



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MILIUS (DDG 69)
FPO AP 96672-1286

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1 Feb 05

From: Commanding Officer, USS MILIUS (DDG 69)
To: Director, Naval Historic Center, Washington Navy Yard,
805 Kidder Breesse SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS MILIUS (DDG 69) COMMAND HISTORY 2004

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H CH-1

Encl: (1) Microsoft Word file USS MILIUS COMMAND HISTORY
2004

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) and the following information is submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization.

Command short title: USS MILIUS (DDG 69)

Unit Identification Code (UIC): 21943

Mission: To operate offensively as a unit of an Expeditionary Strike Group and a Surface Action Group, and in support of underway replenishment groups and the marine amphibious force in multi-threat environments that include air, surface, and sub-surface threats.

Organizational Structure:

Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC): Destroyer Squadron SEVEN

Units under MILIUS control: None

Name of Commander: CDR John S. Mitchell III

Permanent Duty Station: 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, CA

3. Aircraft assigned: None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Mitchell III".

JOHN S. MITCHELL III

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January 2004

01-05	Holiday Leave Period
07	Fast Cruise
08-12	Underway, En route Mazatlan, Mexico
08-11	CMTQ strike scenarios, TSTA CBR and Engineering Indoctrination
09	RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
12-17	Inport, Mazatlan, Mexico
17-22	Underway, En route SOCAL OPAREA
17-22	CMTQ strike scenarios, TSTA CBR and Engineering Indoctrination
19-22	ASW scenario
20	RAS with USNS SACRAMENTO
21	DLQs
22	Inport, NAVSTA SD
26-30	ASW and Strike scenarios. Engineering Drills and Evolutions

January began with MILIUS' crew returning from holiday leave and subsequently getting underway off the coast of California and Mexico with a port visit in Mazatlan, Mexico. MILIUS' strike, engineering and antisubmarine warfare (ASW) teams were busy conducting exercises in preparation for the evaluated portion of the basic phase of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC).

February 2004

01-06	Engineering Drills and Evolutions, 3M LTT
10-13	Underway, En route SOCAL
11	SLAMEX, CIWS PAC fire, Seamanship TSTA, Extended EMCON exercise
12	SLAMEX, Torpedo Evasion drills, CHAFFEX
13	ASW scenario
13	Inport, NAVSTA SD
17-20	Underway, SOCAL
17-20	AW and Seapmanship TSTA
17	Moor to Bouy 19 in SD harbor, TOWEX
20	Inport, NAVSTA SD
23	CMS Inspection
23-27	TSTA CMTQ and Engineering
24	EKMS Inspection
25	High freeboard VBSS exercise

MILIUS was underway in the SOCAL OPAREA for several short periods in order to conduct various evaluated exercises with Afloat Training Group (ATG). These events included the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ), various seamanship evolutions and various ASW, VBSS and engineering exercises.

March 2004

01-03	Underway, En route SOCAL
01-02	Underway Demonstration-Engineering
01-05	USW TSTA
02	COMDESRON SEVEN Embarks
04	SLAMEX
05	Retirement Ceremony IHO GSCS [REDACTED]
08-12	ITT TSTA
10-12	Underway, SOCAL
10	CONREP, Man Overboard drills, SAT Link 11/16 MITEX
11	DLQ
12	Inport, NAVSTA SD
13-19	MA500 Install
23-25	Underway, SOCAL (FEP)
25	Inport, NAVSTA SD

The majority of March was spent getting underway in the SOCAL OPAREA preparing for engineering's Underway Demonstration (UD) and the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP), which marks the end of the basic phase of the IDTC. MILIUS successfully met all of the criteria presented by ATG.

April 2004

02	Command PRT and Picnic at Admiral Baker Field
13-30	ECDIS-N Install/NAVSSI Upgrade
24-29	Host ship for Chilean Training Ship ESMERALDA
29	SLAMEX

The majority of April was spent inport at Naval Station San Diego conducting system installs and routine maintenance and preservation. Of note in April, MILIUS was the host ship for the Chilean training ship ESMERALDA.

May 2004

03-07	Underway, SOCAL, DESRON 7 Group Sail
03	CIWS and 5" PAC fire
05	VBSS Low Freeboard Boarding exercise, DLQ
06	Anchored, SOCAL (Anchorage #158), Steal Beach picnic, SLAMEX
07	Inport, NAVSTA SD
12	Phase 0 Midshipmen embark
14	DESRON SEVEN Dining Out
20	SLAMEX
24-29	Underway, En route Kodiak, AK in support of Operation NORTHERN EDGE
25	CIWS and 5" PAC fire
27	CIWS and 5" PAC fire
29-31	Inport, Kodiak, AK
29-30	Kodiak VFW Reception
31	Phase 1 Midshipmen embark

May was the start of a busy two-month period for MILIUS. May began with a weeklong underway period with the other ships of Destroyer Squadron SEVEN for a Group Sail. This event was conducted in the SOCAL OPAREA and culminated with a Dining Out for the Wardrooms and Chiefs' Mess of the squadron. Additionally, toward the end of the month, MILIUS got underway en route to Kodiak, Alaska in order to rendezvous with the JOHN C. STENNIS Carrier Strike Group in order to conduct the month-long Operation NORTHERN EDGE.

June 2004

01	Inport, Kodiak, AK, Embark Midshipmen
02-17	Underway, Gulf of Alaska, Operation NORTHERN EDGE
03-04	Plane Guard duty for USS JOHN C STENNIS
05	RAS with USNS RAINIER
06	5" PACFIRE, ASW MODLOC
07-10	TEXAS THUNDER
08	Air Defense EX, Passive ASW OPS
09	RAS with USNS RAINIER, Main Space Fire Drill, Engineering Drills
10	Commander, Destroyer Squadron 21 Ship Visit
11	RAS with USNS RAINIER
12	5" PACFIRE, Detach from Operation NORTHERN EDGE
14	RAS with USNS Rainier, Engineering Drills
15	Advance clocks to +7T, TLAMEX, DIVTACS
17-21	Anchored, Vancouver, BC
18	Phase 1 Midshipmen debark, Consulate VIP ship visit
20	Phase 2 Midshipmen embark
21	Underway, en route San Diego, CA, RAS with USNS RAINIER
22	5" PACFIRE, TLAMEX, CHAFFEX
23	5" PACFIRE, Steel Beach Picnic
24	5" PACFIRE, Inport NAVSTA SD
29	BHR Battle Group Inport Exercise, ARFF install
30	LCDR Christopher J. Bodine relieves LCDR Christopher K. Barnes as Executive Officer

MILIUS continued Operation NORTHERN EDGE with the STENNIS CSG in June. After the operation was complete, MILIUS proceeded to Vancouver, British Columbia for a four-day port visit. In late June, MILIUS returned to Naval Station San Diego where LCDR Bodine relieved LCDR Barnes as MILIUS' Executive Officer.

July 2004

05-20	JTT Install
07	Lube Oil onload
08	Visit Ship
12-14	3M Certification
13	Phase 2 Midshipmen debark

14	Embark Phase 3 Midshipmen, FASW Ship Visit
22	Legislative Affairs Ship Visit, Ship Visit for CORTRAMID Midshipmen
23	Ship Visit for CORTRAMID Midshipmen
28	MILIUS Family day at Disneyland
30	NSFS LTT, CORTRAMID Ship Visit

MILIUS spent most of July in port, where she hosted several groups for ship visits throughout the month. Additionally, pre-sail conferences were being held with MILIUS' future deploying battle group, BONHOMME RICHARD Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-5).

August 2004

03-06	Underway in SOCAL for Midshipmen CORTRAMID cruise
03	5"/CIWS PACFIRE, USW REWS Range
04	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
05	DLQs, 5"/CIWS PACFIRE, RAS with USNS PECOS, SLAMEX 04-18
06	Inport NAVSTA SD
09-13	Surface Line Week
10	"Meet the Fleet" ship visit
16	Underway for Family Day Cruise, 5"/CIWS PACFIRE, Return to NAVSTA SD
17-20	Underway SOCAL, CO's Time
17	MILIUS chop to ESG 5, SSRNM Trials
18	Ammunition Onload, B-Pier, North Island
18	Anchored, Catalina Island
19	Underway, SOCAL, RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK
20	TORPEX (SCORE Range), Inport NAVSTA SD
24	San Diego Tribune ARFF demonstration
26	SLAMEX 04-19

August began with a short underway period in SOCAL for CORTRAMID midshipmen. Also in August, MILIUS was underway for a week for "CO's Time". This underway period included a family day cruise, a port visit in Catalina Island and an ammunition onload in San Diego.

September 2004

02	E6 Exams
07-10	Conventional Ordnance Safety Review
08	All San Diego CPO Pride Day
09	E5 Exams
10	Command-wide PFA and Picnic
16	E4 Exams; SLAMEX 04-21
17-27	Underway SOCAL for BHR ESGINT
17	DLQs
18	Engineering Drills, Harpoon Exercise, MIO Exercise, Steel Beach Picnic

19	Opposed RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK, CIWS TDU Shoot
20-21	ASW TRACKEX
21	HSMST Shoot
21	GANGPLANK Exercise
22	ASW TRACKEX, DC drills, TLAMEX
23	EFEX (NSFS)
25	TLAMEX, Shallow Water ASW TRACKEX
26	Harpoon EX, Torpedo Evasion EX, Air Defense EX, Opposed RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK, ESG 5 Ship Visit
27	Inport NAVTSA SD

In September, MILIUS was underway for the first of three pre-deployment group sails with the BONHOMME RICHARD Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-5). This busy underway period included various different events including Tomahawk strike exercises, ASW events, gun shoots, simulated straits transits and whole host of other exercises that integrated the diverse and modular assets of the ESG.

October 2004

04	Underway en route to NWS Seal Beach, CA
04-06	Ammunition Onload, NWS SEAL BEACH
07-22	Underway with BHR ESG for COMPTUEX 04-2
07	RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK
08	EFEX, TLAM TST, TBMD Exercise
10	MISSILE EA, TLAMEX, VBSS Boarding Exercise
11	ADEX, EWEX, TBMD Exercise
12	RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK
13	BHR ESG Battle Problem I Exercise
14	SLAMEX 05-1, HARPOON EX, Condition II DC Drills, GUNEX: Towed Sled
15	Opposed RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK,
16	ASW MODLOC Defense EX
17	Theater ASW EX, Steal Beach Picnic, Harpoon EX
18	TLAMEX
19	RAS with USNS RAPPAHANOCK, TLAMEX, Flight Quarters to transfer CO
20-21	BHR ESG Final Battle Problem Exercise
22	Ammunition Onload, B-Pier, NAS North Island, Inport, NAVSTA SD
26	Lube Oil Onload
27	Pre-deployment fair
28	Pre-deployment Harbor Cruise

October began with the pre-deployment ammunition onload at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach. The ESG returned to the SOCAL OPAREA in October for the second of three pre-deployment exercises, COMPTUEX. This period refined the lessons learned from September's underway period allowing the ESG to tackle more complex scenarios.

November 2004

01-02	BHR ESG Force Protection Exercise
03-13	Underway SOCAL for BHR ESG JTFX
04	RAS with USNS PECOS, Straits Transit EX
06	Main Space Fire Drill
09	FP Drill, RAS with USNS PECOS
12	RAS with USNS PECOS
13	Inport, NAVSTA SD
13-30	Pre-deployment leave and maintenance period
23	Ammunition Onload, NAVSTA SD

The ESG returned to the SOCAL OPAREA in November for the final pre-deployment exercise, JTFEX conducted by Commander, THIRD Fleet. This exercise included more strike exercises, ASW exercises, straits transits and visit, board, search and seizures (VBSS) operations. After returning to Naval Station San Diego, MILIUS' crew went on a much-needed pre-deployment leave period before deploying in December.

December 2004

01-03	Pre-deployment leave and maintenance period
06	Underway, En route Pearl Harbor, HI, Deploy with BONHOMME RICHARD Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-5)
07-09	C3F TEXAS THUNDER TLAMEX
10-11	TLAMEX
11	DLQ, RAS with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
13-15	Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI
16	Underway with BHR ESG, En route Darwin Australia
20	Cross International Date line, advance to 21 December, CIWS and 5" PAC fire
22	Inchop C7F
22	MILIUS and THACH detach from BHR ESG and proceed to Darwin, Australia
25	RAS with USNS TIPPECANOE
26	Steal Beach Picnic
30	RAS with USNS TIPPECANOE
31	Inport, Darwin, Australia

December culminated the year with MILIUS' long awaited deployment to the Western Pacific. The month of December consisted of an uneventful transit through the Pacific Ocean highlighted with port visits in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Darwin, Australia in time for the new year.