



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)  
FPO AP 96671-1190

*Per 05/13/02  
w/o disk*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
CG 70-CO

APR 21 2002

From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy  
Yard, 901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) 2001 Chronology  
(3) Narrative 2001  
(4) Commanding Officer's Photograph and Biography  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(6) 3 ½ inch disc with copy of Command History Narrative  
and chronology  
(7) Press Releases  
"LAKE ERIE WELCOMES NEW SAILORS TO THE FLEET"  
"CNO AND MCPON VISITS USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70)"  
"RESCUE OPERATIONS"  
"FOR LAKE ERIE'S BROTHERS, SUCCESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY"

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded.

*John J. Hammerer, Jr.*  
JOHN J. HAMMERER, JR.

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70), homeported Pearl Harbor Hawaii and commanded by Captain John J. Hammerer, Jr. Captain Hammerer's last assignment was Commander, Joint National Test Facility in Colorado Springs, CO. The Immediate Superior in Command for USS LAKE ERIE is RADM Terrance Etnyre, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group One (CCDG-1).

Total Billets Authorized:

<b>Paygrade</b>	<b>Billets Authorized</b>
<u>Officers:</u>	34
<u>Enlisted:</u>	375
Total:	409

## 2001 CHRONOLOGY

### JANUARY

- 04 – 24 Waterfront Integration Testing for Chief of Naval Operations Theater Ballistic Missile Defense Project
- 25 Flight Test Round 1A
- 29 – 02 Feb Prospective Commanding Officer Submarine Screening

### FEBRUARY

- 09 – 12 Ehime Maru Search and Rescue
- 13 – 18 Underway enroute Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- 20 – 22 Theater Missile Defense Critical Measurement Program 3B Test
- 23 – 25 Inport Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- 26 – 06 Mar Completed Final Evaluation Problem enroute Pearl Harbor

### MARCH

- 07 – 09 Missile Exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility. Standard Missile 2 Block 2, Block 3, and Block 4
- 14 – 27 NORTHERN EDGE 01: Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle
- 27 – 28 Inport Everett, Washington
- 28 – 01 Apr Inport Vancouver, British Columbia

### APRIL

- 02 – 05 Inport Seattle, Washington
- 06 – 12 Tiger Cruise: Seattle to Pearl Harbor
- 09 – 12 Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification
- 15 – 04 Jun Maintenance Availability, Pearl Harbor

## **JUNE**

05 – 08, 11 - 15 Underway Pacific Midshipmen Training 1

## **JULY**

09 – 13 Underway Pacific Midshipmen Training 2

21 – 24 HL MOOGAL Rescue Mission

## **AUGUST**

06 – 10 Underway Training General Quarters, Simulated Land Attack Missile Exercise, Naval Surface Fire Support

27 – 29 Underway Kauai with Director BMDO, Father of AEGIS, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Theater Combat Systems

## **SEPTEMBER**

09 – 16 Carrier Operations: USS CONSTELLATION

11 – 11 Oct Homeland Defense: OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE

## **OCTOBER**

08 – 11 San Clemente Shore Bombardment Area Naval Surface Fire Support Qualification

## **NOVEMBER**

08 – 17 Carrier Operations: USS NIMITZ and USS JOHN C. STENNIS

15 – 17 FUKUYO MARU Medical Evacuation

21 – 31 Dec Selective Restricted Availability

## **DECEMBER**

15 – 15 Jan 02 Holiday Stand Down

## **NARRATIVE 2001**

For USS LAKE ERIE the year 2001 began with Waterfront Integration Testing for the Chief of Naval Operations Theater Ballistic Missile Defense project while in port Pearl Harbor. The objective of this ongoing project is to make an exo-atmospheric intercept of a theater ballistic missile using a Standard Missile 3 (SM-3). Scientists and engineers from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division visited the ship to analyze, test, and groom the AEGIS Combat system to ensure its readiness to launch the SM-3 for Flight Test Round 1A. Flight Test Round 1A objective was a third stage rocket firing. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January a SM-3 successfully launched from USS LAKE ERIE. The success of this first round of testing validated the Navy's dedication to ballistic missile defense.

Following Flight Test Round 1A, LAKE ERIE was involved with Prospective Officer Submarine Screening. During five days of intense training, LAKE ERIE conducted Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations, testing and evaluating new torpedo evasion tactics and the AN/ULQ-25 NIXIE Torpedo Countermeasure in an active submarine environment. As the surface ship in this exercise, LAKE ERIE provided target and evasion services for the prospective commanding officers of USS ASHEVILLE and USS PORTSMOUTH. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February USS GREENVILLE collided with the Japanese fishing vessel EHIME MARU. LAKE ERIE was called upon for an emergency sortie to assist the Coast Guard in Search and Rescue, and salvage efforts. After a general recall, LAKE ERIE was able to get underway in two hours with eighty five percent of the crew. Providing a ready deck for helicopters and debris pick-up, LAKE ERIE was a valuable asset in this operation.

Continuing its support for the Chief of Naval Operations Ballistic Missile Defense program, LAKE ERIE sailed for the Kwajalein Missile Range for the Theater Missile Defense Critical Measurement Program. Her mission was to collect theater ballistic missile data with Navy Area Sensors for Theater Ballistic Missile Defense simulation validation. This was successfully achieved when the AEGIS Weapon System fully tracked and simulated engagement of a threatening ballistic missile. Following the success of the mission the crew of LAKE ERIE took some well deserved liberty in the capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Majuro. The ship hosted a reception for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Secretary of State. Crew members also participated in COMREL project, fixing housing areas.

Upon ending visit to Majuro, the Final Evaluation Problem commenced as inspectors from the Afloat Training Group Pearl Harbor evaluated the crew on multi-casualty drills and total ship survivability. By passing all parts of the examination, LAKE ERIE's training teams validated the ships ability to train itself. Immediately following the Final Evaluation Problem, the LAKE ERIE participated

in three required Anti-Air Warfare exercises along with two other ships, USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG-60) and USS PORT ROYAL (CG-73). Firing two Standard Missile 2 Block II, and one Standard Missile 2 Block III, LAKE ERIE successfully intercepted all targets. While the Anti-Air Warfare exercise was in effect, LAKE ERIE also was involved in a highly successful Standard Missile 2 Block IV firing exercise against a challenging, threat representative target.

Exercise NORTHERN EDGE was the next challenge for the crew of LAKE ERIE. On station off the Southern coast of Alaska, LAKE ERIE participated in this Joint service exercise which included Ballistic Missile Defense. The test objective was for the AN/SPY-1B (V) radar to detect and track a Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle and perform simulated engagements using the AEGIS Weapon System. The Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle was launched from the Kodiak TEST FACILITY in Kodiak, Alaska, detected and tracked using the AEGIS LEAP Intercept program, and all simulations proved to be a success. Rewarding the crew for their hard work, LAKE ERIE invited friends and family of the Sailors to come onboard for a return TIGER Cruise from Seattle, Washington to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It was an excellent morale boost for the crew and a great opportunity for friends and family members to observe a Sailor's lifestyle.

On Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>, another emergency sortie was called. A vessel located 900 nautical miles southeast of Oahu sent out a distress call for a fisherman with appendicitis symptoms. With only fifty percent of the crew onboard and a Coast Guard helicopter detachment, LAKE ERIE headed out to respond. The man was stabilized with assistance from a Special Operations Medical Unit, then transported by helicopter to the island of Hawaii. Receiving news of the patient's return to Hawaii, LAKE ERIE began to steam back to Pearl Harbor.

In September 2001, LAKE ERIE had the opportunity to accompany USS CONSTELLATION Battle Group on its post-deployment transit from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to San Diego, California. The seven-day operation allowed the crew to receive operational training with a battle group, supporting air warfare, navigation, and tactical maneuvering. Unfortunately this exercise was cut short because of the infamous events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. For the next month LAKE ERIE held a vigilant watch in Operation Noble Eagle, an air defense operation along both the east and west coasts of the United States. LAKE ERIE provided air defense from Port Hueneme to San Diego, California until October 11<sup>th</sup>.

LAKE ERIE's next operations were with the carriers USS NIMITZ and USS JOHN C. STENNIS. LAKE ERIE set sail with USS NIMITZ from Pearl Harbor to San Diego where she would rendezvous with USS JOHN C. STENNIS Battle Group. During the 10-day operation the crew received valuable operational training in all warfare areas. While on this operation, the ship received a distress call from the fishing vessel FUKUYO MARU. A sailor was struck in the eye by a separated line and needed emergency medical attention. LAKE ERIE detached from the carrier operations and closed the vessel with a helicopter detachment.

The injured sailor was transferred from the fishing vessel to LAKE ERIE via small boat, followed by a helicopter medical evacuation from LAKE ERIE to USS JOHN C. STENNIS for further medical attention.

The remainder of 2001 was spent in a Selected Restricted Availability status at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.