



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)  
FPO AA 34090-1958

5750  
Ser  
18 Mar 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center  
Washington Navy Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE  
Washington, DC 20370-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(2) USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) Photograph  
(3) Commanding Officer, LCDR G. R. Allen Photograph  
(4) Commanding Officer, LCDR G. R. Allen Biography  
(5) Prospective Commanding Officer, LCDR W. R. Grotewold Photograph  
(6) Prospective Commanding Officer, LCDR W. R. Grotewold Biography

1. Per reference (a), the following information and enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Title and Unit Identification Code: USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)  
UIC: 21962

b. Mission: The mission of USS 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 may provide navigational assistance to other units in conjunction with mine warfare operations. Secondary mission includes: route surveys, channel conditioning, underwater search, search and rescue operations and the collection of hydrographic/oceanographic data.

c. Organization Structure: Immediate Superior (ISIC)

Commander  
Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three  
120 Coral Sea Road, Suite W200  
Ingleside, TX 78362

d. Commanding Officer: LCDR Glenn R. Allen,  
LCDR William R. Grotewold,

e. Homeport: Ingleside, TX

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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY CALENDAR YEAR 2003

3. Command History.

CY-03 CHRONOLOGY

01-06 Jan: Holiday Standdown, Inport (INPT) Naval Station Ingleside, TX (NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX)  
06-08 Jan: Underway (U/W), INSURV Preps Corpus Christi Operational Area (CCOA)  
08-14 Jan: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
13-14 Jan: INSURV  
14-16 Jan: U/W, INSURV, CCOA  
16-21 Jan: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
21-23 Jan: U/W, Minewarfare/Enginneering (MIW/ENG) Tailored Ship Training Assists (TSTA)  
23-28 Jan: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
28-30 Jan: U/W, MIW TSTA/ENG TSTA  
30Jan-05Feb: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
05-06 Feb: U/W Underway Demonstration (ENG Certification), CCOA  
07-13 Feb: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
07 Feb: Underway Demonstration  
11-13 Feb: Force Protection Phase Bravo  
18-21 Feb: U/W, MIW TSTA/ENG TSTA  
21-27 Feb: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
24-25 Feb: Force Protection Phase Charlie Cert Inport Drills  
26 Feb: Force Protection Phase Charlie Cert  
27-28 Feb: U/W, Final Evaluation Period (FEP) Preps, CCOA  
28Feb-04Mar: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
03 Mar: FEP Force Protection Drills  
04 Mar: U/W, FEP, CCOA  
04Mar-16Apr: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
17-28 Mar: C5RA-SEMAT II  
01 Apr: Medical Readiness Assessment (MRA)  
03 Apr: STG1 [REDACTED] Retirement Ceremony  
07 Apr: Electro-Magnetic Range (EMR), Ingleside, TX  
14-16 Apr: Ronex 03-2 Force Protection Exercise  
16-24 Apr: U/W RONEX 03-2  
24Apr-27May: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
07 May: Hull Cleaning  
07 May: CSOSS Validation  
08-09 May: 3M Limited Team Trainer (LTT)  
13 May: Search & Rescue (SAR) LTT  
15 May: SRTT/CNSL Supply Visit/MEDALEX  
19-27 May: U/W, GOMEX 03-2  
22 May: Taiwan Naval Officer Visit  
27May-02Jun: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
02-04 June: U/W, Mine Recovery with MDSU, CCOA  
04Jun-11Jun: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
11 June: U/W, for Change of Command, CCOA  
11Jun-07Aug: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
13 June: Change of Command (LCDR Grotewold relieved LCDR Allen)  
11-13 July: Hurricane Moor, Hurricane Claudette, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
15Jul-15Aug: Pre-Overseas Movement Leave & Stand down (POM)  
07-08 Aug: U/W, Pre-Deployment Shakedown, CCOA

08-18 Aug: INPT, NAVSTA INGLESIDE, TX  
 18Aug-31Dec: Mine Warfare Readiness Group Four (MIWRG 4) Deployment  
 18-23 Aug: U/W, Transit to Cozumel, Mexico  
 23-26 Aug: INPT, Cozumel, Mexico  
 26-31 Aug: U/W, Transit to Colon, Panama  
 01-02 Sep: U/W, Panama Canal Transit from Colon to Rodman, Panama  
 02-08 Sep: INPT, Rodman, Panama  
 08-23 Sep: U/W, Transit to San Diego, CA  
 23-29 Sep: INPT, Naval Station San Diego, CA (NAVSTA SDGO, CA)  
 29Sep-02Oct: U/W, Q-Route Survey, approaches to San Diego Harbor  
 02-09 Oct: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 09-10 Oct: U/W, Q-Route Survey, approaches to San Diego Harbor  
 10-15 Oct: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 15-16 Oct: U/W, Q-Route Survey, approaches to San Diego Harbor  
 16-20 Oct: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 20-21 Oct: U/W, Transit to Long Beach, CA  
 21-23 Oct: U/W, Q-Route Survey, approaches to Long Beach Harbor  
 23-24 Oct: U/W, Transit to San Diego, CA  
 24-31 Oct: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 27-29 Oct: 3M Assist  
 01-11 Nov: U/W, USS JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group COMPTUEX 04-1, San  
 Clemente Island (SCI) Operating Area  
 03 Nov: U/W, Kingfisher Moored Mine Detection Range, SCI  
 04-05 Nov: U/W, Mission Package 2 (MP2) Shots, SCI  
 06 Nov: U/W, Replenishment-at-Sea for Fuel with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK  
 08-11 Nov: U/W, Mine Threat Area (MTA) Clearance Exercise, SCI  
 11-15 Nov: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA for Fuel and Provisions  
 15-17 Nov: U/W, USS JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group COMPTUEX 04-1, Silver  
 Strand San Diego Mine Recovery Operations  
 17-18 Nov: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 18-20 Nov: U/W, USS JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group COMPTUEX 04-1, Silver  
 Strand San Diego Mine Recovery Operations  
 20Nov-04Dec: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA  
 01 Dec: Maritime Safety Institute (MSI) Shiphandling Trainer  
 01-20 Dec: CART I  
 04-05 Dec: U/W, Transit to Port Hueneme, CA  
 05-20 Dec: INPT, Port Hueneme, CA, Main Engine Repairs  
 06-07 Dec: Ship Tours for Naval Base Ventura County, CA Personnel  
 20-22 Dec: U/W, Transit to San Diego, CA  
 22-31 Dec: INPT, NAVSTA SDGO, CA, Holiday Leave and Standown.

#### 4. Narrative:

USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) is one of twelve Osprey Class Coastal Minehunter vessels in the U.S. Navy's inventory. The MHC design integrates modern mine countermeasures technology that allows the ship to operate safely in mined waters employing a state of the art SQQ-32 minehunting sonar and an AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle. CORMORANT is 188 feet long, 36 feet at the beam, has a draft of 12 feet, displaces approximately 1000 tons, and has a mixed gender crew of 55.

A challenging year, USS CORMORANT has had an operationally successful 2003. The year started with a continuation of holiday stand down for New Years, but upon return 06 Jan the Ship was underway preparing for the upcoming INSURV. Returning to port on 08 Jan the ship prepared for the

arrival of the INSURV Team. CORMORANT underwent the rigors of inport INSURV checks 13-14 Jan and completed the underway portions from 14-16 Jan. CORMORANT then continued the Basic Phase of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) by conducting Mine Warfare (MIW) Tailored Ship Training Assists (TSTAs) and Engineering (ENG) TSTAs underway from 21-23 Jan and 28-30 Jan.

From 05-06 Feb CORMORANT conducted the final engineering assessment, Underway Demonstration (UD), underway and completed UD 07 Feb inport. CORMORANT excelled during UD by completing all requirements including the full power run. CORMORANT continued the IDTC by conducting Force Protection Phase Bravo training on 11-13 Feb. The ship was underway again conducting MIW TSTAs and ENG TSTAs from 18-21 Feb. CORMORANT prepared for the Final Evaluation Period (FEP) 27-28 Feb by practicing all MIW training objectives underway. Once back in Ingleside, the crew continued preparations for FEP. FEP began 03 Mar with Force Protection Drills. During the next phase of FEP, CORMORANT got underway on 04 Mar and ran drills for the Afloat Training Group, Ingleside assessors. CORMORANT excelled in all aspects and completed FEP and the Basic Phase of the IDTC.

The Crew took a well-deserved rest after working hard to complete FEP and spent time in Ingleside conducting maintenance and training for ship and crew readiness. From 17-28 Mar CORMORANT conducted a C5RA/SEMAT II, which included detailed inspections of all major combat systems and engineering equipment onboard. On 01 Apr the ship conducted a successful Medical Readiness Assessment (MRA).

On 07 Apr CORMORANT completed an Electro-Magnetic Range (EMR) check, which examines the ship's magnetic fields. April continued with the Squadron Exercise (RONEX) 03-2 from 14-24 Apr. During RONEX CORMORANT participated in astern refueling, search and rescue assists, towing, and MIW exercises-- readying the ship for deployment. In May, CORMORANT conducted 3M LTT, SAR LTT, SRTT, CNSL Supply Visit, and the underway Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) 03-2. CORMORANT exclusively performed MIW exercises and finished with the most hours on task and the most Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) missions flown of any ship during GOMEX. In addition, CORMORANT hosted several Taiwanese Naval Officers during GOMEX, sharing mine countermeasures knowledge and expertise.

From 02-04 June CORMORANT was underway with Mobile Dive and Salvage Unit Two divers on board to help conduct a mine recovery exercise in the Gulf. On 11 June the CORMORANT sailed with the prospective Commanding Officer, LCDR William R. Grotewold, USN onboard. LCDR Grotewold relieved LCDR Glenn R. Allen as Commanding Officer, USS CORMORANT, on June 13 at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

CORMORANT had several maintenance periods inport during late June and early July, preparing for the upcoming deployment. 11-13 July CORMORANT, along with the other ships in Ingleside, hurricane moored in anticipation of Hurricane Claudette. On 15 July, CORMORANT began a month-long Pre-Overseas Movement leave period. From 07-08 Aug, CORMORANT operated in the Corpus Christi Operations Area as a precursor to deployment. With a scheduled deployment date of 15 Aug, the crew had to delay until 18 Aug to begin deployment due to adverse weather along the transit track to Cozumel.

On 18 Aug CORMORANT began her six-month deployment to the West Coast of the United States. Along with the other Mine Warfare Readiness Group Four (MIWRG 4) ships, [USS ORIOLE (MHC 55), USS SHRIKE (MHC 62), USS WARRIOR (MCM 10), and USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11)] the group's mission was to showcase mine warfare capabilities to the Pacific Fleet in an effort to mainstream MIW into the larger surface navy. This deployment would mark the first time MHC's deployed to the West Coast.

From 18-23 Aug, CORMORANT sailed to Cozumel, Mexico, conducting unit level training during the transit. Once in Cozumel from 23-26 Aug, the crew

enjoyed liberty on the resort island. Underway again 26-31 Aug, CORMORANT transited to Colon, Panama and the Panama Canal. CORMORANT transited the Panama Canal 01-02 Sep in a first for almost the entire crew. Stopping in Rodman, Panama from 02-08 Sep, CORMORANT was exposed to Panamanian culture and hospitality. On 08 Sep CORMORANT departed Rodman en route to San Diego in what would be the longest underway period--08-23 Sep. During the transit, CORMORANT conducted four successful replenishment-at-sea (RAS) astern refuelings with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK (T-AO 204), another first for most of the crew.

CORMORANT arrived at Naval Station San Diego, CA on 23 Sep after the five-week, over 4,000 nautical mile transit from Ingleside, TX. CORMORANT began surveying established Q-Routes in the approaches to San Diego Harbor during the 29 Sep-16 Oct time frame. The bottom mine-like contacts found during the surveys of the Q-Routes were reported to Commander, Mine Warfare Command (COMINEWARCOM) in an effort to update Q-Route databases. Expanding the Q-Route surveys, CORMORANT surveyed the approaches to Long Beach Harbor, CA from 21-23 Oct. Once back from Long Beach, CORMORANT conducted a 3M Assessment and prepared for the USS JOHN C STENNIS (JCS) Battle Group COMPTUEX 04-1.

01 Nov, CORMORANT along with ORIOLE and SHRIKE sailed to San Clemente Island to begin the JCS COMPTUEX. CORMORANT's first tasking including running the Kingfisher Range, which has moored mine contacts for detection. CORMORANT set a Kingfisher Range record correctly identifying 14 of 16 moored mine contacts. From 04-05 Nov, CORMORANT conducted two successful Mission Package 2 (MP 2) detonations against exercise bottom mines off of San Clemente. After an astern refueling with the USNS RAPPAHANNOCK on 06 Nov, STENNIS F/A-18 mined an area near San Clemente with MK 62 Quickstrike mine shapes. CORMORANT, ORIOLE, and SHRIKE then proceeded to search and identify the mine shapes from 08-10 Nov. CORMORANT detected several of the MK 62's as well as mine shapes left from previous exercises. Conducting over 15 Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) missions in two days, CORMORANT identified 10 bottom mine shapes in an excellent training exercise.

CORMORANT then returned to San Diego for fuel and provisions from 11-15 Nov. Next, operating off of San Diego's Silver Strand, CORMORANT worked with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Divers to locate and recover exercise mine shapes from 15-20 Nov. After completion of the very successful COMPTUEX, which demonstrated the mine force's unique capabilities, CORMORANT berthed again in San Diego for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Underway 04 Dec, sailing to Port Hueneme, CA to participate in a Homeland Defense Exercise CORMORANT suffered a casualty to Number 2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE). Arriving in Port Hueneme on 05 Dec, CORMORANT would stay until 20 Dec conducting Main Engine repairs which included swapping out Nr. 2 MPDE. While in Port Hueneme, CORMORANT offered ship tours, aided in the Homeland Defense Exercise, and even had crewmembers play minor roles in the filming of the TV show "Navy NCIS". After completing all engine repairs in Port Hueneme, CORMORANT transited back to San Diego from 20-22 Dec. CORMORANT completed the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training I (CART I), and then began holiday stand down period and maintenance availability for the remainder of December.

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An exciting and challenging year for the officers and crew of USS CORMORANT, 2003 marked very important milestones for CORMORANT and mine warfare. With the unprecedented deployment to the West Coast, CORMORANT validated the training proficiency gained earlier that year during the Basic Phase, RONEX, and GOMEX. The operational tempo CORMORANT sustained during

the deployment illustrated the MHC's capabilities and limitations. No doubt the lessons learned by CORMORANT in 2003 will help shape the future of U.S. Navy mine warfare ships.

W. R. GROTEWOLD

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