



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)

FPO AA 34093-1158

*Rev 10 4/10/01
w/ disk*

5750

Ser CG 47/

15 MAR 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G, Command Histories
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for Calendar Year 2000
(3) Narrative of Events for Calendar Year 2000
(4) Biography of CDR Glen R. Sears II
(5) Change of Command Program
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(7) 3 ½" disk with enclosures (1) through (4)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted for inclusion in USS TICONDEROGA's command history file for calendar year 2000.

G. R. SEARS II
G. R. SEARS II

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) is part of Destroyer Squadron Six of Naval Surface Group Two, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and is homeported in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Her unit identification code is 21281. TICONDEROGA's crew is comprised of approximately 30 officers and 325 enlisted personnel. The Commanding Officer during the first half of 2000 was Commander King H. Dietrich. He was relieved by Commander Glen R. Sears II on 09 June 2000 at Naval Station Pascagoula. TICONDEROGA's operational mission during 2000 included the final installation and testing of Smart Ship technology, as well as successfully completing a deployment to South America in support of UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase.

The components 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), Shipwide Area Network (SWAN), and the Wireless Internal Communications System (WICS).

During UNITAS 41-00, TICONDEROGA served as the United States flagship with COMDESRON FOURTEEN, Captain J. F. Weppler, USN, embarked. One SH-60B Seahawk from HELICOPTER SQUADRON LIGHT 44 DET 3 was onboard for the deployment. The helicopter was flown by five pilots and maintained by 11 aviation specialists.

CHRONOLOGY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000

01 JAN New Year's Day
03 JAN ADNS/GCCS-M-NT/INMARSAT "B" Installation
05 JAN 2nd Leave Period Ends
05 JAN Force Master Chief Visit
14 JAN Executive Officer Turnover
15 JAN TICONDEROGA Receives 1999 SURFLANT Ship
Safety Award
17 JAN Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday (Holiday)
18-21 JAN Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ)
Limited Team Trainer (LTT)
20 JAN E-7 Advancement Exam
22 JAN TICONDEROGA's 17th Birthday
28 JAN Promotion and Awards Ceremony

01 FEB SLQ-32 S/A 582K DDI Installation
07-10 FEB Engineering LTT
10 FEB "A" School Detailer Visit
11 FEB Picayune High School Tour
14-18 FEB Software Regression Testing
18 FEB CMTQ
21 FEB President's Day (Holiday)
22 FEB TICONDEROGA Receives 1999 Battle Efficiency
Award

02 MAR NAVSURFGRU TWO Visit
07 MAR E-4 Advancement Exam
09 MAR E-5 Advancement Exam
14 MAR E-6 Advancement Exam
16 MAR SNA Luncheon
24 MAR COMNAVSURFLANT Visit
27-30 MAR Command PRT

01 APR Uniform Shift to Summer Whites
08 APR Red Cross Luncheon
13 APR Hurricane Preparedness Brief
10-14 APR Supply Management Assist (SMA)
21 APR Highway Clean-Up
27 APR "Take Your Daughter to Work" Day

02 MAY Castlen Elementary School Tour
12 MAY SNA Golf Tournament
20 MAY Armed Forces Day
22-26 MAY Light-Off Assessment (LOA)
29 MAY Memorial Day (Holiday)
30 MAY Dock Trials
31 MAY Fast Cruise

01-02 JUN Smart Ship Sea Trials
 06 JUN Prospective Commanding Officer Sea Trials
 09 JUN Change of Command Ceremony
 12 JUN End Smart Ship Restricted Availability
 16 JUN Frocking Ceremony
 16 JUN Ship's Picnic
 20-23 JUN At-sea Smart Ship Groom
 27-30 JUN At-sea Watchstander Training

 03 JUL Holiday Routine
 03-04 JUL Independence Day (Holiday)
 05-07 JUL At-Sea Integrated Training Evolutions
 10-14 JUL Supply Management Inspection (SMI)
 11 JUL Surface Warfare Officer Detailer Visit
 17-21 JUL Command Assessment of Readiness and Training
 (CART-II)
 24-27 JUL Initial Assessment (IA)
 31 JUL Depart Pascagoula for East Coast Training
 Cruise
 31 JUL Underway enroute Port Everglades, FL

 02-05 AUG Port Visit Port Everglades
 02 AUG Reception onboard for Broward County Navy
 League
 05-08 AUG Underway enroute Norfolk, VA
 06 AUG RAS conducted with USNS BIG HORN
 08 AUG Media embark
 08-10 AUG Port Visit Norfolk at Nauticus
 09 AUG TICO's Smart Ship program featured in *The
 Early Bird, The Virginian Pilot, and The
 Navy Times*
 10-11 AUG Underway enroute Baltimore, MD
 10 AUG Anchored overnight in Chesapeake Bay near
 Cape Charles
 11-16 AUG Port Visit Baltimore
 11 AUG Reception onboard for Baltimore County Navy
 League and Naval Academy Alumni Association
 15 AUG Baltimore Orioles Game
 16-17 AUG Underway enroute Naval Weapons Station
 Yorktown
 16 AUG Honors rendered to Ft. McHenry
 16 AUG Anchored overnight near Cape Charles, VA
 17-18 AUG Weapons onload at Naval Weapons Station
 Yorktown, VA
 19-21 AUG Underway enroute Naval Station Mayport, FL
 19 AUG RAS with USNS BIG HORN
 21 AUG Inport Mayport
 21 AUG HSL 42 DET 3 embarks
 21-26 AUG Underway enroute homeport; WOWUs completed

24 AUG Exercises conducted with USS JOHN L HALL
 (FFG-29) during Hurricane Debby sortie
 25 AUG Hurricane Debby dissipates in GOMEX
 26 AUG Arrive Naval Station Pascagoula
 31 AUG CNO and MCPON Visit

 04 SEP Labor Day (Holiday)
 05 SEP Underway enroute South America for UNITAS
 41-00 Atlantic Phase
 08 SEP BSF Naval Station Guantanamo Bay
 11 SEP BSF Bridgetown, Barbados
 15 SEP "Crossing the Line" Festivities
 17 SEP Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony
 21 SEP BSF Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 24-29 SEP Pre-UNITAS events
 27 SEP RAS with ARA PATAGONIA
 29 SEP-05 OCT Port Visit Ushuaia, Argentina
 30 SEP-04 OCT UNITAS Planning Conferences
 29 SEP COMDESRON 14 embarks

 03 OCT Multi-national enlisted dinner in Ushuaia
 05-14 OCT UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase
 07 OCT RAS with ARA PATAGONIA
 12-13 OCT Freeplay Event
 12 OCT RAS with BRA GASTEO MOTTO
 14-17 OCT Port Visit Bahia Blanca, Argentina
 15 OCT Deputy COMUSNAVSOUTH Visit
 14-17 OCT UNITAS After-Action Conferences
 17 OCT Multi-national officers' reception at Naval
 Station Puerto Belgrano, Argentina
 17-23 OCT Underway enroute Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 18 OCT Exercises conducted with Uruguayan navy
 18 OCT UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase concludes
 23-27 OCT Port Visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 23 OCT COMDESRON 14 debarks
 23 OCT COMUSNAVSOUTH hosted reception onboard for
 multi-national officers and VIPs
 27 OCT Underway enroute Bridgetown, Barbados
 27-31 OCT FEP Preparations

 04-07 NOV Port Visit Bridgetown, Barbados
 04 NOV United States Ambassador to Barbados hosted
 reception onboard
 07 NOV Underway enroute NSRR
 07 NOV RAS with USNS LARAMIE
 07-09 NOV ENCOUNTEREX in Puerto Rican Operating Area
 10-12 NOV Inport NSRR
 12 NOV Underway enroute homeport

14 NOV CDS6 Staff and ATG members embark in Key
 West OPAREA
 15-16 NOV FEP
 17 NOV Arrive Naval Station Pascagoula
 17 NOV HSL 42 Det 3 debarks
 23 NOV Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)
 24 NOV Holiday Routine

 11-12 DEC CSTT and Engineering drills in GOMEX
 12 DEC USS COLE arrives at Ingalls Shipyard for
 repairs
 14 DEC Ship's Christmas Party
 16 DEC Frocking and Awards Ceremony
 15-27 DEC 1st Holiday Leave Period
 25 DEC Christmas Day
 26 DEC Holiday Routine
 27 DEC 2nd Holiday Leave Period Begins
 29 DEC Berth shift to support USS COLE JAN 2001
 weapons offload at Naval Station Pascagoula

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000

The crew of TICONDEROGA welcomed in the New Year of 2000 pierside at Naval Station Pascagoula. From January 3rd through the 10th, the flag was at half-mast in honor of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, former Chief of Naval Operations.

Testing on Smart Ship Engineering Control System Enhancement (ECSE) software responses to engine commands and control units were conducted on January 3rd. The crew of USS THOMAS S GATES (CG 51) began messing on TICONDEROGA on the 4th while their ship underwent a galley maintenance.

The holiday leave and upkeep period ended on January 5th and TICONDEROGA returned to eight-section duty. Linehandlers and Bridge watchstanders manned their stations that afternoon to start engines and roll the port and starboard shaft in order to test Smart Ship software. That same day, the Force Master Chief, William Slingerland, ate lunch onboard TICONDEROGA with the Chief Petty Officers and gathered the crew for an All Hands call on the flight deck.

TICONDEROGA began an IT21 installation on January 3rd. An Automated Digital Networking System (ADNS) that can provide connectivity between Navy ships and shore-based DOD and civilian networks, such as the Internet, was installed. Ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore interfaces via INMARSAT "B" High Speed Data (HSD) are capable of transferring data across the land and ocean. INMARSAT B is a digital satellite communication (SATCOM) upgrade that provides up to 64kbs on a dial-up basis, plus voice, fax, and data transmission capability. A multiplexer provides voice or data capability in conjunction with leasing dedicated full time 64kbps channels.

A Fuels Testing class was conducted for Engineers from the Pascagoula basin in the SIMA classroom during the week of January 10th through 14th. Also during that week, the Combat Information Center team prepared for the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ) with a Limited Team Trainer (LTT) held onboard the ship.

The Radar Navigation Team traveled to King's Bay, GA, and underwent training on the 12th and 13th. That same week, TICONDEROGA's department heads and crewmembers prepared for the Executive Officer's turnover with briefs and meetings designed to orient the prospective Executive Officer with TICONDEROGA's daily routine.

On January 14th, LCDR J.F. Buckley II relieved LCDR C.M. Thebaud as Executive Officer. Engineering software testing continued through the week, and watchstations were manned to roll shafts. TICONDEROGA was awarded the 1999 Surface Force

Atlantic (SURFLANT) Ship Safety Award, recognizing innovative efforts in mishap prevention and command contributions to force readiness through safety.

On January 15th through 17th, TICONDEROGA enjoyed a three-day weekend in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. On January 20th, the Chief Petty Officer examination was given on the messdecks. The shortened week ended on Friday with over 50 crewmembers participating in a Highway 90 clean-up, covering more than two miles of a frequently traveled route in front of the Singing River Mall in Gautier, MS.

TICONDEROGA received a Magazine Sprinkler Certification during the final week of January. A promotion and awards ceremony was held on the flight deck on the morning of January 28th. Later that same afternoon, TICONDEROGA took in all lines and shifted berths.

During the first week of February, the Engineering Department continued to test software by starting main engines and rolling shafts in preparation for the upcoming Engineering Assist Visit. The Engineering LTT in-brief was held February 7th in the Wardroom. The following day, the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification LTT in-brief was held. TICONDEROGA Sailors conducted training scenarios requiring Engineering, Combat Systems, and Operations Departments to work together in preparation for upcoming qualifications.

TICONDEROGA received an upgrade for the Electronic Warfare Suite, a Digital Decoy Interface (DDI) software revision, incorporating all six launchers into the control interface at the SLQ-32 operator console. The software added new algorithms for decoy employment and allows for better use and tracking of decoy engagements.

THOMAS S GATES conducted at-sea exercises and allowed several officer and enlisted watchstanders from TICONDEROGA to get underway for training and experience during the second week of February. On February 11th, students from Picayune High School toured TICONDEROGA. Preparation for the upcoming Supply Maintenance Assessment and Light- Off Assessment continued throughout the third week of February. On the 15th, TICONDEROGA sailors participated in the Naval Station Blood Drive at the base gym.

TICONDEROGA's helicopter fire fighting team members attended a course on combating helo fires in Mayport, Florida on the 17th. The Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification was achieved the following day after a full week of intensive scenarios.

President's Day was celebrated with a three-day weekend, giving TICONDEROGA Sailors a much-deserved break from the regular routine. Good news was received with the announcement

that all Mission Area Objectives had been successfully met by TICONDEROGA during the 1999 calendar year for the prestigious Battle Efficiency Award.

Throughout the month of February, TICONDEROGA continued to come out on top. The Mess Specialists won the Best Presentation category during the Naval Station Pascagoula Soup Cook-Off. A 5-person marathón team from the ship, TICO TREAD, took 3rd place in the Navy Installation division at the Blue Angel Marathon in Pensacola, FL, on February 26th.

On March 2nd, TICO sailors polished and shined their spaces for a visit from Naval Surface Group Two, Rear Admiral Ellison. He spoke separately with first- and second-term Sailors on attrition and retention before speaking with the Chief Petty Officers. On March 3rd an awards ceremony was held to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of TICONDEROGA Sailors. The first weekend in March, crewmembers celebrated Mardi Gras in Pascagoula, Mobile, and New Orleans. The season culminated in rowdy celebrations on Fat Tuesday, March 7th.

A conveyor groom along with operator training was conducted during the week of March 6th through 10th. Advancement exams for E-4 were administered on the 7th on the mess decks. The E-5 exam followed on March 9th, and the E-6 exam was given on the 14th.

A shipwide summer white inspection was conducted by all division officers that week. TICONDEROGA crewmembers gathered in the helo hangar for Bingo at noon on Friday, March 17th to raise money for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. That weekend, the galley was closed for deck covering replacement beginning March 18th and it stayed closed for the remainder of the month.

Two Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officers reported for shipboard orientation on March 20th. The objective of their two-week visit was to observe and learn about surface operations. Although they did not experience any underway time with TICONDEROGA, they learned about the equipment and spaces on the ship and qualified for with the 9mm pistol at the range.

Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT), Vice Admiral Giffin, arrived on March 24th to visit with Pascagoula based ships. He toured TICONDEROGA, talking to Sailors during his transit from the Bridge down into the Engineering spaces. The Smart Ship installation and its delayed progress was of key interest to the Admiral, who gave encouraging remarks to the officers and crew about their hard work and determination to complete the project the right way.

Several First Class Petty Officers attended the Leadership Continuum course offered on base beginning the week of March 27th

in Briscoe Hall. The semi-annual physical readiness test was administered for all hands during that week.

The quarterdeck uniform shifted from Dress Blues to Summer Whites on April 1st. April also marked the one-year anniversary for the Smart Ship installation. On April 6th, the Commanding Officer and crew gathered on the mess decks to commemorate the occasion with a cake. The Smart Ship installation, touted as a nine-week restricted availability period, had software and equipment complications that required more time than originally expected. Regression Testing continued with Engineering Department working a night and day shift in an attempt to expedite the installation process.

On April 8th, a luncheon for local community members was held on board as a prize from a Red Cross fund drive. Command Financial Specialist Training was held in Gulfport during the week of April 10th. On the 14th a Hurricane Preparedness Brief for Pascagoula sailors and their spouses was given at the base gym. A hurricane exercise, HURREX 00, was conducted from April 17th through April 28th. HURREX 00 provided an opportunity for commanders to test local coordination of tropical cyclone preparation and evasion procedures. Communications and post hurricane consequence management was also discussed.

On April 18th, fiber optic training was held on base in the CHET classroom. The following Friday, April 21st, TICONDEROGA conducted a highway clean-up in support of "Trash Bash 2000." After gathering nearly 75 bags of trash, participants enjoyed a cookout in Gautier, MS.

On April 24th a leadership continuum class was held at the Lakeside Galley. Engineering testing continued for the remainder of April, including rolling the shafts on the 26th.

April 27th was designated as "Take Your Daughter to Work" Day. The base sponsored several seminars and activities for daughters at the gym. Several TICONDEROGA officers and Sailors brought their daughters on the ship to shadow them throughout the day. That evening, the Family Support Group met at the First Presbyterian Church in Gautier to further discuss the topic of hurricane preparedness.

On April 28th, GM1(SW) Baldwin and GSCS(SW) Raines both retired from Naval service in ceremonies conducted on the flight deck. Family members joined them to celebrate the years of dedicated service each contributed to their country.

During the month of May, preparations for the upcoming Light-Off Assessment (LOA) continued. Fourth grade students from Castlen Elementary School toured TICONDEROGA on May 2nd. The officers spent the afternoon of May 5th at an outdoor

paintball park in Mobile, AL, challenging the THOMAS S GATES's Wardroom.

The administrative Large Area Network (LAN) received an upgrade during the month of May. Thirty-four of the 39 planned workstations were complete by mid-May, allowing users more options on the LAN. Cable was run throughout the ship to install stations in control stations, workcenters, and staterooms.

On May 12th, the Surface Navy Association sponsored a golf tournament at Gulf Hills Golf Club. After 18 holes of golf, participants enjoyed a cook-out and raffle prizes. On the 18th, several casino owners from Biloxi, MS, toured the ship. May 20th was Armed Forces Day and Naval Station Pascagoula hosted the community. Displays, food, and tours were available to welcome visitors to the base. TICONDEROGA gave tours to over 150 people. TICONDEROGA's spouse group brought out the annual llama for the occasion. Llama rides were given to all interested visitors to help raise money for the group.

The Light-Off Assessment (LOA) was conducted from May 23rd through the 25th prior to Smart Ship Sea Trials. The Engineering Department put in numerous off-duty hours preparing the ship's engineering spaces. The hard work paid off because TICONDEROGA did extremely well, resulting in comments from the inspectors including, "Best LOA we've seen in two years!"

Outside of preparing for inspections, TICONDEROGA Sailors competed in softball games on base. A three-day weekend celebrating Memorial Day was enjoyed by the crew prior to a busy week of Dock Trials and a Fast Cruise. Dock Trials were conducted successfully on May 30th, followed by a Fast Cruise the next day. The Fast Cruise was designed to ensure all watchstations were adequately manned and equipment and communications were up to allow the ship to proceed to sea.

On the morning of June 1st, after being inport Pascagoula for fourteen months due to the extended Smart Ship restricted availability period, TICONDEROGA got underway for sea trials in the Gulf of Mexico. New systems were checked for proper operation at sea and old systems were operated to shake out the cobwebs.

TICONDEROGA successfully fired 20 rounds from both the forward and aft 5"/54 gun mounts at sunset that day. Three bursts of 90 rounds each were fired from each Close-In Weapons System mount. Rounds were also fired from the 50-caliber gun mounts on the 0-3 level. Steering checks and engine orders were tested as well. TICONDEROGA returned to Pascagoula the following day.

The prospective Commanding Officer, Commander Glen R. Sears II, USN, rode the ship for sea trials and commenced turnover with the Commanding Officer. On June 3rd, Naval Station Pascagoula hosted its annual 5K Causeway Classic.

The ship got underway on June 6th as part of the Commanding Officer's turnover and returned to port that same evening. On June 8th, a rehearsal ceremony was held on the pier for the Change of Command. Commander King H. Dietrich took the opportunity to thank his crew for all their hard work and conducted an award ceremony which included command advancing Hull Technician First Class Petty Officer (Surface Warfare/Air Warfare) Calhoun and Corpsman Third Class Petty Officer Scott.

At 1000 on June 9th, 2000, Commander Dietrich was relieved of command by Commander Sears. The crew assembled on the pier with the guests seated under a tent and viewed the Change of Command Ceremony on the Missile Deck. Following the ceremony a reception was held in the hangar.

June 12th marked the official ending date of the Smart Ship restricted availability period. On June 16th, a frocking ceremony was held to promote First and Second Class Petty Officers. Later that afternoon, the command held its annual picnic at the Lakeside Recreation Facility in Pascagoula. Over 200 crewmembers and their families were in attendance and had the opportunity to meet Commander Sears and his family.

TICONDEROGA's "A" softball team came in first place at the Naval Station Pascagoula Championship Softball Tournament on June 19th. The following day TICONDEROGA went to sea for continued systems testing and crew training, returning on June 23rd. Upon return to port, Lieutenant Commander David Haas relieved Lieutenant Commander Brent Smith as Chief Engineer.

At-sea training resumed on June 27th as TICONDEROGA proceeded out to sea for watchstander training. Precision anchoring and various engineering evolutions were accomplished prior to pulling into port on the 30th.

TICONDEROGA's crew celebrated Independence Day with holiday routine observed on both July 3rd and 4th. The ship got underway on the 5th, spending three days at sea. Training included flight quarters, medical training, and engineering drills. On the afternoon of July 6th, TICONDEROGA met USS YORKTOWN (CG 48) for ship maneuvering and conning officer training. TICONDEROGA and YORKTOWN took turns taking station and conducting replenishment-at-sea approaches with each other. TICONDEROGA returned to Pascagoula on July 7th and continued integrated training evolutions in preparation for shipwide training assessments.

During the week of July 10th inspectors examined TICONDEROGA's food service and general store operations as part

of the Supply Management Inspection (SMI). The SMI went smoothly and TICONDEROGA passed all areas of inspection with grades of at least 95 percent, well above the Fleet average. Also during that week, TICONDEROGA received a cryptologic equipment and software installation.

Surface Warfare Officer Detailers from the Bureau of Naval Personnel visited the ship and ate lunch in the wardroom with junior officers on July 11th. Throughout the week TICONDEROGA's Seamanship, Combat Systems, Engineering, and Damage Control training teams conducted integrated training scenarios in preparation for Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART-II).

CART-II took place the week of July 17th. Shipwide material readiness and operational procedures were thoroughly examined during this time. Along with divisional and departmental readiness check sheets, TICONDEROGA conducted integrated training scenarios and passed in all areas.

During the last week of July, the ship's engineering procedures and material condition were reviewed by Destroyer Squadron Six, TICONDEROGA's Immediate Superior in Charge (ISIC), for the Initial Assessment (IA). TICONDEROGA passed with flying colors.

Apart from the various inspections that took place in July, Sailors were busy preparing for a September deployment. In late July, legal officers from Gulfport, MS, assisted the crew with Powers of Attorney and Wills. Counter-espionage training took place at the base gym on July 27th. PACE college class orientation was conducted the 27th and 28th. On July 31st, TICONDEROGA departed Pascagoula for a one-month voyage along the East Coast for training, port visits, and weapons onload.

After navigating around the Straits of Florida, TICONDEROGA arrived in Port Everglades, FL, on the morning of August 2nd. It was her first port visit in almost two years. Upon arrival, the crew was graciously greeted by the Broward County Navy League and Ft. Lauderdale business owners.

A reception was held in the hangar that evening to thank local supporters for their hospitality. At the reception Commander Sears introduced the eight newly selected Chief Petty Officers. The new Chiefs were MAC (SW/AW) Leath, YNC(SW/AW) Greenway, FCC(SW) Countryman, FCC(SW) McKinney, BMC(SW) Shepard, GSMC(SW) Rhodes, EMC(SW) Lawler, and STGC(SW/AW) Davis.

On August 3rd a return calls buffet was hosted at a local Ft. Lauderdale restaurant, compliments of the Broward County Navy League. The crew enjoyed liberty in town and got underway on August 5th enroute Norfolk, VA.

On August 6th TICONDEROGA conducted a replenishment-at-sea (RAS) with USNS BIG HORN off the coast of North Carolina. It was the first RAS the ship had conducted in almost two years. The RAS was a resounding success, with TICONDEROGA taking on over 100,000 gallons of fuel and 5,000 gallons of JP-5 fuel.

TICONDEROGA moored in downtown Norfolk at Nauticus on August 8th. As the ship approached Hampton Roads, reporters from *The Navy Times* and *The Virginian Pilot* were embarked via a helicopter to interview the officers and crew about Smart Ship. Once in the channel, the ship was driven using the Voyage Management System. The following day TICONDEROGA was featured on the front page of *The Virginian Pilot* and appeared in *The Early Bird*. Tours were given to over 2,000 people while the ship was in port Norfolk for a little over two days.

The ship departed Virginia on August 10th and headed to Baltimore, MD, for a port visit. The ship anchored in the Chesapeake Bay for the evening and the crew "blossomed" ship.

On August 11th the ship got underway and arrived in Baltimore. That evening a spectacular reception was held in the hangar for the Baltimore Navy League, Naval Academy Alumni Association, and other local supporters. Many crewmembers attended a Baltimore Orioles game at Camden Yards on August 15th.

As the ship departed the following morning, honors were rendered to Ft. McHenry by raising a fourteen-star flag presented by a historian at the fort. TICONDEROGA headed south enroute Yorktown, VA, but first spent the night anchored in the Chesapeake Bay near Cape Charles.

TICONDEROGA arrived at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown on August 17th. That same day Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (CNSL), Rear Admiral Foley visited to tour Smart Ship. The crew spent two days loading missiles, torpedoes, and ammunition. On August 19th TICONDEROGA got underway enroute Naval Station Mayport, FL. A RAS was conducted with USNS BIG HORN that same day, with 170,000 gallons of fuel received.

On August 21st the ship pulled into Mayport after completing a mine-swept channel exercise off the coast earlier in the morning. Helicopter Squadron Light Forty-Two Detachment Three embarked shortly thereafter.

TICONDEROGA got underway the same day, destined to arrive at homeport on the 25th. Hurricane Debby, a storm brewing in the Eastern Caribbean Sea, however, had other plans for the ship. DESRON SIX ships sortied from Pascagoula to a position off the Yucatan Peninsula, where TICONDEROGA and JOHN L HALL (FFG-29) conducted leapfrogs and ESWS Jeopardy with each other. Helicopter week-one work ups (WOWUs) were safely completed, Hurricane Debby dissipated, and TICONDEROGA arrived home on

August 26th, only a day later than planned. She had successfully completed her first significant out-of-homeport stretch in over a year-and-a-half.

On August 31st Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and MMCM(SS/AW/SW) Herdt, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), paid a visit to TICONDEROGA. After eating breakfast in the wardroom with a mix of junior and senior Sailors, Chief Petty Officers, and officers, the CNO and party were given a tour of Smart Ship by the Captain and the Chief Engineer before holding a press conference on the pier with TICONDEROGA as the backdrop. The CNO spoke of how TICONDEROGA represented all that was bright and fresh for the future of the Navy and how she is a physical representation of the paradigm shift for the 21st century.

On September 5th, after spending a little over a week in port so the crew could spend Labor Day Weekend with their families, TICONDEROGA got underway enroute South America for UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase. On her way to meet up with foreign warships, the ship refueled at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Bridgetown, Barbados; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. On September 15th TICONDEROGA crossed the Equator and about 150 "Polywogs" became "Shellbacks" after partaking in "Crossing the Line" festivities and paying their respects to King Neptune, LTJG Horshok.

Nine days later TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with eight warships from France, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay off the coast of Argentina to begin pre-UNITAS exercises. Events included communications drills, tactical maneuvering, anti-air warfare exercises, and undersea warfare scenarios in preparation for UNITAS.

On September 29th TICONDEROGA arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina, the world's southernmost city, and pre-UNITAS events concluded. USS KLAKRING (FFG 42) and five other South American warships joined the ships already in port the following day. UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase planning conferences began on September 30th at a local hotel. During this time TICONDEROGA assumed duties as the U.S. flagship for Destroyer Squadron Fourteen and embarked Captain J. F. Wepler, USN.

In addition to the meetings, an enlisted dinner was sponsored by the Argentines and the UNITAS band held a concert. TICONDEROGA's sister ship, ARA HEROINA (D 12), was very hospitable and presented multiple gifts to TICONDEROGA. During the five-day port visit, many crewmembers went skiing, took tours to Tierra del Fuego National Park, or went hiking in the Andes.

On October 5th TICONDEROGA got underway and UNITAS 41-00 Atlantic Phase commenced. For nine days TICONDEROGA completed multiple warfare exercises off the coasts of Uruguay and Argentina. Thirty U.S., French, Brazilian, Uruguayan and Argentine ships, submarines and aircraft were involved in the exercises.

A full and challenging schedule of events included quick reaction drills, submarine and air warfare exercises, opposed underway replenishments, amphibious operations, communications and flashing light drills, and a freeplay event. This opportunity to train with the navies of South America also served as the beginning of TICONDEROGA's inter-deployment training cycle (IDTC) as well as a rigorous test of the Engineering Control System Enhancement, or Smart Ship, installation. Smart Ship performed exceedingly well and proved to be a center of interest for all visitors.

A simulated war was fought on October 12th and 13th. TICONDEROGA was part of the "Orange Dissident Forces." Various rules of engagement were violated within both the Orange and Blue Forces and there was no clear winner in the battle.

TICONDEROGA pulled into Ingeniero White, Argentina, for a port visit and after-action conferences on October 14th. A multi-national officers' reception was held at Naval Station Puerto Belgrano, Argentina, on October 17th and was quite the affair. The UNITAS band played jazz and tango music, with the host country providing entertainment in the form of dancers. The dinner provided everyone the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and learn about other cultures before parting ways.

On October 18th TICONDEROGA got underway to conduct one day of exercises with the Uruguayan navy. Events included basic shiphandling maneuvers as well as communications and flashing light drills.

TICONDEROGA arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on October 23rd for a port visit. That evening Commodore, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, Rear Admiral Green, hosted a reception for over 100 Brazilian naval officers and VIP's and several other international officers. COMDESRON 14 and his staff debarked during this time. While in Rio, Sailors not only suntanned on the world-famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, but also assisted in renovating a youth boxing club.

On October 27th the ship got underway enroute Bridgetown, Barbados, for another port visit. During the last few days of the month, preparations for the Final Evaluation Period (FEP), part of the IDTC, were made. Repair locker training and multi-

warfare scenarios were conducted in preparation for this major milestone that is graded by the ship's ISIC.

TICONDEROGA moored in Bridgetown, Barbados on November 4th. A reception was held that evening hosted by the United States Ambassador to Barbados on the flight deck. About fifty guests, mostly local government and military officials, were in attendance. The crew took advantage of the fun offered on the Caribbean island by surfing, sunbathing, or shopping.

On November 7th TICONDEROGA left the most easterly of the Leeward Islands and headed northwest enroute Puerto Rico. That evening, watchstanders in CIC listened to Presidential election updates on a High Frequency circuit while maintaining an accurate surface picture. Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush were neck-and-neck throughout the race, and due to large ballot count discrepancies in Florida, the results of the election were not determined until mid-December.

During this time, TICONDEROGA, KLAKRING, and USNS LARAMIE ("Orange Forces") participated in an encounter exercise with several U.S. warships ("Blue Forces") operating near Vieques Island. For more than a day Orange Forces remained hidden from Blue Forces. On the morning of the 9th, both sides met at sunrise and Blue lost the "battle" when illuminated by TICONDEROGA's fire control radars.

TICONDEROGA spent the weekend in Naval Station Roosevelt Roads as a working port, getting back underway on November 12th. On the morning of the 15th, the ship met a Coast Guard cutter off the coast of Key West for a small boat passenger transfer. Members of Afloat Training Group Mayport and Destroyer Squadron Six came aboard to assess TICONDEROGA's warfighting capabilities during FEP, marking the end of the basic phase of IDTC. FEP was successfully completed on the 15th and 16th.

TICONDEROGA arrived home in Pascagoula on the afternoon of November 17th. She had lived up to her Smart Ship name during the two-and-a-half month deployment, the longest time she had been underway in two years.

The majority of December was spent inport Pascagoula for a Fleet Maintenance Availability and the holiday leave period. During this time personnel from SIMA Pascagoula assisted with some much-needed maintenance onboard TICONDEROGA. Since the ship had been underway essentially non-stop since August, she was in need of a little "TLC," such as fuel tank repairs, watertight door adjustments, and other maintenance issues that can only be resolved while in homeport.

On December 11th the Captain announced the results of the latest advancement cycle and frocked those Sailors later that week. Forty-two percent of the ship's crew were advanced, 10

percent above the Fleet average. Commander Sears also notified the crew that the next deployment will be in April 2001, two months earlier than expected. As always, TICONDEROGA's crew will be ready to get underway and complete her missions.

On December 11th and 12th the ship was underway in the Gulf of Mexico. A Combat Systems Training Team scenario and Engineering drills were conducted in order to maintain proficiency in those areas.

The ship's annual Christmas party was held at Lafont Inn in Pascagoula on the evening of December 14th. About 100 Sailors and their families were in attendance. The first holiday leave period commenced the following afternoon. On Christmas Day about 15 TICONDEROGA families whose significant others had duty shared in a delicious feast onboard prepared by our outstanding Mess Specialists.

On October 12th USS COLE (DDG 67), a ship homeported in Norfolk, was attacked by terrorists in the Persian Gulf. Her port side mid-section was bombed while refueling in port Yemen. Sixteen Sailors and one officer died in the incident. The ship was transported back to the States by a Norwegian ocean tug and will undergo extensive repairs at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, where she was built.

On December 29th TICONDEROGA was berth shifted in support of USS COLE's (DDG 67) ammunition offload at the Naval Station. TICONDEROGA's crew offered support with volunteer fire parties and inviting COLE Sailors to eat onboard.

Although TICONDEROGA spent the first part of the new millenium in port due to the extended Smart Ship restricted availability, her crew forged ahead and succeeded in all endeavors sent her way, ending the year in strong fashion.