



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DE WERT (FFG 45)

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DE WERT (FFG-45)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH) Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20370

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1987, SUBMISSION OF

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS DE WERT (FFG 45) Command History for Calendar Year 1987

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

A. T. Church III
A. T. CHURCH III

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: Nov 2005

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A. Command composition and organization

Mission: AAW and ASW with secondary mission areas in ASUW, ELW and
CCC.

Commander: CDR W. F. Doran, USN,

Home Port: Charleston, S. C.

Aircraft: Embarked one SH-60B Lamps MK III Helicopter from HSL-42
DET 4 (various tail numbers)

B. Chronology of significant events:

14 - 30 Jan Drydocked naval ship yard Charleston for sonar dome
repairs

3 Feb - 5 Apr SRA Charleston/Installation of SNAP II ADT

10 - 18 Apr CSRR Phase I

28 Apr - 1 May Enhanced ISE - Operations with USS DONALD B. BEARY,
USS BATFISH, USS SUNFISH, AND USS RAY

7 May Weapons onload Weapon Station Charleston

11 - 22 May FLEETEX

23 May - 15 Jun Inport for air intake plenum restoration

1 - 5 Jun CSRR Phase II

9 - 10 Jun Command Security Assessment

15 - 18 Jun Underway CHASOA for BECCES

22 Jun - 18 Jul POM

22 - 23 Jun Command Inspection

29 - 30 Jun PMS Inspection

20 Jul - 10 Dec deployed UNITAS XXVIII

20 Jul - 9 Dec embarked HSL-42 DET 4

24 Jul - 5 Aug Phase ZERO (Venezuelan Phase)

6 Aug - 2 Sep Phase ONE (Brazilian Phase)

8 - 15 Sep Phase THREE (Uruguayan Phase)

16 - 19 Sep Phase FOUR (Bilateral OPS with Argentine Navy)

22 Sep - 10 Oct Phase FIVE (Chilean Phase)

23 Sep Struck a submerged rock in Gray Channel

7-21 Oct In Drydock Talcahuano, Chile for repairs

22 - 30 Oct Phase SIX (Peruvian Phase)

2 - 12 Nov Phase SEVEN (Ecuadoran Phase)

13 - 15 Nov Phase EIGHT (Columbian Phase)

25 Nov - 4 Dec Phase NINE (Venezuelan Phase)

4 - 9 Dec OPPE

10 - 31 Dec Holiday Leave and Upkeep

Enclosure (1)

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C. Narrative.

(U) USS DE WERT began 1987 inport Charleston, S. C. enjoying a period of holiday leave and upkeep. Planning was already underway for the series of workups, exercises, and inspections leading to a deployment on UNITAS XXVIII. On 6 January, the ship underwent a CFR Certification, concurrent with a PMT visit 6-7 January. On the 8th and 9th, a hull inspection and cleaning was conducted. January 12 brought the end of holiday standdown, along with a docking conference. On the 14th the ship was moved to drydock at Charleston Naval Shipyard for sonar dome rubber window repairs. The ship received a SNAP II visit on the 15th, in preparation for installation of the computerized administration system. Career Information Training began 20 January, and continued until 27 March. EW2(SW) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was nominated to COMDESRON SIX as DE WERT's representative for the competition for CDS-6 Sailor of the Year. On the 29th, DE WERT's ST's and OS's graduated from 14A2 trainer with a score of 97.8 per cent, the highest grade recorded in the Charleston trainer in over a year. In anticipation of the upcoming SRA, the arrival conference was held on the 27th of January, and on the 30th repairs to the sonar dome were completed. The ship was floated off the blocks and moved back to Charleston Naval Station.

(U) February 3 saw the beginning of a five-week SRA. Snaps II ADT system was installed to handle the ship's supply and 3-M records. On 13 February, LCDR H. R. Powe relieved LDR J. C. Day as Executive Officer. On the 19th, DE WERT's Post Office received an assist visit, and on the 27th duty section 4's inport fire party received 350 out of a possible 350 points in a final evaluation in Fire Fighting Team Training.

(U) SRA continued into March. On March 2, the ship had an aviation assist visit, and on the same day DE WERT's Sonar Technicians and Operations Specialists embarked on USS JOHN L. HALL for ASW schoolship at AUTEK, returning on 10 March. On the 11th, DE WERT won a KUDO from USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY on the occasion of her return from deployment for "having made homecoming a very special day". On the 12th the crew was mustered for a Service Dress Blues Inspection by XO Powe. Combat Systems Alignment and Dock Trials were conducted on March 16. From March 26 to the 29th, DE WERT played host to British Naval Oiler HMS OLWYN. Aviation certification was conducted on 30 March, and on the 31st a PMS assist visit began.

(U) The PMS assist visit continued through 2 April. Meanwhile, an AUTEK brief was held on the 1st and combat systems light-off occurred on the 2nd. On April 3 the ship held a fast cruise, and on the 9th we traveled upriver to Charleston Naval Weapons Station for an ammunition onload. Leaving the next day from the weapons station, the ship went to sea for enhanced ASW and week one work-ups with an embarked SH-60B helo from HSL-42 Det 4. The ship conducted a series of ASW exercises at AUTEK with USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705). Enroute Charleston on 15-16 April, the ship conducted Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises, and on the 16th, the ship "dropped the hook" to test the anchor. Back inport, Combat Systems Readiness Review (Phase I) was conducted from 20-24 April, while from 21 to 23 April, DE WERT crewmembers took their physical readiness test. The ship received good news

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on 22 April in a message of congratulations from CDS-6 for winning the LAMPS MK III Safety Award. The Commodore said that "team effort and total dedication by all hands have been the key ingredients to your resounding success and have become trademarks for DE WERT". Communication Readiness Assist Team conducted a visit on 23 April, and on 28 April the ship was underway as OCE for an enhanced ISE period with USS DONALD B. BEARY, USS BATFISH, USS SUNFISH, AND USS RAY. The engineers held a full power trial on the 28th, and on the 29th we conducted a P-1-CIWS exercise, a tracking exercise on USS RAY, and an ASW sweep. A simulated missile exercise was conducted on 30 April to conclude ASW exercises, and on the way back to Charleston we again exercised the engineers in casualty control at General Quarters.

(U) Returning to Charleston 1 May, planning began for FLEETEX. The FLEETEX meeting was held in Norfolk on 5 May. On 7 May, the ship made a one-day trip to the weapons station for an ammunition onload, and the 11th the ship was underway for FLEETEX. The first day's events included a P-1-CIWS live fire, A Z-13-CC Maneuvering Drill, A Z-20-C signal drill, Z-15 EW, and Z-21-C Signal Drill. On May 12, the ship participated in an encounter exercise with FLEETEX Units, conducted a war at sea, an EW exercise, ASU-2-A, and BECCES. The next day featured A Z-11-EW, UNREP with USS SEATTLE, Z-21-C, and Z-30-/31-C. On 14 May there was a NIXIE Quickstream, Z-12/13-CC, Z-14-C, Z-20-C, Z-13-CC, Z-22-C, and more BECCES. The next day had a live firing missile exercise, Z-31-EW, Z-14-C, and AAW-7-I. On 16 May A Z-31-G, ASU-8-B SELEX, ASU-6-B SELEX, and Z-28-S RE-ARM SELEXES were completed. 17 May saw an ELW-3-B SELEX, Z-10-AA SELEX, and SAREX SELEX. On 18 May DE WERT was at ST Croix underwater tracking range with USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD 968) and USS CALLERY (FFG 26) conducting a W-2-U, Z-16-U, and A-37-U, against a MK 30 target. On 19 and 20 May several more ASWEXES were held on the transit to CONUS, and on 21 May DE WERT was OCE for several ASWEXES featuring four FFG-7's, two SH-60B helos, and one SH-2F. On return to homeport 22 May, the ship commenced a technical availability for air intake plenum restoration. The decks in the scullery, galley, engineering/support head, and the ladies powder room were also replaced. On the 26th of May an aviation assist visit was conducted, and Combat Systems Readiness review Phase II was completed. Between 26 and 29 May PAATLANT was aboard for an assist visit.

(U) The first through fifth of June featured a Gas Turbine Groom and the completion of several inport damage control SELEXES. During commuter week in Norfolk from 8-10 June, The Commanding Officer, Ship Control Officer, Combat Systems Officer, CIC Officer, and Intelligence Officer met with their counterparts on the TF 138 Staff and on other UNITAS deployers in a series of briefings and discussions. From 16-19 June DE WERT was underway in the Charleston OPAREA for BECCES, including a full power run and several general quarters evolutions for main space fire drills. On the way back to port on the 19th, a frocking ceremony was held on the fantail. 22 June started Pre-overseas Movement (POM). Command Inspection was held from the 23rd to the 25th, and on 24 June ships company was paraded for a personnel inspection by Commodore Giuffreda, who formally presented the crew its LAMPS MK III Safety Award. The ship unloaded bullets at the NAVSTA Piers on 26 June, and on 29-30

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June the ship passed its PMS Inspection with a 93.2 per cent overall grade, with the high mark going to support department with a 95.8 per cent. On 29 June the ship underwent its quarterly hull cleaning.

(U) DE WERT began the month of July moored at Naval Station, Charleston. POM continued, and included CIWS and SLO-32 grooms and a rudder post seal changeout. On 20 July, the ship was underway for its UNITAS XXVIII deployment. The deployment consisted of nine phases, each with the navy of a South American country. The US Task Group, consisting of USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD-968) (USCOMSOLANT embarked), USS JOHN KING (DDG-3) (COMDESRON 20 EMBARKED), USS DE WERT (FFG-45), USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1197), USS SCULPIN (SSN 590), and USS DACE (SSN-607), sailed from country to country clockwise around South America. Planning meetings consisted of OPS/COM conferences and pre-sail meetings held before getting underway for each phase. Exercises for each phase generally started with inport communications and signalling drills (Z-30/31-C), Z-13-C, Z-20-C, and Z-21-C) and maneuvering board exercises (Z-12/13-CC nonmaneuvering). Underway events usually started with a formation out of port, and included ASW exercises (W-2-U, W-14-U, opposed sorties, and opposed transits) VS US or South American Submarines. AAW exercises were conducted from a series of generic scenarios included in the deployment OPORDER, against South American Fighter/Bomber Aircraft or, in the case of type live firing exercises, against BQM-74 drones launched from DE WERT. We had seven of the reusable drones onboard, maintained and operated by a four-man civilian detachment which rode us throughout the deployment. ASUW exercises (Z-30-G) were conducted against a target sled towed by USS JOHN KING. NGFS was conducted during phase ZERO at Vieques Island, and during Phase 8B at a gunfire range near Columbia. Electronic warfare exercises took the form of Z-11-EW, Z-31-EW, and ESM rapid evaluation drills conducted from USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY, using her embarked ULQ-13 Van.

(U) After these initial orientation and practice drills, gun shoots and dronexes, freeplay events were held which lasted from 12 hours to 2 days. These usually were set in the context of a political/military scenario relevant to the host country, and combined surface, subsurface, and air threats. US and host country units were divided among blue and orange forces, and the CTF 138 staff served as umpires for the games. On returning to port after each underway period, a series of hot washup meetings and exercise critiques were held to discuss the events of the phase.

(U) Enroute to the 21 July rendezvous with USS JOHN KING and USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD, the ship conducted a helo fly-on for HSL 42 DET 4's SH-60B, as well as gunnery exercises, general quarters, and abandon ship drills. Following an encounterex, the three ships of TU 24.5.3 under the command of Commodore M. Loy (COMDESRON 20) conducted various communications and signalling drills and gunnery exercises during the transit south towards Puerto Rico.

(C) While the other task unit ships went into port at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico on 24 July, DE WERT was detached to rendezvous with Brazilian ship LIBERAL for operations at ST. Croix underwater tracking range. Following a night steaming exercise with LIBERAL, the two ships arrived in port Roosevelt Roads on July 25, and joined the other TF 138 ships, including Venezuelan units, USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY, and USS SCULPIN. There we began inport briefings for Phase ZERO of UNITAS XXVIII, and unloaded DE WERT's drone detachment.

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(U) Underway on 29 July for Phase ZERO, we conducted an ASW exercise and numerous communications drills, and shot naval gunfire support at Vieques Island. After a 31 July lightline transfer with ARV Salam and a freeplay, DE WERT won a small boat inspection competition. According to Commodore Loy, "DE WERT had the most knowledgeable boat officer (Chief Engineer LT [REDACTED]), best chart and logs, sharpest overall appearance and material condition, and most imaginative demonstration at FINEX."

(U) After a short port visit to Roosevelt Roads for a Phase ZERO Hot Washup, TF 138 was underway conducting ASW exercises and communications drills during a transit to Bridgetown, Barbados. The crew enjoyed a port visit there from 4 through 6 August. Phase ONE (Brazilian Phase) began with a series of planning meetings on 6 August, and on the 7th the task force was underway enroute Recife, Brazil. During a crossing-the-line ceremony on the morning of 11 August, 160 DE WERT Pollywogs became trusty shellbacks. In Recife from August 13-16, we offloaded "Project Handclasp" hospital supplies, participated in a Damage Control Olympics, and hosted a ships visit for the Brazilian public.

(U) On 17 August, the combined US/Brazilian task force was once again underway for a series of exercises which included an opposed UNREP, dronex, Ewexes; and an ASW event where DE WERT launched a mini-mobile target and directed a number of Brazilian ships in to conduct simulated and exercise attacks. Following a three-day port visit to Salvador, Brazil, TF-138 was underway on 25 August for an exercise period which included two freeplay events, an opposed transit, and an UNREP. On 31 August, TF 138 ships anchored at Rio De Janeiro for a six day port visit.

On September 5, TF 138 was underway again, in transit to Montevideo, Uruguay for the first of two port visits there. While in Montevideo, DE WERT was flagship for CTF 138, RADM W. C. Francis. A wreathlaying ceremony was held there shortly after arrival on September 8, and operations conferences were held for Phase THREE (Uruguayan Phase). Underway events from 10-12 September included two freeplays, a dronex, two ASW exercises, and numerous communications drills.

(C) Following a second visit to Montevideo, TF 138 was underway heading for Punta Arenas, Chile. Along the way, we conducted a surface freeplay, an ASW exercise, and communications drills as part of bilateral operations with the Argentine Navy. On arrival at Punta Arenas, the ship went alongside the Chilean Oiler ARAUCANO to refuel, then went to a nearby anchorage for a brief port visit. On 23 September, we were underway in the Straits of Magellan for UNITAS Phase FIVE (Chilean Phase). We conducted a chaff demonstration at night on the 22nd, and on 23 September the ship struck a submerged rock in Gray Channel, damaging the propeller. We made a slow speed transit to Talcahuano, Chile for repairs, arriving on 30 September. We were underway that night for vibration testing, and returned to anchor 1 October.

(U) The ship entered drydock on October 7th, and was paid an informal visit on the 16th by CINCLANTFLT ADM Frank H. Kelso III. Repairs were completed, and on 21 October the ship was underway from drydock. After a brief refueling stop, DE WERT was underway for a three day independent transit to join the ships of TF 138 conducting exercises near Callao, Peru. Before entering port, the ship conducted an over the horizon targeting exercise vs TF 138 ships, and

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participated in several ASW exercises, Helo crossdecks, EW exercises, a dronex, and a surface freeplay. The ship spent October 28 through 30 in port Callao, and got underway 31 October for COMM drills and exercises enroute Manta, Ecuador.

Beginning 1 November, DE WERT was underway for Phase SEVEN operations with the Ecuadoran Navy. During a port visit to Manta, Ecuador on November 4 and 5, TF 138 ships participated in drills at anchorage which included radiotelephone practice, electronic warfare, and maneuvering board drills. The 6 to 8 November underway period was highlighted for DE WERT by a dronex during which we shot one SM-1 missile, and achieved skin-to-skin intercept. Back in port Manta from the 9th through the 11th of November, DE WERT participated in the final phase seven meetings. The 12th of November saw the ship underway for a US-only transit North to join the Columbian Navy for Phase EIGHT of UNITAS. That day, the ship hosted a crossing the line ceremony for the newcomers among the crew. Phase EIGHT events ended with a port visit to Rodman, Panama on November 15 and 16. On the 17th, the ship transited the Panamal canal, and from the 18th to the 21st was in the Caribbean Sea for phase 8B exercises with the Columbians. A port visit to Cartagena, Columbia followed from 22-24 November. There, DE WERT offloaded the last of the "Project Handclasp" hospital supplies to Columbian Navy Representatives. Phase 8B ended 25 November, and the ship was underway enroute Maracaibo, Venezuela for an opposed transit and the start of Phase NINE with the Venezuelans. Events included an opposed sortie, an ASW exercise, communications drills, and maneuvering exercises, and concluded with a port visit to Puerto Cabello on 3 and 4 December.

On 4 December, the US Ships of TF 138 were underway for a US-only transit to Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. During a port visit 6-7 December, DE WERT disembarked its drone detachment. During the transit to homeport from 7-10 December, the ship passed its Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). Concluding its UNITAS deployment with a return to Charleston, South Carolina on 10 December, DE WERT began a period of holiday leave and upkeep which lasted through the end of the year.

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