

USS HENDERSON (DD-785)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

DD785/WMC:mek  
5700  
1 February 1974

From: Commanding Officer, USS HENDERSON (DD-785)  
To: → Chief of Naval Operations (Op09B9)  
Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: USS HENDERSON Command History for 1973 (OPNAV Report 5750-1);  
submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 May 1971

Encl: (1) USS HENDERSON Command History for 1973 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

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

  
W. M. CROWE, Jr.

Copy to:  
COMCRUDESAC  
COMDESRON TWENTY-SEVEN

COMMAND HISTORY  
USS HENDERSON (DD-785)  
FOR THE YEAR 1973

- I. COMMAND ORGANIZATION
- II. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
- III. SPECIAL TOPICS

PART I - COMMAND ORGANIZATION

1. The Commanding Officer through 29 June 1973 was Commander Robert E. KARAS, USN, [REDACTED]/1110. He was relieved by Commander William M. CROWE, USN, [REDACTED]/1110.
2. A roster of the officers and enlisted crew members as of 31 December 1973, is attached to this part.
3. USS HENDERSON was attached to DESRON 29 through 11 March 1973, when she was transferred to DESRON 13. She remained part of this squadron until 1 October 1973 when she was assigned to the Naval Reserve Force and DESRON 27.
4. The following officers were transferred from HENDERSON during 1973:
  - 23JAN73 ENS D.C. STRUBE, USN
  - 30JAN73 LTJG L.T. MacNAMARA, SC, USNR
  - 30MAY73 LT L.J. HART, USN
  - 22JUN73 LTJG B.L. STEELMAN, USN
  - 29JUN73 CDR R.E. KARAS, USN
  - 9AUG73 LT J.E. MAITLAND, USN
  - 23AUG73 LTJG J.W. PABST, USN
  - 8OCT73 LTJG M.T. GEHL, USN
  - 12NOV73 CWO2 K.W. CHELGREN, USN
  - 24DEC73 ENS J.M. GILBERT, USN

PART II - SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

1 - 9 January	Underway with USS SARATOGA
9 - 12 January	Inport SUBIC BAY, RP
12 - 15 January	Enroute SINGAPORE
15 - 24 January	Inport SINGAPORE
24 - 26 January	Enroute SATTAHIP, THAILAND
26 - 30 January	Inport SATTAHIP, THAILAND
31 January - 6 February	Yankee Station Training Area
7 - 23 February	PIRAZ station with USS JOUETT
24 - 26 February	Enroute CEBU, RP
26 February - 3 March	Inport CEBU, RP
3 - 4 March	Enroute Gulf of Tonkin
4 - 7 March	Yankee Station with USS ORISKANY
8 - 14 March	Inport SUBIC BAY, RP
15 March	Enroute KAOHSIUNG, RC
16 - 19 March	Inport KAOHSIUNG, RC
19 - 21 March	Underway in Exercise Golden Shrimp
22 - 23 March	Inport KAOHSIUNG, RC
24 March - 7 April	Underway in Gulf of Tonkin
8 - 22 April	Underway off Haiphong, PRV Operation End Sweep
23 - 29 April	Inport HCNG KONG, BCC
30 April - 2 May	Enroute YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
3 - 10 May	Inport YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
11 - 16 May	Enroute MIDWAY
16 - 18 May	Enroute PEARL HARBOR
19 - 25 May	Enroute LONG BEACH
26 May - 31 July	Inport LONG BEACH
31 July - 2 August	Enroute DES MOINES, WASHINGTON
2 - 5 August	Inport DES MOINES, WASHINGTON
6 - 10 August	Enroute LONG BEACH
10 - 14 August	Inport LONG BEACH
14 - 17 August	Underway for RECONNEX - 73
17 - 25 August	Inport LONG BEACH
25 - 30 August	Underway with USS ORISKANY
31 August - 3 September	Inport LONG BEACH
4 - 9 September	Enroute PEARL HARBOR with USS LEONARD F. MASON
9 September	Inport PEARL HARBOR
9 - 12 September	Underway at RIMPAC - 73
13 - 14 September	Inport PEARL HARBOR
14 - 19 September	Underway at RIMPAC - 73
20 - 23 September	Inport PEARL HARBOR
24 September	Ford Island Tour
25 September - 1 October	Enroute LONG BEACH with USS KITTY HAWK
1 October - 20 November	Inport LONG BEACH
21 November - 31 December	Restricted Availability, Long Beach Naval Shipyard



## Basic Narrative

USS HENDERSON spent the first 5 months of 1973 on a Western Pacific Deployment. While there, she spent most of her time operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, either with aircraft carriers as Mutual Support Ship, or exercising in the Yankee Station Training Area. She also served at Haiphong Harbor with Operation END SWEEP. After her return to Long Beach, she performed various Eastern Pacific operations and travelled to Hawaii for Exercise RIMPAC-73. Returning to Long Beach, she entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 21 November for conversion to Naval Distillate Fuel.

## Deployment

Having just rescued the crew of the USS SARATOGA (CV-60) SH-3D helicopter, HENDERSON entered the New Year with a bang. She continued to escort SARATOGA in the Gulf of Tonkin through the 7th of January; the two ships then proceeded to Subic Bay for upkeep. Although there only three days, the Ship Repair Facility worked around the clock to replace the bad A-end of the Mount 51 train drive, and also performed repairs on most of CIC's electronic gear. (The last ten days were spent with SARATOGA without any search radar) While there, LT POOSAR of the Royal Thai Navy embarked to study American ASW methods.

On the morning of 12 January, HENDERSON and SARATOGA proceeded together to Singapore, the latter beginning her return to the United States after a 10 month-deployment. HENDERSON moored at the Sembawang Naval Shipyard, at the north end of the island, for an upkeep period for her long-taxed engineering plant. During these 9 days the crew was able to enjoy some hard-earned liberty on this small, yet prosperous island nation. Leaving on the 24th of January, the ship then headed for Sattahip, Thailand, for 4 days of liberty. That same day, enroute, the ship crossed the Equator, and once again a large band of scurvy polliwogs were converted to trusty shellbacks before the court of King Neptune. While in Thailand, the crew had a chance to visit the Thai capital, Bangkok. The first day there, the Vietnam Ceasefire was declared and the long war was finally over. Unfortunately, while there, HENDERSON lost the only man she lost on the deployment: SA BUTCHER, who had only been on board a week, was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Leaving Sattahip on 31 January, the ship proceeded to the Yankee Station Training Area for a week, then proceeded to the still-tense PIRAZ station off North Vietnam. Nevertheless, time was found for many training evolutions, ranging from J.O. tic-tacs to Gertrude Drills to Rescue and Assistance parties.

After a seemingly interminable 16 days at PIRAZ, HENDERSON received a great break --- she was ordered to proceed to Cebu City in the Philippines, with USS MANATEE (AO-58). This visit with its tours, entertainment, and lively, enthusiastic populace was the high point of the cruise. The warm hospitality and large turnout every day at the pier made Cebu a very memorable stop for all.



After a short trip to the Gulf of Tonkin with USS ORISKANY (CVA-34), HENDERSON returned for the third time to Subic Bay, R.P.. During this 6-day stop, major repairs were accomplished to the engineering plant to prepare the ship for Exercise GOLDEN SHRIMP. RADM KERN visited the ship to transfer her to DESRON 13 on 11 March. Leaving Subic on 15 March, the ship had 3 days of liberty in Kaohsiung, R.C.; this busy port city offered many contrasts to the earlier liberty ports on the cruise.

Exercise GOLDEN SHRIMP began the morning of 19 March. The units of the Republic of China's Navy and the U.S. Navy worked together in close cooperation through all phases of ASW drills, including single ship and dual ship attacks, and complicated screening exercises.

It was during this period that HENDERSON fired her only exercise weapon of 1973. After an abbreviated return to Kaohsiung, HENDERSON began her largest at-sea period of the deployment. Running from 23 March through 23 April, the ship operated as Mutual Support Ship for USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) and USS RANGER (CVA-61), and spent some time in the Yankee Station Training Area. From 8 April through 22 April, she participated in Operation END SWEEP off Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam, with Task Force 78. For this operation, each unit involved was awarded a letter of commendation from ADM Thomas MOORER, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This letter read in part "The performance of the surface and airborne mine countermeasures forces in the waters of North Vietnam exemplified the highest levels of professional competence, and devotion to duty. The efforts of the Navy in Operation END SWEEP contributed significantly to the timely release of U.S. prisoners of war, and to the nations objectives in Southeast Asia".

When Operation END SWEEP units left Haiphong enmasse in late April, HENDERSON was detached to proceed to Hong Kong, B.C.C., for 5 days liberty. Also important was the two-day long ship's party held at Ocean Bar in the Wan-chai District. After several relaxing days of tours and slack time, the ship left for Yokosuka, Japan, for an upkeep period for going home to Long Beach. After 5 days of hard work and having picked up the load of WESTPAC goodies, the ship left for home in company with USS BRADLEY (DE-1051), despite a flurry of rumors which had us returning to the Gulf of Tonkin.

After fueling stops at Midway and Pearl Harbor, having completed a full power run, the ship arrived home at 1000 on 25 May, completing her 20th WESTPAC deployment.



## Standdown and Eastpac Ops

Starting with the arrival back in Long Beach, the ship commenced a 30-day standdown period. During this time she began a tender availability and also prepared for the upcoming INSURV inspection. The ship also began to prepare for Commander KARA'S upcoming relief by Commander W. M. CROWE, Jr. The 29 June change of command ceremony was held at pier 15, on the Long Beach Naval Station, with the guest speaker being Captain C. V. WILHOIT, COMDESRON 27.

With the standdown period and change of command ceremony out of the way, the crew knuckled down to serious business preparing even harder for the upcoming INSURV. Finally, on 20 July, the INSURV team arrived on board, and for 3 days, HENDERSON was gone over with a fine tooth comb by the Navy's most concentrated group of experts. While the inevitable major discrepancies were found, nevertheless HENDERSON was found fit for further service; a week later she got underway on schedule. Her first port visit after leaving WESTPAC was at the town of Des Moines Washington in honor of her annual Waterland Festival. While there, the ship was hosted to a variety of social events; she also hosted several retired ex-crewmen from the area on 4 August, her 28th birthday. HENDERSON was visited by some of the local populace.

After a short return to Long Beach, HENDERSON travelled to Seaside, California and Camp Pendleton, to participate in RECONEX-73 with the 2nd Marine Division. This exercise tested the feasibility of using a FFA4-I's boat boom for rubber raft recovery. After several leisurely days there at anchor, the ship returned to Long Beach for a week. On 25 August, HENDERSON was called upon to act as mutual support ship for USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) during the latter's ORI.

While underway, word came to HENDERSON that USS BRADLEY (DE-1041) had experienced some engineering problems and would be unable to make the trip to Hawaii for exercise RIMPAC-73, and that HENDERSON was to replace her. USS HIGBEE (DD-806) was quickly summoned to finish up ORISKANY's ORI, and HENDERSON returned to Long Beach to stock up on consumable prior to leaving for Hawaii.

After Labor Day weekend, the ship left for Hawaii, rendezvousing with USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852) enroute. After an uneventful crossing, the ship refueled at Pearl Harbor and went out on Phase I of RIMPAC-73, which included ASW exercise with MASON. The last phase, began on 14 September which had HENDERSON serving as a simulated cruiser of Orange Force, proceeded very well. After several days in port at Pearl Harbor, the ship got underway on 24 September, intending to escort USS KITTY HAWK (CV-61) to the mainland. During this sea detail she passed the ARIZONA and UTAH Memorials. Engineering troubles on the carrier, however, prevented her from leaving until the following day; HENDERSON reentered Pearl and left again at 0800 the next morning. The two ships journey on to the mainland; HENDERSON returned to Long Beach on 1 October.

## NRF and ND conversion

On 1 October 1973 USS HENDERSON left the active naval fleet and joined the Naval Reserve Fleet and Destroyer Squadron 27. Starting on 12 October, in a process which would last through the end of the year, men from USS ARNOLD J. ISBELL (DD-869) were cross-decked to replace several men from HENDERSON. At the same time, the active-duty portion of the crew was considerably reduced to make room for the 90-odd reserve members who would drill once per month on board. By the end of the year 3 such drill weekends had been held, and the two portions of the crew had began to act as one. Starting on 21 November HENDERSON entered the Long Beach Naval Ship Yard to convert to Naval Distillate fuel. While little also has been done by the yards, the crew worked very hard to maintain and even improve the material readiness of the non-engineering functions of the ship. With the hard work by all it was possible to allow a generous holiday leave period, the ship finished the year out with 3 months in port on either side of the New Year.

PART III - SPECIAL TOPICS

A. Operational Statistics

1. Days underway - 137
2. Gallons NSFO consumed - 2,563,771
3. Underway replenishments - 22
4. Communication Traffic - Incoming - 6434  
Outgoing - 2448
5. Total hours ping time - 23
6. Ammunition Expenditures:
  - a. J<sup>3</sup>/38 training - 84
  - b. Tube launched exercise torpedos - 1
  - c. ASROC launched torpedos - 0
7. Supply Expenditures
  - a. OPTAR - \$ 93,000.00
  - b. Payroll - \$ 480,5000.00
  - c. Commissary - \$ 110,450.00
  - d. Project 20 - \$ 10,000.00
8. Medals awarded -

Navy Commendation Medal (with bronze "V")

CDR R. E. KARAS

Navy Commendation Medal (with "V")

LCDR P. D. SMITH

Navy Achievement Medal (with "V")

LT L. J. HART

LT J. E. MARLAND

LT M. C. SMILEY

LTJG B. J. STELLMAN

BTC E. P. WILLIAMS

MMCM A. J. LAMBERT (2nd Award)

EW1 A. R. SMITH



Navy Expeditionary Medal

CMO2 R. N. CHELSEEN

9. Disciplinary Record:

a. CO's NJP (total 89)

articles

78-2  
86-32  
87-7  
90-4  
91-3  
92-13  
95-3  
108-1  
113-1  
117-2  
118-1  
121-1  
128-9  
133-1  
134-7

b. Desertions - 2

c. Courts Martial

1. Summary Court Martial - art 86,87

10. Letters of Commendation awarded

a. COMPACTFLT Letters of Commendation:

LCDR SMITH	YML McGIREK
LTJG PABST	BMC STEFFEN
ENS PENIX	MM2 TILLEY
ENS WATSON	ETN2 DEY
ENS MCCARTHY	EM2 BRANDT
ENS HAYES	FTGN TANNER
BML MADDOX	

b. 7TH FLT Letters of Commendation

LTJG GEHL	STLABNEY	MM3 WANNER
ENS PENIX	EM1 NELSON	
ENS MCCARTHY	EMC SAIROS	
CMO2 CHELSEEN	EM1 FERGUSON	
STC SWEEL	YM3 BROADWATER	
QMC JAEGER	CMG3 DOLCEBAC	

11. Personnel Status

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Onboard</u>
MCPO	0	1
SCPO	1	1
CPO	6	9
PO1	24	14
PO2	28	27
PO3	52	60
Non rated	64	83
Total	<u>176</u>	<u>195</u>

12. Advancements

- a. to LT - 2
- b. to LTJG - 3
- c. to CPO - 2
- d. to E-6 - 0
- e. to E-5 - 6
- f. to E-4 - 20

B. Exercises Completed

Z-17-AA	2	Z-28-S (5"/38)	
Z-23-G		Z-29-S	3
Z-31-G		HIFR	3
Z-21-S	4	EMEX	3
Z-28-S (ASROC)	2	AMEX	30 hrs.
Z-13-CC			
ECINTEX	4		
W-Z-U			
Z-11-FW			

C. MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL BENO M. MUMFULT, USN  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subject: Letter of Commendation

1. It is with pleasure that I commend the US Navy for outstanding performance during Operation END SWEEP. From the inception to the conclusion of this operation, the Navy was required to achieve far reaching goals in ~~minimum~~ time under conditions of unusual stress which placed stringent demands on many Navy personnel.

2. Noteworthy was the remarkable manner in which the Mine Warfare Force, under the direction of the Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet, and ably supported by the Naval Material Command, formulated comprehensive mine countermeasures plans, assembled forces and equipments, and provided in-depth training to US Marine Corps pilots in relatively new air mine countermeasures skills. The performance of the surface and airborne mine countermeasures forces in the waters of North Vietnam exemplified the highest levels of professional competence, and devotion to duty.

3. I wish to add my personal "well done" to Rear Admiral Brain McCauley as Commander Task Force 78. His superior performance at the negotiating table, always in a tense atmosphere, was particularly noteworthy. The efforts of the Navy in Operation END SWEEP contributed significantly to the timely release of US prisoners of war, and to the attainment of the nation's objectives in Southeast Asia.

4. In sincere appreciation for your extraordinary contributions to this vital military mission, I wish to extend my personal congratulations to you and the United States Navy for a job well done.

/s/ T. H. MOORER  
T. H. MOORER  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff