



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS OSPREY (MHC 51)
FPO AA 34092-1950

Received 4/4/97

5757
MHC/51
2 MAR 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS OSPREY (MHC 51)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
Encl: (1) Change of Command Pamphlet
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(3) Congressional Letter from the Office of Representative
Paul McHale

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following package is submitted.

2. Mission. The mission of the Osprey Class Mine Hunters is to complement the MCM 1 Avenger Class Ships in littoral waters, harbors, and bays. The Osprey will detect, classify, and neutralize all known and projected types of influence and contact mines. It will provide navigational assistance to other MCM units in conjunction with coordinated operations with airborne and other mine countermeasures forces. Secondary missions include route surveys, channel conditioning, underwater search and rescue, and the collection of hydrographic/oceanographic data.

3. Organizational Structure

- a. Immediate Senior: RADM D. R. CONLEY
Commander, Mine Warfare Command,
Corpus Christi, TX 78419-5032
- b. Commanding Officer: LCDR Warren E. Rhoades III, USN
- c. Homeport: Ingleside, TX

4. Ship's Characteristics:

- a. Combat System Equipment:
AN/SPS 64 SURFACE SEARCH RADAR WITH IFF
AN/SPA 25G DIGITAL RADAR DISPLAY
AN/WSN 2 GYROCOMPASS

AN/WQC 2 UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS
AN/UNQ 4 FATHOMETER

b. Navigation:

AN/SYQ-13 NAVIGATION COMMAND CONTROL SYSTEM
SSQ-109 SHIP'S MACHINERY CONTROL SYSTEM

c. Mine hunting/neutralization:

SQQ-32 VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR
SLQ-48 MINE NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEM
.50 CAL MACHINE GUNS(2)

d. Propulsion:

MAIN ENGINES (2) ISOTTA-FRASCHINI DIESEL (800 HP)
CYCLOIDAL PROPELLERS (2)

e. Auxilliaries:

ISOTTA FRASCHINI DIESEL GENERATORS (3) (300 KW)

5. Command History: (CY 96 Chronology)

01 - 07 JAN	IPT CHARLESTON
08 JAN	ENR SAVANNAH
09 JAN - 07 APR	PSA 2 SAVANNAH
26 - 28 MAR	LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT
08 APR	ENR CHARLESTON
09 APR - 02 JUN	IPT CHARLESTON
22 - 26 APR	CSSQT PHASE I, II
03 JUN	ENR SAVANNAH
04 JUN - 22 SEP	PSA 3 SAVANNAH
09 - 10 JULY	LMA ASSIST VISIT
20 JULY	CHANGE OF COMMAND
15 AUG	HOMEPORT SHIFT TO INGLESIDE
23 SEP	ENR CHARLESTON
24 SEP - 03 OCT	IPT CHARLESTON
24 SEP	WEAPONS ONLOAD
25 SEP - 03 OCT	DEGAUSSING CHASN
03 OCT	WEAPONS ONLOAD
04 - 06 OCT	ENR KEY WEST FL
07 - 10 OCT	PVST KEY WEST FL
11 - 17 OCT	ENR INGLESIDE TX
18 - 30 OCT	IPT INGLESIDE TX
31 OCT - 03 NOV	ENR PANAMA CITY FL
04 - 14 NOV	ACOUSTIC TRIALS PANAMA CITY

05 - 08 NOV	LMA
15 - 20 NOV	ENR INGLESIDE
21 NOV - 31 DEC	UPKP INGLESIDE
14 - 31 DEC	HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD

6. Narrative. OSPREY spent most of this year in two Post Shakedown Availabilities at Intermarine USA Shipyard, Savannah, Georgia. These availabilities repaired the damage incurred during shock trials in 1995. After these were completed, she and her crew began making preparations to become a fully operational fleet asset. This included calibrating the degaussing system, and going through acoustic trials. OSPREY shifted homeports to Ingleside Texas and successfully passed a Logistics Management Assessment. The remainder of 1996 was spent preparing for Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials, Final Operational Testing and Evaluation and Mine Warfare Readiness Certification Inspection scheduled for first quarter of calendar year 1997.



W. E. RHOADES, III