



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
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Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1994 Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

T. H. Copeman

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By direction

COMMAND HISTORY 1994

10 Jan - 14 Jan Underway SOCAL: SOAR Range

18 Jan Underway from San Diego enroute Seal Beach

18 Jan UNREP with USS KANSAS CITY

19 Jan Moored NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach

19 Jan - 20 Jan In port NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach for ammunition transfer

20 Jan Underway from Seal Beach enroute San Diego

21 Jan Moored Pier 8, San Diego

24 Jan - 28 Jan Underway SOCAL: NGFS Spotter Services

28 Jan Burial at Sea

14 Feb - 05 Apr SRA CMSD

18 Apr - 29 Apr CART IIB/IIA

09 May Underway from San Diego enroute Seal Beach

10 May Moored NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach

10 May - 11 May In port NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach for ammunition transfer

11 May - 16 May Underway from Seal Beach for SOCAL Operations with USS CONSTELLATION Battle Group

13 May UNREP with USNS GUADALUPE

14 May RADM Allen, Commander Carrier Group One and RADM Brown, Commander Carrier Group Four embark LAKE CHAMPLAIN

16 May Moored Pier 8, San Diego

17 May Conducted International SWO Tour

19 May Participated in paint out of Paradise Hills Elementary School Passageway

20 May Local television station, KUSI TV, visits ship

20 May Underway from Pier 8 enroute Broadway Pier

20 May - 22 May Visit ship conducted Broadway Pier

23 May Underway from Broadway Pier enroute Pier 8

30 May - 17 Jun	TSTA I
31 May - 03 Jun	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA I qualifications
31 May	Local television station, KUSI TV, conducts morning news show onboard
01 Jun	UNREP with USNS Guadalupe
06 Jun - 10 Jun	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA I qualifications
09 Jun	UNREP with USNS Guadalupe
10 Jun	First RP reports onboard (RP3 Diaz)
13 Jun - 17 Jun	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA I qualifications
22 Jun	LAKE CHAMPLAIN day with the Padres
29 Jun	RADM R. P. Hickey, Commander Carrier Group Seven embarks LAKE CHAMPLAIN
29 Jun	LAKE CHAMPLAIN presented with the Navy Battle "E" Ribbon
30 Jun - 11 Jul	The JDS Kurama and JDS Hatakaze visit San Diego, CA
9 Jul	LAKE CHAMPLAIN departs on Dependents Cruise with 444 family and friends
11 Jul - 15 Jul	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA II qualifications
18 Jul - 22 Jul	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego
22 Jul - 27 Jul	<u>Underway</u> , enroute to Vancouver, BC
27 Jul - 1 Aug	Liberty Call, Vancouver, BC
2 Aug	<u>Underway</u> , enroute to Indean Island, WA
3 Aug	<u>Underway</u> , enroute to Seattle, WA
3 Aug - 7 Aug	Liberty Call, Seattle Sea Fair
8 Aug - 12 Aug	<u>Underway</u> , enroute to San Diego, CA
17 Aug	ADM Macke, USCINCPAC, embarks LAKE CHAMPLAIN
17 Aug	9th Circuit Court Judges and family members embark LAKE CHAMPLAIN
25 Aug	ADM Zlapter, CINCPACFLT, embarks LAKE CHAMPLAIN

6 Sep - 9 Sep	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA II qualifications
12 Sep - 16 Sep	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for TSTA II qualifications
29 Sep - 30 Sep	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for OPPE
11 Oct - 14 Oct	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for Pre-FEP
13 Oct	Emergency Medical Evacuation for crew member
17 Oct - 21 Oct	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for FEP
20 Oct	UNREP with USNS Yuron
25 Oct	Commander, Royal Navy embarks LAKE CHAMPLAIN
25 Oct - 4 Nov	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for COMTUEX
25 Oct	Fighter Jet downed off the USS Lincoln, LAKE CHAMPLAIN assists with SAR
3 Nov	Missile Shot
28 Nov - 2 Dec	LMA
30 Nov	Pre-Deployment Fair
1 Dec	Children's Christmas Party at Chuck E. Cheeses'
2 Dec	Ney Award
2 Dec	Adult Christmas party at the Marriott
5 Dec - 9 Dec	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego
6 Dec	Frocking Ceremony
7 Dec	Wreath Laying Ceremony, USS Mahan DD 394. 165 guests onboard.
9 Dec	Moored at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach for weapons onload
9 Dec	<u>Underway</u> enroute Pier 8 San Diego
12 Dec - 19 Dec	<u>Underway</u> from San Diego for MEFEX
19 Dec - 29 Dec	Christmas Leave period I
29 Dec - 9 Jan	Christmas Leave period II

LAKE CHAMPLAIN 1994 COMMAND HISTORY

The new year began with USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) moored Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego under the command of Captain Dennis J. Van Buskirk. The ship had been in port since 19 December 1993 for the Christmas stand down period.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway on the morning of 10 January in order to complete a series of steering training casualties, a stellar unrep with the USNS Guadalupe and finally rounding out the first underway day of 1994 with Flight Deck Landing Qualifications with HSL 45 Det 8.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored for a short period of time the morning of 11 January at Bravo Pier and was underway again less than two hours later.

12-14 January found the crew hard at work completing Combat Systems pre-SRA checks, DLQs for HSL 43, 45, 47 and 49, SLAMEX 94-04, OBT exercises; in addition, LAKE CHAMPLAIN had the honor of acting as plane guard for the USS CARL VINSON. On the afternoon of 14 January LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN received the prestigious Admiral Thompson Public Affairs Award for the 1992 editions of the command newspaper's, "The Deckplate", contributions and recognition of community relations and public affairs projects.

The ship was underway at 0800 again on the morning of 18 January enroute to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach for an ammunition offload. A smooth unrep was completed with USS KANSAS CITY that morning followed by man overboard and Cruise Missile drills. LAKE CHAMPLAIN pulled into NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach 0800, 19 January and commenced the ammunition off-load, finished a smooth and efficient evolution well ahead of schedule, and was underway again at 1600, 20 January, headed for San Diego. LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored Pier 7, NAVSTA San Diego at 1330, 21 January.

Once again, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway at a bright and early 0800, 24 January to provide Naval Gunfire Support services in the SOCAL operational area in addition to completing several shipboard training exercises including: small arms qualifications, AAW exercises, CIC Cruise Missile training, radio flee BCST drills and DLQs with HSL 41. A Burial-at-Sea was conducted at 0800 and the ship pulled into Pier 8, NAVSTA San Diego 1330, 28 January.

The following two weeks were filled with safety briefs, meetings and various other preparations for LAKE CHAMPLAIN's yard period at CMSD which commenced on 14 February. LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway at 0900, and moored Pier 4, CMSD the morning of 14 February and quickly commenced with space safety walkthroughs and a SUPSHIP meeting to get the brief yard period off to a running start.

Though inport, LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued with her rigorous training schedule, always striving for continued excellence in the performance of crew members and completing the semi-annual PRT. The yard period saw the entire replacement of the ship's fuel tanks with upgrades being performed in various areas of

combat systems and engineering plant equipment. Preparations for CART and TSTA were also in full swing along with Pre-LOA Engineering LTT's. The couple of months of hard work was finally completed on 30 March with a few minor finishing touches to be made over the next couple of days. The yard period ended with a fantastic luncheon for the crew sponsored by CMSD personnel and now the ship was prepared to hit the high seas again to carry on her legacy of service to the country.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway from CMSD at 0800, 6 April to commence sea trials over the following two days. The sea trials included AAW exercises, full power build up and run, crash back, steering gear checks, ASW tests and ended with a Sphere TRACK-EX. LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored Pier 8, NAVSTA San Diego at 1330, 7 April.

CART IIB began the morning of 20 April. LAKE CHAMPLAIN's crew performed well under the rigorous written examinations, exercises, inspections and drills. The ship's office was noted as being within the top five percent of all administrative organizations on the west coast, a true credit to the men and leaders.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway once again at 0930, 28 April completing another successful unrep with USS KANSAS CITY. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego at 1400, 29 April.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway once again at 0800 the morning of 9 May enroute Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach to complete an ammunition onload. While enroute, LAKE CHAMPLAIN became the host of HSL-45 for the duration of the underway period. The ship arrived NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach at 0700, 10 May.

The ammunition onload was finished safely and well ahead of schedule on 11 May, allowing LAKE CHAMPLAIN to get underway at 1345 and head to the SOCAL OPAREA.

After arriving in the operations area, LAKE CHAMPLAIN went right to work. While participating in several exercises, flight deck qualifications with Lonewolf 53 and 55, plane guard operations with USS CARL VINCENT on 12 May, unrep with USNS GUADALUPE on 13 May and USS CARL VINCENT on 14 May, EOD exercises and plane guard operations once again on 15 May, LAKE CHAMPLAIN's officers and crew continued to excel at all tasking assigned them. LAKE CHAMPLAIN was honored by a visit on 13 May by Rear Admiral Allen, COMCARGRU FOUR and Rear Admiral Brown, COMCARGRU ONE. HSL-45 detached on the evening of 15 May. LAKE CHAMPLAIN pulled into NAVSTA San Diego on the morning of 16 May and was moored at Pier 8.

The next few days would find the LAKE CHAMPLAIN playing host to several visiting tour groups. These high profile visits, coupled with the intense dedication of her crew, are the reason the "Champy" has earned the prestigious, if unofficial, acknowledgement as the Pacific Fleet's Show Ship. On 19 May, members of the Naval Staff College toured the command, gaining valuable insight into the defensive and offensive aspects of the AEGIS platform.

The following morning, 20 May, LAKE CHAMPLAIN welcomed Rod Luck of KUSI, a local television channel. The morning consisted of live television footage of several key operational areas with

demonstrations of various fire fighting and combat capabilities as explained by Captain Van Buskirk and other members of the crew. The ship was underway on live television at 0700 in order to transit to Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego to celebrate Armed Forces Day. LAKE CHAMPLAIN was fully dressed out with her crew manning the rails when she moored. The ship was opened up to the public for the weekend with tours being conducted for several thousand of San Diego's citizens. LAKE CHAMPLAIN's officers and crew provided a professional, courteous and positive link to San Diego and the surrounding communities.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway at 1000, 23 May transitting back to Pier 8, NAVSTA San Diego, where they arrived at 1130. Later that morning, ATGPAC arrived signalling the beginning of TSTA I, Week I. The week went into full swing with an arduous schedule of fire drills, engineering oral boards, bridge panel operator training and end of the day debriefs.

On 25 May LAKE CHAMPLAIN played host to several high level Naval Attaches, COMNAVSURFPAC's Chief of Staff and the Litton AEGIS President in Lessons Learned Meetings and briefs throughout the day.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN prepared to get underway again 0850, 31 May for week 2 of TSTA I, with several midshipmen riders accompanying the ship during this period. Rod Luck from KUSI television was again onboard filming live footage of the ship and its crew as they prepared for this underway time. LAKE CHAMPLAIN completed an unrep with the USNS GUADALUPE on 01 June. Intense training scenarios, DLQs and drill packages were conducted all week long, including hard-charging General Quarters drills daily. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to her berth at Pier 8, NAVSTA San Diego 1430, 3 June, and took a welcome weekend of R&R before entering TSTA I, Week III.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN's work-up cycle continued when the ship got underway 1300, 6 June for week three of TSTA I. The week started with an anchor drop test at the Coronado Roads. After completing the drop test the ship headed out to sea to commence several deceptive lighting and night drill packages. Training and exercises continued at a very high paced level for the whole crew with daily General Quarters drills, a full power run and a 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE. LAKE CHAMPLAIN completed another unrep with the USNS GUADALUPE with flawless execution on 09 June. The week finished off with the proudest cruiser in the Navy returning to its berth at 1250, 10 June.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN, the most underway ship in the Pacific Fleet, was underway again at 0800, 13 May to continue her rigorous training schedule. The week incorporated a flurry of deck landing qualifications, Tomahawk and Cruise Missile scenarios, ECC drills, night drill packages and culminated in a 5"/54/CIWS/50 cal/M60 Pac/Fam Fire. After an arduous week, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was welcomed back to port at 1300, 17 June, Pier 7, NAVSTA San Diego.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN completed a shipwide safety zone inspection which included a safety walkthrough of every space onboard the ship with discrepancies noted for action, EEED egress training from all berthing spaces, electrical safety inspections, magazine

inspections, a handrail, safety chain and lifeline inspection, DUI prevention training, crime prevention and damage control training from 23 to 24 June.

Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN visited and toured LAKE CHAMPLAIN on 29 June. After looking at the ship and talking to members of the crew, he rightfully recognized LAKE CHAMPLAIN as the best of the best cruisers on the waterfront.

Captain Van Buskirk greeted two Japanese Navy cruisers, JDS Kurama and JDS Hatakaze, 30 June, upon their arrival at Pier 8, NAVSTA San Diego. On 6 July, LAKE CHAMPLAIN had the honor of hosting a visit by their Commanding Officers, senior officers, and Admiral Yamada.

On 9 July, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway at 0900, from Pier 7 to host a dependents cruise which with KUSI TV personality, Rod Luck, onboard for a live broadcast. Some of the attractions featured were an HSL-45 fly-by, steel beach picnic, full power demonstration, crash back/crash forward, and MT-51/CIWS PACFIRE. The ship returned to Pier 7, Naval Station at 1700 that same day.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued TSTA II on 13 July, getting underway at an early 0530. During the week, several training evolutions were conducted, always with the 1995 deployment in sight. These evolutions included SLAMEX 94-12, Tomahawk Block III Team Training, an anchor drop test, TSS (3), battle messing, VBSS training, and flight quarters with HSL-45. Another successful unrep was conducted with the USS YUKON on Thursday, 14 July. After a hard week of workups, LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego at 1430, 15 July.

After a refreshing and restful weekend, LAKE CHAMPLAIN and her crew were eager to hit the waves again, and were underway at 0700, 18 July. The weeks events included hosting several midshipmen and Leaders to Sea. Training continued as usual with VBSS training, AA high-speed gunnery/CIWS firing, and lost plane recovery exercises. The last of the Leaders to Sea were transferred via small boat at 1600, 22 July and LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway immediately thereafter, enroute Vancouver, B.C., with HSL 53 embarked.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN entered port at West Balentine Pier, Vancouver B.C. at 1400, 27 July. The port visit included many opportunities for the crew to experience several cultural events which were scheduled throughout the community for the week.

The ship and her crew left Vancouver, B.C. at 0630, 2 August, enroute Indian Island, Washington and arrived that same day at 1500.

The morning of 3 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN embarked several VIPs for the transit to Seattle, WA to attend the Seattle Seafair. The ship was underway at 0845, enroute Seattle. After arriving in Seattle at 1245, 3 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN and her crew spent the week participating in important public relations events directly related to the ABRAHAM LINCOLN being homeported in Everett, WA. After a very enjoyable port visit LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway and hard at work at 0800, 8 August.

The week of 08-12 August was spent conducting a DC standdown, various flight operations with HSL 53, and shipwide training, ranging from EW exercises to small arms qualifications. At 1500,

9 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN participated in an unrep with USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to family and friends at 0930, 12 August, Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego.

17 August was a very busy day for the officers and crew. LAKE CHAMPLAIN had the esteemed honor of hosting the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Macke and Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN, Rear Admiral Hickey. After a tour throughout the ship, Admiral Macke presented several personal awards to various crew members. Later that day, LAKE CHAMPLAIN also hosted a visit by the judges and spouses of the Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit Court, the District Bankruptcy and Magistrate Judges and a Justice of the Supreme Court.

On 22 and 23 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted the officers and crew of the HMCS ANNAPOLIS.

On 27 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted a successful dinner and tour of the ship for Rear Admiral Gunn and several female CEOs in support of the CEOs to Sea Program.

On 29 August, continuing a very busy public relations schedule, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted a visit from Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, Admiral Zlatoper.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued the workup cycle on 6 September getting underway at 0830, 6 September for TSTA III. The week consisted of intensive training in preparation for the upcoming Operational Plant Propulsion Exam, DLQs for HSL 41 and 47, small arms range, cruise missile training and an unrep with USS WILLAMETTE on 8 September. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to port at 1530, 9 September, Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego.

After a restful weekend at home, the crew was ready to leap back into TSTA III, underway again at 0830, 12 September. The week continued, as any week of workups do, with training going on in all areas of the ship. After a hard week of work was completed, LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned home at 1530, 16 September to Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued TSTA III on 19 September with OPPE Tiger Teams hitting all the Engineering spaces hard. Various Combat Systems and Damage Control scenarios were conducted, fine tuning the training of the past months in continued preparation for the upcoming deployment. On 21 September, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted a tour for personnel of the Chilean Navy Submarine Force.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN's Operational Propulsion Plant Exam began on 26 September. The ship was underway from 1500, 28 September to 1300, 30 September, successfully completing all phases of this command milestone in preparation for the upcoming deployment to the Arabian Gulf.

From one milestone to the next, LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued to stride with pride and professionalism, completing the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification from 3 - 6 October, a full day ahead of schedule.

In keeping with the hard-paced life a ship experiences during workups, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was underway again 1100, 11 October to prepare for the Final Evaluation Problem. Yet, always willing to honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the defense of their country, LAKE CHAMPLAIN took time out to observe a Burial

at Sea on 13 October. It seemed only appropriate to have observed, with honors, our countries servicemen on the Navy's 219th Birthday.

Preparations continued at a furious pace through the week with GQ drills, Ship's Self-Defense Force training, Harpoon scenarios and flying squad drills. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned home 14 October at 1430, Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN commenced her Final Evaluation Problem the morning of 18 October, getting underway at 1100. A smooth unrep was conducted with USNS YUKON the evening of 20 October amid the various exercises and training. The week ended with the LAKE CHAMPLAIN completing FEP and returning to Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego at 1430.

The ship and her crew were underway once again at 0900, 25 October to participate with the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN in COMPTUEX 95-1A. LAKE CHAMPLAIN received HSL 45 Det 8 onboard that morning, then proceeded to rendezvous with the ABE LINCOLN. Successful unreps were completed with the USNS YUKON on 28 October and 1 November. NGFS training, AAW and ASW exercises, flight quarters, plane guard, flying squad drills and missile exercises were just a few of the evolutions that kept the crew on its feet and running during the underway period. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego at 0930, 4 November.

On 7 November, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted members of the Canadian Land Forces Western Area. The following day, LAKE CHAMPLAIN had the honor of entertaining Mr. Herb Kelleher, President of Southwest Airlines, to a breakfast and tour of the ship.

On 15 November, LAKE CHAMPLAIN once again hosted the Rod Luck Show and KUSI TV for a special Veteran's Day show.

For the following two weeks, LAKE CHAMPLAIN's crew were going through rigorous preparations for Logistics Management Assessment. On 26 November, the Rod Luck Show and KUSI TV once again visited for a visit and tour.

28 November kicked off LAKE CHAMPLAIN's LMA. Like all previous inspections though, LAKE CHAMPLAIN's officers and crew performed like the champions they are. LMA was completed with outstanding results. LAKE CHAMPLAIN's Predeployment Fair was held the evening of 29 November with an outstanding turnout by all the crews families.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN hit the waves 0815, 4 December, for exercises in the SOCAL OPAREA prior to heading to Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach for an ammunition onload/offload. In addition to hosting Leaders to Sea for the duration of the underway period, on 7 December, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted over 120 people in a wreath laying ceremony for the crew of the USS MAHAN. USNS YUKON participated in yet another successful unrep with LAKE CHAMPLAIN on 8 December. LAKE CHAMPLAIN arrived at Seal Beach at 0730, 9 December, completed the onload/offload, was underway from Seal Beach again at 1400 that same day and arrived at Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego at 2100 that evening.

On 12 December, LAKE CHAMPLAIN embarked COMDESRON FIVE for participation in MEFEX/COMPTUEX 95-2 getting underway at 1200. The week consisted of a series of Battle Group COMSEC, TLAM, ASW, AAW and GQ exercises. Another smooth unrep was completed with

the USS A. J. HIGGINS on 17 December. LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned to port after an exceptional underway time at 1500, 19 December, rolling right into the holiday standdown period.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN's officers and crew spent the final days of 1994 celebrating the holidays at home with family and friends. The workup cycle for the deployment, which was to commence on 26 January 1996, was a hard and difficult process. The men of LAKE CHAMPLAIN met each and every hurdle with the determination and professionalism of true professionals, making 1994 an exceptional year.