



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
FPO AE 09534-1662

IN REPLY TO:

5750
Ser OPS/054
01 Feb 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: USS KEARSARGE COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) 2002 Command History
(2) Compiled Published Articles (101)
(3) 2001 Sailor of the Year (SOY) Sea Nomination ICO
PH1(AW/SW) Robert D. Edgar, USN, 349-60-4428
(4) Preparations for the National Association of Student
Councils (NASC) Flag Ceremony Aboard USS KEARSARGE
(5) National Association of Student Councils Flag
Ceremony Program
(6) Public Visitation While Inport Boston
(7) KEARSARGE Harborfest Sunset Parade, Boston, MA
(8) USS KEARSARGE Change of Command Ceremony
(9) USS KEARSARGE Change of Command Ceremony Program
(10) Commander Amphibious Group TWO Change of Command
Ceremony
(11) KEARSARGE Flight Deck Reception, Panama City, FL
(12) Public Visitation While at Anchorage, Panama City, FL

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (12) are
submitted.


T. E. MCINTOSH

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) Command History Calendar Year 2002

Command Composition and Organization

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

Commanding Officer
Captain Terence E. McKnight

Executive Officer
Captain Luke R. Parent

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

Ship's Homeport: Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia

Chronology:

KEARSARGE Ship's Schedule 2002

January

01-07 Inport Norfolk
03 Crew day off – Snow Storm
08 Entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
09-31 Inport Norfolk
17 USS KEARSARGE Holiday Party
22 Small Arms Gun Shoot, Lynnhaven Range

February

01-28 Inport Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
06 Won: CNO Environmental Award for FY01
14 Won: COMNAVSURFLANT Surface Ship Safety Award CY01
15 Commander Amphibious Group TWO (CPG-2) Sailor of the Year Luncheon held at NAB Little Creek Chief's Club – PH1(AW/SW) Robert Edgar named CPG-2 Sea Sailor of the Year*
16 Gator Ball, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA
19 Won: COMNAVSURFLANT "Green H" Unit Wellness Award CY01
21 Final Cruise book proof mailed to Walsworth Publishing Co.
27 CPOA Hail and Farewell at Roger Brown's Restaurant, Portsmouth, VA

March

- 01-31 Inport Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
- 08 Hampton Roads USO Gala at Renaissance Hotel – Junior Sailor of the Year MM2(SW) Earl Hester represented KEARSARGE.
- 22 SURFLANT Sailor of the Year Luncheon held at NAB Little Creek Chief's Club

April

- 01-23 Inport Portsmouth
- 08-12 Light Off Assessment (LOA)
- 20 KEARSARGE serves as host ship for USS BATAAN homecoming
- 22 KEARSARGE crew moves back aboard from NAVSTA BEQs/NNSY Barge
- 24 Fast Cruise
- 25 Depart Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for Sea Trials
- 26 Return to Norfolk
- 27-30 Inport Norfolk
- 30 Joint Forces Staff College Visit, 80 people in two separate visits

May

- 01-12 Inport Norfolk
- 01 USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course Visit, 45 people
- 01 USMC Combat Development Center Visit, 40 people
- 02 Cruise book delivered from Walsworth Publishing Company
- 03 Trinity Lutheran School Visit, 30 people
- 03 KEARSARGE Busch Gardens Day
- 08 Norwegian National Defense College Visit, 38 people
- 13 Fast Cruise
- 14-17 Underway for LCAC Ops and Well Deck Certification
- 18-31 Inport Norfolk
- 18 Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT Visit, 16 people
- 21 Weather Channel Film Crew aboard KEARSARGE for documentary "Worst Storms in History"
- 22 Coast Guard Atlantic Area (VADM Hull) Visit, 3 people

June

- 01-27 Inport Norfolk
- 03 Naval Intelligence Officer Basic Course Visit, 25 people
- 05 Air Force ROTC, Marion Center, PA Visit, 36 people
- 10 Booker T. Washington H.S. Visit, 12 people
- 13 USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course Visit, 38 people
- 17 Defense Investigative Agency Visit, 30 people
- 19 Naval Sea Cadet Corps Visit, 45 people

- 20 United Kingdom Joint Service Command and Staff College Visit, 180 people
- 21 KEARSARGE All Hands Picnic
- 21 Commander Second Fleet (VADM Dawson) Visit, 12 people
- 23 Commander Submarine Force Atlantic (VADM Grossenbacher) Visit, 7 people
- 27 National Association of Student Councils Flag Ceremony aboard KEARSARGE, 2,400 people in attendance*
- 27 Embark Guests of the Navy (5) for trip to Boston
- 28-30 Underway

July

- 01 Underway
- 02 Arrive Black Falcon Pier, Boston, MA to participate in Harborfest*
- 02-07 Inport Boston, MA
- 03 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 38 people visit
- 04 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 226 people visit
- 05 KEARSARGE hosts a Sunset Parade for 310 civilians and 110 military*
- 06 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 304 people visit
- 08-12 Underway
- 12 Return to Norfolk
- 13-30 Inport Norfolk
- 19 Change of Command. Captain Terence McKnight relieves Captain Steve Schlientz*
- 24 OPNAV N89 Visit, 35 people
- 25 Peruvian War College Visit, 29 people
- 31 Underway for CART II

August

- 01 Return to Norfolk from CART II
- 02-27 Inport Norfolk
- 07 Joint Forces Staff College Visit, 40 people
- 08 Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course Visit, 14 people
- 13 Air Force JAG Officer Visit, 60 people
- 13 NAVICP Philadelphia Visit, 26 people
- 15-17 Support Equipment/AWSEE (950 pieces) and Tilley onload
- 19 Joint and Combined Warfighter Course Visit, 19 people
- 23 Commander Amphibious Group Two Change of Command hosted aboard KEARSARGE. Rear Admiral M. P. Nowakowski relieves Rear Admiral J. K. Moran*
- 24 Army Reserve Division Flag Officer Visit, 25 (including 14 Flag Officers)
- 26-30 Underway

September

- 01-17 Inport Norfolk

03-06 3M Baseline Inspection and Certification
04-06 Ammo Onload
17 CPG-2 (RADM Nowakowski) Visit
18-25 Underway (Underway Demo)
26-30 Inport Norfolk
27 CPOA Khaki Ball

October

01-09 Inport Norfolk
01 Commander Amphibious Squadron 4 (CPR-4) Embarks
03 Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center Visit, 32 people
05 USS POCONO Reunion Visit, 96 people
10 Depart Norfolk for Ingleside, TX
10-16 Underway
10 RAS – USNS John Lenthall
11 Seaman to Admiral results with two KEARSARGE selectees: AS2 Merriman/NFO and IS3 Thompson
16-18 Inport, Ingleside, TX
18 Command Picnic in Ingleside, TX
19-25 Underway RONEX
21 RAS – USNS Patuxent
22 ADM Natter, Commander Atlantic Fleet (CLF), visits with two staffers for MCMRON demo and tour
23 VADM Dawson, Commander Second Fleet (C2F), visits for MCMRON demo and tour
26-29 At Anchorage, Panama City, Fla.
26 VIP Flight Deck Reception for 173 people*
28 General Visitation – 590 people visited*
29-31 Underway

November

01 Underway
02 Return to Norfolk
13-15 Underway - Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)
14 National Evacuation Order (NEO) Drill and Certification
15-30 Inport Norfolk
18-22 Command Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA)

December

02-13 Underway in CPOA for CQs
15 Children's Holiday Party, Jeepers, McArthur Square Mall
16 Holiday Party, Marriott Hotel, Norfolk
24 Won: COMLANFLT Retention Excellence Award FY-02

30 Second Holiday Leave period shortened due to operational schedule change.

* See enclosure

Narrative:

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) began the reporting period in port Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Following a lengthy holiday leave period in December, the crew enjoyed a snow day on 03 January. On 08 January KEARSARGE made its way to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a four-month availability. KEARSARGE Holiday Party took place on 17 January and a small arms gun shoot took place on the 22nd at the Lynnhaven Range.

KEARSARGE spent all of February in the shipyard. KEARSARGE won three awards in February. On the 6th, she was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations' Environmental Award for fiscal year 2001. Shortly thereafter, KEARSARGE was awarded the Commander Naval Surface Fleet Atlantic's (COMNAVSURFLANT) Surface Ship Safety Award for calendar year 2001. On 19 February, KEARSARGE was awarded yet another accolade, the COMNAVSURFLANT "Green H" Unit Wellness Award for calendar year 2001. February also saw numerous celebratory events for KEARSARGE. The Commander Amphibious Group 2 (CPG-2) held the Sailor of the Year Luncheon at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek Chief's Club on 15 February where PH1(AW/SW) Robert Edgar was named CPG-2 Sailor of the Year. The next day, on the 16th, members of the crew attended the Gator Ball at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA. On the 21st, KEARSARGE's final cruise book proof was mailed to Walsworth Publishing Company. February's final party was the CPOA Hail and Farewell, held at Roger Brown's Restaurant in Portsmouth.

Like the previous month, KEARSARGE spent all of March in the shipyard, while members of the crew attended several official social gatherings. Hampton Roads USO Gala took place on 08 March at Portsmouth's Renaissance Hotel where Junior Sailor of the Year, MM2(SW) Earl Hester represented KEARSARGE. Later that month, on the 22nd, the SURFLANT Sailor of the Year Luncheon was held at NAB Little Creek Chief's Club.

From 08 to 23 April, KEARSARGE conducted a Light Off Assessment in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. On April 20th, KEARSARGE served as the host ship for USS BATAAN's (LHD 5) homecoming. Two days later KEARSARGE's crew moved back aboard from NAVSTA BEQs and NNSY Barge. KEARSARGE conducted a fast cruise on 24 April. The following day, KEARSARGE left the pier for the first time in 106 days to get underway for sea trials, and returned to her homeport of Naval Station Norfolk on 26 April. The ship remained in port for the rest of the month. On the 30th, 80 people from the Joint Forces Staff College toured the ship.

May was a fairly busy month onboard KEARSARGE. On the 1st, KEARSARGE hosted visits from two separate Marine contingents. Forty-five people from the USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course and 40 people from the USMC Combat Development Center visited the ship. The next day, Walsworth Publishing Company delivered KEARSARGE's Cruise book. On the 3rd, thirty people from Trinity Lutheran School visited. The same day, the ship's crew enjoyed an official KEARSARGE Busch Gardens day. On 08 May, thirty-eight people from the Norwegian National Defense College visited KEARSARGE. The ship conducted a second fast cruise on the 13th, and got underway from 14-17 May to conduct LCAC operations and well deck certification. KEARSARGE returned to port on the 18th, and remained there for the rest of May. Also on the 18th, sixteen people from the Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight visited the ship. On 21 May, a filming crew from the Weather Channel came aboard to film a documentary on the "Worst Storms in History." The next day, VADM Hull, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, visited with two staffers.

Many groups visited KEARSARGE in June. The ship remained in port Norfolk for the majority of the month. On the 3rd, twenty-five students from the Naval Intelligence Officer Basic Course (NIOBIC) toured the ship. On the 5th, thirty-six Air Force ROTC students from Marion Center, PA visited. On 10 June, twelve people from Booker T. Washington High School visited KEARSARGE. On the 13th, the USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course visited again, this time with 38 people. Four days later, on 17 June, thirty people from the Defense Investigation Agency toured KEARSARGE. On the 19th, forty-five people from the Naval Sea Cadet Corps visited. The next day, 180 individuals from the United Kingdom Joint Service Command and Staff College visited KEARSARGE. On 21 June, the ship held an All Hands Picnic. The same day, VADM Dawson, Commander Second Fleet (C2F), brought 12 people aboard for a visit. Two days later, on 23 June, seven people toured the ship, including Commander Submarine Force Atlantic, VADM Grossenbacher. On 27 June, 2,400 people came onboard for the Association of Student Councils Flag Ceremony. The same day, five guests embarked KEARSARGE for the three-day trip to Boston. The ship got underway, en route Boston, on 28 June.

KEARSARGE moored Black Falcon Pier in Boston, MA on 02 July, and remained in port until the 7th to participate in the city's Harborfest. KEARSARGE hosted general visitation periods for the next four days, during which 878 people visited the ship. On 05 July, KEARSARGE hosted a Sunset Parade for 310 civilian and 110 military guests. KEARSARGE left Boston on the 8th, and returned to Norfolk on 12 July. On 19 July, CAPT Terence McKnight relieved CAPT Steve Schlientz in a formal Change of Command Ceremony. On the 24th, 38 people visited from OPNAV N89. The next day, KEARSARGE hosted 29 people from the Peruvian War College. On 31 July, the ship again got underway, this time for CART II.

KEARSARGE returned to Norfolk on 01 August. The ship hosted more visits this month, starting with 40 people from the Joint Forces Staff College on the 7th. On August 8th, fourteen people from the Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course (EWIC) toured the ship. On 13 August, sixty people came onboard in an Air Force JAG Officer visit. The same day, twenty-six people from the Naval Inventory Control Point, Philadelphia toured KEARSARGE's aviation support facilities. From 15 to 17 August, KEARSARGE's crew brought 950 pieces of equipment onboard in a support equipment, AWSEE and Tilley on load. On 19 August, nineteen individuals from the Joint and Combined Warfighter Course visited the ship. On 23 August, KEARSARGE hosted the Commander Amphibious Group TWO Change of Command Ceremony at which Rear Admiral M. P. Nowakowski relieved Rear Admiral J. K. Moran. On the 24th, KEARSARGE hosted an Army Reserve Division Flag Officer visit of 25 people, 14 of whom were indeed flag officers. KEARSARGE finished up August with a brief underway period, from the 26th through the 30th.

The ship remained in port Norfolk for the first half of September. The ship's 3M Baseline Inspection took place from the 3rd to the 6th of the month and was upgraded to a full certification. KEARSARGE conducted an Ammo Onload from 04 to 06 August. On 17 August, RADM Nowakowski, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, visited the ship. The next day KEARSARGE got underway for eight days, conducting an underway demonstration. The ship returned to port on 25 August and on the 27th the Chief Petty Officers Association held their Khaki Ball.

On 01 October, Commander Amphibious Squadron FOUR (CPR-4) embarked KEARSARGE. Thirty-two people from the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC) visited on the 3rd. On the 5th, ninety-six individuals from the USS POCONO

Reunion visited. KEARSARGE departed Norfolk on 10 October, steaming towards the Gulf of Mexico. She conducted a Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS JOHN LENTHALL later that day. On 11 October, two KEARSARGE Sailors were selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program, AS2 Merriman and IS3 Thompson. The ship reached Ingleside, Texas on 16 October, where she remained for three days. On 18 October, the ship's crew enjoyed a command picnic. The next day KEARSARGE got underway to conduct RONEX, a six-day exercise in the Gulf of Mexico. On 21 October KEARSARGE conducted another RAS, this time with USNS PATUXENT. The following day ADM Natter, Commander Atlantic Fleet (CLF), visited with two staffers for MCMRON demonstration and tour. On the 23rd, VADM Dawson, C2F, also came onboard KEARSARGE for the demonstration. The ship spent the 26th through the 29th at anchorage in Panama City, FL. KEARSARGE held a VIP Flight Deck Reception for 173 people on the 26th. 590 people came aboard during a general visitation on 28 October. The ship got underway the next day, heading home.

KEARSARGE returned to Norfolk on 02 November. After much preparation, she got underway again on 13 November and successfully conducted Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) drills as well as Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) Certification before returning to port on the 15th. KEARSARGE's completion of FEP represented the culmination of the ship's basic phase of training, and certified it to move on to the intermediate phase. She remained in port until the first week of December. The command Physical Fitness Assessment was held from 18 to 22 November.

KEARSARGE got underway from 02 to 13 December for flight qualifications in the Cherry Point Operation Area. KEARSARGE's children's holiday party took place on 15 December at Jeepers in McArthur Square Mall. On the following evening the adult holiday party took place at the Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk. On December 24th, KEARSARGE was awarded the Commander Atlantic Fleet Retention Excellence Award for fiscal year 2002. From 17 to 29 December, members of the crew went on leave for the holidays. On December 30th, the entire crew returned to KEARSARGE to begin preparations for what would certainly be an exciting and pivotal calendar year 2003.