



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHAMPION (MCM-4)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Chronological Command History
(2) Narrative History
(3) USS Champion (MCM-4) Stern refueling Picture
(4) EURO 99 Task Group Picture

1. The 1999 command history for USS CHAMPION (MCM-4) submitted in accordance with reference (a) for Department of the Navy archives.

K. L. Williams
K. L. WILLIAMS

USS CHAMPION(MCM-4) 1999 CHRONOLOGICAL COMMAND HISTORY

January 1- February 23: In port NAVSTA Ingleside, TX for holiday leave stand down period and upkeep for Euro 99 Deployment

February 24 - Departed Naval Station Ingleside, TX for Euro 99 Deployment

March 1 – Arrived in Port Everglades, FL for BSF, commence Trans-Atlantic voyage

March 19 – Arrived in Funchal Madeira, Portugal for BSF

March 20–23 – Underway from Funchal Madeira, Portugal enroute Naval Station Rota, Spain.

March 23-29 – Inport Naval Station Rota, Spain for crew liberty

March 30 – Underway from Naval Station Rota, Spain Enroute Malaga, Spain.

March 31-April 4 – Inport Malaga, Spain for liberty

April 5-7 - Depart Malaga, Spain enroute Palma De Mallorca, Spain.

April 8-13 – Inport Malaga, Spain for NATO Exercise Olives Vertes Briefs and liberty.

April 14-18 – Underway for NATO Exercise Olives Vertes.

April 19 – Inport Toulon, France for BSF

April 19-21 – Underway for NATO Exercise Olives Vertes

April 21-27 – Inport Toulon, France for NATO Exercise Olives Vertes Debrief and liberty.

April 28-29 – Departed Toulon, France enroute Roda Di La Spezia, Italy.

April 30-May3 – Inport Roda Di La Spezia, Italy for liberty.

May 4-5 – Underway enroute Port da la Condominc Monaco, France for liberty

May 6-7 – Inport Port da la Condominc Monaco, France

May 8-11 – Depart Port da la Condominc Monaco, France enroute to Roda Di La Madalena, Italy.

May 12-18 – Inport Roda Di La Madalena, Italy for liberty.

May 19-20 – Depart Roda Di La Madalena, Italy enroute Roda Di La Spezia, Italy.

May 21-27 – Inport Roda Di La Spezia, Italy for the inauguration of Mine Counter Measures Force Mediterranean (MCMFORMED).

May 28-30 – Depart Roda Di La Spezia, Italy enroute Palma De Mallorca, Spain.

May 31-June 1 – Inport Roda Di La Spezia, Italy for NATO Exercise Alcudra.

June 2-4 – Underway for NATO Exercise Alcudra

June 5 - Arrive in the port of Castellon de la Playa El Grao, Spain for BSF

June 6-9 – Underway from Castellon de la Playa El Grao, Spain for NATO Exercise Alcudra.

June 10-13 – Arrive in Palma De Mallorca, Spain for NATO Exercise Alcudra debrief and liberty.

June 14-15 – Underway from Palma De Mallorca, Spain enroute to Malaga, Spain.

June 16-21 – Inport Malaga, Spain for liberty.

June 22-23 – Underway from Malaga, Spain enroute to Rota, Spain.

June 24-27 – Inport Rota, Spain.

June 28-30 – Underway from Rota, Spain enroute Funchal Madeira, Portugal.

July 1-5 – Inport Funchal Madeira, Portugal ,

July 6-27 – Underway from Funchal Madeira, Portugal to commence Trans-Atlantic voyage.

July 28 – Arrive at Naval Station Ingleside, TX.

July 29-September 21 – Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX for post deployment standdown and upkeep period.

September 22-25 – Underway from Naval Station Ingleside, TX enroute to Port Everglades, FL.

September 26-28 – Inport Port Everglades, FL.

September 29 – Underway for Bow Thruster Testing on Acoustic Range at Port Everglades, FL.

September 30 – Inport Port Everglades, FL.

October 1-3 – Underway from Port Everglades, FL enroute to Key West, FL

October 4-7 – Inport Key West, FL.

October 8-11 – Underway in the Gulf of Mexico enroute to Naval Station Ingleside, TX.

October 12-17 – Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX for upkeep.

October 18 – Underway from Naval Station Ingleside, TX enroute to South West Marine Shipyard, Ingleside, TX

October 19-December 31 – Inport South West Marine Shipyard, Ingleside, TX for CNO Restricted Availability.

November 4 - Change of Command Ceremony held onboard USS LEXINGTON, Corpus Christi, TX
CDR J. Walker properly relieved by LCDR K. Williams as Commanding Officer.

USS CHAMPION 1999 NARRATIVE HISTORY

USS CHAMPION (MCM-4) was on holiday stand down and upkeep period moored at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas from January 1st through February 23rd. On the 24th of February USS CHAMPION departed Naval Station Ingleside, Texas with five other Mine Counter Measures Squadron Two ships and the USS INCHON for the EURO 99 Deployment.

On the 1st of March USS CHAMPION arrived at Port Everglades, Florida for a Brief Stop for Fuel. Upon departure from Port Everglades, Florida CHAMPION pointed her bow east to commence a 28 day transit across the Atlantic Ocean. While conducting her Atlantic Ocean transit CHAMPION refueled seven times with the USS INCHON.

On the 19th of March USS CHAMPION arrived at Funchal Madeira, Portugal for a Brief Stop for Fuel and one day of liberty. CHAMPION departed Funchal Madeira, Portugal on the 20th of March enroute to Rota, Spain. On the 23rd of March CHAMPION arrived at Rota, Spain for a week of well-deserved and well-enjoyed liberty. On the 30th of March CHAMPION departed Rota, Spain and arrived at Malaga, Spain on the 31st of March. CHAMPION was in port at Malaga, Spain until the 5th of April.

On the 5th of April CHAMPION departed Malaga, Spain enroute to Palma De Mallorca, Spain. CHAMPION arrived in Palma De Mallorca on the 8th of April. While in Palma De Mallorca crewmembers enjoyed lavish liberty and tours of the local area. CHAMPION was also preparing for the first of two NATO exercises which she would participate in. On the 13th of April CHAMPION departed Palma De Mallorca for participation in the NATO exercise Olives Vertes. From the 14th of April to the 21st of April USS CHAMPION flexed her minehunting and mine neutralization capabilities during the NATO exercise Olives Vertes. Countries participating included France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Upon completion of Olives Vertes CHAMPION headed towards Toulon, France. Arriving in Toulon on the 21st of April, crewmembers enjoyed local quiescence and culture. On the 28th of April CHAMPION departed Toulon, France enroute Roda Di La Spezia, Italy and arrived there on the 30th of April. While in Roda Di La Spezia the crew enjoyed the serenity of the Italian countryside. On the 4th of May USS CHAMPION departed Roda Di La Spezia, Italy and arrived in Port de la Condamine Monaco, France on the 6th of May. While there the crew was able to experience European casino and entertainment.

USS CHAMPION departed Port de la Condamine Monaco, France on the 8th of May enroute to Roda Di La Madalena, Italy. Arriving at Roda Di La Madalena on the 12th CHAMPION received maintenance assistance from a United States Submarine Tender. CHAMPION departed Roda Di La Madalena on the 19th and arrived in Roda Di La Spezia, Italy on the 21st of May. While in Roda Di La Spezia USS CHAMPION participated in the inauguration of the Mine Counter Measures Forces Mediterranean (MCMFORMED). USS CHAMPION crewmembers enjoyed tours of other minesweepers including those from Greece, Italy, and France. On the 28th of May USS CHAMPION departed Roda Di La Spezia, Italy and arrived in Palma De Mallorca, Spain on the 31st of May.

USS CHAMPION departed Palma De Mallorca, Spain on the 1st of June. From June 2nd to June 10th USS CHAMPION participated in ALCUDRA, a NATO Exercise, performing her mine-hunting mission. On the 5th of June CHAMPION arrived in Castellon de la Playa El Grao, Spain for fuel and departed on the 6th of June to complete ALCUDRA. USS CHAMPION arrived at Palma De Mallorca, Spain on the 10th of June for crew liberty. On

the 14th of June USS CHAMPION departed Palma De Mallorca and arrived in Malaga, Spain on the 16th of June for crew liberty. USS CHAMPION departed Malaga, Spain on the 22nd of June and arrived at Rota, Spain on the 24th of June. USS CHAMPION departed Rota, Spain on the 28th of June and arrived in Funchal Madeira, Portugal on the 1st of July for crew liberty.

USS CHAMPION departed Funchal, Madeira, Portugal on the 6th of July and pointed west for the Trans-Atlantic voyage. After seven astern refueling evolutions with the USS INCHON, USS CHAMPION arrived in Ingleside, TX on the 28th of July. USS CHAMPION was on a Post Deployment Standdown and Upkeep period at Naval Station Ingleside, TX from the 29th of July until the 21st of September. On the 22nd of September USS CHAMPION departed Ingleside, TX enroute to Port Everglades, FL. USS CHAMPION arrived at Port Everglades, FL on the 26th of September for Bow Thruster Testing at the acoustics range and departed on the 1st of October.

USS CHAMPION arrived in Key West, FL on the 4th of October for crew liberty and departed on the 8th of October. Arriving at Naval Station Ingleside, TX on the 12th of October USS CHAMPION conducted upkeep. On the 18th of October USS CHAMPION departed Naval Station Ingleside, TX and arrived at South West Marine Shipyard, Ingleside, TX.

USS CHAMPION and South West Marine Shipyard employees conducted a CNO Restricted Availability from the 18th of October until the 31st of December. On the 4th of November CDR John G. Walker is relieved by LCDR Kenneth L. Williams as the Commanding Officer at a ceremony aboard the USS LEXINGTON Museum.