



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)

FPO AA 34090-1922

Rec'd 3/16/98
W/o disk
Ser 00/036
5 Mar 1998

From: Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)

To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS DEFENDER (MCM-2) hunts 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 Countermeasure Squadron Two. She is homeported in Ingleside TX, but deploys regularly to the European Theater where she operates with NATO and U.S. forces.

2. Chronology

1997

01 Jan	Holiday/Upkeep
03 Jan	Concurrent IMAV
09 Jan	Hosted Junior Officer Ship handling competition
27 Jan	TSTA II
03 Feb	MCMOPS - Mine Recovery
14 Feb	TSTA II complete
03 Mar	Diesel Inspection
03 Mar	Concurrent RAV
21 Mar	Diesel Inspection complete
04 Apr	Transit to Key West
08 Apr	Transit to Charleston SC
14 Apr	Degaussing range
21 Apr	Transit to Mayport FL
28 Apr	Transit to West Palm Beach
05 May	Transit to Ingleside TX
19 May	GOMEX 97-2
27 May	TSTA IV
20 Jun	TSTA IV complete
14 Jul	MRCI
18 Aug	Dead stick move to South West Marine: PMA
08 Sep	JCMIS/SATCOM install
03 Oct	JCMIS/SATCOM install complete
19 Nov	Light Of Assessment inspection
20 Nov	Light Of Assessment inspection complete
20 Nov	Underway from South West Marine back to NAVSTA Ingleside TX
03 Dec	Passed Logistics and Management Assessment
19 Dec	Christmas Holiday/Upkeep

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

3. Narrative

On 9 January 1997, DEFENDER hosted the annual Junior Officer Ship handling competition. DEFENDER's LTJG [REDACTED] won the competition. A few weeks later, DEFENDER continued its pre-deployment cycle by passing TSTA II and ECERT with no problems. Shortly thereafter, the Engineering Department prepared the diesel generators and main engines for certification during Diesel Inspection. All four main engines and two generators were certified by the Diesel inspector. At the same time as the Diesel inspection, there was a concurrent SIMA RAV taking place. The 1000 gallon per day flash-type distiller was replaced by a new 2000 gallon per day Reverse Osmosis Unit (RO Unit). Puget Sound Naval Ship Yard installed new DC circuit breakers. DEFENDER, scheduled for the degaussing range, began its transit to Charleston SC on 4 April. After a brief visit to replenish supplies in Key West FL, DEFENDER continued to transit to Charleston SC. After completing degaussing in three days, DEFENDER began its southern transit to Mayport FL. At Mayport Naval Base, the last diesel generator was certified for operation. On 28 April, DEFENDER was off to the liberty port of West Palm Beach, where the crew enjoyed the good weather, the warm hospitality of the Navy League, and the annual activities of the Sunfest Festival. Upon return to Ingleside, DEFENDER participated in exercise Gomex 97-2. In this exercise, DEFENDER and other SMCMs, AMCM, and UMCM conducted mine hunting and neutralization in transport lanes and fire support area. After Gomex 97-2, DEFENDER prepared for TSTA IV and MRCI which started on 27 May. Except for some delays caused by occasional equipment failures, DEFENDER passed TSTA IV and MRCI with little problems.

On 18 August, DEFENDER entered South West Marine shipyard for a Planned Maintenance Availability. During this yard period, DEFENDER prepared for LOA, scheduled at the end of the overhaul. Major installations during the shipyard period included JCMIS/SATCOM and the prototype Line Tension Payout 2000 series system. DEFENDER left South West Marine shipyard on schedule after successfully passing LOA. In December, DEFENDER passed LMA and went into a Christmas holiday and upkeep period.


A. B. FULLER