



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)
FPO AA 34090-1922

Rec'd 4/2/02
W/B
5750
MCM2
06 Mar 02 *disk*

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

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, Command Histories
(b) NAVADMIN 051955ZFEB02

Encl: (1) USS DEFENDER Command History Report for 2001
(2) Disk Copy of Command History
(3) Newspaper Article, The Foc'sle (15 Jan 01)
(4) First Endorsement, FY-00 Retention Excellence Award, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (22 Jan 01)
(5) Second Endorsement, FY-00 Retention Excellence Award, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (06 Feb 01)
(6) Newspaper Article, The Foc'sle (15 Feb 01)
(7) Personal Congratulations Letter, Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force (20 Feb 01)
(8) Light Off Assessment Report (05 Apr 01)
(9) Surface Rescue Swimmer Inspirational Leader Award (13 Apr 01)
(10) Surface Rescue Swimmer Honor Man Award (13 Apr 01)
(11) CNO Surface Ship Safety Award (07 May 01)
(12) Bravo Zulu, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (07 May 01)
(13) Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation (10 May 01)
(14) Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation Citation (10 May 01)
(15) Bravo Zulu, Commanding Officer, USS ROBIN (04 Jun 01)
(16) Afloat Safety Survey Results, Commander, Naval Safety Center (14 Jun 01)
(17) Newspaper Articles, The Foc'sle (15 Jun 01)
(18) ISIC Initial Assessment, Commander, Afloat Training Group, Ingleside, TX (18 Jun 01)
(19) Bravo Zulu, Commanding Officer, Mine Counter Measures Squadron Two (25 Jun 01)
(20) General Comments, ISIC Initial Assessment (25 – 27 Jun 01)
(21) Personal Letter of Appreciation, Commander, USS SENTRY (17 Aug 01)
(22) Acknowledgement of Locator Report, Commander, Mine Warfare Command (20 Sep 01)
(23) Depot Level Repairable (DLR) Management Excellence, Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (25 Oct 01)

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- (24) 2001 Battle Efficiency Award Input, Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (01 Nov 01)
- (25) 2001 CNO Surface Ship Safety Award Input, Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (08 Nov 01)
- (26) 2001 TYCOM Ship Safety Award Input, Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (08 Nov 01)
- (27) 2001 Force Commander Annual Health Promotion Unit Award Input, Commanding Officer, USS DEFENDER (09 Nov 01)
- (28) 2001 Intelligence Excellence Award Input (21 Nov 01)
- (29) 2001 TYCOM Surface Ship Safety Award Winners, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (14 Feb 02)

1. Pursuant to references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (29) are submitted for the preservation of significant information concerning the activities of USS DEFENDER (MCM-2) during calendar year 2001.


K. A. HILBERG

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001**

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 Officers during Calendar Year 2001: CDR A. C. Jacobs was relieved as Commanding Officer on 12 October, 2001 by LCDR K. A. Hilberg.

2. Chronology

Dates	Event
01 – 05 January	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period II
05 January	Transit to South West Marine Shipyard
05 January – 09 April	PMA 2001
09 – 12 April	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
12 April	U/W CCOA
12 – 14 May	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
14 – 15 May	Electromagnetic Roll Facility
15 – 22 May	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
22 – 24 May	U/W CCOA
24 May – 29 June	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
19 – 20 June	U/W CCOA
20 June – 10 July	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
10 – 11 July	U/W CCOA
11 – 24 July	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
24 – 26 July	U/W CCOA
26 July – 11 October	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
11 October	U/W CCOA for PCO Familiarization Cruise
11 – 26 October	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
12 October	Change of Command (LCDR Karl A. Hilberg, USN, relieved CDR Aaron C. Jacobs, USN, in a truncated ceremony due to security restrictions as a result of September 11 th)
26 – 29 October	U/W CCOA
29 October – 11 November	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
11 November	U/W CCOA
11 – 23 November	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
23 November	U/W CCOA
23 – 24 November	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX

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24 – 29 November	U/W CCOA for RONEX 02-1
29 – 13 December	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
13 – 14 December	U/W CCOA for GOMEX 02-1
14 – 16 December	IPT Naval Station Ingleside, TX
17 – 28 December	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period I
28 – 31 December	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period II

3. **Narrative**

During the 2001 calendar year, DEFENDER 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 enjoyed a successful Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) and tackled the rigorous training cycle with gusto.

A. **MANPOWER:** DEFENDER has a vibrant advancement, retention and re-enlistment program. 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.

B. **CURRENT READINESS:** DEFENDER demonstrated sustained superior performance throughout the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle and performed above and beyond all contemporaries in the accomplishment of her mission. From a highly effective Pierside Maintenance Availability to the most successful Light-Off Assessment in the fleet in recent memory, DEFENDER performed these difficult missions flawlessly and established herself as the unequivocal leader within the Mine Warfare Community. Specific accomplishments have included:

(1) Efficient procedures during PMA-02 enabled DEFENDER to receive almost \$400,000 in additional work than originally planned. DEFENDER set the new standard for effective PMAs.

(2) Upon conclusion of the PMA period, DEFENDER enjoyed the most successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA) in recent memory. N43 inspectors completed the four-day inspection in an unheard-of two days, and were so moved by the crew’s performance during the Main Space Fire Drill that they certified it. This marked the first fire drill N43 certified at LOA in over two years *fleet-wide*.

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(3) An actual casualty cut DEFENDER's Underway Demonstration short and forced her pierside for three months while the crew and technical representatives trouble-shot the elusive problem. DEFENDER's engineering department shined during this setback, virtually tearing the entire starboard propulsion plant apart multiple times to isolate, locate and correct the problem. DEFENDER's enginemen effected repairs generally left to SIMA, and did so in record time. They became the most proficient crew on the waterfront, able to tear down a clutch in an hour and rebuild it in two.

(4) DEFENDER's Operations Department kept sight of the ultimate goal while the engineers labored below, training and conducting drills in preparation for Tailored Ship's Training Assessments and Basic Phase Assessment.

(5) DEFENDER's Supply Department excelled in their Supply Management Assessment (SMA), scoring 90.6 percent in General Stores Management (S-1) and qualifying for a rare upgrade certifying their Supply Management Inspection (SMI). Food Service Management (S-2) scored 92.7 percent on their SMI.

(6) DEFENDER's sailors far exceed the standards in everything they do, as evidenced by the honors bestowed upon the two recently sent to Surface Rescue Swimmer's School. Both of the coveted honors in that school, Honor Man and Most Inspirational, went to DEFENDER sailors.

(7) DEFENDER's Supply Department's administrative prowess was again recognized for having zero carcass charges for FY01.

(8) In her Medical Readiness Assessment (MRA) of July, 2001, DEFENDER's medical organization received a grade of C-1, Fully Ready. In the specific area evaluated, that of Emergency Medical Preparedness, there were zero discrepancies noted.

(9) Personal thanks from the Commanding Officer, USS SENTRY (MCM-3), for support of their INSURV Underway Material Inspection 2001.

(10) A personal Bravo Zulu and appreciation of support from the Commanding Officer, USS INCHON (MCS-12), for assistance during their Main Space Fire of 19 October, 2001.

(11) A personal Bravo Zulu from the Commanding Officer, USS ROBIN (MHC-54), to DEFENDER for performance as communications assist ship, enabling ROBIN to score an overall 97.86 percent on the ISIC Communications Readiness Certification.

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(12) A Bravo Zulu from the Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, for a satisfactory score on the ISIC Navigation Assessment.

D. **FUTURE READINESS:** DEFENDER has proven herself the leader within the Mine Warfare community by not only meeting, but exceeding, every expectation. From the most successful Light-Off Assessment in over two years, resulting in the only certified main Space Fire Drill in the fleet, to the extensive evolutions required by the IDTC, DEFENDER characteristically shined. Even an unexpected and ill-timed casualty was cause for aggressive trouble-shooting and brilliant repairs. DEFENDER's minimum standard truly is to excel in everything she does.

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

F. **NAVY-WIDE ALIGNMENT:** DEFENDER is striving to expand her mission capable areas in an effort to mainstream the Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Fleet with current and future Navy tasking. Preparing for Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) and Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations will enable DEFENDER to lead the MCM fleet in missions historically not assigned to Mine Countermeasures ships.

In summary, DEFENDER has proven herself again and again throughout 2001. Beginning the calendar year with an efficient and effective Maintenance Availability, setting the standard of excellence at her Light-off Assessment, certifying her Main Space Fire Drill, and successful repair of an elusive casualty, DEFENDER excelled. As a matter of routine, DEFENDER sets the highest standard in everything she does and has established herself as the benchmark for all the Mine Warfare Community to emulate.

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.
- 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.

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- H. No published documents of significance.
- I. No INSURV UMI 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.