



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GLADIATOR (MCM-11)
FPO AA 34091-1931

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
5750
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21 Feb 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11)

To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Copy of Command History for Calendar Year 2000.

(2) Disk Copy of Command History for Calendar Year 2000.

(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. As per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

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COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Command Title: USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11)
2. UIC: 21454
3. Mission: USS GLADIATOR is the eleventh of fourteen Avenger-Class mine countermeasures (MCM) ships. The mission of GLADIATOR is to clear both bottom and moored mines down to a depth of two-thousand feet. GLADIATOR participates in coordinated operations with amphibious and other forces, as well as independent mine warfare operations.
4. ISIC: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three
5. Unit Commander: LCDR Dominic DeScisciolo, USN
6. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Station Ingleside (Texas)
7. 2000 Sailor of the Year: EM1(SW) [REDACTED]
8. 2000 Junior Sailor of the Year: DC3 [REDACTED]

CHRONOLOGY

01 JAN-31 JAN 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX FOR HOLIDAY LEAVE AND
UPKEEP

13 JAN 00 CHANGE OF COMMAND

01 FEB-04 FEB 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TSTA I DASMN

05 FEB-12 FEB 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX

13 FEB-18 FEB 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR MINE RECOVERY

19 FEB-21 FEB 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX

22 FEB-23 FEB 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TSTA1 DASMN

24 FEB-27 FEB 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX

28 FEB-02 MAR 00 UNDERWAY FOR MOBILE, AL

03 MAR-08 MAR 00 INPORT MOBILE, AL FOR PORT VISIT

09 MAR-13 MAR 00 UNDERWAY FOR INGLESIDE, TX

14 MAR-26 MAR 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

27 MAR-31 MAR 00 UNDERWAY FOR TAMPA, FL

01 APR-02 APR 00 INPORT TAMPA, FL FOR PORT VISIT

03 APR UNDERWAY FOR PANAMA CITY, FL

04 APR INPORT PANAMA CITY, FL

05 APR-06 APR 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR MCM TRAINING

07 APR-09 APR 00 INPORT PANAMA CITY, FL

10 APR-13 APR 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR ENGINEERING
TRAINING WHILE BOUND FOR INGLESIDE, TX

14 APR-23 APR 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING CBR-D
TRAINING

24 APR-05 MAY 00 TSTA I ETG

25 APR-27 APR 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TSTA I

28 APR-03 MAY 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING TSTA I

04 MAY 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TSTA I

05 MAY 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING TSTA I

06 MAY-08 MAY 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

09 MAY 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TRAINING

10 MAY-17 MAY 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

18 MAY 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR ENGINEERING
QUALIFICATION

19 MAY-04 JUN 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

05 JUN-23 JUN 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING FMAV

24 JUN-25 JUN 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

26 JUN-30 JUN 00 UNDERWAY FOR KEY WEST, FL

01 JUL 00 INPORT KEY WEST, FL FOR REFUELING

02 JUL 00 UNDERWAY FOR MIAMI, FL

03 JUL-06 JUL 00 INPORT MIAMI, FL FOR PORT VISIT

07 JUL-08 JUL 00 UNDERWAY FOR KEY WEST, FL

09 JUL-12 JUL 00 INPORT KEY WEST, FL FOR PORT VISIT

13 JUL-17 JUL 00 UNDERWAY FOR PENSACOLA, FL

18 JUL-19 JUL 00 INPORT PENSACOLA, FL FOR PORT VISIT

20 JUL-21 JUL 00 UNDERWAY FOR NEW ORLEANS, LA

22 JUL-26 JUL 00 INPORT NEW ORLEANS FOR PORT VISIT

27 JUL-30 JUL 00 UNDERWAY FOR INGLESIDE, TX

31 JUL 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX

01 AUG-02 AUG 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING TSTA I
DASMN/CRA

03 AUG 00 UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR DEPENDANT CRUISE

04 AUG 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING TSTA I
DASMN/CRA

05 AUG-06 AUG 00 INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP

| | | | |
|----|--------|--------|---|
| 07 | AUG-11 | AUG 00 | CONDUCTING TSTA II MIW |
| 08 | AUG-10 | AUG 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO FOR TSTA II DASMN |
| 10 | AUG-11 | AUG 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING SAR MISSION |
| 12 | AUG-13 | AUG 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 14 | AUG-18 | AUG 00 | CONDUCTING TSTA II MIW |
| 15 | AUG-17 | AUG 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING TSTA II MIW |
| 19 | AUG-20 | AUG 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 21 | AUG-25 | AUG 00 | CONDUCTING TSTA II MIW |
| 22 | AUG-24 | AUG 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING TSTA II MIW |
| 26 | AUG-27 | AUG 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 28 | AUG-01 | SEP 00 | CONDUCTING TSTA I DASMN |
| 29 | AUG-31 | AUG 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING TSTA I DASMN |
| 02 | SEP-04 | SEP 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 05 | SEP-07 | SEP 00 | CONDUCTING TSTA III |
| 06 | SEP-07 | SEP 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING TSTA III |
| 08 | SEP 00 | | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING CRC |
| 09 | SEP-10 | SEP 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 11 | SEP-14 | SEP 00 | CONDUCTING FEP |
| 13 | SEP-14 | SEP 00 | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING FEP |
| 15 | SEP-20 | SEP 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 21 | SEP 00 | | AMMO OFFLOAD |
| 22 | SEP 00 | | FUEL OFFLOAD |
| 23 | SEP-24 | SEP 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING UPKEEP |
| 25 | SEP 00 | | UNDERWAY IN TRANSIT TO SWM SHIPYARD |
| 26 | SEP-15 | DEC 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX FOR PMA |
| 09 | OCT-13 | OCT 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING PLOT I |
| 23 | OCT-27 | OCT 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING PLOT II |
| 13 | NOV-17 | NOV 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING PLOT III |
| 13 | NOV-01 | DEC 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING FMAV |
| 06 | DEC 00 | | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING DOCK TRIALS |
| 07 | DEC 00 | | UNDERWAY GULF OF MEXICO CONDUCTING NAVIGATION CERTIFICATION |
| 11 | DEC-15 | DEC 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING CSOSS INSTALL |
| 16 | DEC-31 | DEC 00 | INPORT INGLESIDE, TX CONDUCTING HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP |

TOTAL DAYS UNDERWAY: 71
TOTAL DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT: 170

NARRATIVE

After completing a holiday leave and upkeep period, GLADIATOR saw its first change of command ceremony as a permanent crew. CDR Brian Shanahan, USN was relieved by LCDR Dominic DeScisciolo, USN in a ceremony held onboard GLADIATOR.

The change of command was followed almost immediately by preparations for beginning the interdeployment training cycle. GLADIATOR began Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA I) Deck Seamanship/Medical/Navigation (DASMN) in the first week of February, and conducted training through the month. GLADIATOR conducted mine recovery mid-February, and ended the month by setting to sea en route Mobile, Al.

March saw GLADIATOR inport Mobile, Al for Mardi Gras 2000. GLADIATOR returned to Ingleside mid-month, and spent the next few weeks continuing to train. This included extensive damage control training for all hands, and gas-free engineer training for R-Division. GLADIATOR returned to sea at the close of the month, en route Tampa, Fl.

April was a fast-paced month for GLADIATOR, who made port calls to Tampa and Panama City, Fl. While operating in the Panama City area, GLADIATOR was able to conduct extensive MCM training utilizing all her resources. Additionally, GLADIATOR completed engineering and Chemical/Biological/Radiological (CBD) defense training while steaming between ports. GLADIATOR closed out the month by commencing TSTA I/Engineering Training Group (ETG).

During the month of May, GLADIATOR conducted additional engineering training, and successfully completed Engineering Qualification. Throughout the month, GLADIATOR hosted tours to distinguished visitors, including: RADM Brunelli, ADM Rutherford, RADM Mathis, and the CNO of South Africa.

June saw GLADIATOR commence a Fleet Maintenance Availability. This maintenance and upkeep period included a Medical Readiness Inspection, and preparations for an end of month underway, in route to Key West, Fl.

July was a full month, as GLADIATOR made port calls to Key West, Miami, Pensacola, Fl, and New Orleans, La. The underway transit time between ports was spent conducting intensive training in support of the interdeployment training cycle. GLADIATOR returned home on the last day of the month.

August was heavily focused on training, with GLADIATOR conducting almost continuous TSTA I DASMN/Communications Readiness Assessment (CRA) and TSTA II/Mine Warfare (MIW) operations and drills. While conducting minehunting on the tenth of August, GLADIATOR received a report of a downed Navy MH-53 helicopter, and immediately responded. During the ensuing Search and Rescue (SAR) operation, GLADIATOR was able to recover a large quantity of the wreckage, and map the wreckage remaining on the ocean floor.

GLADIATOR's interdeployment training cycle culminated with a successful TSTA III and Final Evaluation Period (FEP) in the month of September. The following week, GLADIATOR offloaded fuel and ammunition, and transited to Southwest Marine Shipyard for a Planned Maintenance Availability.

The months of October and November were dedicated to shipyard level maintenance. GLADIATOR completed several major undertakings, including: removing the signal shack, overhauling the mast, reworking the galley and decks, nonskidding the weather decks, and repairing propulsion gear. GLADIATOR also received the latest version of the AN/SQQ-32 Minehunting SONAR. This install equips GLADIATOR with the most state of the art mine countermeasures systems currently available.

GLADIATOR was nominated to receive the Captain Edward F. Ney Award for excellence in food service. "The Ney" is awarded annually to one small ship per Fleet. To compete for this award, GLADIATOR underwent a spot inspection during the availability. A team of civilian and navy specialists evaluated the food service program, and gathered crew inputs. Ultimately, GLADIATOR was awarded the 2000 Edward F. Ney Award, becoming the first MCM to hold this honor.

The month of November closed out with a successful Fleet Maintenance Availability. This led up through December, when GLADIATOR completed Light Off Assessment (LOA), and once again got underway for a Navigation Certification, and post-yard period trials. Upon return to port, GLADIATOR participated in the development of a Combat Systems Operational Sequencing System plan. This led into the December holiday leave and upkeep period.