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 CALENDAR YEAR 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
     (2) Chronology
     (3) Narrative
     (4) 3 ½" Diskette with MS Word Version 9.0 of Report
     (5) Supporting Documents

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

A. D. AMIDON
Acting

Copy to:
COMINWARCOM Corpus Christi, TX
COMCMRON TWO
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 2001):

(1) Commanding Officer: LCDR John T. Beaver, Jr., USN
(2) Executive Officer: LT Andrew D. Amidon, USN
(3) Operations Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
(4) Combat Information Center Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
(5) Chief Engineer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
(6) Supply Officer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
(7) Assistant Chief Engineer: LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
(8) Damage Control Assistant: ENS [REDACTED], USNR
(9) First Lieutenant: ENS [REDACTED], USNR

e. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

f. Statistical Data:

(1) Current ship's manning: 9 Officers, 6 CPOs, and 70 Enlisted

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft (keel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft (Navigation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Displacement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodations</td>
<td>8 Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6 CPO</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70 Enlisted</td>
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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 Minesweeping Equipment
AN/SLQ-37 (V) 3 Magnetic/Acoustic Influence Sweep Equipment
AN/SLQ-38 Mechanical Equipment
USS AVENGER (MCM-1)

**Chronology**

01 JAN-08 JAN  Upkeep: Ingleside TX
08 JAN-19 JAN  U/W for GOMEX in Corpus Christi Operational Area
25 JAN-26 JAN  Final Evaluation Period
27 JAN-14 FEB  Pre-deployment standown and leave period
13 FEB-13 FEB  SAR Certification
15 FEB-15 FEB  U/W from NAVSTA Ingleside, TX
16 FEB-19 FEB  Transit Caribbean Sea
20 FEB-20 FEB  Brief Stop for Fuel Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
21 FEB-26 FEB  Transit Caribbean Sea enroute to Colon, Panama
27 FEB-27 FEB  Transit Panama Canal
28 FEB-29 FEB  BSF Rodman, Panama
11 MAR-11 MAR  Underway replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE enroute San Diego
15 MAR-15 MAR  Underway replenishment with USNS TIPPACANOE enroute San Diego
18 MAR-04 APR  Exercise Kernel Blitz
30 MAR-30 MAR  LCDR David Chase is relieved as Commanding Officer Inport San Diego
03 APR-03 APR  End of Exercise Kernel Blitz
03 APR-23 APR  Inport San Diego for FMAV with SIMA San Diego, CA
23 APR-25 APR  Enroute San Francisco, CA
26 APR-04 MAY  Port Visit to San Francisco, CA
04 MAY-08 MAY  Enroute Bangor, WA
08 MAY-08 MAY  LCDR Allen relieved by LT Amidon as Executive Officer

Encl. (2)
09 MAY-09 MAY  U/W Dabob Range for Combat Systems Testing
10 MAY-11 MAY  U/W Hood Canal Underwater Survey Operations
11 MAY-17 MAY  Inport Bangor, WA
11 MAY- 11 MAY  STGCS Retirement Ceremony
17 MAY-18 MAY  U/W enroute Esquimalt, British Columbia
18 MAY-25 MAY  Inport Esquimalt, British Columbia
22 MAY-24 MAY  U/W Canadian MIW Operations
25 MAY-04 JUN  Inport Everett, WA
31 MAY-31 MAY  ISIC Engineering Quicklook
04 JUN-06 JUN  U/W enroute Astoria, OR
06 JUN-06 JUN  Brief Stop for Fuel Astoria, OR
07 JUN-07 JUN  Transit Columbia River enroute Portland, OR
08 JUN-10 JUN  Inport Portland Rose Festival
11 JUN-11 JUN  Transit Columbia River enroute Astoria, OR for BSF
12 JUN-17 JUN  U/W enroute San Diego, CA
18 JUN-18 JUN  Arrive San Diego, CA
19 JUN- 05 JUL  Inport San Diego for IMAV with SIMA San Diego, CA
25 JUN- 29 JUN  Engineering LTT w/ATG Ingleside Inport San Diego, CA
05 JUL-12 JUL  U/W enroute Manzanillo, Mexico
12 JUL-12 JUL  BSF Manzanillo, MX
12 JUL-17 JUL  U/W enroute Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
17 JUL-17 JUL  BSF Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
17 JUL-22 JUL  U/W enroute Rodman, Panama
22 JUL-23 JUL  BSF Rodman, Panama
23 JUL-23 JUL  Transit Panama Canal
23 JUL-26 JUL  U/W enroute Roatan, Honduras

Encl. (2)
27 JUL-29 JUL  Port Visit Roatan, Honduras
29 JUL-03 AUG  U/W enroute NAVSTA Ingleside, TX
04 AUG-04 SEP  Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep
05 SEP-16 SEP  Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
07 SEP-07 SEP  U/W for Family Day Cruise in CCOA
17 SEP-05 OCT  Inport Ingleside, TX for FMAV with SIMA Ingleside, TX
06 OCT-31 OCT  Upkeep: Ingleside, TX
09 OCT-11 OCT  Communications LTT
11 OCT-11 OCT  Fire Fighting Team Trainer
15 OCT-19 OCT  U/W for MCM Training in CCOA
22 OCT-26 OCT  3M Assessment by ATG Ingleside
22 OCT-02 NOV  CNO Paint Team Availability
29 OCT-01 NOV  Advanced Fire Fighting Team Trainer
01 NOV-03 NOV  Shipboard Weapons Qualifications
01 NOV-21 NOV  Inport Ingleside, TX for TAV with SIMA Ingleside, TX
05 NOV-09 NOV  GAS-1 Antenna Installation
07 NOV-07 NOV  MICFAC MEDAL & GCCS-M Training Exercise
09 NOV-09 NOV  MCMRON TWO Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition onboard USS AVENGER
10 NOV-11 NOV  Naval Reserve Weekend (In port)
13 NOV-16 NOV  PLOT I
26 NOV-30 NOV  U/W Transit: Gulf of Mexico enroute Key West, FL
30 NOV-02 DEC  Port Visit Key West, FL
02 DEC-03 DEC  U/W enroute AUTEC Range, Bahamas
03 DEC-08 DEC  U/W in support of GPS GAS-1 Antenna testing in AUTEC Testing Range
09 DEC-10 DEC  U/W enroute Port Everglades, FL

Encl. (2)
10 DEC-12 DEC  Port Visit Port Everglades, FL
12 DEC-18 DEC  U/W Transit: Gulf of Mexico enroute Ingleside, TX
19 DEC-31 DEC  Holiday Leave and Upkeep
1. Panama Canal Transits (27 FEB and 23 JUL):
   - AVENGER began the 2001 EASTPAC deployment by transiting the Caribbean Sea to the Panama Canal with a brief stop for fuel (BSF) in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Upon arrival to the Panama Canal, AVENGER and the other three ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group Three were the first mine warfare ships to transit the Panama Canal since the establishment of NAVSTA Ingleside, TX. After completing the transit AVENGER sailors were able to enjoy a brief port call in Rodman, Panama for some well-deserved liberty. Completing this transit reaffirmed the capability of the four ships of MIWRG-3 to conduct sustained forward-deployed operations. This transit was repeated during the return from deployment in July of 2001 with another successful trip through the Panama Canal.

2. Exercise Kernel Blitz (18 MAR-03 APR):
   - AVENGER participated in this Joint Task Force Exercise with numerous Third Fleet forces and also included mine warfare ships of the Canadian Navy. AVENGER, along with the other ships of MIWRG-3, conducted around-the-clock minehunting and minesweeping operations in clearing the way for the amphibious task force landing. This exercise allowed AVENGER to demonstrate all of her mine warfare mission requirements and prove readiness to conduct combat operations.

3. Change of Command (30 MAR)
   - LCDR John T. Beaver, Jr. relieved LCDR David R. Chase as Commanding Officer in a ceremony onboard Naval Station San Diego. VADM (Ret) James Stockdale and his wife, who also served as the ship’s sponsor at AVENGER’s commissioning, attended the ceremony. LCDR Chase was presented an award from the Commander, Mine Warfare Command.

4. Port Visit to San Francisco, CA (26 APR-04 MAY)
   - AVENGER’s first significant liberty port visit occurred during this extended port visit in San Francisco, CA. The port visit was extended four days due to high winds and seas in the Eastern Pacific. During this visit AVENGER was opened to the public for tours and showed off the ship to more than 500 guests. Tours of the San Francisco area were arranged for the crew and several sailors also attended San Francisco Giant baseball games.

   - AVENGER’s first stop in the PACNORWEST was a visit to Bangor Submarine Base and included extensive Combat Systems Testing on the Dabob Underwater Range as well as Underwater Survey Operations in the Hood Canal. During this period AVENGER served as a host platform for testing some advanced C4I technology which could significantly improve the MCM’s communications and inter-operability.

6. LCDR Allen is relieved as Executive Officer (08 MAY)
   - LT Andrew Amidon relieved LCDR Glen Allen as Executive Officer upon arrival to Bangor, WA. LT Amidon’s previous assignment was Operations Officer on the USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8). LCDR Allen departed to begin the PCO training pipeline for his next assignment as Commanding Officer of the USS CORMORANT (MHC 57).

7. Retirement Ceremony for STGCS (SW) (11 MAY)
   - Following more than 20 years of loyal service, STGCS (SW) retired from the United States Navy in a ceremony held at the Submarine Base in Bangor, WA. LTJG delivered the invocation and benediction. LT Amidon served as the Master of Ceremonies while the Commanding Officer, LCDR Beaver, was the guest speaker and also presented STGCS (SW) with several awards and certificates. Near the conclusion of the ceremony, the Chief Petty Officer’s Mess presented STGCS (SW) with a shadow box depicting various awards and decorations he earned throughout his career.

Encl. (3)
8. Bilateral MCM Operations with the Canadian Navy (18 MAY-25 MAY):
 Upon departing Bangor, AVENGER transited the Puget Sound to the Canadian Naval Base at Esquimalt, British Columbia. The crew thoroughly enjoyed this port visit and liberty time during a holiday weekend in Victoria. This was immediately followed by bilateral exercises and training with Canadian MCM Forces in the Puget Sound. Both navies showed off their operations and learned from this sharing of information on minehunting and minesweeping capabilities. Several sailors from both navies were able to cross-deck to other ships to observe the operations and traditions of naval service.

9. Port Visit to Everett, WA and ISIC Engineering Quicklook (25 MAY-04 JUN)
 -This port visit was primarily a working port with the crew reviewing and practicing engineering and damage control drills. The ship conducted an Engineering Quicklook Assessment of material readiness, watchstander proficiency, and firefighting capability with a combined assessment team from MCMRON TWO and ATG Ingleside.

10. Portland Rose Festival (07JUN-10 JUN):
 -After a BSF and one night stop in Astoria, Oregon, AVENGER conducted an eight hour transit up the Columbia River to Portland, OR. During this port visit, AVENGER participated in the numerous events of the Portland Rose Festival, entertained more than 1500 visitors and was met with open arms by the local community. Upon departure from Portland, AVENGER again transited the Columbia River and conducted another overnight stop in Astoria.

11. Maintenance Availability and LTT Visit San Diego, CA (19 JUN-05 JUL)
 -Upon to arrival to San Diego, CA, AVENGER conducted a two week maintenance availability with SIMA San Diego. Several essential voyage repairs were conducted by ship’s force and SIMA in preparation for the month-long transit to Ingleside, TX. During this time AVENGER also conducted an LTT with ATG Ingleside focusing on engineering management programs and training.

12. Liberty Port Roatan, Honduras (27-29 JUL)
 -During the return transit, AVENGER and DEVASTATOR became the largest US Navy ships to visit the island of Roatan, Honduras. The crew was well-received by the Honduran people and were able to take part in many water sports, including some of the world’s best diving locations. AVENGER also hosted several sailors of the Honduran Navy, providing meals and training on damage control and firefighting systems.

13. Homecoming (03 AUG)
 -AVENGER returned to Ingleside, TX on 03 AUG after nearly six months of forward-deployed operations. The ship was welcomed home on the pier by RADM Betancourt, Commander, Mine Warfare Command and Commodore Rush, Commandeer, Mine Countermeasure Squadron Two. The family support group provided an outstanding reception and EN1 ___ and his wife ___ were the lucky winners of the First Kiss Contest.

14. Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep (03 AUG-04 SEP)
 -The crew was rewarded for their dedicated efforts on deployment with the traditional stand down period and enjoyed this time to re-connect with their families and loved ones.

15. Family Cruise (07 SEP)
 -Family members and guest were treated to a day at sea on the AVENGER in the Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA). The family day cruise was an exciting opportunity for the crew to show their dependents and guests what life is like at sea onboard a minesweeper. Events included a reenlistment ceremony and “cedar beach” cookout.

Encl. (3)
16. Terrorist Attack on New York and the Pentagon (11 SEP)
   - AVENGER responds to the terrorist attack by immediately increasing force protection and threatcon measures to ensure readiness to defend against any threat. Although not called to go to sea, AVENGER was ready to meet any operational tasking in support of homeland defense or forward-deployed operations.

17. 3M Assessment (22 OCT-26 OCT)
   - Getting back to the routine of completing required assessments, AVENGER completed a 3M Assessment with ATG Ingleside and earned the second highest score on the waterfront. Especially noteworthy was the performance of the engineering department for achieving the best score of any department on AVENGER.

18. MCMRON TWO Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition (09 NOV)
   - AVENGER hosted the 2001 Junior Officer Shiphandling of the Year competition for MCMRON TWO. Six different commands competed for the right to claim the title of MCMRON TWO shiphandler of the year during this underway contest in the Naval Station Ingleside basin. AVENGER's own LTJG [REDACTED] earned the title of Naval Reserve shiphandler of the year for MCMRON TWO.

19. Port Visit to Key West, FL (30 NOV-02 DEC)
   - AVENGER transited across the Gulf of Mexico in support of GPS testing on the Bahamas AUTEC Range. Key West, FL provided the perfect stop enroute for fuel, stores and a brief port visit. The crew was able to experience Key West's many exciting attractions including snorkeling, diving, and the many wonderful beaches.

20. Global Positioning System GAS-1 Antenna Testing (03 DEC-08 DEC)
   - AVENGER participated in the testing of the AN/GAS-1 Global Positioning System (GPS) system. This system will provide the ability for ships to utilize GPS while opposing forces attempt to jam it. The testing took place at the AUTEC Range in the Tongue of the Ocean on the east side of Andros Island in the Bahamas. AVENGER set Condition 1MH and commenced a series of Minehunting tactics and Q-Routes as a variety of equipment configurations were tested against shore and sea based jammers. Upon the very successful completion of this testing, AVENGER stopped for a day of minehunting at the AUTEC Underwater Range just north of Andros Island.

21. Port Visit Port Everglades, FL (10 DEC-12 DEC):
   - The reward for successful GPS testing operations was a port visit to Port Everglades (Fort Lauderdale) FL. During this port visit AVENGER was treated to outstanding hospitality from the various local Navy Leagues and took part in many of Southern Florida's finest sights and entertainment venues. Sailors were also given free tickets to a Miami Heat basketball game and a Miami Dolphins Monday Night Football game.

22. Holiday Leave and Upkeep (18 DEC-31 DEC)
   - Upon arrival back in Ingleside, TX, AVENGER concluded this highly successful and demanding year with a holiday leave and upkeep period which again allowed AVENGER sailors with the opportunity to spend time with family and celebrate the holiday season.