



Rec'd 3/29/94
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96678-3221

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22 Mar 94

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) Command History for 1993
(2) SAFEGUARDNOTE 4790 (Tow of Ex-USS WICHITA (AOE-1))
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer
(5) Photograph of Commanding Officer

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

G. W. Fleck
G. W. FLECK

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50), a diving and salvage ship based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is under the operational control of Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Lieutenant Commander George W. Fleck, USN, served as Commanding Officer for the entire year. Lieutenant Commander Debra A. Bodenstedt, USN, served as Executive Officer. Lieutenant [REDACTED], USN, remained as Operations Officer. Lieutenant Junior Grade [REDACTED], USN, served as Supply Officer. Ensign [REDACTED], USN, served as the Chief Engineer. Lieutenant [REDACTED], USN, remained as First Lieutenant.

ENCLOSURE(1)

CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan Began the New Year in a Leave and Upkeep Period
While Moored in Pearl Harbor (PH), Hawaii

02-11 Jan Inport PH

12 Jan U/W Lahaina, Maui, Dive Ops

13-14 Jan Inport Lahaina, Dive Ops

15 Jan U/W for Pearl Harbor

16-18 Jan Inport PH, Upkeep

19-20 Jan Inport PH, Upkeep, DORA

21 Jan Moored Reef Runway, DORA

22-24 Jan Inport PH, Upkeep

25 Jan Inport PH, Upkeep, ARE

26-31 Jan Inport PH, Upkeep

01-05 Feb Inport PH, Upkeep, 3M/LMA Assist

06-11 Feb Inport PH, Upkeep

12 Feb Inport PH, Upkeep, Ship's Picnic

13-21 Feb Inport PH, Upkeep

22 Feb U/W, Pier Landings

23-28 Feb U/W for Alameda

01-02 March U/W for Alameda

03-08 March Inport Alameda, Upkeep

09 March Inport Alameda, Upkeep, Ex-USS WICHITA Tow
Inspection

10-12 March Inport Alameda, Upkeep

13-18 March U/W for Bremerton with Ex-USS WICHITA in Tow

19 March Drop off USS WICHITA in Bremerton, Inport Everett

20-21 March Inport Everett

22 March U/W for Victoria, British Columbia

23-28 March Inport Victoria, British Columbia

29 March U/W New Westminster, British Columbia

30-31 March Inport New Westminster, British Columbia

01-04 April Inport New Westminster, British Columbia

05-14 April U/W for Pearl Harbor

15-30 April Inport PH, Upkeep, R-Availability

01-25 May Inport PH, Upkeep, R-Availability

26-28 May Inport PH, Upkeep, NAVOSH Inspection

29-30 May Inport PH, Upkeep, R-Availability

01-06 June Inport PH, Upkeep, R-Availability

07 June U/W for Port Allen, Kauai

08-10 June Moored off Port Allen, Kauai; Dive Ops

11 June U/W for Pearl Harbor

12-20 June Inport PH, Upkeep

21-24 June U/W for East Loch, Pearl Harbor; Debeaching/Salvage
Training

25 June Inport PH, Upkeep

26-28 June Inport PH, Upkeep, Prepare for Fire at Sea Exercise

29 June U/W, Fire at Sea Training

30 June Inport PH, Upkeep

01-11 July Inport PH, Upkeep

12-13 July Inport PH, Upkeep, Diesel Inspection

14-15 July Inport PH, Upkeep, Diesel Inspection, IERA

16-20 July Inport PH, Upkeep, IERA

21 July Inport PH, Upkeep, IERA, Safety Standdown

22 July	Inport PH, Upkeep, IERA
23 July	Inport PH, Upkeep, Ships's Picnic
24-31 July	Inport PH, Upkeep
01-02 August	Inport PH, Upkeep
03-05 August	Inport PH, Upkeep, Command Inspection
06-12 August	Inport PH, Upkeep
13-21 August	U/W for Adak, Alaska
21 August	Inport Adak, Refuel, Re provision
21-24 August	U/W for Arctic West 1994 Project Site
25 August	Anchor Project Site
26-31 August	Anchored Fairway Rock, Dive Ops
01 Sept	U/W for Arctic Circle and Port Clarence, Alaska
02-04 Sept	Anchored Port Clarence, Alaska
05 Sept	Anchored Fairway Rock, Dive Ops
06-07 Sept	Anchored Port Clarence, Alaska
08-11 Sept	U/W for Kodiak, Alaska
12-13 Sept	Inport Kodiak, Alaska; Offload UCT 2, Onload EOD
14-15 Sept	U/W for Icy Bay, Alaska
16-18 Sept	Search Operations in Icy Bay, Alaska
19 Sept	U/W for Cordova, Alaska
20 Sept	Anchored Cordova, Alaska
21 Sept	U/W for Icy Bay, Alaska
22-25 Sept	Search Operations in Icy Bay, Alaska
26-27 Sept	U/W for Kodiak, Alaska
28 Sept	Inport Kodiak, Alaska
29-30 Sept	U/W for Pearl Harbor, HI
01-08 Oct	U/W for Pearl Harbor, HI
09-14 Oct	Inport PH, Upkeep, LTT
15 Oct	U/W for Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
16-17 Oct	Inport Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
18 Oct	U/W for Pearl Harbor
19 Oct	Inport PH, Upkeep, LTT
20-21 Oct	U/W for LTT
22-24 Oct	Inport PH, Upkeep, LTT
25-29 Oct	Inport PH, Upkeep, IERA
29-31 Oct	Inport PH, Upkeep, Surface Line Week
01-10 Nov	Inport PH, Upkeep, Surface Line Week
11-14 Nov	Inport PH, Upkeep
15-16 Nov	Inport PH, Upkeep, LTT
17-19 Nov	U/W for LTT, Engineering Drills
20-30 Nov	Inport PH, Upkeep
01-02 Dec	U/W, Ammo Offload, Engineering Drills
03-05 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep
06 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep, OPPE
07 Dec	U/W for OPPE
08 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep
09 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep
10 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep, Ship's Christmas Party
11-16 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep
17 Dec	Inport PH, Upkeep, Safety Standdown
18-31 Dec	Inport PH, Standdown

NARRATIVE

1993 was an active and exciting year for the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii based USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50). A Rescue and Salvage ship, she performs a wide variety of missions, to include: towing, off-ship firefighting, salvage, and surface-supplied diving. These missions are accomplished on a regular basis, in addition to emergency situations. The ship kept fully occupied during the year with an EASTPAC deployment, operations in the Arctic and various local exercises.

After a well-deserved leave and standdown period at the beginning of January, the SAFEGUARD and her crew were underway to Maui on January 12th. Anchored off Lahaina, the divers conducted surface-supplied diving operations in preparation for their upcoming Diving Operational Readiness Assessment (DORA). The remainder of the crew enjoyed liberty on the scenic island. An awards ceremony and personnel inspection was conducted on the fourth day in Maui, prior to the ship's return to Pearl Harbor. DORA commenced on the 19th and continued through the 21st, the final day anchored at Reef Runway for diving operations. The notable display of the diver's proficiency during DORA was followed by a successful Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) at the end of the month.

Preparations for the upcoming EASTPAC deployment began with a Supply/3M assist visit by the Logistics Management Assessment Team and an extensive upkeep period. The pre-deployment family picnic was held on February 12th at Honeymoon Beach on Hickam Air Force Base. Representatives from the Family Service Center, Chaplain's Office, and Legal were on hand to answer questions and provide guidance to the crew and their dependents. SAFEGUARD was underway on the 22nd for a final shakedown and practice run prior to her voyage east.

After eight days underway on the Pacific, SAFEGUARD pulled into Alameda on 03 March. An availability was conducted while tow preparations began for the Ex-USS WICHITA (AOE-1). A tow inspection of the WICHITA was conducted on 09 March, exhibiting her outstanding preservation and seaworthiness. On March 13th in San Francisco Bay, the largest tow in SAFEGUARD's history began as the 10,000 pound tow bridle of the WICHITA was successfully passed to the SAFEGUARD's fantail.

The winds and seas cooperated well with the SAFEGUARD's voyage north. The ship's speed exceeded pre-tow calculations, allowing for an earlier arrival in Bremerton, Wa. on 19 March. SAFEGUARD berthed nearby at the new strategic homeport, Naval Station Everett, Wa. on the 20th and 21st. Victoria, British Columbia, was the first foreign port visited by SAFEGUARD on this deployment. The SAFEGUARD moored outboard of the HMCS PROVIDER, a Canadian oiler, at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt. Fantastic spring weather allowed for excellent sightseeing in downtown Victoria and the surrounding area.

On 29 March, SAFEGUARD transited through the scenic Georgia Strait and seventeen miles up the Fraser River to moor at City Quay, New Westminster, British Columbia, a suburb of Vancouver. Vancouver's museums, zoo, aquarium, parks, and shopping allowed for

unlimited entertainment. SAFEGUARD was underway on 05 April for her return to Pearl Harbor.

The remainder of April and the month of May were spent primarily in an availability. A Navy Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) inspection was conducted 26-28 May to determine the overall safety of the ship and its crew. On 07 June SAFEGUARD departed Pearl Harbor for Port Allen, Kauai to conduct diving operations and provide assistance to the Hurricane Iniki victims of the previous year. She returned to Oahu on the 11th and began preparations for TSTA IV (Tailored Ship's Training Availability).

The first portion of TSTA IV consisted of a salvage and debeaching exercise in East Loch, Pearl Harbor on 21-24 June. The ship successfully laid and retrieved two legs of beach gear, demonstrated the execution and use of a Liverpool bridle, and displayed her ability to conduct the debeaching of a grounded ship. She exhibited her proficiency of off-ship firefighting, another TSTA exercise, on 29 June in the waters south of Oahu.

The month of July consisted of inspections and pre-deployment activity. The 3M inspection on July 8th received a grade of 96.8. The engineering department was kept busy by a Diesel Inspection 12-15 July and an ISIC Engineering Readiness Assessment (IERA) 14-22 July. The ship's pre-deployment picnic was held at Barber's Point on the 23rd of July. A Command Inspection on 03-05 August completed the excitement prior to the ship's journey north.

Personnel from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) Two in Port Hueneme, Ca. joined the ship in Pearl Harbor for the transit to Adak, Alaska on 13 August. After less than eighteen hours in Adak to refuel and reprovision on 21 August, SAFEGUARD was underway for the Bering Sea. Upon arrival in the Bering Strait, UCT divers commenced cold weather diving and scheduled underwater maintenance and inspections.

Rough weather and seas suspended diving operations on the fifth day, enabling the crew to weigh anchor and head north to cross the Arctic Circle and the International Date Line. SAFEGUARD took temporary refuge in the bay at Port Clarence, Alaska to wait out a severe arctic storm. Members of the crew were graciously welcomed ashore by the personnel of the Coast Guard LORAN Station at Port Clarence.

Once operations were complete in Bering Strait, SAFEGUARD proceeded on 08 September to the Kodiak, Alaska, Coast Guard Air Station. UCT personnel disembarked to make room for members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Seven from San Diego and U.S. Customs Service representatives. After the exchange of personnel and gear, preparations were made to conduct joint operations in the Gulf of Alaska with EOD and the U.S. Customs Service.

After a few days on station in the Gulf of Alaska and the adjoining Icy Bay, the ship was directed to onload additional equipment and personnel. Cordova, Alaska, a small fishing town located in the western portion of the Prince William Sound, was the destination. Once again, violent storms prevented SAFEGUARD from getting underway, and two days were spent in the protected waters of Cordova. Operations in the Gulf of Alaska recommenced on 22 September. After another five days in the area, SAFEGUARD returned

to Kodiak to top off fuel and provisions prior to it's return to Pearl Harbor.

SAFEGUARD arrived in Pearl Harbor on the 8th of October and was again underway less than a week later to Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, promoting the Navy's 218th birthday and local Navy presence. Family and friends joined the crew on the twelve hour transit to the neighbor island. After a very deserving weekend of rest and leisure, SAFEGUARD weighed anchor on 18 October, returning to its homeport.

In support of Limited Team Training (LTT), SAFEGUARD was underway on 20-21 October. LTT was the first of many evaluations prior to the ship's Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) the beginning of December. IERA was conducted on 25-29 October while inport. Surface Line Week coincided with the pre-OPPE preparations. SAFEGUARD placed second in the competition, ahead of many ships with crews three or four times in size.

Upkeep and pre-OPPE readiness continued through November. Ammunition was offloaded on 01 December prior to the ship's Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) during the first three months of 1994. OPPE was conducted on the 6th and 7th of December, the latter day spent at sea south of Oahu. The engineering department displayed their intelligence and superb abilities as the ship was awarded it's first two year certification since 1988.

The achievements of a successful 1993 were celebrated at the ship's annual Christmas Party on December 10th. A much needed holiday standdown commenced on 17 December after a long, demanding year. The crew, knowing what awaits them in 1994, took advantage of the precious time off to relax and anticipate further adventures.