



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
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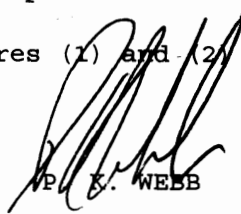
25 FEB 1998

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50)
To: Director of Naval History, N09BH
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) Command History for 1997
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.


P. K. WEBB

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

SAFEGUARD's assigned mission in wartime is to serve as a Combat Logistics Support Force providing salvage, repair, diving and rescue services to the Fleet at sea. USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) is under operational control of Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific and is homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. SAFEGUARD routinely operates independently in the Eastern and Western Pacific ocean. SAFEGUARD's Commanding Officer is LCDR Peter K. Webb, USN, [REDACTED].

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-13 Jan	Holiday Upkeep; Pearl Harbor
14-22 Jan	Enroute Eureka, CA
17 Jan	LTJG [REDACTED] relieved LT [REDACTED] as Operations Officer.
23-28 Jan	Inport Eureka, CA
29-29 Jan	USAFR HC-130 Salvage; Eastern Pacific
30 Jan-07 Feb	Inport Eureka, CA
08-15 Feb	USAFR HC-130 Salvage; Eastern Pacific
16-18 Feb	Inport Eureka, CA
19-25 Feb	Enroute Pearl Harbor
26 Feb-02 Mar	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor
03-31 Mar	Intermediate Maintenance Availability;
01-13 Apr	Pre Overseas Movement; Pearl Harbor
02 Apr	Secretary of the Navy visits ship
14-25 Apr	Enroute Guam
26 Apr-04 Mar	Inport Guam
05-11 May	Specwar SUBEX 97-3; Philippine Sea
05 May	Enroute Submarine OPAREA west of Apra Harbor, Guam
05 May	Arrived Submarine OPAREA
09 May	Enroute Tinian OPAREA
10 May	Arrived Tinian OPAREA
11 May	Provided Assistance to strickended vessel
11 May	Enroute Apra Harbor, Guam
12 May	Moored Apra Harbor Guam
12-15 May	Inport Guam
16-24 May	Enroute Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
25 May	Moored Kota Kinabalu Port Authority, Kota
25-30 May	Inport Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
31 May-02 Jun	Enroute Singapore
03 Jun	Moored PSA Sembawang, Singapore
03-11 Jun	Upkeep; Singapore
12-15 Jun	Enroute Phattaya, Thailand
16-21 Jun	Port Visist; Phattaya, Thailand
20 Jun	LT Ronald L. Parslow relieved LCDR Stephen P. Reimers as Executive Officer
22 Jun	Enroute Sattahib, Thailand
22 Jun	Late Arrival; Sattabib, Thailand
23 Jun-02 Jul	CARAT-THAI 97; Gulf of Thailand
24 Jun	Enroute Ko Sak Island, Thailand
25-26 Jun	USN-RTN-Phattaya Rotary Club installation of buoy field off Ko Sak Island

Encl (1)

27 Jun Enroute Ko Lan Island, Thailand
 28-29 Jun USN-RTN-Phattaya Rotary Club installation
 of buoy field off Ko Lan Island
 30 Jun Enroute vicinity of Tao Mao, Thailand
 01-02 Jul USN-RTN surface supplied diving operations
 03 Jul Enroute Phattaya, Thailand
 03 Jul Anchored Phattaya, Thailand
 03 Jul Conducted Underwater Ship's Husbandry on USCGC
 CHASE to remove material from her screws
 03-04 Jul Anchored Phattaya, Thailand
 05-08 Jul Enroute Lumut, Malaysia
 09-15 Jul CARAT-MALAYSIA 97; Lumut, Malaysia
 14 Jul Enroute Pangkor Island
 14 Jul Anchored Pangkor Island
 16-17 Jul Enroute Singapore
 18 Jul Moored PSA Sembawang Terminal
 18 Jul Conducted inspection dive on USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5)
 19-20 Jul Inport Singapore; PSA Sembawang Terminal
 19 Jul Conducted dives to replace pitsword and conduct
 a hull inspection on USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41)
 21 Jul-01 Aug CARAT-SINGAPORE 97; Singapore
 21 Jul Enroute RSN Dive Unit
 21 Jul Moored Sembawang Shipyard (Unable to moor at RSN
 Dive Unit due to shallow water)
 25 Jul Conducted post hull cleaning inspection on USS
 RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60)
 27 Jul Enroute vicinity of Pulau Sudong
 27 Jul Anchored vicinity of Pulau Sudong
 31 Jul Enroute PSA Sembawang, Singapore
 31 Jul Moored PSA Sembawang, Singapore
 02-04 Aug Enroute Pasir Putih, Indonesia
 05 Aug Anchored Pasir Putih, Indonesia
 06-08 Aug INDUSIA PASSEX 97; Pasir Putih, Indonesia
 09-22 Aug Enroute Chinhae, ROK
 23 Aug Moored Chinhae Naval Base
 23-24 Aug Inport Chinhae, ROK
 25 Aug-05 Sep USN-ROKN SALVEX 97-2K; Chinhae, ROK
 26 Aug Enroute Korean Exercise area south of Chinhae
 26 Aug Anchored south of Chinhae
 29 Aug Enroute Chinhae
 29 Aug Moored Chinhae Naval Base
 31 Aug Enroute vicinity of Pohang harbor entrance
 31 Aug Anchored east of Pohang harbor entrance
 04 Sep Enroute Chinhae
 05 Sep Moored Chinhae Naval Base
 05 Sep-20 Sep Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
 15 Sep LT [REDACTED] relieved LTJG [REDACTED]
 as Operations Officer
 20 Sep Moored Pearl Harbor, HI
 21 Sep-14 Oct Post Deployment Leave and upkeep
 01 Oct LTJG [REDACTED] departed the ship
 15 Oct-12 Nov Inport Preps for Mid Cycle Assesment

04-07 Nov	Underway, Middle Pacific, type training
13 Nov-14 Nov	Mid Cycle Assesment
15 Nov-16 Nov	Inport Pearl Harbor
17 Nov-21 Nov	Underway, Local Dive Ops
17 Nov	Anchored Lahina, Maui
18-19 Nov	Salvage project with 6,800lb pontoon in 100 fsw.
20 Nov	Underway late afternoon
21 Nov	Moored W-2 Nav Mag Lualualei for Ammo Off load
21 Nov	Moored Pearl Harbor
22 Nov-10 Dec	Upkeep Pearl Harbor
01 Dec	LT [REDACTED] departed the ship
24 Nov	Diving Safety Survey
11 Dec	Underway for Navigation Check ride and Junior Officer Shiphandling
12 Dec-31 Dec	Upkeep Pearl Harbor

3. NARRATIVE

During the months of January through March, SAFEGUARD was responding to short notice tasking to Northern California for the difficult and demanding salvage of a downed USAFR HC-130 that had crashed in November 1996. Initially, SAFEGUARD was to assist Deep Submergence Unit (DSU) of Commander, Submarine Development Group One in the recovery of the aircraft's tail section which contained the voice and data recorders. Prior to SAFEGUARD's arrival, DSU's remotely operated vehicle, "Scorpio", began to develop mechanical difficulties which were beyond onsite repair. At the request of the Air Force, NAVSEA contracted Oceaneering to embark the ROV Deep Drone in SAFEGUARD and conduct the recovery operations. Through extremely rough weather and long hours, SAFEGUARD was able to recover both the voice and data recorders, one of the aircraft's engines and facilitate locating and videoing the large debris field. For this difficult and complex operation SAFEGUARD received Bravo Zulus from both the Secretaries of the Navy and Air Force. After this successful operation, SAFEGUARD returned to Pearl Harbor to complete a compressed Pre Overseas Movement (POM) period.

During the POM period SAFEGUARD completed an aggressive Maintenance Availability with Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Pearl Harbor. Additionally, SAFEGUARD conducted full deployment briefings for families and crew and held a well attended picnic for families and crew prior to the April Deployment.

SAFEGUARD deployed 14 April enroute Apra Harbor, Guam. While in Guam, SAFEGUARD received message traffic canceling scheduled operations in the Persian Gulf. New tasking had SAFEGUARD participate in Specwar SUBEX 97-3 where SAFEGUARD was responsible for managing surface contacts and providing an onsite recompression chamber while members from SEAL teams exercised with USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSN 642). SAFEGUARD also participated in demonstrations of small unit tactics with SEAL personnel for Commander in Chief U. S. Special Operations Command. The ship then transited to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia for a port visit. SAFEGUARD's next port was Singapore.

While in Singapore SAFEGUARD completed a short maintenance period and made final preparations for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 97 (CARAT 97). The first CARAT exercise was with Thailand.

August was USN-ROKN SALVEX 97-2k. SAFEGUARD trained with Korean divers and sailors in salvage and mixed gas diving. SAFEGUARD departed South Korea on 5 Sep for Pearl Harbor.

Encl (1)

SAFEGUARD returned to Pearl Harbor on 20 Sep. A post-deployment standown followed. A highly successful Mid Cycle Assessment was conducted and a Diving Safety Survey were conducted in November both inspections scored "satisfactory". SAFEGUARD also was awarded the CNO Surface Ship Safety Award for competitive cycle 1996. A Navigation Checkride and the Junior Officer Shiphandling was conducted on 10 December. Holiday leave and upkeep started 15 December.