



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M St. SE, Washington DC 20374-5060 (Code N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History Narrative  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(4) 3 1/2" diskette with Command History Narrative and  
Chronology

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. A. Welch", followed by a horizontal line.

D. A. WELCH  
Acting

## 1999 USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70) COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE

LAKE ERIE rang in the New Year in Pearl Harbor, finishing holiday stand-down. On 7 January the ship embarked family and friends of the crew, as well as Navy League members, and put to sea for a dependent's cruise to Maui. The ship anchored off Lahaina for four days while all enjoyed the beautiful sights of Maui and quality time with their family and friends. On 11 January professional golfers Fred Funk, Jim Furyk, and Steve Jones, and a camera crew from the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) embarked in LAKE ERIE for a return transit to Pearl Harbor. The golfers had just participated in a tournament in Maui and would be playing in another tournament on Oahu. They enjoyed their brief time onboard. After returning to Pearl Harbor, the holiday stand-down ended on 15 January. LAKE ERIE observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day on 18 January.

LAKE ERIE successfully completed an Elevator Weapons Assessment from 19-22 January and a frocking and awards ceremony was also held on 19 January. On 21 January the Chief Petty Officers exam was administered and Brigadier General Bryan and his staff from HQ USCINCPAC toured the ship. LAKE ERIE passed the Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection conducted from 25-29 January. Also on 28-29 January, LAKE ERIE participated in an Anti-Air Defense Coordinator Warfare Team Trainer. The month ended with a commissioning ceremony for CWO2 [REDACTED] on the flight deck on 29 January.

The first eleven days of February were spent inport Pearl Harbor and on the 6th attendees of the Pro Bowl Prayer Breakfast toured the ship. On 10 February HSL 37 Detachment 9 commenced onload. On 12 February LAKE ERIE sailed from Pearl Harbor for a transit to San Diego in company with USS CHOSIN (CG 65). The two cruisers conducted many exercises enroute in preparation for an upcoming Comprehensive Training Exercise (COMPTUEX). LAKE ERIE arrived in San Diego on 18 February, remaining in port for one night. On 19 February the ship got underway for the rest of the month to participate in COMPTUEX with ships of the CONSTELLATION Battle Group in the Southern California Operating Area.

During the first eleven days in March LAKE ERIE completed COMPTUEX and administered the E-4 and E-5 advancement exams. On 11 March the ship returned to Naval Station San Diego for a one-week visit. While in San Diego some of the crew attended a Battle Group Multi-TADIL course while others participated in ship handling simulators. The rest of the crew occupied its time with maintenance and general preservation. The Wardroom also took advantage of the time inport to conduct a Dining-In. LAKE ERIE departed San Diego on 19 March for a return transit to Pearl Harbor. On 25 March LAKE ERIE arrived in Pearl Harbor to a warm welcome after six weeks away from home. On 29 March the Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR John W. Ailes V, reported for duty. The last few days of the month consisted of his turnover with the Executive Officer, CDR Ken Auten.

The first two weeks of April were spent inport Pearl Harbor conducting maintenance and making preparations for the battle group Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX)

**ENCLOSURES (1)**

and deployment. On 13 April, MAC [REDACTED] was commissioned in a ceremony on the flight deck. On 15 April LAKE ERIE transited to Naval Weapons Magazine Lualualei for weapons onload and then returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on 16 April. After spending the weekend inport LAKE ERIE began her transit to Northern California on 19 April. USS CHOSIN (CG 65) accompanied LAKE ERIE and again both ships took advantage of the time at sea to conduct exercises in preparation for FLEETEX. On 27 April LAKE ERIE pulled into San Francisco where she spent the last few days of the month.

LAKE ERIE began her transit to San Diego on 1 May. 3-5 May were spent inport San Diego participating in a Force Protection Exercise. On 6 May LAKE ERIE sortied with other ships of the CONSTELLATION Battle Group, to commence FLEETEX in the Southern California Operating Areas. After successfully completing FLEETEX, LAKE ERIE began her transit back to Pearl Harbor on 14 May. On 19 May, the ship pulled into Pearl Harbor where she spent the rest of the month in her Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) standdown.

The first half of June was spent inport Pearl Harbor completing POM. On 19 June LAKE ERIE set sail for a six month Western Pacific Deployment. On 24 June LAKE ERIE rendezvoused with the Battle Group to conduct both an Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise and a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) in the Hawaiian Operating Areas. The JTFEX concluded on 30 June and the Battle Group departed Hawaiian waters, heading west.

The first ten days of July were spent transiting the Western Pacific, conducting watchstander training in the Battle Group environment. From 11-15 July the crew enjoyed its first liberty port of the deployment in Sasebo, Japan. Crewmembers capitalized on the scenic tours arranged by ship MWR representatives, and rejuvenated themselves through some well-deserved rest. The Battle Group spent the remainder of the month conducting multi-national exercises with both the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and Republic of Korea Navy. Following these multi-national exercises, LAKE ERIE visited the Republic of Korea for two brief port visits in Pusan and Incheon. On 30 July LAKE ERIE got underway from Incheon enroute the South China Sea to rejoin the Battle Group.

On 8 August, the CONSTELLATION Battle Group rendezvoused with the KITTY HAWK Battle Group on her return home from deployment. Two days were spent in a spirited mock battle between the two forces. After saying farewell to KITTY HAWK and her escorts, the CONSTELLATION Battle Group had a memorable port visit in Singapore from 10-13 August. On 17 August LAKE ERIE conducted a high-speed night transit of the Straits of Malacca enroute Port Klang, Malaysia. After two days in Kuala Lumpur, CONSTELLATION embarked Malaysian dignitaries for an Air Power Demonstration that was conducted on 19 August with LAKE ERIE serving as carrier escort. Following this impressive display all dignitaries returned to shore, and LAKE ERIE began transiting the Indian Ocean on her way to the Arabian Gulf. LAKE ERIE transited the Strait of Hormuz and arrived in Manama, Bahrain on 29 August.

The month of September was LAKE ERIE's first real test of her mettle. With the help of Special Forces units from the PELELIU Amphibious Readiness Group and FIFTH Fleet, LAKE ERIE captured five United Nations sanction violators, and

conducted several additional inspections in support of Maritime Interception Operations (MIO).

From 5-11 October LAKE ERIE participated in Exercise RED REEF 10 with the PELELIU ARG and Saudi Arabian forces. Valuable training was conducted between the two navies climaxing with a live fire Naval Gunfire demonstration, and an Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise with the USS SANTA FE. The last week of October LAKE ERIE participated in MIO surge operations in the uppermost parts of the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG), capturing two additional sanctions violators. After the successes in the NAG, the CONSTELLATION Battle Group conducted a turnover with the JOHN F KENNEDY Battle Group, and LAKE ERIE headed southeast to spend Halloween in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

LAKE ERIE transited the Straits of Hormuz and the Indian Ocean during the first half on November. LAKE ERIE entered the Royal Domain of King Neptune on 11 November. Following a thorough inspection by the king's royal staff, all pollywogs were cleansed and then initiated into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. A ship full of Trusty Shellbacks manned the rails for LAKE ERIE's arrival in Adelaide harbor on 21 November. LAKE ERIE hosted tours for thousands of Australians during this stay and welcomed aboard Royal Australian Naval Officers and local dignitaries for a reception on 22 November. The crew then enjoyed a fine port visit in Melbourne to bring the month to a close.

2-5 December was spent relaxing in Sydney before getting underway for a transit to Pago Pago, America Samoa. Dependants embarked LAKE ERIE on 10 December in Pago Pago and the ship set sail on 11 December for a Tiger Cruise back to Pearl Harbor. LAKE ERIE received a tremendous welcome home upon return to homeport on 17 December. The millennia came to a close with LAKE ERIE crewmembers enjoying a well-deserved holiday leave and stand down.

# 1999 USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70) COMMAND HISTORY TIMELINE

**January** 1 - 6 Inport upkeep. Holiday stand-down.

1 New Year's Day observed.

7 Underway for Dependent's Cruise to Maui. Anchored off Lahaina, Maui.

11 Return to Pearl Harbor from Maui. ESPN crew and professional golfers Fred Funk, Jim Furyk and Steve Jones ride the ship to Pearl Harbor.

12 - 15 Inport upkeep. Holiday stand-down.

15 Holiday stand-down ends. Ship tour for 160 French midshipmen.

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed.

19 - 22 Elevator Weapons Assessment. Inport upkeep.

21 Ship tour for Brigadier General Bryan and his staff from HQ USCINCPAC.

25 - 29 Successfully completed the Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection.

28 - 29 Anti-Air Defense Coordinator Warfare Team Trainer.

**February** 1 - 7 Inport upkeep.

6 Ship tour for attendees of Pro Bowl Prayer Breakfast.

8 - 11 Inport upkeep.

10 HSL 37 DET 9 commences pack-on.

12 - 18 Underway, transit to San Diego with USS CHOSIN (CG 65). Conducted many exercises with CHOSIN in preparation for COMPTUEX.

18 Inport San Diego.

19 - 28 Underway for COMPTUEX in SOCAL.

**March** 1 - 11 Underway for COMPTUEX in SOCAL.

12 - 18 Inport San Diego. BG Multi Tadil course and ship handling simulator.

19 - 25 Transit to Pearl Harbor.

26 - 31 Inport Pearl Harbor.

29 PXO, LCDR Ailes, arrived.

29 - 31 XO began turnover with PXO.

**April** 1 - 14 Inport Pearl Harbor. Upkeep and preparations for FLEETEX and deployment.

**ENCLOSURES (2)**

	15	Underway for tactical onload.
	16 – 18	Inport Pearl Harbor.
	19 – 26	Underway, transit to San Francisco with USS CHOSIN (CG 65). Conducted many exercises with CHOSIN in preparation for FLEETEX.
	27 – 30	Inport San Francisco.
<b>May</b>	1 – 2	Underway, transit to San Diego.
	3 – 5	Inport San Diego for Force Protection Exercise.
	6 – 13	Underway for FLEETEX in SOCAL.
	14 – 19	Transit to Pearl Harbor.
	20 – 31	Inport Pearl Harbor. POM.
<b>June</b>	1 – 18	Inport Pearl Harbor. POM.
	19	Underway, Western Pacific Deployment.
	20 – 23	Enroute Middle Pacific
	24 – 30	Conducted JTFEX 99-1 in Hawaiian Operating Area.
<b>July</b>	01 – 10	Transit through Western Pacific with Constellation Battle Group enroute Sasebo, Japan.
	11 – 15	Inport Sasebo, Japan.
	16 – 22	Underway operating in Sea of Japan with Constellation Battle Group.
	20 – 22	PASSEX with Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and Republic of Korea Navy.
	23 – 25	Inport Pusan, ROK.
	26	Enroute Inchon, ROK.
	27 – 30	Inport Inchon.
	31	Enroute South China Sea to rendezvous with Constellation Battle Group.
<b>August</b>	01- 06	Carrier OPS in South China Sea.
	07 – 08	Dual Carrier OPS with Kitty Hawk Battle Group.
	09	Enroute Singapore.
	10 – 13	Visit Singapore.
	14 – 16	Carrier OPS South China Sea.

17	Strait of Malacca transit.
17 – 18	Inport Port Klang, Malaysia.
19 - 27	Transit Indian Ocean enroute Arabian Gulf.
19	Constellation Air Power Demonstration for Malaysian Dignitaries.
27	Strait of Hormuz transit.
28	Steaming Southern Arabian Gulf.
29 – 03 Sep	Inport Bahrain.
<b>September 04</b>	Carrier escort enroute Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG).
05 – 11	Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in NAG.
12	Enroute Bahrain.
13 – 15	Inport Bahrain.
16	Enroute NAG.
17 – 30	Conducting MIO in NAG.
18	Capture of UN Sanctions violator Motor Vessel (MV) Hanan.
19	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Milad.
25	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Mashraq.
25	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Obai.
27	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Ranaa.
<b>October 01</b>	Enroute Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia.
02 – 04	Inport Al Jubayl.
05 – 11	Exercise Red Reef 10 with USS Peleliu (LHA-5) Amphibious Readiness Group and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
12 – 13	Inport Al Jubayl.
14 – 15	Conducting MIO in NAG.
16 – 17	Carrier escort.
18	Enroute Bahrain.
19 – 21	Inport Bahrain.
22	Enroute NAG.
23 – 28	Conducting MIO Surge OPS in NAG.

26	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Kadir.
28	Capture of UN Sanctions violator MV Novo One.
29	Carrier escort.
30	Enroute Jebel Ali, UAE.
31 – 03 Nov	Inport Jebel Ali.
<b>November 04</b>	Enroute Strait of Hormuz.
05	Strait of Hormuz transit.
06 – 20	Indian Ocean transit enroute Adelaide, Australia.
10	Crossed equator.
11	Crossing the line ceremony.
21 – 24	Inport Adelaide.
22	Reception onboard with officers of the Royal Australian Navy and local dignitaries.
25	Enroute Melbourne, Australia.
26 – 30	Inport Melbourne.
<b>December 01</b>	Enroute Sydney, Australia.
02 – 05	Inport Sydney.
06 – 09	Enroute Pago Pago, America Samoa.
10	Inport Pago Pago embarking dependants for Tiger Cruise.
11 – 16	Tiger Cruise enroute Pearl Harbor.
17	Return from WESTPAC and HSL 37 DET 9 disembarks.
18 – 31	Inport Pearl Harbor. POM.