



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)
FPO AA 34090-1921

5750
MCM1/0061
27 Feb 00

*Rec'd
3/6/00
w/disk*

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS AVENGER (MCM-1)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE
Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents
(5) 3 1/2" Diskette with MS Word Version 6.0 of Report

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. A. Chase".

D. A. CHASE

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Command Composition and Organization

a. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 21314

b. 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).

c. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, Ingleside, Texas.

d. Command Organization (as of 31 December 1999):

(1) Commanding Officer: LCDR David A. Chase, USN

(2) Executive Officer: LCDR Glenn R. Allen, USN

(3) Chief Engineer: LT [REDACTED], USNR

(4) Administrative Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN

(5) Operations Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USN

(6) Supply Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR

(7) Damage Control Assistant: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR

(8) First Lieutenant: ENS [REDACTED], USNR

e. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

f. Statistical Data:

(1) Current ship's manning: 8 Officers, 6 CPOs, and 70 Enlisted

Length:	224 feet	Draft (Navigation):	13 feet
Beam:	39 feet	Displacement:	1312 tons
Speed:	13.5 knots	Accommodations:	8 Officer 6 CPO 70 Enlisted
Draft (keel):	12.2 feet		

Encl. (1)

Propulsion:

Four Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified diesel engines

Two Controllable Reversible Pitch Propellers

Two Rudders

Two Electric Light Load Propulsion Motors

Auxiliary:

Three Waukesha LN 1616 DSIN modified Ship's Service Diesel Generators

One Solar Gas Turbine

One Omnithruster Bow Thruster

Sensors/Navigation Systems:

One AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar

One Furuno Navigation Radar

One AN/SSN-2 (V6) Precise Integrated Navigation System

One AN/SQQ-32 Advanced Minehunting Sonar Set

One AN/WQN-1 Channel Finder

One AN/UQN-4 Fathometer

Mine Countermeasures System:

One AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System

Size 1 Oropesa Type Mechanical Minesweep Equipment

AN/SLQ-37(V)3 Magnetic/Acoustic Influence Sweep Equipment

AN/SLQ-38 Mechanical Equipment

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Chronology

01JAN-10JAN	Inport Ingleside TX for Holiday leave and Standown.
11JAN-14JAN	Inport Ingleside TX for GOMEX 99-1 Pre-sail Training
15JAN-18JAN	Underway with INCHON Task Group (INCTASKGRU) in support of GOMEX 99-1
19JAN-19JAN	Brief stop for fuel and stores onload at NAVSTA Ingleside, TX
20JAN-25JAN	Underway with INCTASKGRU in support of GOMEX 99-1
26JAN-23FEB	Inport Ingleside TX for Pre-Overseas Movement (INCTASKGRU-99)
19FEB-19FEB	COMNAVSURFLANT Ship Visit
24FEB-24FEB	Underway with INCTASKGRU-99 Deployment (in company with USS INCHON, USS CHAMPION, USS DEVASTATOR, and USS SCOUT)
25FEB-28FEB	Transit: Gulf of Mexico
01MAR-01MAR	Brief stop for fuel at Port Everglades, FL
02MAR-18MAR	Transit: Atlantic Ocean
19MAR-19MAR	Brief stop for fuel at Madeira, Portugal
20MAR-23MAR	Transit: Atlantic Ocean
24MAR-29MAR	Port Visit: Rota, Spain (in company with USS CHAMPION, USS DEVASTATOR, and USS SCOUT)
30MAR-30MAR	Transit: Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION)
31MAR-05APR	Port Visit: Malaga, Spain (in company with USS CHAMPION)
06APR-07APR	Transit: Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION)
08APR-12APR	Port Visit: Palma, Spain (in company with USS CHAMPION)
13APR-14APR	Transit: Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION)
15APR-20APR	MCM Exercise (OLIVES VERTES) in Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION)

Encl. (2)

19APR-19APR	Brief stop for fuel and stores onload at Toulon, France
21APR-01MAY	Port Visit: Toulon, France (in company with USS CHAMPION)
02MAY-02MAY	Transit: Mediterranean Sea
03MAY-08MAY	Port Visit: La Spezia, Italy
08MAY-08MAY	LCDR Glenn R. Allen relieved LCDR Kurt E. Hedberg as Executive Officer
09MAY-09MAY	Transit: Mediterranean Sea
10MAY-13MAY	MCM Exercise (GALLURA 99) in Mediterranean Sea
14MAY-25MAY	Port Visit: La Maddalena, Italy (moored outboard of USS EMORY S. LAND for IMAV)
24MAY-24MAY	DERAT Certification
26MAY-27MAY	Transit: Mediterranean Sea
28MAY-31MAY	Port Visit: Palma De Mallorca, Spain
01JUN-04JUN	MCM Exercise (ALCUDRA 99) in Mediterranean Sea
05JUN-05JUN	Port Visit: Palma De Mallorca, Spain
06JUN-09JUN	MCM Exercise (ALCUDRA 99) in Mediterranean Sea
10JUN-13JUN	Port Visit: Palma, Spain
13JUN-13JUN	Change of Command: LCDR David A. Chase relieved LCDR Stephen C. Shoen as Commanding Officer
14JUN-15JUN	Transit: Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)
16JUN-20JUN	Port Visit: Malaga, Spain (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)
21JUN-21JUN	Transit: Mediterranean Sea (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)
22JUN-27JUN	Port Visit: Rota, Spain (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)
24JUN-25JUN	Mid-Cycle Assessment
28JUN-01JUL	Transit: Atlantic Ocean (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)

02JUL-06JUL	Port Visit: Madeira, Portugal (in company with USS CHAMPION and USS SCOUT)
07JUL-27JUL	Transit: Atlantic Ocean (in company with USS INCHON, USS CHAMPION, USS DEVASTATOR, and USS SCOUT)
28JUL-28JUL	Return to Ingleside TX from INCTASKGRU-99 Deployment
29JUL-29JUL	Eligible for the Navy Unit Commendation to NAVAL FORCES JTF NOBLE ANVIL as part of CTF 63
29JUL-29JUL	Eligible for Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
29JUL-30AUG	Post Deployment Standown
20AUG-24AUG	Hurricane Heavy Weather Moor
31AUG-17SEP	Inport: Ingleside, TX for IMAV with SIMA Ingleside TX
16SEP-16SEP	Replacement of Minesweep Gas Turbine Generator
18SEP-19SEP	Naval Reserve Training Weekend (Inport)
20SEP-22SEP	Upkeep: Ingleside TX
23SEP-25SEP	Underway for GOMEX 99-2 Mine Recovery Operations in CCOA
26SEP-27SEP	Inport: NAVSTA Ingleside TX
28SEP-29SEP	Underway for GOMEX 99-2 Mine Recovery Operations in CCOA
30SEP-07OCT	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
30SEP-30SEP	CMS Inspection
08OCT-11OCT	Transit: Gulf of Mexico
11OCT-11OCT	Anchor in vicinity of Tampa Bay, FL
12OCT-17OCT	Port Visit: Tampa Bay, Florida (in company with USS SCOUT)
18OCT-21OCT	Transit: Gulf of Mexico (in company with USS SCOUT)
22OCT-31OCT	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
27OCT-27OCT	DERAT Certification
01NOV-02NOV	EMR Facility calibration
03NOV-16NOV	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX

05NOV-05NOV	Retirement Ceremony for EN1(SW) [REDACTED]
10NOV-10NOV	DDG-21 Gold Team Demonstration of SQQ-94 Trainer
12NOV-12NOV	Nominated COMINELWARCOM's Environmental Award Winner
17NOV-17NOV	Burial at Sea for TM1 Donald E. Porter and FTGSN Joseph K. Gauthier.
17NOV-21NOV	U/W for MCM Training in CCOA
20NOV-21NOV	Naval Reserve Training Weekend (Underway in CCOA)
22NOV-28NOV	Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
29NOV-10DEC	AIT Availability: Ingleside TX
10DEC-10DEC	Command Holiday Party
11DEC-12DEC	Naval Reserve Training Weekend (Inport NAVSTA Ingleside TX)
13DEC-14DEC	U/W for MCM Training in CCOA
15DEC-16DEC	Inport: Ingleside, TX
17DEC-31DEC	Inport Ingleside TX for holiday leave and standown
31DEC-31DEC	COMNAVSURFLANT Safety Award Winner

USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

Narrative

1. Pre-Deployment Preparations:

- (a) GOMEX 99-1 (15JAN-25JAN): AVENGER took part in this advance exercise in conjunction with USS INCHON and the rest of her task group.
- (b) Pre-Overseas Movement (26JAN-23FEB): Crew enjoyed final leisure time with families prior to deploying. Final stores and equipment onloads were conducted in preparation for upcoming deployment.

2. OLIVES VERTES Exercise (15APR-20APR):

-Multi-national exercise organized by French Navy. Included US forces (USS AVENGER and USS CHAMPION) and European forces (France, Greece, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom). Provided opportunity to training with multi-national forces. AVENGER exercised all minehunting teams, including EOD divers and MNV Operations. AVENGER identified total of 13 mine-like contacts, nine of which were confirmed as exercise mines (using MNV and divers).

3. GALLURA 99 Exercise (10MAY-13MAY):

-A basic level exercise simulating MCM exploratory and clearance operations in support of planned amphibious non-combatant evacuation operation. AVENGER positively identified two exercise mines.

4. DERAT Certification (24MAY):

-Certification was conducted by USS EMORY S. LAND Medical Department. Inspection found no evidence of rodent infestation.

5. ALCUDRA 99 Exercise (01JUN-09JUN):

-Exercise involving forces from the United States, Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal which took place off the south western coast of Spain. Mission of the exercise was to conduct MCM Operations in the allocated channels and anchorages to allow passage of shipping.

6. Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA) (24JUN-25JUN):

-AVENGER completed a very successful MCA which was conducted by the ISIC with ATG assistance. It was an engineering and integrated training team intensive assessment.

7. Hurricane Heavy Weather Moor (20AUG-24AUG):

-During Post-Deployment Standown, the entire south Texas region was threatened by Hurricane Bret. On 21AUG, COMINWARCOM and NAVSTA Ingleside decided to nest all ships in a hurricane moor in preparation for severe weather conditions anticipated. AVENGER was the outermost ship (starboard side) in a six ship nesting configuration. Shortly after all ships were nested, all ship's personnel were ordered to evacuate ships and take more secure refuge on

Encl. (3)

board USS INCHON. All non-essential personnel and dependents evacuated to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. Hurricane Bret made landfall 60 miles southeast of the Corpus Christi area. On 24AUG, all ships returned to normal berths.

8. CMS Inspection (30SEP):

-Inspection conducted by MCMRON TWO was graded "Satisfactory." Inspector found all operational aspects of the CMS account management strong (receipts, issues, destruction).

9. Tampa Bay, FL Port Visit (12OCT-17OCT):

-During port visit, AVENGER was again threatened by another hurricane, this time Hurricane Irene. Since AVENGER and SCOUT were 30+ miles inland, both vessels remained in Tampa Bay vice sortie. Both ships berth shifted to locations beside the Tampa Bay Reserve Center. With a hurricane threat looming, most of the scheduled events were cancelled. The only event that did take place was the Navy League Reception. Throughout our visit, AVENGER conducted ship tours, accommodating over 800 visitors.

10. DERAT Certification (27OCT):

-Certification conducted by Branch Medical Clinic Ingleside, Preventive Medicine Department. Inspection found no evidence of rodent infestation.

11. Retirement Ceremony for EN1 (SW) [REDACTED] (05NOV):

-Following 30 years of loyal service, EN1 (SW) [REDACTED] retired from the United States Military. CDR [REDACTED] Chaplain Corps, delivered the invocation and benediction. The Commanding Officer, LCDR David Chase, presented EN1 (SW) [REDACTED] with a Certificate of Appreciation from the President of the United States. Shortly after, the First Class Association presented EN1 (SW) [REDACTED] with a shadow box depicting various awards and decorations that he earned throughout his career. After the ceremony, a reception was held at the base USO.

12. DDG-21 Gold Team Demonstration (10NOV):

-Development team working on DDG-21 project observed the SQQ-94 Trainer and its interface with the AN/SQQ-32 Sonar System and the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle. The development team may incorporate a similar type trainer with new DDG-21 class ships.

13. MCM Training in CCOA (17NOV-21NOV):

-While conducting training in the Corpus Christi Operating Area, AVENGER was tasked to and recovered jettisoned helicopter sweep gear from RONEX 00-1 exercise.

14. Burial at Sea (17NOV):

-AVENGER conducted at sea burials for TM1 Donald E. Porter (27° 35.538 N, 096° 55.834 W) and FTGSN Joseph K. Gauthier (27° 34.846 N, 096° 55.824 W). The reading of the scripture and prayers, the committal, and the benediction were performed by LT [REDACTED] Chaplain Corps of N.A.S. Corpus Christi. A ceremonial flag and video tape of the ceremony were delivered to the families of each deceased individual.

15. Command Holiday Party (10DEC):
-Command Holiday Party was held in the Texas State Aquarium.