Military Sealift Command in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm
1990-1991
COLL/521

Creator: Military Sealift Command
Extent: Total boxes: 26
        Cubic feet: 8.6

Access: The collection has had a Kyl-Lott Declassification Review and is open to the public. However, many records remain classified because of referral to other agencies for further declassification review.

Classification: The collection had an initial “Declassification Review” followed by a Kyl-Lott review in April 2008. Many of the records remain classified and have been referred to other agencies for further declassification review.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection contains materials relating to the activities of Military Sealift Command during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Much of the collection consists of briefings and reports on the status of MSC ships and cargo. A group of subject files completes the collection.

The collection is organized in three series. Series I contains daily briefings that summarize the status of MSC components. These reports list the current location, estimated arrival date at final destination, and operational status of maritime prepositioning ships, fast sealift ships, hospital ships, ready reserve forces, and chartered vessels. The briefings are arranged chronologically.

Series II holds various reports on MSC operations during the Persian Gulf War. They are arranged alphabetically by title and chronologically there under. Significant reports found in this series include the "Basket Case" Report, recording the readiness of ships supporting MSC operations; the N9 Dry Cargo Program Report, which lists ships by port and provides information their planned arrival and departure dates, capacity, and speed; and Unit Deployment Reports, listing ships assigned to transport various units to the Persian Gulf area.
The final series, Subject Files, contains miscellaneous documents on a variety of topics. Much of this information was gathered to support the writing of a history of MSC during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Several drafts as well as the final version of this history are included. Also in this series are documents related to ammunition, problems and lessons learned, and chronologies of events during and leading to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

**Historical Note**

Military Sealift Command (MSC) is an echelon II Navy operating force under the Chef of Naval Operations (CNO). The mission of Commander, Military Sealift Command (COMSC) is to provide ship operating services to Department of Defense POD) components, provide strategic sealift in support of National Command objectives, and to provide ocean transportation for DOD activities. MSC operates and maintains government owned ships, and is responsible for shipping DOD cargo on commercially operated and chartered ships. To accomplish the assigned mission and responsibilities, MSC is designated as the "Single Manager for Ocean Transportation" by the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) and CNO. The mission of Military Sealift Command is to provide ocean transportation of equipment, fuel, supplies, and ammunition to sustain U.S. forces worldwide during peacetime and in war for as long as operational requirements dictate. During a war, it can be expected that more than 95 percent of all equipment and supplies needed to sustain the U.S. military will be carried by sea.

Military Sealift Command operates about 120 ships worldwide with about 100 more ships in reserve status. What sets MSC ships apart from other Navy ships is that all MSC ships are crewed by civil service or contract merchant mariners instead of active duty Navy personnel. Using civilian crews frees Navy personnel for more traditional war-fighting assignments. MSC exercises operational control over ships activated from the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Ready Reserve ships are activated in the case of a national emergency within a 5, 10 or 20-day time frame. In addition to reserve ships, MSC exercises control over T-AH 19 Class Hospital Ships, Fast Sealift Ships (FSSs), and Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPSs), which are prepared to respond immediately in the event of war or national emergency. Hospital ships provide mobile, flexible, rapid response capabilities for acute medical and surgical care in support of deployed elements of the Armed Force. FSS transport mechanized armored equipment to strategic locations throughout the world in minimal time (e.g., to Europe within 5 days and the Persian Gulf within 2 weeks). MPS are prepositioned at various strategic locations overseas and contain ammunition, supplies and armored equipment to support U.S. troops.

MSC's five area commands-Atlantic, Pacific, Europe, Far East, and Central-are each headed by a U.S. Navy captain. The area commands maintain operational control of MSC ships that are assigned to, or pass through, their areas of responsibility. Area commanders are the focal points for MSC customers in their areas. As personal representatives of Commander, Military Sealift Command, they are the "face of MSC" for the command's customers. The area commands also are the direct links to MSC ships, providing maintenance, logistics, and other needed services. Area commanders and their staffs are responsible for executing the plans and policies that result from business decisions made at MSC headquarters, effectively translating headquarters vision into field action. The commanders of MSC Atlantic and MSC Pacific also are assigned additional duty as the Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force East and West Project Officers, respectively. Duties include management of the NFAF ships.
assigned to them as well as administrative support to other MSC programs and activities.

Today's MSC is an outgrowth of four different agencies that provided ocean transportation for the U.S. military through World War II-the Naval Transportation Service, the Army Transport Service, the U.S. Maritime Commission's War Shipping Administration and the Navy's Fleet Support Services. Following World War II, U.S. military leaders sought a better system. Military Sea Transportation Service, MSC's name prior to 1970, was established on 1 October 1949 to be the U.S. military's ocean transportation provider. MSTS faced its first challenge almost immediately with the onset of the Korean War in June 1950. The command moved thousands of troops and millions of tons of cargo to Korea, operating more than 450 ships at the height of the hostilities. The MSTS mission expanded in 1958 to include the operation of scientific support ships-vessels involved in oceanographic research, missile tracking, communications and other special missions.

MSTS continued to define its role within the Navy and DOD in the 1960s. MSTS ships transported people and supplies to and from Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. MSTS ships also supported the Apollo 11 mission to the moon in 1969. MSTS began the 1970s by changing its name to Military Sealift Command. In 1972, MSC began operating its first Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force ship, civilian mariner-crewed fleet replenishment oiler USNS Taluga. Today MSC operates about 30 NFAF ships working side-by-side with the U.S. Navy combatant fleet worldwide.

In 1984 Secretary of the Navy John Lehman formally added strategic sealift to the U.S. Navy's other three primary functions of strategic deterrence, sea control, and power projection. This ensured that sealift programs would be considered on a balanced basis with other U.S. Navy programs, bringing them under one strategic, tactical, and operational purview during overall planning. In the 1980s, MSC introduced afloat prepositioning ships-vessels laden with combat equipment and supplies and prepositioned at sea within several days sailing time of potential contingency areas. The seven initial Near Term Prepositioning Ships, operating near Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, were the forerunners to the Maritime Prepositioning Shps operated by MSC for the U.S. Marine Corps and which began service in 1984.

MSC showcased its sealift and prepositioning capabilities in Operation Desert Shield in 1990-1991. At the peak of strategic sealift activity, MSC operated 212 dry cargo ships and 22 tankers. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Frank B. Kelso 11, USN, awarded MSC a Navy Unit Commendation, MSC's first, for its execution of strategic sealift in support of the war. As a result of lessons learned from the Persian Gulf War and changing world dynamics after the fall of the Berlin Wall, DOD expanded afloat prepositioning and surge capabilities, building 19 large, medium-speed, roll-on/roll-off ships for MSC operation.

Subject Headings (LCSH)
Persian Gulf War, 1991-Naval operations, American.
Military sealift-United States.

Box Listing

Box 1
Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991
1. Daily Briefings  12-25 August 1990
2. Daily Briefings  26 August-2 September 1990
3. Daily Briefings  3-9 September 1990
4. Daily Briefings  10-15 September 1990

**Box 2**

**Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991**

7. Daily Briefings  4-7 October 1990
10. Daily Briefings  26 October-1 November 1990
11. Daily Briefings  2-8 November 1990

**Box 3**

**Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991**

13. Daily Briefings  16-20 November 1990
15. Daily Briefings  27 November-1 December 1990
16. Daily Briefings  2-7 December 1990
17. Daily Briefings  8-13 December 1990

**Box 4**

**Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991**

20. Daily Briefings  2-8 January 1991

**Box 5**

**Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991**

26. Daily Briefings  2-6 February 1991
27. Daily Briefings  7-10 February 1991
29. Daily Briefings  16-20 February 1991

**Box 6**

**Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991**
32. Daily Briefings  3-7 March 1991
33. Daily Briefings  8-12 March 1991
34. Daily Briefings  13-17 March 1991
35. Daily Briefings  18-24 March 1991

**Box 7**

Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991
37. Daily Briefings  28 March-1 April 1991
38. Daily Briefings  2-5 April 1991
39. Daily Briefings  6-10 April 1991
41. Daily Briefings  16-21 April 1991
42. Daily Briefings  22-27 April 1991

**Box 8**

Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991
43. Daily Briefings  28 April-2 May 1991
44. Daily Briefings  3-6 May 1991
45. Daily Briefings  7-11 May 1991
46. Daily Briefings  12-16 May 1991
47. Daily Briefings  17-21 May 1991
48. Daily Briefings  22-26 May 1991

**Box 9**

Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991
49. Daily Briefings  27-31 May 1991
50. Daily Briefings  1-5 June 1991
51. Daily Briefings  6-10 June 1991
52. Daily Briefings  11-15 June 1991
53. Daily Briefings  16-20 June 1991

**Box 10**

Series I: Daily Briefings, 1990-1991
55. Daily Briefings  25-29 June 1991
56. Daily Briefings  30 June-4 July 1991
57. Daily Briefings  5-8 July 1991

**Box 11**

Series II: Reports, 1990-1991
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>“Basket Case” Report</td>
<td>10-28 February 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>“Basket Case” Report</td>
<td>March 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>&quot;Basket Case&quot; Report</td>
<td>April 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>&quot;Basket Case&quot; Report</td>
<td>1 May-16 July 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Cargo Strategic Sealift Record of Operations Support</td>
<td>22 February-1 March 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Chronological List by SPOE Arrival</td>
<td>5 April 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Daily Issues Report</td>
<td>1 April-15 July 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Deployment Status Report</td>
<td>10 August 1990-7 March 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Deployment Status Report</td>
<td>8 March-4 April 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Deployment Status Report</td>
<td>5-17 April 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>N9 Dry Cargo Program</td>
<td>2-21 February 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>N9 Dry Cargo Program</td>
<td>22 February-11 March 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>N9 Dry Cargo Program</td>
<td>12-26 March 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>N9 Dry Cargo Program</td>
<td>27 March-17 April 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Ship Availability Projection</td>
<td>7-31 May 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ship Availability Projection</td>
<td>1-25 June 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Ship Availability Projection</td>
<td>26 June-15 July 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Special Charters</td>
<td>1 January-30 November 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Special Charters</td>
<td>1 July 1990-30 January 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>14 August-18 September 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>19 September-14 October 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>15 October-24 November 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>26 November-20 December 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>21 December 1990-9 January 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Unit Deployment</td>
<td>10-31 January 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Vessel Status</td>
<td>28 September-26 November 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Afloat Pre-Positioning Force (APE)</td>
<td>1989-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Activating Ships (APE, RRF, FSS)-Folder 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 17

Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991

96. Ammunition: Containerization
   August-September 1990
97. Ammunition: Goodhue Notes
   December 1990
98. Ammunition: Guam
   January-February 1991
99. Ammunition: Incident of Barges Unstuffed
100. Ammunition: Instruction
     1986-1991
101. Ammunition: Meetings/Requirements
     August-December 1990
102. Ammunition: MILSTAMP Information
     January-February 1991
103. Ammunition: MTMC
     March 1991
104. Ammunition: Offload Policy
     September 1981
105. Ammunition: N5 Plans
106. Ammunition: Pipeline Support Vietnam
     December 1990-March 1991
107. Ammunition: Ports
     August 1990-February 1991
108. Ammunition: References
     December 1990-January 1991
109. Ammunition: Safety
     August 1990-March 1991
110. Ammunition: Shipping & Loading Lessons Learned
     31 January-1 March 1991
111. Ammunition: Ship Status
     8 January-22 February 1991
112. Ammunition: Status

Box 18

Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991

113. Ammunition: Study Objectives
114. Ammunition: TRANSCOM
     August 1990-February 1991
115. Ammunition: Trans-Coordination Europe
     January 1991
116. Ammunition: Meetings UK
     January 1991
117. Ammunition: USMC
     January-February 1991
118. Articles on Desert Shield/Storm
     September 1990-January 1991
119. Backgrounder Publication
120. Bibliographical Materials
121. Brief Strategic Sealift/Kaskin
122. Briefings by MSC
     September 1990-February 1991
123. Cargo Enhancements

Box 19

Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991

124. Chartering/Contracting Ships
125. Chronologies 1 of 3
126. Chronologies 2 of 3
127. Chronologies 3 of 3
129. Comments by Captain Crowley March 1991
130. CRS Report for Congress: Sealift and Operation Desert Shield September 1990

Box 20
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
132. Fast Sealift Ships (FSS) 1990
133. Force Inventory 1 August 1990-7 March 1991
134. Glossary of Terms/Abbreviations
135. History of Military Sealift Command's Role During Operation Desert Shield/Storm February 1991
136. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Initial Draft February 1991
137. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Figures/Diagrams 1991
138. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Final Draft
139. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Final Draft
140. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Final Draft

Box 21
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
141. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Final Draft July 1991
142. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Final Report
143. History of MSC during Operation Desert Shield/Storm-Master Copy
144. Hospital Ships
145. Interview Notes August 1990-May 1991
146. Itinerary for Santa Adela and Rover January 1991
147. JCS Assessment Team Visit September 1990
148. Lessons Learned Summary September 1990-
March 1991
149. Lost Days Breakdown by ship

Box 22
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
150. MSC Awards
151. MSC Commanders Service
152. Map of the Gulf War Zone
153. Maritime Administration (MARAD) May 1991
154. Memorial Service 22 May 1991
155. Military Sealift Command in the 807s/Overview May-June 1991
156. Narrative of DS/Naval Historical Center
157. Naval Reserve Support
158. Navy Talking Points
159. Notes from Captain Tierney-Folder 1
160. Notes from Captain Tierney-Folder 2
161. Organization/Mission/History of MSC
163. Press Stories/Releases  August-December 1990
164. Presidential Recall Status  19 April 1991
165. Problems  September-December 1990

Box 23
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
166. Phase I (ODs)  7 August-7 November 1990
168. Phase II Combat Logistics Force
169. Photos-Miscellaneous
171. Publication: All Hands  November 1990-June 1991
172. Publication: Armed Forces Journal  November 1990
173. Publication: Defense 90  November 1990
175. Publication: Information for Your Use  January-February 1991

Box 24
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
179. Publication: Newsweek  January 1991
180. Publication: The Officer  January 1991
181. Publication: Reserve Component Programs 1989
182. Publication: SEALIFT  September 1990-June 1991
183. Publication: Surface Warfare  May-June 1991
184. Rand Corporation Study  December 1990
185. Reference Materials-Folder 1
186. Reference Materials-Folder 2
187. Relationship with DOD/Other Federal Agencies
188. Relationships with Maritime Industry/Unions
189. Remarks by Honorable Lawrence Garrett III  January 1991

Box 25
Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991
190. Scheduling Ships  November 1 990
191. Special Middle East Shipping Agreement (SMESA)  September 1990-February 1991
192. Statement by General Colin Powell before Senate
193. Statement by VADM Donovan  October 1990
194. Statements before House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee  September 1990
195. Statements before House Armed Services Committee  December 1990-February 1991
196. Statements before House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries/Sealift Support-Folder 1 June-November 1990

197. Statements before House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries/Sealift Support-Folder 2 January-April 1991

198. Statistics

199. Summary of Desert Shield/Desert Storm by the Center for Naval Analyses January 1991

200. Summary Remarks for Admiral Frank B. Kelso October 1990

201. Tanker Operations


203. Trip Report by Lieutenant Diemont 21 May 1991

204. Weather Delays January-February 1991

The audiocassettes in Box 26 are available only by permission of Head, Operational Archives. Researchers are to use the transcripts found in Box 25.

Box 26

Series 111: Subject Files, 1980-1991

205. Transcribed Interviews-Audio Cassettes

a. Peter Bullenkamp; Colonel Richard Fields 17 January 1991
b. Captain William Pollock; William Savitsky 17 January 1991
c. Captain Jerome Peschka;
   Vice Admiral Francis R. Donovan 23 January 1991
e. Captain Joe Crowley 11 April 1991
f. Captain John R. Heufelder 8 May 1991