



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 FOR CY 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) Command History for 2001
(2) Commanding Officer Biographies (2)
(3) Commanding Officer Photographs (2)
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Ship Photograph

[DISK DAMAGED]

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

P. J. LYONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. J. Lyons", written over the typed name.

USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001

1. COMMAND HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

a. USS SAFEGUARD's (ARS 50) assigned mission in wartime is to serve as an element of the Combat Logistics Support Force providing salvage, repair and rescue services to the Fleet at sea. SAFEGUARD is under operational control of Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, and is home ported in Sasebo, Japan. SAFEGUARD routinely operates independently in the Western Pacific Ocean. SAFEGUARD's Commanding Officers were LCDR R. P. Mitchell and LCDR P. J. Lyons.

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-15 Jan	Holiday upkeep Sasebo, Japan
16-19 Jan	LTT-D/E
16 Jan-13 Feb	Underway search for USAF F-16 in vicinity of O-Shima Island, Japan; Deep-water search operations with Oceaneering Inc./NAVSEA
14-18 Feb	En route Sasebo, Japan
19 Feb-11 Mar	Inport Sasebo, Japan
12-23 Mar	Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN)-United States Navy Salvage Exercise (SALVEX)/Salvage Training Readiness Assessment (SALVTRA)
24 Mar-08 Apr	Inport Sasebo, Japan
09-16 Apr	Inport Sasebo, Japan/Tow Machine Certification
21 Apr-05 May	Salvage Operations (Northern Pacific Ocean)
25 Apr	IT3 Eric McGregory passes away from Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)
05 May	TMSN(DV) Matthew Draughon lost at sea during diving operations
06-14 May	Search and rescue operations for lost SAFEGUARD Diver TMSN(DV) Draughon
14-17 May	En route Sasebo, Japan
15 May	Gun Shoot (9mm, M-14)
16 May	Gun Shoot (50cal, M79)
18 May-03 Jun	Inport Sasebo, Japan
04-05 Jun	Underway, Local Ops
06 Jun	Anchored Sasebo, Japan/Diving Training
07-10 Jun	Inport Sasebo, Japan
11-15 Jun	Underway, Local Ops
16-25 Jun	Inport Sasebo, Japan
26 Jun	Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and Master Diver relieved for cause; LCDR P. J. Lyons assumes command
26-29 Jun	LTT-E
30 Jun-08 Jul	Upkeep Sasebo, Japan
09-12 Jul	LTT-E
13-15 Jul	Inport Sasebo, Japan
16-19 Jul	LTT-D/E
20-22 Jul	Inport Sasebo, Japan
23-25 Jul	LTT-E
25-27 Jul	Yellow Gear Offload
28 Jul-01 Aug	Inport Sasebo Japan
01-05 Aug	Salvage Gear Offload
06-08 Aug	Fuel Offload
09-13 Aug	Crew/Deck equipment offload

13 Aug-17 Oct	Dry-dock Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) Sasebo, Japan
11 Sep	Salvage Training Readiness Evaluation (SALVTRE)
12 Sep	SAFEGUARD goes to Force Protection Condition (FPCON) DELTA/DEFCON 3. This military wide posture is in response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.
18 Oct	Sea Trials
19-21 Oct	Inport Sasebo, Japan
22-26 Oct	Light Off Assessment (LOA)
29-31 Oct	Diver's Life Support System (DLSS) Certification
02-05 Nov	En route Yokosuka, Japan
05-16 Nov	Inport Yokosuka, Japan for Training Availability (TRAV) period
16-19 Nov	En route Sasebo, Japan
22-23 Nov	Inport Sasebo, Japan
26-30 Nov	Underway, Local Ops
01-02 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan
03-14 Dec	Underway, Local Ops
15-31 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan/Holiday Upkeep

3. NARRATIVE

a. From 16 January through 13 February SAFEGUARD participated in a deep-water search (>3000ft) along with Oceaneering/NAVSEA for a downed USAF F-16 in the vicinity of O-Shima Island, Japan.

b. Diving Operational Readiness Assessment (DORA) preparations were conducted during the inport period of 19 February to 04 March. Pier side diving was performed to train the dive locker on emergency procedures as well as general diving practices such as surface decompression.

c. During the middle of March SAFEGUARD teamed up with the ROKN to engage in salvage training and conduct the required SALVTRA.

d. On 22 April IT3 McGregor, complaining of stomach pains and weakness, was medically evacuated off SAFEGUARD after a physical examination by the ship's Senior Medical Department Representative. He was flown to Kadena Airbase on Okinawa and then on to Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii. He passed away from cardiac arrest due to HUS on 25 April.

e. On the morning of 05 May, TMSN(DV) Draughon was lost at sea during an early morning search for an USAF F-16 that went down off Misawa, Japan. TMSN(DV) Draughon's umbilical became fouled around the port anchor in an excited sea state and severe current. During the rescue operation it was believed that the anchor chain hit TMSN(DV) Draughon, knocking him unconscious and causing him to become lost at sea.

f. Following the loss of TMSN(DV) Draughon, a mishap investigation board and JAGMAN investigation were conducted by COMLOG WESTPAC. Upon conclusion of their findings, RADM Edwards, COMLOG WESTPAC, commenced admin proceedings and NJP on LCDR Mitchell (Commanding Officer), LT Block (Executive Officer), and BMCS (MDV/SW) [REDACTED]. All were

relieved of duty by CTF 73. LCDR Lyons assumed command on 26 June with LT P. J. Funk as Executive Officer. ENCS (MDV/SW) [REDACTED] reported aboard on 16 August.

g. The DSRA period from 15 August to 09 October saw many changes to SAFEGUARD. A major ship alteration was the removal of the starboard side workboat davit and replacement by a RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat). All of the ship's vertical surfaces were hydro blasted and re-painted. Crew's berthing was overhauled and non-skid was stripped and reapplied. Major engineering projects took place as well. The 2SGB Ship's Service Diesel Generator (SSDG) was completely overhauled as well as the removal and preservation of the port/starboard controllable pitch propellers, hub, oil distribution boxes and hydraulic systems.

h. On 12 September SAFEGUARD elevated to FPCON DELTA/DEFCON 3 in response to terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C. All of SAFEGUARD's crew was recalled and moved to the berthing barge in Juliet basin.

i. On 17 September, LCDR J. J. Kim relieved LT Funk as Executive Officer. LCDR Kim reported from USS GERMANTOWN where he served as Operations Officer.

j. On 22 October SAFEGUARD completed the LOA that allowed her to steam independently to Yokosuka, Japan for a two week TRAV. This allowed SAFEGUARD to send the crew to mission critical schools and fulfill numerous engineering, damage control, and navigation requirements.

k. From 26 November through 14 December, SAFEGUARD conducted numerous engineering evolutions and drills in Sasebo Harbor to increase proficiency for the upcoming Initial Assessment (IA) and Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART). Coupled with the numerous engineering and casualty control drills was diving and salvage training/operations to increase proficiency in surface decompression techniques.

l. On 15 December SAFEGUARD began the holiday upkeep period, allotting time to attend to material and administrative discrepancies identified by the previous LOA and LTT's.