



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS SALVOR (ARS-52)  
FPO AP 96678-3222

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9 APR 96

From: Commanding Officer, USS SALVOR (ARS 52)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)  
  
Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
  
Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(3) Photograph of USS SALVOR (ARS 52)  
(4) Supporting Documentation

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

*C. M. Henson*  
C. M. HENSON

**USS SALVOR (ARS 52) COMMAND HISTORY**  
**Historical Narrative**

1. USS SALVOR's command history for 1995 is as follows:

a. Command Composition and Organization

(1) The mission of USS SALVOR is fourfold:

(a) Salvage of Stranded Vessels: SALVOR carries portable cutting and welding equipment, power generators, and dewatering salvage pumps. She carries six legs of beach gear which can be rigged to exert over 300 tons of retracting force to a vessel that has run aground.

(b) Rescue and Assistance: For fighting fires onboard other ships either underway or anchored, 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 up to 5 knots.

(c) Recovery of Submerged Objects: SALVOR is equipped with two booms, 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 or two stern rollers using deck machinery and purchase tackle or two hydraulic pullers. She can make a dynamic lift of 300 tons using the main bow rollers and stern rollers in unison. SALVOR also possesses two auxiliary bow rollers which combined can support a total of 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. 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 dive or for the treatment of divers suffering from decompression sickness. For shallow inspections, searches, and other tasks which require more 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  
COMNAVSURFPAC

**USS SALVOR (ARS 52) COMMAND HISTORY**  
**Historical Narrative**

(3) Internal Command Organization as of 31 December 1995:

Commanding Officer:	LCDR R. S. Howes
Executive Officer:	LCDR J. A. Romero
Operations Officer:	LTJG M. R. Bradshaw
First Lieutenant:	CWO4 W. E. Morgan
Chief Engineer:	CWO4 M. S. Armistead
Assistant Chief Engineer:	LT L. M. Centrone
Supply Officer:	LT L. R. Hatcher
Senior Enlisted Advisor:	BMCM(MDV/SW) R. K. Bettua

Enlisted Manpower assigned as of 31 December 1995

Chiefs:	9	Total Enlisted:	96
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(4) Home Port: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

**USS SALVOR (ARS 52) COMMAND HISTORY**  
**Chronological Events**

**January**

01-08 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI  
09-13 Diving Operational Assessment, Pearl Harbor, HI  
14-16 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
17-18 Assisted the USNS NAVAJO with the tow of Ex-USS DUNCAN -  
SALVOR recovered the primary towing pendant (180' of chain)  
which had parted during the tow, preventing damage to  
submerged cables in Pearl Harbor, HI  
19-20 Command Assessment of Readiness for Training (CART II), Pearl  
Harbor, HI  
21-29 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
30-31 Salvage Training - used beach gear to retract Ex-USS TUNICA  
which was grounded for training, Pearl Harbor, HI

**February**

01-03 Salvage Training - continued retraction and conducted live  
fire fighting at sea training with Ex-USS TUNICA, Pearl  
Harbor, HI  
04-05 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
06 Diving Support for Master Diver Evaluations, Anchored off  
Reef Runway, Pearl Harbor, HI  
07 Recovered USS WILLAMETTE's anchor and ten shots of chain from  
170' of water off of Reef Runway, Pearl Harbor, HI  
08 Anchored off of Maui, HI near Molokini crater for diver  
training  
09 Anchored off of Lahaina, Maui, HI  
10 Returned to Pearl Harbor, HI - Dependent's Cruise  
11-20 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI  
21-22 Underway to support CNO Special Project - Cluster Ceres  
23-28 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI

**March**

01-05 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI  
06-10 Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA I) and Engineering  
Material Checks, Pearl Harbor, HI  
11 CNO authorized the salvage of F/A-18C BUNO 164044, SALVOR  
tasked by Third Fleet to conduct the salvage operation  
11-12 Prepared for the salvage Operation, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
13-21 Underway to San Diego, CA - Conducted engineering training  
for upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)  
22 CO, USS SALVOR assumed command of Task Unit 33.5.3 for  
recovery of F/A-18C BUNO 164044. Held salvage brief with  
representatives of following commands: Submarine Development  
Group One (COMSUBDEVGRU ONE), Deep Submergence Unit, San  
Diego (DSU), AIRPAC Safety, Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN)  
and VFA-22  
22-24 Inport San Diego, CA to onload Fly-Away Deep Ocean Salvage  
System (FADOSS) and other salvage equipment  
25-31 Underway off of San Diego, CA for Salvage Operation  
31 Moored at NAS, North Island, CA

**USS SALVOR (ARS 52) COMMAND HISTORY**  
**Chronological Events**

**April**

01 Offloaded recovered F/A-18  
02-05 Inport, San Diego, CA  
07-15 Underway from San Diego to Pearl Harbor, HI  
16-24 Prepared for OPPE, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
25-27 OPPE, Pearl Harbor, HI  
28 Onloaded Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One's Fly-Away  
Mixed Gas (FMG) Diving System  
29-30 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI

**May**

01-02 Anchored off of Reef Runway to conduct diving operations in  
support of system certification for MDSU One's FMG System  
03-05 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
06-31 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI  
22-26 Logistics Technical Assist Visit by Afloat Training Group  
(ATG), Middle Pacific, Pearl Harbor, HI  
30-31 Logistics Management Assessment, Pearl Harbor, HI

**June**

01-02 Logistics Management Assessment, Pearl Harbor, HI  
03-13 Pre-Overseas Movement Period, Pearl Harbor, HI  
14-27 Underway from Pearl Harbor, HI to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard,  
Bremerton, WA with EX-USS SILVERSIDES in tow  
28 Inport, Seattle, WA  
29-30 Inport, Victoria, BC, Canada

**July**

01-02 Inport, Victoria, BC, Canada  
03-06 Underway from Victoria, BC, Canada to Kodiak, AK  
07 Embarked Diving Team from Underwater Construction Team (UCT)  
Two, Inport, Kodiak, AK  
08-10 Underway from Kodiak, AK to Fairway Rock, AK  
11-12 Anchored off of Fairway Rock, AK for environmental clean-up  
operation  
13-16 Underway from Fairway Rock, AK to Kodiak, AK  
17-19 Debarked UCT-2 Detachment, Inport, Kodiak, AK  
20-26 Underway from Kodiak, AK to Pearl Harbor, HI  
27-31 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI

**USS SALVOR (ARS 52) COMMAND HISTORY**  
**Chronological Events**

**August**

01-20 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
21-22 Conducted Dockside Underway Replenishment Training, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
23-27 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
28-31 Participated in exercise Cooperation from the Sea '95 with the Russian Federated Navy and Russian Federated Naval Infantry (RFNI). Provided a diving safety team during the amphibious landing of U.S. Marines and RFNI Soldiers off of Bellows Air Force Base, HI. Towed Ex-USS TUNICA off of Barber's Point while conducting a live fire fighting at sea exercise with damage control parties from the USS VALLEY FORGE and the ADMIRAL PANTELEYEV

**September**

01-04 Participated in the Observance Ceremonies commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the World War II Victory in the Pacific, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
05-29 Intermediate Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor, HI  
28 Offloaded all ammunition at Naval Magazine, Lualualei, HI  
30 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI

**October**

01 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
02-06 Underway Material Inspection for the Pacific Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV)  
07-16 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
17 Offloaded all supply stores in preparation for dry-dock, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
18-19 Offloaded all fuel in preparation for dry-dock, Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
20-22 Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI  
23-29 Moored at Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard for Docked Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA), Pearl Harbor, HI  
25 Naval Safety Center conducted a Diving Safety Survey, Pearl Harbor, HI  
30 Entered Dry-Dock Four in Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard along with USS SAFEGUARD (ARS 50), Pearl Harbor, HI  
31 Continued DPMA in Dry-Dock 4, Pearl Harbor, HI

**November**

01-30 Continued DPMA in Dry-Dock 4, Pearl Harbor, HI

**December**

01-21 Continued DPMA in Dry-Dock 4, Pearl Harbor, HI  
16-31 Holiday Upkeep Period, Pearl Harbor, HI  
22 SALVOR undocked from Dry-Dock 4, moored in, Pearl Harbor, HI  
23-31 Continued DPMA in Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard, Pearl Harbor, HI