



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

FPO AE 09570-1175

Rec 03/29/00
w/ [signature]

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

Ser 13/061

17 MAR 00

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. H. Dunn".

W. H. DUNN

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To operate with aircraft carrier battle groups in extreme threat environments, providing primary anti-air protection for the Fleet. To detect, classify, and track hundreds of potential targets simultaneously in the air, on the surface, and under the sea. To destroy hostile targets using a variety of weapons: surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, ship and air-launched torpedoes and deck guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys.

ISIC: Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT

COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 JAN 99 - 17 DEC 99

CAPT Raymond P. Donahue, Jr., USN,
17 DEC 99 - 31 DEC 99

CAPT William H. Dunn, USN,

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
FOR 1999

LEYTE GULF started 1999 in Holiday Leave and standdown at Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

JAN 01 Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA

JAN 14 SLAMEX

JAN 19-22 Weapons Onload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA

JAN 22 Dependents Cruise

FEB 05 HELO Detachment (HSL-46) arrives

FEB 08-24 Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX)

FEB 10 Burials At Sea

FEB 26-27 Weapons Onload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA

FEB 28-MAR 16 POM

MAR 16 Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM Giffin, visit

MAR 26 Deployed for MED/Arabian Gulf Deployment 99-2

APR 02 Transit Straits of Gibraltar, INCHOP European Command AOR

APR 06 Arrive Adriatic Sea

APR 07 On-station for Operation NOBLE ANVIL/ALLIED FORCE. Assumed duties as CTF-60 Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN. Completed exercise CAESAR SWORD 99-07.

APR 09 Tomahawk strike

APR 20-24 Port visit Bari, Italy

APR 24 CTF-60/502, RADM Copeland, visit; Tomahawk strike

MAY 18 Assumed Adriatic GOLDCROWN duties

Enclosure (2)

MAY 21-25 Port visit Genoa, Italy

MAY 31 Memorial Day; Tomahawk strike - final TLAM's fired during Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL

JUN 11-15 Port visit Villefranche, France

JUN 22 Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel/Readiness), Mr. Rudy DeLeon, visit

JUN 25 MED/Arabian Gulf Deployment 99-2 Halfway Day

JUN 29-JUL 05 Port visit Palma de Mallorca, Spain

JUL 04 LCDR David J. Destito assumes duties as Executive Officer from LCDR Russ E. Haas

JUL 08 Arrive Port Said, Egypt

JUL 09-11 Transit Suez Canal and Red Sea

JUL 13 Transit Gulf of Oman and Straits of Hormuz; completed 5th FLEET TLAM exercise

JUL 14 Assumed duties as CTF-50 Air Defense Commander/ REDCROWN

JUL 22-28 Port visit, Bahrain

AUG 22 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visit

AUG 27 Transit Strait of Hormuz

AUG 29 Mid-Cycle Assessment

SEP 03 Transit Suez Canal

SEP 05-08 Port visit Valletta, Malta

SEP 10 Weapons cross-deck at Augusta Bay, Sicily

SEP 11 Chief of Naval Operations visit

SEP 14 Transit Straits of Gibraltar

SEP 22 Return to Homeport, Norfolk, VA

SEP 22-08 OCT Post Deployment Leave/Standdown period

SEP 26 USS LEYTE GULF 13th Anniversary of Commissioning

OCT 13 Navy Birthday (Full Dress Ship)

NOV 04-08 Port visit Fort Lauderdale, FL; Silver Ridge
Elementary Awards Ceremony

NOV 09-10 BSF Mayport, FL

NOV 11 Veteran's Day (Holiday Colors)

NOV 16 AMMO Offload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown,
VA

DEC 17 Change of Command - Captain William H. Dunn
relieves Captain Raymond P. Donahue, Jr.

DEC 17-31 Holiday Leave and Standdown period

NARRATIVE

In January, LEYTE GULF conducted an ammunition on-load at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia, in preparation for the upcoming Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployment.

In February, the ship commenced Joint Task Force Exercise 99-2 with various other units of the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group, assigned duties as Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN. During the three-week final tune-up for deployment, LEYTE GULF flawlessly directed the combined air defense effort during sustained Battle Group operations in the vicinity of Puerto Rico, Jacksonville, and Cherry Point OPAREAs. On short notice, the ship returned to Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, for an additional ammunition on-load.

March brought a pre-overseas movement standdown, final preparations, and the commencement of deployment on 26 March.

LEYTE GULF assumed duties as Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN on 6 April. Several days later, the ship launched weapons in anger for the first time since January 1991, firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at various targets around the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. A visit to Bari, Italy, provided a much needed break for the crew.

During May, LEYTE GULF continued its effort supporting NATO combat operations in the Adriatic. The air warfare module in the Combat Information Center tracked, identified, and deloused over 1200 daily combat sorties. The ship's embarked helicopter detachment flew round-the-clock support missions, ensuring a fused tactical surface picture. The ship responded several times to near real-time, quick-reaction Tomahawk strike tasking, employing the system in a new and evolving role as a tactical weapon. While off-station, the ship ventured to Genoa, Italy, for a port visit.

June featured the cessation of hostilities in the Balkans, and shortly thereafter, a visit to Villefranche, France. After returning to the Adriatic Sea, the ship re-assumed air defense duties to provide post-hostility stabilization to the region.

While in-port in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, at the first part of July, Leyte Gulf, along with THEODORE ROOSEVELT and Arctic, received orders to head to the Arabian Gulf. After transiting the Suez Canal on 8 July, the ship arrived on-station in the Fifth Fleet AOR 15 July. As Task Force 50 Air Defense Commander, LEYTE GULF provided support for Carrier Air Wing 8 aircraft during OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH missions into Iraq, and also visited Bahrain.

"America's Battle Cruiser" welcomed the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MMCM(SW/SS/AW) Jim Herdt, in early August, and supported overland strikes against Iraqi air defense sites during CVW-8 missions on 8 and 9 August. On 21 August, LEYTE GULF and its' embarked helicopter detachment from HSL 46 spearheaded rescue and assistance efforts of Iranian fisherman adrift in the central Gulf. The ship departed the Arabian Gulf and began the homeward transit on 26 August, completing a highly successful Mid-Cycle Assessment 27-30 August.

After transiting back through the Red Sea and Suez canal, the ship entered the Mediterranean and stopped in Malta for a port visit. On 9 September, LEYTE GULF arrived in Augusta Bay, Sicily, for a missile cross-deck to USS RAMAGE. The day after departing Augusta Bay, the ship welcomed the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay Johnson, for a visit and Admiral's Call with the crew. The ship returned to Norfolk, Virginia, on 22 September.

After a post-deployment standdown period in October, the ship set sail for Port Everglades, Florida, 1 November, and accepted an award from Silver Ridge Elementary for the ship's partnership efforts with the school. The ship off-loaded ammunition at Yorktown 15 November.

December featured the Change of Command, as Captain William H. Dunn assumed command from Captain Raymond P. Donahue, Jr., on 17 December. Immediately afterwards, the ship shifted into Holiday leave/standdown period to close out the year.

LEYTE GULF received the following awards for operations during 1999:

- Navy Unit Commendation for Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL

- NATO Medal for Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH
- Battle "E" Ribbon
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon for MED 99-2 Deployment

LEYTE GULF has been nominated for the following additional awards for service in 1999:

- Meritorious Unit Citation for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH