



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MOBILE BAY (CG-53)
FPO AP 96672-1173

IN REPLY REFER TO:

USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)
SHIP'S HISTORY 2001

DEC 16 2002

With a new crew and ten distinguished years in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces in Japan behind her, the year 2001 marks the beginning of a new chapter for MOBILE BAY. On the first of the year MOBILE BAY found herself nearing the end of her EDSRA at NASSCO in San Diego, CA. In the three months that followed MOBILE BAY was revived from her slumber with the hard work and dedication of her crew. Those first few breaths brought life in to the new technology that she had been given. To include the Smart Ship installation, allowing the remote operation of her engineering and navigation systems, the all-electric conversion replaced steam with electricity to heat her water and cook her meals, and sonar and Tomahawk weapon systems were replaced with upgraded digital systems. With her new technology and crew MOBILE BAY was poised at the starting line of her next adventure, ready to set a new standard for all others follow.

After Post Overhaul Sea Trails MOBILE BAY completed Light Off Assessment (LOA), Aviation Safety Inspection Review (ASIR) and Crew Certification in June of 2001. This momentum carried her into July where she was underway completing Command Assessment Readiness and Training (CART) and her ISIC Navigation Certification.

Upon retuning to port MOBILE BAY's Strike Team began preparing for the Harpoon and Tomahawk Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Test (CMTQT) as well as the first phase of Tailored Ships' Training Availability (TESTA). Hours on hours were dedicated to ensure that when MOBILE BAY received the call, she would be ready. It was time well spent. On November 16, 2001 MOBILE BAY was certified I Tomahawk and harpoon employment and would become the cruise missile platform of choice on her upcoming 2002 deployment. MOBILE BAY also finished her Aviation Certification (AVCERT) on August 24, 2002.

At the end of August MOBILE BAY was underway to receive an extensive combat and weapons systems groom in Port Huememe, California. The groom was to last three weeks followed by a Combat Systems Ships Qualification Trial (CSSQT) and a Joint Theater Ballistic Missile tracking exercise. Unfortunately the tragic events of September 11th quickly changed her plans. Immediately following air attack MOBILE BAY was ordered to proceed off the coast of San Francisco to provide air radar coverage and if need be area defense in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was a very stressful time for the crew as

the realities of terrorism struck home. When MOBILE BAY was relieved as San Francisco Guard Ship she proceeded back to Port Huememe to complete her groom, a groom that led to a very successful CSSQT, where MOBILE BAY fired five SM-2 Standard Missiles at various drones, demonstrating her capability against any and all threats that she would face if put in harms way. In the month that followed MOBILE BAY completed certifications in Underwater Sea Warfare, Communications, Visit Board Search and Seizure, and Maritime Interdiction Operations.

December came quickly for MOBILE BAY and the crew was ready to finish the last hurdle of the year, the Final Evaluation Problem. With training teams armed with a year of practice and preparation, they flawlessly led MOBILE BAY thru three grueling days of smoke and fire. The training teams brought MOBILE BAY to the brink of disaster only to watch as her crew worked as one to restore her systems so that the last inbound missile could be destroyed.

On December 14, 2001 with FEP behind and Christmas on the minds of her crew MOBILE BAY was called upon one more time to support her country in support of Operation Caper Focus. MOBILE BAY was assigned to find a vessel suspected of carrying illegal drugs. Using all of her shipboard assets, including her SH-60B helicopter Battle Cat 22 from HSL 43, MOBILE BAY found the suspect vessel in three days and after several searches found over 10 tons of cocaine, the fourth largest seizure of its kind in history. With the hard work of her crew and the assistance of the Mexican Navy the vessel was turned over to the Mexican government and MOBILE BAY returned to San Diego in time for Christmas.

The year of 2001 brought MOBILE BAY from a cold metal hulk to a ship full of life and purpose. A year that made a crew of strangers a team of friends and placed MOBILE BAY in a position to accomplish great things in the years ahead.



W. JAMES KEAR