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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, Naval Historical Center,  
Washington (Code N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) FROM  
6 AUGUST 1997 TO 20 JANUARY 1998

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of Events  
(3) Narrative of Events  
(4) Supporting Documentation, Concept of Operations and  
Schedule of Events for Exercise Nautical  
Swimmer 98-1 (U)  
(5) Photograph of LCDR Michael L. Arture, USN, Commanding  
Officer  
(6) Photograph of USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)  
(7) 3.5 Inch Diskette of Command History

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through  
(7) are submitted.

2. (U) This portion of USS DEXTROUS' history, 6 August 1997 to  
20 January 1998, is specific to LCDR Arture's tenure as  
Commanding Officer of MCM Rotational Crew DELTA embarked USS  
DEXTROUS. MCM Rotational Crew DELTA will be relieved by MCM  
Rotational Crew FOXTROT on 20 January 1998.

  
A. BARTHEL III  
By direction

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: 18 Nov 2005

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**Command Composition and Organization of USS Dextrous from 06 August 1997 to 20 January 1998.**

*USS DEXTRIOUS* (MCM 13)

Mission: Mine Countermeasures.

Organizational Structure:

Commanding Officer:	LCDR Michael L. Arture
Executive Officer:	LCDR Arnold Barthel III
Chief Engineer:	LT [REDACTED]
Operations Officer:	LTjg [REDACTED]
Supply Officer:	LTjg [REDACTED], SC
First Lieutenant:	ENS [REDACTED]
Nav/Admin:	ENS [REDACTED]
Damage Control Assist.	ENS [REDACTED]

Command Senior Enlisted Advisor:  
STGCS(SW) Sean E. Graham

Permanent Duty Station: Manama, Bahrain.

## **Chronology of events aboard *USS Dextrous* from 06 August 1997 to 20 January 1998.**

06AUG97. Crew Turnover.  
28AUG97-29AUG97. Depart Manama, Bahrain en route Kuwait City, Kuwait.  
30AUG97-31AUG97. In port, Kuwait City.  
01SEP97-07SEP97. MCM operations in Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG).  
08SEP97-09SEP97. In port, Kuwait City, Kuwait. Reception held on 09SEP97.  
10SEP97-11SEP97. Depart Kuwait City en route Manama, Bahrain.  
12SEP97-13SEP97. In port, Manama, Bahrain.  
14SEP97-14SEP97. Depart Manama, Bahrain, en route Doha, Qatar.  
15SEP97-16SEP97. In port, Doha, Qatar.  
17SEP97-17SEP97. Depart Qatar en route Manama, Bahrain.  
18SEP97-26SEP97. In port, Manama, Bahrain.  
27SEP97-28SEP97. MCM Operations in Central Arabian Gulf (CAG).  
29SEP97. Brief stop for fuel in Manama, Bahrain.  
30SEP97-04OCT97. En route, Karachi, Pakistan.  
31SEP97. Transited the Strait of Hormuz.  
02OCT97. Brief stop for fuel in MUSCAT, Oman.  
05OCT97-07OCT97. In port, Karachi, Pakistan. Reception held on 06OCT97. MCM demonstration.  
08OCT97-11OCT97. Depart Karachi, Pakistan en route Dubai, UAE.  
10OCT97. Transited the Strait of Hormuz.  
12OCT97. In port Dubai, UAE.  
13OCT97-14OCT97. Depart Dubai, UAE en route Manama, Bahrain  
15OCT97-21OCT97. In port, Manama, Bahrain  
16OCT97. USCINCENT visit.  
22OCT97-23OCT97. Depart Manama, Bahrain en route NAG.  
24OCT97-25OCT97. MCM operations in NAG.  
26OCT97. Brief stop for fuel in Kuwait City, Kuwait.  
27OCT97-28OCT97. MCM operations in NAG.  
29OCT97-31OCT97. En route, Dubai, UAE.  
01NOV97-23NOV97. Restricted Availability Dubai, UAE.  
10NOV97. Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI).  
24NOV97-25NOV97. En route, Manama, Bahrain.  
26NOV97-06DEC97. In port, Manama, Bahrain.  
04DEC97-05DEC97. Environmental health/safety inspection.  
07DEC97. Depart Manama, Bahrain en route Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia.  
08DEC97-10DEC97. Exercise "Nautical Swimmer 98-1."  
11DEC97-12DEC97. In port, Manama, Bahrain.  
13DEC97-16DEC97. Exercise "Nautical Swimmer 98-1."  
17DEC97. En route, Manama, Bahrain.  
18DEC97-11JAN98. In port, Manama, Bahrain.  
12JAN98. MCM operations in CAG.  
13JAN98-20JAN98. Crew Turnover.

## Narrative of events aboard USS *Dextrous* from 06 August, 1997 to 20 January 1998.

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On 06 August 1997, MCM Rotational Crew DELTA relieved MCM Rotational Crew ECHO on board *USS Dextrous* (MCM 13) while in port Manama, Bahrain. After a short period of up-keep and training, *Dextrous* departed Manama on 28 August en route to Kuwait City, Kuwait in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) and arrived on 30 August.

Between 01 and 07 September, *Dextrous* performed mine hunting operations in Mine Danger Area (MDA) Number Six. *Dextrous* then returned to Kuwait City on 08 September. On 09 September a reception was held aboard *Dextrous* to give a status brief to several representatives of oil companies with an interest in the clearance operations taking place in MDA 6. Several high ranking officers from the Kuwaiti Navy were also in attendance. *Dextrous* departed the following day, 10 September, en route to Manama where *Dextrous* moored from 12 to 13 September in order to resupply before departing for Doha, Qatar on the 14th. *Dextrous* was in port, Doha from 15 to 16 September and departed on 17 September to return to Manama the morning of 18 September.

From 18 to 26 September, *Dextrous* remained in Manama. From 27 to 28 September, *Dextrous* conducted MCM training in the Central Arabian Gulf (CAG). This training included mine sweeping and mine hunting evolutions as well as several damage control drills. *Dextrous* completed a brief stop for fuel on 29 September and then departed en route to Karachi, Pakistan, transiting the Strait of Hormuz on the 31st and stopping for fuel in Muscat, Oman on 02 October.

Arriving in Karachi on 05 October, the crew of *Dextrous* was allowed limited liberty privileges. It was said that we were the first U.S. ship to be allowed liberty in Karachi in three years. The crew was only allowed to go to The American Club, for which special arrangements regarding transportation and armed escorts had to be made with the embassy well in advance. During the afternoon of 06 October, the wardroom of *Dextrous* made a call on the Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Munsif, a minesweeper, for a small luncheon reception. That evening, a grand reception was held on the fantail of *USS Dextrous*. Ambassadors and high ranking military officers were in attendance. Plaques and vows of renewed friendship between the two countries were exchanged. On the following day, 07 October, several of the officers from the Pakistani mine force rode *Dextrous* for a mine hunting exhibition. *Dextrous* demonstrated some of the capabilities of the SQQ-32 sonar and SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System.

*Dextrous* departed Karachi on October 8th, transited the Strait of Hormuz on the 10th, and arrived in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on the 11th where she stayed through 13 October while taking on supplies. From 14 to 15 October, *Dextrous* was en route back to Manama. On 16 October, General Zinni, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, and Vice Admiral Fargo, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, visited and toured the ship.

*Dextrous* then returned to the NAG from 22 to 28 October to complete more clearance operations in MDA 6, stopping briefly in Kuwait City for fuel on 26 October. On 29 October *Dextrous* departed the NAG en route to Dubai, UAE, where she arrived on the 31st. *Dextrous* underwent a restricted maintenance availability from 01 to 23 November, during which time many maintenance related issues were corrected. Also during this time, a Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI) was conducted. Although not scheduled to complete the availability until the end of the month, the crew of *Dextrous* and Golten's Shipyard were able to complete the work ahead of schedule and under budget, and *Dextrous* was able to depart Dubai on the 24th and return to Manama in time for Thanksgiving on 26 November.

On 07 December, *Dextrous* departed Manama en route to Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia in support of Exercise "Nautical Swimmer 98-1" which took place from 08 to 16 December. "Nautical Swimmer" was a multi-national exercise involving *USS Dextrous*, *USS Ardent* (MCM 12), Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) Six Det Six, and four mine hunters of the Royal Saudi fleet (see *Concept of Operations and Schedule of Events in supporting documentation*).

*Dextrous* returned to port in Manama on 18 December 1997 where she remained through the holidays, performing up-keep and training and preparing for turnover. An awards ceremony was held on 07 January to honor crew members for their service while forward deployed. Vice Admiral Fargo presented the awards. On 12 January 1998 *Dextrous* got underway and streamed her magnetic minesweeping cable for tests and maintenance and returned late the same evening.

On 20 January 1998 MCM Rotational Crew FOXTROT relieved MCM Rotational Crew DELTA, while in port, Manama, Bahrain.

## **Command History Supporting Documents**

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