



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
To: Director Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, Command Histories

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for Calendar Year 1999
(3) Narrative of Events for Calendar Year 1999

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted for inclusion in USS TICONDEROGA's command history file for calendar year 1999.

K. H. Dietrich
K. H. DIETRICH

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47), Unit Identification Code: 21281, is part of Destroyer Squadron Six of Naval Surface Group Two, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and is homeported in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Her crew is comprised of approximately 30 officers and 325 enlisted personnel. TICONDEROGA's operational mission during 1999 included the completion of a successful Counter Drug Operations deployment, where TICONDEROGA served as air surveillance and surface interdiction coordinator of suspected narcotics traffickers in the Caribbean. TICONDEROGA was deployed under the tactical control of Joint Inter-agency Task Force East (JIATF EAST) with both an SH-60B helicopter (CUTLASS 461) and a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) embarked. CUTLASS 461 was flown by four embarked pilots and maintained by 17 aviation specialists. The LEDET consisted of one Coast Guard officer and 12 Coast Guard enlisted personnel. TICONDEROGA commenced a Smart Ship Installation in early April of 1999. Components of the Smart Ship Installation include the Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Condition Assessment System (ICAS), Damage Control Quarters (DCQ), Machinery Control System (MCS), Fuel Control System (FCS), Ship Wide Area Network (SWAN) and the Wireless Internal Communication System (WICS). USS TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer during 1999 was Commander King H. Dietrich. TICONDEROGA's Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) during 1999 was Commander Western Hemisphere Group, U. S. Atlantic Fleet until December 17th when Commander Destroyer Squadron Six assumed the duties as ISIC for all ships homeported in Pascagoula, Mississippi

Encl (1)

CHRONOLOGY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1999

01 JAN New Year's Day
02 JAN Depart Rodman, Panama
02 JAN Commence Operation CONJUNTOS
02 JAN CO, HSL 46 Visit
09 JAN Brief stop for fuel, Rodman, Panama
15 JAN Conclude Operation CONJUNTOS
19 JAN Depart Rodman, Panama
22 JAN TICONDEROGA's 16th Birthday
22 JAN Crossing the Line Ceremony, Equator
25 JAN Inport Rodman, Panama
26 JAN Northbound Panama Canal Transit
29 JAN Arrive Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
29 JAN Turnover with USS HUE CITY (CG-66)
29 JAN Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) Departs
29 JAN Duty Section One Returns Home
30 JAN OUTCHOP JIATF EAST
31 JAN Depart Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
31 JAN Enroute Haiti

01 FEB Anchor off the coast of Port Au Prince, Haiti
01 FEB US/Haitian Community Relation Project (COMREL)
01 FEB Reception at US Ambassador's home in Haiti
02 FEB Underway, enroute Pascagoula, MS
02 FEB End of Deployment Briefs
04 FEB Cutlass 461 Helicopter departs TICONDEROGA
05 FEB Arrive Pascagoula
05 FEB HSL 46 Detachment 9 departs
05 FEB Commence Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep
05 FEB First leave period begins
10 FEB Captain Bush (former TICO CO) Visit
13 FEB Pascagoula Mardi Gras Parade
15 FEB Observe President's Day-FULL DRESS Ship
17 FEB Berth Shift
18 FEB Turnover Day between leave periods
18 FEB Command Awards Ceremony
18 FEB Commence second leave period
22-26 FEB Underwater Hull Cleaning

02 MAR E-4 Advancement Exam
03 MAR Second leave period ends
03 MAR End Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep Period
04 MAR E-5 Advancement Exam
05 MAR Fast Cruise
05 MAR STGC (SW) Law's Retirement Ceremony
08 MAR Ombudsman Luncheon
08 MAR Mississippi Press records painting of Battle Efficiency "E" on bridge wing

09 MAR Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
 09 MAR E-6 Advancement Exam
 10-12 MAR Information Awareness Training
 10 MAR Fire for Effect Exercise
 13 MAR Replenishment at Sea - USNS Big Horn
 14 MAR Arrive Norfolk, Virginia
 15 MAR Commence Training Availability
 24 MAR Enroute Yorktown Naval Weapon Station
 24-26 MAR Weapon Offload
 27 MAR Depart Yorktown, enroute Mayport, Florida
 29 MAR Arrive Mayport, Florida
 30 MAR Commence TIGER Cruise
 30 MAR Enroute Pascagoula, Mississippi

02 APR Arrive Pascagoula, Mississippi-Tigers Depart
 03 APR Spouse Club Easter Egg Hunt
 06 APR Commence Smart Ship Installation
 06 APR Repair 2 Team Training in Mayport
 09 APR Repair 5 Team Training in Mayport
 10 APR Operations Specialist Third Class Jones dies
 in automobile accident
 13 APR OS3 Jones' Memorial Service
 16 APR Damage Control Olympics and Picnic
 27-29 APR Semi-annual Physical Readiness Testing (PRT)
 29 APR Oak Park Elementary School tour

07 MAY Awards Ceremony with Commander Destroyer
 Squadron SIX
 12 MAY Armed Forces Luncheon
 14 MAY Battle Efficiency Award Ceremony with Rear
 Admiral Ellison
 14 MAY Spouse Appreciation Day
 15 MAY Armed Forces Day
 16 MAY Ingalls Shipyard Union Strike begins
 26-29MAY Integrated Bridge System Training
 26 MAY Wardroom Paint Ball Competition
 31 MAY Observe Memorial Day

02 JUN Awards/Promotion Ceremony
 02 JUN Smart Ship Training
 04 JUN Annual Command Picnic at Lakeside
 04 JUN Ingalls Shipyard Union Strike ends
 09 JUN Berth shift
 14 JUN Western Hemisphere Group Deputy Visit
 14 JUN Surface Navy Association luncheon
 16 JUN Frocking Ceremony
 16 JUN Hurricane Preparedness Brief
 24 JUN USS YORKTOWN hosts local golf tournament
 25 JUN Wardroom Social
 26 JUN First Class Association Highway 90 Clean-up
 28 JUN Firefighting training on ex-USS SHADWELL

05 JUL Observed July 4th Holiday-FULL DRESS Ship
 09 JUL Command Advancement Board

15 JUL Limited Duty Officer Board
 17-18 JUL STEPHEN W. GROVES reservists drill on board
 21 JUL Command Advancement Awards Ceremony
 20-21 JUL Wireless Internal Communication System (WICS)
 Training
 27 JUL Safety Stand Down
 30 JUL EN1(SW) Roger Allen's Retirement Ceremony
 30 JUL First Class Association Highway 90 Clean-up

 02-06 AUG Gun Qualifications
 02-06 AUG Propulsion Examining Board Visit
 04 AUG Safety Survey
 04 AUG Aviation Readiness Evaluation
 04 AUG Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic Visit
 04 AUG Junior Officer Seminar
 16 AUG Jackson Elementary Partnership Ceremony
 17 AUG Department Head off-site breakfast
 18 AUG Duty Section 6 Firefighting Team Trainer
 21 AUG Boy Scout Troop Tour
 25 AUG Duty Section 1 Firefighting Team Trainer
 23-27 AUG Undersea Warfare Team Training
 26 AUG YORKTOWN and JOHN L HALL return to port
 27 AUG Surface Navy Association Membership Drive
 27-29 AUG Softball Tournament
 31 AUG Galley closed for deck replacement

 03 SEP Duty Section 3 Firefighting Training-Mayport
 06 SEP Observe Labor Day
 07 SEP Departmental Reorganization
 07 SEP Navy Marine Corps News team visit
 09 SEP E-4 Advancement Exam
 09 SEP Electronic Key Material System (EKMS)
 Inspection
 10 SEP Reunion group from ex-USS TAUSSIG DD746 tour
 10 SEP Jackson Elementary School Yard Clean-Up
 14 SEP Galley re-opens
 14 SEP E-5 Advancement Exam
 16 SEP Chief Petty Officer Promotion Ceremony
 17 SEP Surface Navy Association Golf Tournament
 19 SEP Wardroom Deep Sea Fishing Outing
 20 SEP CIC Watchstanding Training conducted by Aegis
 Training Readiness Center Training (ATRC)
 20-24 SEP Basic Cryptological Afloat Training and
 Communication Cryptological Afloat Training
 21 SEP Duty Section 4 Firefighting Team Training
 25 SEP Sea Cadet training onboard
 27 SEP Supply Department Awards Ceremony
 30 SEP WLOX TV station interviews Commanding Officer

 01 OCT SMC(SW) Young's Retirement Ceremony
 01 OCT Search and Rescue (SAR) evaluation
 01 OCT Duty Section 2 Firefighting Training-Mayport
 05 OCT Duty Section 5 Firefighting Training-Mayport
 07 OCT Family Support Group TRICARE brief

08 OCT Admin Department Awards Ceremony
 08 OCT First Class Association Highway Clean-up
 11 OCT Observe Columbus Day
 13 OCT Surface Detailers Conference
 13 OCT Surface Navy Association (SNA) Luncheon
 13 OCT United States Navy's 224th birthday
 14 OCT Navy Achievement Medal presentation-Messdecks
 14 OCT Single Sailor TRICARE Brief
 23-27 OCT Afloat Training Group Mayport Assist Visit
 26 OCT GUN Qualifications
 27 OCT Base Learning Center Open House
 30 OCT Navy Ball- Isle of Capri Casino

 02 NOV Expanded to Eight Duty Sections
 02-05 NOV Combat Systems Team Training
 03 NOV Advancement Exam Test Writers Brief
 05 NOV COMNAVSURFLANT Chaplain Visit
 10 NOV Surface Navy Association Luncheon
 11 NOV Observe Veterans Day
 12 NOV Adopt-a-School Clean-Up
 15-19 NOV Voyage Management System/Integrated Bridge
 System Training
 17 NOV Link-11 Long Look
 19 NOV Second Class Swimmer Testing
 19 NOV SKCM Andrews' Retirement Ceremony
 22 NOV Gulf Coast Community College Tour
 22 NOV Local Elementary School Tour
 22 NOV Combat Systems Department Awards Ceremony
 22 NOV Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Dinner
 23 NOV Operations Department Awards Ceremony
 23 NOV Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Pinning
 25-26 NOV Thanksgiving Holiday
 29 NOV-02 DEC Aviation Certification
 30 NOV COMDESRON SIX Visit

 03 DEC Information Sys Department Awards Ceremony
 03 DEC DESRON SIX Visit
 07 DEC Pearl Harbor Memorial Day 5K Run
 08 DEC Berth Shift
 06-09 DEC Afloat Training Group Assist
 10 DEC Wardroom Paintball Competition
 11 DEC Children's Christmas Party
 13-15 DEC Petty Officer Indoctrination Course
 15 DEC Command Advancement Board
 16 DEC Shipwide Awards Ceremony
 17 DEC Immediate Superior In Command (ISIC) becomes
 Destroyer Squadron Six
 17 DEC Commence First Holiday Leave Period
 17 DEC Wardroom Christmas Party
 20-21 DEC YMCA tours
 24 DEC Command Holiday
 25 DEC Observe Christmas
 28 DEC TICO sailors visit Navy Home in Gulfport
 31 DEC Command Holiday

The crew of TICONDEROGA welcomed in the New Year of 1999 while visiting Rodman, Panama. Nearby Panama City offered the crew many opportunities to celebrate with nightlife including dancing and other festivities. Operation CONJUNTOS, a bilateral Panamanian/American Operation, commenced on January 2nd as TICONDEROGA departed Rodman for an East Pacific operating area. Four American ships and eleven Panamanian ships operated together in the deterrence of Narcotics Trafficking. The Commanding Officer from the helicopter squadron HSL 46, CDR Neil Hogg, arrived on January 2nd for a visit with the embarked helicopter detachment. CDR Hogg departed the ship January 5th on Cutlass 461, the embarked SH-60B helicopter.

TICONDEROGA stopped overnight in Rodman, Panama on January 9th for a brief stop for fuel before completing Operation CONJUNTOS on January 15th. The crew of TICONDEROGA enjoyed a 5 day port visit in Rodman, Panama from January 15th to 19th. A joint picnic for Panamanian and American Sailors was hosted by the Panamanian Navy, concluding the successful Operation CONJUNTOS. Throughout the visit, many crewmembers took advantage of Morale,

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Welfare, and Recreation tours offered. Tours included: horseback riding; white-water rafting; and fishing trips.

TICONDEROGA celebrated her 16th birthday on January 22nd while partaking in traditional "Crossing the Line" ceremonies. Following the visit by King Neptune, who graciously allowed all resident Pollywogs to become Shellbacks after appropriate training, TICONDEROGA resumed a northbound course to make a brief stop in Rodman, Panama on January 25th before transiting the Panama Canal. TICONDEROGA hosted Captain Bell, a former Naval Aviator Prisoner of War, and his wife, Dora Bell, on the 26th of January for the transit northbound in the Panama Canal. TICONDEROGA arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on January 29th to conduct a Counter Drug Operations Turnover with the USS HUE CITY (CG 66). The Law Enforcement Detachment detached TICONDEROGA on January 29th. Many of Duty Section One personnel departed Cuba on January 29th to return home early and enjoy time with their families. Duty Section One personnel returning early agreed to stand duty for the weekend of February 5th to allow all other sailors a full weekend off with their families.

The ship's operational commitment officially ended on January 30th when TICONDEROGA out chopped from Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF East). TICONDEROGA departed Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on the afternoon of the 31st enroute to Haiti for a community relations project.

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) anchored off Port Au Prince, Haiti in the early morning hours of February 1st, 1999. The ship's RHIB (Rigged Hull Inflatable Boat) and Captain's Gig were lowered to the water to transport TICONDEROGA crewmembers to shore. Approximately 90 sailors departed the ship by boat to participate in a United States/ Haitian Community Relation Project (COMREL).

United States Marine Corps Security Company attached to US SUPPORT GROUP Haiti met TICONDEROGA crewmembers at the landing with vans and buses to transport TICONDEROGA volunteers to a local school. Most TICONDEROGA sailors had their first opportunity to see up-close the poverty stricken people of this desperate nation as they were escorted through the torn-up streets by armed marines and soldiers. The work at the school consisted of interior and exterior painting and cleaning of classrooms, a dining area, kitchen, and pantry area that had received damage

from Hurricane Georges. Paint, brushes, lunch, and all necessary material were provided on-site by US SUPPORT GROUP Haiti. While working at the school, armed forces patrolled the perimeter. Curious children looked on as TICONDEROGA crewmembers cleaned and painted the three buildings at the school.

Upon completion of the work a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in the school cafeteria featuring the Hatian National Anthem sung by several school children. The United States Ambassador to Haiti, the school director, and TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer each spoke of the importance of the support from the United States while local press took pictures recording the event. Following the ceremony TICONDEROGA crewmembers were escorted to the US SUPPORT GROUP compound and given an opportunity to shower and eat. Twenty crewmembers were invited to the Ambassador's quarters for a reception that evening before returning to TICONDEROGA. All sailors who went ashore in Haiti came back with a fresh and genuine appreciation of how fortunate we are to be Americans.

TICONDEROGA weighed anchor early on the morning of February 2nd homeward bound. End of Deployment briefs were

conducted by LCDR Logid, the visiting chaplain from WESTHEMGRU. The ship was cleaned thoroughly in preparation for the anticipated arrival into Pascagoula, Mississippi. Two of the four helicopter pilots departed TICONDEROGA in Cutlass 461 on February 4th bound for Mayport, Florida. The local press and hundreds of family members waited anxiously as TICONDEROGA tied up alongside the USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) at Naval Station Pascagoula on the morning of February 5th. The remaining aircrew departed TICONDEROGA with all their gear on the afternoon of the 5th.

The crew settled down to a comfortable stand down schedule with half of the ship taking leave and the other half remaining in the area to stand duty every 4 days. The regular workweek was relaxed to allow everyone a full day and a half-day off each week. The stand down period allowed personnel to rest, spend time with family, and take care of stateside business after the demanding 4 ½ month long deployment.

Even though the ship was in a stand down status, both routine and situational events required the crew's attention. Captain Bush, TICONDEROGA's seventh Commanding Officer, visited the ship for lunch on February 10th.

Several of TICONDEROGA's crewmembers participated in the numerous Mardi Gras parades in the local area, including the Pascagoula Mardi Gras Parade on the 13th. President's Day was observed on the 15th with the ship celebrating by displaying ceremonial full-dress (a rainbow of flags and pennants displayed from the jackstaff to each mast ending at the flagstaff). The ship moved from its position outboard of the THOMAS S. GATES to pier side on the 17th to allow the THOMAS S. GATES to get underway and allow TICONDEROGA improved access to support opportunities. The 18th of February was turnover day between the 1st and 2nd leave periods. An Awards Ceremony was held on board to recognize many of TICONDEROGA sailors for their outstanding performance during the successful Counter Drug Operations Deployment. Engineering personnel supervised underwater hull cleaning conducted from February 22nd to the 26th. Initial Smart Ship measurements were conducted on board by Litton Industries to enable Bridge, Engineering, and Combat System personnel to prepare for installation of the Smart Ship computer system scheduled for installation commencing in mid April.

The E-4 Advancement Exam was held onboard TICONDEROGA on March 2, 1999. The second leave period ended on March 3rd, marking the end of the post deployment leave and upkeep period, and the ship returned to normal working hours. The E-5 Advancement Exam was administered March 4th on the messdecks. TICONDEROGA conducted a fast cruise on March 5th to ensure the crew was ready to get underway the following week. STGC (SW) Law's retirement ceremony was held on the flight deck on the afternoon of March 5th. An Ombudsman Luncheon was held in the in-port cabin to honor Mrs. Beverly Heathman, TICONDEROGA's ombudsman on March 8th.

USS TICONDEROGA was awarded the honor of The Battle Efficiency Award (Battle "E") winner for the ship with the best overall inspection scores and combat readiness over the course of the 1998 calendar year. This award distinguished TICONDEROGA from all other Cruiser and Destroyer class ships in the Western Hemisphere Group. TICONDEROGA won Excellence Awards in all warfare areas. The coveted "E" for Engineering, Supply, Operations, Combat Systems, and Weapons were painted on TICONDEROGA's bridge wings by crewmembers on March 8th. Naval Station Pascagoula and the Mississippi Gulf Press provided media

coverage as TICONDEROGA proudly displayed her hard earned Battle "E" and Warfare Excellence Awards.

TICONDEROGA got underway on March 9th en route to Norfolk, Virginia for a training availability. The E-6 exam was administered on board after securing from sea detail. From March 10th to March 12th, Information Awareness Training was conducted to educate shipboard personnel about computer security issues associated with use of government computers and to support preparation for the Local Area Network (LAN) installation scheduled for TICONDEROGA in the summer months of 1999. On March 10th, TICONDEROGA conducted a "Fire for Effect" exercise. This exercise required fifty continuous rounds be expelled from both the forward and aft 5"/54 gun mounts. Each mount successfully shot 50 continuous rounds, leaving blistering and peeling paint on the gun barrel. Fueling at Sea (FAS) was conducted with the USNS Big Horn on March 13th. Many TICONDEROGA crewmembers experienced being alongside another ship underway for the first time while learning about underway replenishment watch standing requirements from more experienced sailors.

TICONDEROGA arrived at Pier 2 in Norfolk, Virginia on Sunday afternoon, March 14th after a long and rainy sea detail and moored behind the USS MONTEREY (CG 61). Prior to mooring, TICONDEROGA successfully completed two degaussing runs at the degaussing range in Norfolk harbor. Vans and buses were obtained Sunday afternoon to ensure transportation for all crewmembers attending schools off the ship. A large percentage of the crew attended training at various schools on Norfolk Operating Base, Little Creek Amphibious Base, and Dam Neck during the two-week period from March 15th to March 26th. TICONDEROGA's Officers of the Deck and Conning Officers participated in ship handling simulators each evening from March 16th through March 18th to increase their shipbuilding skills and their understanding of the many forces affecting ship movement. Deck department personnel participated in an Underway Replenishment trainer on the 22nd and 23rd of March.

TICONDEROGA got underway from Pier 2 on the morning of the 24th en route to Yorktown Naval Weapon Station. The ship arrived in Yorktown the afternoon of the 24th to commence weapons offload. TICONDEROGA continued her weapons offload through Friday, March 26th. On Saturday

morning, March 27th, TICONDEROGA departed Yorktown en route for Mayport, Florida to pick up friends and relatives of TICONDEROGA crewmembers for the 1999 Tiger Cruise.

On the afternoon of March 29th TICONDEROGA arrived in Mayport, Florida. The first group of Tigers (friends and relatives of crewmembers) arrived on a bus coming from Pascagoula, Mississippi late in the evening of the 29th. The second group of Tigers arrived during the morning on Tuesday, March 30th. Most of the 61 Tigers had an opportunity to tour the helicopter squadron hangar of HSL-46 Detachment 9 during the morning before getting underway for Pascagoula late in the afternoon on the 30th.

Wednesday, March 31st, was filled with Tiger activities including briefs and demonstrations of TICONDEROGA's warfighting and operational capabilities. In the morning, the Rigged Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB) was lowered to the water during a man-overboard drill for Tigers to observe first-hand the quick response of the TICONDEROGA boat crew. Tigers also participated in several ship recovery man overboard drills. In the afternoon Tigers and crewmembers were given the opportunity to shoot 50 caliber guns from the starboard side 0-3 level. The month of March concluded

with BINGO on the messdecks for Tigers and crewmembers on the evening of the 31st.

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) conducted a Full Power Run and crash back for the crew and Tiger Cruise participants on the morning of April 1st. The day's events included Damage Control demonstrations and tours of the Engineering spaces. In the afternoon the Tigers attended an end-of-cruise ceremony with the Commanding Officer in the helicopter hangar. Commander Dietrich presented each Tiger a certificate declaring them as an Honorary TICONDEROGA crewmember. Chaplain Tanner of Western Hemisphere Group conducted a Maundy Thursday service on board TICONDEROGA Thursday evening. The Tigers and crew enjoyed an evening of pizza and movies on the final night of the 1999 Tiger Cruise.

Early Friday morning, April 2nd, several members of the crew attended a Good Friday worship service in the training room. Heavy fog filled the Pascagoula Bay area resulting in a short delay for sea detail. TICONDEROGA moored outboard of the THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) and the YORKTOWN (CG 48) at Naval Station Pascagoula about an hour and a half after the scheduled time of 0900. Friends and family

greeted the returning crewmembers and Tigers on the pier. The TICONDEROGA spouse's club held an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of all crewmembers on April 3rd.

Installation of the Smart Ship Upgrade began during the week following Easter. The Central Control Station (CCS), Combat System Maintenance Central (CSMC), and the Bridge had equipment and current systems removed and the spaces were prepped for the Smart Ship modifications. Specific technologies of the Smart Ship Installation include: the Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Condition Assessment System (ICAS), Damage Control System (DCS), Machinery Control System (MCS), Fuel Control System (FCS), Ship Wide Area Network (SWAN) and the Wireless Internal Communication System (WICS). All spaces on the ship felt the affect of the installation in some way or another. The Restricted Availability (RAV) officially commenced on April 6th. Repair 2 personnel attended firefighting team training in Mayport, Florida on April 6th. Repair 5 and Repair 3 personnel also attended the team trainer on the 9th and 20th respectively.

Two crewmembers from Operations department were in a serious car accident on April 9th. OS3 Christopher Jones,

of Gainesville, Florida died on Saturday morning, the 10th of April at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The crew assembled on the forecastle on April 13th for a Memorial Service to honor the memory of Petty Officer Jones. About 30 TICONDEROGA crewmembers traveled to and attended the funeral in Gainesville, Florida on Thursday, April 15th.

During the week of April 12th, the Chief Engineer and six Engineering Department representatives traveled to the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to review the training for the human/machine interface on the new computer systems being installed on TICONDEROGA. The training plan was not fully established and it was decided another review would be required prior to commencing training of the crew.

On April 16th the Damage Control Olympics was staged on the pier with the YORKTOWN, THOMAS S. GATES and the TICONDEROGA competing in pipe patching, OBA donning, P-100 usage, and other damage control events. The YORKTOWN hosted a picnic following the DC Olympics at the Ball Park pavilion on base. The command semi-annual physical readiness test was conducted at the base gym on the

mornings of 27, 28, and 29 April. Students from Oak Park Elementary school toured the YORKTOWN and had refreshments on the TICONDEROGA on the morning of April 29th.

In the month of May, the Smart Ship installation continued with contractors from Litton Industries and shipyard workers from Ingalls pulling cables, welding equipment bases, and installing new computer consoles. On May 5th, DCCS Anaya was frocked to Senior Chief by the flagpole at Naval Station Pascagoula headquarters. On May 7th Commander Destroyer Squadron Six, Captain J. P. Debbout, presented awards to several TICONDEROGA crewmembers for their efforts during Hurricane Georges in September of 1998. He congratulated the crew for the outstanding job each of them performed, enabling the TICONDEROGA to earn the Battle "E" . Captain Debbout opened the deck for questions and expressed concern in tackling some of the unique problems associated with being stationed at a base located a great distance from traditional support. Also on May 7th, ten volunteers from the ship accompanied a kindergarten class from the ship's adopted school, Jackson Elementary, to Marine Life in Biloxi. Hurricane training

commenced May 7th in preparation for the 1999 Hurricane Season starting June 1st.

On May 10th, tugs assisted TICONDEROGA turn around in order to have the port side alongside the pier. First Division commenced preparing and preserving the port side with paint. An Armed Forces Day luncheon was held on May 12 at La Font Inn. On May 14th, the crew assembled on the forecastle early in the morning to officially receive the 1998 Battle "E" brass plaque from Commander Western Hemisphere Group, Rear Admiral Ellison. Rear Admiral Ellison presented the plaque to CDR Dietrich, while commending the crew for their outstanding performance and superb professionalism during the 1998 calendar year. May 14th was also Spouse Appreciation Day and TICONDEROGA's Command Master Chief arranged for roses to be sold on the ship for sailors to take home to their spouses. Each spouse of a TICONDEROGA crewmember received a Letter of Appreciation in the mail signed by Commander Dietrich. Armed Forces Day was celebrated on May 15th. Family activities for Armed Forces Day were held in Gulfport, Mississippi featuring exhibits from all branches of the

military. TICONDEROGA's family support group manned a fund-raising booth at the event during the afternoon.

On May 16th, the three-year contract between Ingalls Shipyard and 13 unions expired. Several of the unions were not satisfied with the contract proposed and a three-week strike commenced. Ingalls Shipyard hired replacement personnel to work during the strike and were able to hire approximately 75 percent of the normal work force by the third week of the strike. Picket lines were manned by striking shipyard workers 24-hours a day at the entrance to Ingalls Shipyard.

Training on the Integrated Bridge System (IBS) took place during the last week of May and the first week of June. The two-day course offered Bridge and Combat Information Center watch standers the opportunity to become familiar with the IBS software including the Voyage Management System (VMS).

On May 26th the officers of TICONDEROGA's wardroom played several games of paintball at an indoor paintball arena in Biloxi, Mississippi. The school year for Jackson Elementary ended on May 28th. Several of the thirty Adopt-a-School volunteers celebrated the beginning of the

summer with cake and ice cream in their respective classes. The month of May ended with a three-day weekend. Memorial Day was observed on May 31st with the half-masting of the National Ensign until 1220 in the afternoon.

On Tuesday morning, June 2nd, the crew of TICONDEROGA returned to work after a three day holiday weekend. At 0730 an awards/promotion ceremony was held on the forecastle to promote two officers to the rank of Lieutenant and to present end of tour awards to two departing officers. The crew received Smart Ship training over CCTV on the seven core technologies of the Smart Ship installation.

The annual command picnic was held at the Lakeside Recreation Facility on Friday, June 4th. Crawfish, chicken, and hot dogs were served while crewmembers and their families participated in canoeing, basketball, and volleyball. Water guns, whistles and an assortment of other prizes were handed out to the children participating in various carnival style games. A dunk tank offered volunteers a chance to cool off from the heat of the Mississippi summer sun.

The Ingalls Shipyard Union strike came to a close June 4th and workers returned to work in full force on Monday, June 7th. On Wednesday morning, June 9th, the YORKTOWN got underway and moved across the pier allowing the JOHN L. HALL to tie up alongside TICONDEROGA in the afternoon.

On June 14th, Captain Foster, Deputy, Western Hemisphere Group toured TICONDEROGA spaces. A Surface Navy Association Luncheon was held at the Naval Station Base Gym featuring Captain Foster as the main speaker. The Pascagoula chapter of the Surface Navy Association elected officials at the luncheon. On Wednesday, June 16th, a Frocking Ceremony for newly appointed Petty Officers was held on the forecastle. A Hurricane Preparedness Brief was conducted at the base gym for Pascagoula based personnel and their families on the evening of the 16th. Information concerning evacuation to Meridian, Mississippi in case of a hurricane in the local area and other general preparedness information was provided.

On June 24th the USS YORKTOWN hosted a golf tournament for all ships homeported in the Pascagoula area. Various teams of officers and enlisted personnel competed in the tournament. The wardroom played golf again on Friday, June

25th prior to a social gathering at Huck's Café as they bid farewell to the Supply Officer. On Saturday morning, June 26th, approximately 15 crewmembers donned blue jeans and carried trash bags along Highway 90 for several hours of intensive clean-up. The TICONDEROGA has adopted a portion of the Highway to maintain and remove litter.

On Monday, June 28th, twenty crewmembers attended extensive fire fighting training in Mobile, Alabama. The trainer, ex-USS Shadwell, is a decommissioned ship that provides a realistic platform to experience fires at sea. The comprehensive training lasted for the entire week ending July 2nd.

The crew of USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) celebrated the Fourth of July with liberty on Monday July 5th. On Tuesday, July 6th, the Pascagoula Naval Base sponsored a Red Cross blood drive which many TICONDEROGA sailors supported. The Command Advancement Program (CAP) board met July 9th to consider candidates for advancement to E-4, E-5, and E-6. TICONDEROGA is entitled to command advance four sailors each year. Sailors chosen must have met all advancement requirements and have passed the most recent advancement exam to the next higher grade but have not been selected

for advancement off the semi-annual advancement exam.

Selected for CAP advancement were Yeoman Second Class Petty Officer Moore to Yeoman First Class and Seaman Campbell to Boatswains Mate Third Class Petty Officer

On July 14th the Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Senior Sailor of the Quarter boards met to select two sailors who deserved recognition for the work and commitment they had shown above and beyond what was expected during the months of April, May, and June. Fire Controlman First Class McKinney and Sonar Technician Third Class Adams were selected.

The Commanding Officer and Chief Engineer also departed Pascagoula on Wednesday, July 14th to attend a Smart Ship In Progress Review (IPR) meeting on Thursday at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On July 15th the Limited Duty Officer board for four TICONDEROGA First Class Petty Officers was held at the CHET building on base.

TICONDEROGA hosted approximately 20 reservists during the weekend of July 17th and 18th. Seventeen reservists from USS STEPHEN W. GROVES used TICONDEROGA as their drilling platform while STEPHEN W. GROVES was deployed. A Reserve

Journalist Chief brought a Photographers Mate and a Seaman on board that same weekend to prepare stories about TICONDEROGA sailors to submit to hometown newspapers.

TICONDEROGA manned General Quarters (GQ) stations on July 19th for training to prepare the crew in fighting main space fires and to train on various top-side underway watch proficiencies. During the next few months, TICONDEROGA would continue to hone firefighting skills and combat system warfighting skills with GQ scheduled every Monday and Wednesday morning. On Wednesday, July 21st, YN1 Moore and BM3 Campbell were command advanced on the flight deck by the Commanding Officer. Wireless Internal Communication System (WICS) training was held for all hands on July 20th and 21st. The ship-wide hand held radio system was installed as part of the Smart Ship upgrade and enables key personnel, watchstanders, and duty section personnel to communicate clearly while conducting normal emergency procedures throughout the course of duty.

A Safety Stand Down was conducted on the morning of Wednesday, July 27th. The crew stopped all work to view videos, listen to speakers and conduct safety inspections. The videos and guest speakers emphasized the dangers

associated with drinking alcoholic beverages and operating motor vehicles and water vessels. Safety inspections of all spaces were conducted by safety petty officers, leading petty officers, Chiefs and Division Officers to identify potential safety hazards throughout the ship.

Following twenty years of service, EN1(SW) Roger Allen retired from the Navy with a reception on the Flight Deck on Friday, July 30th. The Executive Officer, acting in the Commanding Officer's absence, provided remarks on EN1 (SW) Allen's impressive record and performance throughout his naval career to the family and crewmembers present. That same morning, sailors conducted a clean-up on the section of Highway 90 sponsored by TICONDEROGA. After several hours of picking up trash, a cook-out on site, featuring hamburgers and chips, was held for all participants.

The week of August 2nd through August 6th was busy for TICONDEROGA sailors. Gun qualifications were conducted at the Keesler Air Force Range. Each day the Gunnersmates transported two groups of duty section personnel to the range to qualify with the 9mm pistol and the shotgun. Ribbons for Marksman with the 9mm gun were earned by all

participants. Fourteen sailors further qualified for the Sharpshooter ribbon and nine sailors for the Expert medal.

Members of the Afloat Training Group (ATG), including the Propulsion Examination Board (PEB) were on board examining the Engineering spaces and programs during the week of August 2nd through 6th. On Wednesday, August 4th, a Safety Survey was conducted by the Naval Safety Center. The Hazardous Material Program, Electrical Safety Program, Hearing Conservation Program and Heat Stress Program were inspected by senior enlisted personnel from the Naval Safety Center. The Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) was conducted on Wednesday, August 4th to assess TICONDEROGA's aviation organization with emphasis on equipment, tools, and safety.

VADM Giffin, COMNAVSURFLANT, arrived on Wednesday, August 4th for a comprehensive look at the progress of the Smart Ship installation. Admiral Giffin spoke with crewmembers as he walked through spaces on the ship examining new consoles and equipment. After touring TICONDEROGA and YORKTOWN, VADM Giffin had lunch on board TICONDEROGA with area Commanding Officers and Department Heads. In the afternoon, after touring Litton Training

Facilities, COMNAVSURFLANT spoke with area Surface Warfare Junior Officers at the Tiki Restaurant and Marina. The Admiral finished off his visit with dinner at the Catch of the Day restaurant in Ocean Springs with the local Commanding Officers.

A ceremony kicking-off the 1999-2000 school year mentoring program for Jackson Elementary was held in the afternoon on Monday, August 16th in the school's auditorium. On Tuesday, August 17th, after morning Physical Training, TICO's crew enjoyed baked goods sold on the messdecks by the Family Support Group while TICO's Department Heads attended an off-site breakfast at La Font Inn with the CMC, XO, and CO.

On Wednesday, August 18th, Western Hemisphere Group Chaplain, LT Thompson, began holding office hours on board TICONDEROGA. Every Wednesday he scheduled weekly devotions from 1115 to 1130 followed by office hours from 1200 to 1400 to provide spiritual counseling to crewmembers. Duty section 6 attended a firefighting team trainer in Mayport, Florida on Wednesday, August 18th. Duty Section 1 departed Pascagoula on Tuesday, August 24th, for one day of

firefighting team training in Mayport on Wednesday, August 25th.

Several members of the Wardroom attended the Surface Navy Association's Fall Membership drive at the Tiki Restaurant and Marina on Friday afternoon, August 27th while TICONDEROGA's softball team traveled to Panama City, Florida to compete in the All Military Softball tournament. TICONDEROGA's softball team played in three softball games during the week-end long tournament. A local Boy Scout troop toured the ship on Saturday August 21st

Undersea Warfare Team Training for the Sonar Technicians and Operation Specialists was conducted during the week of August 23rd through August 27th. The YORKTOWN and JOHN L HALL returned to homeport on Thursday, August 26th. The galley on board TICONDEROGA underwent deck replacement beginning August 31st and the ship adjusted its daily schedule slightly to coincide with YORKTOWN's tropical hours in order to mess on board USS YORKTOWN. Breakfast was served after quarters each morning and lunch was served at 1400 during the two week time frame. The duty section ate box lunches on board in the helo hangar.

A promotion ceremony was held in the Helo Hangar on Wednesday, September 1st to promote LTJG Savage to Lieutenant. His promotion coincided with a billet change from Auxiliary Officer to Combat Information Center Officer. TICONDEROGA's departments underwent a reorganization as a result of the off-site meeting in August. A new department, Information Systems, was established and Combat Systems and Weapons were combined into one department. Information Systems Department consists of the Radiomen, Information Systems, Information Training and the Electronic Technicians. The new department was set up to support changes necessary as TICONDEROGA evolves as a Smart Ship. The Weapons Department absorbed the Aegis Fire Controlmen and was re-named the Combat Systems Department.

On September 3rd, Section 3 Inport Emergency Team attended Firefighting Team Training in Mayport. The crew of TICONDEROGA observed Labor Day Holiday on September 6th, 1999. On Tuesday, September 7th, Navy Marine Corps News came on board to prepare a story on TICONDEROGA's Smart Ship Installation. On Thursday, September 9th, the E-4

Advancement Exam was administered in the Helo Hangar. On Thursday, September 9th, an Electronic Key Material System (EKMS) inspection was conducted on board TICONDEROGA, which the ship passed with zero discrepancies. About 40 Navy veterans from the ex-USS TAUSSIG (DD 746) and their spouses toured TICODNEROGA during the morning and afternoon of Friday, September 10th. On Friday afternoon, several sailors helped cut grass and improve the schoolyard of Jackson Elementary School, our adopted school. The messdecks reopened on Tuesday September 14 and the crew returned to the normal meal hour routine. The E-5 exam was administered on the messdecks on Tuesday September 14th. Area First Class Petty Officers selected for Chief Petty Officer were promoted at the Naval Station Gym Thursday afternoon, September 16th. Chief Petty Officer Harry Smith of TICONDEROGA had his family put on his anchors at the ceremony. A follow on celebration was held at the Pascagoula branch American Legion. On Friday, September 17th at 1300, the Surface Navy Association sponsored a golf tournament at Mississippi National Golf Course. Twenty-eight teams of 4 people competed for the best score. Prizes were awarded for various categories and a cook out

manned by YORKTOWNS Engineering Department followed the long afternoon of golfing. Several of the officers in the wardroom went fishing on Saturday, September 19th, in the Gulf of Mexico.

On September 20th, Aegis Training Readiness Center (ATRC) conducted training at Briscoe Hall and on board TICONDEROGA for the sailors and officers involved in CIC watchstanding. Basic Cryptological Afloat Training and Communication Cryptological Afloat Training was held during the week of September 20th through September 24th at Keesler Air Force Base. Section 4 Inport Emergency Team Training was held in Mayport on September 21st. On Tuesday September 21st a blood drive was held at the base gym.

On Saturday September 25th, Sea Cadets from Milton, Florida trained on board TICONDEROGA for four hours. During their training they manned firehoses, became familiar with small arms, conducted signal flag training and operated consoles in Combat Information Central (CIC).

Supply Department held an awards ceremony on September 27th and Repair/Damage Control Division held an awards ceremony on September 29th, both to recognize superior performance by crew members. A local news channel, WLOX,

interviewed the Commanding officer on board TICONDEROGA on the morning of Thursday, September 30th. The interview focused on the Smart Ship installation and was aired the same evening.

The first day of the new fiscal year brought much to celebrate for the crew of TICONDEROGA. On Friday, October 1st, Signalman Chief Petty Officer (Surface Warfare) Young retired from the Navy in a ceremony at Briscoe Hall. That same afternoon, in the wardroom, Chief Warrant Officer Horshok was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade under the Limited Duty Officer Program. Section 2 Inport Emergency Team spent the day in Mayport for fire fighting team training while in Pascagoula a Search and Rescue (SAR) evaluation was conducted on board.

On Sunday, October 3rd, the THOMAS S. GATES returned to homeport. Family and friends waiting for the returning warship gathered aboard TICONDEROGA anticipating the much awaited reunions with loved ones. The crew of GATES ate meals on board TICO for the first four days after they arrived inport. A new modular INDOCTRINATION class for personnel reporting to TICONDEROGA started on October 4th. The class features five core subject areas: Watchstanding,

Fire Fighting, Damage Control, Security, and Ship's Programs. All reporting personnel are required to qualify in watchstanding, damage control, small arms, and CPR prior to reporting to their parent division. On Tuesday, October 5th, Section 5 Inport Emergency Team spent the day training in Mayport. The Family Support Group held their monthly meeting Thursday evening, October 7th, at the First Presbyterian Church. A special presentation on TriCare was given by Judy Savage of the Tricare Service Center in Biloxi. On October 8th, Admin Department held an Awards Ceremony and the First Class Association conducted a Highway clean-up on Highway 90 followed by a picnic lunch. That evening, the wardroom gathered at the Chief Engineers house to hail newly arriving officers and bid farewell to departing officers.

The crew observed the Columbus Day holiday on October 11th. On Wednesday, October 13th, the Surface Detailers held a conference at Building 10 on base to provide information about the Surface Warfare career path, the detailing process, and selection board processes. Following the conference, the Surface Navy Association held a luncheon at Tiki's featuring Captain Conway, the Head of Surface

Detailing (PERS-41) as the speaker. TICONDEROGA celebrated the United States Navy's birthday that afternoon in the Helo Hangar. The oldest and youngest sailor on board cut the cake after the Commanding Officer made brief comments about the Navy's rich history.

On Thursday afternoon, October 14th, the Commanding Officer spontaneously awarded the Messdecks Master-at-Arms, Ships Serviceman Second Class Harris, with a Navy Achievement Meday (NAM). That evening, a Tricare Brief for single sailors was held at Briscoe Hall on base. The results of the Junior Sailor of the Quarter Boards were announced on October 19th. Seaman Tillerias and Ship Serviceman First Class (Surface Warfare) Hibbler were selected for their outstanding performance during the final quarter of the 1999 fiscal year.

During the week of October 23rd through 27th Afloat Training Group Mayport was on board to train and assist the Engineering Department in their preparation for the upcoming Light Off Assessment (LOA). Each of the six duty sections held training on Navy Benefits from October 22nd until October 27th. USS JOHN L. HALL returned to port on Monday, October 25th and moored outboard of TICONDEROGA. On

Thursday, October 26th, thirty TICONDEROGA sailors qualified for 9mm and 12 gauge shotgun at the Keesler Air Force Range.

The Learning Center on base hosted an open house a noon on Friday, October 27th. The annual Navy Ball was held at the Isle of Capri Casino in Biloxi on Saturday, October 30th. TICONDEROGA's crew and their spouses enjoyed an evening of music and dancing while they celebrated the Navy's 224th Birthday.

On November 1st, four officers from TICONDEROGA's wardroom reported to Norfolk, Virginia for three full days of simulated shiphandling training at the MSI trainer. Also during the first week in November, TICONDEROGA shifted to the winter dress uniform and expanded duty sections. On Tuesday, November 2nd, the duty sections grew from six to eight, allowing sailors to spend more evenings at home with their families. During that same week, the Combat Systems Team Trainer LTT was on board to assist TICONDEROGA with Combat Systems Training. On November 2nd, USS JOHN L HALL got underway and USS THOMAS S GATES came alongside TICONDEROGA.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, the crew had the opportunity to attend a brief at the SIMA classroom on base presented by the Advancement Exam test writers from Saufley Field, Pensacola. On Friday, November 5th, Captain Nichols,

crewmembers. Captain McLane, a TICONDEROGA plankowner visited the ship that day as well.

At noon on Wednesday, November 10th the Surface Navy Association (SNA) hosted a luncheon at the TIKI Restaurant and Lounge featuring Mr. St Pe of Litton Ship Systems as the speaker. That same afternoon, Electronics Technician First Class Petty Officer Toole was frocked to Chief Petty Officer in the Chief's Mess with his wife present. The crew observed Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11th and on Friday November 12th, TICONDEROGA conducted a clean-up at Jackson Elementary School.

On Wednesday, November 17th, TICONDEROGA conducted a Link 11 Long Look and the ship did a dead stick move to turn the ship around. Training in the month of November included ship wide general military training on Achieving Professional Goals and Voyage Management System/ Integrated Bridge System training for bridge watch standers. On Friday, November 19th the second class swimmer test was administered to boat crew personnel. TICONDEROGA bid a fond farewell to Store Keeper Master Chief Andrews as he retired from the Navy on November 19th following 24 years of faithful service. His retirement ceremony was held in the helo hangar and attended by a large percentage of Supply Department, family, and visiting friends.

On November 22nd, two tour groups arrived to learn about the various systems on board TICONDEROGA. Students from Gulf Coast Community College came on board to study the

technology advancements recently installed on TICONDEROGA as part of the Smart Ship Installation and the Elementary School students enjoyed a dynamic missile launcher display followed by juice and cookies on the messdecks. Combat Systems Department held an Awards Ceremony on the Flight Deck that same afternoon. Later that evening, on November 22nd, the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff spoke at a formal dinner at the Gulf Coast Coliseum to a large crowd of military and civilian personnel.

On Tuesday, November 23rd, Operations Department held an Awards Ceremony and the Commanding Officer pinned several sailors who had recently qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists on board. The crew enjoyed a four day weekend over the Thanksgiving Holiday beginning November 25th.

TICONDEROGA successfully completed an Aviation Certification and Search and Rescue Evaluation during the week of November 29th. Commander Destroyer Squadron Six, Captain J. P. Debbout, came on board Tuesday, November 30th to visit the ship. The Naval Station sponsored a blood drive on November 30th at the base gym.

On Friday, December 3rd, Information Systems Department held an Awards Ceremony on the Flight Deck. Captain Debbout, Commander Destroyer Squadron Six came on board in preparation for the upcoming turnover between Western Hemisphere Group and Destroyer Squadron Six. The crew

received general military training on Recreation and Off-duty Safety from December 3rd to December 11th. Several TICONDEROGA sailors participated in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Day 5K Run on the base track early Tuesday morning, December 7th. TICONDEROGA took First and Second Place in both the overall male and female divisions. On Wednesday morning, December 8th, TICONDEROGA was moved from the east side of the pier to the west side as ships were organized for the holiday period.

During the week of December 6th-10th, Afloat Training Group (ATG) Mayport was on board to assist TICONDEROGA in various Engineering training requirements. On Thursday, December 9th, the crew was graded on their responses to a Main Space Fire Drill. The quarterly Sailor of the Quarter Board met on Friday, December 10th. That same afternoon the wardroom participated in an outdoor paintball challenge in Mobile, Alabama. On Saturday December 11th, the spouse club sponsored a children's Christmas party at the base gym.

A Petty Officer Indoctrination class was held for all participants of the September advancement exam who were selected for Third Class Petty Officer. The class was facilitated by Chief Petty Officers and First Class Petty

facilitated by Chief Petty Officers and First Class Petty Officers who stressed core values and the responsibilities required of leadership. On December 16th, the crew assembled on the Flight Deck for a comprehensive Frocking and Awards Ceremony. Information Technician Third Class Brown and Fire Controlman Second Class Price were announced as the Command Advancement Program recipients. Gas Turbine Electrician First Class Gazzara and Information Technician Third Class Teems were selected as the Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter respectively. The Sailor of the Year results were also announced, with the Senior and Junior Sailors of the Year being Ships Serviceman First Class Hibbler and Sonar Technician Third Class Adams, respectively. That afternoon Engineering tests were conducted to test the latest version of software in the Engineering Plant. On Friday, December 17th, Destroyer Squadron Six officially became TICONDEROGA's Immediate Superior in Command replacing Western Hemisphere Group.

The first holiday leave period began on Friday, December 17. Naval Station Pascagoula judged the Holiday Lighting Display contest on Friday evening reporting TICONDEROGA as the Ship Division winner the following week.

party at the Commanding Officer's home and in addition to celebrating the Holiday season, the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Cynthia Thebaud was honored as her tour on board came near to an end.

Local YMCA holiday day camp groups toured TICONDEROGA on December 20th and 21st. The crew observed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with holiday routine and the Christmas dinner was served on board USS THOMAS S. GATES. On December 28th, several sailors from TICONDEROGA had the opportunity to visit with veterans as they toured the Naval Home in Gulfport Mississippi. The crew celebrated New Year's Eve day with holiday routine.