



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)
FPO AE 09570-1175

Per 04/11 disk
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

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23 Feb 01

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

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, JANUARY 2000 - DECEMBER 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents
(5) Updated Ship's Photo (sepcor; to be sent no later than 15 March 2001)
(6) 3½ Floppy Disk

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted.

W. H. Dunn
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, land attack missiles, ship and air-launched torpedoes and deck guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys.

ISIC: RADM Michael D. Malone, Commander Carrier Group EIGHT

COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 JAN 00 - 31 DEC 00

CAPT William H. Dunn, USN, |

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 2000

LEYTE GULF started 2000 in Holiday Leave and standdown at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

JAN 01	Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA
JAN 12	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8), RADM Malone, visit/tour
JAN 26	Community relations project (Woodstock Elementary School)
FEB 02	Community relations project (Woodstock Elementary School)
FEB 15-25	Underway Jacksonville Operational Area (JAXOPAREA)
FEB 18-22	Port visit Mayport, FL
FEB 24	Surface Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
MAR 14-AUG 30	Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability (Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation- Norfolk, VA)
MAR 28	Navy Unit Commendation (NUC) Presentation (COMCARGRU 8 Chief of Staff)
APR 07	COMDESRON 28 Strike Warfare Conference
APR 20	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8) Interdeployment Training Cycle (IDTC) Conference
MAY 16-19	Information Technology 21 st Century (IT-21) Conference
MAY 23	Theater Air and Missile Defense Conference
JUN 21-23	Shiphandling Complex Training
JUN 29	Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW) Tactics Forum
JUL 06	Aegis/SM-2 Joint Engagement Zone (JEZ) Brief
JUL 19	Aegis Light-Off (Phase I)
JUL 26-29	Shiphandling Complex Training
AUG 03	Afloat/Ashore Commanders' Conference
AUG 04	Commander THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battlegroup (COMTRBATGRU) Commander's Conference
AUG 07	Aegis Light-Off (Phase II)
AUG 15-17	Engineering Training Group (ETG) Limited Team Training (LTT)
AUG 17	Commander THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battlegroup (COMTRBATGRU) Operations Officers' Conference
AUG 17	D-15 THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battlegroup/Amphibious Readiness Group (TRBATGRU/ARG) Cryptologic Planning Conference
AUG 22	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8), RADM Malone, visit
AUG 23	Light-Off Assessment (LOA)

Encl (2)

AUG 23	Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team (OHSAT)
AUG 23-25	Broward Navy Days Conference
AUG 30-SEP 01	Sea Trials Virginia Capes Operational Area (VACAPES OPAREA)
SEP 01	Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA
SEP 07	Aviation Certification (AVCERT) Tech Assist
SEP 07	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8) Joint Maritime Course (JMC) Conference
SEP 07-08	Joint Tactical Information Data System (JTIDS) 101 Battlegroup Tactical Data Information Link (TADIL) training
SEP 07-08	Supply Management Assist (SMA) visit
SEP 12-14	Combat Systems Training Group/Fleet Training Group Limited Training Team (CSTG/FTG LTT)
SEP 14	Surface Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
SEP 18-19	Engineering Initial Assessment (EIA)
SEP 21	Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Forum
SEP 25-28	Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Examination (AVCERT/ARE)
OCT 03-20	Underway Jacksonville Operational Area (JAXOPAREA)
OCT 03-04	Combat Systems Training Group Limited Team Training (CSTG LTT)
OCT 04	Helicopter Operations, Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs) with HSL-40
OCT 05-11	Port visit Port Everglades, FL (Broward County Navy Days)
OCT 05-11	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8) Embark
OCT 05	Community relations project (Silver Ridge Elementary School)
OCT 06	Community relations project (Horizon Elementary School)
OCT 07	American Red Cross disaster relief project to help flood victims in Miami, FL
OCT 13-15	Port visit Mayport, FL
OCT 16-19	Engineering Training Group (ETG) Limited Team Training (LTT)
OCT 17	5" Shoot and Pre-Action Calibration Fire (PACFIRE)
OCT 19	Helicopter Operations, Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs) with HC-6
OCT 24-26	56 th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf
OCT 24-NOV 12	Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV)
OCT 24	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II)

OCT 27	Chief of Supply Corps, RADM Lippert, visit
OCT 27	Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, Ms. Tish Long, visit
OCT 30-NOV 02	Engineering Training Group (ETG) Limited Team Training (LTT)
OCT 31-NOV 03	Underway Virginia Capes Operational Area (VACAPES OPAREA)
NOV 01	5" Shoot and Pre-Action Calibration Fire (PACFIRE)
NOV 02	Recovery Exercise Torpedo (REXTORP)
NOV 07	Commander Carrier Group FOUR (COMCARGRU 4) Air Intercept Controller (AIC) Conference
NOV 07-08	Combat Systems Training Group/Fleet Training Group Limited Team Training (CSTG/FTG LTT)
NOV 08	Ashore/Afloat Commanders' Conference
NOV 08	Commander Carrier Group EIGHT (COMCARGRU 8) Battlegroup Staff/Carrier Air Group/Air Defense Commander Operations (CAG/ADC OPS) Conference
NOV 09	Surface Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
NOV 15	Harpoon Canister Handling School
NOV 15-16	Polo Hat Communication Exercise
NOV 15-17	Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) Limited Team Training (LTT)
NOV 20-22	Supply Management Inspection (SMI)
NOV 21	Aviation Firefighting Team Training
NOV 27-DEC 01	Tiger Cruise
NOV 27	Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USNS Laramie
NOV 27	Helicopter Operations, Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs) with HC-6
NOV 27	Small Arms Familiarization Fire (FAMFIRE)
NOV 28	5" Shoot and Pre-Action Calibration Fire (PACFIRE)
DEC 01-04	Port visit to Staten Island, NY
DEC 06	Burial-at-Sea
DEC 07	Surface Land Attack Missile Exercise (SLAMEX)
DEC 12-13	Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ)
DEC 16-31	Holiday Upkeep

NARRATIVE

January

The new year was highlighted by a visit from RADM Malone, COMCARGRU 8 during which RADM Malone congratulated the sailors on a highly successful deployment and encouraged them keep up the good work as LEYTE GULF prepared for a yard period and the Inter-deployment Training Cycle. Many sailors also enjoyed participating in a community relations project to our adopted school, Woodstock Elementary.

February

Many sailors had an opportunity to develop friendships with the children of our adopted school, Woodstock Elementary, during a community relations project. Departed homeport for eleven days during the latter half of the month to train in the Jacksonville Operational Area. A visit to Mayport, Florida was included in the itinerary.

March

Entered NORSHIPCO for an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia. Awarded the Navy Unit Commendation on the 28th.

April

Conducted an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia.

May

Conducted an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia.

June

Conducted an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia.

July

Conducted an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia. Commenced first phase of Aegis Light-Off.

August

Completed final stages of an Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability in Norfolk, Virginia. The crew was busy preparing to leave the shipyard and return to the fleet. The inspections included a Light-Off Assessment and inspections by an Engineering Training Group, a Limited Team Training, and an Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team. At the end of the month, LEYTE GULF sailed out of the shipyard on time and conducted Sea Trials.

September

Passed Engineering Initial Assessment. Prepared for Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Examination to determine readiness of flight deck and crash and salvage teams. Certified to conduct flight operations.

October

Operated in the Jacksonville Operational Area for over two weeks, during which time LEYTE GULF prepared for upcoming inspections and honed ship-handling skills during helicopter deck landing maneuvers. Visits to Port Everglades, Florida for Broward County Navy Days and Mayport, Florida provided the crew with some downtime for rest and relaxation. While most crewmembers enjoyed the sights and atmosphere, many sailors volunteered their off duty hours at Silver Ridge Elementary School in Davie, Florida and with the American Red Cross in Miami, Florida to help citizens whose homes had been flooded two days prior to our visit. Celebrated the 56th birthday of the Battle of LEYTE GULF. Hosted RADM Lippert, Chief of Supply Corps, and Ms. Tish Long, Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. A Fleet Maintenance Availability was provided to correct any problems that had not been corrected, due to time constraints, during the Extended Dry-docking Shipyard Availability.

November

Supply Management Inspection held, resulting in a grade of "Outstanding." Passed an Engineering Underway Demonstration. Two underway periods involving the recovery of an exercise torpedo, helicopter deck landing qualifications, an underway replenishment with USNS LARAMIE, and a Tiger Cruise for family, friends, and a Guest of the Navy to Staten Island, New York.

December

Following an enjoyable port visit to Staten Island, New York, a burial-at-sea was held on the 6th to honor two veterans and the spouse of a veteran. Several months of rigorous preparation culminated in a successful Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification, enabling LEYTE GULF to carry and shoot, if necessary, Tomahawk and Harpoon cruise missiles. A Christmas party, complete with a delicious buffet dinner, generous door prizes, music, and dancing, was held at the Radisson hotel. The month of December ended in holiday upkeep.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Encl (4))

1. Light-Off Assessment (LOA)
2. Engineering Qualification Report
3. Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE)
4. Vertical Launching System Certification
5. Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification
6. Navy Unit Commendation
7. Battle Efficiency Award



PROPULSION PLANT ASSESSMENT

SHIP: USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)
ASSESSMENT TYPE: LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT
ASSESSMENT DATES: 23 - 25 AUGUST 2000
LOCATION: NORSHIPCO, NORFOLK, VA
TEAM LEADER: CAPT MILLER
TEAM MEMBERS: LCDR [REDACTED] (MENTOR), LCDR [REDACTED] LCDR [REDACTED] LT [REDACTED]
ISIC REP: LCDR [REDACTED] GSCS (SW) [REDACTED]
REGIONAL ATG REP: GSCS (SW) [REDACTED] LT [REDACTED]

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- AN ATG ATLANTIC ENGINEERING READINESS (N43) TEAM CONDUCTED A FORMAL LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT IN USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55) ON BEHALF OF COMCARGRU EIGHT. THE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED A SPACE MATERIAL SAFETY WALKTHROUGH, SELECTED MATERIAL SAFETY CHECKS, A DECKPLATE REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, OBSERVATION OF A DCTT BRIEF AND A MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL. IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO THE ISIC THAT THE SHIP BE DECLARED READY FOR LIGHT OFF.
- MAJOR EQUIPMENT IN AN RBO STATUS AT THE END OF THE ASSESSMENT:
 - NR2A GTM (FAILED CIT SENSOR)
 - NR1 LPAC (FAILED UNLOADER)
 - 2 HPAC (CRACKED 4TH STAGE SEPERATOR)
 - NR1 SSTG (MISADJUSTED FAULT CURRENT DETECTOR MODULE)
 - BELL LOGGER (SOFTWARE PROBLEMS)
 - WHB SUMMARY SUMMARY FAULT INDICATORS (NOT FUNCTIONING AT PACC)
 - DAMAGE CONTROL CONSOLE (IN EXCESS OF 20 SPACE ALARMS FAULTED)
 - NR3 GTG HEAD TANK SOLENOID FILL SYSTEM (NOT FUNCTIONAL)
- WATCHSTANDER LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE WAS GENERALLY ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT SAFE UNDERWAY OPERATIONS AND TRAINING. HOWEVER GENERAL DAMAGE CONTROL KNOWLEDGE WAS WEAK ACROSS ALL PERSONNEL QUESTIONED AND CONSTITUTES A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- THE MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL WAS COMPLETED SATISFACTORILY. THE DCTT IS CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING TRAINING. WEAK AREAS NOTED WERE:
 - REPAIR 5 LOCKER OFFICER WAS DISENGAGED
 - OBA MANAGEMENT
 - OVERHAUL (OVERHAULMAN STARTED OVERHAUL WITH THE NFTI TURNED OFF)

OTHER ISSUES

- DCPMS WAS WEAK. MOST VARI-NOZZLES CHECKED (OVER 40) WERE FROZEN AND COULD NOT BE ADJUSTED.
 - MODULE INSPECTIONS AND INTAKE CLOSEOUTS WERE NOT BEING CONDUCTED IAW APPLICABLE DIRECTIVES.
 - WATCHSTANDERS HAD BECOME DESENSITIZED TO ALARMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON THE DC CONSOLE.
- THE SHIP WAS PREPARED FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND WAS ENTHUSIASTIC THROUGHOUT.

NEXT ASSESSMENT DUE:

INITIAL ASSESSMENT.