



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64)
FPO AA 34091-1184

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From: Commanding Officer, USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Chronology

1. Per reference (a), the following is USS GETTYSBURG command history for 2003.

2. Under the command of CAPT Scott Hebner, USS GETTYSBURG began the New Year by earning the credit for being the first ship to land an MH-60R helicopter followed by a successful Stream Raid in the South Puerto Rican OPAREA. In February, GETTYSBURG became a part of naval history by being one of the last ships to qualify on the Vieques NSFS range. Later that month she earned the highly coveted Battle Efficiency, Logistics Management Excellence, Engineering/Survivability Excellence and Command and Control Excellence awards for 2002.

During April GETTYSBURG completed a Multinational Maritime Exercise with several Dutch and Canadian ships as well as a successful VANDALEX with ships in the strike group. GETTYSBURG attended FLEET WEEK 2003 in Port Everglades, FL, where she was visited by the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Hansford Johnson. At the end of an enjoyable Tiger Cruise, GETTYSBURG was able to answer a distress call from the crew of the "Capolla," whose vessel capsized over 50 miles off the coast of Mayport, leaving the crew stranded for 12 hours.

In June, GETTYSBURG traveled to NWS Yorktown, VA for her pre-deployment weapons onload. In July several ships and aircraft participated in a SINKEX, laying to rest the USS DIXON, USS SENECA AND USS GOMPERS.

Upon the successful completion of COMPTUEX in early October, GETTYSBURG transited the Atlantic with USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58), and USS DETROIT (AOE 4) enroute to the Arabian Gulf to conduct operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). In November GETTYSBURG departed Mina Salman, Bahrain to escort ENTERPRISE in the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). GETTYSBURG is attributed with performing superbly as Air Defense Commander for the CENTCOM AOR while serving with ENTSTRKGRU. Such flawless coordination of the Air Defense picture was extremely critical during extensive flight ops while on station in support of OIF and OEF.

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Through hard work and determination GETTYSBURG was able to construct a LINK architecture capable of bringing the entire C5F AOR into a Single Integrated Air Picture, a first for the entire C5F AOR. This architecture allowed CUSNC, C5F, CTF 50 and all Air Defense Units to see the same tactical Data LINK, which enabled GETTYSBURG to manage all airspace including the NAG, GOO, HOA, and the NAS, an area of 4.5 million square miles, without interruption.



E. S. HEBNER

Chronology

January 2003

01-23 JAN Holiday Leave and Upkeep.
24-31 JAN Underway South Atlantic/Puerto Rican OPAREA

25-27 JAN MH-60R Operational Testing.
31 JAN Stream Raid with USS McFaul and USS Stout.

February 2003

01-14 FEB Underway South Atlantic/Puerto Rican OPAREA
14-28 FEB Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL

02-05 FEB OPFOR for TRBATGRU Final Battle Problem
05-06 FEB Torpedo Exercise
07-08 FEB Inport NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
08 FEB NSFS qualification
09 FEB Burials at Sea (4)
10-13 FEB Inport Nassau, Bahamas.
11 FEB Community Relations Project, Nassau, Bahamas.

March 2003

01-11 MAR Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
12-21 MAR Underway VACAPES OPAREA Group Sail One.
21-30 MAR Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
31 MAR Underway Cherry Point OPAREA Group Sail Two.

April 2003

01-17 APR Underway Cherry Point/VACAPES OPAREA Group Sail Two.
17-26 APR Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
26-30 APR Underway enroute Port Everglades, FL for Fleet Week

06-11 APR Multinational Maritime Exercise with HMCS PRESERVER, HNLMS VAN SPEIJK, HNLMS VAN GALEN, HNLMS ZUIDERKRUIS, BNS WANDELAAR and HMCS ST JOHNS.
15 APR VANDALEX with USS GONZALES, USS COLE, USS STOUT, USS MCFaul and USS PHILIPPINE SEA.
26-28 APR Tiger Cruise
28-30 APR Inport Port Everglades, FL for Fleet Week 2003.

May 2003

01-04 MAY Underway JAXOPAREA return from Fleet Week 2003.
04-31 MAY Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL.

01 MAY Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Hansford Johnson visits during Fleet Week 2003.
02-04 MAY Tiger Cruise

June 2003

01-16 JUN Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
16-26 JUN Underway VACAPES OPAREA
26-30 June Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL

20-24 JUN Inport NWS Yorktown, VA for weapons onload.

July 2003

01-16 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
16-23 Underway CHERRY POINT OPAREA
23-31 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL

18-20 MITT exercise with USS COLE, USS MCFAUL, USS TICONDEROGA, USS KLAKRING, USS THORN, USS GONZALES, USS PHILIPPINE SEA, ARA SARANDI, USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS, USS OKLAHOMA CITY AND USS NEWPORT NEWS.

21-22 SINKEX-USS DIXON, USS SENECA and USS GOMPERS were sunk east of JAXOPAREA.

August 2003

01-19 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
19 Underway JAXOPAREA
20-25 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
25-26 Underway JAXOPAREA
27-31 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL

19 Family Day Cruise

September 2003

01 Inport NAVSTA Mayport, FL
02-09 Underway Cherry Point OPAREA
10-15 Underway JAXOPAREA
16-21 Underway Key West OPAREA
22-25 Underway JAXOPAREA
26-30 Underway Cherry Point OPAREA

02-10 Group Sail III
10-30 COMPTUEX
16-21 Storm evasion Hurricane Isabel
30 Visited by COMSECONDFLT, VADM Roughead

October 2003

01-07 Underway Transit Atlantic with USS ENTERPRISE, USS PHILIPPINE SEA and USS DETROIT.
08-11 Underway Transit Mediterranean
12 Underway Transit Suez Canal
13-21 Underway Transit Red Sea to Strait of Hormuz
21 Underway Transit Strait of Hormuz
22-31 Underway North Arabian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
26 Visited by COMFIFTHFLT, VADM Nichols
31 Inport Mina Salman, Bahrain

November 2003

01-03 Inport Mina Salman, Bahrain
03-17 Underway Gulf of Oman/North Arabian Sea (Operation Enduring Freedom)
17-30 Underway North Arabian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
26 Visited by Secretary of the Navy, The Honorable Gordon England.

December 2003

01-05 Underway North Arabian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
05-13 Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
13-22 Underway North Arabian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom)
21-27 Inport Mina Salman, Bahrain
27-31 Underway North Arabian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

12 Visited by the MCPON, Master Chief Terry D. Scott
18 Visited by CENTCOM, General John Abizaid