



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ORIOLE (MHC-55)
FPO AA 34092-1954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 00/203
28 Feb 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS ORIOLE (MHC 55)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H
Encl: (1) Biography of the Commanding Officer
(2) Photograph of the Commanding Officer
(3) Photograph of USS ORIOLE (MHC-55) dtd 11 FEB 03

1. Command Composition and Organization:

Short Title: USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) UIC: 21936

Mission: Detection, classification and neutralization of mines
in coastal and harbor waters.

Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Mine Countermeasures
Squadron THREE, CAPT M. J. O'Moore, USN

Commanding Officer: LCDR Richard E. Dodson, Jr., USN

Permanent Homeport: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas

2. Chronology:

Except as noted below, ORIOLE conducted upkeep and training at
Naval Station Ingleside (NSI), TX

01 Jan-14	Feb	Joint Task Force Exercise 01-1 Deployment
02 Jan-04	Jan	U/W from Keywest, FL to Mayport, FL
12 Jan-26	Jan	U/W in Cherry Point OPAREA
01 Feb-04	Feb	U/W from Mayport, FL to Nassau, Bahamas
08 Feb		Change of Command - LCDR Richard E. Dodson, Jr, USN, relieved LCDR Jonathan Christian, USN
08 Feb-10	Feb	U/W from Nassau, Bahamas to Keywest, FL
10 Feb-14	Feb	U/W from Keywest, FL to Ingleside, TX
15 Feb-16	Mar	Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep

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18 Mar-16	Apr	Dry-docked at Gulf Copper Shipyard; Aransas Pass, TX
16 Apr-16	May	Phased Maintenance Availability at Gulf Copper Shipyard; Corpus Christi, TX
01 May		Safety Stand-down
17 May-06	Jun	Upkeep, Naval Station Ingleside (NSI), TX
07 Jun		Sea Trials, Corpus Christi OPAREA (CCOA)
08 Jun-30	Jun	Repairs to Number 2 Switchboard at NSI
01 Jul-19	Jul	Fleet Maintenance Availability (NSI) Shipboard Instrument Calibration
05 Aug-06	Aug	U/W CCOA, Training
12 Aug-16	Aug	Commander's Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II (NSI)
19 Aug-23	Aug	Engineering Initial Assessment
28 Aug-29	Aug	Magnetic Signature Inspection
03 Sep		U/W CCOA, Navigation Assessment
03 Sep-06	Sep	U/W CCOA, Training
10 Sep-11	Sep	Radar Navigation Evaluation
14 Sep		U/W CCOA, Naval Reserve Training
17 Sep-18	Sep	U/W CCOA, Training
04 Oct		Main Space Fire Drill Evaluation
07 Oct		Communications Readiness Certification
08 Oct-10	Oct	U/W CCOA, Training
14 Oct-18	Oct	3M Assessment
25 Oct		U/W CCOA, Training
28 Oct-01	Nov	Supply Management Assist Visit
07 Nov		Search and Rescue Training
06 Nov-08	Nov	U/W CCOA, Training
16 Nov		U/W CCOA, Training
19 Nov-21	Nov	U/W CCOA, Training
25 Nov-26	Nov	Force Protection Certification
03 Dec-05	Dec	U/W CCOA, Training
11 Dec-12	Dec	U/W CCOA, Training
16 Dec		Safety Stand-down
16 Dec-31	Dec	Holiday Leave and Upkeep

3. Narrative: The start of 2002 found ORIOLE enroute to support Joint Task Force Exercise 01-1 in the Cherry Point OPAREA off the North Carolina coast. ORIOLE successfully detected and prosecuted 11 exercise mines during this exercise. Following a brief stop in Mayport, Florida, ORIOLE joined the four other ships in Mine Warfare Readiness Group FOUR for a weeklong port visit in Nassau, The Bahamas. On the final day of the visit, LCDR Dodson relieved LCDR Christian as Commanding Officer, with

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the United States Ambassador in attendance as guest speaker. Following a brief stop for fuel in Key West, the ship moored at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas and commenced a four-week leave and upkeep period. On 16 March, ORIOLE was towed to dry-dock in Aransas Pass, TX where the next month was spent blasting and cleaning the hull, replacing the starboard Voith Schneider Propeller and all propeller blades. Work continued when ORIOLE was towed to downtown Corpus Christi, TX for a month at the Gulf Copper Shipyard. The focus of the remaining yard period was installation of a new satellite phone system (INMARSAT B), self-contained air conditioning plants in three spaces, and completion of preservation on the mast and topside surfaces. Following an inport maintenance and training period in June and July, ORIOLE launched into a demanding cycle of underway training and assessments, which dominated the schedule for the last half of the year. ORIOLE completed Navigation, Force Protection, and Communications Readiness Assessments in the fall. The ship also spent many weeks underway conducting engineering, mine warfare, combat systems, and damage control training. Additionally, ORIOLE hosted two Naval Reserve training weekends and a Burial at Sea for a decorated Vietnam veteran. In mid-December, ORIOLE closed out 2002 with a two-week Holiday Leave and Upkeep period.

4. Awards earned in Calendar Year 2002:

Maritime Warfare Excellence
Command and Control Excellence
Engineering and Survivability Excellence
Unit Wellness
Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award
Type Commander Safety Award


R. E. DODSON, JR.