



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

Rev 10 3/25/99
5757
Ser CG57/050
11 MAR 99
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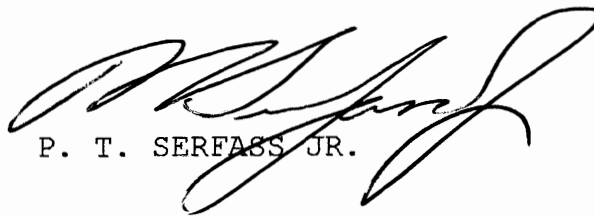
From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

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.


P. T. SERFASS JR.

Copy to:
COMCARGRU SEVEN

Command Composition and Organization

MISSION:

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

ISIC:

OPERATIONAL:

01 JAN - 07 FEB	CTF 50	COMCARGRU SEVEN
08 FEB - 14 FEB	CTF 59	COMCARGRU SEVEN
15 FEB - 17 FEB	CTG 068.2	COMCARGRU SEVEN
18 FEB - 01 MAR	CTG 024.23	COMCARGRU SEVEN
02 MAR - 31 DEC	CTG 35.2	COMCARGRU SEVEN

ADMINISTRATIVE:

01 JAN - 31 DEC	COMCARGRU SEVEN
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UNITS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL:

NONE

COMMANDING OFFICER:

01 JAN - 28 FEB	Captain F. J. Dobrydney
01 MAR - 31 DEC	Captain P. T. Serfass Jr.

PERMANENT DUTY STATION:

Naval Station San Diego, CA.

AIRCRAFT EMBARKED:

01 JAN - 28 FEB	HSL 49	RED STINGER 108/109
13 APR - 24 APR	HSL 49	RED STINGER 101/107

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 1998

29 Dec - 09 Jan	Underway Northern Arabian Gulf
01 Jan - 10 Jan	Flight Quarters
01 Jan	Plane Guard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
02 Jan - 04 Jan	Plane Guard USS NIMITZ
04 Jan	Anti-Ship Missile Defense Exercise Tomahawk Land Attack Missile Exercise
05 Jan	Underway Replenishment with USS SEATTLE USS NIMITZ takes tactical control of LAKE CHAMPLAIN
06 Jan	NIMITZ Battle Group Photo
06 Jan - 08 Jan	Plane Guard USS NIMITZ
07 Jan	Vertical Replenishment with USNS SPICA Commanding Officer visits USS NIMITZ Visit from TG 50.1 (Commander, George Washington Battle Group/COMGWBATGRU)
09 Jan	Detached, en route to Strait of Hormuz First Annual "Tough Guy" Weightlifting Competition Live Firing Exercise
10 Jan	Advanced clocks to -4D Transited Strait of Hormuz
11 Jan - 12 Jan	Independent Operations in the Gulf of Oman
11 Jan	Steel Beach Picnic
12 Jan - 25 Jan	Transit to Fremantle, Australia
12 Jan	Captain's Call Underway Replenishment and Vertical Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO Set course for Fremantle, Australia Tactical Control of USS FORD, USS KINKAID and USS SACRAMENTO

13 Jan - 17 Jan	Flight Quarters
13 Jan	Full Power Trial
14 Jan	Division Tactics Exercise (DIVTACS) Underway Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO Live Firing Exercise
15 Jan	Change of Operational Command (CHOP) to Seventh Fleet E-7 exam Set Weapons Posture III
16 Jan	Emission Condition (EMCON) drills - SATVULEX Advanced clocks to -5E
17 Jan	Small Arms Familiarization (FAMFIRE) Class C fire in #3 GTG Crossed the Equator at 2055 at 081° 47' 00" E
18 Jan	Shellback Indoctrination Steel beach picnic
19 Jan	Advance clocks to -6F Underway Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO Martin Luther King Celebration
19 Jan - 20 Jan	Flight Quarters
21 Jan	Division Tactics Exercise (DIVTACS) Small Arms Familiarization (FAMFIRE)
22 Jan - 24 Jan	Flight Quarters
22 Jan	Advanced clocks to -7G 5"/CIWS Live Firing Exercise
23 Jan	Link fast frequency change drill Commenced Commanding Officer's Zone Inspections
24 Jan	Advanced clocks to -8H Underway Replenishment & Vertical Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
25 Jan	Moored, Quay Berth 18, Fremantle, Australia (0753)

25 Jan - 30 Jan	Inport Fremantle, Australia
25 Jan - 29 Jan	General Visiting
27 Jan	Reception
29 Jan	Community Relations Visit to Princess Margaret Children's Hospital
30 Jan	Underway en route Sydney, Australia (0821)
30 Jan - 5 Feb	Transit to Sydney, Australia
31 Jan	Leap frogs / Junior Officer flaghoist drill Flight Quarters
01 Feb	Advanced clock to -9I
02 Feb - 04 Feb	Flight Quarters Electrical Safety Training
02 Feb	Link fast frequency change drill Underway Replenishment / Vertical Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
03 Feb	Advanced clocks to -10K Detached USS SACRAMENTO
04 Feb	Advanced clocks to -11L Rendezvous with USS FORD Commanding Officer and Chaplain attend change of command on USS FORD Over-the-horizon targeting exercise with Royal Australian Navy Air defense exercise with Royal Australian Navy
05 Feb	Moored, Australian Fleet Naval Headquarters, Sydney, Australia (0912)
05 Feb - 10 Feb	Inport Sydney, Australia
06 Feb	Luncheon in Wardroom
10 Feb - 14 Feb	Flight Quarters
10 Feb	Underway en route Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (0828)

10 Feb - 21 Feb	Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
11 Feb - 12 Feb	Fortress Raptor Tomahawk Missile Exercise
11 Feb	Underway Replenishment / Vertical Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
12 Feb	Married Sailors' Deployment Reunion Briefs
13 Feb	Main Space Fire Drill Class C fire in the Helo Hanger
14 Feb	Link fast frequency change drill
15 Feb	Advanced clocks to -12M
16 Feb - 17 Feb	Flight Quarters Electrical Safety Training
16 Feb	Underway Replenishment / Vertical Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
16 Feb (2nd)	Crossed Equator and International Dateline Simultaneously (0307) Retarded clocks to +12Y Crewmembers become Golden Shellbacks
18 Feb	Advanced clocks to +11X
20 Feb	Advanced clocks to +10W Flight Quarters
21 Feb	Moored, Berth B25, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (1000) Captain P. T. Serfass Jr. arrives Tigers arrive Commanding Officers' Hail and Farewell at Hickham Officers' Club
22 Feb	Underway en route Naval Station San Diego (0920) Underway Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
22 Feb - 28 Feb	Transit to San Diego, California
23 Feb - 24 Feb	Flight Quarters
23 Feb	Small arms fire Live Firing Exercise

24 Feb	Single Sailors' Deployment Reunion Brief Weather Balloon Launch Bingo / Nacho Night
25 Feb	Advanced clocks to +9V Change of Command Ceremony Ash Wednesday celebration Ship's Blues band, "Blues Deluxe," performs for crew
27 Feb	Advanced clocks to +8U Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
28 Feb	Flight Quarters USS KINKAID detached Red Stinger 108 and 109 detached Moored, Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (0941) Commanding Officers, USS ANTIETEM and USS PRINCETON call on LAKE CHAMPLAIN Captain Serfass relieves Captain Dobrydney Captain Dobrydney is piped ashore
02 Mar	Captain's Calls with PO1s, CPOs and Officers
02 Mar - 16 Mar	First Leave and Standdown Period
03 Mar	E-4 Advancement Exam
04 Mar	HSL-49 Det 3 Offload / Space Turnover
05 Mar	E-5 Advancement Exam
09 Mar	Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX 98-1) Communications Conference on USS CORONADO
10 Mar	E-6 Advancement Exam
17 Mar	Turnover Day
18 Mar - 31 Mar	Second Leave and Standdown Period
18 Mar	Rear Admiral Campbell, COMCARGRU SEVEN, visits and addresses duty section
19 Mar	Command Master Chief meets with Commanding Officer Naval Training

Center (NTC) Great Lakes

26 Mar	Director, Naval Intelligence visits
28 Mar	USS NOA Reunion
28 Mar - 29 Mar	Visit Ship
31 Mar	Recoverable Exercise Torpedo (REXTORP) onload
01 Apr	General Military Training (GMT) on Navy Physical Readiness
01 Apr - 03 Apr	Texas Thunder Tomahawk Missile Exercise
02 Apr	Fast Cruise Ombudsman Meeting
03 Apr	Safety Standdown
04 Apr	Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Spring Fling / Egg Hunt
05 Apr	Advanced clocks to +7T for daylight savings
06 Apr - 01 May	Midshipman Summer Training
06 Apr	Shift to summer uniform Underway en route Seal Beach, California (0901) Detect to Engage Tracking Scenario
07 Apr - 08 Apr	Flight Quarters Leaders to Sea visitors onboard
07 Apr	Live Firing Exercise in Quick Draw Area (QDA) Electrical Safety Training
08 Apr	Range Electronic Warfare Simulator (REWS) Torpedo exercise Marriage enrichment training
09 Apr	Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK Moored, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California (1358)
10 Apr	Ammunition Offload Underway en route Naval Station San Diego (1257) Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego outboard USS PRINCETON

(1824)

13 Apr	Underway en route Mazatlan, Mexico (0651) Division Tactics Exercise (DIVTACS) Red Stinger 101 and 107 embarked
13 Apr - 15 Apr	Flight Quarters
13 Apr - 14 Apr	Coordinated Orange Force attack on LINCOLN Battle Group
14 Apr	Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK Visit from Vice Admiral Browne, Commander, Third Fleet (COMTHIRDFLT)
15 Apr	Live Firing Exercise
17 Apr	Advanced clocks to +6S Anchored, 23° 09' 50" N, 106° 24' 30" W off Mazatlan, Mexico (0815)
17 Apr - 21 Apr	At anchor off Mazatlan, Mexico for port visit Community Relations Volunteer Project at Asilo de Ancianos
21 Apr	Underway en route Naval Station San Diego (0855) Small Arms Qualifications
21 Apr - 24 Apr	Flight Quarters
22 Apr	Retarded clocks to +7T
23 Apr	Underway Replenishment with USS SACRAMENTO
24 Apr	Red Stinger 101 and 107 detached Moored, pier 13, Naval Station San Diego (0849) Customs / Agricultural Inspection
25 Apr	United States Air Force Squadron Reunion Group Tour
25 Apr - 26 Apr	Visit ship
27 Apr	Underway en route Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach (0827) Moored, Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach (1355)
28 Apr - 29 Apr	Ammunition Offload
30 Apr	Underway en route Naval Station, San Diego (0926)

Moored, pier 8, Naval Station, San Diego (1545)

01 May - 12 May	Upkeep, San Diego
04 May - 05 May	Commanding Officer is on leave; Executive Officer is acting CO
04 May	Berthing barge inspection Naval Station Ombudsman Assembly
05 May - 08 May	Semi-annual Command Physical Readiness Test (PRT)
05 May	Sailor of the Year Luncheon Electrical Safety Training
06 May	Flooding in #3 GTG
07 May	All Surface Rating Detailer visit at COMNAVSURFPAC Career Information Building Berthing Barge arrives
11 May - 15 May	Gas Turbine Readiness Improvement Team Training Visit
11 May - 16 May	Single Ship ASW Team Trainer
11 May	SRA Arrival Conference Crew moves to Naval Training Center (NTC) Barracks
13 May	LCDR Tom Neal relieves LCDR Mike Salvato as Executive Officer Underway en route Continental Maritime Shipyard (0738) Moored, pier 4, Continental Maritime Shipyard (0749)
13 May - 16 Jul	Inport, pier 4, Continental Maritime Shipyard for SRA San Diego
14 May - 16 May	Commanding Officer takes leave; Executive Officer is acting CO
16 May	Executive Officers' Hail and Farewell
19 May - 20 May	AEGIS Technical / Tactical Working Group -- Aegis Training Readiness Center Detachment (ATRC Det) San Diego
19 May	Shifted Quarterdeck to aft port Quarterdeck
25 May	Observed Memorial Day
26 May - 29 May	Consolidated Ship's Maintenance Plan (CSMP) Scrub Phase I

26 May - 29 May	Torpedo Strikedown Lift System Training
27 May	Courtesy Call from Commanding Officer, USS GARY
01 Jun - 05 Jun	Consolidated Ship's Maintenance Plan (CSMP) Scrub Phase II
03 Jun	Computer Security Awareness Day
04 Jun	STENNIS Battle Group Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) Conference with COMNAVSURFPAC at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado
05 Jun	Officers v. Chiefs Softball Challenge -- chiefs win
08 Jun - 12 Jun	Surface Line Week Gas Turbine Readiness Improvement Team Training Visit
08 Jun - 09 Jun	Petty Officer Indoctrination
09 Jun - 12 Jun	Prevent Training
09 Jun - 11 Jun	Afloat Training Group Pacific Shipboard Team Trainer Course
12 Jun	Petty Officer Frocking Ceremony SURFPAC Ball at Hotel del Coronado
15 Jun - 18 Jun	Light Airbone Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) Aviation Ordnance Team Training Cryptological Combat Support Course
16 Jun	Admin General Quarters Training
16 Jun - 18 Jun	Prevent Training
17 Jun	Counter Intelligence Brief, Bldg. 88 Auditorium Awarded Rufus L. Taylor Award for Excellence in Intelligence
17 Jun - 19 Jun	Radar Navigation/Combat Information Center Team Trainer
19 Jun	Carrier Group Seven Golf Tournament
22 Jun - 26 Jun	Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Team Trainer Limited Team Trainer (LTT) Plot 1/2

24 Jun	Aegis Lightoff
25 Jun	Admin General Quarters Training Simulated Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX) Officer Accession Program Interviews
27 Jun	Commanding Officer departs on leave; Executive Officer is acting CO (0500)
30 Jun	Gas Turbine Console Trainer
01 Jul	Electrical Safety Training
01 Jul - 03 Jul	ASIR Tech Assist Visit
02 Jul	Gas Turbine Console Trainer Admin General Quarters Training
03 Jul	Duty Section only for Independence Day Weekend
04 Jul	Fourth of July Bell Ringing Ceremony Commanding Officer calls in off leave (1930)
06 Jul - 10 Jul	Immediate Superior in Chain-of-Command (ISIC)'s Quality Assurance (QA) Inspection
07 Jul	Commissioning Programs Presentation – NAVSTA bldg. 71 Command Advancement Program (CAP) Board
08 Jul – 09 Jul	Small Arms Qual bldg. 3137
09 Jul	Admin General Quarters Training
15 Jul	Fast Cruise
14 Jul	Class "C" fire reported in Engineering Berthing (1157)
16 Jul - 17 Jul	Sea Trials Detect to Engage (DTE) Scenario with Lear jet
16 Jul	Underway (0855) en route SOCAL OPAREA [REDACTED] (SSN: [REDACTED]), 38-year old male contractor severed left middle finger (1535). Ship turns back to San Diego. Contractor dispatched to shore in small boat (1626).

17 Jul	Set quiet ship Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1555)
19 Jul - 31 Jul	Reserve Unit Annual Training
20 Jul - 24 Jul	Limited Team Trainer (LTT) Plot 3 Cryptological Trainer (NCAT) Engineering Operational Sequencing System (EOSS) Validation
20 Jul - 14 Aug	Midshipman Summer Training
20 Jul	COMNAVSURFPAC Medical Officer's tour
21 Jul - 22 Jul	Gas Turbine Console Trainer
21 Jul	Electrical Safety Training
23 Jul	Visit Ship – hosted Dixie College Upward Bound Cadets, local Boy Scouts and German Boy Scouts LKC Day at the Ballpark: Padres v. Diamondbacks Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Project
24 Jul	Work Definition Conference for Corrosion Control Avail Christmas in July Volunteer Project Continental Maritime San Diego Close-out Conference
27 Jul	Underway en route Seal Beach (0944) Anchoring exercise Burials at Sea: Dorothy Boyle, CDR, USN; George Fields, LT, USN; Dennis Kimball, MMCS, USN; Warren Lockwood, CAPT, USN; Cecil Washington, RM3, USN; Dorothy Mclendon, AMC, USN; Robert Mclendon, AMC, USN; Earl Noe, SGT, USMC; Orange Richardson, LtCol, USA; Robert Shipe, ENC, USN. Class C fire in computer room transformer rack
28 Jul	Moored, Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach (1359)
28 Jul – 29 Jul	Ammunition Onload
30 Jul	Underway en route Naval Station, San Diego (1500) Anchored for Anchoring Exercise (1608) Underway (1619)

31 Jul	Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK Live Firing Exercise Moored, pier 7, Naval Station San Diego (1641)
1 Aug – 2 Aug	Visit Ship
01 Aug - 09 Aug	Upkeep, San Diego
3 Aug – 7 Aug	Damage Control Egress Spot checks Aviation Certification (ASIR)
3 Aug – 6 Aug	OBSE Scenario
3 Aug	Engineering Department Audiograms Small Boat Operations Rear Admiral Huchting Visit (Theater Air Defense and Surface Combatants)
4 Aug – 6 Aug	Visit Ship: Fire Control Symposium
7 Aug	COMNAVSURFPAC Change of Command (1000)
10 Aug – 14 Aug	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II
10 Aug	Master Light-off Checklist (MLOC) Completed
11 Aug	Small Boat Operations
12 Aug	LAKE CHAMPLAIN celebrates her tenth birthday
15 Aug - 13 Sep	Upkeep, San Diego
17 Aug - 21 Aug	Cryptological Team Trainer (BCAT)
20 Aug - 21 Aug	Aviation Assist Visit (AAV)
20 Aug	Set Terrorist Threat Condition (THREATCON) Alpha Plus
24 Aug - 11 Sep	Corrosion Control Availability
24 Aug - 28 Aug	Combat Information Center Team Training Cryptological Team Training (ICAT) Hull Cleaning SURFPAC Command Master Chief Conference Cargo Weapons Elevator Maintenance Training

24 Aug	LAKE CHAMPLAIN flag football team plays STETHAM
25 Aug	Rear Admiral Campbell, Commander, Carrier Group Seven Visit
27 Aug	Simulated Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
28 Aug	Ship's Picnic – Admiral Baker Field
01 Sep	Detailer Visit to Career Information Center - Pier 6
01 Sep	Highway Patrol Safety Brief
02 Sep	Underway to twist ship (0741) - dead stick General Quarters Main Space Fire Drill
03 Sep	LAKE CHAMPLAIN flag football team plays FITZGERALD Made up storm lines due to high winds and tense lines Environmental Safety brief
07 Sep	Labor Day
08 Sep - 11 Sep	Semi-annual Command Physical Readiness Test (PRT) Logistics Admin Training Review (LATR)
10 Sep	E-4 Advancement Exam
14 Sep - 09 Oct	Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I
15 Sep - 18 Sep	Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI)
15 Sep	E-5 Advancement Exam
16 Sep	Chief Petty Officer Frocking Ceremony
17 Sep	E-6 Advancement Exam
18 Sep	USS DENVER Change of Command (1000) USS LEWIS B PULLER Decommissioning
21 Sep	LAKE CHAMPLAIN flag football team plays JOHN PAUL JONES COMDESRON 31 calls on the Commanding Officer
22 Sep	Underway (0914)

Flight Quarters
Vertical Replenishment

22 Sep - 25 Sep	Underway, SOCAL
23 Sep	Live Firing Exercise against "killer tomato"
24 Sep	Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK Passive Countermeasure System (PCMS) testing Orange Force Attack on CARL VINSON Battlegroup
25 Sep	Anchored, Anchorage # 171 Coronado Roads for Precision Anchorage Exercise (1351) Underway (1403) Moored, pier 7, Naval Station San Diego (1635)
28 Sep	Commanding Officer's Missile Exercise (MISSILEX) brief to Commander, Carrier Group Seven on Naval Air Station North Island
29 Sep - 02 Oct	Underway, SOCAL
29 Sep	Underway (1552) Flight Quarters
30 Sep	Live Firing Exercise Small Arms Familiarization (FAMFIRE)
02 Oct	Moored, pier 7, Naval Station San Diego (1328)
05 Oct	NIMITZ Battle Group Awarded Navy Unit Commendation
06 Oct	Underway en route to SOCAL OPAREA (0903)
07 Oct	Live Firing Exercise
08 Oct	Moored to buoy (0710) Underway Replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
09 Oct	Live Firing Exercise Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1550)
12 Oct	Columbus Day
13 Oct	Navy's Birthday celebrated with cake cutting ceremony

14 Oct - 16 Oct	Underway, Southern California Operations Area (SOCAL OPAREA)
14 Oct	Underway en route SOCAL OPAREA (0900)
15 Oct	CIWS Live Firing Exercise Missile Exercise (MISSILEX)
16 Oct	Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1031)
16 Oct - 8 Nov	Inport, San Diego
19 Oct - 6 Nov	Intermediate Maintenance Availability
19 Oct - 23 Oct	Intelligence Oversight Inspection by Comander, Carrier Group Seven
21 Oct	Main Space Fire Drill / General Quarters
22 Oct	Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) II ISIC Conference with Afloat Training Group Pacific (ATG) Simulated Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
25 Oct	Retard clocks 1 hr to +8U Uniform shift to winter blues
26 Oct	Link Longlook
28 Oct	Hispanic Heritage Celebration Meal General Quarters / Chemical, Biological & Radiological Warfare (CBR) Walkthrough Exercise
30 Oct	Officers v. Chiefs Softball Re-match -- chiefs win.
02 Nov - 04 Dec	Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) II
09 Nov - 10 Nov	Underway SOCAL OPAREA
09 Nov	Underway, en route SOCAL OPAREA (1616)
10 Nov	Precision Anchorage Exercise Anchored, Lat 32 ° 38.2'N 117 ° 11.9'W (0700) Underway (0712) USW Scenario with HSL-49 helo Flight Quarters Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1952)

11 Nov	Veterans' Day
12 Nov - 13 Nov	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA
12 Nov	Underway en route SOCAL OPAREA (0833) General Quarters Drill
13 Nov	Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1517)
13 Nov - 17 Nov	Inport, San Diego
17 Nov - 20 Nov	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA
17 Nov	Underway, en route SOCAL OPAREA (0850) General Quarters Drill
18 Nov - 20 Nov	Ship-wide Influenza vaccinations
18 Nov	Moored, buoy TG-1 in vicinity of Coronado Roads (0657) Underway (0721) General Quarters Drill
19 Nov	Navy Smokeout Day Underway Replenishment with USNS PECOS
20 Nov	5"/CIWS Live Firing Exercise Commander, Third Fleet (COMTHIRDFLT) Pass in Review Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1639)
21 Nov - 29 Nov	Inport, San Diego
24 Nov	Recoverable Exercise Torpedo (REXTORP) onload
26 Nov	Thanksgiving
30 Nov - 04 Dec	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA Engineering Training
30 Nov	Underway, en route SOCAL OPAREA (0953) Flight Quarters
01 Dec	Flight Quarters Torpedo Exercise with HSL-49 helicopter General Quarters/ITT Scenario

02 Dec	Live Firing Exercise General Quarters/ ITT Scenario
03 Dec	Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercise/ Rescue and Assistance Exercise/ Towing Exercise Underway Replenishment with USNS PECOS General Quarters/ITT Scenario
04 Dec	Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1716)
07 Dec	Underway en route SOCAL OPAREA (0857) General Quarters, Main Space Fire Drill
08 Dec	Small Arms Qualifications General Quarters/Main Space Fire Drill
09 Dec	Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1724)
09 Dec - 10 Dec	Petty Officer Indoctrination
10 Dec	Ship's Christmas Party Simulated Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
11 Dec	Command Advancement Program (CAP) Board Safety Standdown
14 Dec - 15 Dec	Engineering Certification (ECERT)
14 Dec	Underway, en route SOCAL OPAREA (1430)
15 Dec	General Quarters Drill Moored, pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (1401) Frocking Ceremony
16 Dec - 29 Dec	First Holiday Leave Period
19 Dec	Children's Christmas Party
23 Dec	LAKE CHAMPLAIN named runner-up for Golden Anchors Award for Fiscal Year 1998
24 Dec	Christmas Eve
25 Dec	Christmas

30 Dec	Turnover Day
31 Dec - 13 Jan	Second Holiday Leave Period
31 Dec	New Year's Eve

COMMAND NARRATIVE FOR 1998

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN began her tenth year in service in the Northern Arabian Gulf under the command of Captain Frank J. Dobrydney. The area was considered a hostile fire zone as political tensions continued to run high between Iraq and the United States. LAKE CHAMPLAIN, as part of the USS NIMITZ Battle Group, provided a forward U. S. presence in the area to protect American allies and interests. During its time in the Arabian Gulf, the crew stayed busy conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in support of United Nations trade sanctions, nearly constant flight quarters to identify surface vessels (SSC), and supporting a Condition III (wartime steaming) watchbill, in addition to regular preventive maintenance and administration. The ship also frequently supported aircraft carrier flight operations by serving as plane guard and otherwise protected carrier operations by "riding shotgun" -- taking station off an aircraft carrier to serve as her air defense.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN had been in the Arabian Gulf since 19 October, having cut the regular transit short in response to tensions in the region. The second week of the new year, the long, exhausting stay in the Middle East ended as the ship was joined by USS KINKAID, USS SACRAMENTO and USS FORD to form the LAKE CHAMPLAIN Surface Action Group (SAG). Together, the four ships chopped into Seventh Fleet's Area of Responsibility (AOR) and changed operational commanders to Seventh Fleet on 15 January en route to Australia.

On the voyage south, the ships crossed the Equator at 081° 47' 00" E at 1555 Z on 17 January. Upon crossing the Equator, Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main, was disgusted to find a number of slimy pollywogs amongst the crew. This problem was quickly remedied on 18 January, when all such crew members were indoctrinated as trusty Shellbacks. The ceremony

took place in an ice storm -- which was amazing to see on the Equator. But, the skies cleared in time for the Shellback Steel Beach Picnic, where many crew members burned themselves laying out in the warm Equatorial sun.

The monotony of the long route from the Arabian Gulf to Australia was broken by a number of drills and exercises. In the Combat Information Center and on the bridge, watchstanders honed their professional knowledge by competing in "Night Drill Packages" against other ships in the SAG. For example, one ship might play "Alex Trebeck" while the other three competed in a quiz show format based on television's Jeopardy. Other training exercises included engineering casualty control (ECC) drills, sonar on-board trainer (OBT) scenarios, general quarters (GQ) drills and Aegis Combat Training System (ACTS) scenarios.

On 25 January, the ship arrived in Fremantle, Australia. There, many members of the crew enjoyed tours sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR). Such tours included a wine tasting tour of Western Australia, horseback riding or a Perth city tour. Other sailors took time out to participate in a Community Relations Visit to the Princess Margaret Children's Hospital. Many of the crew took the short train ride into Perth, while others preferred the coziness of the port of Fremantle. The architecture and general layout of the Australian cities seemed strangely familiar as did the customs and friendly style of the residents. The second day in port, 26 January, was Australia Day. Seeing the Australians enjoying mid-summer barbecues and red, white and blue fireworks on their national holiday, made it easy to feel at home. The locals showed great interest in the LAKE CHAMPLAIN, so the ship hosted a command reception and held guided tours for hundreds of civilian tourists.

On 30 January, the ship departed for Sydney, traveling south of the Great Australian Bight. There, the ship took rolls as great as thirty degrees and the crew's sea legs were truly put

to the test. Along the way, LAKE CHAMPLAIN and KINKAID trained their ship-handlers with "leap frogs" and trained their junior officers in communications with flag-hoist drills.

On February 4, Captain Dobrydney and Chaplain Choi flew to USS FORD for her Change of Command ceremony. That afternoon and evening, the ship participated in two joint exercises with the Royal Australian Navy. The following day, as the ship pulled into Sydney Harbor, she was greeted by a local news helicopter that repeatedly encircled her, anxious to get footage of an Aegis cruiser pulling in.

Sydney was as welcoming and charming a city as Fremantle had been, but offered a bustling metropolis larger than both Perth and Fremantle combined that started right at the end of the pier.

The ship departed Sydney on 10 February for Pearl Harbor. On the way, she crossed the Equator at the International Dateline, making all of the crew-members Golden Shellbacks. In Pearl Harbor, the ship picked up the new Prospective Commanding Officer, Captain P. T. Serfass Jr. and the officers held a Hail and Farewell for the arriving and departing captains at Hickham Officers' Club. She also picked up the "Tigers" -- civilian friends and family of crew-members who came aboard for the week long journey back to San Diego in order to see what the Navy was really like underway.

On 25 February, Captain Serfass and Captain Dobrydney held a Change of Command Ceremony on the flight deck in front of the assembled crew. However, Captain Serfass did not relieve Captain Dobrydney officially until 28 February, when LAKE CHAMPLAIN pulled back into home port. After swarms of family and friends came aboard to greet the returning crew, a brief reception was held, and Captain Dobrydney was piped ashore.

On 2 March, the crew returned for a half day before the stand-down period to meet the new Commanding Officer. Captain Serfass met with the officers, chief petty officers and first class petty officers in turn, to introduce both himself and his command philosophy. His message to each group focused on that group's own role in the leadership of the command and emphasized his priorities of "ship, shipmate, self:" the idea that the needs of one's shipmates should come before self-interest, and that the needs of the ship as a whole should come ahead of any individual. The captain also placed a renewed emphasis on training, which would later manifest itself in the form of Officer Training and a greatly increased number of General Quarters drills and other training exercises.

During the first leave and stand-down period, E-3, E-4 and E-5 personnel took their respective rating exams. On 17 March, the crew turned over before the second leave and stand down period and the officers gathered that afternoon for a Hail and Farewell.

When the ship returned to regular workdays on the first of April, Captain Serfass began a series of Captain's Calls, one division at a time, to introduce himself to the whole crew. At these Captain's Calls, he reiterated the command philosophy and fielded questions from individual sailors.

A large portion of the crew transferred to other commands upon return from deployment. To familiarize the new crew members who replaced them and to verify the watchbill, the ship conducted a "Fast Cruise" on 2 April. The ship also addressed a number of administrative responsibilities during the first week of April, such as General Military Training (GMT) on physical readiness and a Safety Stand-down. On 6 April, the ship got underway once again, this time to the Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach, in order to offload weapons and ammunition which the ship had carried during the deployment. En route to Seal Beach, the ship took the

opportunity to support the Leaders to Sea program, a COMNAVSURFPAC program designed to bring business professionals and community leaders aboard naval warships to allow them to see the surface Navy at work. At the same time, the ship supported Midshipman Summer Training by embarking Midshipmen Hackett and Ruditsky from the Merchant Marine Academy. The ship also used her time at sea to test her radar cross-section on the Range Electronic Warfare Simulator (REWS) range and to conduct an Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise.

Once the weapons were offloaded, LAKE CHAMPLAIN returned home for the weekend and then got underway for Mazatlan, Mexico. En route to Mazatlan, the ship participated in work-ups with the LINCOLN Battle Group and was visited briefly by the Third Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Browne.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN spent five days anchored off Mazatlan in very large swells, causing some initial concern about the boarding of liberty boats. Once ashore, LAKE CHAMPLAIN sailors took a chartered bus to the El Cid Hotel, where the ship maintained a beach guard station and a number of crew members had rooms. From there, they explored a wide variety of shops, and restaurants, as well as the bull fights, beaches and dance clubs that make Mazatlan such a popular resort. Some sailors also chose from among a number of command sponsored MWR tours. These tours included a jungle tour and a sport fishing excursion. Still others participated in a command sponsored community relations volunteer project at the local Asilo de Ancianos, or retirement home.

The ship returned home and spent another weekend in home port, where she hosted tourists from the general public as "Visit Ship." She then returned to Seal Beach to continue offloading weapons, and returned home for a three day weekend.

The next major event on the ship's schedule was the nine week Selected Repair Availability (SRA) and the ship used the first half of May to make preparations to enter the shipyard. These preparations included providing for berthing space at a barracks at the Naval Training Center (NTC San Diego) and bus service to and from the barracks since the shipyard had very limited space for parking. The command also arranged for a barge to moor behind the ship to feed the crew and house displaced offices. On 13 May, the ship "dead stick" moved to Continental Maritime San Diego. On the same day, Lieutenant Commander T. C. Neal reported aboard to relieve Lieutenant Commander M. J. Salvato as Executive Officer. The wardroom gathered to welcome LCDR Neal and say farewell to LCDR Salvato on 16 May.

During the yard period, several major projects were undertaken, including additions to the high frequency radio group (HFRG), the installation of Navy order wire (NOW) and the upgrade of the ship's local area network (LAN), among other important projects. The HFRG upgrade modified the antennae on the fantail and improved the ship's communications capabilities by automating and simplifying the task of patching high frequency (HF) radio circuits. The NOW installation allowed improved automated systems to replace old teletype machines for back-up radio communications. The LAN upgrade allowed a much larger number of personal computers to be connected and gain easier access to the internet while maintaining security of information on the classified network.

Other work accomplished in the shipyard included the refurbishment of waste heat boilers, the aft capstan, sewage (CHT) tanks, the flight deck safety nets, and firemain and seawater piping. The ship also received an upgrade to the large screen displays (LSDs) in the Combat Information Center that not only made the displays more readily comprehensible by offering full color, but also

enabled watch standers to display a great deal more information. In addition, cracks in the superstructure were repaired and the decks were resurfaced with a polymeric coating (PRC).

While in the yards, the crew took advantage of a number of schools and team trainers, including the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Team Trainer, the Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) Aviation Ordnance Team Training, and the Combat Information Center (CIC) Team Trainer. In addition, a great deal of training was conducted aboard ship and on the barge, including training in computer security, alcohol and drug abuse awareness (Prevent), and counter intelligence.

During the yard period, the officers and chiefs faced off in the first of two softball grudge matches and the officers held a Hail & Farewell at which they said good-bye to LTJG [REDACTED] and CWO2 [REDACTED]. The week of 8 - 12 June, designated Surface Line Week, was capped off with a ball at the Hotel del Coronado. The anxiously awaited test results from the rating exams taken in March were returned and the ship held a frocking ceremony on 12 June for those who had made rate. Also during this period, Commander, Carrier Group Seven hosted a golf tournament and conducted a Quality Assurance (QA) Inspection on the ship. LAKE CHAMPLAIN set up small arms qualifications at the small arms range at the Naval Station to allow the crew to qualify on the nine millimeter pistol.

At the end of the shipyard availability, the ship held a fast cruise to verify the watch bill and to reacquaint everyone with getting underway. On 16 July, the ship embarked several civilian contractors as she got underway for two days of sea trials. Unfortunately, one such contractor, [REDACTED], severed his left middle finger while attempting to manually rotate a motorized valve in an Auxiliary Machinery Room. The ship immediately secured from a man-overboard drill

and sailed back into San Diego Bay, delivering Mr. [REDACTED] by small boat to a waiting ambulance on a pier. The boat returned and the ship continued her sea trials; the finger was later re-attached.

In spite of this unforeseen incident, the ship conducted a large number of evolutions during the two-day underway period for Sea Trials. These included man overboard drills, engineering evolutions and casualty control exercises, full power checks, crash and salvage training, Nixie streaming, an Aegis Combat Training System (ACTS) scenario, and an Integrated Training Team (ITT) Scenario. All of these exercises served the dual purpose of reacquainting the crew with underway operations after two months in port and of testing the ship's material readiness after so much construction had been accomplished on her.

After Sea Trials, LAKE CHAMPLAIN supported Reserve Unit annual training, bringing aboard her reserve detachment, headed by CDR [REDACTED] for the last two weeks in July. She also supported midshipman summer training once again, bringing aboard Midshipman [REDACTED] from Stanford University until mid-August. Additionally, the ship offered tours on 23 July to two groups of Boy Scouts as well as Dixie College Upward Bound Cadets. Later that day the command sponsored a day at the ballpark and the following day the "Christmas in July" Volunteer Project.

The ship got underway again on 27 July to return to Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach to onload weapons and ammunition. While underway, the ship conducted an anchoring exercise to train the crew at anchoring and to prepare for anchoring in the upcoming training cycle. The ship also conducted burials at sea for the cremains of ten former military personnel. After the onload was completed, the ship returned to Naval Station San Diego, along the way getting still more practice at anchoring with another anchoring exercise.

When the ship returned to Naval Station, she was Visit Ship for the weekend, drawing hundreds of visitors, and was featured on local news. The following week, Rear Admiral Huchting, of the Program Executive Office, Theatre Air Defense and Surface Combatants, visited and held a conversation in the wardroom with the officers concerning research and design issues for the future of the fleet. The week of the 10 - 14 August was Command Assessment Of Readiness And Training (CART) II, an early phase in the training cycle, allowing Afloat Training Group Pacific personnel to get a great deal of initial information that would be used in evaluating the ship during the upcoming Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) cycle. On 12 August, the ship celebrated her tenth birthday.

In response to the bombings of American Embassies in East Africa, the United States launched two Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missile (TLAM) attacks against targets in Afghanistan and the Sudan. Concerned that these strikes might draw retaliation against American military installations or personnel, on 20 August Naval Station San Diego went to Terrorist Threat Condition (THREATCON) ALPHA PLUS, a condition of security awareness set in response to possibilities of terrorist activity against an unknown target.

On 24 August, the ship entered a corrosion control availability, sending a large amount of material susceptible to corrosion to the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Availability (SIMA) to be specially painted. Meanwhile, divers began cleaning the ship's hull. The following day, Rear Admiral Campbell, Commander, Carrier Group Seven, came for a visit. Later in the week, the ship held a picnic at Admiral Baker Field. With Labor Day Weekend coming up, the command arranged for a California Highway Patrol officer to give a highway safety brief on site television on 1 September. Also the first week in September, the ship held an environmental safety brief and performed a "dead stick" twist -- simply facing the other direction at the same berth at pier 13 --

to allow for one of the ship's boats to be put into the water. The following week, the crew participated in the semi-annual Command Physical Readiness Test (PRT) and held the E-4 Advancement Exam. The third week in September, the ship began both Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I and the Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI) while holding E-5 and E-6 Advancement Exams and a frocking ceremony for two new Chief Petty Officers: OSC [REDACTED] and ENC [REDACTED].

Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I lasted until 9 October and, in that time, the ship conducted numerous exercises both with the help of, and under the scrutiny of, the Afloat Training Group. These included everything from Integrated Training Team Exercises to mooring to a buoy. The ship had been scheduled to make a port visit to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico the last weekend of the underway portion of TSTA I (3 October through 5 October). Unfortunately, a tropical cyclone was also headed in the direction of Cabo San Lucas. On 1 October, the captain was faced with the fact that although the storm may not make landfall at Cabo, LAKE CHAMPLAIN would have to drive through the storm's path to reach Mexico. The captain decided to err on the side of safety and the ship spent Columbus Day Weekend in home port.

The following week, LAKE CHAMPLAIN went to full dress ship in honor of the Navy's birthday, then got underway again in preparation for TSTA II. While underway, she participated in a Missile Exercise (MISSILEX). This MISSILEX was the first ever multi-ship low altitude stream rate missile exercise. "Stream rate" refers to a salvo consisting of two low, slow anti-ship cruise missiles. LAKE CHAMPLAIN served as Air Warfare Commander for the five ship Surface Action Group (SAG). All of the ships successfully engaged the targets, satisfying all training objectives and serving as a model for future missile exercises.

On 25 October, daylight savings time ended and the ship changed dress uniforms to Service Dress Blues. Three days later, the ship held a Hispanic Heritage Celebration Meal and two days after that the chiefs and officers faced off once again for another softball grudge match.

From 2 November until 4 December, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was in the second phase of the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) cycle. During the first week, the ship conducted numerous exercises in port, including Harpoon and Tomahawk missile exercises, communications exercises for the signalmen and a Command and Control Warfare Exercise. The ship got underway the following Monday, despite some contamination in a waste heat boiler. She conducted a number of evolutions, including a precision anchorage exercise and an Undersea Warfare (USW) exercise, among others. However, complications relating to the waste heat boiler water contamination forced the ship to return to home port early. She remained in port for Veterans' Day (Wednesday), getting underway again the following day to finish out the scheduled events for the week.

The ship got underway again the next week, accomplishing more crew training, including mooring to a buoy. Also that week, the crew was immunized against Influenza and the ship observed the Navy Smokeout, leaving the smoking lamp out for twenty-four hours. Returning to port, the crew stood in ranks in Dress Blue uniforms as LAKE CHAMPLAIN passed in review before the Third Fleet Change of Command Ceremony.

The ship spent the week of Thanksgiving in port and got underway 30 November for the last week of TSTA II. While underway, the ship conducted another Undersea Warfare exercise. She also conducted a series of exercises with a Foss ocean going tugboat, which combined Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training, Rescue and Assistance (R&A) training and a towing exercise.

With TSTA II complete, the ship got underway on 7 December to conduct engineering drills in preparation for the upcoming Engineering Certification, as well as other exercises in preparation for TSTA III. The ship returned 10 December, and that evening the Ship's Christmas Party took place at the Windham Emerald Hotel. The following day, the crew took time out for a safety stand-down.

During the last few months of the year, the crew was encouraged to take on more responsibilities in the duty section and qualify more watch stations, and everyone was required to become advanced damage control (DC) qualified so that the ship could go to eight duty sections. The Command Master Chief worked out the details with the section leaders and departmental leading chief petty officers during a series of meetings at the end of November and start of December.

14 and 15 December, the ship underwent her Engineering Certification, which she passed handily. Upon her return to port, those crew members who had made rate on their September exams were frocked to their new rate. Immediately afterward, the First Holiday Leave and Stand-down Period began.

The stand-down period was largely uneventful, but for the Children's Christmas Party on 19 December. The turnover day between the two stand-down periods was 30 December, and the second leave and stand-down period began, going until 13 January.