



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)
FPO AP 98671-1177

5757

Ser CG57/099

JUL 17 2003

From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57)

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: LAKE CHAMPLAIN ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G


Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

(2) Command Chronology

(3) Command Narrative

(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


J. F. MCCARTHY, JR.

Copy to:
COMCARGRU SEVEN

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Command Composition and Organization

LAKE CHAMPLAIN
UIC: 21428

MISSION:

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) honors the battle fought on September 11th 1814, in Lake Champlain's Plattsburg Bay, New York, during the War of 1812. CG 57 is the third United States Navy ship to honor the name. The first was a cargo vessel that served in World War I. The second was an Essex-Class Aircraft Carrier (CVS 39), which earned one battle star in the Korean Conflict. CG 57 was commissioned in 1988 in New York City and has since made five deployments to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Gulf.

ISIC:

Operational:

01 Jan – 22 Jan	CTG 50.6
23 Jan – 16 Mar	CTU 50.0.9
17 Mar – 29 Mar	CTG 50.6
30 Mar – 19 Apr	CTU 50.0.9
20 Apr – 01 May	CTF 50
02 May – 30 May	CTG 70.4
30 May – 18 Jul	CTG 30.7
19 Jul – 24 Jul	CTF 170
25 Jul – 31 Dec	CTG 35.2

Administrative:

01 Jan – 31 Dec	Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN
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UNITS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL:

None

COMMANDING OFFICER:

01 Jan - 31 Dec	Captain Robert S. Wells, USN
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PERMANENT DUTY STATION:

Naval Station San Diego, California

AIRCRAFT EMBARKED:

01 Jan – 07 Jun	HSL 49 (DET 3)	RED STINGER 103 & 107(SH-60B)
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 2002

01 JAN – 08 JUN	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)/Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) Deployment
01 JAN	New Years Day Steel Beach Picnic
03 JAN	Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) with USS BRIDGE, USS DETROIT, USNS SATURN
05 JAN	Transit – Strait of Hormuz
09 JAN	Transit – Strait of Hormuz
11 JAN	Leadership Interdiction Operations (LIO) – Gulf of Oman
12 JAN	USS GREENEVILLE (SSN 772) Replenishment At Sea (RAS) Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USNS ERICSSON Real World USW Data Collection
14 JAN	SCAT FIREX 5" PACFIRE
16 JAN	Transit – Strait of Hormuz
17 JAN	CPO Exam TLAMEX
18 JAN	UNREP with HMCS BAYLEAF Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
19 JAN	Port Visit: Manama, Bahrain
21 JAN	C5F/Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) IN-CHOP Brief
22 JAN	U/W from Bahrain
23 JAN	MIO Turnover and Assumption of COMISKEY Guardship
25 JAN	VERTREP with USNS FLINT
27 JAN	UNREP with USNS PECOS
31 JAN	GANGPLANK EX, XO Turnover
01 FEB	VERTREP with USNS PECOS
08 FEB	UNREP with USNS PECOS
09-13 FEB	MIO SURGE
11 FEB	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
14 FEB	TLAMEX
16 FEB	UNREP/VERTREP with USS BRIDGE
22 FEB	UNREP/VERTREP with USS BRIDGE
27 FEB	UNREP with USNS PECOS
28 FEB-03MAR	Port Visit: Manama, Bahrain
05 MAR	UNREP/VERTREP with USNS PECOS
07 MAR	TLAMEX
08 MAR	UNREP/VERTREP with USNS PECOS
14 MAR	TLAMEX
15 MAR	Luncheon in honor of Coalition Women at the Tip of the Spear onboard LAKE CHAMPLAIN

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15 MAR	Visit by Commodore Goldrick (RAN)
17-20 MAR	Port Visit: Manama, Bahrain
18 MAR	Visit by C5F CMC Scott (future MCPON)
20 MAR	Transit – Strait of Hormuz
19-22 MAR	SHAREM 140
21 MAR	TACEVALEX
22 MAR	UNREP/VERTREP with USNS JOHN LENTHAL
22 MAR	RAS with USS BOISE (SSN 764)
25-29 MAR	ARABIAN SHARKEK 02
28 MAR	Transit – Strait of Hormuz
30 MAR	Assumption of COMISKEY Guardship
02 APR	CINCLANTFLT Visit (ADM Natter)
04 APR	UNREP/VERTREP with USNS JOHN LENTHAL
05 APR	CIWS PACFIRE
06 APR	5" PACFIRE
12-15 APR	CART I
17 APR	UNREP/VERTREP with SPS PATINO
22 APR	MIO Turnover with USS HUE CITY
23 APR	Surface Gunnery Exercise (5"/54, 25mm, .50 cal)
24-28 APR	Port Visit: Manama, Bahrain
28 APR	Transit – Straight of Hormuz
29 APR	UNREP/VERTREP with USS SEATTLE
01 MAY	OUT-CHOP 5 th Fleet, IN-CHOP 7 TH Fleet
02-05 MAY	Diplomatic Port Visit: Mumbai, India
06-08 MAY	Command Indoctrination
10-15MAY	Port Visit: Phuket, Thailand
15 MAY	Transit – Straits of Malacca
16 MAY	UNREP with USNS PECOS
	Crossed the Equator
19 MAY	Battle of Leyte Gulf Remembrance Ceremony
20 MAY	Crossing the Line Ceremony
21 MAY	USS INDIANAPOLIS Remembrance
22-26 MAY	Port Visit: Guam
27 MAY	Petty Officer Indoctrination
28 MAY	Return and Reunion Workshop for the crew
30 MAY	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
	Battle of Midway Memorial Service
	OUT-CHOP 7 th Fleet, IN-CHOP 3 rd Fleet
31 MAY	UNREP with USNS YUKON
01-03 JUN	Port Visit: Pearl Harbor, HI
04-08 JUN	Tiger Cruise (Pearl Harbor, HI to San Diego, CA)
04 JUN	5"/CIWS PACFIRE

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05 JUN	25mm/50 cal FAMFIRE 5" PACFIRE
06 JUN	Awards Ceremony Steel Beach Picnic
08 JUN	Return to Home Port: San Diego, CA
09 JUN – 10 JUL	Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Period
17 JUN - 17 JUL	2A1 IMAV
18 JUN	JCSBATGRU Post Deployment Debrief - TACTRAGRUPAC
19 JUN	Annual Military Women Achievement Awards Ceremony –MCRD
10 JUL	Ombudsman & Family Support Day
11 JUL	Command Family Picnic
12 JUL	Sea Trials
15-19 JUL	Ammo Offload, Naval Station Seal Beach
19 JUL	RAS with USNS GUADALUPE
19-23 JUL	CONBG COMPTUEX 02-2
24 JUL	HVBSS SERVAL with SEAL Team 3
30 JUL-01 AUG	3M LTT
31 JUL	Awards Ceremony Visit by COMTHIRDFLT (VADM Bucchi)
05 AUG	Visit by COMNAVSURFPAC (VADM Lafleur) CPO Indoctrination
08 AUG	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
09-11 AUG	Port Visit: San Francisco, CA Reception for Community Leaders
13-15 AUG	Port Visit: Monterey, CA & Motorworks Festival
16 AUG	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
17 AUG	5"/CIWS PACFIRE
19 AUG - 13 SEP	2A3 IMAV
26-29 AUG	3M Baseline Assessment
10 SEP	Surface SAR Evaluations
18 SEP - 20 NOV	DSRA, 2C1 IMAV, SHF Install
18 SEP	Dead stick transit from NAVSTA San Diego, Pier 7 to SouthWest Marine Drydock Facility
19 SEP	Dry-docked at SouthWest Marine Shipyard Facility
07-11 OCT	Command Indoctrination
23 OCT	Undocked Dead stick transit from dry-dock area to SWM Pier 1
30 OCT	CMS Inspection
04-06 NOV	Bridge Resource Management - Marine Safety International
22 NOV	Sea Trials

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26 NOV	Swing Ship Aviation Readiness Qualification
03-06 DEC	Port Hueneme Port Visit & CBS Tech Assist
09-13 DEC	NSFS Team Trainer SSASW Team Trainer
09-20 DEC	3A1 IMAV
16-30 DEC	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period
31 DEC	Holiday Leave Turnover day

Command Narrative

The beginning of 2002 found USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57) in the Gulf of Oman, deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). LAKE CHAMPLAIN, acting as Local Sea Combat Commander (SCC) in the Jask/Gulf of Oman operating area, was setting the ground work for French and Italian navy coalition operations. LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted a total of 219 LIO queries and was the architect of the SCC JASK/Gulf of Oman LIO OPTASK.

On 16 January 2002, LAKE CHAMPLAIN transited the Strait of Hormuz enroute to the Northern Arabian Gulf to assume the duties as "Comiskey Guardship." In this role, LAKE CHAMPLAIN supported Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) to ensure compliance with United Nations sanctions against Iraq. LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted 136 United Nations Security Resolution 986 Maritime Interdiction Operation Boardings inspecting over 6,000 containers. The ship's MIO teams prevented over 5,000 metric tons of smuggled Iraqi oil from being illegally sold on the open market. LAKE CHAMPLAIN's technical and tactical acumen was instrumental in training combined Royal Naval Forces from Canada, Australia and Great Britain as well as other U. S. Navy assets on MIO.

In addition to the MIO boardings, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted 180 health and comfort inspections, providing food, water, and medical assistance to detained vessels, and streamlined the processes for defueling and reassigning detained ships.

On March 15th, while on station in the North Arabian Gulf, LAKE CHAMPLAIN hosted the "*Coalition Women Making History at the Tip of the Spear*" luncheon. Representatives from the Royal Navy, Royal Australian Navy, and United States Navy joined the officers of LAKE

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CHAMPLAIN in observance of the United States Navy's 15th annual "Women's History Month."

After a port visit to Manama, Bahrain on 17th-19th of March, the ship left Bahrain on the 20th of March and transited the Strait of Hormuz enroute to the Gulf of Oman. LAKE CHAMPLAIN served as Officer in Charge of Exercise (OCE) for SHAREM 140 and TACEVALEX in the Gulf. These exercises were designed to refine surface ship tactics against threats in the unique shallow-water environment of the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman. This was the first SHAREM in the region since 1996 and provided crucial undersea battle-space understanding in the Strait of Hormuz. Along with HSL 49 Detachment 3, the ship fired seven Mk 46 Mod 5A(S) weapons at a US submarine in the Gulf of Oman to demonstrate the real-world application and limitations in C5F waters.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN then acted as OCE for the ARABIAN SHARK exercise. The exercise included naval units from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates and representatives from Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman. Egypt as a non-GCC state was also represented. This exercise represented the first since 9/11 and was an important start-up for Commander FIFTH FLEET and the regional U.S. embassies. LAKE CHAMPLAIN provided critical technical expertise to Bahraini Navy Frigate, BRNS SABHA, to assure the first successful torpedo launch in Bahrain history. The MISSILEX was heralded by the King of Bahrain for excellence, ultimately strengthening bilateral relations between the U.S. and Bahrain.

Transiting the Strait of Hormuz on 28 March, LAKE CHAMPLAIN again took station in the North Arabian Gulf (NAG), once again, as "Comiskey Guardship" in support of MIO operations. Soon thereafter, LAKE CHAMPLAIN was honored with a visit by CINCLANTFLT, Vice Admiral Natter, on the 2nd of April.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN underwent the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Part I from 12-15 April, establishing the foundation for the CY03 Inter-deployment Training Cycle.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN was relieved of her duties as "Comiskey Guardship" by USS HUE CITY on 22 April. The following week the crew enjoyed the first of four well-deserved port visits on her way back from deployment. The ship was moored to Mina Sulman Pier from the 24th to the 27th of April before transiting the Strait of Hormuz on the 28th.

On 1 May 2002, LAKE CHAMPLAIN entered the Seventh Fleet AOR on her way to Mumbai, India. Standing into Mumbai harbor on the second of May, the ship participated in diplomatic receptions aboard the Indian Navy's frigate, INS BRAHMAPUTRA, and COMREL projects in the city. LAKE CHAMPLAIN also hosted the American Consulate's reception to help improve of the relationship between India and the United States

Next, the crew enjoyed the quality of life port visit to Phuket, Thailand from the 10th through the 14th of May. LAKE CHAMPLAIN's incident-free visit and SEVENTHFLT-directed courtesy call on Thailand Navy's THIRD Fleet Commander in Phuket helped restore confidence and respect in the aftermath of a serious CNN-scale liberty incident that occurred during the USS BONHOMME RICHARD ARG visit.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN transited the Straits of Malacca and crossed the Equator on 16 May. The "Crossing the Line" ceremony took place on 20 May. Ridding the crew of polliwogs, the ship arrived in Apra Harbor, Guam on 22 May.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN started the transit from Guam to Pearl Harbor on 26 May. Upon crossing the International Date Line on 30 May, the ship entered the THIRD FLEET AOR. LAKE CHAMPLAIN arrived in Pearl Harbor on 01 June and stayed for two days before

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departing for San Diego. While in Pearl, the ship embarked family and friends for Tiger Cruise 2002. Enroute San Diego, the crew conducted live fire exercises, an Awards Ceremony, and enjoyed a Steel Beach Picnic.

The crew returned home to San Diego on 08 June 2002 from a successful seven-month deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and SOUTHERN WATCH. Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep ensued from 09 June through 10 July.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN was soon underway, ensuring critical war-fighting skills remained at the highest levels. Following an ammunition offload in Seal Beach 15-19 July, LAKE CHAMPLAIN conducted THIRD FLEET operations in the local Southern California OPAREA. The ship conducted its first Post-Deployment RAS with the USNS GUADALUPE on 19 July before participating as a coalition unit (PURPLE FORCE) for the Constellation Battle Group's COMPTUEX.

LKC's role as the Dutch frigate "VAN DERSTENGEL," during CONSTELLATION COMPTUEX 19-23 July, brought out OEF/LIO/MIO coalition lessons learned with regards to Battle Force email, SCC assignment for tactical roles and missions of coalition ships, restrictive ROE, and utility role assisting USN ships when needed elsewhere. Ingenious participation as "purple force" received great praise from COMCARGRU ONE and provided CHAMP opportunity to maximize training value. The ship also participated in a Service Allocation (SERVAL) in support of SEAL Team Three "hostile" visit, board, search and seizure (H/VBSS) rehearsals.

The ship conducted high-visibility port visits to San Francisco and Monterey, California in August. On 9 August, LAKE CHAMPLAIN sailed into San Francisco Bay for a port visit and to host a Reception in honor of local community leaders. LAKE CHAMPLAIN left San

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Francisco on the 11th of August and proceeded to Monterey, CA to fulfill a THIRD FLEET requirement in support of the Naval Post Graduate School. LAKE CHAMPLAIN also sent representatives to the Monterey Motorworks Festival and hosted a Navy Postgraduate School Foundation reception on the night of 14 August.

Following these operational commitments, the ship participated in an important Northrop Grumman Ship Systems inclining experiment in direct support of the AEGIS Cruiser Conversion program and in preparation for Drydock Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA).

Starting 18 September, LAKE CHAMPLAIN commenced a \$13.8 million dollar DSRA. The ship was dry-docked for the first time in six years 19 September to 23 October. The nine week avail was conducted mishap free with only one injury sustained by a shipyard worker. Following the DSRA, the ship performed Sea Trials on 22 November. The capstone event of this enormously successful maintenance phase of the ship's lifecycle was a visit to the Port Hueneme Division, Surface Warfare Center Division at the Naval Base Ventura County 3-6 December. The ship received priceless training, maintenance, and technical assistance for the AEGIS combat systems suite and numerous auxiliary systems at a crucial time in the ship's life. This visit not only contributed to system validation after Sea Trials, but it helped ensure LAKE CHAMPLAIN continued mission excellence in 2003 and beyond. The calendar year came to a close with LAKE CHAMPLAIN enjoying a holiday leave and upkeep period at NAVSTA San Diego.