



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BOONE (FFG-28)
FPO AA 34093-1484

5720
Ser/032
31 Mar 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS BOONE (FFG 28)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) BOONE Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is the command history as mandated by reference (a). Included are descriptions of the command composition and organization, the 2002 command chronology with narrative, and a biography of the Commanding Officer.


W. L. TOWNS

USS BOONE (FFG 28) COMMAND HISTORY
COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS BOONE (FFG 28) is a member of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of Guided Missile Frigates. Her mission is to provide local area protection to battle groups, replenishment groups, amphibious forces, military and mercantile shipping and to conduct USW operations in conjunction with other sea control forces to ensure use of essential sea lanes of communications.

Along with her sister ships of the class, BOONE represents a break with tradition in many ways; a gas turbine powered propulsion plant with variable pitch propellers, austere manning accompanied by a high degree of computerized automation, a fully integrated combat system, two SH-60B helicopter hangars, auxiliary propulsion units (placed to maximize maneuverability) and a ship control console that provides steering and speed control directly from the bridge via a single Helmsman/Lee Helmsman.

The assets that BOONE has to call upon to accomplish her mission include a missile launcher capable of firing both anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles; the rapid fire, dual purpose 76mm gun; a Close-In Weapons System, 20mm, 6 barrel "gattling" gun, capable of firing 3000 rounds per minute at an incoming air target; anti-submarine torpedo tubes; and two SH-60 Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) MK III helicopters.

USS BOONE is a Naval Reserve Frigate, assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Six and is based in Naval Station Mayport, Florida. Her Commanding Officer is Walter L. Towns, CDR, USN.

USS BOONE (FFG 28) COMMAND HISTORY 2002
CHRONOLOGY

01JAN-08JAN HOLIDAY STAND DOWN
09JAN-13JAN UNDERWAY - JAX OPAREA
26JAN-27JAN RESERVE WEEKEND
02FEB-03FEB RESERVE WEEKEND
05FEB UNDERWAY - JAX OPAREA
26FEB-01MAR UNDERWAY - JAX OPAREA
09MAR-10MAR RESERVE WEEKEND
11MAR-12MAR UNDERWAY - JAX OPAREA
19MAR-21MAR UNDERWAY - JAX OPAREA (FEP)
26MAR-18MAY IT-21 INSTALL, INPORT MAYPORT, FL.
29MAR CHANGE OF COMMAND
17MAY FAST CRUISE
19MAY-21MAY UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO NEW YORK CITY
22MAY-28MAY INPORT NEW YORK CITY (FLEET WEEK)
29MAY-06JUN UNDERWAY - NARRAGANSETT BAY OPAREA
07JUN-11JUN INPORT MAYPORT
12JUN-13JUN UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO NORFOLK
14JUN-17JUN INPORT NORFOLK
18JUN-20JUN UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPAREA
21JUN INPORT NORFOLK
22JUN-24JUN UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO PASCAGOULA
25JUN-28JUN INPORT PASCAGOULA (CDS-6 COC)
29JUN-01JUL UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO MAYPORT
02JUL-07JUL INPORT MAYPORT
08JUL-14JUL UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPAREA
15JUL-19JUL UNDERWAY - CHERRY PT OPAREA (SMART SEARCH)
20JUL-31JUL INPORT MAYPORT
01AUG UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO KEY WEST
02AUG-05AUG INPORT KEY WEST
06AUG-11AUG UNDERWAY - GROUP SAIL
12AUG INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR
13AUG-16AUG UNDERWAY - GROUP SAIL PUERTO RICO OPAREA
17AUG-20AUG INPORT ST THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS
21AUG-22AUG UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO MAYPORT
23AUG-30SEP INPORT MAYPORT (IMAV/POM)
01OCT UNDERWAY - COUNTER DRUG OPS DEPLOYMENT
05OCT PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT TO EASTERN PACIFIC
06OCT-14OCT UNDERWAY - EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
15OCT-17OCT INPORT BALBOA, PANAMA
18OCT-30OCT UNDERWAY - EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
31OCT-02NOV INPORT MANTA, ECUADOR
03NOV-13NOV UNDERWAY - EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
14NOV-16NOV INPORT CALLAO, PERU
17NOV-25NOV UNDERWAY - EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
26NOV INPORT - GOLFITO, COSTA RICA
27NOV-02DEC UNDERWAY - EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
03DEC INPORT BALBOA, PANAMA
04DEC PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT TO CARIBBEAN
05DEC-07DEC UNDERWAY - ENROUTE TO MAYPORT, FL
08DEC ARRIVE MAYPORT, FL
09DEC-23DEC FMAV, MAYPORT, FL.
24DEC-31DEC UNDERWAY - CD OPS DEPLOYMENT
26DEC-28DEC INPORT COZUMEL, MEXICO
29DEC-31DEC UNDERWAY - CD OPS DEPLOYMENT

**USS BOONE (FFG 28) COMMAND HISTORY 2002
NARRATIVE**

BOONE began 2002 in Christmas standdown inport Mayport, Florida.

From January through March, BOONE was underway frequently for training and preparation for BOONE's Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). FEP was successfully completed in mid March.

On 29 March 2003, CDR W. L. Towns, relieved CDR J. L. Morman as Commanding Officer, USS BOONE (FFG 28).

IT-21 was installed from 26 March through 18 May 2002 while moored in Mayport, Fl.

In May, BOONE participated in the 15th annual New York City FLEET WEEK from 19 May to 28 May. BOONE Sailors proudly represented the ship in numerous activities such as parades, Color Guard appearance at a NY Mets game, sporting activities, provided tours for thousands of people and participated in the removal of the last beam from the World Trade Center ceremony.

In June, BOONE steamed to Norfolk, Virginia to pick-up midshipmen for summer training CORTRAMID. She then operated in the VACAPES operating area from 12 June to 21 June conducting intensive training to show our future Naval Officers life onboard a Naval warship at sea. BOONE then transitted to Pascagoula, MS from 22 June to 25 June to participate as Flagship for the DESRON SIX Change of Command on 28 June.

In July, BOONE participated in submarine operations called SMART SEARCH with two other warships USS COLE (DDG 67) and USS NICHOLSON (DDG 987). The exercise was held in the Cherry Point Operating Area from 15 July to 19 July.

In August, BOONE was involved in her final exercise prior to deployment called GROUP SAIL from 1 August to 22 August with USS ESTOCIN (FFG 15) and USS JOHN L. HALL (FFG 32). During the exercise, BOONE conducted all phases of war fighting training including ASW, AAW and SUW. The highlight of the training was firing a SM-1 missile against a pair of drones, making a skin-on-skin hit on the target. BOONE successfully completed all war fighting training and clearly demonstrated her tenacity and professionalism for her upcoming deployment. During the GROUP SAIL exercise, BOONE visited Key West, FL from 2 August to 5 August, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico on 12 August and ST Thomas, Virgin Islands from 17 August to 20 August.

Upon returning to Mayport on 23 August, BOONE started her POM leave and standdown period prior to deployment. She also had an intensive IMAV with some major work completed including hull repair. Upon completion of standdown on 30 September, BOONE was ready for deployment.

On 1 October, BOONE departed on her Counter Drug Operations deployment in the Southern Command Area of Operation including the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific. While patrolling in the Pacific, BOONE spotted, chased and seized four suspect vessels, detained 20 suspected drug traffickers and confiscated over five tons of cocaine. While in the southern latitudes off the coast of Ecuador, BOONE was afforded the opportunity to rid herself of all her slimy pollywogs in a "Crossing the Line" ceremony. This event was the highlight of the deployment for a majority of the crew. BOONE made several port visits including stops in Balboa, Panama; Golfito, Costa Rica; Manta, Ecuador; and Callao, Peru before going back to homeport Mayport, Florida for IMAV from 8 December to 23 December. BOONE finished FMAV and got underway on 24 December to continue her deployment before ending the year inport Cozumel, Mexico from 26 - 28 December.

BOONE's accomplishments over the year prove that a ship's greatest asset is the dedication of her crew. Throughout the completion of FEP, SMART SEARCH, GROUP SAIL and Counter Drug Operations deployment, BOONE's life blood, her crew, maintained a high state of morale, execute sharply and professionally, and proudly represented the United States Navy wherever they travelled.