



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

FPO AE 09570-1175

Re 03/29/  
w/ 0 dis

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

Ser 13/ 061

17 MAR 00

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. H. Dunn", is written over the printed name.

W. H. DUNN

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To operate with aircraft carrier battle groups in extreme threat environments, providing primary anti-air protection for the Fleet. To detect, classify, and track hundreds of potential targets simultaneously in the air, on the surface, and under the sea. To destroy hostile targets using a variety of weapons: surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, ship and air-launched torpedoes and deck guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys.

ISIC: Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT

### COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 JAN 99 - 17 DEC 99

CAPT Raymond P. Donahue, Jr., USN,

17 DEC 99 - 31 DEC 99

CAPT William H. Dunn, USN,

**USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)**  
**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS**  
**FOR 1999**

LEYTE GULF started 1999 in Holiday Leave and standdown at Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

JAN 01	Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA
JAN 14	SLAMEX
JAN 19-22	Weapons Onload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA
JAN 22	Dependents Cruise
FEB 05	HELO Detachment (HSL-46) arrives
FEB 08-24	Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX)
FEB 10	Burials At Sea
FEB 26-27	Weapons Onload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA
FEB 28-MAR 16	POM
MAR 16	Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM Giffin, visit
MAR 26	Deployed for MED/Arabian Gulf Deployment 99-2
APR 02	Transit Straits of Gibraltar, INCHOP European Command AOR
APR 06	Arrive Adriatic Sea
APR 07	On-station for Operation NOBLE ANVIL/ALLIED FORCE. Assumed duties as CTF-60 Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN. Completed exercise CAESAR SWORD 99-07.
APR 09	Tomahawk strike
APR 20-24	Port visit Bari, Italy
APR 24	CTF-60/502, RADM Copeland, visit; Tomahawk strike
MAY 18	Assumed Adriatic GOLDCROWN duties

Enclosure (2)

MAY 21-25	Port visit Genoa, Italy
MAY 31	Memorial Day; Tomahawk strike - final TLAM's fired during Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL
JUN 11-15	Port visit Villefranche, France
JUN 22	Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel/Readiness), Mr. Rudy DeLeon, visit
JUN 25	MED/Arabian Gulf Deployment 99-2 Halfway Day
JUN 29-JUL 05	Port visit Palma de Mallorca, Spain
JUL 04	LCDR David J. Destito assumes duties as Executive Officer from LCDR Russ E. Haas
JUL 08	Arrive Port Said, Egypt
JUL 09-11	Transit Suez Canal and Red Sea
JUL 13	Transit Gulf of Oman and Straits of Hormuz; completed 5th FLEET TLAM exercise
JUL 14	Assumed duties as CTF-50 Air Defense Commander/ REDCROWN
JUL 22-28	Port visit, Bahrain
AUG 22	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visit
AUG 27	Transit Strait of Hormuz
AUG 29	Mid-Cycle Assessment
SEP 03	Transit Suez Canal
SEP 05-08	Port visit Valletta, Malta
SEP 10	Weapons cross-deck at Augusta Bay, Sicily
SEP 11	Chief of Naval Operations visit
SEP 14	Transit Straits of Gibraltar
SEP 22	Return to Homeport, Norfolk, VA
SEP 22-08 OCT	Post Deployment Leave/Standdown period

SEP 26	USS LEYTE GULF 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commissioning
OCT 13	Navy Birthday (Full Dress Ship)
NOV 04-08	Port visit Fort Lauderdale, FL; Silver Ridge Elementary Awards Ceremony
NOV 09-10	BSF Mayport, FL
NOV 11	Veteran's Day (Holiday Colors)
NOV 16	AMMO Offload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA
DEC 17	Change of Command - Captain William H. Dunn relieves Captain Raymond P. Donahue, Jr.
DEC 17-31	Holiday Leave and Standdown period

## NARRATIVE

In January, LEYTE GULF conducted an ammunition on-load at Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia, in preparation for the upcoming Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployment.

In February, the ship commenced Joint Task Force Exercise 99-2 with various other units of the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group, assigned duties as Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN. During the three-week final tune-up for deployment, LEYTE GULF flawlessly directed the combined air defense effort during sustained Battle Group operations in the vicinity of Puerto Rico, Jacksonville, and Cherry Point OPAREAS. On short notice, the ship returned to Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, for an additional ammunition on-load.

March brought a pre-overseas movement standdown, final preparations, and the commencement of deployment on 26 March.

LEYTE GULF assumed duties as Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL Air Defense Commander/REDCROWN on 6 April. Several days later, the ship launched weapons in anger for the first time since January 1991, firing Tomahawk cruise missiles at various targets around the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. A visit to Bari, Italy, provided a much needed break for the crew.

During May, LEYTE GULF continued its effort supporting NATO combat operations in the Adriatic. The air warfare module in the Combat Information Center tracked, identified, and deloused over 1200 daily combat sorties. The ship's embarked helicopter detachment flew round-the-clock support missions, ensuring a fused tactical surface picture. The ship responded several times to near real-time, quick-reaction Tomahawk strike tasking, employing the system in a new and evolving role as a tactical weapon. While off-station, the ship ventured to Genoa, Italy, for a port visit.

June featured the cessation of hostilities in the Balkans, and shortly thereafter, a visit to Villefranche, France. After returning to the Adriatic Sea, the ship re-assumed air defense duties to provide post-hostility stabilization to the region.

While in-port in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, at the first part of July, Leyte Gulf, along with THEODORE ROOSEVELT and Arctic, received orders to head to the Arabian Gulf. After transiting the Suez Canal on 8 July, the ship arrived on-station in the Fifth Fleet AOR 15 July. As Task Force 50 Air Defense Commander, LEYTE GULF provided support for Carrier Air Wing 8 aircraft during OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH missions into Iraq, and also visited Bahrain.

"America's Battle Cruiser" welcomed the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MMCM(SW/SS/AW) Jim Herdt, in early August, and supported overland strikes against Iraqi air defense sites during CVW-8 missions on 8 and 9 August. On 21 August, LEYTE GULF and its' embarked helicopter detachment from HSL 46 spearheaded rescue and assistance efforts of Iranian fisherman adrift in the central Gulf. The ship departed the Arabian Gulf and began the homeward transit on 26 August, completing a highly successful Mid-Cycle Assessment 27-30 August.

After transiting back through the Red Sea and Suez canal, the ship entered the Mediterranean and stopped in Malta for a port visit. On 9 September, LEYTE GULF arrived in Augusta Bay, Sicily, for a missile cross-deck to USS RAMAGE. The day after departing Augusta Bay, the ship welcomed the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jay Johnson, for a visit and Admiral's Call with the crew. The ship returned to Norfolk, Virginia, on 22 September.

After a post-deployment standdown period in October, the ship set sail for Port Everglades, Florida, 1 November, and accepted an award from Silver Ridge Elementary for the ship's partnership efforts with the school. The ship off-loaded ammunition at Yorktown 15 November.

December featured the Change of Command, as Captain William H. Dunn assumed command from Captain Raymond P. Donahue, Jr., on 17 December. Immediately afterwards, the ship shifted into Holiday leave/standdown period to close out the year.

LEYTE GULF received the following awards for operations during 1999:

- Navy Unit Commendation for Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL

- NATO Medal for Operation ALLIED FORCE/NOBLE ANVIL
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH
- Battle "E" Ribbon
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon for MED 99-2 Deployment

LEYTE GULF has been nominated for the following additional awards for service in 1999:

- Meritorious Unit Citation for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH