



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)  
FPO AA 34090-1958

Rec'd 3/6/98  
W/disk

5750  
Ser 00/038  
1 MAR 1998

From: Commanding Officer, USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)  
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE,  
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Change of Command Booklet  
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following package is submitted.
2. Mission: The mission of CORMORANT (MHC 57), is to detect, classify, and neutralize all known and projected types of influence and contact mines in littoral waters, harbors and bays. CORMORANT will provide navigational assistance to MCM units in conjunction with coordinated forces. Secondary missions include: route surveys, channel conditioning, underwater search and rescue and the collection of hydrographic/oceanographic data.
3. Organizational Structure.
  - a. Immediate Superior:  
Commanding Officer  
Mine Countermeasures Squadron One  
120 Coral Sea Road, Suite W200  
Ingleside, TX 78362
  - b. Commanding Officer: LCDR Ronald W. Kennedy, USN
  - c. Homeport: Ingleside, TX
4. Ships Characteristics.
  - a. Combat Systems Equipment:  
AN/SPS-64 SURFACE SEARCH RADAR  
AN/SPA-25G DIGITAL RADAR DISPLAY  
AN/WSN-2 STABILIZED GYROCOMPASS  
AN/WQC-2 UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS  
AN/BQH-7A EXPENDABLE BATHYTHERMOGRAPH SYSTEM  
AN/UQN-4 FATHOMETER
  - b. Navigation:  
AN/SYQ-13 NAVIGATION AND COMMAND AND CONTROL (NAV/C2) SYSTEM  
AN/SSQ-109 MACHINERY & SHIP CONTROL SYSTEM  
MILITARY SATELLITE NAVIGATION GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

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- c. Mine Hunting/Neutralization:
  - AN/SSQ-32(V) SONAR
  - AN/SLQ-48 MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEM
  - .50 CAL LIGHT WEIGHT MACHINE GUNS (2)
- d. Propulsion:
  - (2) - 800 HP ISOTTA FRASCHINI DIESEL ENGINES
  - (2) - VOITH SCHNEIDER VERTICAL AXIS, CYCLOIDAL, CONTROLLABLE PITCH PROPELLERS
  - AN/SQQ-109 MACHINERY & SHIP CONTROL SYSTEM
- e. Electrical Systems:
  - (3) 300 KW DIESEL GENERATORS

5. Command History: (CY 97 Chronology)

- 03 JAN 97 CORMORANT WAS DELIVERED AT AVONDALE SHIPYARDS
- 04 JAN - 18 MAR 97 POST DELIVERY AVAILABILITY AT AVONDALE SHIPYARDS
- 21-24 JAN 97 COMPLETED PLOT (PRE-LIGHT OFF TRAINING) PHASE II
- 28-29 JAN 97 COMPLETED CREW CERTIFICATION PHASE I
- 18-21 FEB 97 COMPLETED PLOT PHASE III
- 04-05 MAR 97 COMPLETED CREW CERTIFICATION PHASE II AND CMS INSPECTION.
- 11-13 MAR 97 COMPLETED PEB'S LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT.
- 19 MAR 97 CORMORANT SAILED AWAY FROM AVONDALE SHIPYARDS, AND COMPLETED NAVIGATION CERTIFICATION.
- 07 APR 97 LT [REDACTED], USNR (TAR) REPORTS FOR DUTY.
- 12 APR 97 CORMORANT OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED IN TAMPA, FL. SENIOR MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF, US FORCES PACIFIC, VADM JOSEPH PRUEHER IN ATTENDANCE. SENIOR CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVE WAS CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS.
- 13 APR 97 LCDR [REDACTED], USNR (TAR) DETACHES.
- 25 APR 97 COMPLETED SHIP ELECTRONIC SYSTEM EVALUATION FACILITY (SESEF) RUN IN THE MAYPORT OPERATION AREA.
- 30 APR 97 COMPLETED DEGAUSSING AND ELECTROMAGNETIC SIGNATURE TESTS IN CHARLESTON, SC.
- 13 MAY 97 CORMORANT ARRIVES AT ITS NEW HOMEPORT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX.

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09-13 JUN 97 COMPLETED ENGINEERING COMMANDING OFFICER'S ASSESSMENT OF READINESS AND TRAINING (ECART).

16-20 JUN 97 COMPLETED COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TRIALS (CSSQT) PHASES I AND II, (ADMINISTRATIVE AND MATERIAL INSPECTIONS).

21 JUL - 08 AUG 97 COMPLETED CSSQT GROOM.

21 AUG 97 COMPLETED PROPULSION'S EXAMINING BOARD CERTIFICATION.

27 AUG - 12 OCT 97 COMPLETED CSSQT PHASES III AND IV (MINE WARFARE - TRAINING AND EVALUATION).

13-15 OCT 97 COMPLETED MINE WARFARE ASSESSMENT.

20-27 OCT 97 COMPLETED ACOUSTIC TRIALS.

19 NOV 97 COMPLETED NAVIGATION CERTIFICATION.

01 - 05 DEC 97 COMPLETED FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS BY THE BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY.

6. Narrative: CORMORANT (MHC 57) is one of twelve ships in the U.S. Navy's MHC 51 (OSPREY) Class of Coastal Minehunters. The ship was commissioned 12 April 1997. MHC Class ships are the world's largest Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) ships and the first U.S. ships designed solely for minehunting, the technique of locating mines with sonar and neutralizing them with a remotely controlled underwater vehicle. The ship's mission is to clear harbor, coastal and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure and contact type mines, utilizing reconnaissance, classification and neutralization tactics. CORMORANT has exceptionally low magnetic and acoustic signatures to protect against mine detonations during minehunting operations. The crew is composed of six officers and 46 enlisted men. It is 188 feet long and has a maximum speed of 13 knots.

  
R. W. KENNEDY