



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)

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IN REPLY TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: USS KEARSARGE COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

- Encl:
- (1) 2001 Command History
 - (2) Compiled Published Articles (101)
 - (3) Nomination for the 2001 Secretary of the Navy Energy Conservation Award
 - (4) Admiral Flatley CY01 Award Input
 - (5) USS KEARSARGE TYCOM Safety Award
 - (6) USS KEARSARGE Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Surface Ship Safety Award
 - (7) Battenburg Cup Award Nomination
 - (8) FY-01 Secretary of Defense Phoenix Award
 - (9) 2001 Arleigh Burke Trophy Nomination
 - (10) Force Commander Annual Health Promotion Unit Award "Green H"
 - (11) Vice Admiral Robert B. Pirie Naval Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award
 - (12) 2001 Junior Intelligence Specialist of the Year Nomination
 - (13) Battle "E" and Warfare Excellence Award Qualifications

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (13) are submitted.


S. C. SCHLIENTZ

USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) COMMAND HISTORY CALENDAR YEAR 2001

Command Composition and Organization

Mission: To load, transport and land troops and their equipment.

Organizational Structure:
Commander Amphibious Group TWO

Commanding Officer
Captain Steven C. Schlientz

Executive Officer
Captain Roland J. Mulligan

Command Master Chief
CMDMCM (SW/AW) E. W. Myers Jr.

Ship's Homeport: Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia

Ship's Awards for 2001: Golden Anchor Award; COMNAVSURFLANT Surface Ship Safety Award; Engineering Survivability Excellence Award; Command and Control Excellence Award; and Logistics Management Excellence Award; COMNAVSURFLANT "Green H" Unit Wellness Award

Chronology:

KEARSARGE SHIP'S SCHEDULE 2001

January

01-21 Holiday Upkeep, Norfolk, VA
16 CMC Change of Charge ceremony, CMDMC Myers relieved CMDMC Quibilan
17 Change of Command. CAPT Schlientz relieved CAPT Bookert
22-27 TRACKEX, Puerto Rican Operating Area, PR
28-31 Inport St. Thomas, USVI for port visit

February

- 01 Inport St. Thomas, USVI for Port Visit
- 02-16 MEUEX, Cherry Point Operating Area, NC
- 03 Conducted emergency Medivac off coast of Florida of a Marine suffering from severe injury to his right hand. Medivac conducted by USCG SH-60J. Marine recovered full use of his hand
- 06 Embarked 24 MEU (SOC), HMM-266, MSSG 24, and BLT 28 for MEUEX
- 10 Visit by MGEN Mangus
- 12 Visit by BGEN Flanagan
- 13 Conducted Search and Rescue Operation in conjunction with USCG for 7 Marines at the Entrance to Moorhead City, NC. Marines were located and recovered
- 14 Disembarked 24 MEU (SOC), HMM-266, MSSG 24, and BLT 28
- 15 RAS (Fuel) with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6)
- 16-28 Upkeep Norfolk, VA
- 22 Visit by Commander, Amphibious Group TWO (RADM Moran)
- 26 Visit by Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic (RADM Foley)

March

- 01-08 Upkeep Norfolk, VA
- 08-28 JTFEX, Cherry Point Operating Area, Jacksonville Operating Area
- 09 Embarked 24 MEU (SOC), HMM 266, MSSG 24, BLT 2/8 for JTFEX
- 11-13 Moored Naval Station, Mayport, FL for AT/FP Exercise
- 15 Embarked Commander, Belgian and Netherlands Task Group (COMBNL76)
- 16-18 SACEX
- 17 Embarked Commander, Amphibious Group TWO (COMPHIBGRU 2)
- 18 Visit by Commander, Second Fleet
- 21 VERTREP with USS ARCTIC (AOE 6)
- 22-26 SOCEX
- 22 Disembarked COMPHIBGRU 2
- 24 Visit by VADM Buffart (Neth.), BGEN Flanagan, BGEN Gardner. Embarked Dutch Media
- 25 Dutch Media Departs
- 26 Disembarked COMBNLTG.
- 27 Offloaded 24 MEU (SOC), HMM 266, MSSG 24, BLT 2/8. UNREP with USNS JOHN LENTHAL (T-AO 189)
- 28-30 Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA for Pre-Overseas Movement availability

April

- 01-24 Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA for Pre-Overseas Movement availability
- 24 Visit by Commander, SECOND Fleet (VADM Mullen)
- 17 USS WASP (LHD 1) Port Elevator collides with KEARSARGE moored Starboard Elevator as WASP is getting underway. Several Flight Deck nets are damaged in collision

- 25 Deployed with COMPHIBRON SIX, TACTRON 22, USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) and USS PONCE (LPD 15) in support of MARG 01-2. Embarked ACU-4 Detachment Delta and HC-8 Detachment 7
- 26 Embarked 24 MEU (SOC), HMM 266, MSSG 24, BLT 2/8
- 27-30 Atlantic Transit

May

- 01-06 Atlantic Transit
- 03 Spotted a sailboat adrift. Launched Rigged Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to send an investigative party. Boarding party gathered information and evidence. Sailboat was sunk by gunfire from USS STOUT (DDG 55). Later discovered that crew of boat was rescued several weeks prior
- 07 CHOP to Sixth Fleet. UNREP with USNS BIG HORN (TAO 198)
- 08 Visit by Commander, SIXTH Fleet (VADM Johnson)
- 08-11 Inport Rota, SP for Turnover with NASSAU ARG
- 11-13 Underway WMED
- 12 Transit Strait of Gibraltar
- 14-19 Moored Palma de Mallorca, SP for port visit
- 20 Underway WMED, VERTREP with USNS SIRIUS (TAFS 8)
- 21-31 Exercise TRIDENT D'or; Sardinia, IT

June

- 01 Exercise TRIDENT D'or; Sardinia, IT
- 02-04 Underway CMED, EMED
- 02 UNREP with BIG HORN
- 05-15 Exercise Alexander the Great
- 09 Visit by Commodore Xenos (Hellenic Navy). Hosted reception for Greek and U.S. Officers
- 13 Visit by BGEN Fulford, USMC
- 16-17 Underway Aegean Sea, EMED
- 18-21 Anchored Rhodes, Greece for port visit
- 22-24 Underway EMED, CMED
- 22 Bayraider 71 lost at sea. All crewmembers were safely rescued by Bayraider 62
- 23 RAS with BIG HORN, Offloaded HMM-266 to NAS Sigonella
- 25-27 Moored Naples, Italy in support of USO GALA
- 28-30 Underway CMED
- 29 Recovered HMM-266 from NAS Sigonella
- 30 RAS with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN (T-AO 195)

July

- 1-13 Exercise ALBANIAN PHIBLEX
- 1-4 Underway ADRIATIC
- 5-8 Moored Brindisi, Italy for port visit
- 9-13 Underway Adriatic Sea

- 10 Visit by Albanian DV's
- 14-17 Underway CMED, EMED
- 14 RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN, VERTREP with SIRIUS
- 17-22 Underway IVO Genova, Italy in support of the President of the United States (POTUS) visit to G-8 Summit
- 17 VERTREP with USS ARCTIC
- 23-26 Anchored Cannes, France for port visit
- 27-31 Underway EMED, CMED, ADRIATIC
- 29 RAS with USNS LARAMIE (T-AO 203)

August

- 01-12 Inport Rijeka, Croatia for FMAV with USS EMORY S LAND (AS 39)
- 10 Flooding in Cargo Magazine # 9. Flooding caused by Magazine sprinkling system which was set off by failure of a heat-sensing device
- 13-16 Underway Adriatic Sea, CMED, WMED
- 15 RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN. VERTREP with SIRIUS. Embarked HMM-266 from NAS Sigonella
- 17-20 Inport Toulon, France for port visit
- 21-24 Inport Tarragona, Spain, to offload elements of 24 MEU (SOC) in support of KFOR
- 25-26 Underway WMED
- 26 RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN
- 27 Visit by U.S. Ambassador to Malta
- 28-30 Inport Valletta, Malta for port visit
- 31 Underway CMED

September

- 1-3 Underway CMED, EMED
- 1 Offloaded element of HMM-266 to NAS Sigonella in support of KFOR Operations
- 4-9 Inport Marmaris, Turkey for Port Visit
- 4 Visit by RADM, Turkish Navy
- 5 Visit by District Governor, Mayor of Marmaris
- 10-11 Underway EMED
- 11 Offload HMM-266 to Souda Bay, Crete. September 11 Terrorist attacks on United States
- 12-14 Underway Ionian Sea with TF 60 Escorts
- 12 Recovered HMM-266 from Souda Bay, Crete. RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN
- 15 Underway Adriatic, Recovered HMM-266 KFOR Element
- 16-22 Underway Ionian Sea
- 16-18 Recovered 24 MEU (SOC) KFOR Elements from Catania, Sicily
- 19 Visit by Commander, SIXTH Fleet (VADM Johnson). RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN
- 22-26 Underway CMED, EMED, WLANT
- 26 Transit Straits of Gibraltar
- 27-30 Inport Rota, Spain for Agricultural Washdown

October

- 1-12 Trans-Atlantic Crossing
- 1 Relieved by USS BATAAN (LHD 5). RAS with LARAMIE
- 3 CHOP to SECOND Fleet
- 12 RAS with USS PATUXENT (T-AO 201)
- 13-14 Offloaded 24 MEU (SOC), BLT 2/8, MSSG 24, and HMM-266 in Onslow Bay, NC
- 15 Completed MARG 01-2, Moored Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Commenced Post Deployment Stand-down
- 15-31 Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep

November

- 05-09 Command PFA
- 26-30 Underway for Weapons offload in Earle, New Jersey

December

- 01-04 Offload weapons in Earle, New Jersey
- 05-31 Holiday leave and upkeep
- 06 Command Safety PMA Standdown
- 08 CPOA Christmas Party
- 13 Local media on board for Master-At-Arms expansion story
- 15 Kid's Christmas Party

Narrative:

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) began the reporting period in the Naval Station Norfolk, VA. The new year brought with it new leadership. On 16 January, Command Master Chief Edward W. Myers Jr. relieved Command Master Chief Bernard Quibilan during the Change of Charge ceremony. On 17 January, Captain Steven C. Schlientz relieved CAPT Reubin B. Bockert during the Chain of Command ceremony. From 22-27 January, KEARSARGE conducted TRACKEX in the Puerto Rican Operating Area. The training was concluded with a greatly anticipated port visit in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands until 1 February.

On 2 February, KEARSARGE began transiting to the Cherry Point Operating Area off the coast of North Carolina for MEUEX. While conducting MEUEX, on 4 February, KEARSARGE raced south to Florida to support an emergency Medivac. An USCG SH-60J airlifted a Marine to Miami after he suffered a severe injury to his right hand. The quick response of the KEARSARGE is credited with enabling the Marine to recover full use of his hand. On 6 February, KEARSARGE embarked TWO FOUR Marine Expeditionary Unit (24 MEU) (SOC) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron TWO SIX SIX (HMM-266), Marine Service Support Group TWO FOUR (MSSG 24) and Battalion Landing Team TWO EIGHT (BLT 28) for the exercise. On 13 February, a successful Search and Rescue Operation was conducted in conjunction with USCG for 7 Marines at the entrance to Moorhead City, North Carolina after their RHIB capsized during an exercise. On 14 February, 24 MEU (SOC), HMM-266, MSSG 24 and BLT 28 debarked. On 15 February, KEARSARGE met with SUPPLY on station to refuel. During the month of February, many distinguished visitors including Major General Mangus and Brigadier General Flanagan visited KEARSARGE. The Commander of Amphibious Group TWO, Rear Admiral Moran and the Commander of Naval Surface Force, Atlantic, Rear Admiral Foley also came to observe the KEARSARGE in action. 16 February marked the conclusion of MEUEX and KEARSARGE returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

On 8 March, KEARSARGE left Norfolk, Virginia to begin JTFEX. JTFEX was from 8- 28 March and conducted in the Cherry Point Operating Area and the Jacksonville Operating Area. During JTFEX, KEARSARGE conducted SACEX and SOCEX. From 11- 13 March, KEARSARGE conducted a challenging AT/FP Exercise while moored in Naval Station, Mayport, Florida. On 21 March, KEARSARGE conducted a VERTREP with ARCTIC. On 27 March, KEARSARGE conducted an Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with JOHN LENTHAL. The distinguished visitors for the month of March include the Commander of Belgian and Netherlands Tasks Group, COMPHIBGRU TWO, COMSECONDFLT, VADM Buffart (Neth.), Brigadier General Flanagan, Brigadier General Gardner and the Dutch media. KEARSARGE spent the remainder of the month in Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia for her Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) availability.

KEARSARGE spent a majority of April in her POM phase. On 17 April, WASP, while getting underway, collided with KEARSARGE. The collision damage was limited to several flight deck nets. On 24 April, one day before KEARSARGE began its Mediterranean cruise, COMSECONDFLT, Vice Admiral Mullen visited to speak to the entire crew and bid us a fond farewell. On 25 April, KEARSARGE deployed with CARTER HALL and PONCE in support of MARG 01-2. Both the Assault Craft Unit FOUR (ACU-4) and the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron EIGHT Detachment 7 embarked. On 26 April, KEARSARGE embarked 24 MEU (SOC), HMM-266, MSSG 24 and BLT 2/8 and began transiting the Atlantic.

On 3 May, during the Atlantic transit, lookouts on KEARSARGE spotted a sailboat

adrift. The RHIB was launched to board and search the craft. A few personal items were recovered but there was no sign of the crew. It was discovered later that the crew had been rescued a few weeks prior to our discovery. STOUT sunk the sailboat because it was a hazard to navigation. KEARSARGE ended its Atlantic transit on 6 May and chopped to SIXTH Fleet on the 7th. On the same day, BIG HORN met with KEARSARGE for an UNREP. On 8 May, the Commander of SIXTH Fleet, Vice Admiral Johnson visited to welcome us to the theater and from 8-11 May, KEARSARGE was pier side in Rota, Spain to turnover with the NASSAU ARG. KEARSARGE assumed her duties and got underway again to transit the Strait of Gibraltar on 12 May. After a successful transit, KEARSARGE moored in Palma de Mallorca, Spain for a port visit. After getting underway, on 20 May, a VERTREP took place with SIRIUS and Exercise TRIDENT D'or was conducted in Sardinia, Italy.

From 5- 15 June, Exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT was conducted. While underway in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean 9 June, KEARSARGE hosted a reception for Greek and U.S. Naval Officers on the flight deck. On 13 June, Brigadier General Fulford visited the Commanding Officer. On 22 June, Bayraider 71 was lost at sea during routine training. Bayraider 62 rescued the crew of Bayraider 71. On 23 June, KEARSARGE offloaded HMM-266 to NAS Sigonella and recovered them on 29 June. From 25-27 June, KEARSARGE supported the USO Gala on her flight deck while moored in Naples, Italy. KEARSARGE hosted many distinguished visitors, all of whom were impressed with the professionalism of our watchstanders and food servers. In the month of June, KEARSARGE conducted underway replenishments with BIG HORN and LEROY GRUMAN. The crew enjoyed a port visit in Rhodes, Greece.

From 1-13 July, KEARSARGE was involved in an Albanian PHIBLEX. A high state of readiness was very important this month due to KEARSARGE's tasking to support the POTUS visit to Genova, Italy for the G-8 Summit. From 17- 22 July, KEARSARGE was in the vicinity of Genova, Italy in case the POTUS needed an emergency evacuation or medical support. There were several underway replenishments and vertical replenishments conducted during this month to maintain this level of readiness. They were with LEROY GRUMMAN, SIRIUS, ARCTIC and LARAMIE. Also during the month of July, Albanian Distinguished Visitors boarded KEARSARGE for a tour and the crew enjoyed port visits to Brindisi, Italy and Cannes, France.

From 1-12 August, KEARSARGE was moored in Rijeka, Croatia with EMORY S LAND for a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV). On 10 August, a flood was discovered in Cargo magazine #9. A failure in the magazine sprinkling system caused the flooding. The inport fire party contained the flooding and the faulty system was corrected very soon thereafter. On 15 August, KEARSARGE embarked the remainder of HMM-266 from NAS Sigonella, met with SIRIUS for a VERTREP and came alongside LEROY GRUMMAN for refueling. Also during the month of August, KEARSARGE offloaded elements of 24 MEU (SOC) in support of operations in Kosovo, conducted another refueling RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN and hosted a tour for the U.S. Ambassador to Malta. The crew enjoyed port visits in Toulon, France, Tarragona, Spain and Valletta, Malta.

On 1 September, KEARSARGE offloaded elements of HMM-266 to NAS Sigonella in support of operations in Kosovo. From 4-9 September, there was a port visit in Marmaris, Turkey. On 4 September, the Commanding Officer for the Turkish Naval Base ASKAZ visited KEARSARGE. On 5 September, the mayor of Marmaris visited KEARSARGE. The terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center took place on 11 September. KEARSARGE also

conducted offload of HMM-266 to Souda Bay, Crete. Due to the attacks and the increased military security, KEARSARGE recovered the HMM-266 the very next day. KEARSARGE also conducted a RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN on 12 September. From 12-14 September, KEARSARGE got underway with TF 60 Escorts. On 15 September, while underway in the Adriatic Sea, KEARSARGE recovered the HMM-266 KFOR Element. On 16 September, while underway in the Ionian Sea, KEARSARGE recovered the 24 MEU (SOC) KFOR Element from Catania, Sicily. On 19 September, the Commander of SIXTH Fleet, Vice Admiral Johnson visited. There was also a RAS with LEROY GRUMMAN on that day. On 26 September, KEARSARGE transited the Strait of Gibraltar. From 27-30 September, KEARSARGE was moored in Rota, Spain for a Marine vehicle wash down and agricultural inspection.

From 1-12 October, KEARSARGE crossed the Atlantic. During the transit, BATAAN relieved KEARSARGE and KEARSARGE chopped to COMSELONDFLT. There were replenishments with LARAMIE and PATUXENT. From 13-14 October, KEARSARGE offloaded 24 MEU (SOC), HMM-266, MSSG 24 and BLT 2/8 in Onslow Bay, North Carolina. ACU-4 Detachment Delta and HC-8 Detachment 7 were offloaded near Chesapeake Light. Due to the increased THREATCON, the Tiger Cruise was cancelled this year. On 15 October, KEARSARGE completed MARG 01-2 and moored in Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. KEARSARGE remained in a post deployment leave and upkeep period from 15 October- 25 November.

From 5-9 November, KEARSARGE conducted the command PFA. From 27 November- 3 December, KEARSARGE conducted weapons offload in Earle, New Jersey. All shipboard ammunition was removed from the ship.

Upon returning to Naval Station, Norfolk, VA, KEARSARGE began a holiday leave and upkeep period that lasted the remainder of the year. On 6 December, KEARSARGE conducted a command-wide safety stand down. In order to improve our local public relations, on 13 December, the local media was allowed to board the KEARSARGE to interview Security Department about expansion of the Master-At-Arms rating. In December, KEARSARGE hosted the kid's holiday party at Chuck E. Cheese.