



## 1962

- Feb Relieved USS Kohn King, DDG-3 for Development Assist Tests for the TARTAR Weapons System (CNO Project D/S-194).  
Concurrent with Project D/S-194 was selected to conduct the BUSHIPS Standardization and Tactical Trials for the DDG-2 Class Destroyer.
- July Assigned to newly formed Destroyer Squadron 18 (DESRON 18) and Destroyer Division 182. DESRON 18 was composed entirely of guided missile ship. The other ships in the squadron were the USS Pratt, DLG13, USS John King, DDG-3, USS Lawrence, DDG-4, USS Dahlgren, DLG-12 and the Richard E. Byrd, DDG-23.  
Fired twenty missiles at Roosevelt Roads Missile Firing Range to evaluate the TARTAR Missile System.
- Sept 15 Returned to Boston Naval Shipyard for major alterations to the missile fire control systems. First ship in the fleet to receive the SPG-51B fire control radars.  
Shortly after arrival, Sampson's first commanding officer was relieved by Commander John Glennon Finneran.  
Evaluated new fire control installation with additional missile launches at Roosevelt Roads Missile Range.

## 1963

- Jan-Feb Operated out of Norfolk, Virginia in conjunction with CNO Project D/S-194.
- Jan Midshipmen aboard for their annual training cruise (per 1966 cruise book).  
Ports of call were:
  - Mayport, Florida
  - New York, New York
  - Montreal, Canada
- March Launched fifteen more TARTAR missiles and thirty-eight test vehicles for the final phase of the Development Assist Tests.
- April AN/SPS-39 Series 3 Radar installed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, assumed).
- July 1-22 Midshipmen aboard for their annual training cruise in Western Atlantic (per "Early History" of the Sampson from various sources).  
Ports of call were:
  - New York, New York
  - Montreal, Canada
- Aug 12 Commenced four week evaluation of AN/SPS-39 Series 3 radar in VACAPES Operations Area.
- Nov 1-19 Continued missile firings at Roosevelt Roads Missile Range.
- Dec Fired full magazine load of blast launch test vehicles in VACAPES Operations Area.
- Dec 19 Commander John Leighton Merrick assumes duty as commanding officer.  
After Christmas holidays, Sampson, operating with the Second Fleet, fired two TARTAR missiles under combat conditions.

## 1964

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|--------------|---|
| April - July | Conducted ship's first regular overhaul at Norfolk Naval Shipyard.                                      |
| Aug          | Launched two missiles during ships qualification trials and refresher training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. |
| Nov          | Successfully replenished missiles at sea by new method using a helicopter.                              |

## 1965

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|----------|--|
| Jan      | Commenced first Mediterranean deployment.  |
| Jan 14   | Crossing the Atlantic, an electrical fire in the primary air search radar equipment room (SPS-39) caused extensive damage and greatly shortened her deployment. Turned over early and returned to Norfolk, Virginia with the USS Forrester, CVA-59 CVBG, encountering rough weather. |
| March 15 | Entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for repairs.  |
| May 8    | Commander Robert F. Schniedwind assumes command.   |
| June 24  | Returned to fleet duties and performed modified SDT missile firings at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.   |
| July 17  | During gunnery exercise lookouts spotted the 50-foot sailing sloop <i>Cecelia Ann</i> flying distress signals. Six crewmen and mascot were rescued before the sloop sank.  |
| Sept     | Conducted Blue and Gold operations with ASW exercises in the vicinity of Bermuda and open ocean missile firings off Cherry Point, North Carolina.  |
| Oct      | Conducted gunnery exercises and two competitive missile firings off Puerto Rico.   |
| Nov      | Underway for a short period of type training off Jacksonville, Florida.  |

## 1966

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|-------------|---|
| Early       | Conducted gunnery exercises off Culerba, Puerto Rico and escort duties off Guantanamo Bay Cuba.   |
| March 10    | Deployed to Mediterranean Sea with USS Saratoga, CV-60 CVBG.  |
| March 30    | Turned over with USS Sellars, DDG-11 in Pollensa Bay, Spanish Balearic Islands<br>Replenished at sea.   |
| April 6 -15 | Visited at Istanbul, Turkey after 28 days at sea.<br>Conducted training exercises and acted as rescue destroyer for USS America CVA-66.   |
| April 21-29 | Visited Beirut, Lebanon.<br>Conducted carrier operations drills, general quarters, ECM exercises, air controlling, gunnery, engineering drills, and submarine opposed underway replenishment.   |
| May 6-18    | Visited Valetta, Malta.<br>Served as early warning picket for USS America, CVA-66 CVBG against air strikes launched by USS Saratoga, CVA-60 CVBG.<br>Arrived at Naples Italy where the Engineering Department repaired boilers. Tours available to Rome and Venice.<br>Departed Naples, Italy for one day at sea<br>Arrived at Toulon, France for five days. Acted as honor guard for Rear Admiral de Lachadenede, Major General of the Third Maritime District (Southern France).<br>Sampson's host ship was the French destroyer Tartu. |

June 14 Departed Toulon, France

June 20 Conducted successful ASROC firing.

June 24 Visited at Livorno, Italy. Tours to Florence, Pisa, and Milan.  
Officers lose Officer-CPO softball game, 28 to 8.  
Note – first time in Sampson’s history  
Departed Livorno, Italy  
Operated for three days with the USS Independence, CVA-62 CVBG.  
Visited Golfe Juan, France.

July 4 Celebrated Independence Day on the French Riviera.  
Departed Golfe Juan, France and sailed 30 miles to St. Tropez, France.

July 14 Celebrated Bastille Day, French Independence Day, in St Tropez, France.

July 15 Departed St. Tropez, France.  
Participated in replenishment and anti-submarine exercise.

July 20 Conducted successful TARTAR missile firing.

July 26-Aug 2 Visited Barcelona, Spain.  
Turned over in Pollensa Bay.

Aug 3 Departed Pollensa Bay for Norfolk.  
Steamed with USS Mairas, AO-57 at 17 knots across the Atlantic.

Aug 6 Received word the Sampson was awarded the Squadron Battle Efficiency **E** plus  
Departmental **E** for Engineering and **E** for Operations.

Aug 12 Returned to Norfolk to resume Blue and Gold operations after 153 days.  
Conducted three weeks of exercise in Caribbean Sea plus additional tests.

Nov 29 – Dec14 Participated in **LANTFLEX 66** exercise in which Sampson provided ASW and  
AAW services for the ASW carrier USS Wasp, CVS-18 and conducted exercises in  
the Puerto Rico Operating Area.

Dec Returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

## 1967

Jan 20-Feb 6 Conducted **SPRINGBOARD I** weapons firings in Puerto Rico Operating Area.

March 3-15 Conducted **SPRINGBOARD II** operations in Puerto Rico Operating Area.

May 2 Deployed to Mediterranean with USS America, CVA-66 CVBG.

May 10-11 Visited Rota, Spain.

May 12-17 Visited El Ferrol de Caudillo, Spain. In El Ferrol, a radarman from the Sampson  
rescued a German seaman from the harbor.

May 18 Visited Rota, Spain.

June 13-18 Visited Souda Bay, Crete. Tour of Knossos, Crete.

June 21-25 Visited Izmir, Turkey. Tour Ephesus, Turkey.  
Sampson damages propeller leaving port on uncharted object.

June 22-July 2 Visited Souda Bay, Crete. Replace damaged propeller.

July 3 –7 Visited Vollos, Greece. Tour of Athens, Greece.

July 29–Aug 2 Visited Valetta, Malta.

Aug 16-21 Visited Genoa, Italy. Tour Rome and Italian Riviera.

Aug 28-29 Visited Pollensa Bay, Spain for turnover.  
Sampson received the Squadron Battle Efficiency **E** for the second time.

Sept 9 Returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

Nov 1 Changed homeport to Charleston, South Carolina.

## 1968

Jan-May Conducted RDH at Charleston Naval Shipyard.

June-Aug Conducted SQT in Puerto Rico Operating Area and REFTRA at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

July 30 Commander T. J. Bigley assumes command.

Sept 23 Deployed to the Mediterranean.

## 1969

Jan 30 Returned to Charleston, South Carolina.  
Resumed operations in Western Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

Sept 6-23, Operation Peace Keeper in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Sept 28 Commenced Mediterranean deployment.

Nov 6 Visit by SECNAV while in Athens, Greece.

Nov 23 Visit by CINCUSNAVEUR while in Barcelona, Spain.

Dec 2 Visit by COMNAVSURFOR while in Barcelona, Spain.

## 1970

Feb 9 Commander T. R. Kinnebrew assumes command.

March 28 Returned to Charleston, South Carolina.

May 12-25 Participated in exercise **Exotic Dancer III** off Onslow Beach, North Carolina.

May 31-June 4 Participated in **RIMEX 5-70** in the Caribbean Sea.

Sept 14 Awarded the Battle Efficiency **E** for DESRON 4.

Sept 23 After two days notice, got underway for special operations in the Mediterranean.

Oct Cruised first with USS John F. Kennedy, CVA-67, then with USS Saratoga, CV-60, during the latest Levantine crisis.  
Earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Nov 1 Departed Barcelona, Spain, to return to the United States.

Nov 12 Returned to Charleston, South Carolina.  
Commenced leave and upkeep period.

## 1971

Jan 18-Feb 6 Participated in **RIMEX 2-71** in the Caribbean Sea.

Early 1971 Operated in the vicinity of British West Indies and prepared for deployment.

April 9 Commander Aris C. A. Sigmond assumes command.  
Awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation by Rear Admiral Robert R. Crutchfield for 1970 Middle East Crisis operations

April 9 Departed Charleston, South Carolina.

April 15 Deployed to Mediterranean with COMDESRON 4, Captain L. J. Fay embarked.  
Operated with the Sixth Fleet participating in exercises with both American and NATO forces.

Oct 15 Returned to Charleston, South Carolina.  
Oct-Dec Prepared for regular overhaul.  
Dec 8,1971 Awarded the Battle Efficiency **E** for DESRON 4.

## 1972

Jan 4 – May 4 Conducted first Compressed Regular Overhaul attempted on a DDG.  
May-June Conducted SDT, WSAT and REFTRA in Caribbean Sea.  
July 28 Commander Richard Lew Carson assumes command.  
July 9 – Aug 18 At Charleston  
Aug 18-Sept 1 Transited to Athens, Greece her new homeport.  
Aug 28 Visited Rota, Spain.  
Oct 3 Arrived in Phaleron Bay.  
Oct 4-9 Conducted Black Sea operations.  
Nov Conducted **Operation Bystander**, surveillance of four Soviet Foxtrot submarines.

## 1973

Feb 5-10 Conducted Black Sea operations.  
March Operated in Tunis to assist Tunisian flood victims.  
June 11-16 Participated in exercise **Dawn Patrol**  
Sept Participated in NATO Naval On-Call Forces Mediterranean, exercise **Diligent Duty**.  
Oct-Nov Operated with USS Independence, CV-62, in Eastern Mediterranean during Middle East Crisis.  
Dec Awarded Battle Efficiency **E** by COMCRUDESFDRLANT.  
Dec 17 Began onboard installation of Distillate Fuel Conversion in Hellenic Shipyards, Skaramangas, Greece.

## 1974

March 21 Completed onboard installation of Distillate Fuel Conversion in Hellenic Shipyards, Skaramangas, Greece.  
June 19-21 Participated in **Operation Flaming Lance**.  
July 19 Commander Robert L. Whitmire assumes command.  
Nov 22 Safely recovered 3 crewmembers of a downed SH3D helicopter from the USS Independence, CV- 62. Safely towed the helicopter to the Independence.

## 1975

Awarded Battle Efficiency **E** for DESRON 12.  
March 22 Rescued and towed the *El Greco Commander*, a Liberian fishing vessel, to Augusta Bay, Sicily.  
July 28 Departed Athens for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
Aug 20 Arrived at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
Aug 25 Officially shifted homeport to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## 1976

All year RDH at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.  
Sept 30 Commander Albert L. Bartels assumes command.

## 1977

Feb 7-10	Shifted to new homeport in Mayport, Florida.
April	Conducted CSQT, WSAT, and REFTRA in Caribbean Sea and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
May 29	Ran aground at the entrance to San Juan, Puerto Rico, but was cleared within an hour by the ship's engines and one tug. The sonar dome was slightly damaged.
Sept	Deployed to Mediterranean Sea.
Nov 12-19	Conducted Black Sea operations.
Nov 23-28	Visited Ashdod, Israel.
Dec 16-19	Visited Alexandria, Egypt. <u>Note</u> : Sampson was the first US Navy ship to visit both Israel and Egypt on the same deployment. Nominated by COMDESRON 12 for Navy Award.

## 1978

April 25	Returned to Mayport, Florida.
July 28	Commander Ted P. Fenno assumes command.
July 31-Aug 18	Participated in <b>COMPTUEX 4-78</b> . Successfully launched fourteen SM-1-MR missiles as missile school ship's training, embarking firing teams from USS Conyngham, DDG-17, USS Sellars, DDG-11 and USS Julius A. Furer, FFG-6.

## 1979

Jan-Feb	Participated in <b>READEX 1-79</b> .
March 13	Deployed to Mediterranean Sea with USS America, CV-66 CVBG.
June 6-Aug 24	Conducted operations in Southern Red Sea and Persian Gulf. Awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal.
Sept 22	Arrived in Mayport, Florida.
Dec 10	Awarded Battle Efficiency <b>E</b> for DESRON 12.

## 1980

Jan 14-Feb 1	Participated in <b>READEX 1-80</b> in the Caribbean Sea with COMDESRON 32 embarked.
May 26-June 4	Participated in <b>OPSAIL 80</b> , celebration of Boston's 350 <sup>th</sup> birthday with Vice Admiral Thomas J. Bigley, COMSECONDFLT, former commanding officer of the Sampson embarked.
June 4-21	Participated in <b>COMPTUEX 4-80</b> in the Caribbean Sea.
Sept 10-24	Participated in NATO exercise <b>Teamwork 80</b> in the North Atlantic.
Nov 3	Returned to Mayport, Florida.
Dec	Awarded Battle Efficiency <b>E</b> for DESRON 12.

## 1981

All year	Conducted RDH at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Received AN/SQQ-23 PAIR sonar</li><li>• Replaced AN/SPS37 with AN/SPS40D air search radar</li></ul>
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## 1982

March	Returned to Mayport from RDH at Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
June 4-Aug 13	Conducted WSAT, NGFS, CSQT and REFTRA in the Caribbean Sea and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
July 19	Rescued six civilians from the sailing boat <i>So Fine</i> while enroute to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Aug 13-15	Embarked USCG TACLET for anti-drug smuggling operations.
Oct 1-15	Participated in <b>READEX 3-82</b> in the Caribbean Sea with USS Nimitz, CVN-68 CVBG.
Nov 10	Deployed with USS Clifton Sprague, FFG-16, to the Persian Gulf as part of the Middle East Force.

## 1983

Jan 1-10	Conducted surveillance of Soviet carrier <i>Minsk</i> in the Indian Ocean
Feb 22-March 16	Participated as part of multi-national peacekeeping force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon.
March 31-April 16	Participated as part of multi-national peacekeeping force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon.
May 20	Returned to Mayport, Florida.
June 9	Commander Jerrold J. Negin assumes command from Commander Chandler.
Oct 1-27	Conducted operations on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal.
Nov 3-23	Participated in Operation <b>Urgent Fury</b> , the military action to liberate the Caribbean island of Grenada as CTU28.1.1.
Nov 30	Returned to Mayport, Florida.
Nov	Awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for involvement in Operation <b>Urgent Fury</b> . Awarded Battle Efficiency <b>E</b> for DESRON 12.

## 1984

Jan 1-Oct 12	Participated in pre-deployment operations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>COMPTUEX 2-84</b> in the Caribbean Sea</li><li>• IRFT at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba</li><li>• <b>READEX 2-84</b></li></ul>
Oct 13	Deployed to Mediterranean with USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, CVN-69 CVBG.
Nov 8-Dec 16	Conducted Eastern Mediterranean contingency operations off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon.

## 1985

	Conducted <b>Operation Eagle Eye</b> surveillance of Soviet units in (? Hanmant ?) anchorage.
Feb 14-April 5	Conducted Eastern Mediterranean contingency operations off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon.
March 2	Rescued crew of Turkish fishing vessel <i>Bilal Ogullari</i> in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.
May 7	Returned to Mayport, Florida.
Aug 15	Commander Dennis I. Parsons assumes command.
Sept 15-Dec 31	Conducted SRA in Mayport, Florida.



## 1986

- Jan 28-Feb 3 Participated in recovery operations off Cape Canaveral after the Shuttle Challenger disaster. Received the USCG Unit Commendation.
- May 16-June 24 Conducted IRFT in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Oct 6 Deployed to Persian Gulf as member of Middle East Force.  
Conducted escort services for Kuwaiti and American merchant ships in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war.

## 1987

- Jan 4-5 Visited Shuaiba Kuwait (first US Navy port visit in Kuwait in seven years).
- April 7 Returned to Mayport from Persian Gulf Deployment.
- May 4-28 Conducted anti-drug smuggling surveillance operations in the Caribbean Sea.
- Aug 19-Dec 17 Conducted Drydocked Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) in Charleston Naval Shipyard.

## 1988

- Feb 18 Commander Earl Robert Jones assumes command.
- March 23-31 Conducted LEO operations and **MISSILSEX** in Caribbean Sea.
- July 19 Commander M. R. Rice assumes command.
- July 19-Dec 9 Participated in **UNITAS XXIX** with COMDESRON 36 embarked.
- Aug 1 Commander Albert Clinton Myers assumes command.

## 1989

- Feb 6- March 16 Conducted LEO operations with USCG in Caribbean Sea.
- Aug 21-Sept 1 Conducted Limited Team Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Oct 2-24 Conducted LEO operations with USCG in Caribbean Sea.
- Dec 18 Awarded Battle Efficiency **E** for DESRON 12.

## 1990

- Feb 2-9 Participated in **FLEETEX 1-90 BASIC** in Puerto Rico Operations Area.
- Feb 10-18 Participated in **Operation Topkick** off Columbia as a SAR unit in support of Presidents Bush's South American Drug Summit.
- April 12 Participated in **VANDALEX** weapons firing.
- June 7-22 Participated in **FLEETEX 3-90 ADVANCED** in Puerto Rico Operations Area with USS Saratoga, CV-60 CVBG.
- Aug 3 Commander William D. Sullivan assumes command.
- Aug 7 Departed Mayport, Florida.  
Deployed to Mediterranean with USS Saratoga, CV-60 CVBG.  
(Deployed from Aug 7 to March 28.)
- Aug 15 Assigned to Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.  
Transited the Suez Canal.
- Aug 24 Joined units in the Northern Red Sea. Began Maritime interception and boarding in support of UN sanctions against Iraq.
- Aug 22-Sept 21 Operated in Red Sea in support of **Operation Desert Shield**. Conducted fourteen merchant boardings.
- Aug 26 Conducted the first boarding and search of **Desert Shield**.

Aug 28	Boarded and searched vessel – identified prohibited cargo and goods intended for Iraq. Ordered vessel to another port. This was the first vessel diverted as part of Desert Shield. Sampson’s boarding and search operation were highlighted during an ABC newscast with Peter Jennings.
Sept 3	Presented with the “Eight Ball Award” for superlative performance during Maritime Interception operations, by Rear Admiral Nick Gee, Commander of Cruiser Destroyer Group 8.
Sept 15-18	Visited at Hurghada, Egypt for inaugural port visit.
Sept 21	Transited the Suez Canal to join the 41 <sup>st</sup> activation of NATO’s <b>Naval On-Call Forces Mediterranean</b> .
Sept 26-Oct 22	Participated in NATO’s <b>Naval On-Call Forces Mediterranean, Exercise Deterrent Force 2-90</b> . Operated with the Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, British, German, Turkish, and Hellenic navies in <b>Display Determination 90</b> exercise. Celebrated and hosted 215 <sup>th</sup> birthday of the US Navy in Bari, Italy.
Nov 1	Transited the Suez Canal and rejoined the Northern Red Sea units.
Nov 1-Dec 15	Operated in Red Sea in support of <b>Operation Desert Shield</b> . Conducted twenty-two merchant boardings. Conducted first ASROC exercise in the Red Sea as part of operations with the USS Saratoga, CV-60 CVBG.
Dec 16	Transited the Suez Canal. Visited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandria, Egypt</li> <li>• Izmir, Turkey</li> <li>• Antalya, Turkey</li> </ul> Returned to Mayport, Florida

## 1991

Jan 1-March 14	Participated in NATO’s <b>Naval On-Call Forces Mediterranean</b> , in support of <b>Operation Desert Storm</b> in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. <u>Note:</u> Awarded Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal and Southwest Asian Service Medal (with Bronze Star) for participation in <b>Operation Desert Shield</b> and <b>Operation Desert Storm</b> . Returned to Mayport, Florida.
June 24	Decommissioned as last of Adams class on the East Coast.

## 1992

Nov 20	Stricken from Navy List.
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## 1994

Dec 16	Sold for scrap.
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## 1995

July 25	Sold and scrapped.
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## 2003

June	Scrapped in Philadelphia. Sampson anchor saved and now displayed in Greenboro, North Carolina.
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