assessment	1-5
Supply Management Inspection	1-5
ATRC CSOSS II	1-5
SLAMEX	4
COMDESRON SEVEN Awards Ceremony	4
Underway SOCAL OPAREA	8-
TSTA (Engineering and Air Warfare)	8-12
Navigation Check Ride	8
VBSS Low Freeboard Boarding	8
FAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL	9
FIREX II	10
Deck Landing Qualifications	11
Inport NS San Diego	12
Holiday Leave and Upkeep	12-05JAN04
CIWS Removal	15-19

The Basic Phase of the IDTC continued through the first part of December, with the holiday leave and upkeep period starting mid-month. During the FAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL on 9 DEC, the spanwire parted. While conducting emergency breakaway, four MILIUS personnel suffered minor injuries while returning messenger line. They were treated by the MILIUS medical team with follow-up by a Dental Officer from USS BOXER. The holiday leave and upkeep allowed some maintenance to be conducted, such as a CIWS overhaul, and also provided the crew a rest before returning to finish the Basic Phase of the IDTC.