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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)
FPO AA 34090-1924

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)
To: Naval Historical Center, Ship's Branch, Washington, DC 20370

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1993

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as USS CHAMPION's Command History for Calendar Year 1993.


T. W. MALLOY

Copy to:
COMINELWARCOM
COMCMGRU Ingleside
COMCMGRU ONE
COMCMGRU TWO
Mrs. Karalekas

**USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)
COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1993**

I. Command Composition and Organization

A. The CHAMPION's mission requirements are:

1. Search for, 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 the Mine Warfare Command. Her immediate senior in command is Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group Ingleside, Texas.

C. Commanding Officer:

LCDR T. W. MALLOY

D. Homeport:

Ingleside, TX

II. Chronology

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01 Jan 93	CHAMPION moored port side to at Naval Station San Diego, CA
14 Jan 93	CHAMPION got underway for sea trials, degaussing and, check ranging
16 Jan 93	Return to homeport
19 Jan 93	Underway for ammunition onload, return to port on 20 Jan.
22 Jan 93	Underway for San Francisco enroute to Seattle, WA for Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) preparations
24 Jan 93	Moored at Pier 45, San Francisco for one day fuel stop. Underway for Seattle on the morning of the 25th.
29 Jan 93	Anchored in the morning in Yukon Harbor; moored to Pier 90, Seattle, WA later that night.
01 Feb 93	Underway for five days of MCM training and MRCI preparations in Puget Sound.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
05 Feb 93	Moored at Submarine Base Bangor, Washington in the early morning, departed for Pier 90 that afternoon. Moored to Pier 90 late in the evening.
10 Feb 93	Underway for three days of MCM training, returned to port late on the 13th. Commenced three weeks of MCM Refresher Training with Mine Countermeasures Group ONE.
16 Feb 93	Conducted more MCM training in Puget Sound and returned to port the afternoon of the 19th.
22 Feb 93	Continued MCM training, returning to Pier 90 that night.
23 Feb 93	Departed Pier 90 in the early morning for training in Puget Sound, returned that evening.
24 Feb 93	Underway for two days of minesweeping/minehunting, moored to Pier 90 in the evening of the 25th.
26 Feb 93	Another day dedicated to underway MCM training, returned to port in the afternoon.
01 Mar 93	Continued training, return to port that evening.
02-03 Mar 93	Underway for MRCI preparations.
05 Mar 93	Left Pier 90 for MRCI practice exercises, moored at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard that afternoon to effect repairs to starboard stern crane.
16 Mar 93	Conducted minehunting operations for training in Puget Sound, returned to Pier 90 late on the 17th.
18 Mar 93	MCM training continued in Puget Sound. Return to port the afternoon of the 20th.
24 Mar 93	Ship's force engaged in MRCI preparations, back to port that night.
25 Mar 93	Underway once again for continued training, moor Pier 90 late on the 26th.
30 Mar 93	Underway for MRCI refresher, returned to port that night and moor at Pier 90, Seattle.
06 Apr 93	One last day of MRCI preparations on Puget Sound.
07-10 Apr 93	MRCI inspection team embarked. Underway each day and back in to Pier 90 each night. MRCI succesfully completed on the 10th.
12 Apr 93	Underway early in the morning enroute to Esquimalt, Canada for MARCOT 1-93 Exercise. Moored to Pier Bravo for the night.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
13-16 Apr 93	Underway for participation in first phase of MARCOT 1-93 in Parry Bay, Canada. Moored to a Jetty in Victoria, Canada the afternoon of the 16th.
19-21 Apr 93	Participated in last phase of MARCOT 1-93 and set sail for return trip to San Diego late on the 21st.
22-25 Apr 93	Underway for return transit to San Diego.
26 Apr 93	Moored to Quay Wall North Pier 4 at NAVSTA San Diego.
17 May-03 Jun 93	Engaged in degaussing and stray fields testing at the Magnetic Silencing Facility at Sub Base San Diego.
03 Jun 93	Moored to Quay Wall North Pier 7 upon completion of activities at Magnetic Silencing Facility.
11-14 Jun 93	Underway for Very Shallow Water Minesweeping Exercise off Camp Pendleton, CA. OPCON to 331.7 for exercise.
14 Jun 93	Moored Quay Wall North Pier 7. OPCON shift back to 046.1.
26 Jun-26 Jul 93	Pre-overseas Movement period in preparation for homeport shift deployment.
27-30 Jul 93	Underway for homeport shift deployment, enroute to Mazatlan, Mexico.
31 Jul 93	Inport for fuel in Mazatlan, underway again in the afternoon. Enroute to Acapulco, Mexico.
03 Aug 93	Moored to commercial pier in Acapulco for a three day port call.
06 Aug 93	Underway from Acapulco enroute Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala.
08 Aug 93	Changed OPCON to CINCLANTFLT, CTU 035.9.3.
09 Aug 93	Inport for a day in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala for refueling. Underway for NAVSTA Rodman, Panama in the evening.
14 Aug 93	Moored at NAVSTA Rodman for four days of refueling, liberty, and maintenance. Preparations made in conjunction with EODMU 3 DET 53 for participation in UNITAS 34-93.
18-20 Aug 93	Underway for UNITAS exercise, EODMU 3 DET 53 is embarked. Return to port the afternoon of the 20th.
22 Aug 93	Underway for UNITAS simulated minefield leadthrough. Return to port in the evening.
23 Aug 93	Disembark EODMU 3 DET 53.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
24 Aug 93	Transit Panama Canal enroute to Cozumel, Mexico.
29 Aug 93	Inport Cozumel, Mexico for three day port call.
31 Aug 93	Departed Cozumel, Mexico enroute to NAVSTA Ingleside, Texas.
04 Sep 93	Moored starboard side to NAVSTA Ingleside, Texas.
29 Nov-02 Dec 93	Underway for Engineering drills and fireparty training. Anchored out in Corpus Christi Operation Area.

III. Narrative

The USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) completed a rigorous operational schedule in 1993 that was unparalleled in the history of the MCM community. Training and evaluation received during her initial deployment to Seattle for Mine Countermeasures refresher training proved invaluable during the ensuing months, when Champion and her crew completed three major exercises in five months. These evolutions took the CHAMPION sailors from the chilly waters of Parry Bay, Canada to the southern latitudes of Panama.

While in the Seattle area making preparations for the Mine Countermeasures Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI), the ship participated in the second inclining experiment ever conducted on an MCM class ship. After the availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, CHAMPION's crew went on to pass the MRCI with no discrepancies noted in the Operations, Deck, or Administrative portions of the assessment. This is the first time an MCM earned satisfactory grades in all inspectable areas, without the need of a re-inspection.

After the MRCI, CHAMPION proceeded from Puget Sound up to Parry Bay, Canada to join HELMINERON FIFTEEN, USS GALLANT, USS IMPLICIT, USS CONQUEST, EODMU THREE DET FIVE THREE, EODMU NINE DET FIVE THREE, and EODMU ELEVEN DET FIVE ONE. This exercise involved extensive use of the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System and CHAMPION successfully detected and prosecuted several exercise mines. The exercise proved very beneficial in the lessons learned from working with the combined air, surface, and sub-surface assets to clear a simulated minefield in a relatively short period of time. CHAMPION and her crew returned home to San Diego at the conclusion of the exercise.

The next employment of CHAMPION's assets came on the weekend of 11-14 June, when she participated in a Very Shallow Water minesweeping exercise off Camp Pendleton, CA. Once again, we employed solely the MNS vehicle and prosecuted several contacts.

A period of preparation for the ship's homeport shift deployment followed. On July 27, the Officers and men of USS CHAMPION got the ship underway from San Diego enroute for Naval Station Rodman, Panama. The trip South was uneventful with stops for fuel, stores, and liberty in Mazatlan and Acapulco, Mexico and Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala.

Once in Panama, preparations were made for our role in UNITAS '93 exercise. CHAMPION was tasked with a simulated minefield lead through of six foreign vessels (surface and submarines). It was CHAMPION's first involvement with an embarked EOD detachment and the experience was invaluable and rewarding. After the initial surveys, the lead through was flawless and professionally executed.

Upon the conclusion of the MCM role in the exercise CHAMPION returned to NAVSTA Rodman for a stores and fuel onload. The Panama Canal was transitted on August 24th and the ship set course for Cozumel, Mexico. Three days were spent on the Island and it was a very pleasurable port visit; the Mexican Naval Detachment were excellent hosts.

On September 4th CHAMPION and her crew arrived at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence. The rest of the calendar year was spent in port, with the exception of one week in late November for engineering propulsion evaluation and crew training.