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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6)
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26 JUL 1994

From: Commanding Officer, USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: DEVASTATOR'S COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E - "Command Histories"

Encl: (1) DEVASTATOR'S Command History for the Period 1 January 1993
to 31 December 1993

1. As directed by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Enclosure (1) includes the Command Composition and Organization, Chronology, and Narrative; however, there are no Supporting Documents for submission with 1993's Command History.
3. If there is any other material you desire from DEVASTATOR, let me know and I will see it is forwarded.


M. A. de la GARZA
by Direction

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6) COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

The mission of USS DEVASTATOR is to locate, classify, and neutralize mines. This is accomplished using the AN/SQQ-30 Minehunting Sonar in conjunction with the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System. DEVASTATOR also has influence and mechanical minesweeping capabilities to supplement its mission. This is accomplished using size "O" Oropesa mechanical sweep gear, size "3" Magnetic Cable, and the A Mk 4(V) and A Mk 6(B) Acoustic Devices.

The USS DEVASTATOR reports directly to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group Three (COMCMGRU 3) in Ingleside, TX. The chain of command progresses to Commander, Mine Warfare Command (COMINEWARCOM) located in Corpus Christi, TX and Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) located in Norfolk, VA, ultimately terminating with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

The Commanding Officer of USS DEVASTATOR is LCDR Thomas J. Strei who has been in command since 28 June 1993. The homeport has been Ingleside, TX since 1 November 1992.

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6) 1993 COMMAND HISTORY

01 Jan - 06 Jan IMAV, Inport Ingleside, TX
 -Holiday leave and upkeep
 -Fast cruise

07 Jan - 09 Jan Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -MRCI training
 -COMCMGRU TWO Training Team

10 Jan Inport Ingleside, TX

11 Jan - 14 Jan Underway Corpus Christi, TX
 -MRCI Training
 -COMCMGRU TWO Training Team

15 Jan - 17 Jan Inport Ingleside, TX
 -Predeployment Dependents Brief

18 Jan - 22 Jan Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -MCM REFTRA

23 Jan - 24 Jan Inport Ingleside, TX

25 Jan - 29 Jan Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -MCM REFTRA

30 Jan - 31 Jan Inport Ingleside, TX

01 Feb - 05 Feb Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -MRCI Rehearsal
 -COMCMGRU TWO Training Team

06 Feb - 08 Feb Inport Ingleside, TX
 -MRCI Admin Inspection

09 Feb - 12 Feb Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -MRCI

13 Feb - 15 Feb Inport Ingleside, TX
 -POM

16 Feb - 20 Feb Enroute Key West, FL
 -Depart for MCM EURO 93 Deployment

21 Feb Inport Key West, FL
 -BSF

22 Feb - 23 Feb Enroute Charleston, SC

24 Feb - 28 Feb Inport Charleston, SC
 -Magnetic Offload
 -Firefighting Training

01 Mar - 02 Mar	Underway Charleston Oparea -MCM Training -COMCMGRU TWO Training Team
03 Mar - 04 Mar	Enroute Little Creek, VA
05 Mar - 08 Mar	Inport Little Creek, VA
09 Mar - 11 Mar	Underway VACAPES Oparea -MRCI -Exercise Unified Spirit
12 Mar - 15 Mar	Inport Little Creek, VA -POM
16 Mar - 19 Mar	Enroute Bermuda, UK -Tactical Maneuvers -BECCES
20 Mar - 21 Mar	Inport Bermuda, UK -Refuel
22 Mar - 07 Apr	Enroute Oostende, Belgium -Formation Steaming -BECCES -NATO Publications Exercises
08 Apr - 14 Apr	Inport Oostende, Belgium -Ship Maintenance -Preps for Exercise Blue Harrier -Onload EOD detachment
15 Apr - 16 Apr	Enroute Kiel, Germany -Transit Kiel Canal
17 Apr	Inport Kiel, Germany -BSF
17 Apr - 18 Apr	Enroute/Inport Aarhus, Denmark -Preps for Exercise Blue Harrier
19 Apr - 29 Apr	Underway Baltic Straits -Exercise Blue Harrier -Minehunting -MNS operations -EOD operations -Q-Route Survey
30 Apr - 01 May	Inport Aarhus, Denmark -Refuel
02 May - 04 May	Enroute Brest, France -Transit Kiel Canal -Formation Steaming

05 May	Inport Brest, France -BFS
05 May - 08 May	Enroute Lisbon, Portugal -Communications Exercises
09 May	Inport Lisbon, Portugal -Refuel
10 May - 18 May	Underway Portugese Coast -Exercise Linked Seas -Lead Through Operations
19 May	Inport Lisbon, Portugal -BSF
20 May - 24 May	Enroute Liverpool, England -BECCES
25 May - 26 May	Anchorage, English Coast -Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration -Refuel
27 May - 03 Jun	Inport Liverpool, England -Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration -Ship Tours
04 Jun - 08 Jun	Enroute Lisbon, Portugal -BECCES
09 Jun	Inport Lisbon, Portugal -BFS
09 Jun - 10 Jun	Enroute Cadiz, Spain -Join STANAVFORCHAN -Formation Steaming -Tactical Maneuvers
11 Jun - 13 Jun	Inport Cadiz, Spain -Refuel -Ship Tours
14 Jun - 17 Jun	Enroute Vigo, Spain -Formation Steaming
18 Jun - 20 Jun	Inport Vigo, Spain -Ship Tours
21 Jun - 24 Jun	Enroute La Rochelle, France -BECCES -Tactical Maneuvers
25 Jun - 28 Jun	Inport La Rochelle, France -Change Of Command

29 Jun - 01 Jul	Enroute Rouen, France -Transit Seine River
02 Jul - 04 Jul	Inport Rouen, France -Ship Tours
05 Jul - 09 Jul	Enroute Gibraltar, UK -BECCES
10 Jul - 18 Jul	Inport Gibraltar, UK -IMAV with USS Simon Lake
19 Jul - 22 Jul	Enroute Ponta Delgada, Azores -Formation Steaming
23 Jul	Inport Ponta Delgada, Azores -BFS
24 Jul - 07 Aug	Enroute Key West, FL -Formation Steaming -BECCES -Astern Refueling with USS EDENTON and USS HARLAN COUNTY
08 Aug - 09 Aug	Inport Key West, FL -BFS
10 Aug - 12 Aug	Enroute Ingleside, TX -BECCES
13 Aug - 13 Oct	Inport Ingleside, TX -Post Deployment Standdown -IMAV -LMA Assist
14 Oct - 15 Oct	Underway Corpus Christi Oparea -BECCES -Filming conducted for MCM training films
16 Oct - 18 Oct	Inport Ingleside, TX
19 Oct	Underway Corpus Christi Oparea -Conducted Danning Operation for training films
20 Oct - 26 Oct	Inport Ingleside, TX -LMA Preps -Safety Survey
27 Oct - 28 Oct	Underway Corpus Christi Oparea -BECCES

29 Oct - 07 Nov Inport Ingleside, TX
 -Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI)
 -LMA Preps

08 Nov - 11 Nov Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -BECCES

12 Nov - 15 Nov Inport Corpus Christi, TX (Cargo Dock 2)
 -Ship Tours

16 Nov Enroute Ingleside, TX
 -Corpus Christi Channel Transit

16 Nov - 17 Nov Inport Ingleside, TX

18 Nov - 19 Nov Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -BECCES

20 Nov - 01 Dec Inport Ingleside, TX
 -ERAT
 -LMA Preps

02 Dec Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -BECCES

03 Dec - 07 Dec Inport Ingleside, TX
 -LMA

08 Dec - 09 Dec Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -Laying Exercise mines
 -BECCES

10 Dec - 13 Dec Inport Ingleside, TX

14 Dec Underway Corpus Christi Oparea
 -BECCES

15 Dec - 31 Dec Inport Ingleside, TX
 -Christmas Standdown Period
 -Command Christmas Party

The calendar year of 1993 was an operationally intensive time frame for USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6). The year started quite busily while preparing for a Mine Readiness Certification and Inspection (MRCI) and a six month deployment to the North Atlantic. Once the Holiday Standdown period ended, the ship continued preparations for MRCI by doing various minesweeping and minehunting evolutions in the Corpus Christi OPAREA. This consisted of the MCMGRU TWO Training Team and REFTRA. MRCI commenced the 06 of February and was delayed due to the early departure of DEVASTATOR, SCOUT, SENTRY, and DEFENDER for MCM EURO 93. This was in part due to the rekindling of conflicts in the Persian Gulf arena. However, all four ships left on 16 February and never deviated from the original plans for deploying to the North Atlantic. DEVASTATOR refueled in Key West, FL enroute for Charleston, SC. Upon arrival in Charleston, the ship went through degaussing and was able to prepare for the final evolutions of MRCI. 03 March, DEVASTATOR transited to Little Creek, VA to finish MRCI and participate in Exercise Unified Spirit. MRCI was finally completed while underway in the VACAPES Oparea with a satisfactory grade in all evolutions. The ship also spent 2 days at sea conducting MCM operations during Exercise Unified Spirit with numerous other ships. The ships commenced the trans-Atlantic transit for Europe on 16 March. The deployment was the first of its kind in over 10 years.

Upon departing Little Creek, VA enroute to Oostende, Belgium, the four ships; USS DEVASTATOR, USS DEFENDER, USS SCOUT, and USS SENTRY, experienced heavy seas and bad weather which forced them into a slight very welcomed detour to Bermuda. The ships refueled in Bermuda and enjoyed the tropical island for 2 days. Once the inclement weather passed the ships once again departed for Oostende, Belgium. A rendezvous with the USS INCHON facilitated refueling at sea using astern methods. The transit took a total of 24 days prior to arriving inport Belgium. The port of Oostende was used as a maintenance period to prepare for Exercise Blue Harrier. DEVASTATOR set sail for the waters of the Baltic Sea on 14 April from Oostende via the Kiel Canal and a brief stop for fuel in Kiel, Germany. The ship arrived in Aarhus, Denmark as the final stop prior to commencing Exercise Blue Harrier. The exercise is considered the largest MCM exercise with the most foreign naval forces participating in the world. Blue Harrier began 19 April and lasted 10 days. During the exercise, DEVASTATOR was tasked to minehunt various waters off the coast of Denmark and in the Norwegian Sea. It was the twentieth anniversary of the exercise and many NATO mine-countermeasures vessels participated. The U.S. contingent was the only one to clear their mine fields and Q-routes of every mine. The DEVASTATOR located and rendered safe one moored mine and ensured every assigned area was clear. After the completion of the exercise, all four U.S. ships headed south to Brest, France for refueling and onward to Lisbon, Portugal. On 10 May DEVASTATOR commenced Exercise Linked Seas off the Portuguese Coast. Taskings were once again multi-national in nature with numerous phases of naval warfare exercised. AAW, ASW, ASUW, and MIW were portions of the exercise of which DEVASTATOR was assigned to fulfill. Lead-through exercises with large merchant vessels and diving operations were also conducted onboard DEVASTATOR during Exercise Linked Seas. The entire event lasted eight days.

Once Exercises Blue Harrier and Linked Seas were completed, the DEVASTATOR refueled and made tracks back to the North Atlantic for the Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration held off the coast of Liverpool, UK. This event consisted of over thirty ships from foreign nations to anchor off the coast of Liverpool in celebration of the Battle's 50 year anniversary. A parade of ships for the royal yacht BRITANNIA were formed at anchorage, after which the inport week-long festivities began. USS DEVASTATOR and USS SCOUT were the two MCM's chosen to represent U.S. forces at the commemoration. Both ships held tours onboard for the duration of the visit. Over 5000 people toured the ship's during this period. Liverpool also provided the DEVASTATOR crew with a much needed rest period and some wonderful hospitality.

DEVASTATOR represented it's country with flying colors in Liverpool and then headed back south to Lisbon, Portugal once again. From Lisbon, the ship refueled and made its way to Cadiz, Spain where it joined up with the other U.S. MCM's and the forces of STANAVFORCHAN. This integration of forces was an excellent opportunity for the DEVASTATOR crew to observe the MCM capabilities of other nations. The combined force travelled together in formation to several different ports. After Cadiz, the ships departed for Vigo, Spain and then on to La Rochelle, France. La Rochelle was a special port of call for DEVASTATOR, for which the Change of Command ceremony was held. LCDR Thomas J. Strei relieved CDR John P. Wallace on 28 June. The ceremony included many local dignitaries from the area and the reception was held onboard DEVASTATOR afterward. The following day, DEVASTATOR left La Rochelle enroute Rouen, France. USS DEVASTATOR and USS DEFENDER were the two chosen U.S. MCM's to represent the force in Rouen. After the conclusion of a long, arduous, but very scenic sea and anchor detail up the Seine River the two ships arrived in Rouen on 01 July. The fourth of July was spent in Rouen, after which the ships departed enroute Gibraltar, UK. on 05 July.

Upon arriving in Gibraltar, all U.S. MCM's regrouped for the final port visit prior to crossing the Atlantic. The MCM's moored alongside the USS SIMON LAKE for a maintenance availability. The submarine tender provided unmatched assistance in all aspects of the availability. While inport Gibraltar, the DEVASTATOR crew took full advantage of the sites of the Rock of Gibraltar and Mediterranean Sea. After the eight day maintenance period, the MCM force set sail once again to cross the mighty Atlantic Ocean, this time homeward bound. After a refueling stop in Punta Delagada, Azores, the ships rendezvoused with the USS EDENTON and USS HARLAN COUNTY to conduct astern refueling operations while transiting the Atlantic. The ships arrived stateside in Key West, FL for refueling and then departed for homeport of Ingleside, TX. Upon arriving in Ingleside 13 August, a large jubilant crowd was there to welcome the sailors home.

The ship commenced a post-deployment standdown for one month and then regained it's momentum by completing an IMAV and a Logistics Maintenance Assessment (LMA) Assist Visit in preparation for the upcoming LMA. The Fleet Mine Warfare Training Center based in Charleston, SC chose DEVASTATOR to conduct filming of MCM operations for future training films

during the October timeframe. The filming involved minesweeping, mine neutralization, and darning operations conducted in the Corpus Christi Oparea.

In late October the inspection cycle once again kicked into full effect beginning with the NAVSEA Safety Survey in which DEVASTATOR received high grades in all areas. Three days later on 29 October, an Explosive Safety Inspection was conducted and DEVASTATOR once again received high grades by achieving an overall grade of outstanding. The November time period involved numerous underway days to conduct BECCES in preparation for an upcoming OPPE to be held in March of 1994.

A break in the action came From 12 - 15 November when DEVASTATOR moored at Cargo Dock No. 2 in downtown Corpus Christi during which ship tours were held for over 1500 people including three local elementary schools. The visit to Corpus Christi captured many people's attention and the ship was welcomed by the city in a hospitable manner. The ship was moored directly aft of the Columbus Fleet, which the city of Corpus Christi purchased in early 1993.

DEVASTATOR returned to NAVSTA Ingleside after the pleasant change of scenery and resumed its preparations for LMA and OPPE. The LMA commenced 03 December and lasted only two days due to the magnificent choreography of the crew in expediting the inspection. The end result was an overall grade 97% in the category of "Excellent", which was the highest score obtained by any MCM and the third highest in the Fleet. This continued the trend of excellence set by DEVASTATOR throughout 1993.

The remainder of the year was spent preparing the Engineering plant for the upcoming OPPE by conducting BECCES and evolutions in the Corpus Christi Oparea. The Holiday Season was commenced with the 1st Annual DEVASTATOR all-hands Christmas Party which was held at the elegant Sandy Shores Hotel located in Corpus Christi. The following day the Christmas Standdown period began, ending a year in which DEVASTATOR truly made its mark in the Fleet.