



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6)
FPO AA 34090-1926

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington
Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6) Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

B.T.D.

B. T. DONEGAN

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM 6) COMMAND HISTORY 1996

Command Composition and Organization:

Mission: To conduct minehunting and minesweeping operations against moored and bottom mines of contact, magnetic, acoustic and combination influence varieties.

Immediate Senior In Command: Commander Mine Warfare Command

Name of Commanding Officer: LCDR T.T. Miller
01Jan96-04Oct96
LCDR B.T. Donegan
04Oct96-31Dec96

Permanent Duty Station: Ingleside, TX.

01JAN96-07JAN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Holiday standdown.
08JAN96-31JAN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. IMA availability.
01FEB96-02FEB96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Conducted Fast Cruise.
03FEB96-05FEB96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
06FEB96-06FEB96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Local operations-Navigation Checkride conducted.
07FEB96-07FEB96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
08FEB96-11FEB96 Underway Gulf of Mexico OPAREA. Escorted USS PELICAN (MHC 53) to homeport.
12FEB96-15FEB96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. CNO Special Project, conducted MP-3 DT-IIIC testing.
16FEB96-16FEB96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Conducted COMNAVSAFECEN Safety Survey.
17FEB96-29FEB96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Preparation for upcoming two month deployment. Ammunition onload conducted.
01MAR96-06MAR96 Underway enroute to Key West, FL.
07MAR96-13MAR96 Inport Key West, FL. Remained inport due to heavy weather.
14MAR96-15MAR96 Underway enroute to Charleston, SC.
16MAR96-19MAR96 Inport Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC. Commenced magnetic offload.
20MAR96-20MAR96 Underway Charleston Degaussing Range.
21MAR96-24MAR96 Underway Charleston OPAREA. Commenced search for downed Marine Corps F/A-18.
25MAR96-25MAR96 Inport Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC. Refueled to continue F/A-18 search.
26MAR96-03APR96 Underway Charleston OPAREA. Continued search for downed Marine Corps F/A-18.
04APR96-04APR96 Underway enroute to Savannah, GA.
05APR96-07APR96 Inport Savannah, GA for PVST.
08APR96-16APR96 Underway enroute to Charleston OPAREA. Conducted Exercise MCMV WESTLANT. Proceeded enroute to FT. Lauderdale, FL.

17APR96-18APR96 Inport FT. Lauderdale, FL.
 19APR96-20APR96 Underway FT. Lauderdale OPAREA. Conducted
 MCM signature testing.
 21APR96-21APR96 Underway enroute to Key West, FL.
 22APR96-22APR96 Inport Key West, FL. Brief stop for refueling.
 23APR96-26APR96 Underway enroute to Ingleside, TX. Transitted
 with USS HERON (MHC 52).
 27APR96-30APR96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Crew
 commenced leave standdown.
 01MAY96-05MAY96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Making MRCI
 preparations.
 06MAY96-09MAY96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. LTT conducted.
 10MAY96-12MAY96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 13MAY96-16MAY96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Continued LTT.
 17MAY96-19MAY96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Final
 MRCI preparations.
 20MAY96-20MAY96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Commenced
 MRCI inport phase.
 21MAY96-23MAY96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Continued MRCI.
 24MAY96-02JUN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 03JUN96-03JUN96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Dependent's
 Cruise.
 04JUN96-27JUN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Conducted
 Diesel Engine Inspection.
 28JUN96-31JUN96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Finished PMA
 preparations.
 01JUL96-02SEP96 Inport Peterson Builders Incorporated Shipyard,
 Ingleside, TX. PMA conducted.
 03SEP96-03SEP96 Underway to Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 04SEP96-09SEP96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Final LOA
 preparations.
 10SEP96-12SEP96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. CINCLANTFLT
 PEB LOA conducted.
 13SEP96-15SEP96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 16SEP96-16SEP96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Conducted
 Fast Cruise.
 17SEP96-19SEP96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Local area
 training. Sea Trials conducted.
 20SEP96-01OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. CART II and
 Change of Command preparations.
 02OCT96-02OCT96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. Sea Trials and
 CO turnover.
 03OCT96-03OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 04OCT96-04OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. LCDR B.T.
 Donegan assumes Command of USS DEVASTATOR
 (MCM 6).
 05OCT96-06OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Final CART
 II preparations.
 07OCT96-11OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. CART II
 conducted.
 12OCT96-14OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.

15OCT96-18OCT96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 1-MIW
 conducted.
 19OCT96-28OCT96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 29OCT96-30OCT96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 1-DASMN
 conducted.
 31OCT96-04NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 05NOV96-08NOV96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 1-ETG
 conducted.
 09NOV96-11NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Final LMA
 preparations.
 12NOV96-12NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Ammunition
 onload conducted.
 12NOV96-15NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. LMA
 conducted.
 16NOV96-18NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 19NOV96-21NOV96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 2-ETG
 conducted.
 22NOV96-24NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 25NOV96-25NOV96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. TYCOMMEX
 conducted.
 26NOV96-01DEC96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 02DEC96-02DEC96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 2-ETG.
 03DEC96-04DEC96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
 05DEC96-05DEC96 Underway Corpus Christi OPAREA. TSTA 2-ECERT
 conducted.
 06DEC96-19DEC96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. IMAV
 conducted. Target CSRR conducted.
 20DEC96-31DEC96 Inport Naval Station Ingleside, TX. Holiday
 standdown, IMAV continued.

NARRATIVE

USS DEVASTATOR (MCM 6) began the new year returning from holiday leave and remaining inport, at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, the entire month of January for an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). DEVASTATOR started the month of February with a Fast Cruise on the 1st, while making preparations for underway training to be held on the 6th and 8th. DEVASTATOR conducted a Navigation checkride on the 6th of February. On short notice DEVASTATOR was tasked to proceed into the Gulf of Mexico and locate USS PELICAN (MHC 53) who had sustained a class B fire in her engine room. Once PELICAN was located, DEVASTATOR and PELICAN returned to port on 11 February. DEVASTATOR then conducted a CNO special project in the Corpus Christi OPAREA from the 12th to the 15th, testing a prototype of the Mission Package 3 DT-IIIC. DEVASTATOR returned to port on the 15th and remained pierside the rest of the month. While inport, DEVASTATOR was busy with an a COMNAVSAFECEN Safety Survey on the 16th, ammunition onload on the 20th, a Quality Assurance (QA) audit on the 21st, a magnetic signature control inspection and offload on the 22nd, as well as a Command PRT and Engineering Assist visit on the 27th.

Despite returning from a 6 month deployment to Japan in August 1995, DEVASTATOR got underway on March 1st for a two month deployment to the East Coast. DEVASTATOR was to participate in Exercise MCMV WESTLANT. The first stop was Key West, Florida. DEVASTATOR expected to make a brief two day stopover, but heavy weather kept her inport an extra five days, until the 13th. The weather finally cleared and DEVASTATOR made her way to Charleston, to conduct minesweeping exercises and begin a magnetic offload at the Naval Weapons Station. On the morning of the 20th, DEVASTATOR got underway for the Magnetic Silencing Facility to run the Degaussing Range. After only two short runs, DEVASTATOR was satisfactory and returned to port to embark EOD and commence a magnetic onload. On the 21st of March, DEVASTATOR received immediate tasking to proceed to the Charleston OPAREA to look for a downed Marine Corps F/A-18 aircraft. Over the course of the next two weeks, DEVASTATOR spent countless hours searching for the downed aircraft using minehunting techniques with the SQQ-30 sonar, Mine Neutralization Vehicle, and side-scan sonar with EODMU 6 assist.

On the 5th of April DEVASTATOR made her way south to Savannah, Georgia for a scheduled port visit and remained in port until Easter Sunday, the 7th of April. That morning DEVASTATOR traveled north, back to the Charleston OPAREA. Together with the embarked EOD detachment, DEVASTATOR participated in Exercise MCMV WESTLANT. The exercise lasted until 13 April, encompassing numerous minehunting operations. DEVASTATOR pulled into Morehead City, N.C. to refuel and debark the EOD detachment on 13 April, then proceed south to FT. Lauderdale, Florida to join up with civilian counterparts in MCM signature testing on 19 and 20 April. With only a brief stop for fuel in Key West, Florida, DEVASTATOR departed on her way back home to Ingleside, Texas on 21 April. DEVASTATOR pulled inport Naval Station

Ingleside, Texas on 26 April and received a much awaited welcome from friends and family. With an eye on the busy schedule to follow, the crew was rewarded with a standdown period for the remainder of the month. As May arrived, all focus for DEVASTATOR and crew soon shifted to the upcoming Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI). DEVASTATOR remained inport the first week of May making material preparations, but found herself underway the following two weeks for LTT training. MRCI commenced on 20 May and finished sooner than expected on the 23rd, by demonstrating superior capability in both minehunt and minesweep operations. During the inspection, DEVASTATOR proved herself once again by becoming the first MCM to successfully complete both moored and influence minesweeps in one day. Immediately following MRCI, the crew was rewarded for their hard work with a five day standdown.

DEVASTATOR only saw one underway day in the month of June, with a Dependent's Cruise on the 3rd. The remainder of the month was spent preparing for the upcoming 10 week Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA), while attempting to finish a Diesel Engine Inspection. On the first of July, DEVASTATOR started her PMA at Peterson Builders Incorporated (PBI) shipyard. For the next two months, the PMA proved to be a very hectic time for DEVASTATOR, with an early morning fire drill daily and continual around the clock work by both crew and shipyard workers. DEVASTATOR also saw many assist visits and inspections during the PMA, such as an Engineering Assist informal visit on 8 July; a CCC assessment on 16 July; an IH inspection on 22 July; a SISCAL visit on 23 July; an ADP assist visit on 5 August; a CRAT inspection on 28 August; and a NATO Secret Control Inspection on 30 August. It was a busy time to say the least. The Crew spent a majority of July and August battling the southeast Texas summer heat, working and sleeping in the PBI trailers when habitability could not be maintained onboard due to work on DEVASTATOR's electrical systems.

Despite the many jobs and ship alterations to be accomplished during the availability, DEVASTATOR quickly saw herself reassembled and satisfactorily op-tested in time to move back to Naval Station Ingleside on the 3rd of September. Once pierside, DEVASTATOR had only one week to prepare for her Light-Off Assessment (LOA). On the morning of the 10th, CINCLANTFLT PEB arrived onboard to conduct the LOA. After three long days demonstrating sufficient knowledge and capability in the engineering plant, DEVASTATOR passed the first of many hurdles to come in her difficult notional schedule. In the remaining days of September, DEVASTATOR saw two weeks dedicated solely to Fast Cruise inport training, with three days underway in the local OPAREA conducting at-sea General Quarters and firefighting training. With both CART II and a change of Command approaching, DEVASTATOR put in many work hours preparing for a smooth Commanding Officer turnover that would immediately precede a successful CART II inspection.

On the second of October, DEVASTATOR got underway to conduct Sea Trials and Commanding Officer turnover. Only two days later on 4 October, a change of Command ceremony was held at Naval Station

Ingleside, Bravo Pier, as LCDR B. T. Donegan relieved LCDR T. T. Miller as Commanding Officer. The following Monday, DEVASTATOR began the CART II inspection. After a long, exhausting week and satisfactory inspection, the Crew pressed on and recovered to take on the challenge of both an LMA Assist and the beginning of a three week TSTA I training cycle. Over the next three weeks, DEVASTATOR tested herself with TSTA I MIW and DASMN training. In each instance, DEVASTATOR was complemented by the outside observers on the Crew's enthusiasm and ability to learn and be trained.

With great emphasis being placed on DEVASTATOR's notional training schedule, November seemed to come and go with the transition from TSTA I to TSTA II training, pausing only once for three days underway in the local OPAREA to demonstrate navigation and operational exercises. DEVASTATOR also satisfactorily completed its Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) inspection, achieving an overall score of 93.65%. Other significant events in the month of November were an ammunition onload conducted on the 12th, and TYCOMMEX on the 25th.

December proved a very momentous month for DEVASTATOR. Having just been Engineering Certified on the 5th, DEVASTATOR learned she would be an Exercise BLUE HARRIER deployer, and would deploy to Europe on 21 February 1997. DEVASTATOR immediately began an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV), and started a Target Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) to make essential preparations for the deployment. 1996 came to end as holiday leave commenced on the 20th, giving DEVASTATOR much needed time to spend with friends and family.