



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)  
FPO AA 34090-1933

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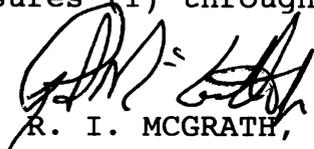
From: Commanding Officer, USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(2) USS DEXTROUS Command Composition and Organization  
(3) USS DEXTROUS Chronology  
(4) USS DEXTROUS Narrative  
(5) USS DEXTROUS Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.

  
R. I. MCGRATH, JR.

## USS DEXTRIOUS (MCM 13) COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

### CREW COMPLIMENT (BERTHING FOR)

- OFFICERS 08
- CPO'S 06
- ENLISTED 70

### DIMENSIONS

- LENGTH 224 FEET
- BEAM 39 FEET
- NAVIGATIONAL DRAFT 12 FEET
- DISPLACEMENT 1250 TONS

### MISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Search, detect, and neutralize moored and bottom mines.
- Sweep moored mines.
- Accompany deploying forces overseas.
- Permit breakout of forces from U. S. ports
- Provide navigational assistance to other fleet surface units.
- Perform collection of oceanographic and navigational data.

### PRIMARY MISSION

The DEXTRIOUS primary mission is to locate and neutralize underwater mines. These mines range from the classic moored mines of World War II to the ultra sophisticated bottom influence mines of today. DEXTRIOUS is able to locate these threats using the AN/SQQ 32 mine hunting sonar built by Raytheon Inc. Once the target has been classified as "mine like" the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) is deployed to identify and destroy bottom mines, or cut the cable of a moored mine. The MNV is a small remotely piloted submarine that is controlled by an operator located in the Ship's Combat Information Center. The ship is also capable of sweeping mines using a variety of acoustic, magnetic, or mechanical sweep configurations. This equipment is towed behind the ship and either destroys mines by simulating the noise and magnetic signatures of ships or mechanically cutting a moored mine's cable.

## USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) CHRONOLOGY

### DECEMBER 1993

- 03 DEXTROUS was officially delivered to the USN. The crew prepared for the cold weather of Sturgeon Bay, WI where DEXTROUS would spend the winter. Dignitaries present consisted of Mr. Peterson (PBI), Commodore Owens (COMCMGRU Three), CAPT Welch (SUPSHIP, Sturgeon Bay, WI). Additionally, numerous family members and friends were present.
- 03 DEXTROUS' first General Quarters drill. No one knew where to go.
- 24 Sturgeon Bay, WI ices over. A thin sheet of ice covered the bay, but it would later freeze 4 feet thick around the ship. The ice was strong enough to support the weight of a 4 door sedan.

### JANUARY 1994

- 01 The NEW YEAR is welcomed aboard with a ship wide snowball fight.
- 06 Assigned Ingleside, Texas as a homeport.
- 15 DEXTROUS first Open House. 48 visitors attend.
- 17 As the wind chill dropped to -60<sup>o</sup> F, ice closes in around DEXTROUS, a 7000 lb weight was used by a crane to break ice around the ship.
- 30 DEXTROUS second Open House. 98 people visit.

### FEBRUARY

- 17 [REDACTED], the son of SM2 and [REDACTED] was christened onboard. The ship's bell was used in the ceremony.
- 02-21 The crew prepares for an Engineering Training Group (ETG) visit.
- 21-25 ETG Visits the ship to conduct training in preparation for Light Off Exam (LOE).

### MARCH

- 10 Ship conducts a fast cruise in preparation for underway operations.
- 18 DEXTROUS passes her first Light-Off Exam with only twelve discrepancies. The crew received a grade of "excellent" for fire fighting and a grade of "good" for the overall inspection.
- 27 DEXTROUS third Open House. 286 people toured the ship.
- 31 DEXTROUS first day underway consisted of a shake down on Lake Michigan. DEXTROUS was limited to 6 miles of travel into the lake due to the proximity of floating ice.

## APRIL

03 Easter Sunday, 392 people toured the ship.  
05-06 Conducted first overnight underway on Lake Michigan.  
15 Commanding Officer (R. I. MCGRATH, Jr.) baptizes his two sons, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] out of the ship's bell.  
26 Departed Sturgeon Bay, WI enroute for new homeport of Ingleside, TX.  
29-30 Ship conducts unscheduled port visit in Port Colborne, Canada to conduct voyage repairs to the bow thruster and the port shaft.

## MAY

04-08 Port visit in Quebec City, Canada. Ship's casualties included a broken rocker arm on 1B SSDG and 1A SSDG needed a complete overhaul. Ship was on single generator ops using No. 2 SSDG.  
08-11 Enroute Halifax, NS.  
11-12 Port visit in Halifax, NS.  
12-19 Enroute Little Creek, VA.  
20-23 Inport Little Creek, VA.  
24-27 Deck, Air and Seamanship (DASM) training conducted in Virginia Capes Operating Area.  
31 Enroute Charleston, SC.

## JUNE

01 Enroute Charleston, SC.  
02 Arrived Charleston, SC.  
03-15 Degaussing conducted at Charleston, SC. Received grade as Best Firefighting Team of the Quarter.  
16-17 Enroute Freeport, Bahamas.  
17-18 Port visit in Freeport, Bahamas.  
20-24 Enroute to Ingleside, TX.  
24 Arrived Homeport. Family and friends arranged a small welcoming ceremony.

## JULY

09 DEXTROUS is Commissioned in Ingleside, TX, in a formal ceremony which included Sailors from the original DEXTROUS (AM 341). The official party consisted of Ms. Jacqueline Schafer (the Ship's Sponsor), Congressman Greg Laughlin (the Principal Speaker), Rear Admiral Pearson (Commander, Mine Warfare Command), Rear Admiral Williams (Program Executive Officer for Mine Warfare), Captain R. L. Owens (Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group, THREE), Mr. Ellsworth Peterson (PBI), LCDR R. I. McGrath, Jr. (Commanding Officer). Additionally, Senator De la Garza attended. The ceremony was followed by a Wisconsin "Fish Boil".

14-16 DEXTROUS is tasked to conduct SAR operations for a  
downed helicopter in the Galveston Bay area. DEXTROUS  
underway with only two hours notice.  
17 Returned to Ingleside, TX.  
18-31 Long hours preparing for Operational Propulsion Plant  
Examination (OPPE).

#### AUGUST

01-31 Preparations for OPPE.  
19 First Plankowner EN2 [REDACTED] detached.

#### SEPTEMBER

01-19 Preparations for OPPE.  
20-22 Conducted OPPE. The crew received an "excellent" in  
fire fighting and an overall grade of "good". The best  
initial OPPE of any MCM to date.  
23-26 Enroute Panama City, FL for Combat Systems Ships  
Qualification Training (CSSQT).  
26 Arrived Panama City, FL.  
27-30 Satisfactory inventory of combat systems and deck gear  
conducted.

#### OCTOBER

01-14 CSSQT groom is conducted with training on Precise  
Integrated Navigation System, MX3500, MK 14 and 12  
cutters, "O" floats, and shiphandling.  
24 STG1(SW) Wilson successfully prosecutes a moored mine  
with the MNS vehicle.  
26 Deployed the MNV 4 times.  
27 MNV located and cut two mineshapes.

#### NOVEMBER

01 MNV located and dropped mission package 2 on bottom  
mineshape.  
02-03 Enroute Pensacola, FL for directed port visit.  
03-06 Port visit in Pensacola, FL. The City of Pensacola  
opens their arms to the crew. The Chamber of Commerce  
held a reception for the crew at Rosy O'Grady's and  
presented Captain McGrath the Key to the City.  
07 Streamed MK-5(a) Straight Tailed Sweep.  
08 Launched 4 Dan buoys and a Master Reference Buoy.  
09 Streamed Double "O"  
10 Streamed Acoustic devices TB-26 and TB-27.  
14 Streamed MK-5(a) straight tailed sweep.  
15 Streamed Mk-6(a) magnetic tail diverted to port.  
16 Moored pierside preparing for Tropical Storm Gordon.  
The storm passed south of Panama City and DEXTROUS felt  
no effects of the storm.  
17 Streamed MK-6(h) Closed loop magnetic sweep.

18 Streamed MK-6(h) Closed loop magnetic sweep with  
Acoustic device TB-26 astern.  
21 Streamed MK-5(a) straight magnetic tail sweep. All  
waveforms were pulsed.  
22 Conducted 9 missions with MNV on a moored mine.  
24 Thanksgiving Dinner held onboard for the crew.  
30 Streamed Double "O" for Phase IV of CSSQT

DECEMBER

01 Streamed MK 5(a) Straight tailed sweep with TB-27  
acoustic device diverted to starboard.  
03 DEXTROUS celebrated first Birthday with steak, lobster,  
and a birthday cake.  
05-09 Final Contract Trials conducted.  
09 Enroute to Homeport (Ingleside, TX).  
10 Encountered 10 FT swells and the majority of the crew  
was sick.  
12 Arrived Ingleside, TX  
14 DEXTROUS held Christmas party at Portland's Northshore  
Country Club.  
15 CNO of the Republic Of Poland visited DEXTROUS.  
25 DEXTROUS celebrates Christmas on board with Turkey and  
Ham feast.  
31 The duty section welcomes the New Year with a spades  
and chess tournament.

## USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) NARRATIVE

USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) is the thirteenth Avenger Class Countermeasures Vessel to join the fleet and is the second ship to bear the name DEXTROUS. In terms of both construction and technological advances, USS DEXTROUS represents the most capable mine countermeasure platform ever constructed in the United States or the world. The ability of USS DEXTROUS to hunt, neutralize and sweep mines in U. S. waters and overseas areas, including all potential sea lane choke points, provides the U. S. Naval forces with a formidable defense platform.

The ex-USS DEXTROUS (AM 341) was the first ship to bear the name. The keel was laid on 08 June 1942, and she saw action in both World War II and the Korean War. The ex-USS DEXTROUS received eight battle stars for World War II and five for Korean War Service. It is ironic that the number of battle stars earned by the first USS DEXTROUS' thirteen, is the same as the hull number of her namesake. Ex-USS DEXTROUS (AM 341) was decommissioned into the fleet reserve on 31 October 1956.