



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)
FPO AP 96671-1190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
CG70-CO
14 Mar 05

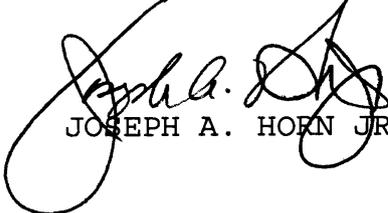
From: Commanding Officer, USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, 901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2004

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 2004 Chronology
(3) Narrative 2004
(4) Commanding Officer's Photograph and Biography

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


JOSEPH A. HORN JR.

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70) is homeported in Pearl Harbor Hawaii and is commanded by Captain Joseph A. Horn Jr. The Immediate Superior in Command for USS LAKE ERIE is RDML Michael Vitale, COMMANDER, NAVAL SURFACE GROUP, MIDDLE PACIFIC.

Total Billets Authorized:

Paygrade	Billets Authorized
<u>Officers:</u>	34
<u>Enlisted:</u>	383
Total:	417

2004 CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY

1-11 JANUARY	HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP
13 JANUARY	FAST CRUISE
14 JANUARY	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI
16 JANUARY	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
16 JANUARY	U/W NAVMAG PH
16 JANUARY	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
21 JANUARY	COMMENCED CNO SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY

FEBRUARY

10-28 FEBRUARY	AVCERT
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MARCH

1-3 MARCH	AVCERT
19 MARCH	DC OLYMPICS
23 MARCH	FAST CRUISE
24 MARCH	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI FOR SEA TRIALS
25 MARCH	ARRIVED NAVMAG, PH
26 MARCH	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
29 MARCH	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI

APRIL

2 APRIL	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
5-12 APRIL	PCAC5RA
19 APRIL	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI
22 APRIL	NSFS FIREX II
23 APRIL	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI

MAY

7 MAY	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI
21 MAY	ARRIVED SAN DIEGO, CA
24 MAY	COMMAND PICNIC

JUNE

3 JUNE	DEPARTED SAN DIEGO, CA
4 JUNE	ARRIVED SEAL BEACH, CA
5 JUNE	DEPARTED SEAL BEACH, CA
9 JUNE	ARRIVED ASTORIA, OR
10 JUNE	DEPARTED ASTORIA, OR
10 JUNE	ARRIVED PORTLAND, OR
10-13 JUNE	PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL

11 JUNE	PCO, CAPT. JOSEPH A. HORN JR. REPORTS ABOARD
14 JUNE	DEPARTED PORTLAND, OR
20 JUNE	CAPT. JOSEPH A. HORN JR. TAKES COMMAND
20 JUNE	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
21 JUNE	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
28 JUNE	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI FOR AMMO ONLOAD, PACBLITZ AND RIMPAC
28-30 JUNE	PACBLITZ
JULY	
2 JULY	DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR, HI
2-23 JULY	RIMPAC 2004
23 JULY	ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI
29 JULY	LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN VISIT
30 JULY	US-JAPAN MARITIME YOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT
AUGUST	
3 AUGUST	FLOYD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC VISIT
5 AUGUST	SEN. LIEBERMAN (D-CT) VISIT
13 AUGUST	PTA LUHAU ELEMENTARY TOUR
20 AUGUST	FAST CRUISE
23 AUGUST	U/W FOR AMMO ONLOAD/WESTPAC 04
24 AUGUST	NSFS FIREX II
27 AUGUST	CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE – IN-CHOP 7 th FLT
30 AUGUST	ARRIVED KWAJALEIN ATOLL, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
SEPTEMBER	
1 SEPTEMBER	DEPART KWAJALEIN ATOLL, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
09 SEPTEMBER	ARRIVED GUAM, USA
11 SEPTEMBER	DEPARTED GUAM, USA
13 SEPTEMBER	ARRIVED KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU
15 SEPTEMBER	LAKE ERIE SAILORS MARCH IN PARADE FOR BATTLE OF PELELIU
17 SEPTEMBER	DEPARTED KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU
22 SEPTEMBER	ARRIVED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
28 SEPTEMBER	RADM KELLY, CDR KITTY HAWK STRIKE GROUP, VISIT
30 SEPTEMBER	DEPARTED YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

30 SEPTEMBER

PXO, LCDR NEIL E. FUNTANILLA, REPORTS
ABOARD

OCTOBER

3 OCTOBER

ARRIVED CHINHAE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

7 OCTOBER

DEPARTED CHINHAE, REPUBLIC OF
KOREA

11 OCTOBER

ARRIVED NIIGATA, JAPAN

11 OCTOBER

NIIGATA TOASTMASTER'S CLUB VISIT

11 OCTOBER

HOSTED BIGTOP RECEPTION

12 OCTOBER

DEPARTED NIIGATA, JAPAN

16 OCTOBER

HALFWAY NIGHT

18 OCTOBER

ARRIVED LEYTE GULF, REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES

19 OCTOBER

HOSTED BIGTOP RECEPTION FOR VIPS,
HMAS WESTRALIA

20 OCTOBER

LAKE ERIE SAILORS MARCH IN PARADE
TO COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF
LEYTE GULF

21 OCTOBER

DEPARTED LEYTE GULF, REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES

29-31 OCTOBER

THEATER ASW EXERCISE

NOVEMBER

1-8 NOVEMBER

THEATER ASW EXERCISE

10-19 NOVEMBER

ANNUAL EXERCISE WITH JMSDF

24 NOVEMBER

ARRIVED HONG KONG, PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

28 NOVEMBER

DEPARTED HONG KONG, PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DECEMBER

3 DECEMBER

BSF GUAM, USA

3-8 DECEMBER

CART II/CMTQ-H

5 DECEMBER

ARRIVED GUAM, USA

9 DECEMBER

DEPARTED GUAM, USA

15 DECEMBER

CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE/IN-
CHOP 3RD FLT

18 DECEMBER

ARRIVED PEARL HARBOR, HI

18-31 DECEMBER

HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP

NARRATIVE 2004

After years of work as the Navy's experimental ballistic missile defense platform and just prior to a rigorous 2005 BMD schedule, USS LAKE ERIE took advantage of a packed operational schedule to showcase her capabilities in every area in 2004. Whether the ship was pioneering the Navy's SHIPMAIN concept or participating in multinational exercises, her crew responded with enthusiasm and professionalism to every challenge, capping the year with a successful deployment to the 7th Fleet Area of Operations that culminated in a successful CART II evaluation and a pair of large exercises, the Theater ASW Exercise and Annual Exercise, involving ships, submarines and air assets from the U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force.

LAKE ERIE began the year moored in Pearl Harbor, HI for a Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period that lasted through 12 January and gave the crew a well-earned rest with family and friends. After the leave period, the ship began a Chief of Naval Operations Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) to accomplish much-needed maintenance. For the next three months, crewmembers spent much of their time living and working on a barge as contractors, assisted by ship's force, tore the ship down to the deckplates to overhaul vital systems and make cosmetic repairs to her 10-year-old interior. Highlights included resurfacing several interior and exterior decks, relagging many of the ship's pipes, installation of the experimental Undersea Warfare Decision Support System and further upgrades to the Aegis Weapons system to support BMD testing.

On 24 March, LAKE ERIE got underway for the first time in more than three months, ready for sea trials. A veteran crew quickly regained their sea legs. With a series of weeklong exercises stretching through April, technicians recaptured their proficiency running Combat Systems Training Team scenarios, Seamanship and Navigation drills and Damage Control drills at all hours of the day and night before returning each Friday, exhausted but proud. The training would prove useful as the ship ramped up its operations for the major exercises to come.

LAKE ERIE left Pearl Harbor on 7 May, bound for the West Coast and a six-week training odyssey. Shortly after leaving the harbor, she rendezvoused with the Training Squadron of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. For the next seven days, the three Japanese ships would be her constant companions and the captains involved took advantage to run more training. The ships allotted time each morning for shiphandling evolutions to improve Junior Officers' proficiency. Flight deck familiarization and communications drills were also common themes during the transit.

After the ships reached San Diego, the Japanese squadron departed to enter the harbor. LAKE ERIE remained at the SCORE range off the Southern California coast for a series of Combat Systems proficiency exercises, starting

with the Naval Surface Fire Support Firing Exercise II. The ship's final score, greater than 90%, exceeded expectations and she was free to move into a series of Undersea Warfare exercises that included tracking drills and navigating a simulated minefield.

LAKE ERIE entered port in San Diego on 21 May for a two-week training availability. While the crew enjoyed downtown San Diego in the evening, they spent their days spread across the waterfront at a series of schools for, among others, cryptology, shiphandling, visitation, boarding, search and seizure (VBSS) and anti-submarine warfare.

On 3 June, LAKE ERIE left San Diego and headed just up the coast to Naval Station, Seal Beach to onload missiles for deployment. From Seal Beach, the voyage continued to the Pacific Northwest. The ship's next port call was in Astoria, OR. A one-night affair before the 8-hour sea-and-anchor detail up the Columbia River to Portland, the people of Astoria welcomed "The People's Ship" with open arms, hosting a reception for the 400-strong crew in a banquet hall. There, Capt. Anhalt exchanged gifts with the mayor and other dignitaries.

The ship departed Astoria on 10 June with more than 100 visitors aboard. Crewmembers entertained and gave tours while the ship completed the rigorous trip up the Columbia River. Upon arrival in Portland, the festivities officially began as LAKE ERIE was joined on the pier by USS STETHEM and USS RENTS. Sailors from all ships attended a dance while the officers enjoyed a reception at a waterfront hotel.

LAKE ERIE received a significant amount of coverage from local news organizations while inport. Whether it was a television station going "Live at 5" from the foc'sle, camera crews doing stories from CIC about the ship's role as a Ballistic Missile defense platform or CNN coverage of a 21-gun salute on the fantail.

The ship left Portland on 14 June bound for Pearl Harbor. Just before entering port on the 20th, Capt. Anhalt officially turned over command of LAKE ERIE to Capt. Joseph A. Horn Jr. In his farewell speech, Capt. Anhalt told the crew how proud he was to have served with them and recalled the ship's heritage, reminding everyone, "DONT GIVE UP THE SHIP."

Just two weeks later, the ship was underway again, not for training or M-ratings, but to serve as a vital cog in Rim-of-the-Pacific 2004. RIMPAC 04 involved more than 40 ships and 18,000 sailors, soldiers, airmen and marines from eight different countries. LAKE ERIE participated as a member of the Bi-lateral Force, four Japanese destroyers, LAKE ERIE and USS PAUL HAMILTON. Over the course of the three week exercises, the ships were forced to exercise every major warfare area, firing SM-2 and Harpoon missiles at live targets, participating in ASW events almost daily, boarding tankers and helping

sink the ex-USS HARRY W. HILL in a gunnery exercise in which she fired 114 times, recording 90 hits. The crew returned from RIMPAC on 23 July seasoned veterans, confident in their abilities as warfighters.

After the high-tempo operations of RIMPAC, the crew were given a month to take leave before the coming WESTPAC, the ship's first deployment in five years. Maintenance and training took priority as crewmembers prepared to leave their loved ones behind for four months. On 23 August, LAKE ERIE departed Pearl Harbor.

Brief stops at Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the island of Guam followed. The ship enjoyed an MWR picnic as part of their one-night stay in Kwajalein that allowed them to mingle with the island's residents, mostly involved in Ballistic Missile Defense work themselves. Two nights in Guam followed, permitting the crew to get their first liberty in 7th Fleet.

The first major port call of the deployment was in Palau, a tiny nation made up of more than 200 islands. The crew anchored in off the island of Koror to help the country's inhabitants celebrate the 60th anniversary of the battle of Peleliu. In a packed national stadium, LAKE ERIE's honor guard and more than 60 members of her crew joined Japanese and American veterans in a parade that honored the natives, Americans and Japanese lost on Peleliu. Later, Capt. Horn participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a museum on Peleliu.

Weighing anchor on 17 September, the ship continued to Yokosuka, Japan. After arriving on the 22nd, the crew began a weeklong training availability in preparation for training cycle. Crewmembers participated in Limited Team Trainers for VBSS, Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification-Harpoon, Battle Force Training Team and ASW. The ship left Yokosuka on 30 September.

Battling severe weather all the way, LAKE ERIE arrived in the Land of the Morning Calm in Chinhae, Republic of Korea on 3 October. Moored next to the Korean's newest destroyer, Mung-Mu the Great, Chinhae presented sailors with the opportunity to revisit Pusan, a popular port call in 2003. On 7 October, the crew embarked for the transit to Niigata, Japan.

As the first U.S. Navy ship to visit Niigata in more than two years, LAKE ERIE received a warm reception in what turned into just a one-night stay. The crew dispersed through the town to a series of events including visits to a rehabilitation hospital, a college and museum. All culminated in a flight-deck reception for VIPs onboard LAKE ERIE.

The tour of World War II battle sites continued in Leyte Gulf. LAKE ERIE arrived 18 October to celebrate the battle's 60th anniversary. Crewmembers marched in two parades through the streets of Tacloban City and Captain Horn

joined the President of the Phillipines and the U.S. ambassador on the dais for a wreath-laying ceremony at the MacArthur Memorial.

The next 35 days reminded crewmembers of RIMPAC as LAKE ERIE was the key player in a pair of major bi-lateral exercises, Theater ASW Exercise (TASWEX) and Annual Exercise (AnnualEx). During TASWEX, LAKE ERIE, along with USS VINCENNES, USS JOHN S. MCCAIN and USS CURTIS WILBUR were tasked with tracking the Japanese submarines JDS NARUSHIO and JDS NATSUSHIO and the American submarines USS CHARLOTTE and USS CHEYENNE. AnnualEx involved even more ships. A task force of 12 surface ships and two submarines squared off with an enemy fleet of destroyers and submarines. LAKE ERIE conducted numerous ASW, AAW and ASUW engagements throughout AnnualEx as well as boarding and searching three "suspect" vessels.

A well-deserved rest awaited the crew in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China on 24 November. The crew visited the city's many sites and most used the opportunity to finish up their Christmas shopping before an arduous journey home. On 28 November, the ship headed to Guam to pick up evaluators from Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific in anticipation of completing the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II. Evaluations complete and satisfactory, the ship riders left Guam on 9 December as LAKE ERIE looked to complete its deployment. The ship arrived in Pearl Harbor on 18 December and immediately began its Holiday Leave and Upkeep period.