USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)

SHIP'S HISTORY 1987

DATE	EVENT
13 FEB	USS MOBILE BAY COMMISSIONS WITHOUT CEREMONY AT INGALLS SHIPYARD PASCAGOULA, MS. CAPT F.R. WHALEN ASSUMES COMMAND
16 FEB	MOBILE BAY DEPARTS PASCAGOULA AND ARRIVES MOBILE, ALA. STATE DOCKS IN PREPARATION FOR ACTUAL COMMISSIONING CEREMONY.
21 FEB	COMMISSIONING CEREMONY. CONTINUE PORT VISIT MOBILE.
Ø5 MAR	DEPART MOBILE ENROUTE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA FOR SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING.
Ø8 MAR	ARRIVE GUANTANAMO.
25-27 MAR	OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION.
3Ø MAR	DEPART GUANTANAMO ENROUTE FT. LAUDERDALE FL.
Ø2 APR	ARRIVE FT. LAUDERDALE (PORT EVERGLADES) FOR PORT VISIT.
Ø6 APR	DEPART FT. LAUDERDALE ENROUTE WEAPON STATION CHARLESTON S.C.
Ø7 APR	ARRIVE WEAPON STATION CHARLESTON, S.C.
Ø7-15 APR	WEAPONS ONLOAD IN SUPPORT OF SHOCK TRIALS.
16 APR	DEPART CHARLESTON ENROUTE MAYPORT FL.
17 APR	ARRIVE MAYPORT FL. INPORT FOR PRE-SHOCK PREPARATIONS 18 APR-13 MAY.
14 MAY	DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE PORT CANAVERAL, FL.
14-18 MAY	AT SEA TRAINING FOR SHOCK TRIALS.
18 MAY	ARRIVE PORT CANAVERAL, FL.
2Ø MAY	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT ONE. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
27 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.

	SHOT TWO UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO MALFUNCTIONING DETONATOR.
29 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
	SHOT TWO UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO ASSIST SHIP CASUALTY.
Ø1 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT TWO. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
	SUCCESSFUL.
Ø6 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT THREE. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
11 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR SHOT FOUR. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
11-15 JUN	INPORT PORT CANAVERAL FOR SHOCK WEAPON OFFLOAD.
16 JUN	DEPART PORT CANAVERAL ENROUTE MAYPORT FL.
17-23 JUN	INPORT MAYPORT FL.
23 JUN	DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE PASCAGOULA, MS
26 JUN	ARRIVE PASCAGOULA,MS.
26 JUN	BEGIN POST-SHOCK AVAILABILITY (26 JUN-27 JUL).
27 JUL	DEPART PASCAGOULA ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.
29 JUL	BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL MAYPORT, FL.
29 JUL	DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA
31 JUL	ARRIVE NORFOLK NAVAL STATION FOR DEPERMING TREATMENTS
Ø3 AUG	TRANSIT TO ELIZABETH RIVER DEPERMING CRIB
Ø4 AUG	UNDERGO DEPERMING
Ø5 AUG	RETURN TO NORFOLK NAVAL STATION
Ø6 AUG	DEPART NORFOLK ENROUTE US NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, MD.
Ø6 AUG	ARRIVE ANNAPOLIS ANCHORAGE.
Ø6-1Ø AUG	PORT VISIT US NAVAL ACADEMY IN CONJUNCTION WITH
	ANNUAL PARENTS WEEKEND.
1Ø AUG	DEPART ANNAPOLIS ENROUTE WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON, SC.
12 AUG	ARRIVE WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON. ONLOAD COMBAT SYSTEMS
	SHIP QUALIFICATIONS TRIALS (CSSQT) WEAPONS.

14 AUG	DEPART CHARLESTON ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.
15 AUG	ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL.
15 AUG	COMMENCE DOCKSIDE CSSQT PREPS.
Ø8 SEP	DEPART MAYPORT ENROUTE ATLANTIC UNDERSEA TEST AND EVALUATION CENTER (AUTEC), ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS.
Ø9 SEP	ARRIVE VICINITY AUTEC. COMMENCE ANTISUBMARINE PORTION OF CSSQT.
12 SEP	DEPART AUTEC ENROUTE ATLANTIC FLEET WEAPONS TEST FACILITY (AFWTF), ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO.
14 SEP	BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR
15 SEP	DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE VIEQUES ISLAND FOR NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT (NGFS) QUALIFICATIONS.
17 SEP	COMPLETE NGFS QUALS. TRANSIT TO ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR.
18 SEP	ARRIVE ROOSEVELT ROADS FOR FUEL, STORES ONLOAD.
21 SEP	DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE MISSILE FIRING RANGE.
21 SEP	COMMENCE LIVE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE FIRINGS.
24 SEP	COMPLETE LIVE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE FIRINGS.
25 SEP	ANCHOR ST. THOMAS FOR PORT VISIT.
28 SEP	DEPART ST THOMAS ENROUTE ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR.
29 SEP	ARRIVE ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR FOR FUEL ONLOAD.
3Ø SEP	DEPART ROOSEVELT ROADS ENROUTE NASSAU, BAHAMAS.
Ø2 OCT	ARRIVE NASSAU, BAHAMAS FOR PORT VISIT.
Ø6 OCT	DEPART NASSAU ENROUTE MAYPORT, FL.
Ø8 OCT	ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL.
Ø8-26 OCT	INPORT MAYPORT FOR FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT) PREPARATIONS.
26 OCT	DEPART MAYPORT FOR TRAINING EXERCISES VICINITY JACKSONVILLE OPERATION AREA (JAXOA).

30 OCT	RETURN MAYPORT, FL. CONTINUE FCT PREPS
18 NOV	DEPART MAYPORT FOR FCT REHEARSAL JAXOA
19 NOV	RETURN TO MAYPORT TO EMBARK DEPENDENTS. DEPART MAYPORT FOR DEPENDENTS CRUISE. RETURN TO PORT THAT AFTERNOON. CONTINUE FCT PREPS.
01 DEC	DEPART MAYPORT FOR FCT. RETURN TO PORT THAT EVENING.
02 DEC	INPORT MAYPORT TO COMPLETE FCT.
16 DEC	COMMENCE HOLIDAY LEAVE AND STANDDOWN PERIOD THROUGH REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1987.
31 DEC	MOBILE BAY WINS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF US ATLANTIC FLEET (CINCLANTFLT) GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERSONNEL RETENTION FOR 1987.

USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)
SHIP'S HISTORY NARRATIVE

1. INTRODUCTION.

USS MOBILE BAY'S EMPLOYMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987 CAN BE DIVIDED IN TO SEVEN DISTINCT MAJOR EVOLUTIONS:

-- COMMISSIONING

-- SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING AND ACCELERATED OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION (OPPE) CERT.

-- SHOCK TRIALS

-- POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY

-- DEPERMING

-- COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT)

-- FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT)

2. THE FOLLOWING NARRATIVE WILL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN EACH OF THESE SEVEN EVOLUTIONS:

A. COMMISSIONING:

THE COMMISSIONING OF USS MOBILE BAY TOOK PLACE IN MOBILE ALABAMA ON 21 FEB. OVER 6000 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO WITNESS FORMER SENATOR AND REAR ADMIRAL JEREMIAH DENTON AND COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN FRANK RICHARD WHALEN BRING THIS SHIP TO LIFE. CAPTAIN WHALEN ASSUMED COMMAND AND REPORTED FOR DUTY TO REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL P. KALLERES, COMMANDER CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP TWELVE (CCDG-12). MOBILE BAY'S HOMEPORT IS MAYPORT, FLORIDA.

B. SHAKEDOWN REFRESHER TRAINING (REFTRA):

REFTRA COMMENCED ON 08 MARCH AND ENTAILED A RIGOROUS THREE WEEK SCHEDULE AT FLEET TRAINING CENTER (FTC), GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA (GTMO). THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF THIS PARTICULAR REFTRA WAS TO TRAIN MOBILE BAY CREW MEMBERS IN THE PROPULSION AND AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT FUNDAMENTALS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPENDING SHOCK TRIALS. MOBILE BAY SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE OPPE CERTIFICATION JUST THREE WEEKS AFTER COMMISSIONING; AN ACCOMPLISHMENT NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED BY A NAVY VESSEL.

C. SHOCK TRIALS:

DESIGNED TO TEST THE COMBAT SURVIVABILITY OF AN AEGIS CLASS CRUISER EQUIPPED WITH THE VERTICAL LAUNCH MISSILE SYSTEM (VLS), TOMAHAWK WEAPONS SYSTEM (TWS), AND THE RECOVERY, ASSIST, SECURING, AND TRAVERSAL (RAST) SYSTEM, SHOCK TRIALS SUBJECTED THE SHIP TO A SERIES OF FOUR LARGE DETONATIONS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE. EACH DETONATION TOOK PLACE OFF THE COAST OF CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, ONE A WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS. WITH EACH DETONATION MOVING PROGRESSIVELY CLOSER TO THE SHIP (AND HENCE PROVIDING A STRONGER SHOCK FACTOR), SHIP'S DESIGN ENGINEERS, NAVAL ARCHITECTS, AND SHIP'S COMPANY WERE GIVEN AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT HOW THEIR SHIP WILL RESPOND IN A COMBAT "NEAR MISS" EXPLOSION CLOSE ABOARD FROM AN ANTISHIP CRUISE MISSILE.

D. POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY:

IN POST SHOCK AVAILABILITY, INGALLS SHIPYARD IN PASCAGOULA, MS REPAIRED ALL DAMAGE FROM THE SHIP'S SHOCK TRIALS. WHILE THE DAMAGE TO THE SHIP WAS QUITE MINIMAL AND LESS THAN EXPECTED,

THE AVAILABILITY, ALREADY FUNDED AS PART OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, CALLED FOR A TWO WEEK DRYDOCKING FOLLOWED BY A TWO WEEK WATER-BORNE TEST AND EVALUATION PERIOD TO ENSURE THAT THE SHIP WAS RETURNED TO SERVICE IN PRE-SHOCK CONDITION.

E. DEPERMING:

DEPERMING IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH A SHIP'S MAGNETIC SIGNATURE IS REDUCED TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. THE DEPERMING FACILITY, CALLED A "CRIB" IS LOCATED IN NORFOLK VIRGINIA IN THE ELIZABETH RIVER. THE SHIP PULLS IN TO THIS CRIB, MOORS, AND THEN IS COMPLETELY WRAPPED IN HEAVY COPPER CABLES. THESE HEAVY GAUGE CABLES, WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY 2.5 LBS PER FOOT, ARE SPACED ABOUT TEN FEET APART ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE SHIP AND COMPLETELY SURROUND THE SHIP'S HULL AND SUPERSTRUCTURE. THE DEPERMING FACILITY THEN PULSES APPROXIMATELY 10000 AMPERES OF CURRENT THROUGH THESE CABLES CREATING A LARGE MAGNETIC FIELD. THIS FIELD SERVES TO ALIGN THE FERROUS MOLECULES IN THE SHIP'S STEEL ALONG A SINGLE AXIS THEREBY REDUCING THE MAGNETIC SIGNATURE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SIGNATURE REDUCTION IS TO REDUCE THE SHIP'S VULNERABILITY TO MAGNETICALLY TRIGGERED MINES.

F. COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT):

CSSQT IS THE MAJOR WEAPONS TESTING PHASE IN A NEW CONSTRUCTION SHIP'S LIFE. MOBILE BAY FIRED HER 5" GUNS, LAUNCHED TORPEDOES, ENGAGED TOWED DRONE TARGETS WITH THE CLOSE-IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS (CIWS), AND FIRED SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES AT UNMANNED TARGET DRONES FLYING

REAL WORLD MISSILE THREAT PROFILES. ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL RESULTS ARE CLASSIFIED, THE AEGIS WEAPONS SYSTEM PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE CSSQT, WITH THE HIGHLIGHT BEING NINE PERFECT DRONE KILLS OUT OF NINE PRESENTATIONS IN THE MISSILE FIRING PHASE.

3. FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS (FCT)

THE LAST IN A SERIES OF MAJOR EVENTS IN 1987, FCT REPRESENTED THE END OF THE CONTRACTOR'S WARRANTY PERIOD ON THE NEW SHIP. CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY (INSURV), FCT WAS AN IN-DEPTH MICROSCOPIC LOOK AT EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON MOBILE BAY. ONCE THE BOARD WAS SATISFIED WITH BOTH THE CONDITION OF THE EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY ONBOARD AND WITH THE CREW'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THAT EQUIPMENT, THEY THEN CLOSED THE CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZED THE FINAL PAYMENT BE MADE TO THE BUILDER. THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS MADE ON 04 DEC 1987.

3. THIS CONCLUDES USS MOBILE BAY'S SHIP HISTORY FOR CY 87.

THE POINT OF CONTACT IS LT. [redacted]-