



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, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Commanding Officer biography/photo
(3) Ship photo
(4) Diskette

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted as USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) Command History for calendar year 1999.


DONALD D. HODGE

Copy to:
COMCMRON THREE

**USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)
CALENDAR YEAR 1999 COMMAND HISTORY**

1. Command Composition and Organization:

- a. Short Title: USS DEXTROUS
- b. Unit Identification Code: 21901
- c. Mission: Mine Warfare Operations
- d. Organizational Structure:

(1) Immediate Senior in Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE, Captain C. G. Belcher.

(2) Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Commander Donald D. Hodge.

(3) Permanent Duty Station: Manama Bahrain.

2. Chronology:

JANUARY

01 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
02 - 06 UNDERWAY IN MIREM OPAREA (MINE COUNTERMEASURES
 TRAINING)
06 - 31 INPORT BAHRAIN (MAIN MACHINERY GAS TURBINE GENERATOR
 ROTOR CHANGE OUT)

FEBRUARY

01 DEADSTICK XSIT TO BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND ENGINEERING
 COMPANY SHIPYARD
 DEFUELING
02 UNDERWAY ENTER DRYCOCK, BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND
 ENGINEERING COMPANY SHIPYARD
03 - 28 DSRA, BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND ENGINEERING COMPANY
 DRYDOCK

MARCH

01 - 31 DSRA, BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND ENGINEERING COMPANY
 DRYDOCK

APRIL

01 - 02 DSRA, BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND ENGINEERING COMPANY
DRYDOCK
03 CLEAR OF DRYDOCK, MOOR BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND
ENGINEERING COMPANY SHIPYARD
04 - 20 MOORED, BAHRAIN SHIP REPAIR AND ENGINEERING COMPANY
SHIPYARD
21 DEADSTICK TO MINA SULMAN
22 - 30 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

MAY

01 - 02 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
03 SHIFT BERTH FROM 8 TO 7
4 REFUELING
05 - 18 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
19 UNDERWAY SEA TRIALS, RETURN BAHRAIN
20 - 29 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
30 UNDERWAY FOR TURNOVER
31 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

JUNE

02 MCMROTCREW DELTA RELIEVED MCMROTCREW ALFA
03 - 04 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
05 ENROUTE AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
06 INPORT AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
07 - 10 EXERCISE NAUTICAL SWIMMER 99
07 MINE CLEARANCE OPS
08 SMALL BOAT ATTACK
09 MMF BATTLE PROBLEM
11 - 18 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
13 - 18 SPECIAL OPERATIONS
19 ENROUTE MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
20 - 25 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
26 - 29 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
27 DOUBLE "O" MINESWEEP
28 MK-5A MAGNETIC MINESWEEP
29 ASTERN REFUELING
30 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

JULY

01 - 07 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

08 - 13 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF AND NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF
 14 - 16 INPORT KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT
 17 - 19 UNDERWAY IN NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF
 20 - 21 INPORT AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
 22 - 23 UNDERWAY IN NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF AND CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
 24 - 26 INPORT DOHA, QATAR
 27 - 31 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
 27 - 30 BOTTOM MAPPING CARRIER OPERATING AREA 2

AUGUST

01 - 23 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
 04 - 20 TRAV / TARGET / AIT
 24 - 27 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
 24 - 27 BOTTOM MAPPING CARRIER OPERATING AREA 1
 28 - 31 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

SEPTEMBER

01 - 10 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
 11 - 15 UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF AND SOUTHERN ARABIAN GULF
 11 - 13 SPECIAL OPERATIONS
 14 ALONGSIDE MOOR UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH SPICA
 20 - 27 UNDERWAY IN SOUTHERN ARABIAN GULF AND CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
 21 - 26 SPECIAL OPERATIONS
 23 ALONGSIDE REFUELING WITH RFA ORANGELEAF
 28 - 30 INPORT BAHRAIN

OCTOBER

01 ENROUTE AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
 02 - 13 EXERCISE RED REEF 10
 02 - 04 INPORT AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
 05 - 07 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS
 08 UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS YUKON
 09 - 11 MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS
 12 - 13 INPORT AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
 14 - 15 MP2 DESTRUCT OPERATIONS
 16 - 22 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
 23 - 27 ENROUTE MUSCAT, OMAN
 23 UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS YUKON
 24 MAGNETIC SWEEP

26 VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR AND BOAT VECTORING OPERATIONS
28 - 31 INPORT MUSCAT, OMAN

NOVEMBER

01 - 03 ENROUTE MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
04 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
05 ENROUTE AL JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA
06 - 10 EXERCISE NAUTICAL SENTRY
11 - 18 UPKEEP BAHRAIN
17 MCMROTCREW FOXTROT RELIEVED
MCMROTCREW DELTA
17 - 29 UPKEEP BAHRAIN/VOYAGE RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
29 - 31 MIREM 11/FLEET BATTLE EXPERIMENT FOXTROT

DECEMBER

01 - 07 FLEET BATTLE EXPERIMENT FOXTROT
08 BSF MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
09 - 11 S-3 VIKING RECOVERY OPERATIONS
12 - 14 EXERCISE TORPEDO SEARCH AND DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS
15 ENROUTE MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN
16 - 31 INPORT MINA SULMAN, BAHRAIN

3. Narrative:

The USS DEXTROUS (manned by MCMROTCREW ALFA) entered the New Year inport Bahrain, preparing for an upcoming shipyard availability. On 2 January, DEXTROUS got underway for a final mine warfare training period prior to entering the shipyard. During the underway period multiple General Quarters and Engineering Casualty Control drills were performed, as well as minehunting operations and a small arms familiarization firing. Upon return to port on 6 January, maintenance began immediately on the minesweeping gas turbine generator and the ship began offloading equipment and supplies in preparation for the upcoming move to the Bahrain Ship Repair and Engineering Company (BASREC) shipyard. On 27 January, 1999 change out of Gas Turbine rotors was completed and all preparations for commencing the dry-docking period were completed on schedule. DEXTROUS made the transit across the harbor from Mina Sulman Pier to the pier at BASREC on 1 February, dead sticking with the assistance of tugs from BASREC. Once moored at BASREC shipyards, defueling was completed in preparation for entering the dry-dock.

The dry-dock evolution began in the early morning of 2 February, and DEXTROUS was resting on blocks in the dock by mid-afternoon. Work began on the ship immediately. Since ship services were discontinued due to the complex dry-docking, the crew was moved to flats out in the city of Manama. An office trailer compound was erected and served to support administrative work and crew training during the dry-dock availability. This compound became the center of planning, training, and administration during the shipyard period.

During the availability the Integrated Ship Control System (ISCS), Integrated Control Assessment System (ICAS) and the Pilothouse instrumented sheaves for mechanical sweep wire tension installations were completed. The RD-379 Data Recorder was removed from combat to make room for ISCS module number two. ISCS and ICAS were completed in March 1999.

On 3 April, DEXTROUS' availability ended and the undocking began in the early morning hours. By 0645, DEXTROUS was clear of the dry-dock and moored at the BASREC shipyard. Throughout most of the month of April, DEXTROUS remained moored at BASREC while finishing up the availability. Most of the time not spent finishing the availability was dedicated to Fast Cruises and General Quarters drills in preparation for getting underway again. On 21 April DEXTROUS dead-sticked over to Mina Sulman, Bahrain with the assistance of BASREC tugs and moored at berth 8. The remainder of the month of April was spent training inport. On 28 April, Commander, Naval Surface Fleet Atlantic and Commander, Mine Warfare Command visited.

On the third of May, DEXTROUS got underway for a brief period of time to shift to berth 7 with the assistance of port tugs. On 4 May, the ship began refueling in preparation for sea trials. DEXTROUS finally got underway on 19 May, proceeding out to sea for a day of sea trials after which she returned to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. On 27 May, Commander, Fifth Fleet, Commander, Mine Countermeasure Squadron THREE FORWARD and Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew (MCMROTCREW) DELTA visited the ship. On 30 May, DEXTROUS proceeded underway again for turnover purposes with MCMROTCREW DELTA.

MCMROTCREW DELTA relieved MCMROTCREW ALFA on 2 June. From 3-4 June, DEXTROUS remained inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain. Getting underway on 5 June, DEXTROUS proceeded to Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, entering port on 6 June to prepare for Exercise NAUTICAL SWIMMER 99 (NS 99). NS 99 commenced on 7 June and lasted until 10 June and was conducted in cooperation with Saudi Arabian minesweeping assets. Commencing on 7 June, the first

day was spent performing mine clearance operations. On 8 June training continued with a small boat attack scenario. The exercise was completed after performing a MMF battle problem from 9-10 June.

Upon completion of NS 99, DEXTROUS remained underway in the Central Arabian Gulf (CAG) from 11-18 June. 13-18 June was spent performing special search operations. Upon completion of search operations, DEXTROUS proceeded toward Mina Sulman, Bahrain, arriving on 20 June. From 20-25 June DEXTROUS remained inport.

On 26 June, DEXTROUS proceeded underway for minesweeping training. 27 June was spent conducting a Double Oropesa Mechanical Minesweep while 28 June was spent performing a MK-5A magnetic influence minesweep. On 29 June DEXTROUS refueled prior to entering port. Upon entering port, DEXTROUS remained inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain from 30 June until 7 July.

From 8-13 July, DEXTROUS proceeded underway to conduct training in the CAG and Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) while enroute to a port visit in Kuwait City. DEXTROUS entered Kuwait City on 14 July and stayed until 16 July. Once again underway in the NAG on 17 July, DEXTROUS performed underway training until 19 July when she pulled into Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Spending 20-21 July inport Al Jubail, DEXTROUS proceeded underway on 22 July, transiting the NAG and CAG enroute to Doha, Qatar. Entering port on 24 July, DEXTROUS stayed inport Doha, Qatar until 26 July.

Proceeding underway on 27 July, DEXTROUS spent 27-30 July performing bottom mapping in Carrier Operating Area-2 prior to proceeding to Bahrain on 30 July. On 31 July, DEXTROUS arrived inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain. During the inport period from 1 August until 23 August, DEXTROUS performed a TRAV, TARGET inspection and an AIT from 4 to 20 August. Upon completion, DEXTROUS proceeded underway on 24 August to perform bottom mapping of CVOA-1 until 27 August when the ship returned to port. 28 August until 10 September was spent inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

On 11 September, DEXTROUS proceeded under way to perform operations in the CAG and Southern Arabian Gulf (SAG). From 11 to 13 September, DEXTROUS performed special search operations. Concluding search operations, DEXTROUS proceeded to an alongside mooring/replenishment operation with the USNS Spica on 14 September prior to returning to port Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

Underway once again on 20 September, DEXTROUS returned to search operations from 21 September until 26 September prior to refueling again, this time alongside the RFA Orangeleaf on 23

September. On 27 September DEXTROUS began proceeding into port Mina Sulman, Bahrain, to arrive on 28 September.

DEXTROUS remained inport Bahrain from 28 September until 30 September. Getting underway on 1 October, DEXTROUS proceeded enroute Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Arriving on 2 September, DEXTROUS immediately began Exercise Red Reef 10 (RR 10), a joint exercise in conjunction with Saudi Arabian mine warfare forces. RR 10 lasted from 2 October until 13 October. 2-4 October was spent inport Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. During that time DEXTROUS participated in inport MCM training, communication checks, ship visits and an MCM tactical planning conference. Upon proceeding underway on 5 October, DEXTROUS was involved in a SMCM harbor breakout exercise enroute to the exercise rendezvous point. Throughout 6-7 October, DEXTROUS participated in SMCM clearance operations in the Ras Al Mishab. On 8 October DEXTROUS refueled with USNS YUKON prior to continuing mine clearance operations from 9-11 October. Upon the conclusion of the underway portion of RR 10, DEXTROUS proceeded back into port Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia for a hot wash-up from 12 - 13 October.

Underway from Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia on 14 October, DEXTROUS performed destruction operations from 14-15 October prior to entering port Mina Sulman, Bahrain on 16 October. DEXTROUS remained inport Bahrain from 16 October to 22 October, getting underway on 23 October to proceed enroute Muscat, Oman.

On 23 October, the first day of the transit, DEXTROUS refueled with USNS YUKON. 24 October was spent performing magnetic influence minesweeping exercises for proficiency purposes. Additional training enroute to Muscat included performing Variable Depth Sonar and Boat Vectoring operations on 26 October. DEXTROUS completed its transit on 28 October and spent 28-31 October inport Muscat, Oman.

On 1 November, DEXTROUS got underway to return to Mina Sulman, Bahrain. The transit from Muscat to Bahrain lasted from 1-3 November. DEXTROUS entered port Mina Sulman, Bahrain on 4 November for one day prior to proceeding underway on 5 November to Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. From 6 to 10 November, DEXTROUS participated in joint exercise Nautical Sentry. Upon the conclusion of Nautical Sentry, DEXTROUS proceeded inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain. DEXTROUS performed upkeep and a limited availability from 11-29 November inport Bahrain. During this time, MCMROTCREW FOXTROT relieved MCMROTCREW DELTA, with the turnover occurring on 17 November. Repairs conducted during the RAV included replacement of the Integrated Acoustic Tracker (IAT) for the Precise Integrated Navigation System (PINS) and the replacement of the Integrated Acoustic Tracker for the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) Emergency Recovery

Group (ERG). The Ribbon Cable for the PINS plotter carriage assembly was also replaced and the ship wide Local Area Network (LAN) installation was completed.

Upon completion of the upkeep/availability period, DEXTROUS proceeded underway on 29 November to participate in MIREM 11 and Fleet Battle Experiment Foxtrot (FBE-F). The first three days of the exercise were dedicated to performing fixed data collection events which included; multiple minehunting exercises in moored, mixed and VEMS minefields, a double Oropesa mechanical minesweep of a moored field and multiple Mine Neutralization Vehicle operations against moored and bottom targets. Upon the completion of the MIREM 11 portion of the exercise, DEXTROUS rolled into the free-form FBE-F scenario and became a mine neutralization asset assisting in the clearance of the simulated Strait of Hormuz.

When FBE-F concluded on 7 December, DEXTROUS received emergent tasking, requiring a brief stop for fuel in Mina Sulman, Bahrain on 8 December prior to proceeding to the SAG. From 9-11 December, DEXTROUS assisted in the performance of S-3 Viking search and recovery operations. After locating and marking the wreckage of the S-3, DEXTROUS awaited the arrival of hired salvage assets to arrive on scene.

Once the salvage team was in place to affect the salvage of the downed S-3, DEXTROUS proceeded to the CAG to search for a sunken exercise torpedo (EXTORP) lost during a prior exercise. From 12-14 December DEXTROUS searched for the EXTORP, finding it with the assistance of USS SCRANTON. Upon finally locating and visually identifying the EXTORP with the ship's mine neutralization vehicle, the EXTORP was destroyed using an MP-2 shot. Upon successful completion of the EXTORP destruction, DEXTROUS proceeded inport Mina Sulman, Bahrain on 15 December and remained inport until 4 January 2000.