



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

FPO AA 34090-1921

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5750  
MCM1/00  
28 Feb 1998

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS AVENGER (MCM-1)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

*S. C. Shoen*  
S.C. SHOEN

Copy to:  
COMCMRON TWO  
COMINWARCOM Corpus Christi, TX  
COMREGSUPPGRU INGLESIDE TX

## USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

### Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission: Conduct Countermeasures against moored and bottom mines. Conduct independent mine warfare operations and participate in coordinated mine warfare operations with various Naval forces. AVENGER's primary missions are: Mine Warfare (MIW), Mobility (MOB), and Command, Control, and Communications (CCC). Secondary missions are: Intelligence (INT), Fleet Support Operations (FSO), and Non-Combat Operations (NCO).

b. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, Ingleside, Texas.

c. Command Organization (as of 31 December 1996):

- (1) Commanding Officer: LCDR Stephen Shoen, USN
- (2) Executive Officer: LCDR Kurt Hedberg, USNR-TAR
- (3) Chief Engineer: LT Paul Fields, USN
- (4) Operations Officer: LT Michael Weldon, USN
- (5) Supply Officer: LTJG Stephen Shiplett, USN
- (6) Damage Control Assistant: ENS Paul Kress, USN
- (7) First Lieutenant: LTJG John Hahn, USN
- (8) Training Officer: LTJG Amahl Williams, USN

d. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

e. Statistical Data:

(1) Current ship's manning: 7 Officers, 72 Enlisted

Length:	224 feet	Draft (Navigation):	15 feet
Beam:	39 feet	Displacement:	1340 tons
Speed:	13.5 knots	Accommodations:	8 Officer 5 CPO 70 Enlisted
Draft (keel):	12.2 feet		

**Propulsion:**

Four Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified diesel engines

Two Controllable Reversible Pitch Propellers

Two Rudders

Two Electric Light Load Propulsion Motors

**Auxiliary:**

Three Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified Ship's Service Diesel Generators

One Solar Gas Turbine

One Omnithruster Bow Thruster

**Sensors/Navigation Systems:**

One AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar

One Furuno Navigation Radar

One AN/SSN-2(V) Phase IV Precise Integrated Navigation System

One AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting Sonar Set

One AN/WQN-1 Channel Finder

**Mine Countermeasures system:**

One AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System

Size 1 Oropesa Type Mechanical Minesweep Equipment

AN/SLQ-37(V)3 Magnetic/Acoustic Influence Sweep Equipment

## USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

### Chronology

01-19 JAN	Inport Ingleside, TX for standown and upkeep
20-26 JAN	U/W Corpus Christi Operating Area for GOMEX 97-1 exercise
27JAN-20FEB	Completed pre-overseas movement (POM) work-up.
21FEB-19JUL	U/W in support of Euro-97 deployment
21-24 FEB	U/W enroute Key West, FL
25 FEB	Port visit Key West, FL
26-28 FEB	U/W enroute Charleston, SC
01-02 MAR	Port visit Charleston, SC
03-04 MAR	Inport and U/W Degaussing in vic. Charleston, SC.
05 MAR	U/W enroute Mayport, FL
05 MAR	Port visit Mayport, FL
06 MAR	U/W Jacksonville Operating Area in support of VEMS trials.
07-12 MAR	Inport Mayport. SIMA Mayport provides limited IMAV.
13-17 MAR	U/W enroute Bermuda, UK
17 MAR	Port visit Bermuda, UK
18MAR-05APR	U/W enroute Portsmouth, UK
06-13 APR	Port visit Portsmouth, UK
14-17 APR	U/W enroute Arhus, DA
18-20 APR	Port visit Arhus, DA
21-30 APR	U/W Baltic Operations Area in support of MCMEX Blue Harrier 97.
01-04 MAY	Port visit Arhus, DA
05-08 MAY	U/W enroute La Spezia, IT

Encl (2)

09	MAY	Inport Portsmouth, UK for storm evasion.
09-19	MAY	U/W enroute La Spezia, IT
15	MAY	Change of Commanding Officer
19-23	MAY	Port visit La Spezia, IT
24-25	MAY	U/W vic. La Spezia, IT in support of MCMEX Palmeria 97.
26-28	MAY	Port visit La Spezia, IT
29-31	MAY	U/W enroute Palma, SP
01-02	JUN	Port visit Palma, SP
03-12	JUN	U/W vic. Palma, SP in support of MCMEX Alcudra 97.
13-16	JUN	Port visit Palma, SP
17-19	JUN	U/W enroute Rota, SP
20	JUN	Port visit Rota, SP
21JUN-11JUL		U/W enroute Ingleside, TX
11	JUL	Conducted towing operations. Towed USS Black Hawk to Key West, FL.
11	JUL	Inport Key West, FL (Brief stop for fuel (BSF))
11	JUL	U/W enroute Ingleside, TX
12	JUL	U/W enroute Key West, FL
12	JUL	Inport Key West, FL for BSF
12	JUL	U/W enroute Panama City, FL with USS Black Hawk in tow.
13	JUL	U/W enroute Tampa Bay, FL with USS Black Hawk in tow.
14	JUL	Commercial tugboat takes USS Black Hawk under tow.
14-15	JUL	U/W enroute Ingleside, TX escorting USS Black Hawk.
16-18	JUL	U/W enroute Ingleside, TX relieved of escort duty in support of storm evasion.

19JUL-08AUG	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of post-deployment upkeep.
09-18 AUG	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
18AUG-05SEP	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of IMAV.
18-22 AUG	Horse (Pre-CART) assist visit.
23AUG-16SEP	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
17 SEP	U/W Corpus Christi Operating Area in support of Change of Commanding Officer.
18 SEP	Inport Ingleside, TX
19 SEP	U/W Corpus Christi Operating Area in support of navigation check ride.
20-21 SEP	Inport Ingleside, TX
22-25 SEP	U/W Corpus Christi Operating Area in support of MCMEX Co-operative Telos.
26-28 SEP	Inport Ingleside, TX
29SEP-03OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of CART II inspection.
04-19 OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
20-24 OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of TSTA I.
25-26 OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX
27-31 OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of TSTA I DASM.
01-09 NOV	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
10-14 NOV	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of TSTA I ETG.
15-23 NOV	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
24NOV-12DEC	Inport Ingleside, TX in support of IMAV.
13-18 DEC	Inport Ingleside, TX for upkeep.
14-31 DEC	Inport Ingleside, TX for holiday leave and upkeep.

## USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

### Narrative

1. GOMEX 97-1: Participated in MCMEX. The exercised was used to prepare for the Euro-97 deployment.

2. Euro-97 deployment: Avenger performed adroitly throughout the deployment. The following items are the most notable:

A. VEMS trials-Avenger was selected to participate in VEMS (practice mines) trials off the coast of Florida prior to the overseas portion of the deployment.

B. MCMEX Blue Harrier 97-Avenger was the only U.S. MCM to successfully sweep a practice mine during the exercise (the mine registered the sweeping by releasing a flare). In addition, Avenger helped "prove the concept" of surface MCM support provided from USS Inchon (Avenger and USS Black Hawk stayed underway for the duration of the exercise-the only surface MCM units participating in Blue Harrier to do so).

C. MCMEX Palmeria 97-Avenger was able to find and run a simulated AN/SLQ-48 neutralization run on what the Italians considered an "unfindable" mine.

D. MCMEX Alcudra 97-Avenger performed admirably throughout the exercise and recovered more mines than any other U.S. asset.

3. Change of Commands:

A. LCDR Gary Gilleon , USN relieved LCDR David Fillion, USN at sea on 15 May, 1997.

B. LCDR Stephen Shoen, USN relieved LCDR Gary Gilleon, USN at sea on 17 September, 1997.

4. Change of Executive Officer: LCDR Kurt Hedberg, USNR-TAR arrived on 20 May, 1997 to assume duties as Executive Officer.