



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS ARDENT (MCM12)
FPO AA 34090-1932

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ARDENT (MCM 12)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Ship photo
(3) Diskette

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted as USS ARDENT (MCM 12) Command History for calendar year 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Laco".

R. LACO

Copy to:
COMCMRON THREE

**USS ARDENT (MCM 12)
CALENDAR YEAR 1998 COMMAND HISTORY**

1. Command Composition and Organization

- a. Short Title: USS ARDENT
- b. Unit Identification Code: 21900
- c. Mission: Mine Warfare Operations
- d. Organizational Structure:

- (1) Immediate Senior in Command: Commander, Mine Counter Measures Squadron THREE, Captain C. G. Simpson.
- (2) Commanding Officer: LCDR Tim Smith
- (3) Permanent Duty Station: Manama, Bahrain.

2. Chronology:

JANUARY

01-02 INPORT ABU DHABI, UAE
03-05 U/W ENR NORTH ARABIAN GULF (NAG)
06-08 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS NAG (MDA6)
09-10 U/W ENR BAHRAIN
11-21 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
22 U/W ENR NAG (MDA6)
23-25 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS NAG (MDA6)
26 ENR BAHRAIN
27-31 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

FEBRUARY

01-11 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
12-14 U/W ENR NAG
15 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS NAG (MDA6)
16-18 FA-18 RECOVERY WITH USNS CATAWBA
19-24 EXERCISE NAUTICAL SWIMMER
25 EXERCISE HOT WASH, ENR BAHRAIN
26-28 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

MARCH

01-02 IPT MINA SULMAM, BAHRAIN
03 U/W ENR NAG
04-12 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS NAG (MDA6)
13 ENR FA-18 RECOVERY SITE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS
14 FA-18 RECOVERY
15 ENR BAHRAIN
16-20 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
21 ENR MCMEX98

22-24 MCM OPERATIONS ISO MCMEX98
25-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
31 U/W ENR MCM TRAINING SHAREM OPAREA

APRIL

01 U/W ENR MCM TRAINING SHAREM OPAREA
02 ENR DUBAI
03-07 PORT VISIT DUBAI, UAE
08 U/W ENR FA-18 RECOVERY SITE
09-11 FA-18 RECOVERY SITE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS. ENR
BAHRAIN
12-21 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN CONDUCTING TURNOVER PREPS
22 TURNOVER MCMROTCREW "BRAVO" TO MCMROTCREW
"CHARLIE"
23-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

MAY

01-10 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
11 FAST CRUISE
12 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
13-14 U/W ENR JEBEL ALI, UAE
15-20 IPT JEBEL ALI, UAE CONDUCTING RAV WITH USS SIMON LAKE
21-22 U/W ENR FA-18 RECOVERY SITE
23 FA-18 RECOVERY OPERATIONS
24 FA-18 RECOVERY OPERATIONS. ENR BAHRAIN
25-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
31 U/W FOR EXERCISE MINE EX 98

JUNE

01-02 CONTINUE MINE EX 98
03 ENR/RTN PORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
03 U/W ENR FA-18 RECOVERY SITE
04-06 FA-18 RECOVERY SITE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS
07 U/W ENR BAHRAIN
08-18 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
19-20 U/W MCM PROFICIENCY TRAINING AND MAG TAIL
MAINTENANCE
21 ENR/RTN PORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
22-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

JULY

01-10 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
11-17 U/W MCM PROFICIENCY TRAINING
18 RTN PORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
19-31 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

AUGUST

01-04 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
05 U/W ENR DUBAI
06-08 IPT DUBAI, UAE
09-12 U/W MCM PROFICIENCY TRAINING ENR SHARJAR, UAE
13-15 IPT SHARJAR, UAE
16-21 U/W PORT VISIT MUSCAT, OMAN
21 PORT VISIT MUSCAT CANCELLED DUE TO TERRORIST THREAT
22-25 ENR BAHRAIN
26-31 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

SEPTEMBER

01 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
02 U/W ISO MIREM 3
03-08 EXERCISE MIREM 3
09 MIREM 3 HOT WASH, ENR BAHRAIN
10-13 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN INSURV PREPS
14 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN INSURV
15-16 U/W ISO INSURV
17 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN INSURV DEBRIEF
18-22 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
23 U/W NAV CHECK RIDE ENR TORPEDO RECOVERY
24 U/W TORPEDO RECOVERY
25-26 U/W MCM PROFICIENCY TRAINING ENR BAHRAIN
27-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN TURNOVER PREPS

OCTOBER

01-03 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN TURNOVER PREPS
04 U/W ENGINEERING DEMO FOR TURNOVER
05-06 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN TURNOVER
07 TURNOVER MCMROTCREW "CHARLIE" TO MCMROTCREW
"ECHO"
08 U/W ENR EXERCISE RED REEF
09-12 U/W ISO EXERCISE RED REEF
13-14 IPT JUBAYL, S.A.
15-16 U/W ENR KUWAIT CITY
17 IPT KUWAIT CITY REFUEL
18-21 U/W SURVEY NAG
22-28 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
29-31 SURVEY CAG

NOVEMBER

01 SURVEY CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF (CAG)
02 ENR/RTN TO PORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
03-08 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
09-10 SURVEY CAG

11-14 PORT VISIT JEBEL ALI, UAE
15-20 SURVEY SOUTHERN ARABIAN GULF (SAG)
21-30 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

DECEMBER

01-17 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
18-27 U/W ISO OPERATION DESERT FOX (MDA10, IRAQI TERRITORIAL WATERS)
28-31 IPT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

3. Narrative:

USS ARDENT (manned by MCMROTCREW BRAVO) entered the New Year inport Abu Dhabi, UAE for a port visit. On 03 Jan, ARDENT departed Abu Dhabi to conduct mine clearance operations in MDA6 located in the North Arabian Gulf. On 10 Jan, the ship returned to port to prepare for the retirement ceremony that was to be conducted the following day. On 11 Jan, BM1 (SW) [REDACTED] retired after 20 years of Naval Service. On 22 Jan, ARDENT got underway to continue mine clearance operations in MDA6. Sonar operations were halted due to a casualty to the AN/SQQ-32 sonar. Also on this date ENS [REDACTED] was promoted to LTjg. On 23 Jan, an UNREP was conducted between USS ARDENT and USS SEATTLE. ARDENT returned to port on 27 Jan and a decision was made to replace 1B MPDE. On 28 Jan an awards ceremony was conducted to announce the Junior and Senior Sailors of the Quarter. On 29 Jan, MN1 [REDACTED] Retired from the Navy after 20 years of service. ARDENT remained in Mina Sulman, Bahrain for the remainder of Jan.

ARDENT remained in port through 11 Feb with no significant events taking place. On 12 Feb, ARDENT departed Bahrain to conduct mine clearance operations through the 14th in the North Arabian Gulf. On 15 Feb, ARDENT received emergent tasking to assist USNS CATAWBA in locating and recovering an FA-18, which had crashed in the North Arabian Gulf. On 17 Feb, ARDENT located the wreckage field that was associated with the crash. ARDENT was released from its salvage tasking to participate in an exercise with the Saudi Royal Navy, which would last until Feb 25. On 26 Feb, ARDENT returned to port in Mina Sulman, Bahrain where she would remain through the rest of the month for maintenance.

01 & 02 Mar were spent inport Bahrain continuing maintenance. On 03 Mar, ARDENT departed to continue her mine clearance operations in MDA6. On 12 Mar, ARDENT had completed clearance operations and MDA6 was declared 100% clear of all mines. ARDENT returned to the FA-18 crash site on 13 Mar to continue mapping the area wreckage. On 14 Mar, ESWS Pins were awarded to three personnel. ARDENT returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for upkeep and fuel. This inport period would last until 20 Mar. On 21 Mar, ARDENT got underway ISO "MCMEX 98". Bottom surveys were conducted in the SHAREM OPAREA ISO the exercise. On 25 Mar, ARDENT was inport Mina Sulman for maintenance. ARDENT departed Bahrain on 31 Mar to conduct crew training.

ARDENT commenced the month of April at sea conducting training. This training was conducted enroute to a port visit in Dubai, UAE. In transit to Dubai, LTjg [REDACTED] was promoted to the grade of LT and ET2 [REDACTED] was awarded his ESWS pin.

On the morning of 03 Apr, ARDENT arrived Dubai, UAE where she would stay through 07 Apr for liberty. ARDENT departed Dubai on 08 Apr enroute to the North Arabian Gulf to return to the wreckage site of the FA-18 to conduct demolition of any large pieces of wreckage if required. On 12 Apr, ARDENT returned to port Mina Sulman, Bahrain where she would commence turnover preparations. 16 through 21 Apr was designated as the crew turnover period. An official turnover ceremony was conducted on 21 Apr and MCMROTCREW BRAVO was relieved by MCMROTCREW CHARLIE. ARDENT remained inport Bahrain until the end of the month with no significant events occurring.

ARDENT remained inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain until 12 May conducting various MWR tours and receiving a visit from Capt. Folcum, Commanding Officer ASU Bahrain on 5 May. On 13 May, ARDENT departed Bahrain enroute Jebel Ali, UAE where the ship would conduct a five-day RAV with USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33). ARDENT arrived Jebel Ali 15 May and commenced the five-day RAV. During this RAV period, ARDENT received outstanding services and numerous repairs were completed which were difficult to obtain from the Ship Repair Unit Det, Bahrain. On 21 May, ARDENT departed Jebel Ali, UAE enroute to the FA-18 crash site. Search operations would be terminated due to a casualty with the AN/SQQ-32 sonar, which would force the ship to return to port in Bahrain. On 25 May, ARDENT returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain where she would stay until 30 May making repairs to the AN/SQQ-32 sonar. ARDENT departed Bahrain 31 May ISO the next scheduled exercise.

ARDENT next participated in MINEX 98 with Royal Saudi Naval Forces until 02 Jun. ARDENT returned to port for a brief stop to take on fuel and food stores and returned to sea enroute to the FA-18 crash site to continue mapping. On 06 Jun, ARDENT found the main body of the downed Aircraft that would allow salvage operations to commence. ARDENT was released from FA-18 tasking and returned to port on 08 Jun where she would remain until 17 Jun. During this inport period an all hands call was conducted with the Commanding Officer where a frocking ceremony took place along with the capping of two CHARLIE Crew Sailors. ARDENT spent the 18th, 19th and 20th of Jun conducting MCM proficiency training and bottom surveys. ARDENT returned to port on 21 Jun where she would stay through the end of the month due to a casualty to 2 SSDG.

ARDENT remained inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain from 01 until 10 Jul with a Generator Casualty. ARDENT departed Bahrain 11 Jul to conduct training, maintenance on various mine sweeping equipment and bottom surveys. ARDENT returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for CSRR on Jul 18. CSRR commenced 19 Jul and would occupy ARDENT's Schedule through the rest of the month.

ARDENT remained inport through 04 Aug with a CSRR out brief on the first. MCMRON Three visited ARDENT, conducted Commodore's Call with the crew, and presented awards. On 05 Aug ARDENT departed enroute Dubai, UAE for a port visit. ARDENT arrived Port Rashid Dubai, UAE on Aug 07 and remained until 08 Aug. On 09 Aug, ARDENT departed Dubai and conducted training enroute to the next scheduled port. ARDENT arrived Sharja, UAE 13 Aug where she remained inport until 15 Aug. On

16 Aug, ARDENT departed Sharja enroute Muscat for another scheduled port visit. On 20 Aug, LTjg [REDACTED] received his SWO Pin. 21 Aug air strikes were conducted by NATO forces against possible terrorist hideouts in Sudan and Afghanistan. ARDENT's port visit was cancelled and the ship was directed to return to Bahrain. On 26 Aug, ARDENT returned to Bahrain where she remained until 31 Aug with no significant events occurring.

The first day of Sep was spent inport preparing for the MIREM 3 exercise. ARDENT departed Bahrain ISO MIREM 3 on 02 Sep. MIREM 3 was conducted from 03 Sep through 09 Sep with Saudi forces. During this exercise, ARDENT also prepared for the upcoming INSURV that was to be held upon returning to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. On 10 Sep ARDENT returned to Mina Sulman and immediately commenced INSURV with MCMRON Three overseeing the proceedings. The inport portion of INSURV was conducted on 14 & 15 Sep, while the underway section was conducted on 16 & 17 Sep. An INSURV out brief was conducted upon return to port late 17 Sep. 18 through 22 Sep were normal inport routine. A navigation Check Ride was conducted on 23 Sep. Upon return to port, ARDENT received emergent tasking to search for two torpedoes that had been lost overboard from one of the U.S. vessels in theater. On 24 Sep, ARDENT departed for the search area and found both torpedoes within hours of arriving on site. ARDENT remained on site until 26 Sep to assist with the salvage of the weapons. ARDENT returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for the remainder of the month on 27 Sep. On 30 Sep, COMFIFTHFLT, MCMRON Three, and MCMRON Three FWD visited the ship for a tour and conducted an Admiral's call and awards ceremony.

The first week of October was spent preparing for the upcoming turnover to ROTAIONAL CREW ECHO. With the Underway Demo completed on the 4th, the turnover ceremony was conducted on 7 October. ARDENT got underway the next day to take part in exercise Red Reef from the 9th to the 12th with a two day rest period in the Saudi Arabian port of Jubayl. On October 15th, ARDENT got underway again enroute a port visit in Kuwait City, Kuwait. After spending the 17th in port Kuwait City, the ship was at sea again to conduct survey OPS in the North Arabian Gulf until the 21st. ARDENT next returned to Bahrain for upkeep from 22 – 28 October. On the 29th she was again underway for survey operations, this time in the Central Arabian Gulf.

ARDENT continued survey OPS and returned to Bahrain on the 2nd. The next week was spent completing maintenance. More survey operations were conducted in the CAG on the 9th and 10th followed by a port visit to Jebel Ali, UAE 11 – 14 November. After a quiet port visit, ARDENT conducted survey operations in the SAG until returning to Manama, Bahrain on the 21st.

The month of December was spent in port Bahrain with the exception of being underway for operation Desert Fox from the 18th 'til the 27th. During this period, ARDENT conducted operations inside Iraqi Territorial Waters in Mine Danger Area 10.