

OPNAVINST 5750.12J
14 Mar 2005

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Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. Instructions on submitting this form and the required attachments are at the end.

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: **USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)**

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: **21405**

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: **RILEY** First: **MICHAEL** M.I.: **B** Rank: **LCDR**

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): **2004-11-04**

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: **MINE COUNTER MEASURES**

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): **INGLESIDE, TX**

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: **COMMANDER MINE COUNTER MEASURES SQUADRON TWO**

Administrative: **COMMANDER MINE COUNTER MEASURES SQUADRON TWO**

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): **MINE COUNTER MEASURES SQUADRON TWO**

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): **N/A**

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: **N/A**

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): **N/A**

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 11 Enlisted: 72 Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LCDR, BRENT, A, HOLBECK

Job Title/Office Code: XO

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: COMMANDING OFFICER
USS CHAMPION (MCM 4)
FPO AA 34090-1924

2. Commander's Assessment

The Commander's Assessment briefly tells the story of the command's role in national defense and should highlight any general and specific lessons-learned. It should contain the commander's commentary, insights and reflections on the unit's activities. Attention should be directed to significant issues impacting training, operations and mission accomplishment during the reporting period. Descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to major command decisions and results of those decisions are particularly desired. Also desired are accounts of specific contributions of individuals in the command to mission accomplishment. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, particular attention should be given to the commander's estimate of the situation, records of discussions and decisions, descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to operational decisions and results of those decisions. For a unit returning from deployment or participating in a single operation this can normally be a single assessment. For higher-echelon commands or units engaging in multiple operations, a separate assessment for each operation in addition to an overall assessment may be appropriate.

After remaining unmanned from 16 August 2004 to 01 November 2004, USS CHAMPION was in poor condition, and required considerable corrective maintenance to return her to an acceptable condition of operational readiness. After taking over CHAMPION in November 2004, MCM Crew Dominant spent the early months of 2005 remanning to levels that would support future underway operations. In addition, Crew Dominant began to address CHAMPION's poor material condition through a rigorous

and determined maintenance effort. During a CNO's availability from April-June 2005, CHAMPION was outfitted with seven new Isotta Fraschini engines, and received a communications suite upgrade. Technical support during this period was inadequate and the original length of the availability was extended. Also, during this time the ship's Executive Officer was relieved for cause and replaced by then Chief Engineer LT Milliot. Crew Dominant began their unit level training cycle on 07 June when ATG Ingleside conducted a Light Off Assessment and developed a clear path to light off. After leaving Gulf Copper and returning to Naval Station Ingleside for further maintenance, CHAMPION was able to conduct a successful full power run in early July. During Initial Assessment, Crew Dominant's training cycle onboard CHAMPION was suspended due to significant material discrepancies. At this time the Chief Engineer and Main Propulsion Assistant were relieved for cause. Crew Dominant spent the remainder of 2005 attempting to improve CHAMPION's poor material status in order to support an upcoming Board of Inspection Survey and resume the unit level training cycle. Neither event occurred before the end of 2005 due to CHAMPION's degraded material condition.

3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology should include dates of movements; local operations and training; exercises and operations (define acronyms and purpose of exercise or operation); installation of new weapons systems or changes; major physical changes to facilities, ship or aircraft; Class A or B mishaps; port visits; unit awards received; reserve augmentation; and other significant operational or administrative events.

27 January: Fast Cruise at Ingleside, TX

31 January-02 February: Hull Cleaning

14 February-28 February: Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV)

23 February- 02 March: Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL)

21-25 March: Aircraft Carrier Climate Control Improvement Team (ACCCIT) HVAC Survey

01 April-08 April: Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL)

11 April: LT Milliot assumes duties as XO

13 April: SAR Certification obtained

13 April: Underway (dead-stick move) from NAVSTA Ingleside berth B-3 to Gulf Copper Corpus Christi Cargo Dock 12 for CNO's Availability 05

13 April-14 June: CNO's Availability 05

-7 New Isotta Fraschini Main Propulsion Deisel Engines installed IAW MCM PIP Upgrade

-MCM Communication Modernization SHIPALT MCM1CL-00325.0K received

13 May: LT Rodriguez relieved of duties as Executive Officer

07 June: LT Holbeck reports as Executive Officer

07-09 June: Light Off Assessment (LOA)

14 June: Underway (dead-stick move) from Gulf Copper to NAVSTA Ingleside

14 June-06 July: CNO availability extension

06 July: Sea Trials

18-20 July: Hull Cleaning

4-5 August: Underway training in Corpus Christi Operations Area (CCOA)

08-19 August: Hull Mechanical Electrical Readiness Assessment II (HMER II)/ Combat Systems, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Readiness Assessment (C5RA)

16 August : Naval Safety Center Safety Survey

31 August-01 September: Initial Assessment (IA)

07-08 September: Conventional Ordnance Safety Review (COSR) Technical Assist Visit

10 September: LT Milliot relieved of duties as Chief Engineer. ENC [REDACTED] relieved of duties as Main Propulsion Assistant.

12 September: LTjg [REDACTED] assumes duties as Chief Engineer

21 September: CHAMPION moves into heavy weather moor in preparation for landfall of Hurricane Rita.

22 September: Evacuation order issued for Hurricane Rita, 24 essential personnel remain onboard CHAMPION in heavy weather moor.

25 September: CHAMPION moves out of heavy weather moor back to pierside berth.

26 September: All personnel return from Hurricane Rita evacuation.

14 October: LT [REDACTED] reports as Chief Engineer. LTjg [REDACTED] assumes duties as Operations Officer.

11-14 October: Supply Management Assessment (SMA)

31 October- 11 November: Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL)

02 November- 18 November: Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV)

07 November-09 November: Hull Cleaning

05-07 December: AN/SLQ-37 Minesweeping Cables Upgrade

14 December: Underway training and Mag Tail testing in CCOA

14 December: Commence Holiday Standdown

The short narrative should amplify chronology entries (such as objectives and results of exercises/ operations; commander's evaluation of exercises/operations, etc). Entries may refer to an enclosure of this report without additional description if the enclosure sufficiently reports the incident/event. For all other entries, give the date or period in YYYY-MM-DD format and provide a brief narrative. All significant events during the reporting period are to be included.

2005-01-31-2005-02-02: USS CHAMPION receives a routine Hull Cleaning and inspection resulting in no discrepancies.

2005-02-14-2005-02-28: USS CHAMPION completed a routine Continuous Maintenance Availability Period (CMAV) pierside at Ingleside, TX.

2005-02-23-2005-03-02: A Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL) visit was conducted on board during this period. Technicians from South Central Regional Maintenance Center, Ingleside provided calibration and alignment services.

2005-03-21-2005-03-25: An Aircraft Carrier Climate Control Investigation Team (ACCCIT) conducted an HVAC survey on board. The ACCCIT was comprised of the ACCCIT Program manager, AMSEC LCC contractors and Ship's Force. The survey objective was to solve existing climate control problems and provide recommended corrective actions. Ventillation systems were tested mechanically and electrically to ensure they met design requirements. Volumetric airflow readings were taken on each vent system surveyed and represented by a measured percentage as compared to the design CFM of the system. Results identified one motor running backwards, two motors missing and one in need of repair; 3 of 37 systems were missing filters; a recommendation was given to have all systems cleaned.

2005-04-01-2005-04-08: An additional Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL) visit was conducted on board during this period. Technicians from South Central Regional Maintenance Center, Ingleside provided calibration and alignment services.

2005-04-11: The Executive Officer, LT Rodriguez is relieved of his duties [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. The Chief Engineer, LT Milliot, assumes duties as Interim Executive Officer.

2005-04-13-2005-06-14: USS CHAMPION is moved, with two tugs (dead-stick), from Naval Station Ingleside Berth B-3 to Gulf Copper dock 12 in Corpus Christi for CNO's

Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) 2005. During 2005 CNO's availability, USS CHAMPION received several significant upgrades to her propulsion and C4I systems. During the availability, CHAMPION was outfitted with 7 new Isotta Fraschini Main Propulsion Engines. IAW installation, SCRMC conducted a Diesel Engine Inspection of all 7 MPDE's on 05 June 2005. CHAMPION was also the first Mine Countermeasures ship to receive the MCM communication modification SHIPALT. The COMMS modification reduced the size of CHAMPION's communications suite while enhancing the crews ability to communicate quickly and clearly.

2005- 04-13: The Afloat Training Group, Ingleside conducted a Surface Unit SAR evaluation. All readiness for evaluation requirements were met and resulted in an overall grade of Qualified IAW OPNAVINST 3130.6D.

2005-06-07: LT Holbeck reports as Executive Officer.

2005-06-07-2005-06-09: ATG conducted a light off assessment (LOA) onboard CHAMPION. The visit included a safety walkthrough, material checks, and cold checks as well as a formal review of all management records. Based on the results of this visit CHAMPION was not ready to light off, but a clear path to light off was established.

2005-06-14: USS CHAMPION is moved, with two tugs (dead-stick), from Gulf Copper dock 12 in Corpus Christi back to Naval Station Ingleside.

2005-06-14- 2005-07-06: USS CHAMPION remains pierside as work continues to complete an extended CNO's PMA. A majority of the work is concentrated on flushing of the ship's Main Reduction Gear's (MRG) and Auxilliary Sea Water (ASW) systems.

2005-07-06: USS CHAMPION completes the CNO's PMA and conducts Sea trials, including a full power run. The full power run was completed with satisfactory results.

2005-07-18- 2005-07-20: USS CHAMPION receives a routine Hull Cleaning and inspection resulting in no discrepancies.

2005-08-04- 2005-08-05: USS CHAMPION is underway for training, this is the first and only overnight underway of the year. The ship conducted damage control drills and junior officer bridge training.

2005-08-08- 2005-08-19: USS CHAMPION received a combined Hull Mechanical Electrical Readiness Assessment II (HMER A II)/ Combat Systems, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Readiness Assessment (C5RA). Overall the HMER A II portion of the visit identified 329 parts that were required to be ordered to correct deficiencies at a cost of \$92,850.18 to the ship. \$1,061.85 worth of parts were obtained through alternate sources. The C5RA portion of the visit identified 34 parts required to be ordered to correct deficiencies at a cost of \$15,907.47 to the ship. \$30,100.00 worth of parts were obtained through alternate sources not requiring ship funding. The visit was a major step in improving the material condition of the ship from, doors and hatches to major ship computer systems.

2005--8-16: A Safety Survey of USS CHAMPION was conducted by representatives from the Naval Safety Center. During the survey, an administrative review was conducted and crewmembers accompanied the surveyors throughout the ship compiling lists of discrepancies. Checklists were used in identifying 165 discrepancies with 40 of the discrepancies labeled as significant requiring immediate attention.

2005-08-31-2005-09-02: Afloat Training Group N82 conducted Initial Assessment (IA) on board CHAMPION. The visit included a safety walkthrough, material checks, and plant operations. CHAMPION did not meet minimum equipment required to be safe to train, and was not recommended for further training until a safe to train environment was met on board.

2005-09-07- 2005-09-08: USS CHAMPION receives a Conventional Ordnance Safety Review (COSR) Technical Assist Visit. The crew received informal training in addition to the inspection of programs and spaces. Minor discrepancies were noted and corrected.

2005-09-10: The Chief Engineer, LT Milliot and Main Propulsion Assistant, ENC [REDACTED] are relieved of their duties as a result of poor engineering practices and results from the recent IA.

2005-09-12: The Operations Officer, LTJG [REDACTED] assumes duties as interim Chief Engineer. ENS [REDACTED] is acting Operations Officer.

2005-09-21: An approaching Hurricane Rita forces the Mine Warfare Fleet into heavy weather moors consisting of several nests of 4 to 5 ships.

2005-09-22: An evacuation order is issued directing all non-essential personnel and families to evacuate due to the approaching Hurricane Rita. 24 personnel remain on board CHAMPION for the next three days while she remains nested in the heavy weather moor. The hurricane eventually veers to the North and makes landfall near Houston, TX. having no impact on Naval Station Ingleside.

2005-09-25: Personnel begin returning to the area and the ship is moved from the heavy weather moor back to a pierside berth.

2005-09-26: USS CHAMPION and Naval Station Ingleside return to normal operations as all personnel return from the evacuation.

2005-10-14: LT [REDACTED] reports as Chief Engineer. LTJG [REDACTED] returns topside and re-assumes his duties as Operations Officer. ENS [REDACTED] becomes the Training Officer.

2005-10-11-2005-10-14: The Afloat Training Group conducted a Supply Management Assessment onboard CHAMPION. An overall grade of Excellent was assigned. The SMA included an assessment of the primary supply mission areas. As a result of an overall grade of excellent, CHAMPION was credited with completing the Supply Management Inspection.

2005-10-31- 2005-11-11: A Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems' Calibration (SISCAL) visit was conducted on board during this period. Technicians from South Central Regional Maintenance Center, Ingleside provided calibration and alignment services.

2005-11-02- 2005-11-18: USS CHAMPION completed a routine Continuous Maintenance Availability Period (CMAV) pierside at Ingleside, TX.

2005-11-07- 2005-11-09: USS CHAMPION receives a routine Hull Cleaning and inspection resulting in no discrepancies.

2005-12-05- 2005-12-07: USS CHAMPION receives the AN/SLQ-37 Magnetic Minesweeping Cables Upgrade. The new cables upgrade boasts a 5430 pound weight reduction, decreased cable diameter, increased durability, easier handling, and an overall decrease of costs due to less frequent repairs and logistics.

2005-12-14: USS CHAMPION is underway for the final time in 2005 for training and testing of the newly installed Magnetic Minesweeping Cables. Testing of the cables involved conducting a 5A sweep configuration which revealed a ground in the cable. CHAMPION returned to port and commenced the holiday standdown period which extended through the end of December and into the beginning of January.

4. Supporting Reports

Supporting Reports are those reports required by other instructions that provide significant data about the command during the calendar year. These reports may be submitted “as is,” eliminating the need to duplicate information for this report that is already contained in reports prepared in response to other instructions and requirements. Examples include battle efficiency, safety and other award submissions, major staff or command studies, and end of cruise reports or briefs. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, enclosures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Situation Reports
- b. Intentions Messages
- c. Operational Reports
- d. Operations Orders/Deployment Orders
- e. Operational Plans
- f. Personal For Messages
- g. After Action Reports
- h. Significant Electronic Message Traffic (outgoing/e-mail/chat)
- i. Battle Damage Assessments
- j. Casualty Reports
- k. End-of-Cruise/Deployment Reports
- l. Intelligence Summaries
- m. Major Exercise Reports

List below the items submitted, indicating the classification of each. Electronic reports should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF, or plain text. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Submit electronic reports via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

None

5. Published Documents

List below the published documents being submitted in either electronic or paper format, indicating the classification of each item. Documents to be submitted include cruise books, change of command programs, commissioning/decommissioning brochures, establishment/disestablishment/deactivation brochures, copy of command's web site, news releases, biography of commander, welcome aboard brochures, newspaper articles, command studies, statistical data, etc.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic

documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

None

6. Photographs

List below official photographs and any other command-generated media being submitted in either electronic or paper format. Photographs to be submitted include: official photo of commanding officer; recent photo of ship, aircraft, or facility; and photos of historic events associated with the command. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Photographs in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained below. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in the same manner as the CD-ROM. Also include any photographs covering operational strikes, battle damage (especially that sustained by own ship, aircraft, facilities or equipment), or other relevant photos relating to combat or deployment operations.

1. **Official photo of Commanding Officer**
 2. **Photo of ship's company**
 3. **Photo of USS CHAMPION in heavy weather moor, 22 September 2005.**
 4. **Photo of USS CHAMPION in heavy weather moor, 22 September 2005.**
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Submit this Command Operations Report as follows:

Via e-mail, to one of the three e-mail addresses:

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Place any **classified** attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward classified paper records included as attachments in the same manner. **Do not send attachments to the Command Operations Report via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures.** Ensure all items are properly marked and wrapped. Address all shipments to:

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The inner wrapper should read: ONI Historian, ONI-ODB EXT 2975

Telephone numbers for the ONI Historian are DSN 659-4488/5901, Commercial (301) 669-4488/5901.

* The attention line should read **Ships History** for all ships, **Aviation History** for all air/aviation commands, and **Operational Archives** for all other commands. Telephone numbers for these branches are as follows: Ships History Branch, DSN 288-6802, Commercial (202) 433-6802; Aviation History Branch, DSN 288-2321, Commercial (202) 433-2321; Operational Archives Branch, DSN 288-3224, Commercial (202) 433-3224.