



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)
FPO AA 34090-1924

Rec'd 9/16/96

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 4/196
26 Aug 96

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, BLDG 57
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS CHAMPION (MCM-4) 1994 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) Director of Naval History ltr Ser SH/03892 of 6 Jun 96
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command History 1994

1. In response to reference (a), CHAMPION submits enclosure (1) in accordance with reference (b).

2. The current crew of USS CHAMPION (MCM-4) took over the ship on 08 March 1996, relieving a rotational crew. Since 1994, CHAMPION has had four complete crew changes and it has been difficult to completely reconstruct the ship's history for 1994. We have looked at operational schedule, reviewed limited files in CHAMPION, and talked to other sailors in Ingleside. The enclosed command history represents our best effort to reconstruct CHAMPION's activities and achievements in 1994.

3. If you have any questions, please contact my Public Affairs Officer: LTJG Brett M. Mears, DSN 776-4622, COMM (512) 776-4622.

Lewis C Nygard
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COMMAND HISTORY 1994
USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

A. Mission: The mission of USS CHAMPION is to locate and neutralize floating, moored, and bottom type mines using either conventional sweep techniques or sonar minehunting.

B. Organizational Structure: The Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) of USS CHAMPION is Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi, TX (COMINWARCOM). The Type Commander is Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic Fleet.

C. Name of Commander: LCDR Todd Malloy commanded CHAMPION until 24 June 1994, when he was relieved by LCDR Mark R. Rios. LCDR Mark R. Rios commanded CHAMPION for the remainder of 1994.

D. Permanent Duty Station: USS CHAMPION is homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Ingleside, TX.

E. Aircraft Assigned. There are no aircraft assigned to USS CHAMPION.

2. CHRONOLOGY: The following is a description of selected events listed in the Chronological Command History:

08 January-Visit ship for Ingleside Boy Scouts of America
10 January-Commenced Phased Maintenance Availability
25 February-Inspection Team for the Ney competition
08-10 March-Light Off Examination
11 March-Medical Readiness Examination
12 March-Visit ship for Tiger Paw elementary school
24 March-Completed field change installation to MK 7 IFF
25 March-Completed installation of CAPD system
27 March-Completed Phased Maintenance Availability
12-14 April-Engineering Assessment Team visit
19-21 April Light Off Examination
28 April-Sea Trials
09 May-Departed for Charleston, SC for degaussing
13 May-Brief stop for fuel in Key West, FL
16 May-Arrived in Charleston, SC
17 May-Commenced degaussing
27 May-Completed degaussing
31 May-Departed for port call in Key West, FL
02 June-Arrived in Key West, FL
06 June-Departed for Ingleside, TX
10 June-Arrived in Ingleside, TX
21 June-Underway in Corpus Christi operating area for PCO familiarization
24 June-Change of Command
27 June-Commenced technical groom on AN/SLQ-48
10 July-Completed technical groom on AN/SLQ-48
18-22 July-Limited Team Training in Corpus Christi OPAREA

Encl (1)

11-12 August-Closed loop degaussing survey
16-18 August-Logistics Management Assessment assist visit
10-13 September-Participated in exercise JTFX 95-1 in Corpus
Christi OPAREA
18 September-Host/Visit ship for USS Devastator (MCM 6)
arrival
19 September-Magazine sprinkler inspection
01 October-Commenced diesel inspection
07 October-Completed diesel inspection
18-20 October-Operational Propulsion Plant Examination
01-02 November-BTU Software Upgrade
16-18 December-Operational Propulsion Plant Examination

3. NARRATIVE:

The crew of CHAMPION returned from holiday stand down in early January to prepare for depot level repairs. On January 8th, the ship gave tours to the Ingleside Boy Scouts of America. Then, two days later, Champion got underway and entered the shipyards for a two and one half month repair availability. While in the shipyard, CHAMPION had the Chemical Agent Point Detection (CAPD) system, Torsion Meter system, and MK 7 IFF field change installed. An unsuccessful light off examination was conducted by CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board from March 8-10th.

MCM Group Three conducted a medical readiness examination (MRE) of CHAMPION on March 11th. The following day, first grade students from Tiger Paw Elementary School, came and toured the ship.

Depot level repairs finished on March 27th, and the ship returned home to Naval Station Ingleside. Two weeks later the MCM Group Three Engineering Assessment Team visited CHAMPION for three days. The team reviewed administrative programs and material conditions for two days in port and one day out in the Corpus Christi Operating Area. CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board returned a week later; they conducted a successful light off examination from April 19-21st.

CHAMPION conducted sea trials on April 28th, in the Corpus Christi operating area.

After sea trials, the crew spent two weeks preparing the ship for a voyage to Charleston for degaussing. CHAMPION left Ingleside on May 9th and steamed for three days before pulling into Key West, FL for a brief stop for fuel. Unfortunately, the crew could not enjoy the sunshine and tourism as they were underway again after the fuel tanks were topped off. The crew spent four more days at sea before pulling into Charleston, SC. The crew offloaded all non-essential magnetic material and then spent the next two weeks making numerous runs on the degaussing range in the Cooper River and mooring at Pier Yankee.

The ship completed degaussing on May 27th and had three days to relax before returning to Ingleside. CHAMPION sailed from Charleston on the last day of May and pulled in to Key West three days later, on June 2nd. This time, the crew got four days in port to enjoy the climate and festivities of Key West.

CHAMPION returned to Ingleside on June 10th. The crew then prepared for a Training Readiness Evaluation on June 15-16th.

The next two weeks, the crew feverishly prepared the ship for a change of command ceremony. On June 21st the PCO, LCDR Mark R. Rios, got a chance to get underway for the day and witness some of CHAMPION's mine warfare capabilities. Three days later LCDR Rios relieved LCDR Todd Malloy as Commanding Officer of USS CHAMPION (MCM 4).

Following the change of command ceremony the crew got two weeks to settle in with the new commanding officer. On June 27th, the ship and technical representatives began a two week groom of the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System. After completion of the groom, CHAMPION got underway from July 11-14th for mine warfare training in the Corpus Christi operating area (CCOA). The next week CHAMPION was back out in the CCOA for MCM Limited Team Training (LTT).

CHAMPION was in port for the entire month of August for upkeep and training. The ship underwent a closed loop degaussing

survey on 11-12 August and then had the Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) assist team from 16-18 August.

CHAMPION got underway on 9 September for the Corpus Christi operating area for training, and to lead into a joint task force exercise (JTFX 95-1) which lasted from 10-13 September. After the exercise, CHAMPION returned to port to prepare engineering spaces for an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

The diesel inspection team visited CHAMPION from 1-7 October to look at CHAMPION's seven Isotta Fraschini engines. Then on 11 October the Engineering Assessment (EA) team from MCM Group Three spent a day in port and a day underway inspecting CHAMPION's engineering plant.

One week later the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) conducted OPPE in CHAMPION with unsatisfactory results. The CHAMPION crew then spent the next month and a half working hard to prepare the plant for a second OPPE. CHAMPION went to sea 8-10 November, 6-8 December, and 14-15 December for underway OPPE preparations. CINCLANTFLT PEB conducted a second OPPE from 19-21 December with satisfactory results. CHAMPION then concluded the year with holiday leave and upkeep.

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: The following documents are enclosed to amplify important on USS CHAMPION activities.

- a. CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board Light Off Examination (LOE) results from 10 March 1994.
- b. CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board Light Off Examination (LOE) results from 20 April 1994.
- c. CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) results from 20 October 1994.