



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37)

FPO AP 96662-1492

5757

Ser 00/015

7 Feb 05

From: Commanding Officer, USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)

To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2004

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Hodge", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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: 1 January to 31 December 2004, Donald D. Hodge, Commander, United States Navy.

3. Permanent Duty Station: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

4. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: Two SH-60B's from Helicopter Light Squadron THREE SEVEN Det THREE were assigned for the 12 May to 12 November 2004 Counter Narcotics Deployment.

#### **JANUARY 2004**

- 01 - 04 - Holiday Upkeep, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 04 - 26 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 26 - 30 - Underway for Type Training/DLQs, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 30 - 31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### **FEBRUARY 2004**

- 01 - 02 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (continued)
- 02 - 06 - Underway for Type Training/DLQs, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 06 - 17 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 17 - 20 - Underway for PCOSS, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 20 - 29 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### **MARCH 2004**

- 01 - 15 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (continued)
- 15 - 19 - Underway for Type Training/DLQs, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 19 - 29 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 29 - 31 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### **APRIL 2004**

- 01 - 02 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (continued)
- 02 - 05 - Family Cruise to Maui, Hawaii
- 05 - 09 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 09 - 30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 09 - 30 - POM Leave & Upkeep Period, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### **MAY 2004**

- 01 - 10 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (continued)
- 01 - 06 - POM Leave & Upkeep Period, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
(continued)
- 07 - Fast Cruise
- 10 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 10 - 12 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 12 - Depart for Counter Drug Deployment
- 12 - RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
- 12 - 18 - Transit to San Diego, California
- 18 - 20 - Port Visit, San Diego, California
- 20 - 29 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific  
(LEDET 102 Embarked)
- 20 - Inchop CTF 40
- 20 - RAS with USNS PECOS
- 26 - Go-Fast LSV Takedown
- 27 - Go-Fast Chase with USS MCCLUSKY

- 29 - Brief Stop for Fuel, Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
- 29 - 31 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific

**JUNE 2004**

- 01 - 08 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific  
(continued)
- 02 - Go-Fast Chase
- 08 - 10 - Port Visit, Vasco Nunez Balboa (VNB), (Old Rodman Naval  
Base), Panama
- 10 - 18 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 11 - Three Fishermen Rescued from Fishing Vessel DON LUIS II
- 13 - Go-Fast Chase into Panamanian Waters
- 14 - Go-Fast Chase with Costa Rican Coast Guard
- 17 - Fishing Vessel DON ADOLFO Boarded
- 18 - Brief Stop for Fuel, Golfito, Costa Rica
- 18 - 30 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 19 - Fishing Vessel DANNY IVAN Boarded
- 22 - Go-Fast Drug Bust with USS TICONDEROGA (2 Metric Tons  
Cocaine)
- 28 - Go-Fast Drug Bust with USS TICONDEROGA (1 Metric Ton  
Cocaine)
- 30 - Brief Stop for Fuel, VNB, Panama

**JULY 2004**

- 01 - Brief Stop for Fuel, VNB, Panama (continued)
- 01 - 10 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 10 - 13 - Port Visit, Callao, Peru (UNITAS 04 Inport Phase)
- 12 - 25 - TACON CTG 138 (UNITAS 04 Underway)
- 13 - 17 - Underway for UNITAS 04, Waters off Peru
- 17 - 19 - Port Visit, Salaverry, Peru
- 19 - 22 - Underway for UNITAS 04, Waters off Peru
- 22 - 25 - Port Visit, Callao, Peru
- 25 - 30 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific  
(LEDET 101 Embarked)
- 30 - Brief Stop for Fuel, VNB, Panama
- 30 - 31 - Panama Canal Transit North

**AUGUST 2004**

- 01 - 03 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Caribbean Sea
- 03 - 05 - Port Visit, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 05 - 06 - Transit to Colon, Panama
- 06 - 11 - Port Visit, Colon, Panama (PANAMAX 2004 Inport Phase)
- 11 - 16 - Underway for PANAMAX 04, Caribbean Sea (COMDESRON SIX  
Embarked)

- 16 - 18 - Port Visit, Colon, Panama
- 18 - 20 - Transit to Mayport, Florida
- 20 - 31 - Mid-Deployment Maintenance Availability, Mayport, Florida

**SEPTEMBER 2004**

- 01 - 07 - Mid-Deployment Maintenance Availability, Mayport, Florida (continued)
- 07 - 08 - Transit to Key West, Florida
- 08 - 09 - Port Visit, Key West, Florida
- 09 - 13 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Caribbean Sea (LEDET 105 Embarked)
- 13 - 14 - Panama Canal Transit South
- 14 - Brief Stop for Fuel, VNB, Panama
- 14 - 28 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 23 - Fishing Vessel San Jose Drug Bust (10.5 Metric Tons Cocaine)
- 28 - Brief Stop for Fuel, Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
- 29 - 93 Ecuadorian Migrants Rescued At Sea
- 28 - 30 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific

**OCTOBER 2004**

- 01 - 06 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific (continued)
- 06 - 09 - Port Visit, Manta, Ecuador
- 09 - 21 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 15 - Fishing Vessel BLAY MAR Boarding
- 16 - Fishing Vessel BATURRO IV Drug Bust (5.7 Metric Tons Cocaine)
- 21 - Brief Stop for Fuel, Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
- 21 - 28 - Underway for Counter Drug Operations, Eastern Pacific
- 28 - 31 - Port Visit, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 31 - Transit to San Diego, California

**NOVEMBER 2004**

- 01 - 03 - Transit to San Diego (continued)
- 02 - RAS with USNS PECOS
- 03 - 06 - Port Visit, San Diego, California
- 06 - 12 - Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 11 - RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
- 12 - Homecoming
- 12 - 30 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 12 - 30 - Post Deployment Leave & Upkeep Period

**DECEMBER 2004**

- 01 - 14 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 01 - 12 - Post Deployment Leave & Upkeep Period (continued)
- 13 - Fast Cruise
- 14 - 17 - Underway for Type Training, Hawaiian OPAREA
- 17 - Ammo Offload, NAVMAG, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 17 - 31 - Inport, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 17 - 31 - Holiday Leave & Upkeep Period, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

## NARRATIVE

In 2004, USS CROMMELIN completed a demanding year of operations, exercises, training, and maintenance with success and style second to none. The highlight for the year was CROMMELIN's extremely successful Counter Narcotics Deployment to the Eastern Pacific, for which CROMMELIN was awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation. During her deployment, CROMMELIN seized over 20 metric tons of cocaine with an estimated street value of over one billion dollars and participated in the multi-national exercises UNITAS PACPHASE 45-04 and PANAMAX 04. CROMMELIN again set the bar for Surface Warfare excellence during her 2004 campaign.

Team CROMMELIN began the year resting up during the second half of her holiday leave and upkeep period before spending the majority of January in routine maintenance and upkeep status inport Pearl Harbor. After swapping between inport and underway periods conducting type training and deck landing qualifications (DLQs) with Helicopter Light Squadron Three Seven (HSL 37), CROMMELIN sailed across the channel to the waters off the island of Kauai to participate in Prospective Submarine Commanding Officer Services (PCOSS 04). Located at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) off of Kauai's West Coast, CROMMELIN along with HMCS OTTAWA (Canada) and SH-60B's from HSL 37, played the enemy to test the battle skills of prospective Submarine Commanding Officers operating onboard the Fast Attack Submarine USS CHEYENE (SSN 773) from 17-20 February.

CROMMELIN would spend the remainder of February and March again trading time between inport maintenance and upkeep periods and conducting type training and DLQs off of Oahu in preparation of her upcoming Counter Narcotics Deployment. The CROMMELIN Family enjoyed a Friends and Family Cruise to the neighbor island of Maui 2-5 April before one last underway for type training prior to beginning her Pre-Operational Movement Leave and Upkeep period in preparation of her upcoming deployment.

The Sailors of CROMMELIN and HSL 37 DET 3 would say Aloha to family and loved ones on 12 May as she departed Pearl Harbor for her six month Counter Narcotics Deployment to the USSOUTHCOM AOR. After her transit to San Diego for a brief port visit and two refueling at sea evolutions with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL (T-AO 193) off of Oahu and USNS PECOS (T-AO 197) off of Southern California, CROMMELIN would waste no time in making her presence known to drug runners operating off the west coast of Central and South America. On 26 May, CROMMELIN turned over a go-fast logistics vessel to

Mexican authorities identified during a right of approach questioning before pursuing a go-fast along with Easy Rider (SH-60B) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41) the following day. The go-fast would end up "landing" on a Mexican beach after the chase was cutoff at Mexican territorial waters.

After refueling at Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, CROMMELIN would commence a very busy counter narcotic month beginning with a 2 June go-fast chase with negative results for contraband but ending with the five Columbian Nationalists being taken onboard CROMMELIN for return to Columbia and the go-fast sunk as a hazard to navigation.

CROMMELIN would enjoy a port visit to Panama City, Panama (Port Vasco Nunez De Balboa) 8-10 June before rescuing three fishermen on 11 June who had been adrift for 17 days, found 140 miles southwest of Costa Rica onboard the fishing vessel DON LUIS II. CROMMELIN would have two more go-fast chases on the 13-14 June.

The first of those go-fasts got away, beaching itself in Panama, but the second was pursued into Costa Rican territorial waters before being apprehended by the Costa Rican Coast Guard. Four persons were detained and 400 lbs of cocaine recovered by Costa Rican officials. CROMMELIN and LEDET 102 received credit for two go-fast interruptions due to these chases.

On 17 June, CROMMELIN boarded the fishing vessel DON ADOLFO and ordered her to return to port in Columbia after the embarked Coast Guard boarding team confirmed the vessel was involved in lookout operations for drug smugglers. CROMMELIN pulled into Golfito, Costa Rica for a brief stop for fuel on 18 June before conducting the first ever unannounced nighttime boarding utilizing only a RHIB against the fishing vessel DANNY IVAN on 19 June. After discovering three hidden compartments, six scuttling valves, and 2,000 excess gallons of gas, the DANNY IVAN was ordered to return to port as she was deemed to be aiding drug runners.

Team CROMMELIN would get their first drug bust on 22 June after teaming up with USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) to take down a go-fast off of the west coast of Ecuador. Two metric tons of cocaine would be seized and five personnel detained. Six days later on 28 June, CROMMELIN would again partner up with TICONDEROGA in a go-fast pursuit that would end with one metric ton of cocaine being recovered and five personnel detained. CROMMELIN would visit Panama City again, pulling in for a night of liberty and to refuel from 30 June to 1 July.



CROMMELIN would take a break from Counter Drug Operations after leaving Panama to transit down to Peru to take part in the international naval exercise UNITAS PACPHASE 45-04. Forces from 10 nations conducted various air, surface, and sub-surface warfare exercises off the coast of Peru from 11-25 July in support of UNITAS. Major objectives for the exercise included achieving a high degree of readiness and interoperability among all forces involved in matters relating to training, combat doctrine, logistics, communications, and other of inter-service interests.

CROMMELIN's involvement in UNITAS would begin with a port visit to Callao, Peru (the seaport for Lima) 10-13 July before the first of two week-long underways conducting various warfare exercises. Between underways, CROMMELIN would visit the port of Salaverry, Peru from 17-19 July which included a community relation's project by CROMMELIN Sailors partaking in the construction of a schoolhouse and donations to a local relief agency. The final port visit for CROMMELIN in Peru would be a return trip to Lima 22-25 July.

After completing UNITAS in typical outstanding CROMMELIN style, she would sail north to Panama City for another brief stop for fuel on 30 July before transiting the Panama Canal that night. After completing her north transit of the Panama Canal, CROMMELIN would transit to Jamaica for a port visit to Montego Bay on 3-5 August.

Team CROMMELIN would again participate in an international exercise from 6-18 August. PANAMAX 2004 involved nations from the American continents participating in Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), Search and Rescue (SAR), and Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in and around the Panama Canal. Inport symposiums included defense tactics, boarding procedures, smuggling techniques, arrest procedures, and application of International Law.

The first phase of PANAMAX had CROMMELIN inport Colon, Panama participating in the above-mentioned symposiums 6-11 August before getting underway from the 11-16 August for MLE, SAR, and MIO exercises. The second port visit to Colon, Panama would be from 16-18 August prior to CROMMELIN sailing north to Mayport, Florida for her mid-deployment maintenance availability.

CROMMELIN would be inport, Mayport, Florida from 20 August to 7 September conducting planned maintenance and weathering a near miss by Hurricane Francis. After underway from Mayport,

CROMMELIN transited south to Key West, Florida for a brief overnight port visit from 8-9 September before getting underway to outrun Hurricane Ivan. The CROMMELIN Wardroom did get to enjoy a traditional naval dining-in during her brief stop in Key West. CROMMELIN again transited the Panama Canal (south transit) over the evening of 13-14 September before resuming Counter Narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific.

The crew would begin a two-week underway from 14-28 September that would see the third largest drug bust at sea in history. On 23 September, 10.5 metric tons of cocaine was seized from the fishing vessel SAN JOSE along with her crew of eight being detained. The vessel was sunk as a hazard to navigation and the detainees turned over to USCGC JARVIS (WHEC 725).

CROMMELIN would pull into Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala for a brief stop for fuel 28 September before rescuing 93 Ecuadorian migrants found adrift 200 miles south of Guatemala on 29 September. Those 93 guests would remain aboard CROMMELIN to accompany her during the transit down to Manta, Ecuador for a port visit from 6-9 October. The refugees were transferred to an Ecuadorian patrol boat on 5 October before CROMMELIN pulled into port the following morning. While inport Manta, CROMMELIN Sailors participated in a community relation's project where a schoolhouse was painted and presented supplies from the military's Project Handclasp Program to the Ecuadorian Cruz Rosas (Red Cross).

CROMMELIN's final counter narcotics patrol would be from 9-21 October which would again yield a huge cocaine seizure from a fishing vessel. After boarding and searching the fishing vessel BLAY MAR on the night of 15 October with negative results for contraband, fishing vessel BATURRO IV was boarded and searched the following afternoon with an estimated four to six metric tons of cocaine being discovered by the embarked Coast Guard boarding team. The vessel along with detainees and contraband was turned over to a Mexican patrol boat on the morning of 19 October.

Team CROMMELIN pulled into Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala for one last brief stop for fuel on 21 October enroute to a much deserved port visit to the resort town of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico 28-31 October. Post Cabo, CROMMELIN would sail north to the Southern California OPAREA for a refueling-at-sea with USNS PECOS on the afternoon of 2 November. The crew would have one more port visit before returning home, pulling into San Diego

3-6 November where they would be awarded the Coast Guard's Meritorious Unit Commendation for their efforts in the War on Drugs. After navigating by the sun, moon, planets, and stars from San Diego to Hawaiian waters, CROMMELIN would refuel at sea with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL the evening before pulling into Pearl Harbor for a much anticipated homecoming on the morning of 12 November.

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 13 December before a brief underway for type training 14-17 December. The crew offloaded the ship's ammunition at the ammo depot located in Pearl Harbor's West Loch, NAVMAG Lualualei, on 17 December. After returning to Pearl Harbor's Bravo Piers on 17 December, CROMMELIN began her holiday leave and upkeep period, which would leave the crew well rested and prepared to carry out her 2005 operational schedule.



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON 20593

01 Nov 2004

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the  
**COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION** to:

**USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37)  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII**

for service set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For meritorious service from 1 September 2004 to 31 October 2004 while in the execution of a counter-narcotics patrol in the Easter Pacific Ocean. On the morning of 26 September, the USS CROMMELIN intercepted the F/V SAN JOSE, 650 nautical miles southwest of the Galapagos Islands. Intelligence reports indicated the F/V SAN JOSE carried a large cache of cocaine and was specially equipped with scuttling valves. These valves were designed to enable smugglers to sink and abandon their vessels to deny prosecution by law enforcement authorities. Demonstrating outstanding situational awareness and aggressive tactics, the USS CROMMELIN covertly embarked a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Team aboard the F/V SAN JOSE during darkness. The boarding team immediately established positive control of the F/V SAN JOSE, and with the critical assistance of USS CROMMELIN's Vessel Boarding Search and Seizure Team, discovered 525 bales of cocaine. This was the third largest at sea seizure of cocaine, totaling 26,720 pounds, with a street value of \$244 million. Following this significant seizure, on 30 September, the USS CROMMELIN located and rescued 93 Ecuadorian migrants from an unseaworthy vessel and repatriated them to Ecuador. On 16 October, the USS CROMMELIN boarded the Mexican flagged F/V BATURRO IV and discovered approximately 12,600 pounds of cocaine. Custody of the case was transferred to the Mexican Navy. The USS CROMMELIN prevented a significant amount of contraband from reaching the United States and saved 93 lives from a foundering vessel. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by the USS CROMMELIN are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

The Operational Distinguishing device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harvey Johnson".

H. E. JOHNSON

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area