



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DE WERT (FFG 45)

FLEET POST OFFICE

MIAMI 34090-1499

DECLASSIFIED

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS DE WERT (FFG-45) Command History for Calendar Year 1991

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

*J. E. Meyers*  
J. E. MEYERS

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COMDESRON SIX

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OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: NOV 2005

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## 1991 LIST OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

14-16 JAN 91 RLQ Platform off Mayport, FL  
18-27 JAN 91 Gas Turbine Module changeout  
22 JAN 91 Combat Systems Mobile Training Team Harpoon Assist and Certification  
23 JAN 91 Aviation Assist and Certification  
04-06 FEB 91 Surface Warfare Training Week  
05 FEB 91 Ordered to deploy 25 FEB 91 with USS FORESTALL CVBG  
12 FEB 91 Deployment postponed with a ten day tether  
19-20 FEB 91 MISSILEX  
20 FEB 91 Rearming at Weapons Station Charleston, SC  
25 FEB 91 Commenced 10 day pre-deployment tether for USS FORESTALL Battle Group  
05 MAR 91 Deployment postponed  
09 MAR 91 Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic Visit, Vice Admiral J. Paul Reason  
11-15 MAR 91 Week One Work Ups with HSL 46 DET 2  
21 MAR 91 Chief of Chaplains Visit, Rear Admiral Alvin B. Koeneman  
05 APR 91 Dependent's Cruise  
18 APR 91 Embarked HSL 46 DET 2  
18-29 APR 91 FLEETEX with USS FORESTALL Battle Group  
28 APR 91 Participated in Contingency Operation for STS-39  
29 APR-29 MAY 91 Pre-Overseas Movement period  
30 MAY 91 Commenced MED 3-91 deployment with USS FORESTALL Battle Group  
01-09 JUN 91 MED 3-91 Transit to the Mediterranean Sea  
04-09 JUN 91 Engineering Material Assessment Team Visit  
10 JUN 91 Transit Straits of Gibraltar  
09-28 JUN 91 One of two HSL 46 DET 2 SH-60B Aircraft embarked participates in the Paris Air Show  
12 JUN 91 Brief Stop for fuel and personnel in Augusta Bay, Sicily  
13-26 JUN 91 Critical Sea Test 5  
28 JUN - 04 JUL 91 Port Visit, Golfe Juan, France  
07-14 JUL 91 Test Platform for Low Frequency Active Test 7/SHAREM 91 CNO projects  
15-18 JUL 91 Port Visit, Souda Bay Crete. Preparations for Presidential Visit  
19 JUL 91 Presidential Visit  
20-23 JUL 91 Operation Provide Comfort with USS FORESTALL Battle Group  
24-29 JUL 91 Port Visit, Rhodes, Greece  
29 JUL-01 AUG 91 Port Visit, Antalya, Turkey  
02-07 AUG 91 Operation Provide Comfort with USS FORESTALL Battle Group  
08-16 AUG 91 Assigned to CTF 66 for ASW Line Ship Duties and On Scene Surveillance Coordinator  
20 AUG-02 SEP 91 Port Visit Naples, Italy. IMAV in company with USS SHENANDOAH  
03-07 SEP 91 Surface Action Group Operations with USS DALE  
07 SEP 91 Transit Straits of Gibraltar  
08 SEP 91 Brief Stop for fuel and personnel in Rota, Spain  
09-17 SEP 91 TAPON 91  
18-22 SEP 91 Port Visit, Rota, Spain

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23 SEP 91	Transit Straits of Gibraltar
23-28 SEP 91	Escort Duty for the Spanish Carrier SPS ASTURIAS
29 SEP-01 OCT 91	Port Visit, Aksaz Karaagac, Turkey
01-15 OCT 91	DISPLAY DETERMINATION 91
16-25 OCT 91	Port Visit, Aksaz Karaagac, Turkey. IMAV in company with with USS SHENANDOAH
28 OCT 91	Southbound transit of the Suez Canal
29 OCT-30 NOV 91	Maritime Interception Operations in the Red Sea
10-13 NOV 91	Engineering Material Assessment Team Visit
16-21 NOV 91	Port Visit, Hurgada, Egypt
01 DEC 91	NorthBound Transit of the Suez Canal
06-09 DEC 01	Port Visit, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
11 DEC 91	Transit Straits of Gibraltar
12 DEC 91	Blue Water turnover with USS AMERICA Battle Group
13-20 DEC 91	MED 3-91 Transit to Conus
21 DEC 91	Arrive Charleston, SC. End of MED 3-91

DE WERT began the new year inport Charleston, SC. On 6 January the Christmas leave/standown period ended and DE WERT was underway 14 January for Rast Landing Qualification services off Mayport, Florida. DE WERT returned to Charleston on 16 January and made preparations for a Gas Turbine Changeout 18 through 27 January. On 22 January, the Combat Systems Mobile Training Team conducted the Harpoon Tactical Assist Visit which was upgraded to a certification. A first among all Destroyer Squadron SIX ships. DE WERT's accomplishments continued, as an Aviation Assist Visit by SURFLANT was upgraded to an Aviation Readiness Evaluation on 23 January.

Surface Warfare Training Week took place 4-6 February, with DE WERT participating in many events. On 5 February, the ship was ordered to deploy on 25 February with the USS FORESTALL Carrier Battle Group in support of Operation Desert Storm. DE WERT made preparations for an abbreviated pre-overseas movement period. An attempt was made to ensure every crew member spent quality time with families during two leave periods commencing 7 February. On 12 February, the deployment was postponed with the Battle Group being placed on a 10 day tether. To continue deployment preparations, DE WERT got underway on 19 February for a live missile exercise in the Jacksonville Operations area. DE WERT returned to Charleston Naval Weapons Station on the 20th for a full ammunition onload. DE WERT returned to Naval Station Charleston on the 21st. The ten day tether for the FORESTALL Battle Group began on 25 February for a 7 March deployment. The ship again prepared for a short notice deployment. As the ship approached the eve of deployment, word was received on 5 March that the deployment was postponed indefinitely. On 9 March Vice Admiral J. Paul Reason, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic visited the ship.

The week of 11 March DE WERT embarked HSL 46 DET 2 for Week One Work Ups off Mayport. DE WERT returned to Charleston on 15 March and Engineering Department went through a Departmental Zone Inspection. Rear Admiral Alvin B. Koeneman, Chief of Chaplains visited the ship on 21 March. The ship continued predeployment workups with Departmental Zone Inspections for the Supply Department on the 22nd, Ship Control Department on the 28th and 29th, and Combat Systems Department on 10

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The ship embarked crew dependents on 5 April and put to sea for a one-day dependent's cruise. While underway GSE2 [REDACTED] was married to the former Ms [REDACTED] by Reverend Kelly Karges on the forecastle. Also, DE WERT was honored by a visit from Mr. Peter Marsh from Taiton, Massachusetts. He is an expert on the history of HN RICHARD D. DE WERT, the ship's namesake. He presented the ship with a stone plaque from the battle field in Korea where DE WERT was killed in action 40 years earlier. With many family members on board, the DE WERT family spent quality time together. On 18 April, the ship embarked HSL 46 DET 2 to prepare for a Fleet Exercise with FORESTALL Battle Group on the same day. While underway, DE WERT participated in numerous ASW, ASUW, AAW and EW exercises. DE WERT also participated in an exchange program with HMS ARGONAUT and conducted an ASW PASEX with HMS INVINSIBLE. The training between both Navies was an outstanding experience for all involved. As the end of FLEETEX approached, DE WERT was tasked to be the contingency ship for STS-39 Space Shuttle Launch. DE WERT returned to Charleston on 29 April and officially began the pre-overseas movement period for a 30 May deployment (MED 3-91).

During the month of May, the ship completed all required predeployment checklists and assist visits. All requirements were accomplished efficiently and professionally, allowing DE WERT to sail CASREP free and M1 rating in training and readiness. Finally the highly anticipated day arrived, and DE WERT deployed 30 May for MED 3-91.

The Battle Group rendezvoused in the Jacksonville Operations Area and commenced the 8 day transit East to the Mediterranean Sea. On the transit, the Battle Group conducted numerous exercises including three underway exercises including three underway replenishments with USS MILWAUKEE. During the period 4-9 June, the Engineering Material Assessment Team was embarked and the ship conducted numerous engineering casualty control and damage control exercises. One of two DE WERT HSL 46 DET 2 embarked aircraft became the first SH-60B to participate in the Paris Air Show from 9 to 28 June. The aircraft participated as part of a U. S. Navy post Desert Storm static display. The Battle Group chopped to CINCUSNAVEUR on 10 June before transiting the Straits of Gibraltar. DE WERT conducted a Brief Stop for Fuel and Personnel in Augusta Bay, Sicily on 12 June, and commenced Critical Sea Test 5 on 13 June. The CNO project for Anti-Submarine Warfare development testing lasted through 26 June. DE WERT conducted various underway replenishments with USS BUTTE throughout the period and made another brief stop in Augusta Bay before transiting the Straits of Mesina and the Straits of Bonifacio for a port visit in Golfe Juan, France.

DE WERT's port visit in Golfe Juan, France from 28 June to 4 July was the first liberty port in MED 3-91. As well as enjoying beautiful beaches and sites of the Cote de Azur, the crew participated in Independence Day celebrations at Cannes and Monaco. At these celebrations crewmembers met such notables as Prince Albert of Monaco and actress Zsa Zsa Gabor. The Mayor of Golf-Juan-Valloris France and Navy League representatives attended a luncheon onboard DE WERT as guests of the wardroom on 3 July. DE WERT got underway on 5 July and became the primary test platform for Low Frequency Active Test 7 and SHAREM 91 CNO projects for anti-submarine warfare technological development from 7 through 14 July. On the 15th DE WERT made best speed enroute Souda Bay, Crete in order to prepare for a short-notice Presidential visit. While in Souda Bay the crew ensured DE WERT was ready to host the visit. On 19 July DE WERT welcomed the President and Mrs Bush and Prime Minister Constantin Mitsotakis of Greece. The Presidential party was given a tour of the ship by the Commanding Officer, CDR John E. Meyers.

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A second party, including White House dignitaries and a host of Allied Military guests, were escorted by the Executive Officer, LCDR Kenneth C. Rose. This party included VADM Howe, CINCUSNAVEUR, ADM Owens, COMSIXTHFLT, Mr. John Sununu, White House Chief of Staff, and Mr Brent Scowcroft, White House National Security Advisor. The president remarked what a shining example of the fleet the DE WERT represented.

Within hours after the Presidential visit DE WERT responded to a short-notice tasking by getting underway three hours after notification in support of a mission for a downed aircraft. Following the SAR mission, DE WERT joined the Battle Group and conducted numerous at sea tasking and exercises north of the island of Cyprus in company with the FORESTALL Battle Group in support of Operation Provide Comfort. DE WERT, along with the USS FORESTALL and USS YORKTOWN, proceeded for port visit to the island of Rhodes, Greece. This port visit was the crew's favorite of the entire deployment. After a five day port visit DE WERT was detached and proceeded north for a one day transit to Antalya, Turkey. While not providing the night life of Rhodes, Antalya was without a doubt the shopper's dream. The crew thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to pick up bargains in leather goods, carpets, gold, and silver.

Underway after three days, on 2 August DE WERT was again in support of Operation Provide Comfort. The ship participated in Battle Group operations and exercises in company with USS FORESTALL. DE WERT, as the only "tail" ship in the Battle Group, was assigned to CTF 66 for ASW Line Ship Duties and ASW On Scene Surveillance Coordinator from 8 to 16 August.

Upon completion of ASW Line Ship Duties, DE WERT transited the Straits of Mesina enroute Naples, Italy, where DE WERT underwent the first of two MED IMAV's with USS SHENANDOAH from the 20th of August through the 2nd of September. During this port visit numerous crewmembers attended a Papal audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in Rome. They also enjoyed the beautiful beaches of the coast and the island of Capri. Again underway the 3rd of September, DE WERT participated in Surface Action Group (SAG) operations in company with USS DALE. This proved to be a superb surface and air warfare tactics development opportunity. On the 8th of September, DE WERT transited through the Straits of Gibraltar for the second time in her deployment and proceeded to Rota, Spain for a brief stop for fuel and personnel.

The next day DE WERT participated in the Spanish Navy ASW Exercise TAPON 91 as the only U.S. ship in a Spanish Navy Group consisting of four Oliver Hazard Perry class frigates. DE WERT operated under the tactical control of Spanish Captain Mosquera (COMDESALFA) and integrated totally with the thoroughly professional Spanish Navy. An extensive crossdeck policy was aggressively maintained and DE WERT personnel benefited tremendously. On the 18th, DE WERT, along with USS DALE, conducted a port visit to Rota, Spain for a hot wash up for TAPON 91. Crewmembers participated in additional operational briefs and planning sessions which were needed in preparation for DE WERT's participation in the Spanish Battle Group Operations and NATO exercise Display Determination 91. Rota was not all work, and the crew enjoyed this port visit with its access to U.S. Naval facilities and also the beautiful Spanish countryside and beaches.

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After a five day port visit, DE WERT was underway and providing escort duty from the 23rd through 28th of September to the Spanish Aircraft Carrier SPS PRINCIPE DE ASTURIAS. On the 24th DE WERT transited the Straits of Gibraltar for the third time. The group continued East enroute to participate in the exercise Display Determination 91. Once again under the immediate Tactical Control of COMDESALFA, DE WERT participated in numerous ASW, ASUW, AAW and EW exercises. On the 29th the Battle Group arrived in Aksaz Karaagac, Turkey for the second half of planning briefs. A short three day port visit gave the crew a taste of Marmaris, the resort area of Turkey.

On 1 October, Display Determination 91, NATO's major annual Mediterranean exercise, commenced. It pitted large Naval and Air Forces against each other in open free play, war-at-sea scenarios. The first intense ten days were spent participating as an opposition force under the command of a Spanish Admiral (ALGRUPALFA) embarked in SPS PRINCIPE DE ASTURIAS. For the last five days of the exercise DE WERT was a member of a Surface Group comprised mostly of British Forces and under tactical command of a British Admiral embarked in HMS INVINCIBLE. At the conclusion of Display Determination 91 on the 15th of October, DE WERT returned to Aksaz Karaagac, Turkey for her second MED IMAV along side USS SHENANDOAH. Here DE WERT readied herself for the Red Sea Maritime Interception Force. During the ten day port visit the crew enjoyed the sights and shopping opportunities of the beautiful near-by resort town of Marmaris.

On 25 October, DE WERT was back at sea enroute to the Suez Canal which was transited on 28 October. The ship arrived in Bur Said on the 27th of October and transited the canal that night. The 17-hour southbound transit was accomplished without incident. After a twelve hour transit through the Gulf of Suez, DE WERT was ready for Maritime Interception Force (MIF) operations. DE WERT, under tactical control of CTG 152, conducted boarding operations on all merchants in and out of the Gulf of Aqaba enroute to or from Aqaba, Jordan. All boardings were in support U.N. resolution 661 imposed on Iraq following Operation Desert Storm. DE WERT operated in company with the USS GALLERY, USS AUBREY FITCH, and the Australian frigate HMAS SYDNEY. Various French Navy Frigates also operated in the area.

The MED EMAT embarked DE WERT 10 through 14 November for an Engineering Assessment prior to our departure from the Mediterranean. After three weeks of boarding operations, DE WERT proceeded to Hurgada, Egypt for a port visit 16 to 21 November. The crew took the opportunity to do Christmas shopping where the bargains were almost as good as in Turkey. The crew also had the opportunity to participate in a tour of Cairo which included the Pyramids, the Sphinx and the Egyptian National Museum. DE WERT continued boarding on the 21st. Thanksgiving was spent boarding ten ships, a record for a ship with only one Coast Guard Ledet team on board.

After 66 boardings in one month, DE WERT and USS GALLERY proceeded through the Gulf of Suez for the northbound transit of the Suez Canal on 1 December. DE WERT then commenced transiting westward (and homeward) with a stop in Palma De Mallorca, Spain for a port visit 6 to 9 December. On 11 December, the ship transited the Straits of Gibraltar for the last time on MED 3-91.

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On the 12th of December, the FORESTAL Battle Group and the USS AMERICA Battle Group conducted a bluewater turnover. At 1200 Zulu 12 December, ADM Katz assumed duties as Battle Forces Sixth Fleet, and the FORESTAL Battle Group headed west after a successful deployment.

The ten day transit to CONUS was uneventful with the exception of the bad weather. A brief pause in the vicinity of Bermuda allowed male relatives and friends to board the ship for the final two-day run to homeport. DE WERT arrived in Charleston, SC on the 21st of December and commenced holiday leave and standown.