



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)

FPO AP 96662-1492

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Ser 00/079

15 Oct 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)

To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

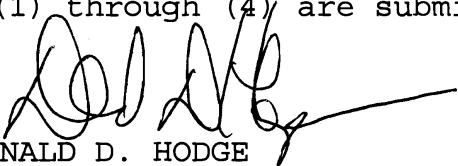
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

(2) Chronology

(3) Narrative

(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

  
DONALD D. HODGE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Organizational Structure:

a. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE.

b. Units under operational/administrative control: None.

2. Commanding Officer: 01JAN03 - 19OCT03: Robert B. Stewart, Commander, United States Navy; 20OCT03 - 31DEC03: Donald D. Hodge, Commander, United States Navy.

3. Permanent Duty Station: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

4. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: One SH-60B from Helicopter Light Squadron THREE SEVEN DET THREE was assigned for the 22OCT02 - 22APR03 Counter Narcotics Deployment.

### **JANUARY 2003**

01-03 - Port Visit, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama  
03-17 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol  
17 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama  
17-18 - Panama Canal Transit  
18-21 - Transit to Mayport, Florida  
22-31 - Inport, Mayport, Florida for Mid-Deployment Maintenance Period

### **FEBRUARY 2003**

01-08 - Inport, Mayport, Florida for Mid-Deployment Maintenance Period (continued)  
08-10 - Transit to Nassau, Bahamas  
10-13 - Port Visit, Nassau, Bahamas  
13-14 - Transit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba  
14-15 - Port Visit, RON Guantanamo Bay, Cuba  
15-17 - Transit to Panama Canal  
17-18 - Transit Panama Canal/Brief Stop For Fuel, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama  
18-23 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol  
23 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica  
24 - Recovered 39 Bales of Cocaine from Unknown Speed Boat off Coast of Costa Rica  
23-28 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol

### **MARCH 2003**

01-10 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol  
07 - CROMMELIN rescues 10 Fishermen from Fishing Vessel Don Teo and returns them to Manta, Ecuador  
10-13 - Port Visit, Manta, Ecuador, COMREL Project conducted  
13-22 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol  
22-26 - Port Visit, Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama  
26-31 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol

### **APRIL 2003**

01-05 - Underway, Counter Narcotics Patrol  
05 - Brief Stop For Fuel, Puerta Quetzal, Guatemala  
05- Out-Chop CUSNS/CTF 40  
05-10 - Transit to San Diego, California  
10-16 - Port Visit, San Diego, California  
16-22 - Transit, to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
22 - Homecoming from 2002-2003 Counter Narcotics Deployment  
22-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

22 - Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Begins  
22-30 - Post Deployment FMAV

**MAY 2003**

01-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
23 - Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Ends  
27 - Fast Cruise  
30-31 - Family Cruise to Kauai, Hawaii

**JUNE 2003**

01-02 - Family Cruise to Kauai, Hawaii  
02-03 - Inport, Pearl Harbor Hawaii  
03-04 - Underway for DLQ's, Hawaiian OPAREA  
04-18 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
17 - SMA Assist Visit  
18-20 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA  
20-23 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
23-27 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA  
27-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
30 - RAS with USNS Tippecanoe

**JULY 2003**

01-07 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
05 - ATFP Phase I  
07-08 - Underway for CART II, Hawaiian OPAREA  
08-10 - Inport, Pearl Harbor Hawaii  
10-11 - Underway for CART II/Initial Assessment, Hawaiian OPAREA  
11-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
11-31 - FMAV/TSTA  
14 - ATFP Phase II  
28-31 - SMA

**AUGUST 2003**

01-05 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
01-05 - FMAV/TSTA  
05-08 - Underway for TSTA I, Hawaiian OPAREA  
08-11 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
11-15 - Underway for TSTA I, Hawaiian OPAREA  
15-25 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
18-22 - TSTA  
25-29 - Underway for TSTA II, Hawaiian OPAREA  
25 - Ammo Offload, NAVMAG LUALUALEI  
29-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

**SEPTEMBER 2003**

01-02 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
02-05 - Underway for TSTA II, Hawaiian OPAREA  
05-15 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
09 - ATFP Phase III  
15-16 - Underway for FEP, Hawaiian OPAREA  
16-19 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
19-24 - Underway Demonstration Preps, Hawaiian OPAREA  
23 - Underway Demonstration  
24- Ammo Offload, NAVMAG LUALUALEI  
24-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
26-30 - SRA

**OCTOBER 2003**

01-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
01-31 - SRA  
20 - Change of Command, CDR Donald D. Hodge assumes Command

**NOVEMBER 2003**

01-30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
01-30 - SRA

**DECEMBER 2003**

01-04 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
03 - SRA Ends/ Fast Cruise  
04-05 - Underway for Sea Trials, Hawaiian OPAREA  
05-08 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
08-12 - Underway for Week One Work Ups, Hawaiian OPAREA  
12-15 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
15-17 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA  
17-31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
17-31 - Holiday Upkeep, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

## NARRATIVE

CROMMELIN completed a demanding year of operations, exercises, training, and maintenance, which culminated in her selection as Commander Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE's Battle Efficiency winner for 2003. Other highlights from the past year included a highly successful Counter Narcotics Deployment to the Eastern Pacific, for which CROMMELIN was awarded both the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon. She also completed an unprecedented three-month Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, allowing CROMMELIN to become the first Emergency Surge Ready ship in Pearl Harbor. CROMMELIN rounded out the year with an extremely successful Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), preparing her for another year of continued excellence in all Surface Warfare disciplines.

Team CROMMELIN began the year enjoying a port visit to Panama City, Panama (Port Vasco Nunez De Balboa) to celebrate the New Year, having already been deployed for over two months in counter narcotics operations.

She followed up her port visit with a two-week patrol time off the coasts of Central and South America before returning to Panama for a night time transit of the Panama Canal January 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. The crew then sailed CROMMELIN north from the Caribbean side of Canal to Mayport, Florida for a planned two-week mid-deployment voyage repair availability.

After underway from Mayport, CROMMELIN transited south to Nassau, Bahamas for a port visit February 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, followed by a brief stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to replenish fuel and supplies. CROMMELIN again transited the Panama Canal (this time south) over the evening of February 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> before resuming Counter Narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific. The crew would remain on patrol from February 18<sup>th</sup>-March 10<sup>th</sup>, conducting a brief stop for fuel in Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. CROMMELIN would go on to pursue an unknown speed boat, commonly referred to as a "go-fast", on February 24<sup>th</sup>, during which CROMMELIN retrieved 39 bales (approximately 2000 lbs) of cocaine that had been jettisoned by the crew of the go-fast. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, CROMMELIN rescued 10 fishermen off the coast of Ecuador who had been adrift for 3 days after their engine failed. They were returned to Ecuador, grateful to the crew of CROMMELIN.

A day later, CROMMELIN began a port visit in the South American fishing town of Manta, Ecuador. While inport Manta,

CROMMELIN Sailors participated in a two-day community relations project where a schoolhouse was restored.

CROMMELIN resumed patrol for the next nine days before pulling in for another port visit in Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. CROMMELIN then continued her counter drug patrol from March 26<sup>th</sup>-April 10<sup>th</sup> enroute to San Diego, CA for an April 10<sup>th</sup> port visit.

CROMMELIN outchopped COMUSNAVSO/CTF 40/JIATF on April 10<sup>th</sup> pierside in San Diego. The ship remained inport San Diego until April 16<sup>th</sup>, when she began her transit back to homeport for a heartwarming homecoming April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Upon return from deployment, CROMMELIN began a month-long post-deployment stand down and maintenance upkeep period.

Following post-deployment upkeep, CROMMELIN conducted a fast cruise on May 27<sup>th</sup> before a Family Cruise to the island of Kauai May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. CROMMELIN would spend her June underway periods conducting type training, Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) with HSL 37, and a Refueling-at-Sea with oiler USNS Tippecanoe, 30 June. While inport in June, CROMMELIN conducted a Supply Management Assessment (SMA) assist visit June 17<sup>th</sup> and administrative preps for her upcoming training cycle. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Training Phase I was also executed in June.

Command Assessment Readiness and Training (CART) II kicked off CROMMELIN's Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) on 7-8 July along with Initial Assessment 10-11 July. This period also marked CROMMELIN's first training cycle under the new Fleet Readiness Training Plan (F RTP). CROMMELIN was the first ship in Pearl Harbor to undergo F RTP. The training that followed included an inport Tailored Ships Training Assessment (TSTA) period and accompanying maintenance availability from July 11<sup>th</sup> - August 5<sup>th</sup>. Also during this inport time, CROMMELIN underwent A TFP Phase II and achieved outstanding results on her Supply Management Assessment conducted July 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

In August, CROMMELIN would alternate weeks underway and inport for TSTA Phases I and II. The crew offloaded some of the ship's ammunition at the ammo depot located in Pearl Harbor's West Loch, NAVMAG Lualualei, on August 25<sup>th</sup>. CROMMELIN's final TSTA underway period was completed from September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> before an inport period September 5<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, which was used to prepare for her Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). A TFP Phase III was completed on September 9<sup>th</sup>, which finished off CROMMELIN's A TFP certification process. In typical CROMMELIN fashion, FEP was

carried out with exemplary results on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, receiving accolades from both COMDESRON 31 and ATG MIDPAC. After a weekend of recuperating from FEP, the crew of America's Battle Frigate went to sea again to prepare for her engineering certification, Underway Demonstration (UD). CROMMELIN finished her Basic Phase certification with another striking display of engineering and material readiness on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, passing UD with an above average. CROMMELIN officially became "surge ready" at the conclusion of the FRTP. Following the offload of her remaining ammunition at Lualualei on September 24<sup>th</sup>, CROMMELIN started her nine-week Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) September 26<sup>th</sup>.

The ship remained in SRA from September 26<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>, undergoing numerous ship alterations and improvements. Among the most significant alterations was the removal of the MK-13 missile launcher and the removal of the STIR (Separate Track Illuminating Radar). The #4 Ship's Service Diesel Generator (SSDG) was also completely overhauled, returning it to full service after being inoperable for a good portion of the previous year.

CDR Robert B. Stewart was relieved by CDR Donald D. Hodge on October 20<sup>th</sup> in a traditional Navy ceremony pier side Pearl Harbor.

CROMMELIN would once again put to sea December 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> for sea trials, and after fine tuning all of her engineering and war fighting systems following her SRA period, CROMMELIN went to sea two more times before finishing out 2003. The first underway period December 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> included Week One Work Ups (WOWU) operating with SH-60B Helicopters from HSL-37 Detachment Three. CROMMELIN's last underway for 2003 from December 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> included type training, helping her to remain surge ready. Upon return to Pearl Harbor on December 17<sup>th</sup>, CROMMELIN began her holiday leave and upkeep period, which would leave the crew well rested and prepared for 2004 pre-deployment preparations and continued surge readiness.





# Chief of Naval Operations

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the  
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)  
HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON LIGHT THIRTY-SEVEN  
DETACHMENT THREE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service from 5 November 2002 to 5 April 2003. The personnel of USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light THIRTY-SEVEN (HSL-37) Detachment THREE made contributions of major significance to the international war on narcotics, exercising extraordinary imagination and resourcefulness in seizing over 5 Metric Tons of controlled substances with a net value of over 120 million dollars. CROMMELIN led the way in developing new techniques and tactics for relocating jettisoned contraband. CROMMELIN also conducted three humanitarian rescues, potentially saving the lives of 172 people. Additionally, CROMMELIN enhanced the Navy's image with the civilian community in Ecuador, by conducting two community relations projects and two Project Hand-clasp deliveries touching the lives of hundreds of residents and enhancing the Regional Commander's Theater Engagement Program. By their unrelenting determination, perseverance, and steadfast devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light THIRTY-SEVEN (HSL-37) reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary,

V. E. CLARK  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations