

USS DEFENDER (MCM 2) 1996 Command History

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS DEFENDER (MCM 2) locates and neutralizes mines to provide safe passage for U.S. and Allied Naval and Merchant Shipping. Commanded by LCDR Andrew B. Fuller, USS DEFENDER operates under the auspices of Commander, Mine Warfare Command. She is homeported in Ingleside, TX but deploys regularly to the European Theater where she operates with NATO and U.S. forces.

2. Chronology.

1996

01JAN	Holiday Upkeep in Ingleside, TX
02FEB	Return to NAVSTA Ingleside from yard period
18MAR	DEFENDER rescues 8 people in Gulf of Mexico
26MAR	SAR Mission for downed T-44
01APR	Inspection Survey (INSURV)
29APR	Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA
06MAY	Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) begins
09MAY	Logistics Management Assessment Debrief DEFENDER receives Blue "E"
22MAY	Docking Planned Maintenance Availability (DPMA) and upkeep
08JUN	DEFENDER Rescue and Assist team responds to Class Charlie fire onboard USS HERON
17JUN	COMNAVSURFLANT Magazine Sprinkler Inspection
08JUL	Undocking and dead stick move in the NAVSTA Ingleside basin
30JUL	Command Assessment Readiness and Training II (CART II)
09AUG	Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA LCDR A.B. Fuller relieves CDR J.D. Bradford of Command
16AUG	Tailored Ship Training Availability I (TSTA I)
17AUG	Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA
27SEP	Engineering Certification (ECERT) Completed
18NOV	Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA
09DEC	Command Control Communication (CCC) -27 Inspection
11DEC	Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI)
19DEC	Holiday Upkeep

3. Narrative. Upon returning for Euro 95, DEFENDER went into her yard period. Upon completion she returned to NAVSTA Ingleside on 02FEB98.

On 18MAR96, while underway in the Corpus Christi OPAREA, DEFENDER was requested by the U.S. Coast Guard to respond to a distress call. Executing a full power run, DEFENDER located a small craft, with eight passengers, filling with water. The

Enclosure (2)

crew responded quickly to bring the men, women, and children aboard. DEFENDER continued assistance by providing clothes and food to her new, very thankful guests. The families were returned safely to port via small boat. Then, the following week, as the ship was preparing to get underway for training operations, a call came that a T-44 aircraft was down in the local Corpus Christi OPAREA. Once clear of the harbor DEFENDER had every available man onboard continuously searching for any site of the plane or flight crew. Using sonar, DEFENDER was able to locate the parts of the downed aircraft but once her assistance was no longer needed she returned to port letting other resources continue with salvage efforts.

Back in port, DEFENDER returned to preparations for an upcoming Board of Inspection Survey (INSURV) Visit on 01APR96. Later that month on 29APR96, DEFENDER got underway enroute to the Corpus Christi OPAREA to conduct general mine warfare training. Early in May she began her Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Inspection. During the inspection the Supply Department performed at its finest and received a score over ninety percent. This along with sustained outstanding performance earned DEFENDER the Blue "E."

By the end of May, DEFENDER entered drydock at Gulf Copper where she would stay for the next two and a half months.

On 08JUN96 DEFENDER's Rescue and Assist Team responded to a Class Charlie fire on board the USS HERON (MHC 52). Later that month, DEFENDER's Magazine Sprinkler Inspection was conducted by COMNAVSURFLANT representatives and passed with only design deficiencies. The next month, DEFENDER undocked and returned to NAVSTA Ingleside. Command Assessment Readiness and Training II (CART II) was next for DEFENDER. In keeping with her high standards, she passed with minimum discrepancies and was considered fit for service.

On 09AUG96, while underway in the Corpus Christi OPAREA, LCDR Andrew B. Fuller relieved CDR James D. Bradford of command of USS DEFENDER (MCM 2).

Later that month DEFENDER then went into Tailored Shipboard Training Availability I (TSTA I) with only limited minesweeping capability but still demonstrated an intact training program. She then completed her Engineering Certification (ECERT) in September. During the month of November, DEFENDER's underway periods focused on performing mechanical and combination influence sweeps to train personnel in the Corpus Christi OPAREA. Then in December, DEFENDER completed her last challenge of the year by passing her Command Control Communication -27 Inspection with the highest score on the waterfront. This was a true showing of dedicated teamwork by the radioman onboard. A week later DEFENDER went into her Christmas Stand-Down to bring a new year.