DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BLACK HAWK (MHC-58)
FPO AA 34091-1955

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IN REPLY REFER TO

02 Jan 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH) Washington Navy Yard, 901 M. Street S.E. Washington D.C., 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58) Command History

1. Pursuant to reference (a), enclosure (1) submitted.

C. HALTON

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COMMAND HISTORY USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58)

BLACK HAWK (MHC 58) is the eighth ship in the U. S. Navy's OSPREY Class Coastal Minehunter Program and the third U. S. Navy ship to bear the name. BLACK HAWK's keel was laid on September 3, 1992, and her christening and launching took place on August 27, 1994. MHC 51 Class ships are the world's largest Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) ships and the first U. S. Navy ships designed solely for mine hunting, the technique of locating mines with sonar and neutralizing them with a remotely controlled underwater vehicle. The ship's mission is to clear harbor, coastal and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic and pressure/contact type mines, utilizing reconnaissance, classification and neutralization tactics. The MHC 51 Class design integrates modern mine countermeasures technology into a uniquely designed platform. The ship is protected during mine hunting operations with an exceptionally low magnetic and acoustic signature.

01-09 JANUARY

BLACK HAWK continued a traditional holiday stand down period.

10-21 JANUARY

BLACK HAWK conducted a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV).

22-23 JANUARY

BLACK HAWK conducted reserve weekend in port.

24-28 JANUARY

BLACK HAWK continued Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV).

31 JANUARY - 10 FEBRUARY

BLACK HAWK participated in Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX 00-1) in the Corpus Christi Operation Area (CCOA), achieving the maximum attainable level of clearance for more than ten square miles of q-routes and fire support areas. Displaying excellence in mine warfare, BLACK HAWK coordinated the reacquisition and prosecution of more than twenty-five mine-like contacts. utilizing both an embarked EOD detachment under her tactical command (TACON) and Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) missions.

11 FEBRUARY - 12 MARCH

BLACK HAWK returned to Naval Station Ingleside to begin a Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Upkeep and Maintenance period.

18 FEBRUARY

LTJG Luis Raul Eliza reported aboard as Prospective Chief Engineering Officer.

09 MARCH

LTJG Luis Raul Eliza assumed duties as Chief Engineering Officer.

16-19 MARCH

BLACK HAWK departed Ingleside, TX commencing a four and a half month deployment in company with the ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group (MIWRG) One, SENTRY, DEFENDER, KINGFISHER and ROBIN enroute Pensacola, Florida.

20 MARCH

BLACK HAWK conducted a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) in Pensacola, Florida.

21-25 MARCH

BLACK HAWK was underway in the Pensacola Operating Area (PCOA) participating in the George Washington Battle Group (GWBATGRU) Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX 00-2), successfully planning and executing numerous opposition force (OPFOR) exercises and maritime interdiction operations.

26-27 MARCH

BLACK HAWK enroute port visit Key West, Florida.

28-29 MARCH

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Air Station Key West, Florida to refuel and for liberty.

30-31 MARCH

BLACK HAWK underway enroute Guantanomo Bay, Cuba.

1-13 APRIL

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

14-16 APRIL

BLACK HAWK underway enroute Mayport, Florida.

17-19 APRIL

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Station Mayport, Florida to refuel and liberty.

20-22 APRIL

BLACK HAWK enroute Little Creek, Virginia.

23-30 APRIL

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia participating in the GWBATGRU Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX 00-1), hosted by Tactical Training Group Atlantic (TACTRAGRULANT), which contributed significantly in mainstreaming mine warfare. Additionally, crewmembers attended three days of training at the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT) ship-handling simulator complex.

1-2 MAY

BLACK HAWK underway in Virgina Capes (VACAPES) OPAREA.

2 MAY

BLACK HAWK suffered a crankcase explosion of NR 2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)while conducting routine operations in the Virginia Capes (VACAPES).

3-15 MAY

BLACK HAWK inport NAB Little Creek, Virginia conducting emergency change out of NR 2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE).

16-18 MAY

BLACK HAWK enroute Mayport, Florida.

19 MAY

BLACK HAWK arrived Naval Station Mayport, Florida for a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF).

20-21 MAY

BLACK HAWK enroute Key West, Florida.

22 MAY

BLACK HAWK arrived Naval Air Station Key West, Florida for a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF).

23-24 MAY

BLACK HAWK enroute Pascagoula, Mississippi.

25-30 MAY

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Station Pasagoula, Mississippi for fuel and liberty.

28 MAY

LT Ferdinand Reid reported aboard as Prospective Executive Officer.

05 JUNE

LT Ferdinand Reid assumed duties as Executive Officer.

31 MAY - 01 JUNE

BLACK HAWK inport Naval Support Activity New Orleans, Louisiana commencing the first-ever Mississippi River Cruise (MRC-2000) domestic outreach and recruiting mission. During the months of June and July, BLACK HAWK proudly displayed her colors in eight Mississippi River ports, six of which had not been visited by a U.S. Navy ship since the Civil War. BLACK HAWK safely navigated over 2,300 miles on the Mississippi River, expertly completed a demanding port visit schedule including: media interviews, VIP tours, luncheons, welcoming ceremonies, public tours, official calls and community service projects. Conducting more than 28,000 public tours and devoting more than 5,000 man-hours to community service events including: "Caps for Kids," "Clean N' Green," city beautification, children's orphanage visits, SAR swimmer visits, softball games and teenage REHAB center visits, BLACK HAWK forged a lasting, positive image of the Navy for the people of the Mississippi River valley.

02-05 JUNE

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Conducted public tours. Crewmembers participated in a softball game with Naval Recruiting District (NRD) New Orleans and Delayed Entry Program (DEPERS) candidates. The USS KIDD Memorial Organization hosted a dinner and museum tour for the crew. Crewmembers also volunteered to participate in the "Caps for Kids" community relations project.

06-09 JUNE

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Natchez, Mississippi. Conducted public tours. Crewmembers participated in the "Clean N' Green" and Natchez Children's Home community relations projects.

15 JUNE

BLACK HAWK enroute to Vicksburg, Mississippi for port visit.

10-14 JUNE

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Conducted public tours. Crewmembers volunteered to participate in a city beautification community relations project.

16-21 JUNE

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Memphis, Tennessee. Conducted public tours. Many crewmembers visited the Bureau of Personnel to update service records and visit detailers. Crewmembers also volunteered to participate in the "Caps for Kids" community relations project.

22 JUNE

BLACK HAWK enroute to Cape Girardeau, Missouri for port visit.

23 JUNE - 01 JULY

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Cape Girardeau. Conducted public tours. The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hosted the crew for a picnic and golf tournament.

02-05 JULY

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in St. Louis, Missouri. Moored directly beneath the Jefferson Memorial Archway, BLACK HAWK was the centerpiece of the Fair St. Louis Independence Day Weekend festival and hosted the fair organizational committee members to view nightly fireworks displays from the ship's fantail. Crewmembers also volunteered to participate in the "Caps for Kids" community relations project. Conducted public tours.

06-12 JULY

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Memphis, Tennessee. Conducted public tours. While in port, BLACK HAWK hosted RADM McGann, Commander Navy Recruiting Command, RADM Hinkle, Commander Navy Personnel Command and RADM Tallent, Assistant Commander, Navy Personnel Command for Distribution (PERS-4).

13-17 JULY

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in Greenville, Mississippi. Conducted public tours.

18-23 JULY

BLACK HAWK conducted a port visit in New Orleans, Louisiana. Conducted 402 public tours and enjoyed liberty visit. Attended New Orleans Saints professional football scrimmage. Crewmembers also volunteered to participate in the "Caps for Kids" community relations project.

24-26 JULY

BLACK HAWK enroute Ingleside, Texas.

27 JULY

BLACK HAWK returned to Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, a proud crew who not only successfully executed a deployment and the MRC-2000 domestic outreach mission, but created solid, lasting ground-work for future Mississippi River Cruise missions.

28JULY - 27 SEPTEMBER

BLACK HAWK in Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep period.

28 AUGUST- 19 SEPTEMBER

BLACK HAWK conducted maintenance upkeep period.

20-21 SEPTEMBER

BLACK HAWK underway Corpus Christi OPAREA (CCOA) for Mine Warfare training and prospective commanding officer familiarization.

22-26 SEPTEMBER

BLACK HAWK conducted maintenance upkeep period.

27-28 SEPTEMBER

BLACK HAWK underway Corpus Christi OPAREA (CCOA) for Mine Warfare training.

29 SEPTEMBER - 06 OCTOBER

BLACK HAWK conducted maintenance upkeep period.

07 OCTOBER - 03 NOVEMBER

BLACK HAWK conducted a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV).

21 OCTOBER

LTJG Antonio Pinkston reported onboard as Propective Operations Officer.

04-05 NOVEMBER

BLACK HAWK underway conducting Naval Reserve Training (NRT) weekend and embarked dependents for a Family Day Cruise.

06-14 NOVEMBER

BLACK HAWK conducted maintenance upkeep period.

14 NOVEMBER

LTJG Antonio Pinkston assumed duties as Operations Officer.

14 NOVEMBER

LCDR Christopher H. Halton reported aboard as Prospective Commanding Officer.

15 NOVEMBER

BLACK HAWK transited from Naval Station Ingleside, TX to Gulf Copper shipyard in Corpus Christi, TX.

21 NOVEMBER

LCDR Christopher H. Halton relieved CDR Bradley Smith and assumed duty as Commanding Officer of USS BLACK HAWK.

16 NOVEMBER - 31 DECEMBER

BLACK HAWK remained in Gulf Copper shipyard conducting Primary Maintenance Availability (PMA).

14 DECEMBER - 31 DECEMBER

BLACK HAWK conducted holiday leave and upkeep period.