



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
MCMROTCREW ALFA  
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From: Commanding Officer, MCM Rotational Crew ALFA  
To: Chief of Naval Personnel (Code N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Encl: (1) USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) 1998 Employment Schedule  
and Narrative History for 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

1. As required by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as supporting documentation for the USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) Command History for calendar year 1998.

  
B. J. SHANAHAN

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

# USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

## JANUARY

- 20 MCMROTCREW FOXTROT relieved MCMROTCREW DELTA in USS DEXTROUS.
- 21-24 In port Mina Sulman, Bahrain for maintenance and upkeep.
- 25-27 PUBEX with BANS AL FADHEL.
- 28 In port Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.
- 29-30 Underway in SHAREM OPAREA for training.
- 31 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.
- 2 Underway en route to Mine Danger Area SIX (MDA-6).
- 3-6 Mine hunting in MDA-6.
- 7-8 Aircraft Search OPS NAG.
- 9 Brief stop for fuel at Kuwait City, Kuwait.
- 10 Underway en route aircraft search area in Northern Arabian Gulf.
- 11-16 Aircraft Search OPS NAG.
- 17-18 En route to Doha, Qatar.
- 19-20 Port visit in Doha, Qatar.
- 21-22 Underway en route to Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 23-28 In port Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for upkeep and maintenance.

## MARCH

- 1 Underway SHAREM OPAREA for training.
- 2 Enroute to MDA-6.
- 3-5 Mine hunting in MDA-6.
- 6 Brief stop for fuel at Kuwait City, Kuwait.
- 7-10 Mine hunting in MDA-6.
- 11-13 Enroute to Sharja, U.A.E.
- 14 Enroute Dubai, U.A.E.
- 15-17 Port visit in Dubai, U.A.E.
- 18-19 Underway en route to Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 20 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 21-24 Underway for Arabian Gulf Combined MCMEX 98.
- 25-31 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

## APRIL

- 1-4 In port Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.
- 5-7 Enroute Muscat, Oman. Transited Strait of Hormuz.
- 8-12 In port Muscat, Oman.
- 13-16 Enroute to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. Transited Strait of Hormuz.
- 18-27 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.
- 28-30 Enroute to Jebel Ali, U.A.E. for TAV with USS SIMON LAKE.

## **MAY**

- 1-6 Inport Jebel Ali, U.A.E. – TAV with USS SIMON LAKE
- 7-8 Enroute to Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
- 9 Inport Jubail, Saudi Arabia.
- 10-11 Underway in support of Exercise Nautical Swimmer 98-2.
- 12 Enroute to Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 13 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 14-15 Underway in support of F/A-18 aircraft search operations.
- 16 Enroute Mina Sulman, Bahrain.
- 17-31 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

## **JUNE**

- 1-24 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for maintenance and upkeep.
- 25-30 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain, for turnover with Crew GOLF.

## **JULY**

- 01 MCMROTCREW GOLF relieved MCMROTCREW FOXTROT in USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13).
- 02-08 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 09-11 Underway-Unit training Central Arabian Gulf
- 12-27 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain – Upkeep and Maintenance
- 28-31 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain – Target/AIT Visit

## **AUGUST**

- 01-11 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain – Target/AIT Visit
- 12-23 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain – Upkeep and Maintenance
- 24 Underway – Unit training Central Arabian Gulf
- 25 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 26-27 Enroute Jebel Ali, UAE
- 28 Inport Jebel Ali, UAE – Hull cleaning
- 29-31 Enroute Mina Sulman, Bahrain

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 01-02 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 03-08 MIREM 3 Exercise – Central Arabian Gulf
- 09 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 10 Mine recovery – Central Arabian Gulf
- 11-16 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 17-18 Unit training – Central Arabian Gulf
- 19 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain – INSURV Begins
- 20-21 Underway for INSURV – UMI
- 22-24 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain
- 25-27 Unit training – Central Arabian Gulf
- 28-30 Inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain

## **OCTOBER**

01-02 Enroute Jubail, Saudi Arabia  
03-04 Inport Jubail, Saudi Arabia – Red Reef 99 exercise begins  
05-12 Underway in support of Red Reef 99  
13 Inport Jubail, Saudi Arabia  
14-16 Enroute Wudam, Oman – Straits of Hormuz transit  
17-18 Inport Wudam, Oman  
19 Underway in support of Safe Handling 3-98  
20-23 Inport Wudam, Oman  
24-25 Underway in support of Khunjar Hadd 99  
26 Anchored Wudam, Oman  
27 Underway in support of Khunjar Hadd 99  
28-31 Underway enroute Abu Dhabi, UAE – Straits of Hormuz transit

## **NOVEMBER**

01-02 Inport Abu Dhabi, UAE  
03-04 Q-Route Survey, Central Arabian Gulf  
05 Enroute Bahrain  
07-10 Logistics Management Assessment – Bahrain  
11-13 Upkeep Manama, Bahrain  
14-19 Q-Route Survey, North Arabian Gulf  
20-21 Inport Baharain  
22-25 Q-Route Survey, Central Arabian Gulf  
26-30 Tender Availability, Manama, Bahrain

## **DECEMBER**

01-04 Tender Availability, Manama, Bahrain  
05-08 Unit Training, Central Arabian Gulf  
09 Inport Bahrain  
10-15 Crew Turnover  
16 MCMROTCREW ALFA relieved MCMROTCREW GOLF in USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)  
16 Inport Bahrain  
18 Underway enroute Northern Arabian Gulf  
19-24 MCMOPS in Northern Arabian Gulf (OPERATION DESERT FOX)  
25-27 Unit Training, Central Arabian Gulf  
28-31 Inport Bahrain

## COMMAND HISTORY 1998

### NARRATIVE

On 20 January 1998, LCDR David D. Bruhn and MCMROTCREW FOXTROT relieved LCDR M. L. Arture and MCMROTCREW DELTA on board USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13). Turnover took place inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain and was attended by COMCMRON THREE FWD CAPT Carlson. Upon completion of turnover MCMROTCREW DELTA departed Bahrain and returned home to Corpus Christi.

During the first initial week of FOXTROT being embarked in DEXTROUS the crew and ship were visited by CINCPACFLT and FIFTH FLEET. The admirals held an all hands call and discussed the importance of the ship's role in the Arabian Gulf.

The ship went to sea for the first time with FOXTROT embarked on 29 January for a two-day independent training period. During that time the ship ran a Main Space Fire walkthrough, practiced running Q-routes and flew the MNS Vehicle. Upon completion of the training operations the DEXTROUS returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain to continue preparations for MDA ops starting 02 February.

On the second of February the ship departed Mina Sulman Bahrain for Mine Danger Area Six to commence clearance operations. On the 7th of February, DEXTROUS was tasked to proceed to the Northern Arabian Gulf to assist the USNS John McDonnell in salvage operations. Both ships were task to locate wreckage from two F/A-18 jets that collided the night before. After several days of searching with the SQQ-32 sonar DEXTROUS was released from tasking to make a brief stop for fuel in Kuwait City and return to the salvage site. On return to the salvage site DEXTROUS continued to assist the USNS John McDonnell and the USNS Catawba in search and salvage. On 16 February the DEXTROUS was released from tasking by CTF 53.8 to transit to Doha, Qatar for three-day liberty port. Upon arrival in Doha, Qatar the ship raised the AN/SQQ-32 maintenance and conducted an inspection. It was discovered the inspection that four stove modules were damaged by debris in the water during minehunting and salvage operations. It was determined that the DEXTROUS would transit back to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for sonar repair after the liberty port of Doha. During the remaining time in Doha, the crew was treated to different families adopting sailors for the day and taking them out and entertaining them for the day. All crewmembers that took part affirmed that it was a extremely enjoyable time and wished that this type of liberty could be arranged in more Arabian Gulf liberty ports.

On the 21st of February the DEXTROUS got underway from Doha, Qatar and commence the over night transit back to Bahrain. Upon arrival in Bahrain the ship conducted an inport replenishment with the USNS GUADELUPE (TAO-200), took on fuel, purchased the new orbit satellite entertainment system for morale of the crew and repaired the AN/SQQ-32 by replacing the damaged staves with replacements received from Coastal Systems Command. Once repairs were completed the ship got underway for MCM training operations in the central Arabian Gulf from the 1st for March to the 2nd of March. During which time the ship streamed the mag-tail for deck training and PMS on the tail and constant meggering device. Other training accomplished during the 2 day period and the transit to MDA-6 were man overboard (small boat recovery), topside damage, underwater/hull damage, CBR drill, snoopy team training, and Engineering Casualty Control drills.

On the 4th of March the ship entered MDA-6 to conduct mine clearance operations. After two days of operations the ship departed tasking for a brief stop for fuel in Kuwait City, Kuwait. During the brief stop in Kuwait the ship received fuel, water, FFV, and laundry services. On the afternoon of the 7th the DEXTROUS got underway from Kuwait and transited back to MDA-6 and returned to mine clearance operations. FOXTROT continued mine clearance operations in MDA-6 until the 11th of March when it was released off task to transit to Sharja, UAE. On the 13th of March DEXTROUS arrived in Sharja for a one-day stop marking the first US Navy ship to visit this port in three years. On the 14th of March, DEXTROUS got underway from Sharja to make the short trip to Dubai. DEXTROUS conducted a port visit in Dubai from 14-18 March. While inport Dubai, the crew got to experience the sights of Dubai. It also enabled the crew to conduct repairs on the A/C unit and have many relief valves tested. On the 18th of March DEXTROUS got underway to make its return trip to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. On the 20th of March, DEXTROUS arrived in port Mina Sulman, Bahrain. Crew FOXTROT conducted a successful LMA assist from 20-21 March. On the 21st of March, DEXTROUS welcomed EOD Mobile Unit 6 Detachment 12 on board for the AG MCMEX 98. On the afternoon of the 21st, DEXTROUS got underway to commence the exercise and reported on station and on task at 2400 that evening. DEXTROUS found two mines and EOD identified both. EOD conducted two underwater detonations. FINEX was at 2030 on the night of the 24th of March and DEXTROUS began her transit back to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. On the 25th of March, DEXTROUS arrived in port Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

On the 25th of March, DEXTROUS started an eleven-day port visit at Mina Sulman, Bahrain. While inport Bahrain, DEXTROUS conducted an INREP with USNS KILEUA, conducted major repairs to NR. 2 SSDG, took on fuel, conducted coxswain training and enjoyed some much-earned liberty. On 05 April 1998, DEXTROUS got underway to transit to Muscat, Oman. At 0550, 06 April 1998, DEXTROUS entered to the western separation scheme to transit the Straits of Hormuz. At 1800, 06 April 1998, the ship exited the Straits of Hormuz. On 07 April 1998, the ship conducted a M MK-6(h) with TB-27 astern minesweep. The ship arrived Mina Caboos, Berth 8 at 0900, 08 April 1998 for a four-day port visit in Muscat, Oman. While inport Muscat, the ship took on fuel, FFV and received supplies. The crew enjoyed the many sights and the hospitality of the Omani's. Crewmembers were able to spend time at the beach, swimming and snorkeling at the Omani Dive Center, take a tour of the hot springs and Fort Nukhl, and spend the day at the Sultan's School with Omani Children.

On 13 April 1998 the USS DEXTROUS got underway from Mina Caboos, Berth 8 for the return transit to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. Upon mooring at berth 4, Mina Sulman, Bahrain the ship commenced a 12-day upkeep period. During the period the ship completed a Diesel Engine Inspection, repairs to 1B MPDE, #2 MPAC and conduct an IAT on the SQQ-32. After completion of 12 day upkeep at Mina Sulman, Bahrain, the ship was underway enroute to Jebel Ali, U.A.E. for a Tender Availability (TAV) with the USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33). The ship conducted a Navigation check ride with Fifth fleet inspection personnel during sea and anchor detail. The ship and Navigation department did outstanding. During the transit the crew conducted Mine Countermeasures training which included putting out a double "O" sweep, main space fire drill, a flying squad drill, and engineering casualty control drills.

On, 30 April 1998, the DEXTROUS, arrived at berth 69, Jebel Ali Port to start a six-day TAV with the SIMON LAKE. During the following six days the ship conducted multiple repairs along with the assistance of personnel from the SIMON LAKE. Repairs included, #2 Air

conditioning plant, #2 MPAC, multiple lagging jobs, boat davit, j-davit and crane weight testing, multiple cabinet, table top and shelving jobs, and various other painstaking jobs that you the past few years the two MCM's predeployed in the Arabian Gulf and a extremely difficult time completing. DEXTROUS was able to get valuable medical and dental appoints for its personnel, the ships store received a load out including hard to find items in the Gulf, the crew made use of the barber shop, disbursing, postal office and ships store on the tender. Overall, the six days in Jebel Ali, were time well spent both for the USS DEXTROUS and her crew.

Upon completion of the TAV, DEXTROUS set sails for Jubail, Saudi Arabia and the NAUTICAL SWIMMER EXERCISE. During the transit the ship conducted a DASMN Drill, prepared for the upcoming exercise and ran a familiarization fire for non-gun qualified personnel. On, 09 May 1998, the ship entered the Commercial port of Jubail, Saudi Arab, berth 2 for Nautical Swimmer Pre-sail Conference and luncheon onboard USS BRISCOE. Participated in Nautical Swimmer Exercise 10-12 May, including conducting breakout procedures, Q-routing, Minehunting, Mine Neutralization (EOD), and various other exercise such as flashing light. Upon completion of Nautical Swimmer, the ship anchored of the Royal Saudi Naval Base, Jubail for hot wash up. Once the Captain made his return for the hot wash up the ship set sail for Bahrain to could a one day INREP prior to getting underway for F/A-18 Salvage operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG). From the 16th to the 17th of May the USS DEXTROUS conducted F/A-18 Salvage Operations in the NAG. Due to the failure of 2 Ships Service Diesel Generator, the Reverse Osmosis and 1A Ships Service Diesel Generator being out of alignment, the DEXTROUS was forced to return to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for repairs. After arriving back in Bahrain, 2SSDG was condemned by the Diesel Inspector and a new engine was procured.

The remainder of May and the month of June were spent changing out 2 SSDG and 1A SSDG while inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain. The first contingent of MCMROTCREW GOLF arrived in Bahrain on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and crew turnover began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June.

On 01 July 1998, LCDR John B. Bowie and MCMROTCREW GOLF relieved LCDR David D. Bruhn and MCMROTCREW FOXTROT on board USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13).

Crew GOLF spent the first week onboard DEXTROUS settling in and completing the 2 SSDG repairs started by Crew FOXTROT. Crew GOLF was underway in DEXTROUS for the first time on 09 July for engineering shakedown, crew training and operational orientation. Repairs were still in progress on 1A SSDG and following return to port on 11 July problems were discovered with 1B SSDG. Diesel Inspectors subsequently condemned both 1A and 1B SSDG's and deemed both engines in need of replacing. DEXTROUS spent the remainder of the month replacing, installing and aligning the new generators while simultaneously preparing the ship for the Target/AIT assessment.

Target/AIT commenced on 28 July and continued through 11 August. With the assistance of various technical representatives, all major systems were inspected and the assessment team expedited the needed parts. The assessment was critical in maintaining the forward presence and readiness of DEXTROUS. Throughout the assessment, work continued on both generators. SIMA Ingleside and the DEXTROUS worked together to ensure the installations and alignments were done correctly and efficiently.

Following completion of the generator installations DEXTROUS was underway for unit training on 24 August and returned to port for engine inspections on 25 August. Successful

engine inspections sent DEXTROUS on her way to Jebel Ali, UAE for a much needed hull cleaning. DEXTROUS was underway for Jebel Ali on 26 August and arrived late in the afternoon on 27 August. Hull cleaning commenced at first light on the 28<sup>th</sup> and was completed in time for DEXTROUS to be underway by late afternoon on 28 August, enroute Bahrain to make preparations for the upcoming MIREM 3 exercise.

DEXTROUS arrived in Mina Sulman, Bahrain 01 September and immediately embarked members of Naval Surface Warfare Development Group, Little Creek, Virginia for the exercise. MIREM 3 commenced 03 September and was conducted in tandem with USS ARDENT. DEXTROUS spent six days using various developmental tactics and conducting MCM vulnerability tests. The exercise was a great success and provided information for developing mine countermeasure tactics for the Arabian Gulf.

DEXTROUS returned to Bahrain for a quick stop on 9 September to disembark the NSWDCG personnel. 09 September was spent in the MIREM oparea recovering mines that had been laid for the exercise. DEXTROUS returned to Bahrain on 11 September to commence inport preparations for the upcoming INSURV/UMI inspection.

DEXTROUS took advantage of the inport period, using the time to position mine sweep gear and ready the ship for various demonstrations, which were to be conducted during the INSURV/UMI. DEXTROUS used an underway period from 17 – 18 September to conduct rehearsal for the Underway Material Inspection portion of the INSURV. The time was used wisely as DEXTROUS worked out conflicts between demonstrations and completed a satisfactory full power run prior to returning to Bahrain.

INSURV commence on the morning of 19 September. The majority of the inport demonstrations and inspections were completed on the 19<sup>th</sup>. DEXTROUS got underway on the morning of 20 September and conducted the underway UMI portion of INSURV. Unfortunately DEXTROUS was unable to complete a successful full power run do to an oil leak on 2B MPDE 15 minutes prior to completion of the run. Sonar operated unsatisfactorily, as expected, due to the outstanding CASREP for various detect and classify cards, connectors and switches. DEXTROUS disembarked the INSURV Board personnel via small boat at Sitrah Anchorage, Bahrain and then proceeded out to international waters to await diplomatic clearance for entry to Bahrain. DEXTROUS returned to Bahrain on 21 September and completed the details of INSURV/UMI by 23 September.

The crew took advantage of the liberty on 24 September following a rigorous inspection. DEXTROUS was underway again from 25 – 27 September conducting mine recovery in preparation for the upcoming Exercise Red Reef 99 which was to be conducted with the Royal Saudi Navy in the waters surrounding Jubail, Saudi Arabia.

DEXTROUS spent 28 – 30 September making final preparations for extended operations in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, which would include three multi-national exercises and span a period of 37 days. During this period DEXTROUS also embarked EOD Mobile Unit Six Detachment Two. DEXTROUS was underway on 01 October enroute Jubail, Saudi Arabia, arriving 03 October for pre-exercise conferences.

The underway portion of Exercise Red Reef 99 commenced on 05 Oct and saw DEXTROUS conducting a leadthrough exercise with USS VALLEY FORGE, USS DULUTH, and USS JARRETT. The remainder of the exercise was spent conducting mine clearance operations in a geo-translated amphibious landing area outside King Abdul Aziz Naval Base,



Jubail. DEXTROUS had the opportunity to conduct HF communications, tactical maneuvering and leapfrog exercises with USS ARDENT and Royal Saudi Navy MCM forces.

DEXTROUS returned to Jubail for the hot wash-up and luncheon on 13 October. Immediately following the completion of the luncheon, DEXTROUS was underway for a Straits of Hormuz transit and two exercises in Wudam, Oman.

DEXTROUS entered the Straits of Hormuz on 15 October and completed the transit without incident. DEXTROUS arrived in Wudam, Oman on 17 October and commenced Exercise Safe Handling 3-98. DEXTROUS was able to spend the majority of the exercise inport acting as a support unit for the embarked EOD Detachment. The 19<sup>th</sup> of October was spent underway conducting a transfer of a Transportable Re-Compression System (TRCS from USNS CATAWBA. The transfer was conducted underway and involved expert shiphandling by both crews. DEXTROUS made the approach and was tied alongside CATAWBA for approximately ninety minutes. The transfer was conducted safely, professionally and without incident.

DEXTROUS returned to Wudam following the transfer of the TRCS and enjoyed three days inport. The crew utilized the Omani Naval Base facilities and were offered transportation to Muscat to take advantage of the ample shopping opportunities offered in the city.

DEXTROUS began Exercise Khunjar Hadd 99 by conducting 3 separate leadthrough exercises with the FS SOMME, FS LaFAYETTE and USS FLETCHER. DEXTROUS spent 25 September competing in various sporting competitions with crews from the British, French, Omani and U.S. navies. Following the competitions, DEXTROUS conducted a night leadthrough involving the original three plus the HMS CUMBERLAND and RFAS BRAMBLELEAF. The 27<sup>th</sup> of October afforded DEXTROUS the opportunity to participate in Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) exercises. DEXTROUS acted as the high value unit and guide while the Surface Action Group engaged simulated attacks by Omani Jaguar aircraft.

Following completion of the AAW exercises, DEXTROUS and RFAS BRAMBLELEAF departed and conducted an astern refueling exercise. The exercise was a great success and provided many personnel with the knowledge needed when conducting the rarely used astern refueling. Following the astern refueling, DEXTROUS and BRAMBLELEAF rejoined the exercise and conducted the exercise photoex. DEXTROUS then returned to the Wudam anchorage and awaited the exercise debrief which would be held on the FS SOMME. Immediately following the debrief, DEXTROUS was underway enroute the Straits of Hormuz and Abu Dhabi, UAE.

DEXTROUS transited the Straits of Hormuz on 30 October and entered Abu Dhabi, UAE to conduct a port visit and demonstrate the capabilities of the mine hunting system onboard for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations of the UAE. DEXTROUS hosted several UAE Naval officers on the first of November and provided a comprehensive demonstration of the entire Combat Systems suite. Following the demonstration, DEXTROUS entered port for a short port visit prior to returning to Bahrain.

DEXTROUS was underway on 03 November and conducted Q-Route surveys through the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Upon completion of the Q-Route, DEXTROUS began transiting towards Bahrain and entered Mina Sulman port facility on the morning of 06 November. During the transit the final preparations for the upcoming Logistics Management Assessment (LMA), to be held 07 – 10 Nov, were completed.

Upon arrival in Bahrain DEXTROUS immediately began LMA and successfully completed the assessment on 10 Nov. DEXTROUS also had the opportunity to host RADM

Conley, Commander, Mine Warfare Command on 09 Nov. The visit gave the crew the opportunity to get a good idea of the direction mine warfare was headed. The remainder of the inport period was spent conducting repairs to sonar and refueling in preparation for Q-route surveys to be conducted in the North Arabian Gulf.

DEXTROUS arrived in the North Arabian Gulf on 15 Nov and immediately began approximately 96 hours of surveys. U.S. Naval presence was abundant due to the recent confrontation with Iraq. DEXTROUS completed surveying and commenced a transit back to Bahrain to conduct a brief stop for fuel.

DEXTROUS was underway again on 22 November to conduct Q-route surveys in the Central Arabian Gulf. Q-route surveys were conducted during daylight hours and DEXTROUS gave the crew a chance to rest nightly by anchoring.

With the surveys complete DEXTROUS returned to port on 25 November in time to celebrate Thanksgiving in Manama, Bahrain. Many of the crew took advantage of the hospitality of the local sailors and embassy by spending Thanksgiving off the ship. This was a great opportunity for many and everyone enjoyed himself. VADM Moore, Commander, United States Fifth Fleet and Mrs. Moore spent Thanksgiving onboard and enjoyed a great meal that was cooked by volunteers from throughout Crew GOLF.

Following the holiday weekend it was back to work for many. The time was spent conducting maintenance on the sonar system and completing a piston repair on SSDG 1A. Initial preparations for the arrival of Crew ALFA were started and Crew GOLF took the opportunity to look ahead to the upcoming training cycle and conducted Damage Control Training Team training and drills.

Crew GOLF was underway for the last time in DEXTROUS on 05 December. The next four days were spent conducting engineering drills and main space fire drills and was well spent in getting Crew GOLF ready for their upcoming training cycle.

Rotational Crew turnover with Crew ALFA commenced on 10 December and was completed 16 December 1998.

On 16 December 1998, LCDR Brain J. Shanahan and MCMROTCREW ALFA relieved LCDR J. B. Bowie and MCMROTCREW GOLF on board USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13). Crew ALFA spent the majority of 17 December 1998 moving onboard, setting up personal items and getting organized onboard DEXTROUS. 18 December 1998 brought immediate tasking to proceed north in support of OPERATION DESERT FOX. Following initial planning and mine warfare briefs between the crew of DEXTROUS and USS ARDENT (MCM-12), DEXTROUS got underway and steamed north. The next few days involved active mine hunting operations in Mine Danger Area TEN. Operational requirements invigorated the crew and involved many long days of non stop mine warfare activities.

With tasking completed on 23 December 1998, DEXTROUS headed south to conduct unit training in mine hunting in the MIREM OPAREA. The transit was highlighted by a refueling at sea with USNS TIPPECANOE (TAO-119) ON 24 December, 1998. Christmas Day was spent at anchor, with turkey dinner and a day off for everyone.

On 26 December 1998, mine hunting proficiency training resumed, until 27 December 1998, when DEXTROUS returned to Mina Sulman pier for resupply of parts and stores. DEXTROUS remained in port through 31 December 1998 gearing up for the challenging events to come with the new year.