OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1993

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

J. C. PIPER

Copy to:
COMINWARCOM Corpus Christi, TX
COMCMGRU THREE
COMCMGRU TWO
USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission: Conduct countermeasures against moored and bottom mines. Conduct independent mine warfare operations and participate in coordinated mine warfare operations with various Naval 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 Superior in Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group THREE, Ingleside, Texas.

c. Command Organization (as of 31 December 1993):

(1) Commanding Officer: LCDR Terrance C. Ryan, USN
(2) Executive Officer: LCDR James P. Steele, III, USN
(3) Chief Engineer: LT [redacted], USN
(4) Damage Control Assistant: LT [redacted], USNR
(5) Operations Officer: LTJG [redacted], USN
(6) Supply Officer: ENS [redacted], USN

d. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

e. Statistical Data:

(1) Current ship’s manning: 8 Officers, 76 Enlisted

Length: 224 feet
Beam: 39 feet
Speed: 13.5 knots
Draft (keel): 12.2 feet

Draft (Navigation): 15 feet
Displacement: 1312 tons
Accommodations: 8 Officer
5 CPO
70 Enlisted

Encl (1)
**Propulsion:**

Four Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified diesel engines
Two controllable pitch propellers
Two rudders
Two electric light load propulsion motors

**Auxiliary:**

Three Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified ship’s service diesel generators
One gas turbine DC generator
One omnithruster bow thruster

**Sensors/Navigation Systems:**

One AN/SPS-55 surface search radar
One Furuno navigation radar
One AN/SSN-2(V) Phase III Precise Integrated Navigation System (PINS III)
One AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting sonar set
One AN/WQN-1 Channel Finder

**Mine Countermeasures system:**

One AN/SLQ-48 Mine neutralization system
Size 1 Oropesa type mechanical minesweeping equipment
AN/SLQ-37(V)3 magnetic/acoustic influence minesweeping equipment
USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Chronology

1-10 JAN  Inport (IPT) Charleston, SC for Holiday Leave and Standdown
11-15 JAN  ISE Charleston OPAREA for MIW Training
16-20 JAN  IPT Charleston SC
21-26 JAN  Enroute, Newport, Rhode Island for MIW Training and abbreviated CSSQT
27 JAN - 02 FEB  IPT Newport, RI
03 FEB  ISE Newport OPAREA for MIW Training
04-06 FEB  IPT Newport, RI
07 FEB  ISE Newport OPAREA for MIW Training
08-11 FEB  IPT Newport, RI
12 FEB  ISE Newport OPAREA for MIW training
13-19 FEB  IPT Newport, RI
20-27 FEB  Enroute, Charleston, SC
28 FEB - 07 MAR  IPT Charleston, SC
08-11 MAR  ISE Charleston OPAREA for MIW Training
12-21 MAR  IPT Charleston, SC
22-26 MAR  ISE Charleston OPAREA for MIW Training
27 MAR - 04 APR  IPT Charleston, SC
05-25 APR  Upkeep period conducted in conjunction with SIMA Charleston
25-30 APR  ISE Charleston OPAREA for MIW and Engineering Training
01-02 MAY  IPT Charleston, SC
03-07 MAY  ISE Charleston OPAREA for Engineering Training with ETG DET Charleston
08-11 MAY  IPT Charleston, SC

Encl (2)
12-14 MAY ISE Charleston OPAREA for Engineering Training
15-18 MAY IPT Charleston, SC
15-16 MAY Participant in the Naval Station Charleston Community Appreciation activities
19-21 MAY ISE Charleston OPAREA for Engineering Training
22-23 MAY IPT Charleston, SC
24 MAY OPPE rehearsal (first import day) with MCMGRU TWO Engineering Readiness Assessment Team (ERAT)
25 MAY ISE Charleston OPAREA for OPPE rehearsal (underway day) with MCMGRU TWO ERAT
26-28 MAY IPT Charleston, SC for OPPE rehearsal with MCMGRU TWO ERAT
29 MAY - 07 JUN IPT Charleston, SC
31 MAY - 04 JUN OPPE preps with assistance from RSG and SIMA Charleston
08-10 JUN OPPE, IPT Charleston, SC and ISE Charleston OPAREA
08 JUN Propulsion Examining Board, Atlantic, embarks for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination
10 JUN Propulsion Examining Board, Atlantic, departs
11-27 JUN IPT Charleston, SC
25 JUN Change of Command
28 JUN - 02 JUL ISE, Charleston OPAREA for AN/SQQ-32 demonstration
29-30 JUN Royal Australian Navy representatives embark for sonar demonstration
01 JUL Spanish Navy representatives embark for sonar demonstration
02 JUL Burial at sea, Charleston OPAREA

Encl (2)
03-06 JUL  IPT Charleston, SC
07-19 JUL  Complete Degaussing check at Charleston Magnetic Silencing Range and Crib
15-18 JUL  Port visit, Union Street Pier, Charleston, SC
19-20 JUL  IPT Charleston, SC
21-30 JUL  Enroute to new homeport, Naval Station Ingleside, Texas
25 JUL     Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) at Key West, FL
25-30 JUL  Continued transit to Ingleside, TX
30 JUL     Arrive, Naval Station Ingleside, TX
31 JUL - 15 AUG  IPT Ingleside, TX
16 AUG - 24 SEP  AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting sonar set Technical Evaluation (TECHEVAL), administered by Coastal Systems Station Panama City, FL
16-20 AUG  ENROUTE Panama City, for TECHEVAL
18 AUG     Bottom survey, off the coast of Galveston, TX
20 AUG     Commence TECHEVAL
20-27 AUG  ISE Panama City OPAREA, conducting TECHEVAL
28-31 AUG  IPT Panama City, FL
01-06 SEP  ISE Panama City OPAREA, conducting TECHEVAL
07-13 SEP  IPT Panama City, FL
13-19 SEP  ISE Panama City OPAREA, conducting TECHEVAL
19-20 SEP  IPT Panama City, FL
21 SEP     ISE Panama City OPAREA, conducting TECHEVAL
21 SEP     ENROUTE, Galveston OPAREA for TECHEVAL
22 SEP     ISE Galveston OPAREA, conducting TECHEVAL
22-24 SEP  TRANSIT, Ingleside, TX

Encl (2)
24 SEP
ARRIVE, Ingleside, TX

25 SEP - 14 OCT
IPT, Ingleside, TX

04-07 OCT
Logistics Management Assessment

15-22 OCT
ISE Gulf of Mexico OPAREA (GOMEX) for AN/SLQ-48 MNS Training, administered by NMWEA FTG Det Ingleside

23-26 OCT
IPT, Ingleside, TX

26-27 OCT
IPT Ingleside, TX for Safety Survey

28 OCT - 07 NOV
IPT, Ingleside, TX

08 NOV - 18 DEC
AN/SQQ-32 Operational Evaluation

08 NOV - 13 DEC
AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting sonar set Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL), administered by Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR)

08-11 NOV
ENROUTE Panama City, FL for OPEVAL

11 NOV
ARRIVE, Panama City, FL

12-15 NOV
IPT Panama City, FL

16-19 NOV
ISE Panama City OPAREA conducting OPEVAL

20-22 NOV
IPT Panama City, FL

23-28 NOV
ISE Panama City OPAREA conducting OPEVAL

29 NOV - 03 DEC
IPT Panama City, FL

04-09 DEC
ISE Panama City OPAREA conducting OPEVAL

09-10 DEC
ENROUTE Galveston OPAREA for OPEVAL

10 DEC
ISE Galveston OPAREA conducting OPEVAL

11-13 DEC
ENROUTE, Ingleside, TX

13 DEC
ARRIVE Ingleside, TX

14-31 DEC
Holiday leave and standdown

Encl (2)
Abbreviated CSSQT: The beginning of 1993 found AVENGER conducting poor environment tests of the AN/SQQ-32 sonar off the coast of Newport, RI. Additionally, the Naval Minewarfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown, VA (NMWEA) conducted an abbreviated CSSQT. The weather proved to be too much to overcome and AVENGER returned to Charleston without completing the entire exercise.

Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE): The first-ever short-notice OPPE was successfully completed during early June 1993, resulting in a two-year certification of AVENGER’s engineering plant.

Change of Command: LCDR T.C. RYAN, USN relieved LCDR J.E. ZAVODNY, USN during a change of command ceremony held at the Naval Station Charleston theater on 25 June 1993. LCDR RYAN reported from PACFLT Diesel MTT. LCDR ZAVODNY received orders to USNAVCENT, Bahrain, to assume duties as the Communications Officer.

Sonar Demonstrations: AVENGER performed active demonstrations of the AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting sonar set for both the Royal Australian and Spanish navies. Representatives from both countries were embarked for separate missions that demonstrated both the shallow and deep water capabilities of the sonar.

Homeport Shift: With the closing of Naval Station Charleston, AVENGER departed on the morning of 22 July 1993 and arrived at the new homeport of Naval Station Ingleside, Texas on the morning of 30 July 1993. During the transit, prior to arrival in Key West for fuel, AVENGER came upon an abandoned 18’ power boat and took it under tow until a Coast Guard craft from the Islomorada station took the vessel for further processing.

Change of Executive Officer: LCDR J.P. STEELE, III, USN relieved LCDR G.K. WALLIN, USN on 08 August 1993. LCDR Steele’s previous assignment was Chief Engineer onboard USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20). LCDR WALLIN received orders to relieve the Officer-in-Charge of the Military Sealift Command, Detachment Singapore.

AN/SQQ-32 Technical Evaluation (TECHEVAL): AVENGER was tasked as the Chief of Naval Operations’ test platform for the testing and evaluation of the AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting sonar set. Except for two abbreviated missions completed off the coast of Galveston, Texas, the bulk of the TECHEVAL was completed off the coast of Panama City, Florida, under the watchful eyes of the project managers from Coastal System Station Panama City, FL.

Encl (3)
This arduous six week period determined if the sonar was ready to undergo the operational evaluation and also brought the crew up to the necessary standards that would be required during the actual evaluation which would be conducted by a separate Navy authority. In all, thirteen sonar minehunting missions and eight MNV sonar contact identification missions were conducted.

Logistics Management Assessment: Upon completion of TECHEVAL, AVENGER completed a successful Logistics Management Assessment (LMA), garnering the blue E, signifying excellence in logistics management and 3-M.

AN/SQQ-32 Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL): A very busy year was culminated with the completion of the AN/SQQ-32 sonar OPEVAL, the evaluation wherein the Navy would make the decision to purchase the sonar for the remainder of the class. Due to material problems in the engineering plant, AVENGER was forced to commence the evaluation six weeks later than scheduled and completed the exercise nine days ahead of schedule. The Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) provided the personnel who evaluated the system during the OPEVAL. AVENGER visited the Panama City and Galveston OPAREAS for the testing grounds. The majority of the exercise was conducted off the coast of Panama City and a less-than-ideal environment portion was also conducted off of Galveston. Because of Texas state laws, AVENGER was also tasked with the recovery of all of the exercise mine shapes that had been previously deployed by another authority.