

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

2015 Command Operations Report for USS CHINOOK (PC 9)

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: USS CHINOOK (PC9)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 22143

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

Last: Buford First: William M.I.: S Rank: LCDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2014-07-28

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations:
Theater and Maritime Security Operations/5th Fleet AOR

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Manama, Bahrain

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Commander, Destroyer Squadron 50

Administrative: Patrol Coastal Squadron One

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):

CTF 55 / CTF 150 / CTF 152

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): None

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: None

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): None

Number of Personnel Assigned (as of 31 Dec 2015):

Officers: 4 Enlisted: 25 Civilian: 0

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

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LTJG [REDACTED]
Job Title/Office Code: Executive Officer
E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]
Phone number(s): [REDACTED]
Command Mailing Address: USS CHINOOK, Unit 100294 Box 1, FPO AE 09566

2. Commander's Assessment

CHINOOK operated in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in support of 5th Fleet Partnership, Strength, Presence lines of operation, working at times for Task Forces 55 for national tasking, 152 for maritime security in the Arabian Gulf, and 150 for counter-illicit trafficking in the Gulf of Oman.

Over the course of the year, CHINOOK participated in 3 multi-national exercises and 2 U.S. only exercises, and conducted 20 transits of the Strait of Hormuz. CHINOOK conducted almost 40 real world VBSS evolutions helping to build positive rapport with the local maritime community and deter piracy, terrorism, and illicit trafficking.

Overall, CHINOOK spent 174 days out of her homeport in Mina Salman, Bahrain, with 148 days underway and 27 days in various port visits. CHINOOK visited Jubayl, Saudi Arabia; Muscat, Oman; and Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi, and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates.

3. Chronology

01 JAN – 19 JAN	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
01 JAN – 15 JAN	CMAV 5A1
13 JAN	Visit by ATGL Commodore and CNSL N7
19 JAN – 30 JAN	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
30 JAN – 31 JAN	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
01- 04 FEB	Underway for IAN Bi-Lat Exercise
5 - 6 FEB	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain

7 – 15 FEB	Underway for CTF 150 Operations
8 FEB	Transited Strait of Hormuz, Outbound
15 – 20 FEB	In port Muscat, Oman
20 – 28 FEB	Underway for CTF 150 Operations
28 FEB	In port Fujairah, United Arab Emirates
1 MAR	Underway for CTF 55 Operations, transited Strait of Hormuz Inbound
2 – 3 MAR	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
4 – 8 MAR	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
9 – 12 MAR	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
13 – 16 MAR	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
17 – 18 MAR	Underway for PCRON ONE Group Sail
18 – 24 MAR	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
25 MAR – 1 APR	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
2 – 3 APR	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
4 – 6 APR	In port Jubayl, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for EXERCISE NAUTICAL UNION
7 – 9 APR	Underway for EXERCISE NAUTICAL UNION
9 APR – 9 MAY	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain, CMAV 5A2
21 APR	Visit to CHK by US CENTCOM, GEN Austin. USA
10 – 14 MAY	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
11 MAY	Outbound Strait of Hormuz Transit
14 MAY	Inbound Strait of Hormuz Transit
15 – 17 MAY	In port Mina Jebel Ali, UAE

18 – 23 MAY	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
18 MAY	Outbound Strait of Hormuz Transit
20 MAY	Inbound Strait of Hormuz Transit
24 – 26 MAY	Inport Mina Jebel Ali, UAE
27 – 31 MAY	Underway for CTF 55/152 Operations
1 -8 JUN	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
9 – 12 JUN	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
13 JUN	In port Mina Jebel Ali, UAE
14-18 JUN	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
19-20 JUN	In port Mina Jebel Ali, UAE
21-30 JUN	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
1-20 JUL	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
21 JUL	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
22-31 JUL	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
1-2 AUG	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
3-6 AUG	Underway for CTF 55 Warfighter Training Exercises
7-14 AUG	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain (9-13 AUG Certification Validation)
15-17 AUG	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
18-20 AUG	Underway for Joint Air Defense/Spartan Kopis Exercises
21 AUG – 24 SEP	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain (24 Aug-24 September CMAV 5A3)
25-27 SEP	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
28-30 SEP	Underway for CTF 55 Operations

1-3 OCT	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
4-12 OCT	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
13 OCT	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
14-16 OCT	In port Mina Abu Dhabi, UAE
17 OCT	Underway for CTF 55 Operations
18-19 OCT	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
20-26 OCT	Underway for CTF 152 Operations
27-31 OCT	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
1-7 NOV	Underway for CTF 150 Operations
8-15 NOV	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
16-19 NOV	Underway for CTF 55 Warfighter Training Exercises
20-24 NOV	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain
25 NOV – 7 DEC	Underway for CTF 55/150 Operations
8-10 DEC	In port Mina Jebel Ali, UAE
11-20 DEC	Underway for CTF 55/150 Operations
21-31 DEC	In port Mina Salman, Bahrain (27-31 DEC CMAV 6A1)

Narrative

CHINOOK began 2015 in port Bahrain in a Continuous Maintenance Availability. During this time she also conducted the final outstanding item from the previous training cycle, Maintenance & Material Management (3-M) 1.4 certification, underwent an ISIC conducted “PC In the Spotlight” program review, and was evaluated by Naval Surface Forces Atlantic assessors as part of Total Ship’s Readiness Assessment 7.

In the middle of January, she put to sea and conducted her first transit of the Strait of Hormuz for the year to conduct operations for CTF 55 in the Gulf of Oman, returning to Bahrain at the end of the month.

CHINOOK was underway again at the beginning of February, participating in a Bi-Lateral exercise with the Iraqi Navy’s AL-BASRA (OSV 401) in the northern Arabian Gulf.

Returning to Bahrain for only two days, she returned to sea for her second trip through the Strait of Hormuz to conduct operations in support of Coalition Task Force 150. Operating in loose coordination with USS SIROCCO (PC 6), CHINOOK conducted patrols attempting to intercept illicit traffickers in narcotics and Somali charcoal. In the middle of the patrol, CHINOOK got a liberty port visit to Muscat, Oman, prior to getting back underway to finish the patrol, stopping overnight in Fujairah, UAE to refuel and reprovision, prior to proceeding inbound through the Strait of Hormuz and conducting operations in support of CTF 152 on the transit back to Bahrain.

CHINOOK again conducted maritime security operations in the month of March, taking a mid-month break to participate in the PCRON ONE Group Sail, an ISIC conducted collaborative training event consisting of a simulated emergency sortie, formation steaming events, a War at Sea exercise, and live-fire gunnery. For this exercise, Commodore Thomas Shultz of PCRON ONE was embarked. After a brief in port period, CHINOOK returned to sea for additional 152 Operations. CHINOOK began April by participating in Exercise NAUTICAL UNION, a bi-lateral exercise with Saudi Arabia's East Sea Fleet, including three days in port Jubayl, Saudi Arabia and three days of exercise serials at sea.

Upon completion of the Nautical Union Exercise, CHINOOK returned to Bahrain for a Continuous Maintenance Availability, prior to heading out for 152 patrols and operations in support of CTF 55 in the Southern Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. During this time period, CHINOOK conducted two port visits to Jebel Ali.

During June, CHINOOK conducted 4 transits of the Strait of Hormuz in support of CTF 55 operations, prior to spending the month of July in port Bahrain for repairs and crew rest.

In August, CHINOOK conducted one CTF 152 patrol, then participated in CTF 55 Warfighter Training, a continuing series of exercises designed to increase proficiency. CHINOOK was then assessed by PCRON ONE assessors for Certification Validation, the half-way point in her training cycle where all warfare area certifications were verified current. CHINOOK conducted an additional CTF 152 patrol prior to participating in Joint Air Defense Exercise and entering CMAV 5A3 at the end of August.

From the end of September through October, CHINOOK conducted various patrols for CTF 152 and visited the port of Abu Dhabi.

During November, CHINOOK conducted two patrols for CTF 150 out to the Gulf of Oman, and also again participated in CTF 55 Warfighter training exercises.

CHINOOK finished the year with a three week patrol to the Gulf of Oman, including a port visit to Jebel Ali prior to returning to Bahrain to begin another CMAV pierside.

4. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

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5. Published Documents

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6. Photographs

1. Commanding Officer LCDR Buford Quarterdeck Photo – Newport, RI May 2014
2. Executive Officer LTJG Robert Reinheimer – Manama, Bahrain,
3. USS CHINOOK, at Sea, Arabian Gulf, 17 Mar 2015