



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)
FPO AA 34090-1921

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OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS AVENGER (MCM-1)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE
Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) 3 1/2" Diskette with MS Word Version 9.0 of Report
(5) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

A. D. Amidon
A. D. AMIDON
Acting

Copy to:
COMINWARCOM Corpus Christi, TX
COMCMRON TWO

USS AVENGER (MCM 1)

Command Composition and Organization

a. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 21314

b. 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).

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

d. Command Organization (as of 31 December 2001):

- (1) Commanding Officer: LCDR John T. Beaver, Jr., USN
- (2) Executive Officer: LT Andrew D. Amidon, USN
- (3) Operations Officer: LTJG Albert E. Armstrong, USNR
- (4) Combat Information Center Officer: LTJG Luis J. Duran, USNR
- (5) Chief Engineer: LTJG David Hopkins, USNR
- (6) Supply Officer: LTJG Luis A. Bencomo, USNR
- (7) Assistant Chief Engineer: LTJG James J. Singleton, USNR
- (8) Damage Control Assistant: ENS John Wilson, USNR
- (9) First Lieutenant: ENS Chikiyo Jackson, USNR

e. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

f. Statistical Data:

(1) Current ship's manning: 9 Officers, 6 CPOs, and 70 Enlisted

Length:	224 feet	Draft (Navigation):	13 feet
Beam:	39 feet	Displacement:	1312 tons
Speed:	13.5 knots	Accommodations:	8 Officer 6 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 (V6) Precise Integrated Navigation System

One AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting Sonar Set

One AN/WQN-1 Channel Finder

One AN/UQN-4 Fathometer

Mine Countermeasures System:

One AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System

Size 1 Oropesa Type Mechanical Minesweeping Equipment

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

AN/SLQ-38 Mechanical Equipment

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Chronology

01 JAN-08 JAN	Upkeep: Ingleside TX
08 JAN-19 JAN	U/W for GOMEX in Corpus Christi Operational Area
25 JAN-26 JAN	Final Evaluation Period
27 JAN-14 FEB	Pre-deployment standown and leave period
13 FEB-13 FEB	SAR Certification
15 FEB-15 FEB	U/W from NAVSTA Ingleside, TX
16 FEB-19 FEB	Transit Caribbean Sea
20 FEB-20 FEB	Brief Stop for Fuel Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
21 FEB-26 FEB	Transit Caribbean Sea enroute to Colon, Panama
27 FEB-27 FEB	Transit Panama Canal
28 FEB-29 FEB	BSF Rodman, Panama
11 MAR-11 MAR	Underway replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE enroute San Diego
15 MAR-15 MAR	Underway replenishment with USNS TIPPACANOE enroute San Diego
18 MAR-04 APR	Exercise Kernel Blitz
30 MAR-30 MAR	LCDR David Chase is relieved as Commanding Officer Inport San Diego
03 APR-03 APR	End of Exercise Kernel Blitz
03 APR-23 APR	Inport San Diego for FMAV with SIMA San Diego, CA
23 APR-25 APR	Enroute San Francisco, CA
26 APR-04 MAY	Port Visit to San Francisco, CA
04 MAY-08 MAY	Enroute Bangor, WA
08 MAY-08 MAY	LCDR Allen relieved by LT Amidon as Executive Officer

09 MAY-09 MAY	U/W Dabob Range for Combat Systems Testing
10 MAY-11 MAY	U/W Hood Canal Underwater Survey Operations
11 MAY-17 MAY	Inport Bangor, WA
11 MAY- 11 MAY	STGCS Broadhead Retirement Ceremony
17 MAY-18 MAY	U/W enroute Esquimalt, British Columbia
18 MAY-25 MAY	Inport Esquimalt, British Columbia
22 MAY-24 MAY	U/W Canadian MIW Operations
25 MAY-04 JUN	Inport Everett, WA
31 MAY-31 MAY	ISIC Engineering Quicklook
04 JUN-06 JUN	U/W enroute Astoria, OR
06 JUN-06 JUN	Brief Stop for Fuel Astoria, OR
07 JUN-07 JUN	Transit Columbia River enroute Portland, OR
08 JUN-10 JUN	Inport Portland Rose Festival
11 JUN-11 JUN	Transit Columbia River enroute Astoria, OR for BSF
12 JUN-17 JUN	U/W enroute San Diego, CA
18 JUN-18 JUN	Arrive San Diego, CA
19 JUN- 05 JUL	Inport San Diego for IMAV with SIMA San Diego, CA
25 JUN- 29 JUN	Engineering LTT w/ATG Ingleside Inport San Diego, CA
05 JUL-12 JUL	U/W enroute Manzanillo, Mexico
12 JUL-12 JUL	BSF Manzanillo, MX
12 JUL-17 JUL	U/W enroute Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
17 JUL-17JUL	BSF Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
17 JUL-22 JUL	U/W enroute Rodman, Panama
22 JUL-23 JUL	BSF Rodman, Panama
23 JUL-23 JUL	Transit Panama Canal
23 JUL-26 JUL	U/W enroute Roatan, Honduras

27 JUL-29 JUL	Port Visit Roatan, Honduras
29 JUL-03 AUG	U/W enroute NAVSTA Ingleside, TX
04AUG-04 SEP	Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep
05 SEP-16 SEP	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
07 SEP-07 SEP	U/W for Family Day Cruise in CCOA
17 SEP-05 OCT	Inport Ingleside, TX for FMAV with SIMA Ingleside, TX
06 OCT-31 OCT	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
09 OCT-11 OCT	Communications LTT
11 OCT-11 OCT	Fire Fighting Team Trainer
15 OCT-19 OCT	U/W for MCM Training in CCOA
22 OCT-26 OCT	3M Assessment by ATG Ingleside
22 OCT-02 NOV	CNO Paint Team Availability
29 OCT-01 NOV	Advanced Fire Fighting Team Trainer
01 NOV-03 NOV	Shipboard Weapons Qualifications
01 NOV-21 NOV	Inport Ingleside, TX for TAV with SIMA Ingleside, TX
05 NOV-09 NOV	GAS-1 Antenna Installation
07 NOV-07 NOV	MICFAC MEDAL & GCCS-M Training Exercise
09 NOV-09 NOV	MCMRON TWO Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition onboard USS AVENGER
10 NOV-11 NOV	Naval Reserve Weekend (In port)
13 NOV-16 NOV	PLOT I
26 NOV-30 NOV	U/W Transit: Gulf of Mexico enroute Key West, FL
30 NOV-02 DEC	Port Visit Key West, FL
02 DEC-03 DEC	U/W enroute AUTEK Range, Bahamas
03 DEC-08 DEC	U/W in support of GPS GAS-1 Antenna testing in AUTEK Testing Range
09 DEC-10 DEC	U/W enroute Port Everglades, FL

10 DEC-12 DEC	Port Visit Port Everglades, FL
12 DEC-18 DEC	U/W Transit: Gulf of Mexico enroute Ingleside, TX
19 DEC-31 DEC	Holiday Leave and Upkeep

USS AVENGER (MCM 1) Narrative

1. Panama Canal Transits (27 FEB and 23 JUL):

-AVENGER began the 2001 EASTPAC deployment by transiting the Caribbean Sea to the Panama Canal with a brief stop for fuel (BSF) in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Upon arrival to the Panama Canal, AVENGER and the other three ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group Three were the first mine warfare ships to transit the Panama Canal since the establishment of NAVSTA Ingleside, TX. After completing the transit AVENGER sailors were able to enjoy a brief port call in Rodman, Panama for some well-deserved liberty. Completing this transit reaffirmed the capability of the four ships of MIWRG-3 to conduct sustained forward-deployed operations. This transit was repeated during the return from deployment in July of 2001 with another successful trip through the Panama Canal.

2. Exercise Kernel Blitz (18 MAR-03 APR):

-AVENGER participated in this Joint Task Force Exercise with numerous Third Fleet forces and also included mine warfare ships of the Canadian Navy. AVENGER, along with the other ships of MIWRG-3, conducted around-the-clock minehunting and minesweeping operations in clearing the way for the amphibious task force landing. This exercise allowed AVENGER to demonstrate all of her mine warfare mission requirements and prove readiness to conduct combat operations.

3. Change of Command (30 MAR)

-LCDR John T. Beaver, Jr. relieved LCDR David R. Chase as Commanding Officer in a ceremony onboard Naval Station San Diego. VADM (Ret) James Stockdale and his wife, who also served as the ship's sponsor at AVENGER's commissioning, attended the ceremony. LCDR Chase was presented an award from the Commander, Mine Warfare Command.

4. Port Visit to San Francisco, CA (26 APR-04 MAY)

-AVENGER's first significant liberty port visit occurred during this extended port visit in San Francisco, CA. The port visit was extended four days due to high winds and seas in the Eastern Pacific. During this visit AVENGER was opened to the public for tours and showed off the ship to more than 500 guests. Tours of the San Francisco area were arranged for the crew and several sailors also attended San Francisco Giant baseball games.

5. Combat Systems Testing and Underwater Survey Operations Bangor, WA (08 MAY-17 MAY)

-AVENGER's first stop in the PACNORWEST was a visit to Bangor Submarine Base and included extensive Combat Systems Testing on the Dabob Underwater Range as well as Underwater Survey Operations in the Hood Canal. During this period AVENGER served as a host platform for testing some advanced C4I technology which could significantly improve the MCM's communications and inter-operability.

6. LCDR Allen is relieved as Executive Officer (08 MAY)

-LT Andrew Amidon relieved LCDR Glen Allen as Executive Officer upon arrival to Bangor, WA. LT Amidon's previous assignment was Operations Officer on the USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8). LCDR Allen departed to begin the PCO training pipeline for his next assignment as Commanding Officer of the USS CORMORANT (MHC 57).

7. Retirement Ceremony for STGCS (SW) Darryl Broadhead (11 MAY)

-Following more than 20 years of loyal service, STGCS (SW) Broadhead retired from the United States Navy in a ceremony held at the Submarine Base in Bangor, WA. LTJG Singleton delivered the invocation and benediction. LT Amidon served as the Master of Ceremonies while the Commanding Officer, LCDR Beaver, was the guest speaker and also presented STGCS (SW) Broadhead with several awards and certificates. Near the conclusion of the ceremony, the Chief Petty Officer's Mess presented STGCS (SW) Broadhead with a shadow box depicting various awards and decorations he earned throughout his career.

8. Bilateral MCM Operations with the Canadian Navy (18 MAY-25 MAY):

-Upon departing Bangor, AVENGER transited the Puget Sound to the Canadian Naval Base at Esquimalt, British Columbia. The crew thoroughly enjoyed this port visit and liberty time during a holiday weekend in Victoria. This was immediately followed by bilateral exercises and training with Canadian MCM Forces in the Puget Sound. Both navies showed off their operations and learned from this sharing of information on minehunting and minesweeping capabilities. Several sailors from both navies were able to cross-deck to other ships to observe the operations and traditions of naval service.

9. Port Visit to Everett, WA and ISIC Engineering Quicklook (25 MAY-04 JUN)

-This port visit was primarily a working port with the crew reviewing and practicing engineering and damage control drills. The ship conducted an Engineering Quicklook Assessment of material readiness, watchstander proficiency, and firefighting capability with a combined assessment team from MCMRON TWO and ATG Ingleside.

10. Portland Rose Festival (07JUN-10 JUN):

-After a BSF and one night stop in Astoria, Oregon, AVENGER conducted an eight hour transit up the Columbia River to Portland, OR. During this port visit, AVENGER participated in the numerous events of the Portland Rose Festival, entertained more than 1500 visitors and was met with open arms by the local community. Upon departure from Portland, AVENGER again transited the Columbia River and conducted another overnight stop in Astoria.

11. Maintenance Availability and LTT Visit San Diego, CA (19 JUN-05 JUL)

-Upon to arrival to San Diego, CA, AVENGER conducted a two week maintenance availability with SIMA San Diego. Several essential voyage repairs were conducted by ship's force and SIMA in preparation for the month-long transit to Ingleside, TX. During this time AVENGER also conducted an LTT with ATG Ingleside focusing on engineering management programs and training.

12. Liberty Port Roatan, Honduras (27-29 JUL)

-During the return transit, AVENGER and DEVASTATOR became the largest US Navy ships to visit the island of Roatan, Honduras. The crew was well-received by the Honduran people and were able to take part in many water sports, including some of the world's best diving locations. AVENGER also hosted several sailors of the Honduran Navy, providing meals and training on damage control and firefighting systems.

13. Homecoming (03 AUG)

-AVENGER returned to Ingleside, TX on 03 AUG after nearly six months of forward-deployed operations. The ship was welcomed home on the pier by RADM Betancourt, Commander, Mine Warfare Command and Commodore Rush, Commandeer, Mine Countermeasure Squadron Two. The family support group provided an outstanding reception and EN1 Scott and his wife Jan were the lucky winners of the First Kiss Contest.

14. Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep (03 AUG-04 SEP)

-The crew was rewarded for their dedicated efforts on deployment with the traditional stand down period and enjoyed this time to re-connect with their families and loved ones.

15. Family Cruise (07 SEP)

-Family members and guest were treated to a day at sea on the AVENGER in the Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA). The family day cruise was an exciting opportunity for the crew to show their dependents and guests what life is like at sea onboard a minesweeper. Events included a reenlistment ceremony and "cedar beach" cookout.

16. Terrorist Attack on New York and the Pentagon (11 SEP)
 - AVENGER responds to the terrorist attack by immediately increasing force protection and threatcon measures to ensure readiness to defend against any threat. Although not called to go to sea, AVENGER was ready to meet any operational tasking in support of homeland defense or forward-deployed operations.

17. 3M Assessment (22 OCT-26 OCT)
 - Getting back to the routine of completing required assessments, AVENGER completed a 3M Assessment with ATG Ingleside and earned the second highest score on the waterfront. Especially noteworthy was the performance of the engineering department for achieving the best score of any department on AVENGER.

18. MCMRON TWO Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition (09 NOV)
 - AVENGER hosted the 2001 Junior Officer Shiphandling of the Year competition for MCMRON TWO. Six different commands competed for the right to claim the title of MCMRON TWO shiphandler of the year during this underway contest in the Naval Station Ingleside basin. AVENGER's own LTJG Mark Fridye earned the title of Naval Reserve shiphandler of the year for MCMRON TWO.

19. Port Visit to Key West, FL (30 NOV-02 DEC)
 - AVENGER transited across the Gulf of Mexico in support of GPS testing on the Bahamas AUTEK Range. Key West, FL provided the perfect stop enroute for fuel, stores and a brief port visit. The crew was able to experience Key West's many exciting attractions including snorkeling, diving, and the many wonderful beaches.

20. Global Positioning System GAS-1 Antenna Testing (03 DEC-08 DEC)
 - AVENGER participated in the testing of the AN/GAS-1 Global Positioning System (GPS) system. This system will provide the ability for ships to utilize GPS while opposing forces attempt to jam it. The testing took place at the AUTEK Range in the Tongue of the Ocean on the east side of Andros Island in the Bahamas. AVENGER set Condition 1MH and commenced a series of Minehunting tactics and Q-Routes as a variety of equipment configurations were tested against shore and sea based jammers. Upon the very successful completion of this testing, AVENGER stopped for a day of minehunting at the AUTEK Underwater Range just north of Andros Island.

21. Port Visit Port Everglades, FL (10 DEC-12 DEC):
 - The reward for successful GPS testing operations was a port visit to Port Everglades (Fort Lauderdale) FL. During this port visit AVENGER was treated to outstanding hospitality from the various local Navy Leagues and took part in many of Southern Florida's finest sights and entertainment venues. Sailors were also given free tickets to a Miami Heat basketball game and a Miami Dolphins Monday Night Football game.

22. Holiday Leave and Upkeep (18 DEC-31 DEC)
 - Upon arrival back in Ingleside, TX, AVENGER concluded this highly successful and demanding year with a holiday leave and upkeep period which again allowed AVENGER sailors with the opportunity to spend time with family and celebrate the holiday season.