



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 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50) Command History for 2002
(2) Commanding Officer Biography
(3) Commanding Officer Photograph
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Ship Photograph

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


P. J. LYONS

USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-50) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION 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, diving and rescue services to the Fleet at sea. SAFEGUARD shifted operational control from under Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific to Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet in 2002. SAFEGUARD is home ported in Sasebo, Japan and routinely operates independently in the Western Pacific Ocean. SAFEGUARD's Commanding Officer was LCDR P. J. Lyons.

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-24 Jan	Inport Sasebo, Japan
24-26 Jan	En route Okinawa, Japan
26-30 Jan	Inport Okinawa, Japan
30 Jan-08 Feb	En route Sembawang, Singapore
08-25 Feb	Inport Sembawang, Singapore
25-28 Feb	En route Lumut, Malaysia
28 Feb-02 Mar	Inport Lumut, Malaysia
02-03 Mar	En route Sembawang, Singapore
03-04 Mar	Inport Sembawang, Singapore/Fuel Onload
04-14 Mar	En route Okinawa, Japan
14-16 Mar	Inport Okinawa, Japan
16-18 Mar	En route Sasebo, Japan
18 Mar-31 Mar	Inport Sasebo, Japan
01-05 Apr	Initial Assessment (IA) and Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II
05-16 Apr	Inport, Sasebo, Japan
16-19 Apr	Underway, Local Ops/Anchored Sasebo Harbor
19-25 Apr	Inport Sasebo, Japan
25 Apr	Underway, PHOTO EX RDV
25 Apr-01 May	Underway, EXERCISE PACIFIC REACH 2002
01-16 May	Inport Sasebo, Japan
16-17 May	Anchored Sasebo Harbor/Diving Operations
17-20 May	Inport Sasebo, Japan
20-22 May	Underway, Local Ops
22-24 May	Inport Sasebo, Japan
24-27 May	Underway, En route USAF F-16 Crash Site, Kitaganegasawa, Japan
27 May-06 Jun	Anchored Kitaganegasawa, Japan/Diving and Salvage Operations
06-09 Jun	En route Sasebo, Japan
09 Jun	Moored Akasaki Pier, Sasebo, Japan/Fuel Onload
10-11 Jun	Underway, Local Ops/Anchored Sasebo Harbor
11-12 Jun	Inport Sasebo Japan
13-14 Jun	Underway, Local Ops
14 June-02 Jul	Inport Sasebo, Japan
02-03 Jul	Underway, Local Ops/Anchored Sasebo Harbor
03-09 Jul	Inport Sasebo, Japan
09-11 Jul	Underway, Local Ops
11-22 Jul	Inport Sasebo, Japan
22-24 Jul	Underway, Local Ops
24 July-09 Aug	Inport Sasebo, Japan

09 Aug	Ammunition Onload, Sasebo Harbor
09-16 Aug	En route Malakal, Palau
16-25 Aug	Inport Malakal, Palau/Diving and Salvage Operations
25 Aug-02 Sep	En route Sembawang, Singapore
02-09 Sep	Inport Sembawang, Singapore
09-15 Sep	En route Hong Kong
15-19 Sep	Inport Hong Kong/Liberty Port
19-23 Sep	En route Okinawa, Japan to pick-up Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific
23-25 Sep	En route Sasebo, Japan/LTT-N
25 Sep-20 Oct	Inport Sasebo, Japan
20-22 Oct	En route Chinhae Korea
22-25 Oct	Inport Chinhae, Korea for Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN)-United States Navy Salvage Exercise (SALVEX)
25 Oct	Tow Exercise in vicinity of Chinhae, Korea
25-28 Oct	Inport Chinhae, Korea
28-29 Oct	Anchored Korea Harbor/Diving Operations
29-31 Oct	Inport Chinhae, Korea
31 Oct-03 Nov	En route Yokosuka, Japan
03-27 Nov	Inport Yokosuka, Japan for Training Availability (TRAV) period
27-30 Nov	En route Sasebo, Japan
30 Nov-04 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan
04-05 Dec	Anchored Sasebo Harbor for Force Protection Drills
05-10 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan
10-11 Dec	Anchored Sasebo Harbor for Force Protection Drills
11-31 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan/Holiday Upkeep

3. NARRATIVE

a. On 24 January, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, USS SAFEGUARD conducted an emergent deployment and transited to Sembawang, Singapore awaiting tasking to salvage a downed USAF B-1 Bomber off the coast of Diego Garcia.

b. From 25-28 February, SAFEGUARD participated in a joint salvage exercise with the Malaysian Navy and furthered bilateral relations with their navy through a multitude of salvage evolutions and joint diving operations.

c. While participating in EXERCISE PACIFIC REACH from 25 April-01 May, SAFEGUARD was the only U.S. surface ship to support successful dockings of the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) with submarines from four different nations.

d. From 26 May-06, June SAFEGUARD was called on to salvage a downed USAF F-16 near the fishing village of Kitaganegasawa, Japan in Northern Kinshu. SAFEGUARD was able to recover 95% of the aircraft in only four days of the 30 allocated.

e. On 24 July, SAFEGUARD successfully completed the basic phase training cycle for the first time since shifting home ports from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Sasebo, Japan. SAFEGUARD became the first COMPHIBGRU

ONE ship to achieve a score of "above average" for the Underway Demonstration (UD).

f. From 16-25 August, SAFEGUARD was in Koror, Palau conducting internal and external surveys of a sunken fishing vessel. The work laid the foundation necessary for a potential return voyage to raise the vessel for the government of Palau at a later date.

g. On 08 October, SAFEGUARD successfully completed its first communications readiness certification and communications security material systems certifications since shifting homeport from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

h. From 25-31, October SAFEGUARD participated in a joint Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) salvage exercise. SAFEGUARD bolstered international relations by conducting a tow/be-towed exercise with the ROKS KWANG YANG, a multi-point moor, and diving operations that included underwater cutting/welding/hydraulic tools, heavy lifts, surface decompression and emergency procedures.

i. SAFEGUARD conducted a three-week training availability from 03-27 November in Yokosuka, Japan. This allowed SAFEGUARD to send the crew to mission critical schools and fulfill numerous engineering, damage control, and navigation requirements.

j. SAFEGUARD completed its Aviation Readiness Qualification (ARQ) on 16 November.

k. On 15 December SAFEGUARD began a holiday upkeep period, dedicating time for both maintenance and crew leave.