



Rec 4/4/94
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)
FPO NEW YORK 09501-1720

IN REPLY REFER TO:

15 MAR 94

From: Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41)
To: Director, Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: 1993 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5720.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with requirements set forth in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted for the period 01 January 1993 to 31 December 1993.

J. C. Collis
J. C. Collis
CDR USN
Commanding Officer

SHIP'S MISSION

The mission of USS WHIDBEY ISLAND is to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy. Designed, built and manned to carry MANEUVER WARFARE and the "over the horizon" amphibious assault, as part of an Amphibious Task Group, WHIDBEY ISLAND can carry four (4) Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC's) in its flood-able well, serve as the Primary Control Ship during an assault and provide a boat haven with docking, repair and fueling services for landing craft and boats. In short, WHIDBEY ISLAND is ideally suited to support our Navy's foremost strike asset...the U.S. Marine!

The WHIDBEY ISLAND class introduces to the fleet significant improvements with updated communications, combat systems, 20 and 60 ton cranes, expanded repair shops, two helicopter landing spots, completed medical and dental facilities, automated computer-based logistic support and an impressive engineering plant that gives WHIDBEY ISLAND an excellent capability for self sufficient operations. Equally effective in peace time as in wartime, WHIDBEY ISLAND is well suited to carry out a variety of humanitarian missions such as evacuations and disaster relief.

With primary missions of Amphibious Warfare, Mobility, Command and Control, and Anti-Air Warfare, WHIDBEY ISLAND is designed to support Special Warfare, Fleet Support Operations (refueling other ships), non-combatant operations, Ocean

Enclosure (1)

Surveillance and Electronic Warfare. Clearly a multi-mission capable ship, WHIDBEY ISLAND's crew, embarked Marines and detachments must also be, and are multi-talented. Representing almost every state in the union, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Philippines, we all are privileged and proud to serve in WHIDBEY ISLAND.

Enclosure (1)

JANUARY

193

1-12 JAN INPORT NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA (LCRK)
1-16 JAN ASSIGNED TG 040.4
11-14 JAN SSDS T/E SURVEY
6-8 JAN FY94 PMA SHIPCHECKS
12 JAN ENGINEERING FAST CRUISE
13 JAN UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA FOR SSDS SURVEY/
SIMA CHT HYDROBLAST/FULL POWER RUN
14-16 JAN INPORT NAB LCRK
15 JAN ZONE INSPECTION
15-16 JAN RESERVE TRAINING (GENERAL DC)
17-21 JAN UNDERWAY EN ROUTE NAVSTA GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
(GTMO)
17 JAN-4 MAR ASSIGNED TG 84.12 - OPERATION SEA SIGNAL/ABLE
MANNER
22-23 JAN INPORT NAVSTA GTMO
24 JAN-8 FEB UNDERWAY HAITIAN OPAREA
29 JAN SAFETY STANDDOWN

FEBRUARY

17 JAN-4 MAR ASSIGNED TG 84.12 - OPERATION SEA SIGNAL/ABLE
 MANNER

24 JAN-8 FEB UNDERWAY HAITIAN OPAREA

9-10 FEB INPORT NAVSTA GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA (GTMO)

11-14 FEB UNDERWAY HAITIAN OPAREA

12 FEB BECCE'S/CSCCE'S

15-21 FEB INPORT NAVSTA GTMO

22-23 FEB PORT VISIT MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

24 FEB CIWS/25MM/50 CAL PACFIRE

24-27 FEB UNDERWAY HAITIAN OPAREA

28 FEB INPORT NAVSTA GTMO

Enclosure (2)

MARCH

17 JAN-4 MAR ASSIGNED TG 84.12 - SEA SIGNAL/ABLE MANNER
1-4 MAR UNDERWAY EN ROUTE NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA (LCRK)
4-31 MAR INPORT NAB LCRK
9 MAR COMMENCE 4 SECTION DUTY
17 MAR UNITAS/WATC LOGISTICS CONFERENCE
19 MAR CHANGE OF COMMAND
22-25 MAR PHYSICAL SECURITY EXERCISE
22 MAR-14 APR SSDS INSTALLATION
24 MAR-2 APR CO ZONE INSPECTION
29 MAR-2 APR WORK PACKAGE DEFINITION CONFERENCE
29 MAR-26 APR IMAV
31 MAR ENCS(SW) ██████ RETIREMENT CEREMONY
31 MAR CLEAN THE BASE DAY/MCJROTC VISIT
31 MAR-1 APR SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS

Enclosure (2)

APRIL

22 MAR-14 APR SSDS INSTALLATION
24 MAR-2 APR CO ZONE INSPECTION
29 MAR-2 APR WORK PACKAGE DEFINITION CONFERENCE
29 MAR-26 APR IMAV
31 MAR-1 APR SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
1 APR LCDR ██████████ PROMOTION CEREMONY
1-25 APR INPORT NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA (LCRK)
2 APR OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY MIDSHIPMEN VISIT/PRE-
MEDICAL READINESS INSPECTION (RADM QUAST)
6 APR JOINT STAFF VISIT
7 APR BLOOD DRIVE
14-16 APR AUDIOGRAM TESTING
15 APR MEDICAL READINESS INSPECTION
19 APR-9 MAY CAPDS INSTALLATION
19-23 APR HULL CLEANING/CSRR/ASRR PHASE II
19-30 APR SPRING PRT
20-21 APR COMMAND INDOCTRINATION
20-23 APR CSRR/ASRR
22 APR COMPHIBRON TEN BOAT REVIEW/SHIP OF THE WEEK
26-27 APR UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA, SSDS TRACKEX
26-30 APR HULL CLEANING/LMA ASSIST/GUEST OF THE NAVY VISIT
28-30 APR INPORT NAB LCRK
28-30 APR AAV/AVCERT/LMA ASSIST VISIT

Enclosure (2)

MAY

19 APR-9 MAY CAPDS INSTALLATION

1-2 MAY INPORT NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA (LCRK)

3-7 MAY UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA, SSDS TRACKEX

3-7 MAY ABC/PMT (VIBRATION ANALYSIS)/CHT HYDROBLAST

3-7 MAY NJROTC SHIP RIDE

4 MAY HEARING CONSERVATION BOARD

8-9 MAY INPORT NAB LCRK

10-14 MAY UNDERWAY VIC WALLOPS ISLAND FOR SSDS TRACKEX/DC
 LTT

15-16 MAY INPORT NAB LCRK

17-20 MAY UNDERWAY VIC WALLOPS ISLAND FOR SSDS TRACKEX/
 ENGINE ANALYSIS TEAM

21 MAY MIDSHIPMEN EMBARK

21-23 MAY INPORT NAB LCRK

24-25 MAY UNDERWAY VIC WALLOPS ISLAND FOR SSDS TRACKEX

26 MAY AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING, ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA

26-28 MAY COMMAND INDOCTRINATION

26-29 MAY ENROUTE ST. THOMAS, USVI

26 MAY-13 JUN SSDS DEMONSTRATION

30-31 MAY PORT VISIT ST. THOMAS, USVI

Enclosure (2)

JULY

1-7 JUL POM LEAVE PERIOD THREE
1-15 JUL INPORT NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA
2 JUL COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR ENSIGN [REDACTED]
6-9 JUL HULL CLEANING
13 JUL VISUAL COMM DRILLS/CICEX
14 JUL FCC(SW) [REDACTED] RETIREMENT CEREMONY
16 JUL-17 DEC UNDERWAY ISO UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93
17 JUL SPMAGTF UNITAS ONLOAD, MOREHEAD CITY, NC
18-20 JUL UNDERWAY ENROUTE NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO
RICO (NSRR)
20 JUL COMM TRAFFIC AUDIT BOARD
21-25 JUL INPORT NSRR
26-28 JUL UNDERWAY OPS, PUERTO RICO OPAREA (PROA)
29-30 JUL AMPHIBIOUS OPS, PROA, VIEQUES ISLAND
31 JUL INPORT NSRR

Enclosure (2)

AUGUST

16 JUL-17 DEC UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93

1 AUG INPORT NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO

2 AUG RAS FROM USNS LEROY GRUMAN

2-3 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE PUERTO LA CRUZ, VENEZUELA

4-6 AUG INPORT PUERTO LA CRUZ

6-10 AUG UNDERWAY OPS, VENEZUELA

11-12 AUG INPORT LA GUAIRA, VENEZUELA

13-14 AUG UNDERWAY OPS, VENEZUELA

14-15 AUG UNDERWAY OPS, COLOMBIA

16-18 AUG INPORT CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

19-22 AUG AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS, COLOMBIA

20 AUG REFUEL CARTAGENA, COLUMBIA

23 AUG TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL

23-24 AUG REFUEL RODMAN, PANAMA

23-25 AUG INPORT RODMAN, PANAMA

26-29 AUG UNDERWAY OPS, ECUADOR

30-31 AUG INPORT MANTA, ECUADOR

Enclosure (2)

SEPTEMBER

16 JUL-17 DEC UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93

1 SEP RAS FOR USS STARK

1-3 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE CALLAO, PERU

2-4 SEP UNDERWAY OPS, PERU

4-8 SEP INPORT CALLAO, PERU

6 SEP REFUEL CALLAO, PERU

9-12 SEP UNDERWAY OPERATIONS PERU

11 SEP AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS, ANCON, PERU

13 SEP REFUEL CALLAO, PERU

14-15 SEP UNDERWAY OPS, PERU

16-18 SEP UNDERWAY OPS, CHILE

17 SEP RAS FROM CHILEAN OILER, ALMIRANTE MONTT AO-52

18-20 SEP INPORT COQUIMBO, CHILE

21 SEP AMPHIBIOUS OPS, CHILE

21-22 SEP UNDERWAY OPS, CHILE

23-27 SEP INPORT VALPARAISO, CHILE

28-30 SEP UNDERWAY OPS, CHILE

Enclosure (2)

NOVEMBER

16 JUL-17 DEC UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93
1-2 NOV INPORT RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
3-4 NOV AMPHIBIOUS OPS, BRAZIL
5-7 NOV INPORT RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
6-7 NOV REFUEL RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
8-15 NOV UNDERWAY, TRANSIT TO WATC
16-19 NOV ANCHORED SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
20 NOV UNDERWAY ENROUTE COTONOU, BENIN
20-22 NOV INPORT COTONOU, BENIN
22 NOV UNDERWAY ENROUTE TEMA, GHANA
23-25 NOV INPORT TEMA, GHANA
24 NOV REFUEL TEMA, GHANA
26 NOV REFUEL TEMA, GHANA
26 NOV UNDERWAY ENROUTE SEKONDI, GHANA
26-28 NOV ANCHORED SEKONDI, GHANA
29 NOV-2 DEC TRANSIT TO DAKAR, SENEGAL
30 NOV THANKSGIVING DINNER

Enclosure (2)

DECEMBER

16 JUL-17 DEC UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93

1-2 DEC UNDERWAY ENROUTE DAKAR, SENEGAL

3 DEC REFUEL DAKAR, SENEGAL

3-7 DEC INPORT DAKAR, SENEGAL

7 DEC AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION, SENEGAL

7-16 DEC TRANSIT TO MOREHEAD CITY, NC

16 DEC INPORT MOREHEAD CITY, NC/SPMAGTF OFFLOAD/TIGER
 CRUISE

16 DEC UNDERWAY EN ROUTE NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA

17-30 DEC LEAVE PERIOD ONE

17-31 DEC INPORT NAB LCRK

17 DEC-01 JAN IMAV

21 DEC FLIR DEINSTALLATION

30 DEC-13 JAN LEAVE PERIOD TWO

Enclosure (2)

JANUARY

USS Whidbey Island began the year moored port side to, Quaywall East, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia (LCRK). Although the ship was in Christmas leave and stand down, Whidbey Island was prepared to get underway on short notice if called upon to support the Alien Migration Interdiction Operation in the vicinity of Haiti. Progress of the Ship's Self Defense System (SSDS) program continued as initial surveys and underway checks were conducted inport to ensure success of the SSDS installation. On 17 January, 1993, Whidbey Island was assigned to Task Group 84.12 for Operation Sea Signal/Able Manner, Alien Migration Interdiction Operations. Whidbey Island unloaded a helicopter Cargo Squadron Eight (HC-8) detachment, a Marine FAST company, additional corpsmen, religious program specialists, and a detachment from Assault Craft Unit Two (ACU-2) and sailed for the Caribbean. The ship off-loaded the helo detachment and ACU-2 Det at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) before proceeding to her station, off the coast of Haiti, joining other U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels. The underway time spent patrolling the Haitian Oparea was also used to conduct amphibious proficiency training with the ACU-2 and HC-8 Dets.

Enclosure (3)

FEBRUARY

Steaming in the vicinity of Haiti supporting Operation Sea Signal/Able Manner, the ship honed her readiness with Basic Engineering and Combat Systems Casualty Control Exercises, as well as General Quarters and Main Space Fire Drills. Each Sunday, the crew gathered for steel beach picnics on the flight deck and football, basketball, and volleyball in the well. After spending a week in GTMO conducting maintenance, the ship transited to Montego Bay, Jamaica, for two days of well-deserved liberty. After returning to the Haitian Oparea on the 24th, Whidbey Island received orders to return to homeport. On the last day of the month, Whidbey Island returned to GTMO, on 28 February, to onload ACU-2 and HC-8 equipment and personnel in preparation for the transit to Little Creek.

Enclosure (3)

MARCH

On the first of the month, Whidbey Island sailed for homeport with the augmentee dets employed during Operation Sea Signal/Able Manner. On the morning of the fourth, the ACU-2 and HC-8 detachments were offloaded, and Whidbey Island moored at NAB LCRK, terminating her assignment to TG 84.12. Less than two weeks after returning to Little Creek, a logistics planning conference was held to plan for the UNITAS 34-93/West African Training Cruise (WATC) 93 deployment. Two days later, on 19 March, Whidbey Island held a change of command ceremony. CDR Bruce E. Sonn was relieved by CDR Jerry C. Collis as Commanding Officer. Also during March, Whidbey Island underwent a four-day Physical Security Exercise, a week-long Zone Inspection by the new CO, and a three-day Work Package Definition Conference to plan for the upcoming Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA). Sailors participated in 'Clean The Base Day,' hosted a visit by Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students, and honed their marksmanship skills during small arms qualifications. March also marked the beginning of the three-week installation of the Ship's Self-Defense System program which included the installation of a 21-cell RAM missile launcher and a SAR-8 IR detection system.

Enclosure (3)

APRIL

On 2 April, Whidbey Island was visited for tours and training by Old Dominion University Midshipmen, a Naval Reserve unit, and members of the Joint Staff. Rear Admiral Quast conducted a pre-MRI inspection, while Rear Admiral Picotte, COMPHIBGRU TWO, conducted a habitability inspection. Whidbey Island later participated in a local blood drive, conducted audiogram testing, and passed a Medical Readiness Inspection on 15 April. The SSDS installation was completed 14 April and system check-out procedures began to prepare for upcoming trackex's and missilex's. From 19-30 April, Whidbey Island conducted reserve training, Operation Clean Sweep, hull cleaning, and the spring Physical Readiness Test. She also underwent CAPDS installation, CSRR/ASRR Phase II, Commander Amphibious Squadron TEN boat review, CPR-10 Ship of the Week, an AAV/AVCERT, command indoctrination, as well as hosting a Guest of the Navy Visit.

Enclosure (3)

MAY

Beginning on the third of the month, Whidbey Island conducted weekly SSDS tracking exercises that continued throughout May. During the first four-day underway trackex off Wallops Island, 3-7 May, the ship also conducted an AEC/PMT visit, CHT hydroblast, and a hearing conservation board. Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets were embarked for a familiarization cruise. While conducting the second trackex, 10-14 May, Whidbey Island held Damage Control Team Training and was inspected by an Engine Analysis Team. Upon return in NAB LCRK, eleven midshipmen embarked for summer training. Whidbey Island departed Little Creek on 24 May to conduct another SSDS Trackex off Wallops Island, followed by amphibious training at Onslow Bay, NC (26 May), and a transit to the Puerto Rican Oparea for the SSDS demonstration. Upon arrival at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Whidbey Island began the SSDS demonstration on 26 May, and visited St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., for liberty on the last two days of the month.

Enclosure (3)

JUNE

Whidbey Island began the SSDS demonstration with trackex's in the Puerto Rico Operations Area (PROA), followed by a missile onload at NSRR. The first missile exercise was conducted 4-5 June, followed by more inport time at NSRR and cold/hot plant checks of the ship's propulsion system. Whidbey Island then conducted a second missile exercise 8-9 June, illustrating the SSDS capabilities and providing the test team with data for system evaluation. An Engineering Limited Team Trainer was conducted during the transit from Puerto Rico to Little Creek. Whidbey Island returned to homeport on 13 June, where the midshipmen debarked from their summer training cruise 16 June. Preparations began for UNITAS 34-93/WATC 93 deployment, starting with MILVAN/supply onloads. Deployment operational plans required Whidbey Island to serve as the logistics hub for the U. S. Task Force, thus supplies for Whidbey Island, as well as other task force units, were loaded during this period. Pre-Deployment leave and a logistics management assessment were conducted simultaneously with SSDS equipment removal and TACAN and Collins Radio installation. Whidbey Island also hosted visitors on the weekend of 19 June. Hull cleaning continued and equipment grooms were conducted, followed by an ammunition onload on 30 June.

Enclosure (3)

JULY

The first two weeks of July were a frenzy of deployment preparation for Whidbey Island. Ship control watchstanders attended shiphandling training at Little Creek Amphibious School, and hull cleaning, dive operations and visual communications drills were completed. The FLIR camera system and a cryptologic equipment van were installed and the CINCLANTFLT band embarked. Prepared for deployment, Whidbey Island got underway July 16 for Unitas 34-93/WATC 93. She arrived at Morehead City, North Carolina on 17 July, to on-load Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Unitas/WATC material and personnel. After departing Morehead City, Whidbey Island rendezvoused with USS John Rodgers and USS Stark, enroute NSRR Puerto Rico. There they joined USS Pintado and USCGC Northland to officially commence UNITAS 34-93. Off the coast of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, Whidbey Island participated in an amphibious assault with the Venezuelan LST, Capana, and the French LST, Francis Garnier. On July 31st, Whidbey Island returned to NSRR for debriefing before proceeding to the next phase of UNITAS 34-93.

Enclosure (3)

AUGUST

Whidbey Island began the month of August in transit to Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela. While enroute, she received DFM and JP-5 from USNS Leroy Grumman. During transits between subsequent port visits, numerous exercises were conducted with participating South American armed forces. Exercises ranged from ASW and AAW drills, to communications and electronic warfare events, as well as freeplay events where half the task force engaged the other half in mini-wars. After three days inport Puerto La Cruz 4-6 August, Whidbey Island sortied for underway operations in Venezuela waters. These operations were temporarily suspended to permit the ships to evade Tropical Storm Bret. On the eleventh, the U. S. task force arrived inport La Guaira, Venezuela, to finalize operations with Venezuela. Shortly after departing La Guaira, Whidbey Island rendezvoused with elements of the Colombian Navy, who provided escort to Cartagena, Colombia. There Whidbey Island embarked Colombian marines, and subsequently conducted combined amphibious operations. On August 23, Whidbey Island conducted the first of two transits between oceans - a westbound transit through the Panama Canal. Arriving in the Pacific Ocean, Whidbey Island moored at Naval Station Rodman, Panama, and received fuel and supplies. Whidbey Island then sortied for Manta, Ecuador, where she visited on the last two days of the month.

Enclosure (3)

SEPTEMBER

On 1 September, Whidbey Island refueled USS Stark at sea. Shortly after, Whidbey Island called at Callao, Peru, port city for its capital, Lima. While there, she refueled and replenished supplies. Whidbey Island departed Callao on the 14th, and conducted four days of operations in Peruvian and Chilean waters. During this period, Whidbey Island replenished from a Chilean oiler (the Almirante Montt). Whidbey Island next visited Coquimbo, the first of five Chilean ports of call. This port visit coincided with Chile's Independence Day, and sailors and Marines from the Whidbey Island helped Chileans celebrate the occasion. Whidbey Island embarked Chilean marines in Coquimbo, and conducted an amphibious operation enroute to her next port, Valparaiso, port city of Viña del Mar and Reñaca. Whidbey Island sailors enjoyed six days of liberty there, before getting underway for Talcahuano, Chile.

Enclosure (3)

OCTOBER

Whidbey Island began the month of October inport Talcahuano, Chile. After a five day port visit and two day transit, Whidbey Island again replenished from Chilean oiler, AO-52 Almirante Montt. Later that day, Whidbey Island arrived at Puerto Montt, Chile for two days of liberty. After departing Puerto Montt on 9 October, Whidbey Island entered Chile's inland waterway and began her second major navigation detail of the cruise - the Straits of Magellan. The Navigation and Sea and Anchor Details were manned for nearly two days as Whidbey Island returned to the Atlantic Ocean. Relief came briefly when Whidbey Island moored in Punta Arenas, Chile, for four hours to conduct a final debrief of Chilean operations. Upon her return to the Atlantic Ocean, Whidbey Island onloaded Argentine marines from the coast of Tierra del Fuego, and conducted a training assault on its beach - the southernmost amphibious landing in U. S. history. The ship then transited to Puerto Belgrano, Argentina. After a day inport, the ship anchored at a nearby bay to conduct amphibious operations, then returned to Puerto Belgrano for a few days of liberty. After departing Argentina enroute Montevideo, Uruguay, Whidbey Island once again took the role of refueler, pumping fuel to USS John Rodgers. Whidbey Island called at Montevideo, Uruguay for six days before departing for her final UNITAS port visit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Enclosure (3)

NOVEMBER

Whidbey Island arrived at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the first of November. After two days in port, the ship departed for amphibious operations at a nearby landing site. Upon returning to Rio, Whidbey Island refueled and re-supplied. On 8 November, the ship departed from Rio and was detached from UNITAS 34-93 only to begin WATC 93. After a seven-day transit of the Atlantic Ocean, Whidbey Island anchored off Sao Tome, one of the two islands that form the state of Sao Tome and Principe. For the next 15 days, Whidbey Island visited Sao Tome, and Ghanan ports, Tema and Sekondi. At each port the crew participated in community relations projects, Project Handclasp deliveries, and ship visits for VIPs and local citizens. Sporting events against our host countries were held often, as well as receptions on the turntable for local government and military officials. From an operational standpoint, amphibious demonstrations and symposia were conducted for our host nation's military. On the final day of November the ship was underway enroute her final WATC port visit, Dakar, Senegal.

Enclosure (3)

DECEMBER

December found Whidbey Island enroute to Dakar, Senegal, the final port of her five-month deployment. After four days inport and a final amphibious demonstration for civil and military officials in Dakar, the ship began the transit to homeport. The crew used this time to prepare the ship for homecoming and a 90-day Planned Maintenance Activity. Whidbey Island arrived at Morehead City, North Carolina, on the 16th to off-load SPMAGTF WATC and embarked dependents for an overnight Tiger Cruise. After five months, Whidbey Island returned to homeport on the 17th. Post-deployment/holiday leave began immediately, lasting throughout the remainder of 1993. While half the crew enjoyed their leave, shipboard operations continued with FLIR camera deinstallation, and a post-deployment maintenance availability.

Enclosure (3)