



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50)
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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 1998
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(3) Commanding Officer Biography
(4) Commanding Officer Photograph
(5) Ship Photograph

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


J.G. GRAY

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

SAFEGUARD's assigned mission in wartime is to serve as 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,

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-04 Jan	Holiday Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
05 Jan-06 Mar	Planned Maintenance Availability
20-23 Jan	Limited Team Training; Engineering
02 Feb	Ships Explosive Safety Inspection
02-04 Feb	Aviation Readiness Evaluation
17-20 Feb	Limited Team Training; Engineering
23-27 Feb	Logistics Administrative Training and Review
02-06 Mar	COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Engineering Assessment
10 Mar	Ammunition Onload; NAVMAG Lualualei
10-12 Mar	Underway for Local Operations; Middle Pacific
16-18 Mar	Underway for Local Operations; Middle Pacific
23-31 Mar	Diving Operations; Reef Runway Middle Pacific
31 Mar	ENS [REDACTED] relieved LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as Supply Officer
01-03 Apr	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II
04-05 Apr	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor
05 Apr	ENS [REDACTED] relieved LTJG [REDACTED] as Damage Control Assistant
06 Apr	Enroute Diving Operations; Middle Pacific
07-09 Apr	Diving Operations; Middle Pacific
10 Apr	Inport Pearl Harbor
11-26 Apr	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor
27 Apr-01 May	ADCAP Service Weapons test with USS GREENEVILLE; Middle Pacific
05-12 May	Enroute San Diego, CA
11 May	LTJG [REDACTED] relieved LT [REDACTED] as Operations Officer
13-16 May	Inport San Diego, CA
17 May	Enroute Port Hueneme, CA
18-19 May	Inport Port Hueneme, CA
20-30 May	Tow Services for ex-SOMERS (DDG-34) Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
31 May	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
01 Jun	CWO2 [REDACTED] relieved LT [REDACTED] as Chief Engineer.
01-14 Jun	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
10-11 Jun	Limited Team Training; Engineering
15-22 Jun	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
23-25 Jun	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Underway Middle Pacific

ENCLOSURE(1)

26-29 Jun	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
30 Jun-02 Jul	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Underway Middle Pacific
06 Jul	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
07-08 Jul	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Underway Middle Pacific
09 Jul	Tailored Ship Training Assessment II Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
15-16 Jul	Engineering Certification
17-29 Jul	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
28 Jul	LT [REDACTED] relieved CWO2 [REDACTED] as Chief Engineer
30-31 Jul	Tow Certification; Middle Pacific
01-03 Aug	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
04-05 Aug	COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Engineering Assessment Underway Middle Pacific
05 Aug	Underwater Hull Clean
06-12 Aug	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
13 Aug	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
14-18 Aug	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
19 Aug	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
21 Aug	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
22-26 Aug	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
27-28 Aug	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
31 Aug-01 Sep	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
03 Sep	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
04-07 Sep	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
08 Sep	COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Engineering Assessment Underway Middle Pacific
09-16 Sep	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
17 Sep	Underway Engineering Training; Middle Pacific
18-20 Sep	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
21 Sep	Engineering Certification
22-30 Sep	Intermediate Maintenance Availability
01-08 Oct	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
09-20 Oct	Enroute Esquimalt, BC; Tow Escort for USNS Sioux and ex-CAVALLA (SSN-684)
21-25 Oct	Inport Equimalt, BC
26 Oct-03 Nov	Limited Training Team; Combat Systems
26 Oct-03 Nov	Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
04-11 Nov	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
12-13 Nov	Tow Certification
16-17 Nov	Tailored Ships Training Assessment III Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
18-20 Nov	Tailored Ships Training Assessment III Underway Middle Pacific
21-30 Nov	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
23-25 Nov	Logistics Management Assessment
01-03 Dec	Final Evaluation Period
07-11 Dec	Diving Operations Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
12-17 Dec	Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI
18-31 Dec	Holiday Upkeep; Pearl Harbor, HI

3. NARRATIVE

From January to March, USS SAFEGUARD was involved in a Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA). Also during this period, the command completed numerous inspections including the Aviation Readiness Evaluation, Limited Team Training, Ships Explosive Safety Inspection, Logistics Administrative Training Review, Communications Exercise Evaluation, and an Engineering Assessment.

In February, SAFEGUARD completed the COMNAVSURFPAC Aviation Readiness Assist Visit, which was upgraded to an Aviation Readiness Evaluation and the ship received full certification for all levels, classes, and types as required by OPNAVINST 3120.35. During the same time frame, the Ships Explosive Safety Inspection was also completed. Also in February, the Communications Exercise Evaluation (CCC-19-SF) was successfully completed with an overall grade of 95.7 percent.

The Logistics Administrative Training Review was conducted from 23-27 February 1998. All areas assessed, including General Stores, Food Service, Retail Operations, ADP & SNAP System Administration and Hazardous Material were graded as satisfactory. The ship also completed an Integrated Logistics Review (ILR) in which over 100 operational equipment items were validated.

During the month of March, SAFEGUARD completed Surface Rescue Team Training (K-060-2136) with a grade of "Satisfactory". SAFEGUARD also began preparations for the upcoming CART II by completing Pre-light Off Objective Training and an ammunition on-load at NAVMAG Lualualei. The Dive Locker completed two weeks of Diving Operations, ensuring all divers were up-to-date on qualifications. Additionally, SAFEGUARD was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award for 1997.

In April, SAFEGUARD was graded "Satisfactory" in a CMS Inspection where all administrative and organizational methods and techniques were found effective. The command met all physical security standards and approval to hold classified COMSEC material up to TOP SECRET was granted.

CART II was completed on 03 April 1998. The areas assessed included CSTT, ETT, DCTT, STT, MTT, and ITT. SAFEGUARD was evaluated as ready to commence training at the TSTA II level in all areas. This evaluation enabled SAFEGUARD to complete an accelerated TSTA period in which TSTA I and TSTA II evolutions were efficiently combined.

At the end of April, SAFEGUARD assisted USS GREENEVILLE in an ADCAP Service Weapons Test in the Hawaiian OPAREA. SAFEGUARD launched and recovered a torpedo target, kept station for over three days, and retrieved the target.

On 05 May 1998, SAFEGUARD departed Pearl Harbor for Port Hueneme, CA and the assignment of towing ex-SOMERS from Port Hueneme to Pearl Harbor. After a brief port visit in San Diego, SAFEGUARD arrived in Port Hueneme, where the crew immediately completed preparations for the trans-Pacific tow. The tow inspection revealed numerous problems with ex-SOMERS, including an extremely deteriorated hull and evidence of

past flooding in various spaces. With the concurrence of COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC, SAFEGUARD accepted ex-SOMERS as a calculated risk and departed for Pearl Harbor within 2 days. The tow across the Pacific proved eventful as the crew was faced with sending a team to ex-SOMERS approximately every other day to dewater and investigate for additional flooding.

In June, SAFEGUARD was named as the 1997 CNO Surface Ship Safety Award Winner with special recognition on winning this award for the second consecutive time. In April 1998, TSTA I and TSTA II were combined into a three week TSTA period starting in June 1998. The Medical Training Team was assessed as ready to continue training at the FEP level while the following areas were assessed as ready to continue at the TSTA III level; ITT, CSTT, DCTT, STT, CCC, and INT.

During July, SAFEGUARD completed the TSTA II Engineering Certification where major discrepancies were noted in altered equipment. The months of August and September were spent repairing and training for the final Engineering Certification. After hours of preparation and a new and improved Engineering Plant, SAFEGUARD successfully completed the Engineering Certification in September 1998.

In October, SAFEGUARD performed duties as the escort ship for USNS SIOUX as she towed ex-CAVALLA, a defueled nuclear submarine, from Pearl Harbor, HI to Bremerton, WA. The underway period provided the crew time to prepare for an accelerated TSTA III and FEP inspection during the transit back to Pearl Harbor.

After a one-week port visit to Victoria, British Columbia and a delay in underway to evade a storm front, SAFEGUARD began the transit across the Pacific with a team of assessors from ATG MIDPAC. The evolutions and exercises consisted of integrated combat systems, navigation, engineering and damage control, as well as complex Total Ships Survivability Exercises. All areas completed were graded satisfactory and SAFEGUARD was directed to proceed to Diving and Salvage Training. The navigation team also completed the Navigation Checkride on the transit to Pearl Harbor.

Upon returning to homeport, SAFEGUARD successfully completed the Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) in November 1998. The Supply and ADP Departments received an overall grade of "Satisfactory," with major improvements in all discrepancies noted during the earlier Logistics Administrative and Training Review. These results allowed SAFEGUARD to fulfill all requirements for the Blue "E".

In December SAFEGUARD completed Diving and Salvage Training. The Dive Locker was able to successfully complete training in heavy lift, cutting and welding, lift bag, and Divers Life Support System Qualifications. Before the end of the year, SAFEGUARD also completed the tow certification on the new Automatic Towing Machine.

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

See enclosures (2) through (5).