



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS OSPREY (MHC 51)
FPO AA 34092-1950

*Rec'd 3/16/98
w/o disk*
5757
MHC/51
27 JAN 98

From: Commanding Officer, USS OSPREY (MHC 51)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following package is submitted.

2. Mission. The mission of the OSPREY Class Mine Hunters is to detect, classify, and neutralize all known and projected types of influence and contact mines in littoral waters, harbors and bays. It will provide navigational assistance to MCM units in conjunction with coordinated operations with airborne and other mine countermeasures forces. Secondary missions include route surveys, channel conditioning, underwater search and rescue and the collection of hydrographic/oceanographic data.

3. Organizational Structure.

- a. Immediate Superior:
Commander
Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE
120 Coral Sea Road, Suite W200
Ingleside, TX 78362 - 5000
- b. Commanding Officer: LCDR Warren E. Rhoades III, USN
- c. Homeport: Ingleside, TX

4. Ship's Characteristics

- a. Combat Systems Equipment:
AN/SPS 64 SURFACE SEARCH RADAR WITH IFF
AN/SPA 25G DIGITAL RADAR DISPLAY
AN/WSN 2 GYROCOMPASS
AN/WQC 2 UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS
AN/UQN 4 FATHOMETER

- b. Navigation:
AN/SYQ 13 NAVIGATION COMMAND CONTROL SYSTEM
SSQ-109 SHIP'S MACHINERY CONTROL SYSTEM
- c. Mine Hunting/Neutralization:
SQQ-32 VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR
SLQ-48 MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEM
.50 CAL MACHINE GUNS (2)
- d. Propulsion:
MAIN ENGINES (2) ISOTTA-FRASCHINI DIESEL (800 HP)
CYCLOIDAL PROPELLERS (2)
- e. Auxiliaries:
ISOTTA FRASCHINI DIESEL GENERATORS (3) (300KW)

5. Command History: (CY 97 Chronology)

01 - 26 JAN INPORT INGLESIDE TX
01 - 17 JAN HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD
27 - 30 JAN ENROUTE PANAMA CITY
31 JAN - 02 FEB INPORT PANAMA CITY
03 FEB - 14 MAR COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS
PHASE III, PANAMA CITY OPAREA
10 - 14 MAR MINE WARFARE READINESS CERTIFICATION
INSPECTION
15 - 23 MAR INPORT PANAMA CITY
24 MAR - 04 APR COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION
TRIALS PHASE IV, PANAMA CITY OPAREA
FOLLOW ON OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
(SHALLOW WATER PORTION)
05 - 11 APR INPORT PANAMA CITY
12 - 15 APR ENROUTE INGLESIDE
16 - 20 APR INPORT INGLESIDE
21 APR - 22 JUL RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY - GULF COPPER
SHIPYARD, ARANSAS PASS, TX
23 JUL SEA TRIALS CORPUS CHRISTI OPAREA
24 JUL - 05 AUG INPORT INGLESIDE
06 AUG DEPENDENTS' CRUISE, SEA TRIALS CORPUS
CHRISTI OPAREA
07 - 10 AUG INPORT INGLESIDE TX
11 - 14 AUG SHAKEDOWN CORPUS CHRISTI OPAREA
15 AUG ORDNANCE HANDLING SAFETY ASSIST VISIT
15 AUG - 07 SEP INPORT INGLESIDE

18 AUG - 05 SEP SYSTEM CALIBRATION VISIT
 08 SEP - 12 SEP ENGINEERING COMMAND ASSESSMENT OF READINESS
 AND TRAINING, CORPUS CHRISTI OPAREA
 13 - 28 SEP INPORT INGLESIDE TX
 29 SEP - 03 OCT TAILORED SHIPBOARD TRAINING AVAILABILITY I,
 ENGINEERING (TSTA I ETG) CORPUS CHRISTI
 OPAREA
 04 - 05 OCT INPORT INGLESIDE TX
 06 - 09 OCT TSTA I, DAMAGE CONTROL, SEAMANSHIP, MEDICAL
 AND NAVIGATION, CORPUS CHRISTI OPAREA
 10 - 14 OCT ENROUTE COZUMEL MX
 15 - 19 OCT INPORT COZUMEL MX
 20 - 23 OCT ENROUTE INGLESIDE
 24 - 26 OCT INPORT INGLESIDE
 27 - 31 OCT TSTA II ETG, CORPUS CHRISTI OPAREA
 01 - 03 NOV INPORT INGLESIDE
 04 NOV NAVIGATION CERTIFICATION, CORPUS CHRISTI
 OPAREA
 05 NOV - 07 DEC INPORT INGLESIDE
 08 - 11 DEC ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION
 12 - 31 DEC INPORT INGLESIDE
 19 - 31 DEC HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD

6. Narrative. 1997 was a year of many accomplishments in training for OSPREY. While in Panama City, FL the crew completed the OSPREY's first Mine Warfare Readiness Certification, the shallow water portion of Follow on Operational Test and Evaluation and Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials phases III and IV. Upon return to Ingleside, she completed the entire engineering training gauntlet including Engineering Command Assessment of Readiness and Training, Tailored Shipboard Training Availabilities (TSTA) I and II (Engineering Portion) and her first Engineering Certification. In addition to these achievements, the crew took OSPREY to her first foreign port visit in Cozumel, Mexico. OSPREY completed TSTA III and Final Evaluation Problem, finishing the notional schedule in early January, 1998.


 W. E. RHOADES, III