



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000

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Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Change of Command Pamphlet, dtd 20 Sep 00
(5) "Minesweepers Welcome New COs," press article dtd
27 Sep 00
(6) DEXTROUS Command History for 2000 (3.5" diskette)

1. Submitted in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Aguilera".

R. W. AGUILERA
By Direction

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION 2000

COMMAND SHORT TITLE

USS DEXTROUS

UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE

21901

IMMEDIATE SENIOR COMMANDER

COMMANDER, MINE COUNTERMEASURES DIVISION 31

COMMANDER BRIAN J. SHANAHAN, USN

COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MICHAEL A. HEGARTY, USN

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000 (CHRONOLOGY)

JANUARY

01 - 04 IPT BAHRAIN
05 - 06 TRNG MIREM OPAREA
06 - 11 COMBINED MCM OPERATIONS
06 DECEPTIVE LIGHTING/CHALLENGE AND REPLY W/ ARD
07 FORMATION MECH MINESWEEP (I-FORM)/PHOTO-EX/LEAP
FROGS/SEMAPHONE/FLASHING LIGHT/PUBEX/NIGHT STEAM
08 COMBINED GUN SHOOT/DIVTACS/FLAG HOIST DRILL
09 TOW & BE TOWED/NEST AT ANCHORAGE
10 RAS W/RFA ORANGLEAF/COMM DRILLS/PUBEX/NIGHT STEAM
11 LEAP FROGS/FINEX
12 - 14 ENR MUSCAT, OMAN
15 - 18 IPT MUSCAT, OMAN
19 - 21 ENR SALALAH, OMAN
22 - 23 IPT SALALAH, OMAN
25 - 31 ENR BAHRAIN
31 ASTERN RAS W/USNS YUKON

FEBRUARY

01 - 03 ENR BAHRAIN
04 - 09 IPT BAHRAIN
10 - 11 Q-RTE SAG
12 - 14 IPT ABU DHABI, UAE
15 - 19 Q-RTE SAG ENR DUBAI, UAE
20 - 25 IPT DUBAI, UAE
26 - 28 CVOA-1 SURVEY OPS
29 IPT DOHA, QATAR

MARCH

01 IPT DOHA, QATAR
02 U/W ENR BAHRAIN
03 - 16 IPT BAHRAIN
16 - 17 U/W ENR KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT
18 - 19 IPT KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT
19 - 20 ENR BAHRAIN
21 - 24 IPT BAHRAIN
25 - 28 U/W MIW TRNG AND Q-RTE SURVEY (CAG)
29 - 03 IPT BAHRAIN
29 MAGNETIC OFFLOAD
30 - 31 ARABIAN GAUNTLET 00 PRE-SAIL BRIEFS

APRIL

01 - 03 ARABIAN GAUNTLET 00 PRE-SAIL BRIEFS
04 - 11 U/W ISO ARABIAN GAUNTLET 00
04-06 MINE HUNTING/NEUTRALIZATION OPS
07 BSF BAHRAIN
08-10 MINE HUNTING/NEUTRALIZATION OPS
10 RTP BAHRAIN
11 AG 2000 HOT WASH UP
12 - 29 VRV, BAHRAIN
27 - 30 TURNOVER

MAY

01 TURNOVER/CREW GOLF ASSUMES DUTIES
02 FAST CRUISE
03-06 MCM OPS, CAG
07-09 IPT BAHRAIN
10-12 U/W NAG ISO EMERGENT TASKING FOR TOWING EVOLUTION
13-21 IPT BAHRAIN
22-23 MCM TRNG ENR DUBAI, UAE
24-26 PVST DUBAI, UAE
27-28 MCM TRNG ENR BAHRAIN
29-31 IPT BAHRAIN

JUNE

01-10 IPT BAHRAIN
11-16 TARGET/AIT/CSRR ASSESSMENTS
13-16 SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ASSIST
17-27 U/W ISO EMERGENT TASKING FOR MIO OPERATIONS
28-30 IPT BAHRAIN

JULY

01-10 IPT BAHRAIN
11-12 INCLINE EXPERIMENT
13-31 IPT BAHRAIN

AUGUST

01-03 U/W ISO EMERGENT TASKING FOR HM-14 SONAR RECOVERY
04-05 IPT BAHRAIN
06 U/W TRNG CAG
07-08 IPT BAHRAIN
09-12 U/W TRNG CAG
13-15 IPT BAHRAIN
16-31 VRV BAHRAIN

SEPTEMBER

01-09 VRAV BAHRAIN
10-13 U/W MIW TRNG CAG
14-17 IPT BAHRAIN
18 U/W CAG DEMO FOR PCO
17-23 VRAV BAHRAIN
20 CHANGE OF COMMAND
24-26 U/W CAG MIW TRNG
27 U/W ENR NAG
28 LEAPFROGS W/CARDINAL
29 U/W NAG, RAS W/USNS WALTER S. DIEHL, SAR
30 SAR OPS, NAG

OCTOBER

01-03 SAR OPS, NAG
04 U/W NAG, RAS W/USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
05 U/W NAG ENR BAHRAIN
06-12 IPT BAHRAIN
12 U/W FIFTHFLT SORTIE
13-17 U/W CAG
18 RAS W/ USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
19-25 U/W CAG
25 RAS W/USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
26-27 U/W CAG, PACFIRE
28-31 U/W CAG

NOVEMBER

01-02 U/W CAG
03 SMALL BOAT STORES TRANSFER W/ USS CAMDEN
04 U/W CAG
05-06 U/W NAG
07 RAS W/ USS CAMDEN
07-10 U/W NAG, MIO
11 U/W NAG/CAG ENR BAHRAIN
12-13 IPT BAHRAIN
14-15 U/W CAG ISO OPERATION ARABIAN SHARK
15-30 IPT BAHRAIN

DECEMBER

01-09 IPT BAHRAIN
10 U/W CAG
11 RAS W/ USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
12 RTP BAHRAIN
13-31 IPT BAHRAIN

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY 2000 (NARRATIVE)

The USS DEXTROUS began the New Year in port at Mina Sulman, Bahrain, and would remain in port until 5 January. DEXTROUS then proceeded underway and conducted mine hunting and mine neutralization training in the MIREM OPAREA 5 to 6 January. Upon completing training, DEXTROUS rendezvoused with the USS ARDENT on the evening of 6 January. From late that evening until 11 January, DEXTROUS and ARDENT performed coordinated mine countermeasure operations in the Central Arabian Gulf (CAG). Each and every one of these days was an ambitious schedule of combined operations that heavily stressed each crew. Multiple publication exercises, radio communication drills, semaphore drills, flag hoist drills, DIVTACS and leapfrogs were conducted. Several days of heavy seas resulted in the cancellation of a rescue and assistance exercise as well as a coordinated exercise of defending against a small boat attack. Other exercises successfully conducted during this underway included a PACFIRE, towing exercise for both ships, and a coordinated I-Formation mechanical sweeping exercise.

After refueling with the RFA ORANGELEAF on 13 January, the DEXTROUS and ARDENT went their separate ways. DEXTROUS rendezvoused with the USS JOHN PAUL JONES and then proceeded through the Straits of Hormuz that same day. Both DEXTROUS and JOHN PAUL JONES arrived in Muscat, Oman, on the morning of 15 January. This port visit lasted until the afternoon of 18 January. DEXTROUS then got underway and proceeded south to the Indian Ocean. After four days of transit, DEXTROUS pulled into Salalah, Oman, on the morning of 22 January for a three-day port visit. DEXTROUS was underway once again on the afternoon of 24 January for a 10 day transit back to Bahrain.

DEXTROUS arrived in Bahrain on the afternoon of 3 February and stayed in port until the morning of 10 February. Back underway, DEXTROUS performed Q-Route surveys en route to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. DEXTROUS arrived in port on the morning of 12 February and remained until the morning of 15 February. While in port, DEXTROUS personnel aided a community-relations project by painting several rooms for a local school.

While underway on the afternoon of 15 February, DEXTROUS received emergent tasking to perform additional Q-Route surveys en route to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. DEXTROUS completed as much of the Q-Route tasking as possible before entering port in Dubai on the morning of 20 February. The scheduled departure from Dubai on 24 February was delayed until the morning of 26 February due to necessary repairs to the no. 1 Ship's Service Diesel Generator. Other casualties were also corrected during this impromptu "mini-RAV" with the assistance of FTSC/LANT DET NAPLES tech reps.

DEXTROUS headed to CVOA-1 to conduct survey operations from 26 February to 28 February. On the morning of 29 February, DEXTROUS entered port at Doha, Qatar. DEXTROUS stayed in port until 2 March, when she proceeded underway and headed back to Bahrain and arrived at Mina Sulman on the morning of the 3 March. Casualties to both air conditioning units kept DEXTROUS in port until 16 March, when troubleshooting and overhauls could be completed.

The Saint Patrick's Day celebration was held en route to Kuwait City, Kuwait. DEXTROUS arrived on the morning of 18 March for a 30 hour "show the flag" port visit. DEXTROUS proceeded underway on the afternoon of 19 March to return to Bahrain, arriving on the morning of 21 March. DEXTROUS remained in port until 25 March when she returned underway for mine warfare training and Q-Route surveys in the CAG. Upon completion of the surveys, DEXTROUS returned to Bahrain on morning of 29 March.

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY 2000 (NARRATIVE)

The days of 29 March through 03 April were spent preparing for ARABIAN GAUNTLET 2000. Each day in port prior to getting underway was filled with many briefs. These briefs consisted of exercise overviews, scheduling of events, capabilities and limitations of Belgian, British, Dutch, and American forces, designation of task units, etc. Only a few briefs seemed to have any information that would aid in the actual conduct of the operation.

Two days prior to beginning the at-sea portion of the exercise, DEXTROUS was assigned a new task unit. Royal Saudi Naval Force assets were included as a last minute addition to the operation. DEXTROUS, RSNF SAFWA, and RSNF WEEHA became TASK UNIT SOUTH. (Two other task units were also formed with other multinational assets: TASK UNIT WEST and TASK UNIT EAST.) TASK UNIT SOUTH began hunting and sweeping a fifteen-mile Q-Route from 4 April to 6 April. TASK UNIT SOUTH was forced back into Bahrain overnight on 7 April because the Saudi forces lacked the capability to refuel at sea. TASK UNIT SOUTH returned to the operational area and completed the Q-Route on the morning of 10 April. DEXTROUS returned to port.

While at Mina Sulman, MCMROTCREW FOXTROT (commanded by Lieutenant Commander Daniel D. Hodge) was replaced by MCMROTCREW GOLF (commanded by Commander Gary R. Parriott) on 1 May. The DEXTROUS and her new crew headed to sea 3 May to conduct mine countermeasure operations in the CAG until 6 May. After only a few days back in port, the DEXTROUS received emergent tasking to head to the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG) in support of FIFTHFLT Maritime Interception Operations.

While in the NAG, DEXTROUS assisted the motor vessel *Dilma*, which had become stranded dangerously near Iranian territorial waters. After manufacturing a bridle on board the DEXTROUS and manning the *Dilma* with additional necessary personnel, the DEXTROUS towed the *Dilma* to safer waters from 10 May to 12 May.

DEXTROUS returned home to Bahrain 13 May and would remain in port through 21 May. DEXTROUS got underway en route to the United Arab Emirates on 22 May for a port visit in Dubai from 24 to 26 May. The visit was uneventful. DEXTROUS got back underway and engaged in mine countermeasure training until returning to Bahrain on 28 May.

The crew began to prepare for several assessments once pierside. DEXTROUS saw both TARGET / AIT from 11 June to 16 June while also being involved in a Supply Management Assist from 13 June to 16 June. While involved with AIT, DEXTROUS received emergent tasking from COMFIFTHFLEET to support Maritime Interception Operations in the Arabian Gulf. DEXTROUS now had only four days to complete SEMAT and SMA, while simultaneously selecting, training, and outfitting a complete twelve man boarding team. On 17 June, DEXTROUS headed for 11 days of Maritime Interception Operations in the CAG and SAG. DEXTROUS relieved the USS FIFE on station and became the first mine countermeasures ship actively engaged in Maritime Interception Operations, acting as guard ship for five motor vessels awaiting divert orders to the United Arab Emirates. While on station, the DEXTROUS also coordinated the embarkation of the Senior Medical Officer from the USS EISENHOWER to a guarded motor vessel with a bedridden master. DEXTROUS would return to Mina Sulman, Bahrain, on 28 June.

The month of July was entirely spent in port. An incline experiment was conducted for the ship over 11 June to 12 June. Other than that, this was the most uneventful month in the Arabian Gulf. But it was also the middle of one of the hottest summers any crewmember had ever experienced.

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY 2000 (NARRATIVE)

DEXTROUS was underway once again on 1 August searching for an AQS-14 sonar lost at sea. DEXTROUS processed the sonar and successfully located it. The Mine Neutralization Vehicle (SLQ-48) was launched to make a recovery but was unsuccessful. The DEXTROUS headed home and was in port from 4 August to 5 August.

DEXTROUS headed out of Bahrain on 6 August en route to Abu Dhabi. A casualty to both A/C units that same night made life onboard unbearable, forcing a return to Bahrain to make necessary repairs. The casualties were corrected adequately over 7 August to 8 August to facilitate returning to sea and continuing with preparations for Initial Assessment.

From 9 to 10 August DEXTROUS spent the weekend returning to the Arabian Gulf in search of the sonar earlier prosecuted. General Quarters was set in the late evening, in response to a loss of lube oil pressure in 1A SSDG. On the morning of 12 August, during a Main Space Fire Drill, the ship suffered two personnel casualties due to heat stress. Both individuals were treated for heat exhaustion and remained onboard. The ship returned to port late that evening.

DEXTROUS sat pierside in Restricted Availability until 9 September, fixing minor problems and making improvements. During this period, ATG made the scheduled Initial Assessment from 3 September to 5 September. The DEXTROUS passed with flying colors and continued to prepare for her next underway.

DEXTROUS returned to the Central Arabian Gulf 10 September, once again in search of the lost sonar. Coordinated operations were conducted with the ARDENT in the attempt to relocate the sonar. Though unsuccessful, these operations proved to be an excellent training tool as the skills and techniques required for the mission are identical to those required for actual mine hunting operations.

DEXTROUS returned home on Wednesday, 13 September, to make final preparations before the upcoming change-of-command ceremony. While in port, POW/MIA Recognition Day was observed on 15 September. The turnover between the commanding officers lasted approximately one week and included a one-day underway on 18 September. The official change-of-command ceremony was held 20 September, at Mina Sulman Pier, at 0800. As colors were sounded the DEXTROUS shifted to dress ship to honor both the departing commanding officer, Commander Gary R. Parriott, USN, and also the arriving commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Mike A. Hegarty, USN.

Within the next twenty-four hours, DEXTROUS received new tasking. With tensions on the rise again in Iraq, the flag needed to be shown. DEXTROUS left Mina Sulman on 24 September and transited to the CAG for mine countermeasure training after completing an SMI bumped up in order to meet these operational concerns. On 26 September, the ship ran a single "O" sweep, port side. On 27 September the DEXTROUS, along with the recently arrived USS CARDINAL, headed towards the NAG. DEXTROUS conducted astern refueling with the USNS WALTER S. DIEHL on 28 September.

Later that same afternoon, DEXTROUS headed south to assist the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN and her battle group, which required the assistance of the DEXTROUS and her sonar in searching for a downed aircraft. Both of the ship's RHIBs were deployed to search the surface into the night while the crew conducted sonar operations in search of wreckage. Operations continued through the 30 September alongside USS SHILOH and CARDINAL. On 30 September DEXTROUS assumed the duties and responsibilities of SAR Commander in the continuing search for remains of the aircraft and her two crewmembers.

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY 2000 (NARRATIVE)

Search and salvage operations continued into the following month. On 2 October, DEXTROUS located possible wreckage on the sea floor. The crew flew the vehicle on the object and recorded the flight on video, which was later forwarded to FIFTHFLT for review. All search operations were concluded on 3 October.

DEXTROUS and CARDINAL met with the WALTER S. DIEHL on 4 October for astern refueling operations. After topping off, both ships headed south to Bahrain. DEXTROUS pulled in on 5 October, and would remain there until 12 October.

The 12 October attack on the USS COLE in Yemen spurred a FIFTHFLT sortie of all ships. DEXTROUS was underway on short order and headed to the CAG accompanied by ARDENT, CARDINAL, and the USS RAVEN, as well as the USNS INVINCIBLE. Late on 13 October the USS OLDENDORF assumed duties as guard ship for the MIW ships. All MIW ships refueled with WALTER S. DIEHL on 18 October while in the CAG. After the RAS all MIW ships continued sailing in the CAG, with the USS BUNKER HILL assuming duties as guard ship. Small boat operations with the BUNKER HILL were conducted on 31 October in order to get two experienced technicians to take a look at radar problems with the SPS-55. Their trip was successful, and so was the costumed celebration of Halloween later that evening.

DEXTROUS continued to sail with the other MIW ships as the new month began. A medical emergency on 02 November resulted in the dispatch of a helicopter from the USS CAMDEN. The helicopter hovered overhead above the fantail in order to make the pick-up. The aircrewman was lowered down to the fantail, where he strapped the DEXTROUS crewman who had experienced irregular heartbeat and safely brought him onboard the helicopter.

The next day a major stores onload with the CAMDEN was conducted. They would send stores via small boat and the receiving MIW ships used stern cranes to bring the stores onboard. On 4 November COMCMDIV31 embarked to observe how the MIW ships were holding up during such an extended underway. Later that evening the MIW ships and USNS ships in company were placed in a Screen Kilo formation and headed towards the NAG, with the BUNKER HILL as the guide. All ships arrived the next morning in a newly established OPAREA. COMCMDIV31 departed that afternoon.

Astern refueling with the CAMDEN took up the morning of 7 November. Afterwards, DEXTROUS took station off a suspect merchant vessel and sent a boarding team onboard to conduct a health and comfort inspection and maintain a visible security presence. These operations continued through 10 November. DEXTROUS recovered her two teams, Gladiator One and Gladiator Two, for a transit back south with the suspect vessels. Late that evening BUNKER HILL assumed duties as the guide and all ships returned south in a Screen Kilo. DEXTROUS arrived in the CAG on 11 November, shortly after receiving information that the appropriate force protection measures had been set at Mina Sulman to allow a return. The Special Sea and Anchor Detail was set early on 12 November and the DEXTROUS returned to port at long last.

On the afternoon of 13 November DEXTROUS was underway again, along with CARDINAL. Both ships met up with USS FLETCHER early that evening. This underway was in support of OPERATION ARABIAN SHARK, a multinational surface vessel torpedo shoot scheduled for 14 November. DEXTROUS and CARDINAL were both tasked with the recovery of the practice torpedoes. Meanwhile, the DEXTROUS hosted two Bahraini Defense Force EOD personnel who observed the recovery. The exercise complete, DEXTROUS returned to port early on the morning 15 November.

USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13) COMMAND HISTORY 2000 (NARRATIVE)

DEXTROUS remained in port Mina Sulman for several weeks, complete with two uneventful berth shifts on 22 November and 30 November. DEXTROUS was underway again on 10 December to avoid refueling in port. Astern refueling was conducted with WALTER S. DIEHL on the afternoon of 11 November. DEXTROUS would return to port on the morning of 12 December and remain there through the next year.