



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)
FPO AA 34090-1922

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09 May 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, Command Histories

- Encl:
- (1) USS DEFENDER Command History Report for 2000
 - (2) Disk Copy of Command History
 - (3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet, 2000
 - (4) USS DEFENDER (MCM-2) Photograph (15 Feb 00)
 - (5) Congratulations Letter, Commander, Task Force 138 (15 Apr 00)
 - (6) Letter of Appreciation, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX (05 May 00)
 - (7) Electronic Mail Letter, Marquette Underwater Preservation Committee (04 Jun 00)
 - (8) Search Operations Report, Commander, Mine Warfare Command (19 Jun 00)
 - (9) Letter of Appreciation, Commander, Naval Recruiting District Chicago, Illinois (20 Jun 00)
 - (10) Letter of Appreciation, Executive Officer, Recruit Training Command (20 Jun 00)
 - (11) Letter of Appreciation, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (23 Jun 00)
 - (12) Letter of Appreciation, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs (27 Jun 00)
 - (13) Letter of Appreciation, General Manager, Federal Marine Terminals, Cleveland, Ohio (11 Jul 00)
 - (14) Letter of Appreciation, WKYC TV Channel 3, Cleveland, Ohio (17 Jul 00)
 - (15) General Administrative Message of Appreciation, Commander, Naval Recruiting District, Columbus, Ohio (19 Jul 00)
 - (16) General Administrative Message of Congratulations, Commander, Mine Warfare Command (20 Jul 00)
 - (17) Letter of Appreciation, Commanding Officer, HMCS YORK (21 Jul 00)
 - (17) General Administrative Message, Performance of Duty, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (30 Aug 00)
 - (19) Letter of Appreciation, Director of Tourism, Oswego, New York (18 Sep 00)
 - (20) Congratulations Letter, Commander, Mine Warfare Command (25 Sep 00)
 - (21) Report of Annual Inspection as NATO Secret Control Point (19 Oct 00)
 - (22) 2000 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Surface Ship Safety Award Submission and Forwarding Letter(08 Nov 00)

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- (23) Letter of Appreciation, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States (28 Jun 00) with Forwarding Memorandum from Executive Assistant and Naval Aide to the Secretary of the Navy (25 Jul 00)
- (24) Letter of Appreciation, Chief of Naval Operations (23 Aug 00)
- (25) First Endorsement to Enclosure (23) Letter of Appreciation, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (06 Oct 00)
- (26) Second Endorsement to Enclosure (23) Letter of Appreciation, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (19 Oct 00)
- (27) Third Endorsement to Enclosure (23) Letter of Appreciation, Commander, Mine Warfare Command (08 Nov 00)
- (28) Report of Completion, Board of Inspection and Survey Underway Material Inspection (27 Oct 00)
- (29) Letter of Appreciation, Commander Navy Recruiting Command (10 Jan 01)
- (30) Letter of Congratulations, Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force (20 Feb 01)
- (31) CNO Surface Ship Safety Award Program (04 May 01)
- (32) Bravo Zulu, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (07 May 01)

1. Pursuant to reference (a), enclosures (1) through (32) are submitted for the preservation of significant information concerning the activities of USS DEFENDER (MCM-2) during calendar year 2000.


A. C. JACOBS

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1. **Command Composition and Organization.**

- A. Name of command and UIC: USS DEFENDER (MCM-2); UIC: 21403
- B. Primary mission: To locate and neutralize underwater mines through minehunting, minesweeping, and embarked Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units.
- C. ISIC: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (COMCMRON TWO).
- D. Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.
- E. Commanding Officer during Calendar Year 2000: LCDR A. C. Jacobs, USN.

2. **Chronology.**

Dates	Event
01-05 January	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period II
06-20 January	Pre-Deployment Diesel Engine Inspection
21-23 January	Upkeep
24-27 January	Inport Phase, Gulf of Mexico Exercise 00-1(GOMEX 00-1)
28-30 January	Upkeep
31 January-10 February	Underway, Corpus Christi Operating Area (GOMEX 00-1)
11-17 February	Upkeep
18 February	Change of Command (LCDR A. C. Jacobs, USN, relieved LCDR T. M. Negus, USN, in a traditional change of command ceremony onboard USS DEFENDER (MCM-2))
19-28 February	Pre-Deployment Leave and Stand-down Period I
29 February-09 March	Pre-Deployment Leave and Stand-down Period II
16-18 March	Underway as component of Mine Warfare Readiness Group One (MIWRG-1)
19-20 March	Inport Pensacola, Florida
21-22 March	Underway, Pensacola Operating Area (POA) in support of George Washington Battle Group (GWBATGRU) COMPTUEX 00-1
23 March	Underway, enroute Key West, Florida
24 March	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF), Key West, Florida
25-28 March	Underway, enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
29 March	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
30-31 March	Underway, enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
01-03 April	Inport, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
04-07 April	Underway, Puerto Rican Operating Area (PROA) in support of UNITAS 41-00

Enclosure (1)

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08-09 April	Inport, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
10-12 April	Underway, enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
13 April	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
14-17 April	Underway, enroute Mayport, Florida
18-20 April	Inport, Mayport, Florida
21-23 April	Underway, enroute Norfolk, Virginia
24 April-03 May	Inport, Norfolk, Virginia
04-06 May	Underway, enroute Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
07 May	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF), Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
08-10	Underway, enroute Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
11 May	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF), Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
12-14 May	Enroute Buffalo, New York
15-16 May	Inport, Buffalo, New York
17-18 May	Underway, enroute Bay City, Michigan
19-21 May	Inport, Bay City, Michigan
22 May	Underway, enroute Sault St. Marie, Michigan
23-24 May	Inport, Sault St. Marie, Michigan
25-26 May	Underway, enroute Duluth, Minnesota
27-28 May	Inport, Duluth, Minnesota
29 May	Underway, enroute Marquette, Michigan
30 May	Underway, conducting bottom survey operations 5 nautical miles off Marquette, Michigan coastline
31 May-01 June	Inport, Marquette, Michigan
02-05 June	Underway, enroute Chicago, Illinois
06-11 June	Inport, Chicago, Illinois
12-13 June	Underway, enroute Green Bay, Wisconsin
14-16 June	Inport, Green Bay, Wisconsin
17 June	Underway, enroute Milwaukee, Wisconsin
18 June	Discovered sunken fishing trawler LINDA E
19-23 June	Inport, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
24-28 June	Underway, enroute Clayton, New York
29 June-04 July	Inport, Clayton, New York
05-08 July	Underway, enroute Cleveland, Ohio
09-12 July	Inport, Cleveland, Ohio
13-17 July	Underway, enroute Toronto, Ontario, Canada
18-22 July	Inport, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
23-24 July	Underway, enroute Oswego, New York
25-29 July	Inport, Oswego, New York
30 July-01 Aug	Underway, enroute Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
02-04 Aug	Inport, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

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05-08 Aug	Underway, enroute Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
09 Aug	Brief Stop for Fuel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
10-12 Aug	Underway, enroute Little Creek, Virginia
13 Aug	Brief Stop for Fuel, Little Creek, Virginia
14-15 Aug	Underway, enroute Mayport, Florida
16-24 Aug	Inport, Mayport, Florida
25 Aug	Underway, enroute Key West, Florida
26 Aug	Brief Stop for Fuel, Key West, Florida
27-30 Aug	Underway, enroute Ingleside, Texas
31 Aug-11 Oct	Inport, Ingleside, Texas
12-13 Oct	Underway, Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA)
14-16 Oct	Inport, Ingleside, Texas
17 Oct	Underway, Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA)
18-23 Oct	Inport, Ingleside, Texas
24 Oct	Underway, Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA)
25 Oct-14 Dec 00	Inport, Ingleside, Texas
15-28 Dec 00	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period I
28-31 Dec 00	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period II

3. **Narrative.**

During the 2000 calendar year, DEFENDER has focused on her mission with determination, resulting in resounding success and a number of “firsts” among the Mine Warfare Community. Focused on the five Pillars of Command Excellence: Manpower, Current Readiness, Future Readiness, Quality of Service, and Navy-wide Alignment, DEFENDER had exceeded all expectations and was most worthy of selection as a calendar year 2000 Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic Fleet, Battle Efficiency “E” award winner. In addition, DEFENDER accumulated zero Depot-Level Repairable (DLR) carcass charges for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, the retention excellence award for fiscal year 2000, as well as the U.S. Atlantic Fleet's fuel conservation program awards for the second and third quarters, fiscal year 2000.

A. MANPOWER: DEFENDER has a vibrant advancement, retention and re-enlistment program. DEFENDER was the coveted recipient of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) Golden Anchor award for Fiscal Year 2000 and was specifically noted on the highly-regarded, CINCLANTFLT retention honor roll. DEFENDER embodies the ideas and basic tenets of “Covenant Leadership” on a daily basis and settles for nothing less than a self-imposed goal of 100 percent crew retention and advancement.

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B. **CURRENT READINESS:** DEFENDER has demonstrated sustained superior performance in a deployed operational environment and has performed above and beyond all contemporaries in the accomplishment of her mission during calendar year 2000. From “danning” and lead-through operations in the Puerto Rican Operations Area during UNITAS 00-41 to the GREAT LAKES DOMESTIC OUTREACH RECRUITING CRUISE 2000 (GLC 2000), DEFENDER has performed these difficult missions flawlessly and has established herself as the unequivocal leader within the Mine Warfare Community. Specific accomplishments have included:

(1). DEFENDER routinely demonstrated “firsts” throughout the five and one-half month deployment culminating in GLC 2000. Deploying on time, casualty-free and battle-ready, she continually maintained her outstanding condition of material readiness. Of all five ships within Mine Warfare Readiness Group One (MIWRG-1), DEFENDER could state with definite pride in her dedicated crew that she was the only one to complete the cruise making all commitments on time, every time.

(2). DEFENDER was the lead MIW participant in UNITAS 00-41. DEFENDER meticulously planned and executed lead-out operations, including a first-ever employment of a dan-buoy line as well as successful conduct of a multi-national lead-through exercise. DEFENDER’s highly-successful participation marked another first for CONUS-based mine countermeasures forces: direct support of multi-national naval forces in a major fleet exercise.

(3). DEFENDER’s most significant accomplishment, however, was the successful planning, execution and completion of the GREAT LAKES DOMESTIC OUTREACH RECRUITING CRUISE 2000 with only 24-hours notice. Steaming over three-thousand nautical miles at maximum speed, DEFENDER transited the Saint Lawrence Seaway and Welland Canal and arrived at her first recruiting port of call, Buffalo, NY, shifting from an MIW mission to a recruiting mission of navy awareness and public affairs with smooth professionalism and on time. DEFENDER proudly flew her colors, showing the flag in 11 Great Lakes ports for a total of 52 days and over 50,000 visitors, averaging the highest daily number of visitors: 1,145 in the Great Lakes. DEFENDER, the only ship to visit all 5 Great Lakes. DEFENDER safely navigated 48 difficult lock transits, the highest number of locks transited by any ship during the cruise, and completed numerous Sea and Anchor details to “Let The Journey Begin”. This journey resulted in over 600 referrals on young men and women looking to join the ranks of the United States Navy. A successful foundation had thus been laid for all future domestic outreach recruiting efforts

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undertaken by the Navy in general and the Mine Warfare Community in particular. As a testament to this success, DEFENDER received numerous accolades, including Letters of Appreciation from the Chief of Naval Operations; Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; as well as recognition by the Secretary of the Navy, based on a Congressional Letter of Appreciation during an important port visit to Bay City, Michigan, where over 5,000 visitors alone toured DEFENDER and were thrilled to have the opportunity to talk with her vibrant crew. Of special note by Congressman Barcia was the renewed support aroused by DEFENDER with city plans to bring ex-USS Charles F. Adams to Bay City as a museum and educational facility. Lauded by Commander, Recruiting Command, the GREAT LAKES DOMESTIC OUTREACH CRUISE was a complete success due to DEFENDER's unparalleled professionalism and total participation. DEFENDER marked the first return of the Mine Countermeasures forces to the Great Lakes after a six-year absence, and a first of its kind deployment for a Mine Countermeasures ship.

(4). Not allowing her primary mission to lapse, DEFENDER conducted bottom survey and search operations in both Lakes Superior and Michigan. At the request of the Marquette Underwater Preservation Society, DEFENDER conducted the first-ever MCM bottom survey operations in the Great Lakes region in Lake Superior. These landmark operations prompted Congressional tasking in conducting search operations in Lake Michigan for a fishing vessel, LINDA E, missing and presumed lost for over eighteen months. DEFENDER discovered and positively identified the sunken wreckage of LINDA E at a depth of over 260 feet, finally putting closure of a traumatic maritime disaster for the relatives of three lost seamen. The resulting publicity generated by these operations greatly enhanced the Navy's image within the civilian community and acutely demonstrated the unique and varied capabilities of the Mine Countermeasures forces.

D. FUTURE READINESS: During calendar year 2000, DEFENDER had proven herself the leader within the Mine Warfare community by not only meeting, but exceeding, every expectation. Scheduled for a short-notice Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) Underway Material Inspection (UMI) while returning from a highly-successful, but demanding, five and one-half month deployment, DEFENDER characteristically excelled. DEFENDER's calendar year 2000 INSURV was specifically commented upon by the UMI inspectors as "successful" and "the most prepared MIW ship seen by INSURVPAC." DEFENDER's minimum standard truly is to excel in everything she does.

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E. **QUALITY OF SERVICE:** Encompassing both Quality of Life as well as Quality of Work, DEFENDER focused on mission accomplishment, safety, and crew success and the fostering of a positive command climate as the basis for DEFENDER's productive organization. Conducting command-sponsored physical training three times per week, weekly integrated training team (ITT) scenarios, and continued community-support of a local elementary school, DEFENDER sailors embodied the spirit of the Chief of Naval Operations "Quality of Service" ideal.

F. **NAVY-WIDE ALIGNMENT:** DEFENDER's successful completion in all calendar year 2000 operations marked the beginning of a new era within the Mine Warfare Community. Employing only the highest navigational standards and personal safety regulations, DEFENDER steamed over 17,000 nautical miles, the highest number of miles covered by any of the 5 deployers, without a major equipment casualty, resulting in an underway operational tempo of fifty-four percent and completion of 25 port visits on time, every time. DEFENDER showcased her outstanding MIW capabilities and crew dedication inherent within the entire Mine Warfare Community to both the military and civilian sectors. Continuing to mainstream the Navy's organic MIW capabilities will only advance the worth and importance of this dedicated and professional force in the coming years. DEFENDER is the cause, force proficiency is the result.

G. In summary, DEFENDER had received a Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation in recognition of services based upon extended operations in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Great Lakes from 16 March to 31 August 2000. DEFENDER's superior level of readiness was recognized throughout the fleet when she successfully executed Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) 00-1 and GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group Composite Task Unit Exercise (GWBATGRU COMPTUEX) 00-1, as well as both UNITAS 00-41 and a short-notice GREAT LAKES CRUISE 2000. Proving her mettle during the extremely successful five and one-half month deployment, DEFENDER maintained the highest operational availability of any ship in MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON TWO throughout the calendar year. As a matter of routine, DEFENDER had set the highest standard in everything she did and had established herself as the benchmark for all the Mine Warfare Community to emulate. DEFENDER's significant accomplishments and can do attitude epitomized the fighting spirit of the United States Navy during calendar year 2000.

4. **Supporting Documents.**

- A. (U) "Personal-for" messages of significance attached.
- B. (U) Periodic/Situational reports of significance attached.
- C. (U) Cruise/Deployment reports of significance attached.

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- D. No Intelligence reports of significance.
- E. No Major Staff, Command studies or briefings of significance.
- F. No Action/Combat reports.
- G. No major exercise reports of significance.
- H. No published documents of significance.
- I. (U) INSURV UMI 2000 report attached.
- J. No hazardous waste reports submitted.
- K. No unusual/unique events to report.
- L. Photograph of ship attached.
- M. (U) Biography/photograph of commanding officer enclosed in Welcome Aboard booklet.
- N. Not applicable.