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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)

FPO AE 09599-2871

5750

Ser CVN 71-PAO/C009

3 March 1992

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From: Commanding Officer, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington D.C.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991, OPNAV 5750/1 REPORTING

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl: (1) USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Welcome Aboard Brochure
- (2) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photograph
- (3) Executive Officer's Biography and Photograph (CAPT Christenson)
- (4) Executive Officer's Biography and Photograph (CAPT Otterbein)
- (5) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Organization
- (6) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Line Chronology 1991
- (7) THEODORE ROOSEVELT Chronology of 1991 Distinguished Visitors/Media
- (8) Photograph of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- (9) Daily Operating Schedules
- (10) Weekly Operating Schedules
- (11) Press release for lost F/A-18 aircraft
- (12) Administrative Department command history input
- (13) Deck Department evolutions
- (14) Operations Department command history input
- (15) Safety Department command history input
- (16) Communications Department command history input
- (17) Air Department command history input
- (18) Weapons Department command history input
- (19) Dental Department command history input
- (20) CRMD command history input
- (21) Reactor Department command history input
- (22) Supply Department command history input
- (23) Medical Department command history input
- (24) AIMD command history input
- (25) Training Department command history input
- (26) SMM Department command history input
- (27) Navigation Department command history input
- (28) Engineering Department command history input
- (29) Sample "Rough Rider" newspapers
- (30) Sample "Rough Rider" familygrams
- (31) Port guides for Dubai, Haifa, Rhodes, Norfolk and Portsmouth
- (32) Press clip file
- (33) Desert Storm/Provide Comfort/Med 1-91 Cruise Report
- (34) SRA command history input

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1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) keeps the sea lanes of trade and communications open by projecting air superiority to all points on the globe. She carries out a wide variety of missions, including anti-air warfare, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and electronic warfare, by maintaining her equipment and men in the highest state of readiness. She also shares, with other Navy ships, a mission of replenishing other ships at sea and performing various non-combat missions such as rescue at sea of vessels in distress and transport of refugees and others in need of assistance. Enclosure (1) elaborates on the command mission.

b. Organizational Structure and Home Port. Captain Charles S. Abbot is the Commanding Officer. Enclosure (2) contains his biography and photograph. Calendar year 1991 began with Captain Ronald L. Christenson as Executive Officer. His biography and photograph are contained in enclosure (3). During the year, Captain Thomas G. Otterbein relieved Captain Christenson as XO. His biography and photograph are contained in enclosure (4). THEODORE ROOSEVELT's organization, including Department Heads, staff members and collateral duty assignments, is shown in enclosure (5). USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia and assigned to Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT.

c. Chronological Listing of Significant Events. Enclosure (6) is a chronological listing of significant events, and enclosure (7) contains a chronological list of distinguished visitors and media during the year. Enclosure (8) is a photograph of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Enclosure (9) contains copies of the daily operating schedule (green sheets), and enclosure (10) contains copies of the weekly operating schedule (pink sheets).

2. Narrative

a. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT began 1991 four days into her deployment, transiting from the western Atlantic to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The deployment began with Commander Carrier Group EIGHT and Commander Carrier Air Wing EIGHT embarked, and with USS LEYTE GULF, USS RICHMOND K. TURNER, USS CARON, USS VREELAND, USS SAN DIEGO and USS PLATTE comprising the TR Battle Group.

b. The ship conducted a successful NATO Sea Sparrow/Exocet missile exercise with ships from the German Navy on January 5. Three days later, a squadron of Marine Corps OV-10s flew off TR without the aid of the ship's catapults... a first for a carrier. The ship was ferrying the squadron across the Atlantic in support

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of Persian Gulf operations. Later the same day, TR transited the Strait of Gibraltar and inchooped into the Mediterranean.

c. Commander Sixth Fleet visited TR on January 10. On January 14, the ship transited the Suez Canal. During the day-long transit, the ship hosted 18 guests from the United States Defense Attache's Office, Cairo.

d. THEODORE ROOSEVELT was still proceeding at best speed to the Persian Gulf on January 15, when the U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait came and went. At this point, it was clear to most of the crew that hostilities would be unavoidable, and the TR would be involved in the fighting. The following day, TR transited the Bab El Mandeb Straits, and on January 17, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm.

e. January 19 saw the TR Battle Group transit the Strait of Hormuz and enter the Persian Gulf. The battle group at this time consisted of USS LEYTE GULF, USS RICHMOND K. TURNER, USS FORD, MNLMS JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK, ITS ZEFFIRO and ITS AUDACE. That evening, TR launched her first combat strike of the war. Between January 19 and February 27, TR and COMCARAIRWING EIGHT would launch 3,897 sorties in support of Operation Desert Storm.

f. The evening of January 24, an F/A-18 from VFA-15 was lost at sea. The pilot was rescued. Enclosure (11) contains further details of this incident. Later in the evening, TR went to general quarters for real for the first time in her history. Although it proved to be a false alarm, the crew demonstrated that good training does pay off by the alacrity and professionalism of their response.

g. TR hosted their first Combat Correspondent Media Pool from January 26-29. The pool was led by a camera crew and reporter from the Cable News Network. January 30, the command hosted Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command and Commander Seventh Fleet.

h. THEODORE ROOSEVELT and CVW-8 suffered their first casualties of the war on February 2. An A-6 from VA-36 (Heartless 531) was lost on a combat mission over Faylaka Island. LCDR Barry T. Cook and LT Patrick Kelly Connor were declared missing and later declared killed in action. On February 5, an F/A-18 from VFA-87 (War Party 401) was lost while returning from a combat mission. The pilot, LT Rob Dwyer, was killed. The ship held a memorial service for these aviators on February 6.

i. A second Combat Correspondent Media Pool arrived on TR February 7. They were transferred to USS RICHMOND K. TURNER on February 8, then returned to TR the following day, where they

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concluded their embark. Once again, the group was headed by CNN.

j. Desert Storm came to a close on February 28. During the war, the TR/CVW-8 team dropped 4,843,233 pounds of ordnance on Iraqi targets in Kuwait and southern Iraq. The single-day high was 327,530 pounds. TR/CVW-8 completed their Desert Storm sorties at an outstanding rate of 97.8 percent, and were especially devastating to the Iraqi Navy, destroying 31 vessels.

k. TR participated in an historic "photo session" March 2. All four Desert Storm carriers serving in the Persian Gulf, USS RANGER, USS MIDWAY, USS AMERICA and TR, were photographed steaming in formation. The following day, TR sailors were treated to their first break of the deployment as a "Steel Beach Picnic" was held on the flight deck. Musical entertainment was provided by the COMSEVENTHFLT band "Orient Express", and each TR sailor was permitted to drink two beers.

l. Command of VFA-15 changed hands March 5. COMUSNAVCENT, VADM Stanley Arthur, was the guest speaker. March 12, after 75 days at sea, the crew began their first port visit of the deployment in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. TR departed Dubai March 16, and anchored in Bahrain Bell March 21. March 26, the crew had a second "Steel Beach Picnic". The following day, TR transited the Strait of Hormuz and departed the Persian Gulf.

m. THEODORE ROOSEVELT transited the Strait of Bab El Mandeb April 1, and began three weeks of Red Sea operations. TR's Marine Detachment held a change of command the next day. One of the ship's missions in the Red Sea was to assist in maritime interdiction operations, enforcing the U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq. April 10, TR's Maritime Interdiction Force (MIF) team boarded a Soviet merchant ship. Two days later, they boarded a Bulgarian merchant ship and on April 15, they boarded Maltese and Yugoslavian merchant ships.

n. A COMNAVAIRLANT QA inspection team arrived on April 12, to begin an inspection that would last three days. April 14, TR's motor whaleboat rescued a man who had fallen overboard. A 3M inspection was conducted from April 15-18... an inspection TR passed with outstanding results. April 18 saw the command of Carrier Group EIGHT change hands, with RADM R.J. Spane relieving RADM David Frost.

o. TR transited the Suez Canal April 20, and began a mission of support for Operation Provide Comfort... the allied nations' effort to aid Kurdish refugees who were in danger of extermination in the aftermath of the Gulf War. TR's escorts for the transit were USS VIRGINIA, USS RICHMOND K. TURNER, USS WILLIAM V. PRATT and USS PREBLE. The ship arrived on station

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northeast of Cyprus on April 21, and began flying photo reconnaissance and tactical air cover missions. During Provide Comfort, TR/CVW-8 aircraft flew 820 operational sorties. F-14 "Tomcats" from VF-84 shot more than 150,000 feet of Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance Pod System (TARPS) film, and provided more than 6,000 photographs to allied forces in northern Iraq. These photos were delivered by S-3B "Viking" aircraft from VS-24, using an innovative system of sonobuoy drops. These photos identified Iraqi troop emplacements, armored concentrations, early warning sites and command posts, in addition to providing invaluable assistance in locating the widely-scattered concentrations of Kurdish refugees. Meanwhile, attack aircraft from CVW-8 provided critical close-air support to U.S. and allied troops on the ground, flying more than 600 sorties and almost 2,000 flight hours in support of the mission.

p. TR hosted Indy-car drivers Danny Sullivan and Scott Pruett, as well as Indianapolis 500 announcer Paul Page and a camera crew from ABC Sports on April 24 and 25. April 27, GEN Galvin, Commander in Chief, Europe visited the ship. A pre-INSURV inspection team was aboard May 1-8, assisting the command in preparations for the important upcoming INSURV inspection. May 5, TR's crew enjoyed a third "Steel Beach Picnic" and second beer day on the flight deck.

q. After 69 days at sea, TR/CVW-8 commenced their second port visit of the deployment May 24, in Haifa, Israel. This five-day port visit was a highlight of the deployment for many of the crew. The ship was placed on a 24-hour "tether", to enable quick resumption of Provide Comfort duties if necessary.

r. The third and final port visit was conducted June 2-7, in Rhodes, Greece. TR was once again kept on a 24-hour tether, but most of the crew said that Rhodes was one of their favorite ports, and expressed their wishes to return someday. From May 7-11, a camera crew from Morrison Productions embarked to film a documentary on TR and carrier operations for PBS. The important Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination (ORSE) was conducted from May 11-13.

s. TR conducted a turnover with her relief, USS FORRESTAL, on station in the eastern Mediterranean on May 14. May 16, Commander Sixth Fleet flew aboard to say farewell, and THEODORE ROOSEVELT outchopped to Commander Second Fleet the next day, as she transited the Strait of Gibraltar and entered the eastern Atlantic Ocean. The TR battle group at this time was composed of USS LEYTE GULF, USS RICHMOND K. TURNER, USS CARON, USS VREELAND, USS SANTA BARBARA, USS PUGET SOUND and USS VIRGINIA.

t. THEODORE ROOSEVELT anchored off the coast of Bermuda June

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24, and began embarking male familymembers and friends of the crew for a "Tiger Cruise" back to Norfolk. Also that day, TR hosted ADM Johnson, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He departed the following day. June 25, aircraft from CVW-8 put on an air power demonstration for the "Tigers", and conducted their fly-off the following day.

u. TR's historic 1991 Desert Shield/Desert Storm/Provide Comfort deployment came to an end June 28. Thousands of joyous friends and relatives, as well as local well-wishers, crowded Pier 12 for the ship's return. Dozens of media representatives flew to the ship early in the morning to observe the return, and dozens more awaited the ship on the pier. A great number of military and civilian dignitaries were also on hand, both aboard the ship and on the pier, including CINCLANTFLT and CINCSOUTH. Upon her return, TR began a one-month standdown period, giving the crew a chance to rest and get re-acquainted with their families.

v. July 30, three ships of the Japanese Navy tied up at Pier 12 opposite TR. TR hosted a number of their sailors on board for tours, and the Japanese ships reciprocated by opening their ships for tours by American sailors. August 6, TR played host to the Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic change of command, at which VADM Anthony A. Less relieved VADM J. K. Ready. Command of Carrier Air Wing EIGHT changed hands aboard TR August 12, as CAPT Charles W. Moore, Jr. relieved CAPT William J. Fallon.

w. THEODORE ROOSEVELT resumed underway operations August 19, conducting Fleet Carrier Qualifications in the Virginia Capes operating area. Squadrons participating included VF-101, VA-42, VFA-106, VFA-125, VFA-15, VS-27, VAW-120 and HS-1. During this underway period, TR hosted media groups from the "Discovery Channel Magazine", "Virginia Pilot" and the Norfolk television station WTKR. TR returned to Norfolk August 25.

x. LTGEN Baker, 12th Air Force, toured the ship August 27. Three days later, TR hosted another distinguished guest, Virginia Congressman Bliley. September 3, the Canadian naval ship HMCS Halifax was tied up opposite TR, and the two ships conducted tours for their counterparts. The Honorable Gerald Cann, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, visited the ship September 7.

y. TR got underway for an Independent Steaming Exercise September 10, with both COMCARGRU EIGHT and COMCARAIRWING EIGHT embarked. The ship conducted a successful NATO Sea Sparrow missile exercise September 11, and made port in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada September 13-16. During the transit to Halifax, media embarks with "Business Weekly" and the "Washington Post" were conducted. Upon arrival in Halifax, the race car driver

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Bobby Unser toured the ship. Unser was in Halifax for the Moosehead Grand Prix, an event many of TR's crew got to enjoy during the port visit. TR departed Halifax September 16. During the transit back to Norfolk, the ship hosted a camera crew from Christian Science Monitor television, who were aboard to videotape a documentary. TR anchored off the coast of Norfolk Naval Base September 18 and 19 to conduct a weapons offload, then returned to Pier 12 September 20.

z. Friends and familymembers of the crew had the opportunity to see what their loved ones did first-hand September 21, as TR held a one-day Dependents' Cruise. More than 200 members of the Navy League were on hand as well, as the guests were treated to an Air Power Demonstration, static displays and a brief taste of life underway on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

aa. TR conducted a short Independent Steaming Exercise September 25 and 26 in the Virginia Capes operating area (including another successful NATO Sea Sparrow missile exercise), then made a deadstick transit to Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia October 1. After being secured on blocks in Drydock Eight, TR began six-month Drydock Selected Restricted Availability... the first such availability in the ship's history.

bb. October 25, TR celebrated her fifth birthday with a ceremony on the mess decks. For the remainder of the year, the crew adjusted to shipyard life, and the maintenance, repairs and upgrades proceeded on or ahead of schedule. December 3, TR's Executive Officer, CAPT Ronald L. Christenson, was relieved by CAPT Thomas G. Otterbein.

cc. During 1991, 1,050 sailors reported aboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT for duty, and 284 transferred. There were 419 separations during 1991. Other personnel related matters are covered in enclosure (12).

3. Supporting Documents. The following supporting documents are also included in this command history:

- a. Deck Department evolutions - enclosure (13)
- b. Operations Department command history input - enclosure (14)
- c. Safety Department command history input - enclosure (15)
- d. Communications Department command history input - enclosure (16)

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- f. Weapons Department command history input - enclosure (18)
- g. Dental Department command history input - enclosure (19)
- h. Command Religious Ministries Department command history input - enclosure (20)
- i. Reactor Department command history input - enclosure (21)
- j. Supply Department command history input - enclosure (22)
- k. Medical Department command history input - enclosure (23)
- l. AIMD command history input - enclosure (24)
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- r. Port guides for Dubai, Haifa, Rhodes, Norfolk and Portsmouth - enclosure (31)
- s. Press clip file - enclosure (32)
- t. Desert Storm/Provide Comfort/Med 1-91 Cruise Report - enclosure (33)
- u. SRA command history input - enclosure (34)


C. S. ABBOT

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