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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

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5750

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OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS AVENGER (MCM-1)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

*J. E. Zavodny*  
J. E. ZAVODNY

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COMINWARCOM  
COMCMGRU TWO



USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission: Conduct countermeasures for moored and bottom mines. Conduct independent mine warfare operations and participate in coordinated mine warfare force operations with amphibious and other forces. AVENGER's primary missions are: Mine Warfare (MIW), Mobility (MOB), and Command, Control and Communications (CCC). Secondary missions are: Intelligence (INT), Fleet Support Operations (FSO) and Non-Combat Operations (NCO).

b. Immediate Senior in Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group TWO, Charleston, South Carolina.

c. Command Organization:

- (1) Commanding Officer: LCDR Joseph E. Zavodny, USN
- (2) Executive Officer: LCDR Paul M. Allen, USN
- (3) Operations Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN
- (4) Engineer: LTJG [REDACTED], USN
- (5) Damage Control Assistant: ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR
- (6) First Lieutenant/Supply Officer: ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR
- (7) Communications Officer: ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN

d. Homeport: Charleston, South Carolina

e. Statistical Data:

- (1) Current ship's manning: 7 Officers, 75 Enlisted

Length:	224 feet	Draft (Navigation):	15 feet
Beam:	39 feet	Displacement:	1312 tons
Speed:	13.5 knots	Accomodations:	8 officer
Draft (keel):	12.2 feet		5 CPO
			70 enlisted

Propulsion

4 Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN (Turbocharged) modified diesel engines

2 controllable reversible pitch propellers

2 rudders

2 electric light load propulsion motors

**Auxiliary Systems**

1 gas turbine generator

1 Omnithruster bow thruster system

**Sensors/Navigation Systems**

1 AN/SPS-55 surface search radar

1 Furuno navigation radar

1 AN/SSN-2(V) Phase II Precise Integrated Navigation System

1 AN/SQQ-32 mine hunting sonar set

**Mine Countermeasures system**

1 AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System

Size 1 Oropesa Type mechanical minesweep equipment

AN/SLQ-37(V)2 magnetic/acoustic influence sweep equipment

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Chronology

1-2 JAN Inport Bahrain for upkeep

3-5 JAN Transit to Abu Dhabi, UAE conducting various drills and exercises

6 JAN Inport Abu Dhabi

7-10 JAN Independent Steaming Exercise (ISE) (Abu Dhabi OPAREA) for MCM and engineering training

11 JAN Inport Abu Dhabi

12 JAN ISE (Abu Dhabi OPAREA) for AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) training

13 JAN Inport Abu Dhabi

14-16 JAN ISE (Abu Dhabi OPAREA) conducting minehunting and Chemical/Biological/Radiological (CBR) Warfare training

17 JAN Set Defense Condition (DEFCON) ONE. Sortied from Abu Dhabi

18-21 JAN ISE (Abu Dhabi OPAREA) for MCM training and exercises

22 JAN Transit to Dubai, UAE

23-26 JAN Degaussing ranging, UK magnetic silencing facility, Dubai

27 JAN Transit to Abu Dhabi OPAREA

28 JAN-5 FEB ISE Abu Dhabi OPAREA for MCM training

6 FEB Transit to Abu Dhabi

7 FEB Inport Abu Dhabi for provisioning

8 FEB ISE Abu Dhabi OPAREA

9-11 FEB Anchored Abu Dhabi OPAREA. Anchor lost while bringing it aboard, but found using AN/SQQ-32 sonar and recovered by LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] using scuba dive equipment.

12 FEB Inport Abu Dhabi for provisioning (0835 to 1510)

12-13 FEB Transit to Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG)

14-17 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA, conducting MK-103 sweep operations with USMCMGRU AMCM assets. Set General Quarters due to Silkworm missile site radar activation.

18 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA. After TRIPOLI and PRINCETON minestrikes, assisted all units in exiting the TRIPOLI minefield. LTJG Doane performed in-water sonar inspection due to fish trap catch. Found and danned line of nine moored mines in immediate vicinity of TRIPOLI minestrike.

19 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA, refueled from TRIPOLI

20-21 FEB Minehunting operations, Kuwait OPAREA

22 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA. Retrieved MK-103 gear lost by AMCM helicopter, operated MNV

23-24 FEB Formation steaming under tactical control of TRIPOLI

25-26 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting and lead-in of LASALLE to Battleship Fire Support Area (BBFSA)

27 FEB Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting. Located and destroyed MANTA mine, using MNV and embarked EOD detachment

28 FEB-2 MAR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting. Refueled from RFA SIR GALAHAD

3-4 MAR Transit to Bahrain

5-13 MAR Inport Bahrain for maintenance availability

14-15 MAR Transit to NAG

16-26 MAR Underway Kuwait OPAREA minehunting Kuwaiti Deep Water Channel. Refueled from LASALLE and SIR GALAHAD

27 MAR Minehunting approach to R'as al Q'ulayah Naval Base. Received small caliber gun fire from shore, no damage sustained.

28 MAR Inport Mina Ash Shu'aybah, Kuwait

29 MAR-2 APR Minehunting Kuwait OPAREA

3 APR Inport Mina Ash Shu'aybah, Kuwait  
4-7 APR Refuel from HMS HECLA, anchored in Kuwait OPAREA

8-10 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting.  
Refuel from HECLA

11 APR Anchored in Kuwait OPAREA

12 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting

13-17 APR Anchored in Kuwait OPAREA

18 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting MNV OPS.  
Detonated MK-57 destructor

19-20 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting sonar conditions  
checks, personnel transfer and refueling from  
TRIPOLI

21-22 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting MNV OPS.  
Neutralized six MANTA mines, using MNV.

23-24 APR Underway Kuwait OPAREA conducting minehunting.  
Refuel from TRIPOLI.

25-26 APR Personnel transfer with M/V CELINA. Transit to  
Bahrain

27 APR-24 MAY Inport Bahrain for maintenance availability

25-26 MAY Transit to Abu Dhabi

27-31 MAY Underway Abu Dhabi OPAREA conducting daily MCM OPS

1-12 JUN Transit to Jeddah, SA

12-15 JUN Transit to Port Suez, EG

16 JUN Transit Suez Canal

16-20 JUN Transit to Augusta Bay, IT

21 JUN Transit to Naples, IT

22-28 JUN Inport Naples, IT

29 JUN-1 JUL Transit to Port Vendres, FR

2-5 JUL	Inport Port Vendres, FR
6-7 JUL	Transit to Rota, SP
8 JUL	Inport Rota, SP
9-24 JUL	Transit to Charleston, SC
25 JUL-6 SEP	Inport Charleston, SC for leave and standdown
7 SEP-6 OCT	Inport Charleston, SC for maintenance availability
7-10 OCT	Transit to Annapolis, MD
11-13 OCT	Inport Annapolis, MD
14-17 OCT	Transit to Charleston, SC. Conducted DMAT enroute.
18-20 OCT	Inport Charleston, SC
21 OCT	ISE (CHASN OPAREA) for Prospective Commanding Officer turnover
22-24 OCT	Inport Charleston, SC
25 OCT	Change of Command at Charleston, SC. CDR J.D. Cope, USN relieved by LCDR J.E. Zavodny, USN.
26-27 OCT	Inport Charleston, SC
28-30 OCT	Underway in Charleston OPAREA for training
31 OCT-3 DEC	Inport Charleston, SC
3-5 DEC	Passed 3M and Supply Management Inspection
6-19 DEC	Inport Charleston, SC
20-31 DEC	Christmas leave and standdown

## USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

### Narrative

Operation DESERT STORM: This part of AVENGER's historic deployment included a number of firsts, and other highlights. AVENGER became the first of its class to deploy, the first ever to locate a MANTA fiberglass-cased influence mine in combat, the first U.S. Navy unit to deploy EOD divers to countermine an influence mine, and the first to employ the TRIAD of the AN/SSN-2 Precise Integrated Navigation System (PINS), the AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting Sonar and the An/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System (MNS) during live mine countermeasures operations. Spending 100 days in live minefields, AVENGER cleared over 1,293 linear nautical miles of shipping channels, and over 108 square miles of Kuwaiti sea lanes. Additionally, AVENGER played a vital role in defining mine lines and fields, and extricating all ships from these hazardous areas immediately following mine strikes by USS TRIPOLI and USS PRINCETON. Finally, AVENGER achieved distinction by making the longest deployment of any ship involved in Operation DESERT STORM, completing an eleven and one half month wartime cruise in late July.

Return to Homeport: AVENGER transited the Straits of Hormuz on 02 June 1991 to begin a 10,000 mile, seven-week trip to Charleston, SC. Highlights of the transit included a Suez Canal passage, six day availability and port visit in Naples, IT, a four day liberty stop in Port Vendres, FR and a one day provisioning stop in Rota, SP.

Leave and Standown: Following their lengthy deployment, AVENGER's crew enjoyed a six-week leave and standown period. This well-deserved standdown was structured such that each crewmember was afforded two weeks leave, and had approximately four days off per week for the remaining month.

Annapolis Port Visit: During the period 11 to 13 October 1991, AVENGER made its first visit to the U.S. Naval Academy and Annapolis, MD.

Change of Command: On 25 October 1991, CDR James D. Cope, USN, was relieved as commanding officer by LCDR Joseph E. Zavodny, USN in a ceremony conducted at Pier "T", Naval Station Charleston.