



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47) ✓
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY - 1986

1. Submitted.


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By direction

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COMNAVSURFLANT

COMMAND HISTORY
USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 1986

1. Command Composition and Organization. USS Ticonderoga is the lead ship of its class of guided missile cruisers, the first surface combatants equipped with the Aegis Weapon System. Designed for Anti-Air Warfare, its other primary mission areas of Anti-Surface Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, and Command and Control combine to give it a tremendous multiwarfare capability, which strengthens a Battle Group's effectiveness, defense, and survivability. Homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, as a member of Cruiser Destroyer Eight, she is commanded by CAPT Raymond M. Walsh, USN.

2. Chronology

1 - 6 JAN	INPT NORFOLK
7 - 8 JAN	INPT NWS YORKTOWN - Weapons Onload
9 -13 JAN	INPT NORFOLK
14-29 JAN	DRYDOCK NORSHIPCO - Sonar Dome Replacement
30-31 FEB	U/W VACAPES - Sea Trials
1 - 5 FEB	INPT NORFOLK
6 -24 FEB	U/W FLEETEX 1-86
25FEB-9MAR	INPT NORFOLK - POM
10 MAR	DEPLOYED MED 1-86
10-18 MAR	TRANSIT ATLANTIC
19 MAR	INCHOP MEDITERRANEAN
20-27 MAR	U/W CMED/Gulf of Sidra - Operations in the Vicinity of Libya
28MAR-2APR	ANCHORAGE AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY
3 - 4 APR	U/W TYRRHENIAN SEA
4 - 9 APR	PVST GENOA, ITALY
10-28 APR	U/W TYRRHENIAN SEA/CMED - Operations in the Vicinity of Libya
29APR-4MAY	PVST NAPLES, ITALY
5-19 MAY	U/W CMED/Aegean Sea - NATO Exercise Distant Hammer
20-28 MAY	PVST ST MAXIME, FRANCE
29MAY-12JUN	U/W WMED, EXERCISE POOPDECK
13-19 JUN	PVST PALMA MAJORCA, SPAIN
20-27 JUN	U/W WMED, NATO EXERCISE TRIDENTE
28- 7 JUL	PVST CANNES, FRANCE
8-13 JUL	U/W TYRRHENIAN SEA
14-26 JUL	PVST NAPLES, ITALY
27-28 JUL	U/W WMED
29JUL-6AUG	PVST CARTAGENA, SPAIN
7-10 AUG	U/W WMED
11-17 AUG	PVST GAETA, ITALY
18-28 AUG	U/W CMED
29-31 AUG	OUTCHOP ROTA, SPAIN
1 - 9 SEP	TRANSIT ATLANTIC
10SEP-14OCT	INPT NORFOLK - LEAVE AND UPKEEP
14-16 OCT	U/W VACAPES
17-19 OCT	INPT NORFOLK
20-24 OCT	U/W VACAPES
25OCT-14NOV	INPT NORFOLK
15-21 NOV	U/W AUTEC - Advanced ASW
22-23 NOV	INPT NORFOLK

22-23 NOV	PVST SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
24-25 NOV	TRANSIT NORFOLK
26NOV-14DEC	INPT NORFOLK
28NOV-5DEC	Inclining Experiment
10-11 DEC	NTPI
15-16 DEC	U/W VACAPES
16-19 DEC	INPT NWS YORKTOWN - Weapons Offload
20-31 DEC	INPT NORFOLK

3. Narrative. Early in January 1986, Ticonderoga entered the yard at the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Company (NORSHIPCO) for a three week drydocking to replace her sonar dome. Upon completion of this brief maintenance period, she embarked Commander Submarine Group Two, who would act as the Anti-Air Warfare Commander for the upcoming Fleet Exercise. This was the result of an initiative on the part of COMSECONDFLT to cross train flag officers and their staffs. On 6 February, Ticonderoga and the America Battle Group departed homeport for Fleetex in the Carribean. In the following three weeks, the Battle Group went through extensive training. Air raids of 60 to 100 high performance aircraft in heavy chaff and jamming were flown against the group four to six times a day. The Battle Group was also opposed by six nuclear submarines and a surface action group of ten ships. At the end of the three weeks, VADM Mustin, Commander Second Fleet, declared it the most successful Fleet Exercise in Navy history.

Following a brief maintenance period, Ticonderoga commenced her second deployment to the Mediterranean on March 10, once again part of the America Battle Group. Throughout the deployment, Ticonderoga served as the Battle Group Anti-Air Warfare Commander and was the flagship for Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty Four, who was the Battle Group Anti-Surface Warfare Commander and the Battle Group Anti-Submarine Warfare Commander. After enetering the Mediterranean on 19 March, Ticonderoga and the other members of the battle group joined two other battle groups already on station, forming a formidable battle force. Several ships, led by Ticonderoga, formed a Surface Action Group and headed into the Gulf of Sidra, crossing the so-called "Line of Death" on 24 March. This large scale Freedom of Navigation exercise was designed to demonstrate the United States' ability to freely transit areas recognized as international waters. Libya responded by unsuccessfully attacking battle force aircraft, and the force, relying heavily on Aegis surveillance and control, retaliated by destroying Libyan patrol boats for her participation in the Operation Attain Document III from 23 to 31 March, Ticonderoga was awarded her second Navy Unit Commendation and her second Navy Expeditionary Medal.

Following a port visit to Genoa, Italy, Ticonderoga again found herself in the forefront of national policy. This time, following the fatal terrorist bombing in a West Berlin disco, Ticonderoga provided battle force surveillance and command and

control as Battle Group Anti-Air Warfare Commander during joint Navy/Air Force air strikes against Libyan targets on 15 April. For her role in these attacks, Ticonderoga was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Once the hostilities subsided, Ticonderoga began a series of port visits and NATO exercises which took her from one end of the Mediterranean to the other. Operating with various foreign navies and air forces, including Spanish, Italian, Greek, and Turkish, Ticonderoga continued to demonstrate her versatility, whether hunting submarines in the Aegean or protecting a carrier off the coast of Spain. Ticonderoga also served as an example of the Sixth Fleet's commitment to our allies by showing the flag in a number of countries. In particular, her crewmembers helped to strengthen Franco-American relations in May by participating in ceremonies in St Maxime, France, marking the anniversary of the Allied landings in southern France. In early July, Ticonderoga again served the same cause by joining in the Liberty Gala, a celebration in Cannes, France, marking the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, a gift to the United States from France. Other port visits included Naples and Gaeta in Italy; and Palma, Cartagena, and Rota, Spain.

After outchopping from the Mediterranean at the end of August, Ticonderoga returned to Norfolk on 10 September. Following a month long leave and upkeep period, she got underway again, several times in the latter part of October in preparation for ASW training at AUTEK the following month. During the third week in November, Ticonderoga performed superbly as she conducted a number of "Mini Wars" against prospective submarine commanding officers, winning the large majority of them. On the return trip to Norfolk, Ticonderoga stopped in Savannah, Georgia, for a brief port visit and to embark family and friends for an enjoyable Tiger Cruise.

In late November and early December, naval architects from the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and the Naval Sea Systems Command conducted an inclining experiment on Ticonderoga to determine her true displacement and other vital stability data. As a result, they determined that 117 tons of ballast would have to be added to the ship in order to reduce the ship's center of gravity approximately 2 1/2" to an acceptable height, a job to be completed in early 1987. The following week, Ticonderoga successfully completed recertifying to carry nuclear weapons. On 15 and 16 December, Ticonderoga was underway in the Vacapes for Vandalex, a missile firing exercise conducted in conjunction with the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Range. Intended to obtain detection, engageability, and performance data of Aegis and the standard missile against a low altitude supersonic target, the test was never completed due to problems encountered with all four Vandals launched against Ticonderoga. At the completion of the Vandalex, Ticonderoga proceeded to the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown for an ammo offload and then returned to Norfolk. The last two weeks of the year were spent observing the Christmas

holidays and preparing for SRA the first week in January.

4. Supporting Documents

- A. Biography and photo of Commanding Officer
- B. Photograph of ship
- C. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet