



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)  
FPO AE 09534-1662

IN REPLY TO:

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01 Feb 03

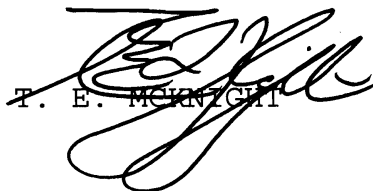
From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: USS KEARSARGE COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) 2002 Command History  
(2) Compiled Published Articles (101)  
(3) 2001 Sailor of the Year (SOY) Sea Nomination ICO  
PH1(AW/SW) [REDACTED], USN, [REDACTED]  
(4) Preparations for the National Association of Student  
Councils (NASC) Flag Ceremony Aboard USS KEARSARGE  
(5) National Association of Student Councils Flag  
Ceremony Program  
(6) Public Visitation While Inport Boston  
(7) KEARSARGE Harborfest Sunset Parade, Boston, MA  
(8) USS KEARSARGE Change of Command Ceremony  
(9) USS KEARSARGE Change of Command Ceremony Program  
(10) Commander Amphibious Group TWO Change of Command  
Ceremony  
(11) KEARSARGE Flight Deck Reception, Panama City, FL  
(12) Public Visitation While at Anchorage, Panama City, FL

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (12) are  
submitted.

  
T. E. MCINTOSH

# USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) Command History Calendar Year 2002

## *Command Composition and Organization*

**Mission:** To load, transport and land troops and their equipment

**Commanding Officer**  
Captain Terence E. McKnight

**Executive Officer**  
Captain Luke R. Parent

**Command Master Chief**  
CMDPCM(SW/AW) E. W. Myers Jr.

**Ship's Homeport:** Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia

## *Chronology:*

### KEARSARGE Ship's Schedule 2002

#### **January**

01-07 Inport Norfolk  
03 Crew day off – Snow Storm  
08 Entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
09-31 Inport Norfolk  
17 USS KEARSARGE Holiday Party  
22 Small Arms Gun Shoot, Lynnhaven Range

#### **February**

01-28 Inport Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
06 Won: CNO Environmental Award for FY01  
14 Won: COMNAVSURFLANT Surface Ship Safety Award CY01  
15 Commander Amphibious Group TWO (CPG-2) Sailor of the Year Luncheon held at  
NAB Little Creek Chief's Club – PH1(AW/SW) [REDACTED] named CPG-2 Sea Sailor  
of the Year\*  
16 Gator Ball, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA  
19 Won: COMNAVSURFLANT "Green H" Unit Wellness Award CY01  
21 Final Cruise book proof mailed to Walsworth Publishing Co.  
27 CPOA Hail and Farewell at Roger Brown's Restaurant, Portsmouth, VA

### **March**

- 01-31 Inport Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
- 08 Hampton Roads USO Gala at Renaissance Hotel – Junior Sailor of the Year MM2(SW) [REDACTED] represented KEARSARGE.
- 22 SURFLANT Sailor of the Year Luncheon held at NAB Little Creek Chief's Club

### **April**

- 01-23 Inport Portsmouth
- 08-12 Light Off Assessment (LOA)
- 20 KEARSARGE serves as host ship for USS BATAAN homecoming
- 22 KEARSARGE crew moves back aboard from NAVSTA BEQs/NNSY Barge
- 24 Fast Cruise
- 25 Depart Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for Sea Trials
- 26 Return to Norfolk
- 27-30 Inport Norfolk
- 30 Joint Forces Staff College Visit, 80 people in two separate visits

### **May**

- 01-12 Inport Norfolk
- 01 USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course Visit, 45 people
- 01 USMC Combat Development Center Visit, 40 people
- 02 Cruise book delivered from Walsworth Publishing Company
- 03 Trinity Lutheran School Visit, 30 people
- 03 KEARSARGE Busch Gardens Day
- 08 Norwegian National Defense College Visit, 38 people
- 13 Fast Cruise
- 14-17 Underway for LCAC Ops and Well Deck Certification
- 18-31 Inport Norfolk
- 18 Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT Visit, 16 people
- 21 Weather Channel Film Crew aboard KEARSARGE for documentary "Worst Storms in History"
- 22 Coast Guard Atlantic Area (VADM Hull) Visit, 3 people

### **June**

- 01-27 Inport Norfolk
- 03 Naval Intelligence Officer Basic Course Visit, 25 people
- 05 Air Force ROTC, Marion Center, PA Visit, 36 people
- 10 Booker T. Washington H.S. Visit, 12 people
- 13 USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course Visit, 38 people
- 17 Defense Investigative Agency Visit, 30 people
- 19 Naval Sea Cadet Corps Visit, 45 people

- 20 United Kingdom Joint Service Command and Staff College Visit,  
180 people
- 21 KEARSARGE All Hands Picnic
- 21 Commander Second Fleet (VADM Dawson) Visit, 12 people
- 23 Commander Submarine Force Atlantic (VADM Grossenbacher) Visit,  
7 people
- 27 National Association of Student Councils Flag Ceremony aboard  
KEARSARGE, 2,400 people in attendance\*
- 27 Embark Guests of the Navy (5) for trip to Boston
- 28-30 Underway

### July

- 01 Underway
- 02 Arrive Black Falcon Pier, Boston, MA to participate in Harborfest\*
- 02-07 Inport Boston, MA
- 03 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 38 people visit
- 04 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 226 people visit
- 05 KEARSARGE hosts a Sunset Parade for 310 civilians and 110 military\*
- 06 KEARSARGE conducts General Visitation, 304 people visit
- 08-12 Underway
- 12 Return to Norfolk
- 13-30 Inport Norfolk
- 19 Change of Command. Captain Terence McKnight relieves Captain Steve Schlientz\*
- 24 OPNAV N89 Visit, 35 people
- 25 Peruvian War College Visit, 29 people
- 31 Underway for CART II

### August

- 01 Return to Norfolk from CART II
- 02-27 Inport Norfolk
- 07 Joint Forces Staff College Visit, 40 people
- 08 Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course Visit, 14 people
- 13 Air Force JAG Officer Visit, 60 people
- 13 NAVICP Philadelphia Visit, 26 people
- 15-17 Support Equipment/AWSEE (950 pieces) and Tilley onload
- 19 Joint and Combined Warfighter Course Visit, 19 people
- 23 Commander Amphibious Group Two Change of Command hosted aboard  
KEARSARGE. Rear Admiral M. P. Nowakowski relieves Rear Admiral J. K. Moran\*
- 24 Army Reserve Division Flag Officer Visit, 25 (including 14 Flag Officers)
- 26-30 Underway

### September

- 01-17 Inport Norfolk

03-06 3M Baseline Inspection and Certification  
04-06 Ammo Onload  
17 CPG-2 (RADM Nowakowski) Visit  
18-25 Underway (Underway Demo)  
26-30 Inport Norfolk  
27 CPOA Khaki Ball

### **October**

01-09 Inport Norfolk  
01 Commander Amphibious Squadron 4 (CPR-4) Embarks  
03 Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center Visit, 32 people  
05 USS POCONO Reunion Visit, 96 people  
10 Depart Norfolk for Ingleside, TX  
10-16 Underway  
10 RAS – USNS John Lenthall  
11 Seaman to Admiral results with two KEARSARGE selectees: AS2 [REDACTED]/NFO and IS3 [REDACTED]  
16-18 Inport, Ingleside, TX  
18 Command Picnic in Ingleside, TX  
19-25 Underway RONEX  
21 RAS – USNS Patuxent  
22 ADM Natter, Commander Atlantic Fleet (CLF), visits with two staffers for MCMRON demo and tour  
23 VADM Dawson, Commander Second Fleet (C2F), visits for MCMRON demo and tour  
26-29 At Anchorage, Panama City, Fla.  
26 VIP Flight Deck Reception for 173 people\*  
28 General Visitation – 590 people visited\*  
29-31 Underway

### **November**

01 Underway  
02 Return to Norfolk  
13-15 Underway - Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)  
14 National Evacuation Order (NEO) Drill and Certification  
15-30 Inport Norfolk  
18-22 Command Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA)

### **December**

02-13 Underway in CPOA for CQs  
15 Children's Holiday Party, Jeepers, McArthur Square Mall  
16 Holiday Party, Marriott Hotel, Norfolk  
24 Won: COMLANTFLT Retention Excellence Award FY-02

30      Second Holiday Leave period shortened due to operational schedule change.

\* See enclosure

*Narrative:*

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) began the reporting period in port Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Following a lengthy holiday leave period in December, the crew enjoyed a snow day on 03 January. On 08 January KEARSARGE made its way to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a four-month availability. KEARSARGE Holiday Party took place on 17 January and a small arms gun shoot took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Lynnhaven Range.

KEARSARGE spent all of February in the shipyard. KEARSARGE won three awards in February. On the 6th, she was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations' Environmental Award for fiscal year 2001. Shortly thereafter, KEARSARGE was awarded the Commander Naval Surface Fleet Atlantic's (COMNAVSURFLANT) Surface Ship Safety Award for calendar year 2001. On 19 February, KEARSARGE was awarded yet another accolade, the COMNAVSURFLANT "Green H" Unit Wellness Award for calendar year 2001. February also saw numerous celebratory events for KEARSARGE. The Commander Amphibious Group 2 (CPG-2) held the Sailor of the Year Luncheon at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek Chief's Club on 15 February where PH1(AW/SW) [REDACTED] was named CPG-2 Sailor of the Year. The next day, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, members of the crew attended the Gator Ball at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, KEARSARGE's final cruise book proof was mailed to Walsworth Publishing Company. February's final party was the CPOA Hail and Farewell, held at Roger Brown's Restaurant in Portsmouth.

Like the previous month, KEARSARGE spent all of March in the shipyard, while members of the crew attended several official social gatherings. Hampton Roads USO Gala took place on 08 March at Portsmouth's Renaissance Hotel where Junior Sailor of the Year, MM2(SW) [REDACTED] represented KEARSARGE. Later that month, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the SURFLANT Sailor of the Year Luncheon was held at NAB Little Creek Chief's Club.

From 08 to 23 April, KEARSARGE conducted a Light Off Assessment in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, KEARSARGE served as the host ship for USS BATAAN's (LHD 5) homecoming. Two days later KEARSARGE's crew moved back aboard from NAVSTA BEQs and NNSY Barge. KEARSARGE conducted a fast cruise on 24 April. The following day, KEARSARGE left the pier for the first time in 106 days to get underway for sea trials, and returned to her homeport of Naval Station Norfolk on 26 April. The ship remained in port for the rest of the month. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, 80 people from the Joint Forces Staff College toured the ship.

May was a fairly busy month onboard KEARSARGE. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, KEARSARGE hosted visits from two separate Marine contingents. Forty-five people from the USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course and 40 people from the USMC Combat Development Center visited the ship. The next day, Walsworth Publishing Company delivered KEARSARGE's Cruise book. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, thirty people from Trinity Lutheran School visited. The same day, the ship's crew enjoyed an official KEARSARGE Busch Gardens day. On 08 May, thirty-eight people from the Norwegian National Defense College visited KEARSARGE. The ship conducted a second fast cruise on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and got underway from 14-17 May to conduct LCAC operations and well deck certification. KEARSARGE returned to port on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and remained there for the rest of May. Also on the 18<sup>th</sup>, sixteen people from the Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight visited the ship. On 21 May, a filming crew from the Weather Channel came aboard to film a documentary on the "Worst Storms in History." The next day, VADM Hull, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, visited with two staffers.

Many groups visited KEARSARGE in June. The ship remained in port Norfolk for the majority of the month. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, twenty-five students from the Naval Intelligence Officer Basic Course (NIOBIC) toured the ship. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, thirty-six Air Force ROTC students from Marion Center, PA visited. On 10 June, twelve people from Booker T. Washington High School visited KEARSARGE. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the USMC Basic Logistics Embark Specialists Course visited again, this time with 38 people. Four days later, on 17 June, thirty people from the Defense Investigation Agency toured KEARSARGE. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, forty-five people from the Naval Sea Cadet Corps visited. The next day, 180 individuals from the United Kingdom Joint Service Command and Staff College visited KEARSARGE. On 21 June, the ship held an All Hands Picnic. The same day, VADM Dawson, Commander Second Fleet (C2F), brought 12 people aboard for a visit. Two days later, on 23 June, seven people toured the ship, including Commander Submarine Force Atlantic, VADM Grossenbacher. On 27 June, 2,400 people came onboard for the Association of Student Councils Flag Ceremony. The same day, five guests embarked KEARSARGE for the three-day trip to Boston. The ship got underway, en route Boston, on 28 June.

KEARSARGE moored Black Falcon Pier in Boston, MA on 02 July, and remained in port until the 7<sup>th</sup> to participate in the city's Harborfest. KEARSARGE hosted general visitation periods for the next four days, during which 878 people visited the ship. On 05 July, KEARSARGE hosted a Sunset Parade for 310 civilian and 110 military guests. KEARSARGE left Boston on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and returned to Norfolk on 12 July. On 19 July, CAPT Terence McKnight relieved CAPT Steve Schlientz in a formal Change of Command Ceremony. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, 38 people visited from OPNAV N89. The next day, KEARSARGE hosted 29 people from the Peruvian War College. On 31 July, the ship again got underway, this time for CART II.

KEARSARGE returned to Norfolk on 01 August. The ship hosted more visits this month, starting with 40 people from the Joint Forces Staff College on the 7<sup>th</sup>. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, fourteen people from the Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course (EWIC) toured the ship. On 13 August, sixty people came onboard in an Air Force JAG Officer visit. The same day, twenty-six people from the Naval Inventory Control Point, Philadelphia toured KEARSARGE's aviation support facilities. From 15 to 17 August, KEARSARGE's crew brought 950 pieces of equipment onboard in a support equipment, AWSEE and Tilley on load. On 19 August, nineteen individuals from the Joint and Combined Warfighter Course visited the ship. On 23 August, KEARSARGE hosted the Commander Amphibious Group TWO Change of Command Ceremony at which Rear Admiral M. P. Nowakowski relieved Rear Admiral J. K. Moran. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, KEARSARGE hosted an Army Reserve Division Flag Officer visit of 25 people, 14 of whom were indeed flag officers. KEARSARGE finished up August with a brief underway period, from the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>.

The ship remained in port Norfolk for the first half of September. The ship's 3M Baseline Inspection took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month and was upgraded to a full certification. KEARSARGE conducted an Ammo Onload from 04 to 06 August. On 17 August, RADM Nowakowski, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, visited the ship. The next day KEARSARGE got underway for eight days, conducting an underway demonstration. The ship returned to port on 25 August and on the 27<sup>th</sup> the Chief Petty Officers Association held their Khaki Ball.

On 01 October, Commander Amphibious Squadron FOUR (CPR-4) embarked KEARSARGE. Thirty-two people from the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC) visited on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, ninety-six individuals from the USS POCONO



Reunion visited. KEARSARGE departed Norfolk on 10 October, steaming towards the Gulf of Mexico. She conducted a Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS JOHN LENTHALL later that day. On 11 October, two KEARSARGE Sailors were selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program, AS2 [REDACTED] and IS3 [REDACTED]. The ship reached Ingleside, Texas on 16 October, where she remained for three days. On 18 October, the ship's crew enjoyed a command picnic. The next day KEARSARGE got underway to conduct RONEX, a six-day exercise in the Gulf of Mexico. On 21 October KEARSARGE conducted another RAS, this time with USNS PATUXENT. The following day ADM Natter, Commander Atlantic Fleet (CLF), visited with two staffers for MCMRON demonstration and tour. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, VADM Dawson, C2F, also came onboard KEARSARGE for the demonstration. The ship spent the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> at anchorage in Panama City, FL. KEARSARGE held a VIP Flight Deck Reception for 173 people on the 26<sup>th</sup>. 590 people came aboard during a general visitation on 28 October. The ship got underway the next day, heading home.

KEARSARGE returned to Norfolk on 02 November. After much preparation, she got underway again on 13 November and successfully conducted Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) drills as well as Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) Certification before returning to port on the 15<sup>th</sup>. KEARSARGE's completion of FEP represented the culmination of the ship's basic phase of training, and certified it to move on to the intermediate phase. She remained in port until the first week of December. The command Physical Fitness Assessment was held from 18 to 22 November.

KEARSARGE got underway from 02 to 13 December for flight qualifications in the Cherry Point Operation Area. KEARSARGE's children's holiday party took place on 15 December at Jeepers in McArthur Square Mall. On the following evening the adult holiday party took place at the Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, KEARSARGE was awarded the Commander Atlantic Fleet Retention Excellence Award for fiscal year 2002. From 17 to 29 December, members of the crew went on leave for the holidays. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the entire crew returned to KEARSARGE to begin preparations for what would certainly be an exciting and pivotal calendar year 2003.