



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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USS DE WERT (FFG 45)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
MIAMI 34090-1499

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28 Apr 89

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1988

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS DE WERT (FFG-45) Command History for Calendar Year 1988

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

  
A. T. CHURCH III

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**A. (U) Command composition and organization:**

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

**Commander:** CDR A. T. CHURCH III, USN,

**Home Port:** Charleston, South Carolina

**Aircraft:** Embarked one SH-60B LAMPS MK III helicopter from HSL 42 Det 4  
(Various tail numbers)

**B. (C) Chronology of significant events:**

- 10 Dec 87 - 10 Jan 88 Holiday Leave
- 11 Jan - 8 Feb IMAV
- 11 Feb CDR Heyworth relieved CDR Doran as Commanding Officer
- 24 - 29 Feb PRIME CHANCE II
- 3 Mar Embarked HSL 42 Det 4  
Underway for Law Enforcement Operations
- 19 Mar Ran aground near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 4 Apr Captain Callahan relieved CDR Heyworth as Commanding Officer
- 29 Mar - 16 Apr Drydocked Ingalls Shipyard Pascagoula, Mississippi
- 16 Apr CDR Church relieved Captain Callahan as Commanding Officer
- 8 May Embarked HSL 42 Det 4
- 9 May Underway for Law Enforcement Operations
- 22 May Seized vessel MARGERET and arrested crew for contraband
- 27 - 31 May Port visit Little Crum Bay, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
- 19 - 30 Jun Midshipmen Training off Norfolk, Virginia
- 12 - 14 Jul MTT visit
- 18 - 22 Jul CSRR Phase I
- 25 Jul Combat Systems Assessment
- 25 Jul - 30 Aug IMAV/5 Both gas turbines changed out
- 12 - 15 Sep INSURV
- 5 Oct COMNAVSURFLANT and CONTRALANT toured the ship
- 12 Oct Embarked HSL 42 Det 4
- 12- 30 Oct MEFEX
- 30 Oct - 3 Nov SMI
- 31 Oct - 7 Nov Harpoon Recertification
- 7 Nov PAATLANT Visit
- 10 Nov Dependents' pre-deployment brief
- 30 Nov Dependents' Cruise
- 4 Dec Embarked HSL 42 Det 4
- 5 Dec Deployed to Middle East Force
- 18 - 23 Dec Port Visit Malaga, Spain
- 30 Dec Transit Suez Canal, Chop to COMUSNAVCENT

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C. (U) Immediately following a UNITAS deployment that ended on 10 December 1987, DE WERT began an extended holiday leave and upkeep period in Charleston, South Carolina that lasted through 10 January 1988. Remaining in Charleston, DE WERT began an IMAV on 11 January that lasted through 8 February. During the IMAV, the ship shifted berths twice, on 19 and 25 January, hosted a Performance Monitoring Visit 25-29 January, and an ORDALT Verification Visit 25 January - 6 February. Recognizing individual contributions to the success of the UNITAS deployment, combined Awards Ceremonies/Captain's Calls were held on 15, 22, and 29 January.

(S) Commander L. Heyworth III, the Prospective Commanding Officer, reported aboard 3 February and a Fast Cruise was conducted the same day. DE WERT got underway the morning of 9 February for drills in the Charleston Operating Area and returned to pier P that same evening. The Change of Command rehearsal was held on 10 February and Commander Heyworth relieved Commander W. F. Doran as Commanding Officer on the 11th. An Air Force JROTC tour was given on the afternoon of the 20th and, before getting underway on the 22nd, DE WERT's bowling team placed fourth in the Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO Bowling Tournament and the ship's Repair Party "First Aid" Men took first place in the "First Aid" Olympics. Arriving in Norfolk, Virginia on 24 February, DE WERT welcomed aboard elements of the 1/159th Aviation Regiment of the 18th Airborne from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Conducting exercises in the Virginia Capes Operating Area, DE WERT participated in PRIME CHANCE II, a coordinated effort with Army helicopter and Navy SEAL units in preparation for an upcoming Middle East Force Deployment. An UNREP with the USNS NEOSHO (T-AO-143) preceded the fly-off to Norfolk on the 29th by the riders from the 1/159th Aviation Regiment.

(C) DE WERT proceeded independently for Charleston the night of 29 February and moored at pier N on 1 March to take on ammunition, JP-5 and a Coast Guard detachment. Getting underway on 3 March, DE WERT received LAMPS helicopter #434 and HSL 42 Det 4 and proceeded toward the Yucatan Straits under the tactical command of Commodore Lockwood, COMCARIBRON, embarked in USS PREBLE (DDG-46) for Law Enforcement Operations in the Caribbean Sea. Commodore Lockwood visited DE WERT on 4 March. On 5 and 6 March, respectively, DE WERT boarding parties boarded the sailing vessels GLISSADE and BELIZE REEFER, which was towing the CARIB HAVEN. On 9 March, after an UNREP with USS MONONGAHELA (AO-178), a DE WERT boarding party boarded the motor vessel MULE. The 10th, 11th, and 13th saw boarding of, respectively, TRIDENT, CARIB HAVEN, and NO PROBLEM. Two more UNREPS occurred with MONONGAHELA on the 14th and 18th. On 19 March the ship ran aground and was towed to pier A at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On 26 March DE WERT got underway for Pascagoula, Mississippi. A burial at sea was conducted on 28 March when the remains of LCDR James L. Graham [REDACTED] were scattered as requested by his next of kin. On 29 March the ship arrived at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula and was placed in drydock the same day. On 30 March an explosion occurred in tank 5-FF-0-V injuring five shipyard employees with minor burns; no members of the ship's company were injured.

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(U) On 4 April, Captain P. A. Callahan, Chief of Staff to COMDESRON 6, relieved Commander Heyworth as Commanding Officer and on 15 April Commander A. T. CHURCH III reported aboard. DE WERT came out of drydock on the 16th moved to pier 3, Pascagoula, Mississippi. The ship got underway for sea trials on the 18th and, everything being satisfactory, set a course for Charleston. Commander Church relieved Captain Callahan as Commanding Officer the next day. Arriving in Charleston and mooring to pier L on 22 April, DE WERT began a short inport period conducting team training and preparing for more Coast Guard Law Enforcement Operations the next month. On 29 April Lieutenant Commander J. R. Dempsey reported aboard as Executive Officer.

(U) DE WERT got underway for vibration testing on 5 May in the Charleston Operating Area and moored that evening at Charleston Weapons Station. On 6 May, upon completion of ammunition onload, the ship got underway and moored at pier Z, Charleston Naval Station outboard USS ELROD (FFG-55). HSL 42 Det 4 and a Coast Guard detachment arrived on 8 May and DE WERT got underway on 9 May for Law Enforcement Operations transiting independently under the tactical command of COMCARIBRON embarked on USS BARNEY (DDG-6). Boarding parties from DE WERT boarded the vessels LADY EVELYN, ENCORE, CLIPPER SPIRIT and ALICIA on, respectively, the 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th. An UNREP with USS PAWCATUCK (T-AO-108) on the 15th preceded boarding of the vessels IGLOO FIN and SEA HAWK later that same day. Two more boardings on the 16th of the vessels ROSA CAROLINA and FEED SHIP preceded a brief mooring to pier 3 at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to pick up spare parts for helicopter #434. The ship got underway that same afternoon and resumed patrol duties. An UNREP was conducted with PAWCATUCK on 20 May. On 22 May DE WERT contacted the vessel MARGERET and at the request of it's crew delayed boarding until daylight for safety reasons. Illuminating MARGERET throughout the night, the vessel was boarded in the morning and, after a brief search, the boarding party was asked to leave. Notified by COMCARIBRON to stand off until diplomatic clearance was obtained to continue the search, DE WERT observed bales, suspected to be contraband, floating in MARGERET's wake. MARGERET was immediately boarded and, upon verification that the bales were marijuana, her crew of seven was arrested and their vessel confiscated. The MARGERET, her crew, and the contraband were turned over to the Coast Guard Cutter NANTUCKETT on 23 May. On 26 May DE WERT moored to pier 3 at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Underway on the 27th for accoustic trials, the ship moored at Little Crum Bay, St. Thomas that afternoon for a four day port visit. DE WERT got underway again on 31 May for local operations within the St. Croix underwater range area.

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(U) After the highly successful Coast Guard Operations, DE WERT held an awards ceremony and a flight deck cookout on 1 June, and set a course for Charleston arriving on the 3rd. This began a 16 day inport period devoted to sending ship's company to various schools for training. The ship got underway on 19 June and conducted a full power run that afternoon. On 20 June a burial at sea was conducted. June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, were devoted to midshipmen training as each morning a different group of approximately 15 came aboard by small boat and then left that afternoon after a full day of drills including man overboard, maneuvering, and leap frogs. 24 and 26 June were spent inport Norfolk, Virginia and were highlighted by a softball contest between the Officers and the Chief Petty Officers. Underway on 27 June, DE WERT conducted more midshipmen training exercises on the 28th, 29th and 30th.

(U) On 1 July DE WERT moored to pier N at Charleston Naval Station. An ORDALT assist visit was conducted 5-8 July and a laundry assist visit was conducted on the 6th and 7th. On 12 July the ship got underway for the Charleston Operating area with an MTT evaluation team. After a very successful inspection that included no unsats in any category, DE WERT returned to Charleston on 14 July mooring to pier L. A Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase I was held 18 - 22 July and on 25 July the ship got underway and successfully completed the Combat Systems Assessment, returning to pier L later that same day. IMAV 5 also began on 25 July. On 26 July Commander Church departed on leave and Lieutenant Commander Dempsey became acting Commanding Officer until Commander Church's return on the 31st. A ship's picnic was held on 30 July at the Charleston Naval Station Picnic Grounds.

(U) On 5 August a NAVTAG competition was held against USS MOOSBRUGGER (DD 980). Fire Fighting Team Training took place on 8 August and Ship's Self-Defense Force training was held 8 - 12 August. Due to the unexpected need to change out both gas turbines, the IMAV was extended through the end of the month. On 10 August Captain Jerry A. Lewis relieved Captain Robert N. Giuffreda as COMDESRON SIX in a ceremony aboard USS CARR (FFG 52) and DE WERT's Food Service Division catered the reception. On 12 August the ship set Sea and Anchor Detail to go port side to in order to facilitate change-out of the port turbine. A ship's picnic was held on 14 August and COMDESRON SIX made his initial visit to DE WERT on the 17th. On 22 August COMCRUDESGRU TWO visited the ship for a walk through. The ship got underway on the morning of 31 August for sea trials/INSURV rehearsal and picked up COMDESRON SIX via a small boat transfer at buoy 25; he departed the ship, again via small boat transfer, later the same day.

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(C) DE WERT arrived back in Charleston on 1 September and moored to pier Z. Fire Fighting and Repair III Team training was conducted on the 2nd and on 4 September STGC [REDACTED]'s newborn son, [REDACTED], was christened aboard the ship. DE WERT got underway on 7 September for another INSURV rehearsal and the crew worked through the weekend of the 10th and 11th to ensure the ship was in the best possible condition. Also on the 10th, a tour was conducted for nuclear power candidates. The INSURV team arrived on the 12th and DE WERT got underway for the inspection on the 13th. The INSURV was very successful and the senior inspector commented that due to DE WERT's obviously strong preparations the results were among the best he had ever seen. A Captain's Call was held on the 16th. On 23 September the USS GALVESTON Association received a tour of the ship and DE WERT was the designated Visit Ship for Charleston Naval Base over the weekend of 24 and 25 September. An Awards Ceremony was held on 30 September recognizing outstanding personal contributions toward the INSURV. Also on the 30th, the ship received it's first briefings on the SRA, scheduled for August 89 through January 90, by representatives from PERACRUDES and began readying for the upcoming Middle East Force deployment.

(C) The semi-annual PRT was held for the crew during the week of 3 October. On the 4th COMDESRON 26, Captain Pilling, was aboard to observe CIC training geared toward the upcoming Middle East Force Exercises (MEFEX) in which DE WERT would be participating. On the morning of 5 October COMNAVSURFLANT, VADM Donnel, came aboard with RADM Milligan for a tour of the ship and that same afternoon COMTRALANT, RADM Rickman, toured the ship and observed CIC training. DE WERT shifted berths to pier N on 7 October to facilitate a missile onload. That same day the ship was visited by the USS GAMBIER BAY Association. On 12 October DE WERT got underway for MEFEX with HSL 42 Det 4 aboard. Also aboard was a Wing observer watching how the ship and helicopter operated as a team. In addition to DE WERT, MEFEX participants included USS O'BANNON (DD-987), USS HAWES (FFG-53), USS KLAKRING (FFG-42) and USS CALOOSAHATCHEE (AO-98). These exercises simulated various scenarios that could possibly occur during the upcoming Middle East Force deployment. On 16 October an UNREP took place with CALOOSAHATCHEE and on 17 October the ship fired two SM-1 missiles as part of a drill. After a second UNREP with CALOOSAHATCHEE the 18th, DE WERT participated in a towing exercise with O'BANNON on the 19th when each ship took a turn towing the other. Yet another UNREP with CALOOSAHATCHEE took place on 22 October after a third missile shoot at a SEPTAR; and DE WERT anchored the same day off Vieques Island for drills with Navy Special Forces Units. 23 October began the hostilities phase of MEFEX. These were a series of no warning exercises over a five day period and DE WERT did very well. On 28 October the ship returned to Charleston and on the 30th the SMI team arrived. Harpoon Recertification began on the 31st.

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(C) On 2 November DE WERT finished and passed a PMS inspection and on the 3rd the SMI was completed with the ship receiving only excellent comments from the evaluators. A successful PAATLANT visit took place on 7 November for the ship's Administrative Division and the Harpoon Recertification finished the same day with very positive results. Also on the 7th, DE WERT got underway to test the balance of the gas turbines and returned to Charleston the same afternoon. The ship again got underway on the 9th for Combat Systems tests, returning to Charleston that same day. Pre-deployment briefs for the crew's dependents occurred on the 10th. DE WERT got underway for the Weapons Station on 14 November to complete the ammunition load out prior to deployment and returned to the Naval Station that afternoon. On the 15th the galley closed down to replace the deck and for the next two weeks the crew subsisted out of the Charleston Naval Base Galley. Also on the 15th, the ship began a 3 day visit by representatives of the Naval Air Engineering Center to certify DE WERT for aviation operations. A 2 day inspection of the ship's diesel engines ended on the 16th with all going well. On 22 November CINCLANTFLT's Deputy Inspector General, Captain Schrekengaust, arrived to examine the ship's damage control equipment. The later part of November was filled with training in preparation for deployment such as Electronic Warfare Assessment, Persian Gulf lookout training, Intelligence briefs, Stinger briefs, etc...On 28 November DE WERT got underway for sea trials and returned to Charleston on the afternoon of the 29th. Also on the 28th, the ship was selected as a COMNAVSURFLANT nominee for the 1989 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award. A dependent's cruise took place on 30 November.

(U) HSL 42 Det 4 flew aboard on 4 December while DE WERT was moored to pier P and that same day the ship received authorization to wear the Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon for the recent Law Enforcement Operations conducted in the Caribbean. On 5 December the ship got underway with HAWES and O'BANNON under the tactical command of COMDESRON FOURTEEN, Captain Collins, embarked in O'BANNON, for Ponta Delgada, AZORES. An UNREP took place with USS MERRIMACK (AO-179) on 7 December before mooring at Ponta Delgada on 14 December, DE WERT spent seven days in transit performing various drills, many in conjunction with HAWES and O'BANNON, in preparation for operations in the Arabian Gulf. While in the Azores, DE WERT refueled, the GTMT Team (Med) came aboard and then the ship got underway for Malaga, Spain on 15 December. DE WERT inchooped to the Sixth Fleet, transited the Straits of Gibraltar and moored at Malaga, Spain on 18 December. The GTMT team embarked after a very successful evaluation. On 22 December a combined Personnel Inspection/Award Ceremony was held and that evening DE WERT hosted a group of local children carolers. The ship got underway on 23 December for Port Said, Egypt and rendezvoused with O'BANNON. HAWES rendezvoused with the group on 24 December. Christmas was spent at sea. On the evening of 28 December DE WERT conducted an UNREP with USNS HENRY J. KAISER. On 29 December the ship arrived at Post Said, Egypt and on the 30th transited the Suez Canal and entered the Red Sea enroute to Mina Raysut, Oman. DE WERT closed out the year with a General Quarters drill sounded at 2400 on 31 December. Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) First Class [REDACTED] was selected as DE WERT Sailor of the Year.

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