



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS PELICAN (MHC-53)
FPO AA 34092-1952

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

Ser MHC53/124

5 Apr 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS PELICAN (MHC 53)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history is submitted by USS PELICAN (MHC 53) for calendar year 1999.


C. A. HOTTENROTT

Command Composition and Organization

1. Command Organization:

a. Command Short Title: (MHC 53) PELICAN 21865

b. Mission: USS PELICAN is a coastal mine hunter, the third ship of the OSPREY class. USS PELICAN was designed solely for minehunting, the technique of locating mines with sonar and neutralizing them with a remotely controlled underwater vehicle. The ship's mission is to clear harbor, coastal and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure, and contact type mines, utilizing reconnaissance, classification, and neutralization tactics.

c. Organizational Structure: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron One, UIC 60546, 1455 Ticonderoga Road, Suite W-200, Ingleside, TX 78362-5001

d. Commanding Officer: CDR Scott S. Gordon

e. Type and number of aircraft assigned: N/A

Chronology

January 1999:

Jan 01 - 14 - Holiday Upkeep and Stand down, Ingleside, TX.
Jan 15 - 31 - In port Ingleside, TX. Upkeep Period.

February 1999:

Feb 01 - 08 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Feb 09 - 10 - Underway Gulf of Mexico En-route Port Arthur, TX
Feb 11 - 14 - Port Visit Port Arthur, TX
Feb 15 - - Underway Gulf of Mexico, En-route Beaumont, TX
Feb 16 - 17 - Port Visit Beaumont, TX
Feb 18 - 20 - Underway Gulf of Mexico, En-route Panama City, FL
Feb 21 - 23 - Port Visit Panama City, FL
Feb 24 - 26 - Mine Counter Measures Operations, Panama City Operational Area
Feb 27 - 28 - Underway Gulf Of Mexico, En-route Ingleside, TX

March 1999:

Mar 01 - 04 - UNDERWAY Gulf of Mexico, En-Route Ingleside, TX
Mar 05 - 22 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Mar 23 - 31 - Depot-level Maintenance Availability, South Texas Ship Repair
Yard, Aransas Pass, TX

April 1999:

Apr 01 - 30 - Depot-level Maintenance Availability, Aransas Pass, TX

May 1999:

May 01 - 11 - Depot-Level Maintenance Availability, Aransas Pass, TX
May 12 - 13 - Light Off Assessment, Aransas Pass, TX
May 17 - - Dock Trials, Aransas Pass, TX
May 18 - - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Engineering Sea
Trials
May 19 - 28 - SQQ-32 Sonar Groom, Ingleside, TX
May 17 - 31 - In Port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period

June 1999:

June 01 - 04 - SLQ-48 Field Changes 33 and 37/ INMARSAT Install, Ingleside,
TX
June 01 - 11 - Alteration Installation Team Availability, Ingleside, TX
June 10 - - Ammo Onload, Ingleside, TX
June 14 - 18 - Leadership Training Team, Ingleside, TX
June 19 - 21 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
June 22 - 24 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area Type/ CO's training
June 25 - - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
June 26 - 27 - Naval Reserve Training in port Ingleside, TX
June 28 - - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
June 29 - 30 - Seamanship Readiness Training Team, Ingleside, TX

July 1999:

Jul 01 - 07 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Jul 08 - 09 - Leadership Training in port, Afloat Training Group PRE-Final
Evaluation Problem Look
Jul 10 - 12 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Jul 13 - 14 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area Type/CO's training
Jul 15 - 16 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Jul 17 - 18 - Naval Reserve Training In port Ingleside, TX
Jul 19 - 23 - Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II, Ingleside, TX
Jul 24 - 25 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Jul 26 - 30 - Electromagnetic/Degaussing Range

August 1999:

Aug 01 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Aug 02 - 06 - In port Ingleside, TX Engineering Ship Evolutions
Aug 02 - Afloat Training Group Deck Training - Boat Operations, Seamanship
Aug 04 - Operational Capabilities Systems Operational Test, Ingleside, TX
Aug 05 - Afloat Training Group Engineering Training, Ingleside, TX
Aug 07 - 09 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep period
Aug 10 - 12 - Tailored Ships Training Availability I (Engineering) In port, Ingleside, TX.
Aug 13 - 16 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Aug 17 - 20 - Tailored Ships Training Availability (Engineering) In port, Ingleside, TX
Aug 21 - 22 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep period
Aug 23 - Operational Capabilities System Operational Test, Ingleside, TX
Aug 24 - 31 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period

September 1999:

Sep 01 - 03 - Logistics Management Assessment Assist Visit, Ingleside, TX
Sep 04 - 12 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Sep 13 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Tailored Ships Training Availability Mine Warfare
Sep 14 - 15 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Sep 16 - 17 - Underway Gulf of Mexico En-route Galveston, TX
Sep 18 - 19 - Port Visit Galveston, TX (Naval Reserve Training)
Sep 20 - 21 - Underway Gulf of Mexico En-route Ingleside, TX
Sep 22 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Sep 23 - 24 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Tailored Ships Training Availability II (Engineering)
Sep 25 - 27 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Sep 28 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Engineering Qualification
Sep 29 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Tailored Ships Training Availability III Afloat Training Group Integrated Training Team/Final Evaluation Period TEAM
Sep 30 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period

October 1999:

Oct 01 - 04 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Oct 05 - 06 - Underway Gulf of Mexico, En-route Beaumont, TX
Oct 07 - 10 - Port Visit Beaumont, TX Beaumont Navy Days 99'
Oct 11 - 13 - Underway Gulf of Mexico, En-route Panama City, FL
Oct 14 - 17 - Port Visit Panama City, FL
Oct 18 - 19 - Underway Panama City Operational Area Mine Counter Measures Operations
Oct 20 - 21 - Port Visit Panama City, FL
Oct 22 - Underway Panama City Operational Area, Mine Counter Measures Operations
Oct 23 - 24 - Port Visit Panama City, FL
Oct 25 - Underway Panama City Operational Area, Mine Counter Measures Operations
Oct 26 - 31 - Port Visit Panama City, FL

November 1999:

Nov 01 - 06 - Underway En-route Ingleside, TX
Nov 07 - 11 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Nov 12 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Final Evaluation Period

Nov 13 - 14 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Nov 15 - 30 - In port Ingleside, TX Fleet Maintenance Availability

December 1999:

Dec 01 - 03 - In port Ingleside, TX Fleet Maintenance Availability
Dec 04 - 05 - Naval Reserve Training In port, Ingleside, TX
Dec 06 - 08 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Dec 09 - 10 - Navigation Certification Administrative Inspection,
Ingleside, TX
Dec 11 - 12 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep Period
Dec 13 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Navigation
Certification
Dec 14 - 16 - Underway Corpus Christi Operational Area, Type/ CO's Training
Time
Dec 17 - 31 - In port Ingleside, TX Upkeep/ Holiday Stand Down

Command Narrative CY 1999

PELICAN remained in her homeport of Ingleside, TX from the start of the New Year in 1999 through the 14th of January for holiday stand-down and upkeep. This period represented one of the few opportunities the crew would have to take a break prior to a busy year of maintenance and then starting the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle. The crew returned on the 15th of the month ready to go, however, the remainder of the month was spent in general upkeep and maintenance pierside.

On 9 February PELICAN got underway and after a quick shakedown period, proceeded to Port Arthur, Texas to participate in the local Mardi Gras celebration. After a 20 nautical mile sea detail up the Sabine River, PELICAN moored at the City Docks in downtown Port Arthur. While in Port Arthur, PELICAN sailors enjoyed the local hospitality and participated in a variety of events, including the local Gumbo Festival, a 5K run, and Mardi Gras parade. The Port Arthur Mardi Gras Committee additionally invited PELICAN sailors to march in the parade and to hand out thousands of beads to the local citizens.

On the 15th PELICAN departed Port Arthur and continued up the Sabine and Neches Rivers another 22 miles to the city of Beaumont, Texas. Beaumont is PELICAN's commissioning city and her adopted homeport. The citizens of Beaumont, especially members of the PELICAN Commissioning Committee, headed by Mr. David Hearn, have always welcomed the ship back with generous hospitality. Mr. Hearn and the Commissioning Committee hosted the PELICAN crew for a barbecue at the Port of Beaumont, a catered dinner at his steamboat museum, and a final farewell dinner.

On February 18th PELICAN departed Beaumont, steamed the 42 miles down the Sabine and Neches Rivers and turned East enroute to Panama City, Fl. After a weekend port visit PELICAN conducted mine countermeasure operations and training in the Panama City operational area before departing the area on the 27th of March and returning to Ingleside on the 5th of March.

From the 5th through the 22nd of March PELICAN remained pierside Ingleside, Texas, making preparations for her trip to the shipyard. On 23 March PELICAN transited the Aransas Pass channel to South Texas Ship Repair for a Depot Level maintenance period and drydocking, which lasted through 17 May. During this period, PELICAN underwent more intensive maintenance and repairs to various ship systems, including hull preservation and the installation of INMARSAT-M. Due to the length of time in the shipyards and changes to the engineering plant, PELICAN conducted a Light-Off Assessment (LOA) on 12-13 May, dock trials on 17 May, and sea trials on the 18th. Following the yard period, PELICAN received a major sonar system groom to complete this substantial period of maintenance.

In addition to using this time for maintenance, PELICAN sent numerous sailors to various training schools to hone their skills for future operations. The month of June was then dedicated to rebuilding team operational skills in mine warfare and engineering procedures to prepare for Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II (CART II). PELICAN's underway time during this month consisted of individual training team and type/CO's training to practice both warfare, seamanship, engineering, and damage control drills and procedures. Rounding out the month, PELICAN conducted an inport Naval Reserve training weekend for her reserve detachment.

In early July PELICAN was once again inport for upkeep and maintenance, but the pace was set to pick up. The Afloat Training Group (ATG) trainers soon arrived to take their look at PELICAN operations in preparation for beginning the assessment of training. PELICAN executed CART II under ATG supervision 19-23 July and performed exceedingly well. Her performance in CART II then set the stage for the development of the Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) periods that followed for the remaining months of the year. Interspersed in the start of the training process was a quick transit

to the electromagnetic range to assess PELICAN's magnetic signature, necessary for knowing how sensitive the ship would be to magnetic mines in a real field. All mine warfare ships are required to maintain a specific reading and this measurement is then periodically checked to ensure maintenance has not altered the measurement.

In August the ship focused on engineering training under ATG supervision in preparation for her engineering qualification, which she successfully completed in late September. Prior to this qualification, PELICAN conducted a port visit to Galveston, TX, sponsored by the local Navy League. This was the ship's first visit to the Galveston area, and the ship was berthed at the heart of the historic district, filled with restaurants, clubs and stores. PELICAN sailors enjoyed the local nightlife as well as the hospitality of the Navy League who hosted several socials on private yachts and invited many sailors into their homes and into restaurants for dinner.

Following completion of the engineering portion of TSTA with Engineering certification, PELICAN was able to dedicate her full effort to integrated mine warfare training in preparation for the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). During underway time in October, PELICAN's shipboard trainers focused on integrating their specific area objectives in engineering, damage control, and mine warfare into a shipwide drill. The focus of this effort and the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) was to develop the crew's ability to deal with a complex battle situation and damage.

Still, there had been additional time away from the training process. In early October PELICAN steamed back up the Sabine and Neches Rivers to her adopted home of Beaumont, TX for Beaumont Navy Days 1999. This local festival is a celebration of the South Texas Navy and of the naval and military tradition of the Golden Triangle Area in East Texas. Navy Days have always been a great opportunity for the crew to enjoy the local hospitality of Beaumont and this year was no exception. During Navy days, PELICAN sailors conducted ship tours and participated in local community relations projects. Additionally the Navy Days Committee hosted 3 barbeque dinners, a 5K fun run and a talent show complete with cash prizes for the winners.

This was also a chance for the PELICAN to repay back some of the kindness shown to the crew by the citizens of South Texas. One citizen in particular stood out and was recognized, not only by PELICAN, but also by the entire Department of Defense as well. A few weeks earlier, Mr. David Hearn, the President of PELICAN's Commissioning Committee, was awarded the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian of the Year Award for his work with PELICAN and with the ships of the South Texas Navy. A reception for Mr. Hearn was held onboard and many local and Department of Defense dignitaries were in attendance. At the reception, Mr. Hearn was presented with an original painting of PELICAN and other mementos of his adopted ship. It was a proud occasion for the PELICAN team.

PELICAN departed Beaumont on 11 October and headed east for Panama City, FL where she once again honed her mine warfare skills in the local oparea. The ship departed Panama City on the 1st of November. And after a short maintenance and upkeep period, she departed Ingleside to conduct her Final Evaluation Problem, testing the crew's ability to combat a complex, cascading battle scenario. The PELICAN crew passed this test with flying colors, earning the praises of both ATG and ISIC evaluators.

PELICAN returned back to homeport and began a much-needed FMAV period. During this time both main propulsion diesel engines and all three generators were given an extensive overhaul and other minor repairs were made to various systems. With her fleet maintenance availability period complete PELICAN conducted a quick ISIC Navigation Certification, conducted a short underway period for ship specific training, and returned to Ingleside on 17 December to begin another end-of-year holiday leave and stand-down period.