



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56)
FPO AA 34091-1956

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5750
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From: Commanding Officer, USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

1. Per reference (a), the following is submitted.
2. Mission. USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56) is one of 12 OSPREY Class Coastal Mine Hunters. The ship's mission is to detect, classify, and neutralize all known and projected types of influence and contact mines in littoral waters, harbors and bays. Further, the ship is designed to provide navigational assistance to other Mine Countermeasure units in conjunction with coordinated operations with airborne and other mine countermeasures forces. Secondary missions include route surveys, channel conditioning, underwater search and rescue and the collection of hydrographic/oceanographic data.
3. Organizational Structure:
 - a. Immediate Superior: Commander
Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE
120 Coral Sea Road, Suite W200
Ingleside, TX 78362-5000
 - b. Commanding Officer: LCDR David F. Eastwood, USN
 - c. Homeport: Ingleside, TX
4. Ship's Characteristics:
 - a. Combat Systems Equipment:
AN/SPS-64 SURFACE SEARCH RADAR WITH IFF (Responder only)
AN/SPA-25G DIGITAL RADAR DISPLAY
AN/WSN-2 GYROCOMPASS
AN/WQC-2 UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS
AN/UQN-4 FATHOMETER

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b. Navigation:

AN/SYQ-13 NAVIGATION COMMAND CONTROL SYSTEM
SSQ-109 SHIP'S MACHINERY CONTROL SYSTEM

c. Mine Hunting/Neutralization:

AN/SQQ-32 VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR
AN/SLQ-48 MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEM
.50 CAL MACHINE GUNS (2)

d. Propulsion:

MAIN ENGINES (2) ISOTTA-FRASCHINI DIESEL (800 HP)
CYCLODIAL PROPELLERS (2)

e. Auxiliaries:

ISOTTA FRASCHINI DIESEL GENERATORS (3) (300KW)

5. Command History: (CY 98 Chronology of events)

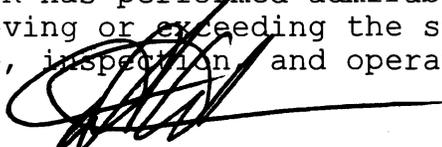
<u>Event:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
TSTA III	9-13 Feb
FEP	23-25 Feb
Safety Survey	2-6 Mar
Navigation Check Ride	18 Mar
JTFEX 98-1	14-17 Apr
RONEX 98-2	6-15 May
GOMEX 98-1	11-22 May
Aviation Exodus	1-22 Jun
GOMEX 98-2/Mercury 98-3	6-16 Jul
MCA	27-30 Jul
Nesting Initiative	Aug, Dec
Safety Stand down	4-5 Aug
CMS Inspection	6 Aug
NATO Secret Inspection	11 Aug
Dependent's Cruise	15 Aug
POM	16 Aug-15 Sep
CART I	1-11 Sep
Heavy Weather Moor	10 Sep
TYCOM Exercise	23 Sep
ENTERPRISE Joint FLEETEX	28 Sep-4 Oct
HIGHLANDER EXODUS Deployment	6 Oct-20 Nov
Diesel Inspection	14-21 Dec
Safety Stand down	17 Dec

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6. Narrative: 1998 was a year of many accomplishments for KINGFISHER. During multiple high-tempo exercises, the ship consistently demonstrated superior performance and innovation in all endeavors. Specific accomplishments include:

- a. During ship's first ever exercise, two EOD teams were embarked simultaneously to maximize tactical advantage;
- b. Conducted first ever MHC alongside replenishment at sea, transferring over 3,000 gallons of fresh water while simultaneously conducting a high-line transfer of parts and materials;
- c. While on a four hour off task period during RONEX 98-2, on-loaded a replacement Mine Neutralization Vehicle and returned to station in time to meet next scheduled commitment;
- d. While in port, developed and conducted Composite Duty Section program (nesting initiative) with USS HERON;
- e. Led the Squadron in the installation, testing, training and integration of the OE-82/JMCIS satellite communications systems;
- f. Served as the Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) test ship for the SQQ-32 Power supplies;
- g. Participated in the Beaumont Navy Days in Beaumont, Texas;
- h. Ship and crew were adopted by the City of Orange, Texas; and
- i. Participated in the first ever group deployment of a Force Package of MHC class ships, visiting such ports as Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Jamaica, Grand Caymans, and Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

Throughout 1998, KINGFISHER has demonstrated sustained, superior performance during its first full competitive cycle since commissioning. USS KINGFISHER has performed admirably during this competitive cycle, achieving or exceeding the standard of performance in every exercise, inspection, and operation assigned.



D. F. EASTWOOD

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