



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SALVOR (ARS-52)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: 1997 COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documentation

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

C. M. Henson
C. M. HENSON

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Command Composition and Organization

1. USS SALVOR's command history for 1997 is as follows:

a. Command Composition and Organization

(1) The mission of USS SALVOR is fourfold:

(a) Salvage of Stranded Vessels: A disabled ship requires a variety of assistance. SALVOR carries portable cutting and welding equipment, power generators, dewatering salvage pumps, machine shops, and material to effect temporary hull repairs. She carries six legs of beach gear which can be rigged to exert over 300 tons of retracting force to the stranded vessel.

(b) Rescue and Assistance: For fighting fires alongside, SALVOR is equipped with two manually operated fire monitors on the signal bridge, and a manual portable monitor on the forecastle. These monitors provide 1,000 gallons per minute of sea water or fire fighting foam to extinguish topside fires on another ship. SALVOR is also designed for open ocean towing. The power from her main engines is sufficient to tow a Nimitz class aircraft carrier at a speed of 3-5 knots.

(c) Recovery of Submerged Objects: SALVOR is equipped with a 7.5 ton capacity boom forward and a 40 ton capacity boom aft. A dynamic 150 ton lift is possible over the two main bow rollers, or two stern rollers using deck machinery and purchase tackle or two hydraulic pullers. She can perform a dynamic lift of 300 tons using the main bow rollers and stern rollers in unison. SALVOR also possesses two auxiliary bow rollers which when combined can support a 75 ton lift.

(d) Manned Diving Operations: The MK21 MOD 1 diving system provides SALVOR divers the organic capacity of air diving to normal operational depths of 190 feet. When combined with the MK 3 Fly-Away Mixed Gas System, SALVOR increases its diving capacity to a depth of 300 feet. The divers descend to depth on a diving stage lowered by one of two powered davits. There is a double lock hyperbaric chamber on board for surfaced diver decompression following a deep diver or the treatment of diving accidents. For shallow underwater inspections, searches and other tasks

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Command Composition and Organization

which require greater mobility than tethered diving, there is a full complement of SCUBA equipment on board.

- (2) Administrative Chain of Command:
 - USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
 - COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC
 - COMTHIRDFLT
 - CINCPACFLT

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Command Composition and Organization

(3) Internal Command Organization as of 31 December 1997:

Commanding Officer:	LCDR C. M. Henson
Executive Officer:	LT K. A. Bense
Operations Officer:	LTJG [REDACTED]
First Lieutenant:	CWO3 [REDACTED]
Chief Engineer:	CWO3 [REDACTED]
Assistant Chief Engineer:	ENS [REDACTED]
Supply Officer:	LTJG [REDACTED]
Senior Enlisted Advisor:	MMCM (SW/MDV) [REDACTED]

Enlisted Manpower assigned as of 31 December 1997:

Chiefs:	8	Total Enlisted:	89
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(4) Home Port: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Chronological Events

January

- 01-12 Underway enroute from White Beach, Okinawa to Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 12 Returned to homeport, Pearl Harbor, HI, after six month Western Pacific Deployment.
- 13-31 Post Overseas Movement (POM) and Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV), Pearl Harbor, HI.

February

- 01-12 Continued POM and IMAV, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 13 Underway enroute Hilo, HI.
- 14-18 Moored pierside, Hilo, HI in order to conduct pier survey and port visit. On 18 February, ship got underway enroute Kailua-Kona, HI in order to conduct salvage survey of a stranded sailboat.
- 19 Underway from Kailua-Kona, HI, enroute Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 20-23 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 24-28 IMAV and Logistics and Administrative Training Review, Pearl Harbor, HI.

March

- 01-21 Continued IMAV, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 22-23 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 24-31 Conducted Command Assessment of Readiness and Training I (CART I), Pearl Harbor, HI.

April

- 01-04 Continued CART I and conducted Diving Operational Readiness Assessment (DORA), Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 05-06 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 07 Underway conducting towing operations with USS WILLAMETTE(AO 180), Middle Pacific
- 08 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 09 Underway conducting local operations, Middle Pacific.
- 10-13 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 14 Underway enroute from Pearl Harbor, HI to Lahaina, Maui, HI.
- 15-17 At anchorage off Lahaina, Maui, in order to conduct port visit.
- 18 Underway enroute from Lahaina, Maui to Pearl Harbor, HI.

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Chronological Events

19-30 Conducted Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE), and Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) during Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA), while inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.

May

01-31 Continued PMA and LMA, conducted IMAV, Command Career Counselor Assessment, Aviation Certification and Pre-Light Off Training I (PLOT I), while inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.

June

01-30 Continued PMA and IMAV, conducted Pre-Light Off Training II (PLOT II) and Pre-Light Off Training III (PLOT III), while inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.

July

01-15 Continued PMA and conducted Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) Engineering Assessment (EA), while inport Pearl Harbor, HI.

16-18 Underway in local operating area, in order to support the MK-48 Service Weapons Test (SWT), Middle Pacific.

19-20 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.

21-24 Underway conducting ex-STODDERT SINKEX with Seal Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT 1), Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) and VS-21, off Barking Sands, Kauai, HI.

25-31 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI, conducting Salvage Training.

August

01 Underway enroute Kailua-Kona, HI.

02-04 At anchorage, Kailua-Kona, HI in order to conduct port visit and provide support for the 1997 Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament.

05-08 Underway as a member of Blue Forces during PCOSS Hollywood 1997, in the Hawaiian Operating Area, northwest of Kauai.

09-31 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI, conducting upkeep. During this period, from 25-29 August, conducted Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II (CART II).

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Chronological Events

September

- 01-02 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 03-11 Moored, F-10, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, HI, conducting the salvage recovery of Utility Landing Craft 1527 (LCU 1527).
- 12-22 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. During this period, from 15-19 and 22 September, conducted the inport training phase of Tailored Ship's Training Availability I (TSTA I).
- 23-26 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA I, Middle Pacific. In conjunction with TSTA I, conducted Tactical Readiness Exercise (TRE) with Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) from 23-24 September.
- 27-30 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued TSTA I inport from 29-30 September.

October

- 01-03 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA I, Middle Pacific.
- 04-06 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued TSTA I inport on 6 September.
- 07-10 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA I, Middle Pacific.
- 11-14 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 15 Underway enroute Kailua-Kona, HI.
- 16-19 At anchorage, Kailua-Kona, HI in order to conduct port visit and provide support for the 1997 Kailua-Kona International Ironman Triathlon Championship.
- 20-21 Underway enroute from Kailua-Kona, HI to Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 22-31 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. During this period, from 27-31 October, conducted the inport training phase of Tailored Ship's Training Availability II (TSTA II).

November

- 01-03 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued TSTA II inport on 3 November.
- 04-05 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA II.
- 06 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
- 07 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA II.

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Chronological Events

08-11 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued TSTA II inport on 10 November.

12-13 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA II.

14-16 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.

17 Underway in local operating area conducting Engineering Certification (ECERT).

18 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Completed ECERT.

19-20 Underway in local operating area conducting TSTA II.

21-30 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. During this period, conducted Diesel Inspection from 24-30 November 1997.

December

01-03 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued Diesel Inspection and completed Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection (SESI).

04-07 Moored F-13, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, HI conducting beach gear operations during Tailored Ship's Training Availability IV (TSTA IV). During this period, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU 1) grounded the ex-NAVIGATOR. SALVOR rigged two full legs of beach gear and made preparations to retract the grounded hulk off of the beach.

08-16 Using two standard legs of beach gear, retracted the salvage hulk ex-NAVIGATOR, East Loch, Pearl Harbor, HI.

17-31 Conducted Systems Calibration (SISCAL) and IMAV, Pearl Harbor, HI.

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Narrative of Major Events

- EX-STODDERT SINKEK

Working jointly with SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT 1), Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), and VS-21, SALVOR provided towing services in support of the ex-STODDERT SINKEK. During this operation, SALVOR towed ex-STODDERT 195 miles to her watery grave, northeast of Barking Sands, Kauai. After towing ex-STODDERT to her final resting place, SALVOR disconnected and assisted the SEALs from SDVT 1 as they placed explosive charges along the hull and initiated the chain of events that laid ex-STODDERT to rest.

- 1997 HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

Provided volunteer support and acted as representatives of the United States Navy during the highly publicized 1997 Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament. During this event, the crew demonstrated outstanding teamwork and military bearing, marching in a parade and providing a Color Guard at the tournament flag raising ceremony.

- SALVAGE RECOVERY OF UTILITY LANDING CRAFT (LCU)

During these times of increased environmental awareness and in preparation for Hydrofest 1997, SALVOR worked jointly with Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU 1) in order to effect the removal of five inoperative Utility Landing Craft (LCU) located at F-10, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The operation resulted in the salvage recovery of two LCUs, LCU 1526 and LCU 1527, and their subsequent removal from Pearl Harbor.

- 1997 KONA INTERNATIONAL IRONMAN TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

When called upon to act as representatives of the United States Navy at the 1997 Kona International Ironman Triathlon Championship, USS SALVOR performed superbly. SALVOR Sailors volunteered to construct the race course and provide crowd control support during the closing hours of the event. SALVOR initiated the triathlon with an awe-inspiring fire monitor display visible from miles away.

- SALVAGE TRAINING 1997 - BEACH GEAR OPS

In the midst of a demanding training cycle, SALVOR was tasked with the retraction of the salvage hulk, ex-NAVIGATOR. Displaying outstanding teamwork and self-sufficiency, SALVOR used her divers in a ships husbandry employment to overcome a fouled port shaft and continue with

USS SALVOR (ARS 52)
Narrative of Major Events

the task at hand. SALVOR used two standard legs of beach gear, hydraulic pullers and expert salvage calculations to accomplish the de-beaching of ex-NAVIGATOR. The operation provided a realistic training scenario and demonstrated SALVOR's ability to effect emergent repairs and continue with duties assigned.