



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
FPO AP 96671-1177

Rec'd 5/7/97

5757
Ser CG57/ 133
19 Mar 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Command Chronology
(3) Command Narrative
(4) Supporting Documentation

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

F. J. Dobrydney
F. J. DOBRYDNEY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

HOMEPORT:

Naval Station, San Diego, CA

MISSION:

LAKE CHAMPLAIN operates offensively in a high-density, multi-threat environment as an integral part of a battle group or surface action group (SAG) to include striking targets along hostile shorelines and well inland.

COMMANDING OFFICER:

Captain Frank J. Dobrydney, USN

ISIC:

OPERATIONAL: CTG 35.2
COMMANDER, CARRIER GROUP SEVEN

ADMINISTRATIVE: COMMANDER, CARRIER GROUP SEVEN

UNITS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL:

None

AIRCRAFT EMBARKED:

None

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 1996

- 06 Jan - Tour for Mr. David Wier and 12 Guests
- 16 Jan - Underway for NGFS spotter services
 - 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE
 - UNREP with USNS TIPPECANOE
- 17 Jan - NGFS Spotter Services
- 18 Jan - DLQs with HSL 43/45/49
- 19 Jan - Moor Naval Station San Diego Pier 2
- 22 Jan - Underway enroute Mazatlan, Mexico
 - Conducted AAW-21-SF exercise
- 23 Jan - Conducted ASU-18-SF exercise
- 24 Jan - DLQ with HSL 45/47/49
- 25 Jan - UNREP with USNS TIPPECANOE
- 26 Jan - Burial at Sea
- 29 Jan - Anchored at Mazatlan, Mexico
- 02 Feb - Underway enroute Naval Station San Diego
- 05 Feb - Embark SOSMRC
- 06 Feb - 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE
 - ASW OBT with CRO HSL
- 07 Feb - Conducted AAW-3/4-I and AAW-24-SF exercise
- 08 Feb - UNREP with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
 - Straits transit query exercise with USS NIMITZ Battle Group
- 09 Feb - Embark Peruvian Midshipmen
 - SOSMRC departure
- 12 Feb - Moored Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8
- 13-17 Feb - Incline Ship Testing
- 16 Feb - Underway breast out for Incline Ship Test

21 Feb	- CINCPACFLT ILO visit
26 Feb	- Underway for Leaders to Sea - 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE
27 Feb	- Leaders to Sea - NGFS Spotter Services - Stream NIXIE
28 Feb	- Leaders to Sea
29 Feb	- Leaders to Sea
01 Mar	- Leaders to Sea - Moored Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8
04 Mar	- Underway for dependents cruise - 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE - Moored Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8
06 Mar	- Air Force Staff College Visit
12 Mar	- Underway enroute Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach
13-14 Mar	- Moored Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach - Ammunition Offload
14 Mar	- Underway enroute NAVSTA San Diego - Moored Naval Station San Diego, Pier 7
16 Mar	- Integrated Logistics Overhaul Offload - Crew move ashore
18-21 Mar	- Defueling
19 Mar	- Removal HF Whip/Wire antennas - SLQ-32 antenna removal
20 Mar	- Removal of Liferafts - Removal of 64 AS-3134 Feedhorns and 300 lb antenna programmer from the main mast - Take possession of the berthing barge
21 Mar	- 6C-1 arrival conference
22 Mar	- Underway, deadstick shift to NASSCO Berth 4 - Moored NASSCO Berth 4

12 Apr - Underway, deadstick shift to NASSCO drydock
- Docked in NASSCO drydock

06-10 May - PLOT I

22 May - Visit by CAPT Wheeler (CNSP)

28 May - Regular Overhaul 25% completion conference

24-27 Jun - Pay/Personnel/Administration Training Team
assist visit

27 Jun - Arrival of the Japanese Maritime Self
Defense Force
- JDS Hei moored Naval Station San Diego,
Pier 8

28 Jun - Visit to Seaman Toyas' grave (Mount Hope
Cemetery)
- JDS Hei reception
- Wreath laying ceremony at Rosecrans
Cemetery

01 Jul - Wardroom Barbecue with JDS Hei wardroom

03 Jul - Commander, Carrier Group Seven Change of
Command aboard USS KITTY HAWK

05 Jul - Farewell reception for the Japanese
Maritime Self Defense Force aboard USS
OLENDORF

17 Jul - Visit by Rear Admiral J. B. Nathman (CCG-7)
- Undocked from NASSCO drydock enroute NASSCO
Berth 4

22-26 Jul - Surface Line Week

30 Jul - Regular Overhaul 50% Completion Conference

12 Aug - Commenced AEGIS Light-Off Phase I

19-23 Aug - PLOT II

24 Aug - Baptism for [REDACTED] in the Pilot
House

30 Aug - Retirement ceremony for LT [REDACTED]

03 Sep - Regular Overhaul 75% completion conference

04-05 Sep	- USS NIMITZ Battle Group Initial Planning Conference
09 Sep	- Crew Certification Phase I
09 Sep	- Commenced AEGIS Light-Off Phase II
10 Sep	- Command Inspection
16 Sep	- ASIR Technical Assist Visit
27 Sep	- SPQ-9 Raydome Onload
04 Oct	- Main machinery turnover - Crew move aboard
07-09 Oct	- PLOT III
23-25 Oct	- Light-Off Assessment
28 Oct-01 Nov	- Combat Systems alignment - Harpoon Material Certification
01 Nov	- Lieutenant Commander M. J. Salvato relieved Lieutenant Commander T. H. Copeman as Executive Officer
04-08 Nov	- Tomahawk Material Certification
05 Nov	- Delivery of AEGIS Baseline 2.10 software upgrade
12 Nov	- Crew Certification Phase II
18 Nov	- Underway enroute North Island, BRAVO Pier for ammunition onload - Moored at North Island, BRAVO Pier - Underway for Sea Trials
19 Nov	- 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE - Stream NIXIE
20 Nov	- Moored NAVSTA San Diego, Pier 8
22 Nov	- Aviation Readiness Evaluation - Regular Overhaul Completion Conference
26 Nov	- Postal Inspection - RSO Combat Systems Snapshot

- 09-13 Dec - Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II
- 18 Dec - Visit by CAPT Cobb (PMS 400)
- 19 Dec - Retirement ceremony for EWCS [REDACTED]
- 20-26 Dec - Holiday leave period 1
- 28 Dec-03 Jan - Holiday leave period 2

COMMAND NARRATIVE FOR 1996

The new year began with USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored at Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego under the command of Captain Frank J. Dobrydney. The ship has been inport since 15 December 1995 for the Christmas holidays.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway on the morning of 16 January for Naval Gunfire Support spotter services in the SOCAL OPAREA. Enroute, the ship conducted a Pre-Action Calibration firing of the 5"/54 caliber gun, Mount 51 and 52; and the Close-In-Weapons System (CIWS), Mount 21 and 22. In addition, the ship conducted an outstanding underway replenishment with USNS TIPPECANOE and Deck Landing Quals with helicopters from HSL 43, 45 and 49. The ship moored on the morning of 19 January at 0950 at Naval Station San Diego, Pier 2.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway again at 0800 on 22 January enroute for Mazatlan, Mexico. The transit to Mazatlan was an eventful one. Shortly after getting underway, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted a live firing exercise (AAW-21-SF) with the CIWS, Mounts 21 and 22. The following day, the ship conducted a live firing exercise (ASU-18-SF) for the 5"/54 caliber guns, Mount 51 and 52. The ship also conducted Deck Landing Qualifications with HSL 45, 47 and 49 on 24 January and a second successful replenishment with USNS TIPPECANOE on 25 January. Another significant event on the transit was a burial at sea conducted on 26 January. LAKE CHAMPLAIN anchored off of Mazatlan, Mexico on 29 January.

Following a brief port visit in Mazatlan, Mexico, LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway on 02 February to return to Naval Station San Diego. From 05 through 09 February, prospective Commanding Officers from SOSMRC embarked to observe underway operations. In addition to observing 5"/54 caliber gun and CIWS PACFIRES conducted on 06 February, they observed a live firing exercise (AAW-24-SF) for the CIWS, Mount 21 and 22 and an underway replenishment with USNS Walter S. DIEHL. On 09 February, the ship embarked several midshipmen from the Peruvian Navy. LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored at Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8 at 1100 on 12 February.

From 13 through 23 February, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was busy with preparations for the upcoming Regular Overhaul including an incline ship test and a visit by the CINCPACFLT Integrated Logistics Overhaul Team.

On 26 February, LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway enroute to the SOCAL OPAREAS in support of COMNAVSURFPAC's Leader to Sea Program. From 26 February through 01 March, the ship conducted events including several 5"/54 caliber gun and CIWS PACFIRES and small arms familiarization firings. Following a successful underway period, LAKE CHAMPLAIN moored in the afternoon of 01 March at Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8.

The ship was underway again on the morning of 04 March for a dependents cruise. In addition to tours of the ship and several helicopter fly-bys, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted a 5"/54 caliber and CIWS PACFIRE and a full power demonstration. The ship moored at Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8 at 1500 that afternoon.

The final event before starting the overhaul came on 06 March when the ship welcomed visitors from the Air Force Staff College.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway on 13 March enroute to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach to conduct a completed weapons offload. The ship moored at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach at 0730 on 13 March; and following an exceptionally well coordinated ammunition offload, returned to Naval Station San Diego in the afternoon of 14 March.

On 16 March, the Integrated Logistics Overhaul offload of parts and supplies began as well as the crew moving off the ship to barracks provided at Naval Training Center, San Diego. From 19 through 21 March, preparations for the Regular Overhaul continued with the complete defueling of the ship and the removal of all liferafts and numerous antennas. The official arrival conference for the overhaul was held on the afternoon of 21 March. On 22 March, LAKE CHAMPLAIN officially began the Regular Overhaul when she conducted a deadstick berth shift to NASSCO Berth 4 with the assistance of 2 tugs. On 12 April, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted a second deadstick shift into the NASSCO drydock.

Although the primary focus from 12 April through 17 July was to complete work necessary to come out of drydock on time, numerous inspections, assist visits, and other events kept the crew extremely busy. The ship was involved in Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT) Phase I from 06 through 10 May and completed an extremely successful assessment by the Pay, Personnel and Administration Training Team from 24 through 27 June. Additionally, LAKE CHAMPLAIN welcomed Captain Wheeler from COMNAVSURFPAC on 22 May and was one of the host ships for the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force during their visit to San Diego from 27 June through 05 July. Specifically, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was the sister ship for the JDS Hei. During their visit, numerous activities were planned including a visit to Seaman Toyas' grave at the Mount Hope Cemetery and a wreath laying ceremony at the Rosecrans Cemetery. LAKE CHAMPLAIN also provided the Honor Guard for the Commander, Carrier Group Seven Change of Command on 03 July aboard USS KITTY HAWK. Rear Admiral L. G. Bien was relieved by Rear Admiral J. B. Nathman. On 05 July, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted a farewell reception for the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force aboard USS OLENDORF. Major milestones during this period included the Regular Overhaul 25 percent completion conference which was held on 28 May.

On 17 July, Commander, Carrier Group Seven, Rear Admiral J. B. Nathman visited the ship in the NASSCO drydock just prior to undocking and a deadstick shift to NASSCO Berth 4 that evening.

From 22 through 26 July, LAKE CHAMPLAIN participated in the Surface Line Week where the ship finished first in medical diagnosis, valve packing and physical excellence; second in volleyball, powercable tug of war and lathe operations; and third in seamanship.

The end of July marked the half way point in the overhaul. The 50 percent completion conference was held on 30 July. LAKE CHAMPLAIN began the road back from overhaul by commencing AEGIS Light-Off phase I on 12 August and conducting Pre-Light Off Training Phase II from 19 through 23 August.

In August LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted the baptism of [REDACTED], the daughter of Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] in the Pilot House on 24 August and a retirement ceremony for Lieutenant [REDACTED] on 30 August.

In September, several major milestones were achieved. The ship reached the 75 percent point in the overhaul. The 75 percent completion conference was held on 03 September. In addition, the ship commenced AEGIS Light-Off Phase II and completed a highly successful Crew Certification Phase I and Command Inspection from 09 through 10 September.

On 04 October, the crew of LAKE CHAMPLAIN once again took control of all main machinery from NASSCO as well as beginning the crew moving back aboard the ship. From 07 through 09 October, the ship conducted Pre-Light Off Training Phase III in preparations for the Light-Off Assessment which was conducted from 23 through 25 October. October ended with a successful Harpoon Material Certification and Combat Systems alignment.

The first of November saw a change in the chain of command when Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Salvato relieved Lieutenant Commander Thomas H. Copeman as Executive Officer. The ship completed a successful Tomahawk Material Certification and the delivery of the AEGIS Baseline 2.10 software upgrade, significantly enhancing LAKE CHAMPLAIN's combat systems capabilities. On 12 November, the ship completed an exceptionally successful Crew Certification Phase II in preparation for getting underway for Sea Trials.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN got underway on ship's power for the first time since beginning the overhaul at 0630 on 18 November. The ship made a brief stop at North Island, BRAVO Pier for an ammunition onload before proceeding out to the SOCAL OPAREAS for Sea Trials. Following a successful three day Sea Trials, the ship moored at Naval Station San Diego, Pier 8 at 1500 on 20 November and officially completed the overhaul. The completion conference was conducted on 22 November. Shortly thereafter, the ship completed several other inspections including the Aviation Readiness Evaluation and a Postal Inspection.

In December, LAKE CHAMPLAIN began the work-up cycle for deployment when the ship completed a successful Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II from 09 through 13 December. Other major events in December included a visit by Captain Cobb from PMS 400 on 18 December and a retirement ceremony for EWCS [REDACTED] on 19 December. On 20 December, LAKE CHAMPLAIN stood down for the holidays until 03 January 1997.