



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS DECATUR (DDG 73)
FPO AP 96863-1290

5750

DDG 73 Ser/ 261

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DECATUR (DDG 73)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV Report 5750-01)

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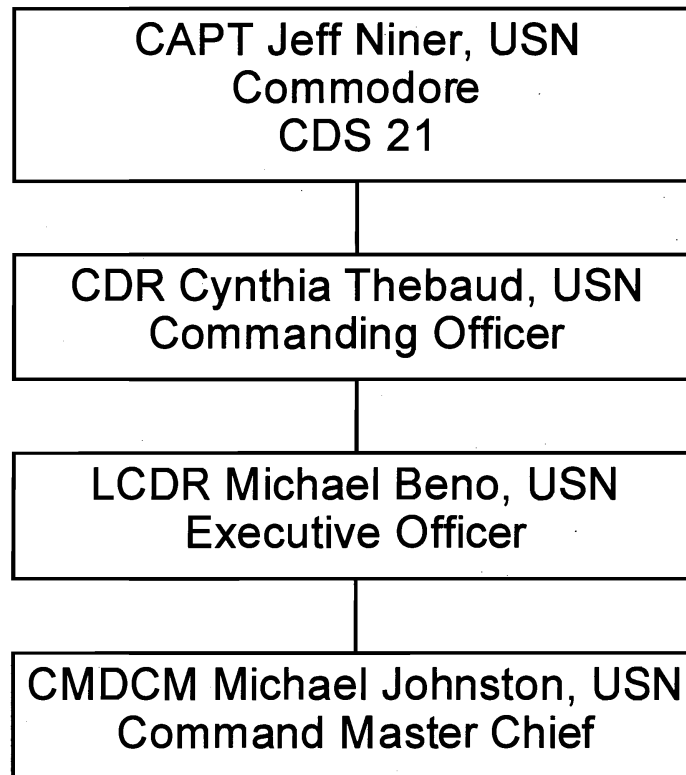
Encl: (1) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Command Composition and
Organization
(2) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Command Chronology/
Historical Narrative
(3) Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer,
Executive Officer, and Command Master Chief
(4) Command Philosophy
(5) USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Photograph

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded per reference (a)
to be included in USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Ship's History file.


C. M. THEBAUD

Copy to:
COMPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC
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Navigator

**USS DECATUR (DDG 73) COMMAND
COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION
*ISIC, COMMANDING OFFICER, EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, AND COMMAND MASTER CHIEF*
UIC: R21947**



USS DECATUR (DDG 73) JAN02-DEC02 EVENTS

01 JAN-11 FEB 2002 SADC/SCC/Greencrown for
PELELIU Amphibious Ready Group ISO
Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

16 JAN 2002 Visit by Chief of Naval Operations ADM
Vern Clark

10 FEB 2002 Boarded M/V Sea Pride II ISO LIO

12 FEB 2002 SOH Transit enroute Bahrain

13-16 FEB 2002 Inport Manama, Bahrain

15 FEB 2002 DECATUR awarded Command and Control
Excellence Award and Logistics
Management Award for 2001

17 FEB 2002 SOH Transit enroute North Arabian Sea

18 FEB-02 MAR 2002 SADC/SCC/Greencrown for
BATAAN Amphibious Ready Group ISO
Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

23 FEB 2002 Boarded M/V Macedonia Hellas ISO LIO

02 MAR 2002 Escort BATAAN ARG through SOH Transit

03 MAR 2002 Escort USNS FLINT through SOH Transit

04 MAR-21 MAR 2002 SADC/SCC/Greencrown for
BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Ready Group
ISO Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

11 MAR 2002 Visit by RADM Zortman, COMCARGRU SEVEN
and COMMODORE Wisecup, COMDESRON 21

13-14 MAR 2002 Visit by Dateline, CNN, and NY Times

21-25 MAR 2002 SHAREM 140 and ARABIAN SHARK Excercises

27 MAR 2002 SOH Transit enroute Bahrain

28 MAR 2002 Anchor Manama, Bahrain

29 MAR 2002 Transit enroute North Arabian Gulf

30-31 MAR 2002	Embark CDS 50
31 MAR-02 APR 2002	EAGER SENTRY 2002 Exercise
04 APR 2002	Assume MIO Duties in North Arabian Gulf
06 APR 2002	MIO Surge
07 APR 2002	Embark U.S. COAST GUARD LEDET
10 APR 2002	Non-Compliant Boarding of M/V Francisco Dagohoy
11-13 APR 2002	COMISKEY Boarding Duties
14-16 APR 2002	MIO Duties
18 APR 2002	SOH Transit enroute Gulf of Oman
18 APR 2002	SOH Transit enroute Bahrain
19-24 APR 2002	Inport Manama, Bahrain
25 APR 2002	SOH Transit enroute North Arabian Gulf
30 APR 2002	Transit enroute OUTCHOP 5 th FLEET AOR
02 MAY 2002	OUTCHOP 5 th FLEET AOR/INCHOP 7 th FLEET AOR
06-10 MAY 2002	Anchored Phuket, Thailand
10 MAY 2002	SOM Transit enroute Bali
13-17 MAY 2002	Anchored Bali, Indonesia
18 MAY 2002	Transit enroute Dili
19-21 MAY 2002	Anchored Dili Harbor, East Timor ISO Independence Day Celebration
22 MAY 2002	Transit enroute Guam
25-26 MAY 2002	Inport Apra Harbor, Agana, Guam

27 MAY 2002	Transit enroute Hawaii with USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN SAG
01-02 JUN 2002	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
02-08 JUN 2002	Transit enroute San Diego with USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN SAG Tiger Cruise
08 JUN 2002	Inport San Diego, CA Arrive from WESTPAC 2001-2002
08 JUN-15 JUL 2002	Inport San Diego Post Deployment Standdown
16-23 JUL 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
23-24 JUL 2002	Underway SOCAL Midshipmen Training
25-26 JUL 2002	Underway SOCAL enroute Port Hueneme
26-29 JUL 2002	Inport Port Hueneme Sea Bee Days
29 JUL 2002	Underway SOCAL enroute Seal Beach
29-31 JUL 2002	Ammo Offload
31 JUL 2002	Underway SOCAL enroute San Diego
31 JUL-05 AUG 2002	Inport San Diego
06 AUG 2002	Underway SOCAL P-CO Orientation
07-19 AUG 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
12 AUG 2002	Change of Command Commander V.G. Mercado relieved by Commander C.M. Thebaud
20-23 AUG 2002	Underway SOCAL Training

24-03 AUG 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
04 SEP 2002	Deadstick move to Continental Maritime Shipyard
04 SEP-07 NOV 2002	SRA
29-31 OCT 2002	COMDESRON 21 Safe to Steam Assessment
07-08 NOV 2002	Underway SOCAL Sea Trials
09-12 NOV 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
13-14 NOV 2002	Underway SOCAL enroute Seal Beach
15-16 NOV 2002	Inport Seal Beach IDTC Ammo Onload
17-19 NOV 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
20-27 NOV 2002	Underway SOCAL DLQs FIREX I USS CARL VINSON BG OPFOR
28 NOV-02 DEC 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
03-06 DEC 2002	Underway SOCAL Training
07-31 DEC 2002	Inport San Diego Upkeep
12 DEC 2002	Ship Christmas Party
13-31 DEC 2002	Holiday Standdown



USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Historical Narrative **for 2002**

USS DECATUR (DDG 73) had a banner year in 2002. From 2001's early deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM through an intense nine week restricted availability, DECATUR executed an aggressive schedule throughout. The professional accomplishments this year are accredited to DECATUR's warrior spirit embodied in each of her sailors and their commitment to fulfill the finest traditions of Surface Warfare. DECATUR's 2002 high operational tempo while deployed with the JOHN C STENNIS Battlegroup was unparalleled, earning the ship her first Navy Unit Commendation and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The professional expertise, dedication to duty, and personal sacrifice of all onboard were evident all year through the many successes achieved.

Throughout 2002, DECATUR maintained combat readiness at the highest level and improved upon her already impressive record and reputation as a versatile, proficient war fighter, earning the reputation within JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group for being "Always Alert, Always Professional, and Always Ready." DECATUR's pursuit of operational excellence over the period included a Fifth Fleet Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, a seamless transition to a complex Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), and preparations for the 2003 Inter-Deployment Training Cycle. While deployed, DECATUR tackled multiple Warfare duties and served as Sector Air Defense Coordinator and Sea Combat Commander for PELELIU, BATAAN and BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Readiness Groups off Afghanistan. As the Link manager during ARG escort operations, DECATUR maintained nearly perfect connectivity and relayed the overall tactical picture to warfare commanders and mastered dual reporting responsibilities to CTF 51 and CTF 50 and other coalition ships. Additional duties included exercising tactical control over 7 USN ships, 5 Coalition warships and numerous air assets for air and surface defense, Makran Coast Sector Leadership Interdiction Operations (LIO) and Air Defense Screen ship for CTF 50. During exercise EAGER SENTRY with the Kuwaiti Navy, DECATUR safely conducted coordinated Surface Warfare, Search and Rescue, Division Tactics and Visit Board Search and Seizure exercises. During Maritime Interdiction Operations, DECATUR performed numerous vessel boardings including a non-compliant boarding that forced an oil smuggler to return to Iraq. Additionally, during exercise ARABIAN SHARK, DECATUR acted as SAU commander with United Arab Emirates and Bahraini warships in undersea warfare exercises and conducted 8 live fire ASW events during SHAREM 140.

Dedicated to supporting the community, DECATUR sailors contributed over 400 hours of volunteer service in 2002 despite an aggressive underway schedule. While returning from deployment, DECATUR sailors served as Ambassadors in numerous community outreach projects during port visits to

Phuket, Thailand; Bali, Indonesia; and a humanitarian assistance visit to the new republic of East Timor where DECATUR was selected as the sole American ship to serve as the backdrop for the Inaugural Independence Day Celebrations in Dili, East Timor, hosting numerous distinguished visitors. Upon returning to San Diego, DECATUR sailors participated in Port Hueneme Sea Bee Days, providing tours for over 1,000 visitors. Additionally, DECATUR sailors were recognized for volunteer spirit in "Hands On San Diego" and fire-prevention efforts in Julian, California, as well as numerous local youth programs.

Immediately following deployment, DECATUR maintained operational focus and earned numerous accolades, enroute to an unbroken string of successful assessments and inspections, including Aviation Readiness Qualification Certification, PCMS Assessment, NSFS FIREX I Qualification, CDS21 Safe-to-Sea Assessment, Cryptologic Resource Center (CRC) Certification, and 3M Baseline Certification. Of note, DECATUR was one of only 10% of ships on the waterfront to convert the 3M Baseline to a 3M Certification. Sustained aggressive Engineering and Damage Control training throughout SRA, DECATUR Damage Control Organization received accolades from the ATG Engineering LTT during the Post Availability Safe-to-Steam Assessment in November 2002, stating it was "the best Main Space Fire Drill" they had seen for a ship completing a shipyard availability. Additionally, the ATG Engineering LTT noted the DECATUR has "the two best kept main spaces of the entire Pacific Fleet" and assessed all Engineering Programs as satisfactory. Additionally, DECATUR maintained a minimum rating of M-2 in all mission areas, completing numerous exercises and served as Opposition Force (OPFOR) in support of CARL VINSON Battle Group COMPTUEX, receiving a "Bravo Zulu" from Commander, CARL VINSON Battle Group for displaying superior performance and aggressive challenges.

Throughout 2002, meeting the challenges of a high-OPTEMPO schedule, DECATUR maintained an outstanding safety record in all areas, executing all missions flawlessly. Through it all, DECATUR experienced only three class C personnel injury mishaps in 2002 and no class A or B mishaps. Excelling in Seamanship and Aviation Safety, DECATUR flawlessly conducted 6 anchorings including Bali, East Timor (3 anchorings), Bahrain and Phuket, and 1 mooring to a buoy in Honk Kong. Performed numerous RHIB Operations in support of ARG escort, Maritime Interception and Leadership Interdiction operations. Aggressive cross-training enabled the ship to competently man up to 3 replenishment stations. UNREP teams conducted 39 UNREPS, transferring 4,353,491 gallons of fuel without incident. Conducted 662 Flight Quarters with SH-60s, including 5 Night Vision Device ops for CSAR missions. Conducted 30 VERTREP evolutions receiving over 700 pallets by air. In November, received third consecutive AAV upgrade to ARQ; safety administration evaluated with zero discrepancies. Conducted ammo off-load and on-load in Seal Beach with no incident. NWS Seal Beach Ordnance Officer commented that DECATUR stands out for consistently conducting safe, effective ammo movement evolutions. Conducted 10 flight deck

ammo movement evolutions. Conducted 10 flight deck range qualification events, qualifying over 300 crewmembers in small arms. Maintaining the highest level of focus on shipyard safety, DECATUR sustained a superb SRA safety record throughout shipyard availability period. Prior to completing SRA in November 2002, all administrative safety programs were assessed as effective during ISIC Safe to Sea Assessment. Additionally, the Afloat Training Group LTT, inspector cited that DECATUR' s Electrical Safety administration and operation was the best they had seen on waterfront.

Meeting and excelling in every mission and warfare area, the common denominator for DECATUR's overall success in 2002 can be found in our exceptional sailors. Despite an overwhelming OPTEMPO, DECATUR leadership was able to enhance morale and optimize the balance between mission accomplishment with quality of life, fostering improved retention and advancement throughout the ranks. Ultimately each sailor's commitment to excellence and continued Naval service reflected in DECATUR earning the "Golden Anchor" Retention Award for FY 2002. Instilling a positive command environment and achieving a balance between meeting mission objectives and the needs of individual sailors, DECATUR continues to improve upon Quality of Life. Nurturing both professional and personal development programs, DECATUR maximized training opportunities through highly successful on-the-job training, PACE courses, divisional rate raining, and ESWS seminars. Together, these programs and mentorship helped prepare sailors for advancement opportunities and resulted in numerous PACE graduates, over 90 ESWS Qualifications, and Retention and Advancement levels that continue to increase and surpass Fleet averages in all areas.