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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96678-3221

5737
19 Mar 92

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.13E
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5730.3E

Encl (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Command History for 1991
(2) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 3030, Tow of M/V
Agile
(3) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 4740, Tow of YO-47
(4) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 4740, Search Plan for
locating SH-60 BUNO 162108
(5) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Post Salvage Report for SH-60
BUNO 162108
(6) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 4740, Tow of Ex-USS
PERMIT (SSN-594)
(7) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 4740, Tow of
YC-1637, YC-1638, YR-85
(8) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Notice 4740, Search Plan for
locating FA-18 BUNO 663774

1. Per references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (10) are
submitted.

D. J. Oswald
D. J. OSWALD

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50), a diving and salvage ship based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is under the operational control of Combat Support Squadron Five. Lieutenant Commander Donald J. Oswald, USN, , commanded the ship throughout the year. Lieutenant Commander Andrew B. Clary, USN, served as Executive Officer. Lieutenant [REDACTED], USNR, relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED] on 20 April and relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED], USN, on 10 July and assumed the duties as Diving and Salvage Officer and 1st Lieutenant respectively. Lieutenant (junior grade) [REDACTED] relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED], USNR, as Operations Officer on 15 April. Lieutenant [REDACTED] relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED] as Operations Officer on 20 November and Chief Warrant Officer [REDACTED] USN, relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED] as 1st Lieutenant on 12 December. Also in December, Lieutenant (junior grade) [REDACTED], USN, relieved Lieutenant [REDACTED], USNR, as Supply Officer on the 17th. Lieutenant (junior grade) [REDACTED], USN, served as Engineer Officer the entire year.

ENCL(1)

CHRONOLOGY

1 Jan Duty Section brought in the new year uneventfully while moored B-21, Pearl Harbor(PH), Hawaii

2-3 Jan Inpt PH

4-5 Jan U/W, Engineering Operating Casualty Control Drills (EOCCs), Operational Propulsion Plant Examination(OPPE) Preps

6 Jan Moored A-7, Main Space Fire Drill (MSFD)

7 Jan Inpt PH

8 Jan Inpt Mobile Training Team(MTT) Phase III,

9 Jan Inpt, MTT Phase III

10-11 Jan U/W, MTT Phase III, EOCCs MSFDs

12 Jan U/W, EOCCs

13 Jan Anchor Reef Runway, Safety Standown

14 Jan U/W, EOCCs MSFD

15 Jan U/W, Abandon Ship Drill

16 Jan U/W, Personnel Transfer, EOCCs MSFD

17-18 Jan U/W, EOCCs, moor A-7

19-22 Jan Inpt PH

23-24 Jan U/W, OPPE Preps moor A-7

25-28 Jan Inpt PH

29 Jan Inpt PH, OPPE

30 Jan U/W, OPPE

31 Jan-1 Feb Inpt PH

2-6 Feb U/W with Ex- YOG-79 for Harpoon-ex, moor A-7

7 Feb Inpt PH, Diveops

8-12 Feb Inpt PH

13-15 Feb Inpt PH, Salvage TRE

16-19 Feb Inpt PH

20 Feb U/W with Ex- Tunica, salvage training, moor A-7

21 Feb U/W with Ex- Tunica, fire-at-sea-ex- salvage training

22-23 Feb Inpt A-7, rig for heavy lift- salvage training

24 Feb Inpt A-7, Heavy Bow Lift

25 Feb U/W, beach Ex-Tunica, underwater survey of hull-salvage training

26 Feb U/W, Laid two legs beach gear-salvage training

27 Feb Anchored, 30 ton pull in harness-salvage training

28 Feb Retrieve beach gear, moor A-7

1-3 Mar Inpt PH

4 Mar Shift berth to B-21, start restricted availability(R-Avail)

5 Mar Upkeep PH

6 Mar Shift berth to M-1

7 Mar Upkeep PH

8 Mar	Upkeep PH, Personnel Inspection
9-11 Mar	Upkeep PH
12-13 Mar	Upkeep PH, 3M assist
14-17 Mar	Upkeep PH
18-20 Mar	Upkeep PH, Command Inspection(ISIC)
21-22 Mar	U/W, drills moor M-2
23 Mar	Upkeep PH Refresher Training(IRFT) preps
24 Mar	Upkeep PH
25-28 Mar	U/W, IRFT
29 Mar	Moor A-7, IRFT
30-31 Mar	Inpt PH, IRFT
1-2 Apr	U/W, IRFT moor buoy
3 Apr	U/W, IRFT moor A-7
4 Apr	U/W, IRFT moor F-1
5 Apr	U/W, IRFT moor A-7
6-7 Apr	Inpt PH, Diving Operational Readiness Assessment(DORA) Preps
8 Apr	U/W, anchor reef runway, DORA Diveops, moor B-18
9-14 Apr	Inpt PH
15-28 Apr	U/W for Pago Pago, American Samoa with M/V Agile(Manutele II) in tow, moor Pago Pago
29 Apr-2 May	Inpt Pago Pago
3 May	Refuel, U/W for Tau, American Samoa
4 May	Anchor off Tau, divers survey boat harbor
5-6 May	U/W for Western Samoa
7-8 May	Inpt Apia, Western Samoa
9-11 May	U/W for Nukalofa, Tonga
12 May	Anchor off Nukalofa
13 May	U/W, moor Nukalofa pier
14 May	U/W, anchor off Nukalofa
15 May	U/W, moor Nukalofa pier
16-19 May	U/W for Funafuti, Tuvalu, moor Funafuti
20-21 May	Inpt Funafuti
22-25 May	U/W for Kiribati, Tarawa, moor Kiribati
26-27 May	Inpt Kiribati
28 May	U/W for Pearl Harbor
29 May	U/W, cross international dateline and equator, Golden Shellback initiation
30 May 2 Jun	U/W
3 Jun	U/W, Safety Standown
4-5 Jun	U/W, moor B-15
6 Jun	Upkeep PH, commence R-avail
7-11 Jun	Upkeep PH
12-14 Jun	Upkeep PH, 3M Inspection
15-26 Jun	Upkeep PH
27 Jun- 7 Jul	U/W for Long Beach with Y0-47 in tow

8-9 Jul Moor pier 9 Long Beach, inpt
 10-12 Jul U/W for Astoria, Oregon for salvage recovery of
 downed SH-60 helicopter off the coast of Oregon
 13 Jul Moor pier 2, Astoria
 14-16 Jul Inpt Astoria, onload Deep Drone ROV
 17 Jul U/W for SH-60 site, locate with Deep Drone
 18 Jul U/W, return to pier 2, personnel transfer
 19 Jul U/W, rig in to SH-60
 20 Jul U/W, retrieve cockpit
 21 Jul U/W, retrieve engines, U/W for Alameda
 22-23 Jul U/W, moor pier 2 Alameda, California
 24-28 Jul Inpt Alameda
 29-30 Jul U/W for San Clemente Island for diving training
 31 Jul Anchor off San Clemente Island
 1-2 Aug Diveops, U/W for San Diego
 3 Aug Moor San Diego
 4 Aug Inpt San Diego
 5 Aug Upkeep San Diego, start R-avail
 6-8 Aug Upkeep San Diego, MTT Phase I
 9-22 Aug Upkeep San Diego
 23 Aug U/W for Alameda
 24 Aug U/W, MEDIVAC, transfer of patient to hospital
 25-26 Aug U/W, moor pier 3 Alameda
 27 Aug- 2 Sep Inpt Alameda
 3-7 Sep U/W for Bremerton, WA, with Ex-USS PERMIT
 (SSN-594) in tow
 8 Sep Moor pier 90 Seattle after tow disconnect at
 Bremerton
 9-11 Sep Inpt Seattle, MTT Phase II
 12 Sep U/W, refuel, moor pier C Bremerton
 13-16 Sep U/W with YC-1637 and YC 1638 in tow
 17 Sep Moor pier 2 Alameda
 18-19 Sep Inpt Alameda
 20-29 Sep U/W with YC-1637, YC-1638, YR-85 in tow, MSFDs
 30 Sep Moor M-4 PH
 1 Oct Leave and upkeep, start R-avail
 2-6 Oct Leave and upkeep PH
 7-10 Oct Upkeep, SCLISIS, Diveops
 11-13 Oct Upkeep PH
 14-18 Oct Upkeep, SCLISIS, Diveops/cutting and welding
 19-20 Oct Upkeep PH
 21 Oct Upkeep, SCLISIS, Diveops, end R-avail
 22 Oct Inpt PH, Fast Cruise
 23-25 Oct U/W ISE, EOCCs, swing ship, MSFDs
 26-28 Oct Inpt PH
 29-31 Oct U/W ISE, EOCCs, MSFD, moor B-21
 1-4 Nov Inpt PH

5 Nov	Inpt PH, MTT Phase III
6 Nov	U/W MTT Phase III, moor A-2
7-12 Nov	Inpt PH, OPPE Preps
13-14 Nov	Inpt PH, OPPE
15 Nov	U/W, OPPE, moor A-2
16-18 Nov	Inpt PH
19-22 Nov	U/W, FA-18 search vicinity of Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, moor A-2
23 Nov-1 Dec	Inpt PH
2 Dec	U/W, anchor off reef runway
3-4 Dec	Two point moor, Diveops
5 Dec	U/W, moor A-2
6 Dec	U/W, three point moor behind USS SALVOR (ARS-52) in PH for 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack
7 Dec	Inpt PH, U/W, moor S-13
8 Dec	Inpt PH
9 Dec	U/W, IRFT drills with USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42), moor B-21
10 Dec	Inpt PH
11 Dec	U/W, Emergent tow USS OUELLETT (FF-1077), moor B-21
12-16 Dec	Inpt PH
17 Dec	Commence holiday leave and upkeep
18 Dec	Deadstick to B-15
19-31 Dec	Leave and upkeep

NARRATIVE

USS SAFEGUARD'S (ARS-50) primary and secondary mission responsibilities from her Pearl Harbor, Hawaii homeport involve operational support services for the combat fleet and emergent assists in the areas of diving, salvage, firefighting and towing. A very busy year, 1991 saw the SAFEGUARD deploying to the South Pacific, East Pacific and completing numerous assist visits and inspections with admirable results.

It was full steam ahead in January as an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination(OPPE) was scheduled at the end of the month. The ship was in and out of port conducting Engineering Operational Casualty Control Drills(EOCCs), Main Space Fire Drills(MSFDs) and continuously training with and without the Mobile Training Team(MTT).

After OPPE, SAFEGUARD was tasked with a target tow for two SSN Harpoon shots off Kauai.

Salvage TRE commenced the middle of February and led into salvage training. SAFEGUARD showed her workhorse capabilities during the heavy bow lift and debeaching exercise. Rigging and recovering beach gear was strenuous and time-consuming requiring the effort of most of the crew, whose team work allowed a smooth operation.

In preparation for the upcoming SOUTH PAC, SAFEGUARD underwent a 3M assist visit, Command Inspection, Interim Refresher Training(IRFT), and Diving Operational Readiness Assessment(DORA). The crew honed their skills in the areas of 3M, damage control, firefighting, chemical, biological and radiological warfare and personnel casualties.

Families waved "goodbye" as SAFEGUARD steamed for Pago Pago with her tow, M/V AGILE on 15 April. The M/V AGILE (MANUTELE III) was a goodwill gift from the U.S. government to the people of American Samoa and was presented in Pago Pago by Senator Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii). It is to be used for inter-island personnel and supply transfers.

While the ship was in Pago Pago, the governor of American Samoa asked the commanding officer if he could survey Tau island's boat harbor to see if it is accessible by AGILE. After formal tasking SAFEGUARD was once again underway.

Anchored off Tau in uncharted waters, SAFEGUARD sent in divers via zodiacs for the survey. After a day, the work was completed and the ship headed for Western Samoa.

In Apia the commanding officer met with the U.S. Charges de Affaires and donated books and medical supplies as part of "Project Handclasp". In response to a government request, SAFEGUARD divers retrieved a mooring buoy from the harbor and after painting and preserving it, reattached it for future use.

Next on the schedule was Nukalofa, Tonga. Due to limited pier space, SAFEGUARD anchored out twice to allow cargo vessels to moor alongside. The Chief Corpsman delivered medical supplies to local hospital representatives as another part of "Project Handclasp". The crew enjoyed snorkeling and sightseeing on this Australian tourist getaway.

By the middle of May, the ship was headed for Funafuti, Tuvalu, the smallest independent country in the world. Surrounded by reefs and shallow water, Funafuti can only be visited by shallow draft ships. During a precarious Northern channel entry, SAFEGUARD slowly maneuvered around coral heads that were visible 10 yards off either side. The zodiac, deployed ahead of the ship, looked for danger spots.

Safely moored at Funafuti's pier, the crew departed, noticing the island was only 30 yards wide in places. While visiting the island's 3 room hotel, some crew members and the chief corpsman were beckoned over to the side of the road where a local man lay not breathing. CPR was initiated at once but unfortunately he never recovered.

SAFEGUARD's last stop was Kiribati, Tarawa. Remnants of the famous World War II battle were visible everywhere. On the way back to Pearl Harbor, SAFEGUARD maneuvered so she could cross the international dateline and equator simultaneously. The "pollywogs" were christened "golden shellbacks".

June saw a 3M inspection and upkeep period and preparations were made for the follow on EASTPAC.

On June 27, SAFEGUARD steamed for Long Beach, California commencing her EASTPAC. Her tow, YO-47 was delivered upon arrival in port.

As the crew was trying to adjust to the chilly climate of Astoria, the Navy salvage deep drone team was unloading equipment for the upcoming SH-60 salvop off the Oregon coast. After a few days of precise ship and deep drone maneuvering, the helicopter was retrieved in two pieces from 800 fsw.

SAFEGUARD headed for Alameda, California where the SH-60 wreckage was delivered for further investigation. Four days in Alameda preceded the ship's journey to San Diego.

On the way to San Diego, the ship anchored off San Clemente Island for two days of training dives. Upon arrival in San Diego, SAFEGUARD commenced an "R" availability and underwent training with MTT.

By the end of August, SAFEGUARD was back on her way to Alameda to prepare for the tow of the ex-USS PERMIT (SSN-594). Several meetings occurred concerning tow preparations, communication plans and connect/disconnect procedures. USS LANG (FF-1060) was designated as escort vessel to deter any possible civil interference.

After delivering the ex-PERMIT in Bremerton, WA, SAFEGUARD moored in Seattle for another MTT visit.

SAFEGUARD refueled on the 12th of September and connected in to YC-1637 and YC-1638 for the tow to Alameda where they went to pick up YR-85 and after a short stay made tracks for Hawaii with all three crafts in tow.

October started with the celebration of SAFEGUARD's homecoming and a week of standown. More training dives were accomplished and the SCLISIS team arrived for cosal validation. By the end of the month SAFEGUARD was out to sea again conducting drills in preparation for a November OPPE.

The end of November was spent searching for an FA-18 that crashed off the windward coast of Oahu. EOD personnel embarked with their side-scan sonar, but were unable to locate the aircraft.

To start December, SAFEGUARD conducted diveops off reef runway and then moored at "Yankee" point on December 6th to be viewed by the President of the United States who commemorated the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ship responded to USS QUELLETT's (FF- 1077) distress call who had suffered a boiler casualty. SAFEGUARD proudly towed the frigate back to Pearl Harbor. Lastly, leave and upkeep and preparations for the upcoming planned maintenance period ended the year.