



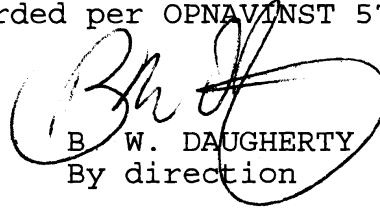
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MITSCHER (DDG 57)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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10 JAN 96

From: Commanding Officer, USS MITSCHER (DDG 57)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
902 M Street, SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR THE PERIOD 30SEP94 - 31DEC94

1. Subject package is forwarded per OPNAVINST 5750.12E.


B. W. DAUGHERTY
By direction

USS MITSCHER (DDG 57)
Command History
30 SEPT 1994 through 31 DEC 1994

Part I: Command Composition and Organization.

- USS MITSCHER (DDG 57) is the seventh ship of the Arleigh Burke Class of Aegis Guided Missile Destroyers. Her Commanding Officer is Commander Roy J. Balaconis. DDG 57 reports to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two of the U S Atlantic Fleet effective as of her commissioning date - December 10, 1994. MITSCHER's primary mission during this period has been to prepare crew and equipment for Commissioning and assumption of duties as an asset of the U S Atlantic Fleet.

USS MITSCHER (DDG 57)
Command History
30 SEPT 1994 through 31 DEC 1994

Part II: Chronology

30 SEPT 1994

- Crew moveaboard. All plankowners begin their tours onboard USS MITSCHER (DDG 57).

03 OCT 1994

- Custody transfer. MITSCHER's Commanding Officer, CDR Roy J. Balaconis, and Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Pascagoula CAPT Joseph Carnevale sign for delivery of MITSCHER from Ingalls Shipbuilding. All hands were present for the ceremony on the flight deck. The ship is located at the Ingalls East Bank facility for Post-delivery Availability (PDA).

15-17 NOV 1994

- Light-Off Examination. The ship successfully completes this test administered by the Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board.

29-30 NOV 1994

- Fast cruise, crew certification. Destroyer Squadron Two staff members board MITSCHER for a 2-day test of her ability to stand normal underway watches. This last hurdle to commissioning also includes a final check on the ships administrative programs ensuring they are both online and effective.

30 NOV 1994

- In preparation for a shakedown cruise and eventual movement to Pensacola, Florida for the Commissioning Ceremony, CDR Roy J. Balaconis assumes command of USS MITSCHER (DDG 57) placing her in service through a Special Commission - Without Ceremony.

01 DEC 1994

- UNDERWAY. MITSCHER leaves Pascagoula for the first time as a commissioned vessel.

02 DEC 1994

- INPORT: NAVAL STATION PASCAGOULA. After 25 hours underway in the Gulf of Mexico, USS MITSCHER makes her first Port Call to Naval Station, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

03 DEC 1994

- UNDERWAY: TIGER CRUISE FM PASCAGOULA TO DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA. More than two hundred guests board MITSCHER at 0830 for the day-cruise to Pensacola. Crewmembers conducted tours, gave briefs and demonstrations and hosted a steel beach picnic for their visitors.

- MOORED: PORT OF PENSACOLA. MITSCHER begins a weekend full of tours and

preparations for the Commissioning Ceremony.

05 DEC 1994

- UNDERWAY: FM PORT OF PENSACOLA TO NAS, PENSACOLA. Around 190 guests and local VIPS board MITSCHER for a day-cruise out into the Gulf of Mexico. The cruise finishes up at the carrier pier on Naval Air Station, Pensacola the site of MITSCHER's Commissioning Ceremony.

- MOORED: CARRIER PIER, NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA.

09 DEC 1994

- After a months of preparation and a week of rehearsals, the Commissioning celebration begins in earnest today. The Ship's Sponsor, Admiral Mitscher's niece Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson, joins CDR Balaconis and his officers for lunch in the wardroom. Later that evening the Commanding Officer's Reception is held at the Naval Aviation Museum on NAS Pensacola.

10 DEC 1994

- COMMISSIONING DAY. USS MITSCHER joins the United States Atlantic Fleet. The principal speaker is the Honorable John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy. Honored guests include Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson, Sponsor; General J. J. Sheehan, Commander-in-Chief US Atlantic Command; Vice Admiral D. J. Katz, Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic; and Vice Admiral T. W. Wright, Chief of Naval Education and Training.

11 DEC 1994

- [REDACTED], daughter of LT and Mrs. [REDACTED], becomes the first baby christened onboard USS MITSCHER.

12 DEC 1994

- UNDERWAY: ENROUTE PORT CANAVERAL, FLORIDA FM PENSACOLA.

15 DEC 1994

- MOORED: GOVERNMENT PIER, PORT CANAVERAL, FLORIDA.

17 DEC 1994

- UNDERWAY: ENROUTE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA FM PORT CANAVERAL

18 DEC 1994

- MOORED: PIER 3, NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

19 DEC 1994

- COMMENCE HOLIDAY STANDDOWN PERIOD 1.

28 DEC 1994

- FINISH PERIOD 1. COMMENCE HOLIDAY STANDDOWN PERIOD 2.