



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR CALENDER YEAR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E CH 1, Command Histories

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization (U)
 - (2) Chronology for Calender Year 1997 (U)
 - (3) Narrative of Events for Calender Year 1997 (U)
 - (4) Measure of Effectiveness and End of Operation Report
msg 012111ZOCT97 for Operation CARIB DAGGER (C) [IN CLASS FILE]
 - (5) Lessons Learned MSG 041314ZNOV97 for CDOPS Deployment
1997 (C) [IN CLASS FILE]
 - (6) Battle Efficiency Award package for 1997 (C)
 - (7) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet during CDR D.G. Yoshihara's
tour (U)
 - (8) USS TICONDEROGA Engineering Systems Training Booklet (U)
 - (9) Biography of CDR D.G. Yoshihara (U)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are submitted for inclusion in USS TICONDEROGA's command history file for calender year 1997.


D. G. YOSHIHARA

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COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) is the lead ship of the AEGIS Weapon System class of Cruisers. Twenty-six cruisers have followed in her proud "wake". The TICONDEROGA was designed primarily for air warfare; however, her capabilities in surface and subsurface warfare, and command and control make her a very capable and ready multi-warfare platform. As part of the Western Hemisphere Group, TICONDEROGA's mission evolved to air surveillance and surface interdiction of suspected narcotics traffickers in order to combat the large quantity of drugs entering the United States. TICONDEROGA is homeported in Pascagoula, MS. USS TICONDEROGA, the First Aegis Cruiser, is commanded by Commander David G. Yoshihara.

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CHRONOLOGY FOR CALENDER YEAR 1997

06-10 JAN PATG INSPECTION
06-24 JAN IMAV SIMA PGOULA
07-15 JAN TISS REMOVAL
10 JAN END SECOND LEAVE PERIOD
13-17 JAN EXPLOSIVE SAFETY INSPECTION
21-24 JAN AVCERT TACH ASSIST VISIT
23 JAN CAPT VAN SAUN VISIT
27-31 JAN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT
03 FEB EMBARKED MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (USMMA) MIDSHIPMEN
03-14 FEB TARGET/LCSRR VISIT
10-12 FEB AVIATION CERTIFICATION
13 FEB AVIATION READINESS EXAMINATION
13 FEB TRI-CARE BRIEF
14 FEB OBSERVED PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY
17 FEB FAST CRUISE
19-20 FEB U/W ENROUTE PORT EVERGLADES, FL
21-24 FEB PORT VISIT PORT EVERGLADES, FL
22 FEB FT LAUDERDALE NAVY LEAGUE RECEPTION
24 FEB BROWARD COUNTY NAVY LEAGUE RECEPTION
25-27 FEB U/W ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA
28 FEB ARRIVE NORFOLK, VA
01-06 MAR INPORT NORFOLK, VA
03 MAR DEBARK USMMA MIDSHIPMEN
03-06 MAR CCSC TEAM TRAINER
05 MAR HARPOON HANDLING TRAINER
06 MAR ONLOAD HSL 46 DET 9
07 MAR U/W ENROUTE CPOA
08-18 MAR JTFEX 97-2
12 MAR NIGHT RAS WITH USS PLATTE
14-15 MAR ASWEX WITH USS NORFOLK
15 MAR RAS WITH USS PLATTE
18 MAR RAS WITH USS PLATTE
RHIB TRANSFER FOR MEDEVAC WITH USS SIMPSON
19 MAR INPORT MAYPORT, FL
20-23 MAR U/W ENROUTE PENSACOLA, FL
24 MAR INPORT PENSACOLA, FL
25 MAR U/W DEPENDENT'S CRUISE TO PASCAGOULA, MS
ARRIVE PASCAGOULA, MS
25-31 MAR INPORT PASCAGOULA, MS
27-31 MAR IMAV - SIMA PASCAGOULA
30 MAR EASTER HOLIDAY
31 MAR BEGIN ELEVATOR GROOM & SISCAL VISIT
01-30 APR INPORT PASCAGOULA, MS
01-14 APR SISCAL VISIT

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01-18 APR IMAV
06 APR HAIL & FAREWELL
07-11 APR SONAR DOME INSPECTION
11 APR COMMAND-WIDE UNIFORM INSPECTION
14 APR NATO SECRET INSPECTION
14-15 APR CMS GROOM
14-18 APR NAVY FOOD MANAGEMENT VISIT
14-25 APR SPY TECH ASSIST
16 APR CDS-6 HURRICANE READINESS TRAINING
17-18 APR PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFS
24-25 APR PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFS
21 APR PARSE VISIT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEPTION - PASCAGOULA
21-25 APR CSMT VISIT
2M PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION
22-23 APR ENGINEERING QUARTERLY SAFETY CHECKS
ASROC OFFLOAD
28-29 APR COMMAND-WIDE PRT
29 APR GFCS MK86 TESTING
30 APR HSL 46 DET 9 ONLOAD AND EMBARKATION
01-20 MAY U/W INDEX 97-3
01-04 MAY ENROUTE PROA
05-07 MAY PORT VISIT ST JOHN, USVI
05 MAY RHIB TOUR OF PORT OF ST JOHN
06 MAY NAVY LEAGUE RECEPTION
08 MAY BSP NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR
EMBARK CWHG CHIEF OF STAFF
09 MAY ENROUTE PROA
MISSILEX BRIEF - NSRR
REXTORP ONLOAD
10-11 MAY MISSILEX
11 MAY TOWING EXERCISE WITH USS COMTE DE GRASSE
12 MAY BSF NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS
ANNUAL NAVIGATION CHECK RIDE
13-15 MAY U/W PCO OPS
15 MAY DEBARK CWHG STAFF
16-19 MAY ENROUTE NAVSTA PASCAGOULA
17 MAY ESWS STAND-DOWN
19 MAY WEAPONS DEPARTMENT DISESTABLISHED
20 MAY ARRIVE NAVSTA PASCAGOULA
20-31 MAY INPORT NAVSTA PASCAGOULA
20-23 MAY LMS 11 INSTALLATION AND TRAINING
21-23 MAY INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INSPECTION
26 MAY MEMORIAL DAY
27 MAY CWO4 JOHNSON RETIREMENT CEREMONY
MIDSHIPMEN EMBARK

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28-30 MAY JIATF EAST BRIEF - NAS KEY WEST
29 MAY ARMY 402 CAVALRY BRIEF
30 MAY PRCM LECHLEIDNER RETIREMENT CEREMONY
03 JUN COMMENCED THREE SECTION DUTY POSTURE
03-23 JUN POM PERIOD
03-13 JUN FIRST POM LEAVE PERIOD
09-12 JUN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER CONDUCTED TAP CLASS
13 JUN POM LEAVE TURNOVER DAY
13-23 JUN SECOND POM LEAVE PERIOD
20 JUN DEBARKED LANTRAMID PHASE I MIDSHIPMEN
22 JUN EMBARKED LANTRAMID PHASE II MIDSHIPMEN
23 JUN FAST CRUISE
EMBARKED MEDET
24 JUN EMBARKED HSL 46
EMBARKED LEDET
25 JUN UNDERWAY FOR CDOPS DEPLOYMENT
28 JUN BSF GTMO
30 JUN INCHOP JIATF EAST
01 JUL ASSUMED DUTIES AS AW
02-03 JUL SOUTHBOUND PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT
03-04 JUL BSF RODMAN PM
05 JUL BOARDED F/V GEMINIS NEGRES
11 JUL RECEIVED USS CALLAGHAN, COMMANDING OFFICER AND
OPERATIONS OFFICER
12 JUL BSF RODMAN PM
DEBARKED LANTRAMID PHASE II MIDSHIPMEN
13 JUL NORTHBOUND PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT
17 JUL BOARDED F/V YUSHO MARU 51 NEGRES
19 JUL 200K DRUG BUST COLNAV DUE TO TICONDEROGA I AND W
NIGHT BOARDING M/V TARU II NEGRES
22 JUL BSF COLON, PM
LCDR NEWMAYER (PXO) ARRIVED
26 JUL CIWS AND 5 IN/54 PACFIRE
28 JUL- PVST CARTAGENA, CO
01 AUG
28 JUL TICONDEROGA HOSTED RECEPTION ONBOARD
29-30 JUL COMREL PROJECT
29 JUL HAIL AND FAREWELL FOR LCDR BAKOTIC
LT/LTJG WETTING DOWN
30 JUL EMBARKED PHASE II LEDET
DEBARKED PHASE I LEDET
31 JUL LCDR BAKOTIC DEPARTED
02 AUG TECH ASSIST FROM USS JOHN L HALL FOR ENGINEERING
CASUALTY
04 AUG TASKED TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING CONTACT ON F/V
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11 AUG BSF GTMO CU FOR HELO PARTS
12 AUG U/W FROM GTMO CU
13 AUG RENDEZVOUS WITH HMS LIVERPOOL.
CROSSDECK PERSONNEL.
14 AUG RECEIVED CO, OPS, AND NCO FROM HMS LIVERPOOL.
RETURN CROSSDECK PERSONNEL.
15 AUG BOARDED M/V CAYTRAS NEGRES.
UNREP WITH RFA BLACK ROVER.
DIVTACS WITH HMS LIVERPOOL AND RFA BLACK ROVER.
16 AUG ARRIVE ARUBA, NA.
18 AUG JIATF EAST RIDERS MR. JIM CASSIDY AND MR. JOHN
PITTS ARRIVED.
CWHG CHAPLAIN LT EDWARDS ARRIVED.
19 AUG DEPART ARUBA, NA.
20 AUG BOARDED ROMANA I NEGRES.
24 AUG EARLY AM PURSUIT AND BOARDING OF COLOMBIAN GOFAST
NEGRES.
BOARDED M/V GRANELO 3 NEGRES.
27 AUG GUNSHOOT AFWTF RANGE.
ARRIVE NSRR, PR.
28-30 AUG COMMAND PRT
MOVIE STARS, JANE SEYMOUR AND DAVID CARRIDINE
VISIT
01-30 SEP HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
02 SEP PRT FOR STRAGGLERS
UNDERWAY FROM NSRR, PR
04 SEP E-4 ADVANCEMENT EXAM
07 SEP BOARDED M/V URIBANTE WITH NEGRES
09 SEP E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAM
09 SEP CWO2 MUHAMMAD RETIREMENT CEREMONY
10 SEP BOARDED M/V ZIM VENEZUELA WITH NEGRES
11 SEP E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAM
12 SEP HAIL AND FAREWELL FOR CWO2 MUHAMMAD
13-16 SEP PORT VISIT CURACAO, NA
13 SEP CWO2 MUHAMMAD DEPARTS
CURACAO NAVY LEAGUE SPONSORED RECEPTION
14-15 SEP CPO INITIATION
15 SEP CPO PINNING CEREMONY
18 SEP RENDEZVOUS WITH USS WHIRLWIND
OPERATION CARIB DAGGER CO/OPS INBRIEF
19 SEP POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
21 SEP BOARDED M/V VIVIETTE WITH NEGRES
22-24 SEP OPERATION CARIB DAGGER
23 SEP TURNOVER COLOMBIAN GO FAST TO COLNAV
26 SEP OPERATION CARIB DAGGER CO/OPS OUTBRIEF

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27 SEP HOST LUNCHEON FOR COLNAV OFFICERS AND USS
WHIRLWIND'S ACTING CO
29 SEP BSF GTMO, CU
CO VISITED HMS LIVERPOOL FOR AFTERNOON TEA
02-04 OCT PORT VISIT COZUMEL, MX
08 OCT SOUTHBOUND PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT
BSF RODMAN, PM
11 OCT RENDEZVOUS WITH USS LEWIS B. PULLER FOR HELO PART
TRANSFER
EVENING MEDIVAC TO RODMAN, PM
13 OCT U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
15 OCT BSF RODMAN, PM
20 OCT BOARDED COLOMBIAN M/V DONA ROSARIO WITH NEGRES
21 OCT RENDEZVOUS WITH USS LEWIS B. PULLER FOR PARTS,
PAX, AND MAIL TRANSFER
22 OCT BOARDED F/V DOMINADOR WITH NEGRES
23 OCT BOARDED F/V NORTH QUEEN WITH NEGRES
25-27 OCT PORT VISIT RODMAN, PM
27 OCT NORTHBOUND PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT
30 OCT OUTCHOP CTG 4.1
31 OCT ENROUTE YORKTOWN, VA
03-06 NOV WEAPONS OFFLOAD YORKTOWN, VA
05 NOV CMS INSPECTION
06 NOV EMBARK YORKTOWN TIGERS
08 NOV BSP MAYPORT FL
EMBARK MAYPORT TIGERS
11 NOV HOMECOMING PASCAGOULA, MS
27 NOV THANKSGIVING
01 DEC FOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM VISIT
09-12 DEC ETG VISIT
13 DEC CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD COMMENCED
15-19 DEC AVIATION FACILITY PREAVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT
25 DEC CHRISTMAS DAY
27 DEC TURNOVER DAY
CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD ENDED
NEW YEAR'S LEAVE PERIOD COMMENCED
31 DEC NEW YEAR'S EVE

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NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR CALENDER YEAR 1997

TICONDEROGA began the new year inport Pascagoula, MS. After the return from Counter Narcotics Deployment, the ship went into a Christmas leave and standdown period which would end 10JAN97. The second post deployment leave period ended 10JAN97 when the crew came together again for the first time since the 30 December 1996 turnover day. The first month of 1997 saw a flurry of minor inspections and assist visits. The PATG assist team completed their visit on 10JAN97 citing zero major discrepancies on their final report. A very extensive maintenance period started on 06JAN97 and finished on 24JAN97. Several major repairs were made to critical propulsion and auxiliary systems, including repairs to the CRP system to correct a long-standing problem. The ESI team completed their inspection on 17JAN97 with no major discrepancies outstanding. The team members had extremely high praise for the courtesy and cooperation of the crew. 17JAN97 resurfacing commenced for the helo hangar and flight deck areas in preparation for the Aviation Certification and Aviation Readiness Evaluation in February. In support of the upcoming inspections, an AVCERT tech assist was held from 21-24JAN97. The ship was well-prepared to successfully complete the aviation inspections. Captain Van Saun, Deputy Commander, Western Hemisphere Group, visited the ship for a meeting with the CO, a tour of the ship, and a discussion and lunch with the officers in the wardroom. The LMA inspection closed out the month with a successful completion of the Battle Efficiency Award requirements for the last competitive cycle.

February began with TICONDEROGA inport Pascagoula, MS preparing for the TARGET, SNAPSHOT, and LCSRR assist teams. Long-standing equipment-related problems were addressed during the assist teams visit from 03-14FEB97. During the second week of the month, an inspection team for the Aviation Certification (10-12FEB97) and Aviation Readiness Examinations (13 FEB) arrived. TICONDEROGA successfully completed both and was highly praised by both teams for its exceptional readiness and professionalism. The ARE was completed in less than one day. On the evening of 13FEB97, the command sponsored a TriCare brief for sailors and dependents. After all the activity at the beginning of the month, TICONDEROGAMEN got some well-deserved time with their families over the Presidents' Day weekend. Due to the fast cruise requirement prior to underway, TICONDEROGA conducted a complete and well-executed fast cruise on Presidents' Day, 17FEB97, and TICONDEROGA observed the holiday on 14FEB97, Valentine's Day. On 19FEB97, TICONDEROGA got underway for a month long cruise which started with a port visit to Port Everglades, FL. Upon our arrival on 21FEB97,

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we received a hearty welcome from the city of Ft Lauderdale, Ft Lauderdale and Broward County Navy League chapters, and the Navy Days Association. While inport, the officers and crew received open invitations to two large receptions. On 22FEB97, the Ft Lauderdale chapter of the Navy League organized a reception at Bootlegger's. On 24FEB97, the Broward County chapter of the Navy League sponsored a reception at the Bimini Boat Yard in Hollywood, FL. Both events were a terrific success. On 25FEB97, TICONDEROGA ended its stay in Port Everglades by getting underway for NOB Norfolk, VA. After a couple of days underway practicing our warfighting skills, TICONDEROGA arrived at NOB Norfolk on 28FEB97.

March began in TICONDEROGA's former homeport of Norfolk, VA. On 03MAR97, we debarked our midshipmen. On the same day, TICONDEROGA began a series of team trainers and schools. The completion of the team trainers, including Cryptologic Combat Support Console, Underway Replenishment training, Antenna maintenance, and Harpoon handling, greatly enhanced TICONDEROGA's readiness. The CT's at the CCSC team trainer were of particular note. The team received perfect scores in several portions of their trainer and were highly commended for their exceptional proficiency. This is an excellent example of TICONDEROGA leadership ability in maintaining excellence and warfare proficiency without the benefit of readily available trainers and outside assistance. The next task was preparation for and execution of OPFOR participation in JTFEX 97-2. On 06MAR97, HSL 46 DET 9 embarked. Additionally, throughout the week of 02MAR97, through ingenuity and successful HUMINT, TICONDEROGA was able to acquire critical information on Blue force disposition, plans, and, most importantly, communications. This would prove enormously helpful to the OPFOR cause later in the month. Thus prepared, TICONDEROGA set sail for the Cherry Point Oparea to participate in JTFEX 97-2. As part of the fictitious Koronan navy, TICONDEROGA was working in conjunction with the USS Norfolk, USS Estocin, and USS Deyo (USS City of Corpus Christi, USS Simpson, and USS Cape St. George were latecomers). TICONDEROGA's crack team of AIC's, ASTAC's, TIC's, and radio and SESS personnel began trying to intrude onto Blue force radio nets and tactical link. To their great credit, TICONDEROGAMEN were successful in MIJI efforts against their numerically superior opponents on numerous occasions. These included several instances of receiving blue link information, communicating on blue radio nets and inducing them to pass communications frequency information over these nets (some non-secure), and taking control of blue air assets (i.e., MPA, CAP, and helos). Several of the aircraft were tasked to make reports on their own units and kick to alternate frequencies when genuine blue forces tried to regain control of their misguided aircraft.

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Notably, instances of all of these feats were accomplished without the use of the previously-acquired Blue communications plan. Such success breeds contempt and resentment among one's opponents, however, and caused TICONDEROGA to be aggressively hunted down by Blue forces immediately upon commencement of hostilities. The hostility phase commenced 0000Z on 17MAR97, and TICONDEROGA was targeted and eliminated from the exercise by ship-launched Harpoon cruise missiles at 0202Z on 18MAR97. During the course of JTFEX, TICONDEROGA conducted 3 Refueling-At-Sea operations with USS Platte. These were the first opportunities TICONDEROGA has had to conduct a RAS since the 1995 Mediterranean cruise (more than a full year prior). Following the exercise on 19MAR97, TICONDEROGA pulled into Naval Station Mayport to offload the helo detachment and a MEDEVAC case from USS SIMPSON. The stop in Mayport also allowed a face-to-face visit with key personnel on the COMWESTHEMGRU staff. On 20MAR97, the ship departed Naval Station Mayport enroute Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola to pick-up passengers for a Dependents' Day cruise. TICONDEROGA arrived at NAS Pensacola, FL on 24MAR97 and picked up 275 dependents and VIP's on the morning of 25MAR97. The Dependents' Cruise covered the transit from NAS Pensacola to homeport. The return to homeport allowed time for crewmembers to tend to family and personal matters. TICONDEROGA prepared for the IMAV (commencing 27MAR97) upcoming SISCAL visit, and numerous tech assists. On 30MAR97, TICONDEROGA observed the Easter holiday.

TICONDEROGA spent the month of April with friends, family, and loved ones while also attending to maintenance and underway preparations needed for the upcoming INDEX, PCO OPS, and CDOPS deployment. The first half of the month was dominated by readiness and maintenance issues. 07APR97 marked the shift to Summer Uniforms in the Pascagoula area, and a command-wide uniform inspection was conducted on 11APR97. From 07-11APR97, the USWO and WA division conducted a sonar dome inspection. The SISCAL visit ended on 14APR97. Additionally, the NATO Secret Inspection, the commencement of the two-day CMS groom by RMCS Juckett of CWHG, the week-long Navy Food Management Visit, and an intensive two week SPY technical assist visit began 14APR97. On 16APR97, LTJG Holmes and QM2 Dixon attended Hurricane Readiness training on base hosted by CDS-6. The SIMA Pascagoula IMAV continued a few more days until 18APR97. The second half of April consisted of a variety of readiness and personnel issues. TICONDEROGAMEN had an opportunity to better prepare themselves and their loved ones for the upcoming CDOPS deployment in June by attending a series of pre-deployment briefs at the Family Service Center in the Singing River Mall in Gautier, MS, on 17-18 and 24-25APR97. TICONDEROGA also strengthened its ties to the community on 21APR97 by a tremendous

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turn-out for a ship reception at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Pascagoula. Several more readiness issues were resolved including a PARSE visit on 21APR97, a CSMT visit and 2M Personnel Certification from 21-25APR97, and Engineering cold checks observed by the RSG Mayport ETG on 22-23APR97. At the same time, WA division conducted the ASROC offload. The semi-annual command-wide PRT was completed on 28-29APR97. On 29APR97, GFCS Mk86 testing was conducted, and the month of April closed out on its final day, 30APR97, with the Helo Det onload and embarkation. TICONDEROGA was ready to get underway and conduct a successful underway training period to include MISSILEX and PCO OPS USW exercises.

TICONDEROGA maximized training during the month of May. INDEX 97-3 afforded a rare opportunity for the crew to increase their proficiency in all warfare areas, and multi-ship shiphandling. After transitting to the Puerto Rico Operating Area, TICONDEROGA had a pleasant port visit at the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The three day visit allowed for fun, relaxation and friendships with the people of the Virgin Islands Navy League. The USVI St. John's Navy League chapter held a reception for the wardroom officers on the second night of the ship's visit. TICONDEROGA left St. John and had a short sail to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico where The Chief of Staff, Western Hemisphere Group and fourteen members of the staff embarked to observe the MISSILEX and participate in PCO OPS. The next morning, key TICONDEROGAMEN attended range, safety briefs for the upcoming operations, while back onboard, the crew unloaded REXTORP's for use during PCO OPS. On 10MAY97, TICONDEROGA launched four Standard Missiles to fulfill AAW exercise requirements, increase warfare proficiency and qualify for Battle "E" eligibility. TICONDEROGA conducted a towing exercise with USS COMTE DE GRASSE on 11MAY97. On 12MAY97, TICONDEROGA's navigation and piloting teams completed the annual navigation check ride during the transit into Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, PR. The morning of 13MAY97 the ship got underway to participate in PCO OPS with USS KLAKRING, USS DEWERT, USS COMTE DE GRASSE, USS AUGUSTA and USS NORFOLK. PCO OPS concluded on 15MAY97 when TICONDEROGA returned to Roosevelt Roads, PR to debark Western Hemisphere Group Staff. On 16MAY97, TICONDEROGA departed Puerto Rico enroute to Naval Station Pascagoula, MS. TICONDEROGA arrived in homeport on 20MAY97. While underway, the command held an ESWS standown on 17MAY97, and the Weapons department was officially disestablished. The remainder of the month remained busy. An assist team was on board 20-23MAY97 to install and conduct training on the LMS 11 system. 21-23MAY97 an industrial hygienist was on board for the Industrial Hygiene Inspection. TICONDEROGA observed Memorial Day on 26MAY97. On

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27MAY97, midshipmen embarked and CWO4 Johnson's retirement ceremony was held on the flight deck. The Operations Officer and CIC Officer went to Key West for the JIATF East CDOPS briefs. OSC Carey attended the U.S. Army 402nd Air Cavalry brief on 29MAY97. To close out the month, the former Command Master Chief, PRCM Lechleidner's retirement ceremony was held in the helo hangar.

TICONDEROGA spent the majority of the month of June preparing for the Counter Drugs Operations Deployment which commenced 25JUN97. TICONDEROGA began the first of two Prior to Overseas Movement (POM) leave periods on 03JUN97. This allowed the crew to spend time with family, friends, and loved ones and fully prepare TICONDEROGA for deployment remainder of the crew. The ship transitioned from its normal six section duty rotation into three sections in order to accommodate the leave periods. The first POM leave period ended on the morning of 13JUN97. TICONDEROGA used 13JUN97 as a turnover day between the leave periods. While the entire crew was on board, TICONDEROGA conducted an administrative General Quarters to update and verify Battle Bill assignments and check Damage Control equipment and fittings. The second POM leave period began at the "close of business" on turnover day. TICONDEROGA debarked the LANTRAMID Phase I Midshipmen on 20JUN97; and on 22JUN97, TICONDEROGA embarked the LANTRAMID Phase II Midshipmen. The second POM leave period ended on the morning of 23JUN97. With the return of the entire crew, TICONDEROGA conducted a FAST CRUISE to get the crew into the underway mind set. Main engines were started, and underway watch sections were manned and rotated. During this time, TICONDEROGA conducted simulated at-sea evolutions and drills. The Meteorological Detachment embarked for the deployment on the afternoon of 23JUN97. On 24JUN97, TICONDEROGA embarked HSL 46 personnel and the Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET). At 0900 25JUN97, Counter Drug Operations Deployment 1997 commenced with TICONDEROGA getting underway from a rainy Pascagoula, MS. After recovering RAPTOR 465 on the morning of 25JUN97, TICONDEROGA transitted the Gulf of Mexico in route to Guantanamo Bay, CU for a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF). After the 28JUN97 BSF, TICONDEROGA steamed south to the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force East (JIATF EAST) Area of Responsibility (AOR). To close out the month of June, TICONDEROGA reported for duty to JIATF EAST on 30JUN97.

TICONDEROGA began the month of July by assuming duties as AW, the Air Surveillance Coordinator/Commander in the Caribbean Sea. On 01JUL97, TICONDEROGA was tasked by JIATF EAST to make "best speed" to the Panama Canal and transit southbound to the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPAC) to relieve the USS CALLAGHAN. Beginning the evening of 02JUL97 and ending the morning of 03JUL97, TICONDEROGA conducted a night Panama Canal Transit enroute Rodman, PM. TICONDEROGA

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conducted a brief stop for fuel (BSF) and personnel (BSP) at NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PM from 03JUL97 to 04JUL97. TICONDEROGA got underway the afternoon of 04JUL97 enroute to relieve CALLAGHAN. TICONDEROGA relieved the CALLAGHAN and assumed station. On 05JUL97, TICONDEROGA boarded the fishing vessel GERMINIS with negative results. After the CALLAGHAN conducted repairs and returned to the EPAC, TICONDEROGA received the CALLAGHAN's Commanding Officer and Operations Officer for an exchange of CDOPS information, ideas, and concepts. After the meeting with CALLAGHAN, TICONDEROGA proceeded north for a 12JUL97 BSF in Rodman, PM and a 13JUL97 northbound Panama Canal Transit. During 12JUL97 BSF, the LANTRAMID Phase II Midshipmen were debarked to return to the U.S. Naval Academy. On 13JUL97, TICONDEROGA proceeded north through the Panama Canal enroute to the Caribbean Sea. TICONDEROGA continued her vigilant watch over the air and sea, searching for drug traffickers. On 17JUL97, TICONDEROGA boarded fishing vessel YUSHO MARU 51 with negative results. On 19JUL97, after a week of Indications and Warnings (I and W) from TICONDEROGA, the Colombian Navy (COLNAV) confiscated 200K of cocaine which were dropped off and buried on land by a small vessel for later pick-up and transfer. Later that day, TICONDEROGA conducted a night boarding of motor vessel TARU II with negative results. On 22JUL97, TICONDEROGA conducted a BSF/BSP in Colon, PM. The Prospective Executive Officer (LCDR Newmeyer, Kevin P.) reported on board during BSF/BSP. TICONDEROGA returned to conducting her CDOPS mission of air surveillance and began the turnover process between the present Executive Officer (LCDR Bakotic, Mark E.) and the Prospective Executive Officer (PXO). As part of the turnover process, TICONDEROGA conducted General Quarters, a Combat Systems Training Team scenario, CIWS and 5 in/54 PACFIRE, Navigation Briefs, and meetings with key personnel to acquaint the PXO with the ship's capabilities and personnel. On 26JUL97, TICONDEROGA proceeded from her station toward her scheduled 28JUL97-01AUG97 Port Visit in Cartagena, CO. TICONDEROGA anchored at Cartagena on the morning of 28JUL97. In the evening, TICONDEROGA hosted a reception for the local military leaders and prominent local dignitaries. On the afternoon of 29JUL97, the Hail and Farewell for LCDR Bakotic was held onboard. After the Hail and Farewell, the wardroom went to a local restaurant for dinner and the "wetting down" for new Lieutenants Wilson, McGowan, and Holmes and Lieutenants Junior Grade Tucker, Blackmon, Sexton, Park, and Hirlinger. As part of their "wetting down" and to celebrate their promotions, these officers donated at least \$50 each to support a local Community Relations (COMREL) Project in Cartagena. The COMREL Project commenced the morning of 29JUL97 at a local children's hospital. The first phase of the project consisted of

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ship's personnel painting hospital doors and conducting repairs to air conditioning units and surgical lamp fixtures. On 30JUL97, the second phase consisted of delivering supplies and parts to the hospital for future renovations and use. On 31JUL97, TICONDEROGA ended the month by bidding "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to LCDR Mark E. Bakotic as he departed the ship for the last time.

TICONDEROGA began the month of August in the Caribbean patrolling for possible drug traffickers. On 01AUG97, TICONDEROGA experienced an engineering casualty to GTM 1B. The USS JOHN L HALL was in our area of operations and had a recently reported Chief Petty Officer (CPO) who was an ex-SIMA engineering technical representative. The CPO was transported to TICONDEROGA on 02AUG97 to provide assistance and correct the casualty. On 04AUG97, TICONDEROGA was tasked to assist in maintaining surveillance on a suspected drug carrier, the F/V ANNA C. On 11AUG97, TICONDEROGA arrived at NAVSTA GTMO CU for a brief stop for fuel (BSF) and parts for conducting repairs to the embarked helo. After the receipt of parts, TICONDEROGA got underway from GTMO on 12AUG97. On 13AUG97, TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with the HMS LIVERPOOL to conduct at-sea training. Personnel from both ships were exchanged via RHIB to provide exposure for select crew members to a different country's naval vessel and crew. After the personnel transfer, the two ships conducted LEAPFROGS exercises for shiphandling practice and later that evening communications publication drills were conducted. On 14AUG97, the LIVERPOOL's Commanding Officer, and Operations Officer were transported to TICONDEROGA for a brief conference and tour. TICONDEROGA and LIVERPOOL conducted Electronic Warfare and Teletype exercises for mutual training. After the training was completed, all personnel were transported back to their respective vessels. On 15AUG97, TICONDEROGA boarded M/V CAYTRAS with negative results. Later that same day, TICONDEROGA conducted an underway replenishment (UNREP) with the RFA BLACK ROVER. The UNREP was followed by DIVTACS with the LIVERPOOL and BLACK ROVER. TICONDEROGA arrived in port Aruba, NA on 16AUG97 for a three (3) day port visit. The crew enjoyed some rest and relaxation while in Aruba by taking advantage of the beach, sun, and pleasant climate. On 18AUG97, JIATF EAST personnel Mr. Jim Cassidy and Mr. John Pitts arrived on board to get firsthand exposure to counterdrug operations at-sea. Commander, Western Hemisphere Group's Chaplain LT Edwards arrived as well. Early morning on 20AUG97, TICONDEROGA boarded the M/V ROMANA I with negative results. TICONDEROGA, her embarked helo, and MPA aircraft engaged in a high speed pursuit of a suspect GO FAST vessel in early morning of 24AUG97. The pursuit lasted for approximately three (3) hours until the suspect vessel eventually stopped its escape attempts. The vessel was boarded

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with negative results. That evening, TICONDEROGA located and boarded the M/V GRANELERO III, a suspected drug trafficking vessel. The embarked LEDET remained on board the GRANELERO III throughout the night. TICONDEROGA's embarked LEDET was unable to find enough evidence to apprehend the crew and confiscate the vessel as a result of their non-destructive search. However, the LEDET did find enough evidence and inconsistencies in the crew interviews to recommend a more comprehensive search once the M/V arrived in port. The pierside search would allow the access to spaces not accessible at sea. On 27AUG97, TICONDEROGA conducted a 5"/54 and CIWS gunfiring exercises prior to entering NAVSTA ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR for an extended port visit. After arriving in port, several crew members, who had loved ones fly from CONUS to meet the ship, departed on leave. TICONDEROGA ended the month of August in Puerto Rico conducting minor repairs, the semi-annual physical readiness test (PRT), debarking the Coast Guard LEDET Team 5B and awaiting the arrival of Coast Guard LEDET Team 5D. An end-of-the-month treat in Puerto Rico was a visit by movie stars, Jane Seymour and David Carridine. The two were on-location filming a modern day remake of the movie classic The Swiss Family Robinson.

TICONDEROGA began the month of September inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. 01SEP97 TICONDEROGA kicked off the month with the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month. The following day on 02SEP97, the physical readiness test was conducted for stragglers. TICONDEROGA proceeded to get underway on the afternoon of 02SEP97 to assume station once again in the Central Caribbean. TICONDEROGA administered the E-4 advancement examination 04SEP97. On 07SEP97, TICONDEROGA boarded M/V URIBANTE which resulted in negative results. TICONDEROGA administered the E-5 advancement examination 09SEP97. Later that day, TICONDEROGA conducted a retirement ceremony on the flight deck for CWO2 Muhammad. On 10SEP97, TICONDEROGA boarded M/V ZIM VENUZUELA with positive indication of drugs in one of the staterooms. The positive indication was considered to be from personal use of narcotics by a crew member and the vessel was released. TICONDEROGA administered the E-6 advancement examination onboard 11SEP97. An evening Hail and Farewell ceremony for CWO2 Muhammad was held in the wardroom 12SEP97. TICONDEROGA proceeded to her next port visit and arrived in Curacao, NA on 13SEP97. CWO2 Muhammad departed TICONDEROGA for the last time that afternoon in Curacao. The evening of 13SEP97 was highlighted by a Curacao Navy League sponsored reception in honor of TICONDEROGA's visit for the officers and chief petty officers at a local casino. 14-15SEP97, the TICONDEROGA's Chief Petty Officers conducted the time-honored CPO Initiation for two new E-7 selectees. A pinning ceremony was conducted the afternoon

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of 15SEP97 when the E-7 selectees were pinned as Chief Petty Officers in the CPO's Mess. A celebration followed the CPO pinning at a local restaurant with CPO's and officers sharing in the fun. 15SEP97 was also the day TICONDEROGA crewman conducted a community relations project at the Dr. Nellie Winkle School for Children with Learning Disabilities. TICONDEROGA departed Curacao 16SEP97 enroute Colombia to participate in Operation CARIB DAGGER with the USS WHIRLWIND and the Colombian Navy. TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with USS WHIRLWIND on 18SEP97. After rendezvous, TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer and Operations Officer transferred via RHIB to WHIRLWIND and continued inport to Cartagena, CO for Operation CARIB DAGGER inbrief. After the inbrief, TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer and Operations Officer returned via Colombian Naval helicopter. TICONDEROGA then proceeded onstation for Operation CARIB DAGGER. Operation CARIB DAGGER consisted of two U.S. surface assets, TICONDEROGA and USS WHIRLWIND, and two Colombian surface assets, ARC CALDAS and ARC ALMIRANTE PADILLA conducting dedicated counterdrug operations off coast of Colombia. While waiting for Operation CARIB DAGGER to officially commence, TICONDEROGA boarded M/V VIVIETTE on 21SEP97 with negative results. Operation CARIB DAGGER commenced on 22SEP97. On 23SEP97, U.S. and COLNAV units detected, tracked, and detained a Colombian go fast. The go fast was turned over to ARC CALDAS for further investigation. On 24SEP97, Operation CARIB DAGGER ended and all participants including TICONDEROGA proceeded into Cartagena. TICONDEROGA arrived Cartagena on 26SEP97 for Operation CARIB DAGGER outbrief. The Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Operations Officer, and Air Detachment Officer-in-Charge attended the outbrief upon arrival and were hosted to lunch by the Colombian Navy. TICONDEROGA hosted a luncheon 27SEP97 onboard for RADM Oliveras, Fuerza Naval del Atlantico, CAPT Cely, Flotilla Atlantico, CAPT Romano, Chief of Staff, Fuerza Naval del Atlantico, CDR Echandia, Commanding Officer, ARC Caldas, CDR Troncoso, Commanding Officer, ARC Almirante Padilla, LCDR Morales, Colombian Navy, LCDR Rodriguez, Colombian Navy, and LT Arnold, Acting Commanding Officer, USS WHIRLWIND. TICONDEROGA departed Cartagena after the luncheon and proceeded toward Guantanamo Bay, CU. On 29SEP97, TICONDEROGA arrived inport Guantanamo Bay, CU for a brief stop for parts, stores, and fuel. TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer was invited to afternoon tea onboard the HMS LIVERPOOL, also inport for fuel. TICONDEROGA got underway the same day and returned to station in the Caribbean Sea.

TICONDEROGA began the month of October transitting toward Cozumel, MX. 02OCT97 TICONDEROGA arrived in Cozumel, MX for a well-deserved port visit. Due to an impending drug case and lack

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of surface units in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, TICONDEROGA volunteered to cut the port visit short by two (2) days and got underway 04OCT97. TICONDEROGA transitted southward through the Panama Canal for a 08OCT97 BSF in Rodman, PM. TICONDEROGA then proceeded to the Eastern Pacific Ocean for prosecution of a suspected drug case. TICONDEROGA assumed the duties as Surface Action Group Commander to coordinate and direct the efforts of the USS LEWIS B PULLER and the USNS CAPABLE against the suspected drug case. TICONDEROGA and LEWIS B PULLER patrolled the northern portion of the EPAC in the vicinity of Mal Pelo Island while the CAPABLE patrolled closer to the western coast of Colombia in an attempt to detect or deter suspected vessels. 11OCT97 TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with USS LEWIS B PULLER to receive a required helicopter part. Later that evening, TICONDEROGA conducted a medivac of a crewman to Rodman by closing then transferring the member to a small craft just outside of Rodman channel. TICONDEROGA returned to patrolling the EPAC after the medivac. TICONDEROGA celebrated the Navy's Birthday 13OCT97 commencing with a cake-cutting ceremony on the messdecks. TICONDEROGA steamed into Rodman 15OCT97 for a BSF and returned to patrolling the EPAC later the same day. 20OCT97 TICONDEROGA boarded the Colombian M/V Dona Rosario with negative results. TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with USS LEWIS B PULLER for receipt of mail and passengers 21OCT97. 22OCT97 TICONDEROGA boarded Colombian F/V Dominador with negative results. The next day, 23OCT97, TICONDEROGA boarded another Colombian F/V, the North Queen with negative results. TICONDEROGA returned to Rodman for a short port visit 25-27OCT97. TICONDEROGA conducted a night time Panama Canal transit northward to the Caribbean Ocean 27OCT97. TICONDEROGA devoted her final days on station 28-30OCT97 patrolling for suspect vessels. 30OCT97 USS TICONDEROGA, the First Aegis Cruiser, detached from CTG 4.1 and proceeded toward Yorktown, VA for a weapons offload.

TICONDEROGA began the month of November transitting toward Yorktown, VA for a weapons offload. Arriving in Yorktown 03NOV97, TICONDEROGA received the base weapons safety brief from the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown VA staff. The weapons offload consumed three days, 03-06NOV. While in Yorktown, the command received its CMS inspection. CMS inspectors came onboard 05NOV97 escorted by LTJG Blackmon and reviewed the command's CMS account, user records, and training program. TICONDEROGA passed the inspection with a SATISFACTORY grade. Morning 06NOV97 was devoted to pre-underway preparations and embarking TIGERS for transit to Mayport, FL and Pascagoula, MS. TICONDEROGA got underway from Yorktown the morning of 06NOV97 enroute to Naval Station Mayport FL. As part of the cruise, embarked TIGERS had the opportunity to attend briefs and

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operational demonstrations of onboard weapons systems, observe man overboard drills, and indulge themselves in exploring the navy experience. Morning 08NOV97 the ship arrived in Mayport, FL to embark more TIGERS and refuel for the transit to Pascagoula. Additionally, crewmembers had a brief opportunity to interact with their counterparts on the Commander, Western Hemisphere Group staff. TICONDEROGA departed Mayport the same day enroute to homeport. TICONDEROGA continued to provide educational experiences for the TIGERS to challenge their initiative and willingness to learn. The First Aegis Cruiser returned home the morning of 11 November 1997, Veteran's Day, from a successful four and a half month CDOPS deployment. Family, friends, local radio stations, and local television were waiting to greet the returning ship and her crew. TICONDEROGA then began efforts to complete repairs on equipment and prepare for the upcoming Restricted Availability. The command and crewmembers ended the month by celebrating Thanksgiving on 25NOV97 and looking forward to Christmas.

December began with TICONDEROGA inport Pascagoula, MS. 01DEC97 the Food Management Team visited the command to assess TICONDEROGA's Food Service capability. The Engineering Training Group visited TICONDEROGA 09-12DEC97 to review the command's engineering administrative programs and damage control capability. TICONDEROGA began the Christmas leave period 13DEC97. For this period allowed approximately fifty percent of the crew went on leave for the Christmas holiday. The remainder of the crew continued preparations for the upcoming Restricted Availability. 15-19DEC97 the command received an Aviation Facility Preavailability Assessment. This assessment was designed to review the material condition of aviation equipment and to make recommendations for additional work to complete during upcoming availability. Volunteers from the crew distributed Christmas gifts to needy families 18-20DEC during local Salvation Army Gift Giveaway. As part of a stateside community relations effort, TICONDEROGAMEN prepared and served dinner to senior citizens at a local Pascagoula Church on 19DEC97. TICONDEROGA celebrated Christmas onboard with a special dinner for the on duty personnel. The crew members from the Christmas leave period returned 27DEC97 to conduct a turnover with the remaining crewmembers. The turnover process included reviewing material condition of spaces, upcoming and in-progress work, and personnel issues. At the end of the day, the remaining crewmembers departed on New Year's leave and the other crewmembers continued availability preparations. TICONDEROGA anxiously awaited the end of the present year and the arrival of the new year 31DEC97. 31DEC97 marked the end of an extremely successful year for the TICONDEROGA family.

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