



Rec'd 2/25/92

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96662-1924

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser 30/030  
10 Feb 92

From: Commanding Officer, USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)  
To: Naval Historical Center, Ship's Branch, Washington, DC

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(3) Commissioning Booklet

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted as USS CHAMPION's (MCM 4) Command History.

  
S. V. DEGEUS

Copy to: (w/o encls (2) and (3))  
COMCMGRU ONE  
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USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)  
COMMAND HISTORY

I. Command Composition and Organization

A. The CHAMPION's mission requirements are:

1. Search, detect and neutralize moored and bottom mines.
2. Sweep moored mines.
3. Sink floating mines by gunfire.
4. Accompany deploying forces overseas.
5. Permit breakout of U.S. Forces from CONUS ports.
6. Provide navigational assistance to other Fleet surface units.
7. Conduct underwater surveys of ports and harbors.
8. Perform collection of oceanographic and navigational data.

B. Organizational Structure:

USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) operates as an integral part of Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Her immediate senior in command is Commander Mine Countermeasures Group ONE.

C. Commanding Officer:

LCDR S. V. DEGEUS, USN.

D. Homeport:

San Diego, CA.

II. Chronology

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
1 Jan 91	CHAMPION moored port side to at Marinette Marine Corporation, Marinette, WI.
7 Jan 91	At 1000 onboard CHAMPION, CHAMPION was delivered to the Navy.
14 Jan 91	Commenced three weeks of cryptographic equipment installation.
28 Jan 91	Commenced on week of EOSS Hot Checks.
4 Feb 91	Pre-Light Off Exam Phase Two by Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific Mobile Training Team.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
8 Feb 91	CHAMPION placed "In Commission - Special" in ceremony at Marinette Marine Corporation, Marinette, WI. LCDR Stanley V. DeGeus, USN, Commanding Officer.
12-13 Feb 91	Two day Crew Certification Phase One By Commander, Mine Group ONE.
11 Mar 91	Conducted one week CSSQT Phase One. Conducted three day Environmental Health/Industrial Hygiene Inspection from Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, IL.
18 Mar 91	Pre Light Off Exam Phase Three by Commander, Naval Surface Force Mobile Training Team.
2-4 Apr 91	Light Off Examination by CINCPACFLT Propulsion Examining Board.
8 Apr 91	USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) takes part in Marinette County Salute for Operation Desert Storm/Shield.
9-10 Apr 91	Crew Certification Phase Two by Commander, Mine Group ONE. Medical Readiness Evaluation Assist visit by Commander, Mine Group ONE. Commodore David Grieve, Captain, USN, Commander Mine Group ONE visit.
11 Apr 91	WQN-1 installation.
16 Apr 91	Underway for one day at-sea indoctrination, conducted full power run, moored starboard side to in Marinette, WI.
17-19 Apr 91	Electromagnetic Interference Testing.
20 Apr 91	Satisfactory pass of Commander Third Fleet "Beard Iron" exercise.
23 Apr 91	Underway from Marinette, WI enroute homeport of San Diego, CA.
25 Apr 91	Port Visit, Buffalo, NY.
26-27 Apr 91	Visit ship, Buffalo, NY, 1100 visitors.
28 Apr 91	Underway for Quebec, Canada.
29 Apr 91	Anchored Lake St Francis, half way through Welland Canal.
30 Apr 91	Underway, anchored 1830 Three Rivers.

Enclosure (1)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
1 May 91	Arrived Quebec, Canada. Visit from American Consul, Quebec.
2 May 91	Commanding Officer calls on LT Governor Quebec, Assistant Mayor Quebec, Port Officer Quebec, Commander Canadian Headquarters Quebec.
2-3 May 91	Visit ship, Quebec, Canada, 450 visitors.
4 May 91	Underway for Halifax, Canada.
7 May 91	Arrived Halifax, Canada.
8 May 91	Luncheon visit from American Consul, Quebec.
10 May 91	Underway for New York City, New York.
12 May 91	Arrived New York City, New York.
14 May 91	Luncheon visit by Mr. and Mrs. S. Steven Karalekas. Christina (Tina) Karalekas is ship sponsor. Accompanied by RADM Callo, USN (Ret).
17 May 91	Underway for Bermuda.
20 May 91	Arrived NAS Annex Bermuda.
26 May 91	Underway for Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
29 May 91	Arrived Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
31 May 91	Departed Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, arrived St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
5 Jun 91	Underway for Panama Canal.
10 Jun 91	Arrived Eastern Edge Panama Canal. 2300 arrived Naval Station, Rodman, Panama.
12 Jun 91	Underway for Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala.
15 Jun 91	Arrived Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala.
17 Jun 91	Underway for Manzanillo, Mexico. Rescue at-sea of three fishermen onboard "Langousta 222."
20 Jun 91	Arrived Manzanillo, Mexico. Commanding Officer call on the Mayor. USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) receives "Well Done" from Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet for "Langousta 222" rescue at-sea.

Enclosure (1)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
21 Jun 91	Commanding Officer call on Major General Ortiz. Hosted Mayor, MGEN Ortiz and two RADM for lunch.
23 Jun 91	Underway for San Diego, CA.
28 Jun 91	Arrived 0900 in San Diego, CA, following 8300 nautical mile transit from the Great Lakes. CDR Patrick Park, USNR, Commander Mine Division Five Four visit.
9 Jul 91	OK-520 brake modification installed on SQQ-30 Sonar. Conducted one week physical configuration audit.
15 Jul 91	Commanding Officer call on VADM David M. Bennett, USN, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
18-19 Jul 91	Successfully completed Medical Readiness Evaluation.
23 Jul 91	Conducted Training Readiness Evaluation by Commander Fleet Training Group at Anchorage 213, San Diego Harbor.
26 Jul 91	Sponsor's Dinner at U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, CA. Guests included Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Tina Karalekas and VADM R.K.U. Kihune, USN, OP-03.
27 Jul 91	USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) placed "In Commission-Formal" at ceremony on Quaywall North Pier Seven, Naval Station, San Diego. Principle speaker was Congressman Duncan Hunter, R-San Diego, VADM R.K.U. Kihune, OP-03 and VADM David M. Bennett, Commander, Naval Surface U.S. Pacific Fleet.
6 Aug 91	Conducted Pilot Rescue Team Training assist visit at Naval Station, San Diego.
8 Aug 91	CHAMPION becomes Field Calibration Authority certified.
15 Aug 91	Tour for Armed Service Committee investigator.
19 Aug 91	Commenced one week Mobile Training Team Phase One visit, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
21 Aug 91	Tour for members of Naval Audit Board.

Enclosure (1)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
26 Aug 91	Commence complete week of competition in Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet annual "Surface Line Week." Won three competitions.
28 Aug 91	Completed Pilot Rescue Team Trainer at Naval Station, San Diego. CA.
3-20 Sep 91	Completed Shakedown Refresher Training in San Diego, CA. CHAMPION completed over double the number of required Ship's Training Requirements (STRs).
14 Sep 91	CHAMPION participates in "Boss Appreciation Day" representing Mine Division Five Four.
18-20 Sep 91	Completed Radio/Radar patterns on SESEF range in conjunction with Shakedown Refresher Training.
30 Sep 91	Commenced one week Mobile Training Team Phase Two, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
11 Oct 91	CHAMPION is Commander Mine Group ONE representative in San Diego's "Parade of Ships."
15 Oct 91	Commenced one week Mobile Training Team Phase Three, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
21 Oct 91	Started two week maintenance availability with USS CAPE COD (AD 42). Commenced one week CSSQT Phase Two.
25 Oct 91	USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) selected as Commander Mine Group ONE Nomination for the Golden Anchor Award.
5-6 Nov 91	Successfully completed Operational Propulsion Plant Examination by CINCPACFLT Propulsion Examining Board with the fewest material discrepancies ever noted on a diesel plant ship.
12 Nov 91	Underway for Seattle, WA.
14 Nov 91	Brief stop for fuel, Naval Air Station, Alameda, CA.
15 Nov 91	USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) recognized by the Naval Academy and Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet for superior midshipman training program.
17 Nov 91	Anchored Yukon Harbor, Puget Sound.
18 Nov 91	Refueled Manchester Fuel Pier, Puget Sound. Moored Pier 10, Seattle, WA.

Enclosure (1)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
20-21 Nov 91	Acoustic Trials, Puget Sound.
21 Nov 91	Moored Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Tacoma, WA.
26-27 Nov 91	Completed NAVOSH inspection from Commander, Mine Group ONE. Completed Supply Assist Visit conducted by Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group ONE.
2 Dec 91	Completed one day CSSQT Phase Three.
3-4 Dec 91	Completed Acoustic Trials, Carr Inlet in Puget Sound.
5 Dec 91	Refueled Manchester Fuel Pier. Underway for San Diego, CA.
11 Dec 91	Arrived San Diego, CA.
16 Dec 91	Successfully completed Dental Readiness Examination. Completed one week of CSSQT Phase Four.
23 Dec 91	USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) awarded Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Silver Anchor Award.
31 Dec 91	Moored port side to at Quaywall North Pier Seven, Naval Station, San Diego.

### III. Narrative

USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) was built in Marinette, Wisconsin by Marinette Marine Corporation. She was placed in service "special" upon delivery (7 January 1991). On the 8th of February 1991 CHAMPION was placed in commission "special", receiving the status of a commissioned U.S. vessel without a formal commissioning ceremony. At that time CHAMPION was placed under the cognizance of CTU 040.1.8 (COMNAVSURFLANT). While transiting to San Diego, CA, 18 June 1991, cognizant control shifted to Third Fleet (CTU 031.7.5). USS CHAMPION's (MCM 4) formal commissioning ceremony was in San Diego, CA on 27 July 1991.

On 3 September 1991 USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) chipped to Fleet Training Group, CTG 11.1, for Refresher Training (REFTRA). Upon successful completion of REFTRA she was placed under the control of COMNAVSURFPAC, CTU 015.11.4.

Enclosure (1)