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From: Commanding Officer, USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11)  
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H (with change transmittal 1)

Encl: (1) Command History for 2003

1. Per reference (a), USS GLADIATOR's Command History for 2004 has been emailed to [shiphistory@navy.mil](mailto:shiphistory@navy.mil).

J. A. BENNETT III

USS GLADIATOR COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2004

1. Command Composition and Organization.

Ship name:	USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11)
Crew name:	MCM Crew INDIA / MCM Crew CONSTANT
Short Title:	GLADIATOR / CONSTANT
UIC:	21454 (MCM Crew CONSTANT: 40169)
ISIC:	Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE / Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWO
Commanding Officer:	LCDR Lyle "Doug" Stuffle, USNR(TAR)
Permanent Duty Station:	Naval Station Ingleside, Ingleside, TX

(Note: In August 2004, the MCM/MHC Class ships began the crew swap program. USS GLADIATOR's crew was designated MCM Crew INDIA and later named MCM Crew CONSTANT. The Mine Countermeasures Squadrons also underwent a re-organization process, causing MCM Crew CONSTANT to shift ISICs to COMCMRON TWO.)

2. Chronology.

Permanent

USS GLADIATOR began 2004 on deployment as part of Mine Readiness Group FOUR (MIWRG-4), in Naval Station San Diego, CA

Inport, NAVSTA San Diego	01 Jan - 09 Jan
Holiday Upkeep Period	01 Jan - 04 Jan
Underway, Transit to Rodman, Panama	10 Jan - 25 Jan
Astern Refuelings with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK	12, 15, 19 and 23 Jan
Inport, Rodman, Panama (VNB)	26 Jan - 29 Jan
Transit of the Panama Canal	30 Jan
Underway, Transit to Belize City, Belize	31 Jan - 05 Feb
Port Visit, Belize City, Belize (Anchored, Ambergris Cay)	06 Feb - 08 Feb
Underway, Transit to NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	09 Feb - 14 Feb
Homecoming	15 Feb
Post-Deployment Stand Down	15 Feb - 21 Mar
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	15 Feb - 02 Mar
Underway, CCOA for CL-1454 Testing	03 Mar
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	04 Mar - 12 Apr
FMAV 421 / DEI	22 Mar - 09 Apr
Underway, CCOA for Mine Shape Recovery and ISE	13 Apr - 20 Apr
FACDAR Range Testing	17 Apr - 18 Apr
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	21 Apr - 26 Apr
Underway, CCOA for Mine Shape Recovery and ISE	27 Apr - 29 Apr
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	30 Apr - 03 May
Underway, CCOA for Mine Shape Recovery and ISE	04 May - 05 May
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	06 May

Underway, Transit to Downtown Corpus Christi	07 May
Inport, Corpus Christi for Maritime Festival	08 May - 09 May
Underway, Transit to NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	10 May
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	10 May
Underway, CCOA for Mine Shape Placement/Recovery	11 May - 13 May
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	14 May - 25 May
Underway, CCOA for ISE	26 May - 27 May
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	28 May - 31 May
Underway, CCOA for Midshipmen	01 Jun - 02 Jun
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	03 Jun
Underway, CCOA for Family Day Cruise	04 Jun
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	05 Jun - 12 Jul
Sea Cadet Visit	15 Jun - 16 Jun
NJROTC Ship Tours	23 Jun - 24 Jun
Deadstick Move to Southwest Marine Shipyard	13 Jul
Inport, Southwest Marine Shipyard for PMA 461 and PPIP	14 Jul - 13 Sep
Shipboard Team Trainer	09 Aug - 12 Aug
Weapons Training at Camp Bullis	10 Aug - 13 Aug
AT/FP Phase I Training	16 Aug - 18 Aug
Radar Navigation Team Trainer	23 Aug - 26 Aug
Underway, CCOA for Sea Trials	14 Sep
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	15 Sep - 02 Oct
Mine Force Chili Cook-Off / USS GLADIATOR's 11 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	18 Sep
AT/FP Phase II Training	27 Sep - 30 Sep
Underway, CCOA for FACDAR Range	03 Oct - 06 Oct
FACDAR Range Testing	04 Oct - 05 Oct
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	07 Oct - 02 Nov
AT/FP Phase III (Certification)	12 Oct - 13 Oct
Engineering Initial Assessment	26 Oct - 28 Oct
CART II	01 Nov - 05 Nov
Underway, CCOA for CART II	03 Nov - 04 Nov
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	05 Nov - 18 Nov
Engineering TSTA-I	08 Nov - 12 Nov
Integrated Combat Systems TSTA-I	15 Nov - 19 Nov
Underway, CCOA for ISE	19 Nov - 22 Nov
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	23 Nov - 06 Dec
Engineering TSTA-II	29 Nov - 03 Dec
Underway, CCOA for Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition	07 Dec - 08 Dec
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	09 Dec - 13 Dec
Engineering TSTA-III	13 Dec - 16 Dec
Underway, CCOA for High Power Demonstration	14 Dec
Inport, NAVSTA Ingleside, TX	15 Dec - 31 Dec
Commander, Mine Warfare Command Visit (RADM Nowakowski and RDML Loewer)	17 Dec
Holiday Upkeep Period	18 Dec - 31 Dec

### 3. Narrative.

Calendar year 2004 was a tremendous year of accomplishment and improvement for USS GLADIATOR and MCM Crew CONSTANT, a year that placed both the ship and her crew head and shoulders above their peers in the mine warfare community. From the beginning of the year to the very end, GLADIATOR continuously strove from one success directly into another, including a Third Fleet area deployment in support of Homeland Defense, a complex shipyard and engineering overhaul period, and an ambitious, accelerated training cycle. The crew met each of these challenges with great enthusiasm and the "CONSTANT" work ethic which ultimately led to its award of all five Command Excellence Awards and the coveted Battle 'E' Award, placing GLADIATOR among the upper echelon of surface combatants.

January began with the crew enjoying a well-deserved holiday stand down in Naval Station San Diego, Ca at the tail end of a six-month deployment before Transiting south to Rodman, Panama. After a short stop for refueling, GLADIATOR flawlessly completed a nighttime transit to the Panama Canal in route to Belize City, Belize for fuel and brief liberty.

Though slowed by heavy seas and sister ship-engineering casualties, GLADIATOR returned to Ingleside one day after Valentine's Day to a crowd of loved ones. Soon after, GLADIATOR was selected as the test platform for a new design in magnetic influence sweeping gear, the CL-1454 coaxial magnetic tail. Both GLADIATOR and the new magtail performed brilliantly, providing key technological lessons, from which all minesweepers now benefit.

After postponing the planned training cycle because of CNO-sponsored shipyard availability, GLADIATOR became available for last minute mine placement and recovery practices. GLADIATOR also hosted several tour groups and participated in the Corpus Christi Maritime Festival, a high visibility public affairs event. In addition, having run the FACDAR range, an array of sensitive hydrophones and magnetic signature measuring equipment, in the Southern California OPAREA, utilizing the new FACDAR range in the CCOA OPAREA was an easy task for GLADIATOR to complete.

After de-fueling, ammunition offload, and a lay up of most of its engineering equipment, GLADIATOR transited to the shipyard for the Planned Product Improvement Program (PPIP). PPIP included the complete overhaul of all engines and generators, replacement of the piston heads with stainless steel heads, and an enhancement to the lubrication oil cooling and filtering system.

Gladiator's successful shipyard period went beyond Engineering, as the new IT-21 computer system was installed, repairs were made to the super structure, and the non-skid on the weather decks was replaced. While still in the shipyard, GLADIATOR embarked on an aggressive training regimen, which later paid tremendous dividends of success in engineering and combat inspections.

After departing the shipyard on schedule, GLADIATOR completed a full power demonstration during sea trials, in which the benefits of the PPIP overhaul resulted in the flawless performance of all 7 diesel engines and the Solar Marine Gas Turbine engine, earning Crew Constant the right to fly the coveted "Eight Ball Flag."

September was a memorable month for GLADIATOR, as she celebrated her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday on the same day as the Mine Force Annual Chili Cook-off, established to honor POWs and MIAs. It just so happened that GLADIATOR took first prize. Also in September, the hull swap program

was introduced, in which the ship's crew switched from MCM Squadron 3 to MCM Squadron 2, and changed their crew name from INDIA to CONSTANT, a proper name for a crew who has shown constant ambition, dedication, and performance.

In the fall, the focus was clearly on engineering readiness. Since the training cycle had been deferred until late in the year, there was little room for any extra time for training if it were required. Crew CONSTANT, grabbing the reigns, endeavored on an ambitious and productive plan for training, which produced an Initial Assessment and Command Assessment of Readiness, and Training, which were above average for the Mine Fleet. Furthermore, GLADIATOR was the first ship in Ingleside to meet minimum equipment during IA, train at a "hot plant" throughout the training cycle, and demonstrate a complex, integrated combat systems scenario underway at CART II. This performance then and now has set the standard for the Mine Fleet. Several Tailored Ship Training Availabilities (TSTAs) peppered November and December, each with its associated array of drills and exercises.

Crew CONSTANT got in the "Holiday Spirit" in early December, even among the drills and engineering preparations, by participating in the Naval Station Ingleside Christmas Lighting Display Competition. Santa Claus joined the fun as Christmas carols were sung, and homemade cookies and eggnog were shared with friends during the evening's festivities. USS GLADIATOR and Crew CONSTANT ended the evening with another first place win as Ingleside's best-decorated ship.

Even with Underway Demonstration, the Engineering "final exam," looming in January, GLADIATOR's dedication to training and demonstrated skill and drive allowed time for its Sailors to enjoy a brief holiday stand down as the year closed.

Crew CONSTANT embarked in USS GLADIATOR punctuated the year with the winning of all five Command Excellence Awards and the Battle Efficiency Award for 2004. In 2004, only 10 ships had the distinction of winning all five Command Excellence Awards, placing GLADIATOR's achievement among the best of the United States Navy Surface Fleet. The undermanned Crew CONSTANT worked diligently throughout the year, training hard and sacrificing a great deal to earn the honors cited above. It was an exceptional year made possible by an exceptional crew.

#### 4. Terms, Abbreviations, and Jargon.

AT/FP	Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection
CART II	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (Phase II)
CCOA	Corpus Christi Operations Area
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations
Deadstick	moving of the ship utilizing tugboats as the sole means of propulsion and steering.
DEI	Diesel Engine Inspection
FACDAR	Acoustic and Magnetic Signature Measurement Range
Fast Cruise	Simulated Underway Operations while in port
FMAV	Fleet Maintenance Availability
IA	Initial Assessment, first look at engineering equipment and training readiness during the training cycle
ISE	Independent Steaming Exercises
IT-21	Information Systems Technology-21, network-based computer system
MIA	Missing in Action
MIW	Mine Warfare
MIWRG-4	Mine Warfare Readiness Group FOUR
OPAREA	Operations Area
PPIP	Planned Product Improvement Program
POW	Prisioner(s) of War
SOCAL	Southern California
TSTA	Tailored Ship's Training Availability
UD	Underway Demonstration, engineering final exam