



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

5757
Ser 00/111
24 Feb 04

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

Subj: **SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

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

1. The annual command history of **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** for calendar year 2003, enclosures (1) through (4), is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).


J. F. McCARTHY, JR.

Command Composition and Organization

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

UIC: 21428

1. Mission. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** honors the battle fought on 11 September 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. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was commissioned in 1988 in New York City and has since made five deployments to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. The primary mission areas are as follows: Air Warfare (AW) which provides Air Defense of a Carrier Strike Group (CSG), Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) or other formation; Surface Warfare (SUW) which detects, localizes and counters enemy shipping at long-range using Harpoon cruise missiles and at shorter ranges using Standard missiles (SM2) and 5-inch guns; Undersea Warfare (USW) which detects, localizes and counters enemy submarines using LAMPS MK III helicopter-delivered weapons; Strike Warfare (SW) which neutralizes enemy land targets at ranges exceeding 500 miles using Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM) and Command and Control (C2) which facilitate coordination of forces using superior sensors, advanced data processing capabilities, near real-time tactical displays and extensive communication capabilities.

2. ISIC

a. Operational

- (1) 1 JAN-1 JUN. CTG 035.2.
- (2) 2 JUN-8 JUN. CTU 035.9.2.
- (3) 9 JUN-12 JUN. CTU 035.9.1.
- (4) 13 JUN-31 DEC. CTG 035.2.

b. Administrative. 1 JAN-31 DEC; Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN.

3. Units Under Operational Control. None.

4. Commanding Officer

a. 1 JAN-20 JUN. Captain Robert S. Wells, USN.

b. 20 JUN-31 DEC. Captain James F. McCarthy, Jr., USN.

5. Permanent Duty Station. Naval Station San Diego,
California.

6. Aircraft Embarked. HSL 45 (DET 5)-Lone Wolf 43 and 50
(SH-60B).

Command Chronology for 2003

January

1 JAN-12 JAN	Inport San Diego
1 JAN-12 JAN	Holiday Leave and Upkeep
6 JAN-12 JAN	ATWCS Differential Training
13 JAN	Ammunition Onload Bravo Pier, North Island
13 JAN-17 JAN	Underway SOCAL Oparea CART II Preps, CSOSS II, LTT
13 JAN-19 JAN	ATWCS Differential Training
14 JAN-16 JAN	SERVAL (DLQs)
15 JAN	SCORE Spotter Services
18 JAN-20 JAN	Inport San Diego
20 JAN	Ammunition Onload Bravo Pier, North Island
20 JAN-26 JAN	ATWCS Differential Training
21 JAN	Underway, transit to Seal Beach
21 JAN-24 JAN	SSASW Team Trainer
22 JAN-23 JAN	Inport Seal Beach Ammunition Onload
24 JAN	Underway, transit to San Diego
25 JAN-31 JAN	Inport San Diego
27 JAN-31 JAN	CART II
27 JAN-31 JAN	ATWCS Differential training

February

1 FEB-7 FEB	ATWCS Differential training
1 FEB-17 FEB	Inport San Diego
3 FEB-7 FEB	TSTA 1
3 FEB-7 FEB	Corrosion Control Availability
3 FEB-7 FEB	HVAC Improvement Program
3 FEB-7 FEB	Oily Waste Separator Groom
3 FEB-14 FEB	Compressed Air System Groom
3 FEB-14 FEB	FMAV
6 FEB-16 FEB	ATWCS Material Certification
10 FEB-14 FEB	TSTA 1, FP Training
18 FEB-21 FEB	Underway TSTA 1
22 FEB-24 FEB	Inport San Diego
24 FEB-28 FEB	TSTA 1
24 FEB-28 FEB	C3F Q4FY03 Schedule Conference
25 FEB-28 FEB	Underway TSTA 1
27 FEB	SERVAL (DLQs)

March

01 MAR-2 MAR Inport San Diego
3 MAR-7 MAR Underway TSTA 1
7 MAR-24 MAR GOTS Delta Upgrade
8 MAR-24 MAR Inport San Diego
10 MAR-14 MAR TSTA 1
10 MAR-14 MAR Cargo Weapons Onboard
Maintenance Training
SISCAL
10 MAR-14 MAR Corrosion Control Availability
10 MAR-21 MAR FMAV
10 MAR-21 MAR CMTQ-T (TLAM)
10 MAR-28 MAR CMTQ-T (TLAM)
17 MAR-21 MAR TSTA 1
17 MAR-21 MAR SMA
17 MAR-21 MAR MK-54 Torpedo Ship Suitability
19 MAR Test
24 MAR TSTA 1
24 MAR-26 MAR CMTQ (TLAM)
25 MAR-28 MAR Underway TSTA 1
29 MAR-30 MAR Inport San Diego
31 MAR TSTA 1, Engineering Training
Week

April

1 APR Inport San Diego
1 APR TSTA 1, Engineering Training
Week
2 APR-4 APR Underway TSTA 1, Engineering
Training Week
5 APR-14 APR Inport San Diego
7 APR-11 APR TSTA 1
7 APR-11 APR 3M Baseline Assessment
7 APR-11 APR CMTQ-T (HARPOON)
7 APR-11 APR Self Serving Line Install/Galley
7 APR-11 APR SEMAT: Vent Cleaning
7 APR-11 APR Underwater Hull Cleaning
14 APR TSTA 1
15 APR-18 APR Underway TSTA 1
19 APR-22 APR Inport San Diego
21 APR-22 APR TSTA 1
21 APR-22 APR JCSSG Planning Conference
22 APR JCSSG Intel IPC
23 APR-24 APR Underway Demonstration
25 APR SERVAL (Pierside Ship Attack)

25 APR
25 APR-27 APR
28 APR-30 APR

Safety Survey
Inport San Diego
Underway TSTA 1

May

1 MAY-2 MAY
3 MAY-11 MAY
5 MAY-6 MAY
5 MAY-9 MAY
5 MAY-9 MAY
5 MAY-22 MAY

7 MAY-9 MAY
12 MAY-16 MAY
12 MAY-16 MAY
12 MAY-16 MAY
14 MAY-15 MAY
17 MAY-21 MAY
19 MAY-20 MAY
19 MAY-21 MAY
22 MAY-23 MAY
24 MAY-30 MAY
27 MAY-31 MAY
31 MAY

Underway TSTA 1
Inport San Diego
FP EX 1
TSTA 1
CSOSS II
C3F EASTPAC Ready Duty Ship/24
HR Standby Counter-drug Ship
FP EX 2
Underway TSTA 2
ITT Week/FEP Scenarios
COAT for PCO
MISSILEX
Inport San Diego
TOPGUN AIC MTT
FP EX 3
Underway FEP
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
PACTRAMID I
Underway, transit to Astoria, OR

June

1 JUN-3 JUN
1 JUN-20 JUN
4 JUN
5 JUN

6 JUN-8 JUN

9 JUN-14 JUN
12 JUN
12 JUN
15 JUN-30 JUN
16 JUN-20 JUN

16 JUN-20 JUN
16 JUN-27 JUN
16 JUN-27 JUN
16 JUN-27 JUN
20 JUN

Underway, transit to Astoria, OR
PACTRAMID I
Port Visit, Astoria, OR
Underway, transit to Portland,
OR
Port Visit Portland OR, Portland
Rose Festival
Underway, transit to San Diego
PELESG C2X OPFOR
SERVAL (DLQs)
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
C3F EASTPAC Ready Duty Ship/24HR
Standby Counter-drug Ship
PSART
FMAV
MK 86 and 5" Grooms
ORDALT for Fuze Setters
Change of Command: Captain
Robert S. Wells was properly
Relieved by Captain James F.
McCarthy, Jr.

23 JUN-27 JUN
23 JUN-30 JUN
24 JUN-25 JUN
26 JUN-30 JUN

PSART
PACTRAMID II
JCSSG NCWC Course
PKI Implementation

July

1 JUL-6 JUL
1 JUL-18 JUL
7 JUL
7 JUL
7 JUL-11 JUL
8 JUL
8 JUL-9 JUL
8 JUL-11 JUL
10 JUL
10 JUL-11 JUL
12 JUL-20 JUL
14 JUL-18 JUL
15 JUL-18 JUL

Inport San Diego, Upkeep
PACTRAMID II
Ammunition Onload
SERVAL (DLQs)
Underway SOCAL
Burial at Sea
NSFS FIREX I
C3F Sked Conference
SERVAL (DLQs)
PCMS RCS Lifecycle Test
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
HERO Survey
JCSSG BGIE-U Basic Multi-Tadil
TT

21 JUL
21 JUL
21 JUL-24 JUL
21 JUL-25 JUL
21 JUL-31 JUL
22 JUL-23 JUL
25 JUL-27 JUL
28 JUL
28 JUL
29 JUL-30 JUL
29 JUL-30 JUL
30 JUL-31 JUL
31 JUL
31 JUL

Ammunition Onload
SERVAL (DLQs)
Underway SOCAL
JCSSG ASW Course
PACTRAMID III
NSFS Spotter Services
Inport San Diego
Underway SOCAL
MISSILEX
Inport Port Hueneme, CA
Combat Systems Groom
TF HIP POCKET Shotgun Round Demo
Underway SOCAL
PELESG JTFEX OPFOR

August

1 AUG-4 AUG
1 AUG-8 AUG
1 AUG-15 AUG
4 AUG-8 AUG
5 AUG-6 AUG
6 AUG
7 AUG
9 AUG-31 AUG
11 AUG-22 AUG
11 AUG-22 AUG
13 AUG-15 AUG

PELESG JTFEX OPFOR
Underway SOCAL
PACTRAMID III
Guests of the Navy
CORTRAMID
Plane Guard Duties for JCS
SERVAL (DLQs)
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
Corrosion Control Availability
FMAV
SLAMEX

20 AUG-22 AUG
21 AUG
24 AUG-27 AUG
25 AUG-29 AUG

CMEO Survey
SLAMEX 03-21
JCSSG HARP Participation
JCSSG BGIE-WC

September

1 SEP-7 SEP
1 SEP-7 SEP

3 SEP-5 SEP
8 SEP
8 SEP-11 SEP

8 SEP
8 SEP-30 SEP
12 SEP-14 SEP
15 SEP-17 SEP
17 SEP-30 SEP
18 SEP-30 SEP
18 SEP-30 SEP
18 SEP-30 SEP
22 SEP-24 SEP

Inport San Diego, Upkeep
C3F EASTPAC Ready Duty Ship/
24HR Standby Counter-drug
Ship
JCSSG GCT
SERVAL (DLQs)
Underway, transit to Cabo San
Lucas, MX
Burial at Sea
JCSSG HSL ARP
Port Visit Cabo San Lucas, MX
Underway, transit to San Diego
JCSSG SFARP
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
FMAV
Corrosion Control Availability
COMNAVSURFPAC Host Ship for
Colombian Tall Ship

October

1 OCT-3 OCT
1 OCT-4 OCT
1 OCT-10 OCT
1 OCT-24 OCT
1 OCT-28 OCT
6 OCT-10 OCT
6 OCT-10 OCT
13 OCT-17 OCT
17 OCT
20 OCT-23 OCT
29 OCT
29 Oct-31 OCT

JCSSG Communication Conference
JCSSG HSL ARP
JCSSG SFARP
FMAV
Inport San Diego
JCSSG Cryptologic Team Trainer
JCSSG MITT
SSASW LTT
Ammunition Onload
BGIE GC
SERVAL (DLQs)
Underway, Week One Work-Ups

November

1 NOV-21 NOV
5 NOV
6 NOV
8 NOV
10 NOV
12 NOV
14 NOV

Underway, JCSSG COMPTUEX (C2X)
C2X ADEX 1
C2X Battle Problem 1
C2X ADEX 2
C2X ADEX 3
C2X ADEX 4
C2X Battle Problem 2

18 NOV-21 NOV
21 NOV
22 NOV-30 NOV
24 NOV-30 NOV

24 NOV-30 NOV

C2X Final Battle Problem
JCSSG C2X 04-1 Debrief
Inport San Diego, Upkeep
Corrosion Control Preservation
Period
FMAV

December

1 DEC-14 DEC

JOINT SYSTEM TRAINING EXERCISE
04-01

1 DEC-31 DEC

Inport San Diego, Upkeep

1 DEC-31 DEC

Corrosion Control Preservation
Period

1 DEC-31 DEC

FMAV

11 DEC-12 DEC

BGIE-X

13 DEC-14 DEC

SERVAL (LIMPETEX)

15 DEC-31 DEC

Holiday Leave and Upkeep

Command Narrative

1. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** began 2003 coming out of a 2-month SRA at NASSCO Shipyard. Following a well-deserved holiday leave and upkeep, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** plunged forth into a challenging, accelerated Inter-Deployment Training Cycle. With the current state of world events and the implementation of "surge readiness," **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** prepared for a short notice deployment with two goals in mind: combat readiness and mission accomplishment. She boldly and aggressively accomplished every mission and chartered new frontiers in naval warfare and training, while consistently demonstrating the values of **LAKE CHAMPLAIN's** motto "Ingenuity, Daring and Discipline." **LAKE CHAMPLAIN's** innovative performance was a shining example of her war fighting spirit.

2. Wasting no time, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** got underway on January 13 in the Southern California Oparea for Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II preparations. After several ammunition onloads and two days in Seal Beach, CA, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** successfully completed CART II the last week of January.

3. February marked the beginning of the next phase in the training cycle-Tailored Ship Training Availability I. Underway February 18, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** conducted an intense week of engineering, seamanship and navigation training. However, due to numerous material discrepancies, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was unable to complete many pre-planned events and drills. Upon return to port, aggressive maintenance and repairs ensued and **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** postponed the next underway until February 25 in order to complete repairs. Once again in the familiar Southern California Oparea, the next underway provided another heavy week of engineering drills, seeing watchstanders continuing to improve with EOP and EOCC procedures. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was able to conduct several internal synthetic ADEX rehearsals in anticipation of JOHN C. STENNIS Strike Group (JCS SG) ADC duties, but engineering material readiness and training continued to remain the top priorities.

4. In the center of a grueling and demanding training cycle, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** crewmembers found encouragement in a surprise visit from former President George H. W. Bush, Sr. on March 15. The time in port gave the crew an opportunity to conduct CMTQ-T training and an SMA, and a two-week IMAV would provide **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** with an important opportunity to guarantee that she would be materially ready to train over the duration of the basic phase and beyond.

5. Significant milestones achieved in April included an outstanding 3M and communications assessment, along with the PCMS readiness improvement program and SEMAT maintenance. The main focus, however, remained on voyage repairs in support of the upcoming Underway Demonstration (U/D). Drills and evolutions had indicated a readiness for the U/D, but material discrepancies prevented the ship from being recommended for the U/D. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** conducted aggressive corrective maintenance and training and to the commending efforts of the crew, 24 April marked the completion of the Underway Demonstration.

6. Never to rest, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** got underway the following week for a highly productive and challenging period of training, to include four DC intensive, ITT integrated general quarters, surface and torpedo live-firing exercises and the completion of seamanship, navigation, USW and EW objectives. On 1 May, the day prior to pulling into port, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** received an unexpected call. Always prepared for any task, ready to answer her nation's call, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** provided security for the President of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush, Jr. during his stay onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN in support of their homecoming from an arduous deployment. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** provided air defense coverage as the nation watched their president land a successful trap on the deck of the carrier. High praise from Rear Admiral John Kelly declared, "**LAKE CHAMPLAIN's** rapid and timely response is greatly appreciated and personally commended by the President."

7. With Operation IRAQI FREEDOM coming to an end, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** found herself in a new way of doing business with the realignment of Carrier Strike Groups. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was assigned to Carrier Group SEVEN as the Air Defense Commander for the JOHN C. STENNIS Strike Group, serving alongside USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74), CVW 14, USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716) and the members of DESRON 21-USS HOWARD (DDG 83), USS FORD (FFG 54) and USNS RAINIER (T-AOE 7).

8. Robust training continued for the **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** with Force Protection exercises Phases I, II and III and a multi-ship MISSILEX, 14-15 May. But the culmination of all training, exercises and efforts came to a pinnacle on 24 May, as a highly successful Final Evaluation Problem brought closure to the training cycle and declared **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** routine deployable.

9. A timely and well-deserved port visit followed as **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** transited to Portland, Oregon in celebration of a 96-year old tradition, the Portland Rose Festival. Enroute to Portland, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** had the opportunity to conduct multi-ship exercises with USS ELLIOT (DD 967) and USS FORD (FFG 54), which included divtacs, formation maneuvering, flashing light drills and small arms quick draw. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** arrived in Astoria on 4 June where she was introduced to the grand hospitality of the Astoria community.

10. Underway the next morning, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** embarked 260 guests for a beautiful transit up the Columbia River, complete with guided tours and a steel beach picnic. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** arrived in downtown Portland and received a warm welcome, with ELLIOT moored alongside. Crew members had the opportunity to participate in the "Caps for Kids" COMREL project at Emmanuel Children's Hospital and during the visit, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** hosted nearly 1,100 guests through general ship visits, special tours and the COMTHIRDFLT reception on the flight deck. Honored guests included: Vice Admiral Michael McCabe, Commander THIRD Fleet; Vice Admiral Thad Allen, Chief of Staff, USCG; Rear Admiral Jamie Fraser HMCS, Commander Canadian Maritime Forces Pacific; Rear Admiral Richard Brooks, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Atlantic; Rear Admiral Len Hering, Commander, Navy Region Northwest; and Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, Fifth District, Oregon.

11. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** departed Portland on 9 June, for multi-sail exercises, as well as serving as OPFOR for PELELIU ESG's COMPTUEX. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** arrived in San Diego on 14 June.

12. Not only was the Portland Rose Festival a high-visibility port visit which marked the end of an arduous training cycle for the crew, but it was bitter-sweet for it would be the last underway the Commanding Officer would have with his crew. On 20 June, Captain James F. McCarthy, Jr. relieved Captain Robert S. Wells in a Change of Command ceremony aboard **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** in San Diego, CA.

13. The next months found **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** participating in inport Strike Group exercises and conducting watchstander proficiency training. Underway periods included FIREX I, MISSILEX, Day in Combat/Multi-mission Area Training, OPFOR for PELELIU ESG JTFEX, as well as plane guard duties for the JOHN C. STENNIS. Through numerous exercises, PACTRAMID midshipmen found many opportunities to practice ship-handling fundamentals and observe real-life leadership challenges.

14. September gave the crew an opportunity to enjoy a quality of life port visit, anchoring in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. In transit, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** experienced robust, productive training as well as events, which included a burial at sea, DLQs and DC Olympics. On the return transit, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** conducted passing honors with Colombian tall ship ARC GLORIA. This was quite a coincidence since **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was tasked to serve as COMNAVSURFPAC host ship for the ARC GLORIA from 22-24 September. Both crews were afforded unique and memorable experiences as they participated in an eventful Sport's Day and picnic, as well as socials, receptions and tours on both vessels.

15. The remaining inport period prior to the JCS Strike Group COMPTUEX, presented a substantial availability period which would completely renovate and redesign the crew's mess. At the end of the availability, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** would boast the completion of Champ's Sports Café, the finest crew's mess in the Navy.

16. After a delay due to the horrific wild fires in San Diego, on 29 October **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** got underway for Week One Work-Ups with the JCS SG and then a highly demanding and successful Composite Training Unit Exercise. From a series of Detect-to-Engage demonstrations to material inspections, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** again proved her combat readiness.

17. Upon return to San Diego, **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was provided with another availability period where she would receive completely refurbished crews' berthing compartments as well as stateroom modifications. The extensive remodeling would ensure critical quality of life upgrades for the crew in preparation for deployment. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** concluded the year of 2003 enjoying a holiday leave and upkeep in San Diego, California.

18. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN's** performance in the year 2003 was excellent. The tremendous reputation earned by the officers and crew of **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** was a direct result of an aggressive attitude coupled with a commitment to attacking problems and challenges in a positive, systematic way. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN's** brilliant performance started with its first Fleet Response Plan events and continued through COMPUTEX, culminating in her being ready to deploy to support any mission. **LAKE CHAMPLAIN** flawlessly executed every operational and administrative commitment, enhancing the combat readiness of the United States Navy.