



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56)
FPO AA 34091-1956

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documentation
(5) 3 ½ " Computer Disk

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history is submitted by USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56) for Calendar Year 2003.



T. F. SPARKS

Command Composition and Organization

1. Command Short Title: (MHC 56) KINGFISHER (UIC 21961)
2. Mission: USS KINGFISHER is a coastal minehunter, the sixth ship of the OPSREY class. KINGFISHER was designed for minehunting, the technique of locating mines with sonar, and mine neutralization utilizing a remotely-operated underwater vehicle. The ship's mission is to clear harbors, coasts, and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure, and contact type mines, by utilizing reconnaissance, classification, and neutralization tactics.
3. Organizational Structure:

USS KINGFISHER is assigned to Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (MCMRON TWO), and is homeported in Ingleside, Texas. Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) address is below:

Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two (UIC 55554)
1455 Ticonderoga Road, Suite W-200
Ingleside, TX, 78362-5001.
4. Commanding Officer: LCDR Timothy F. Sparks, USN.
5. Type and number of aircraft assigned: None.

Chronology

January 2003

1. Completed three month shipyard availability in Gulf Copper Shipyard. Significant work included the following:
 Resealed Voith Snyder Propulsion (VSP) System, Self Contained Air Conditioning (SCAC) Units in Voith Snyder Propulsion System & Umbilical Cable Handling System (U C H S), resealed all major BERPS, installed MK 94, refurbished ventilation on mess decks, replaced wave-guide assembly in SPS-64, primary navigation radar.

February 2003

1. Conducted several Engineering Training Team Drills in preparation for Initial Assessment (IA) and Underway Demonstration (UD).
2. Successfully completed IA only weeks after completion of shipyard period.

March 2003

1. Conducted UD
 - a. KINGFISHER was the first ship in MIWRG-1 to complete UD and received above average scores in all areas.
2. Conducted Certification and Readiness Training II
 - a. Conducted comprehensive self-assessment of ship's levels of readiness and training, facilitating a smooth CART II Inspection.

April 2003

1. Conducted Force Protection/Antiterrorism Phase "B" Certification scoring exceptionally well; cited by Aflotat Training Group Ingleside as having the most enthusiastic FP Team on the waterfront.

May 2003

1. KINGFISHER conducted various training such as SQQ-94 simulator scenarios which allowed to train personnel on minehunting techniques while remaining inport.

June 2003

1. KINGFISHER Change of Command
 - a. LCDR Timothy F. Sparks relieved LCDR James E. McGovern as Commanding Officer of USS KINGFISHER on 12 June.

b. During a routine sea and anchor detail, the Uninterrupted Power Supply Unit #1 failed due to a faulty inverter and battery charger that caused a temporary loss of propulsion control on the starboard shaft while transiting in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. KINGFISHER safely returned to port for repairs.

2. Conducted independent Type-Training in the local operations area.

July 2003

1. Conducted PUGET SOUND Inclining Stability Experiment

a. The ship was breasted out and weights were placed in various positions on the ship to determine how they would affect stability.

b. The study was designed to foster improvements in ship design and damage control.

2. KINGFISHER took part in preparing with the rest of the Ingleside waterfront to prepare for hurricane Claudette.

a. No ships sustained any damage to the storm, which missed Ingleside by about 100 miles northeast. Naval Station Ingleside was struck by heavy winds and precipitation, and ships were able to effectively conduct a unique hurricane moor, involving several ships per "nest".

3. Inport portion of FP "C" Certification

KINGFISHER displayed proficiency in FP for two watch teams and one training team.

a. Cited by ATG Ingleside as one of the best Force Protection C Certifications on the waterfront.

4. Conducted C5RA and HAMERA II

a. C5RA team performed vital repairs to GCCS, SPS-64, X-Y PLOTTER, DOPPLER, SYQ-13, SHIP'S LAN and other pieces of equipment.

b. HAMERA II team performed vital repairs to MPC, anchor windlass, DC fittings, and boat crane.

August 2003

1. Conducted Mission Package 3 install

a. The new MP3 enhanced the ability to neutralize moored mines while preventing the danger associated with drifting mines.

b. Accomplished safe proficient onload of over 3,000 LBS in ammo.

2. Conducted Fleet Maintenance Availability and Diesel Engine Inspection

a. Continued repairs on SPS-64, SQQ-32, and all SSDG'S which were instrumental in allowing KINGFISHER to complete training cycle

b. During DEI KINGFISHER received key assistance from FTSC/LANT, SIMA and COMINELWARCOM

c. NR1 and NR2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine inspected during DEI

3. Conducted TSTA I

September 2003

1. Conducted TSTA II and TSTA III

2. KINGFISHER conducted many U/W periods preparing for FEP. During an U/W with ATG Ingleside the MNV lost system power and was recovered by emergency procedures.

a. KINGFISHER crew demonstrated an exceptional skill and professionalism in the face of adversity.

October 2003

1. RONEX 3-03

a. Force Protection Drills were conducted for RONEX participants. The training allowed ships to work in conjunction. SAT and BAF teams were allowed to attend "ship in the box" training to sharpen sweep techniques.

b. 1st Division Performed extensive training on Towing and RAS.

c. During U/W portion of RONEX, Kingfisher conducted MIW training with ATG. KINGFISHER also participated in a TOWEX with USS BLACK HAWK.

2. Conducted Combat System Operating Sequencing System IMPLEMENTATION

a. FCDIT (Fleet CSOSS Development and Implementation Team) came aboard to install CSOSS.

November 2003

1. Conducted a Magnetic Offload and Electro-Magnetic Ranging (EMR) run in support of GOMEX

2. JO Ship Handling Competition

a. ENS ██████ was runner-up in MCMRON TWO Ship Handling Completion.

3. Conducted FEP

a. KINGFISHER overcame multiple equipment casualties to successfully complete the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

December 2003

1. Conducted Gulf Of Mexico Exercise

a. Participated in GOMEX with USS BLACK HAWK, USS ROBIN, USS DEFENDER, USS AVENGER and the USS WASP (ARG) Amphibious Ready Group.

b. KINGFISHER successfully conducted three MNV night missions.

SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS:

COMBAT SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT:

AN/SPS-64 Surface Search Radar with IFF (responder only)
AN/SPA-25(G) Digital Radar Display
AN/WSN-2 Gyrocompass
AN/WQC-2 Underwater Communications
AN/UQN-4 Fathometer
Raymarine

NAVIGATION:

AN/SYQ-13 Command Control System
SSQ-109 Ship's Machinery Control System

MINE HUNTING/NUTRALIZATION:

AN/SQQ-32 Variable Depth Sonar
AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System
.50 CAL Machine Guns (2)

PROPULSION:

Main Engines (2) Isotta-Fraschini Diesel (800 HP)
Voith Snyder Propulsion System (2)

AUXILIARIES:

Isotta-Fraschini Diesel Generators (3) (300KW)

Command History: (CY 03 Chronology of events)

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Date (s):</u>
Initial Assessment	5 Feb
Underway Demonstration	21 Mar
Small Arms Gun Shoot	27-28 May
M14/M60 Gun Shoot	4 Jun
Change of Command	12 Jun
TSTA II	16 Jun
U/W TSTA III	8-10 Sep
3M Assessment	15-19 Sep
RONEX	13-22 Oct
SISCAL	27 Oct-14 Nov
SMA	28-31 Oct
GOMEX	2-17 Dec

Underway Days: (CY 03 Chronology of days)

- 25-27 FEB
- 02-04 APR
- 24-25 APR
- 28-29 APR
- 10 JUN
- 16-19 JUN
- 22-24 JUN
- 07-08 JUL
- 09-10 JUL
- 29 JUL - 01 AUG
- 08 AUG
- 25-28 AUG
- 02-05 SEP
- 09 SEP
- 19-26 SEP
- 29 SEP - 08 OCT
- 10-16 OCT
- 17-31 OCT
- 24 OCT
- 27-31 OCT
- 03-05 NOV
- 11-12 NOV
- 13 NOV
- 19-21 NOV
- 24 NOV
- 26 NOV
- 01-09 DEC
- 13-19 DEC