



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**USS TICONDEROGA (CG-47)
FPO, AA 34093-1158**

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG47)
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR CY 2003

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for Calendar Year 2003
(3) Narrative of Events for Calendar Year 2003
(4) Biography of CDR G. W. Zeiders III

1. Submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Zeiders III", written over the printed name.

G. W. ZEIDERS III

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) is part of Destroyer Squadron Six, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and is homeported in Pascagoula, MS. Her crew is comprised of approximately 35 officers and 325 enlisted personnel. TICONDEROGA completed numerous underway periods including NSFS qualification, Underway Demonstration, Multi-National Maritime Exercise, two COMPTUEX's, two group sails and a highly successful VANDALEX engagement. USS TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer was Glenn W. Zeiders III.

CHRONOLOGY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

01 JAN New Year's Day
09 JAN Underway for Yorktown, VA
13 JAN Arrive Yorktown, VA for Ammo Onload
20 JAN Norfolk, VA for TRAV
JAN NSFS
01 FEB Depart Norfolk, VA
10 FEB Arrive Pascagoula, MS
17 FEB U/W Pascagoula, MS
03 MAR I/P Pascagoula, MS
12 MAR Depart Pascagoula, MS
16 MAR Arrive Mayport, FL
24 MAR Depart Mayport, FL
APR VANDALEX/ Underway Demonstration/ Group Sail 03-2
27-29 MAY SSEI
27 JUN Depart Pascagoula, MS for Eastport, Maine
01 JUL Arrive Eastport, Maine
04 JUL Eastport, Maine Fourth of July Celebration
07 JUL Depart Eastport, Maine
JUL-AUG GRUSAIL 03-3/COMPTUEX
AUG 3M Certification
OCT C5RA/HMERA
26-30 NOV Thanksgiving Stand down
12 DEC Holiday Leave Stand down

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

TICONDEROGA spent the first week of 2003 enjoying the holiday leave and upkeep period while inport Pascagoula, MS. At the termination of the leave period, TICONDEROGA departed for Yorktown, VA for her weapons onload. 22 torpedoes, 52 SM2's, 4 Harpoons and 56,070 rounds of ammunition were unloaded mishap-free. Upon completion, she departed for Norfolk, VA for a Training Availability (TRAV). TICONDEROGA earned an outstanding final grade of 98.16% during her Naval Surface Firing Support (NSFS) FIREX I conducted in January 2003. TICONDEROGA had the honor of firing the last round into the Vieques firing range, Puerto Rico.

In March, several assist visits, team trainers, and aggressive training programs were undertaken to ensure successful completion of the upcoming qualifications.

Preparations for the ship's propulsion plant examination were in full swing with the engineers working long hours to improve readiness in both equipment and personnel. All safety programs were rated 'effective' at Underway Demonstration (UD). TICONDEROGA received a final grade of AVERAGE on UD in April. Also in April, TICONDEROGA successfully completed C2W-13-SF with a grade of 95%, while conducting C2W exercises during Multi-National Maritime (MNME) exercises and Group Sail 03-2.

TICONDEROGA was recognized with the Retention Excellence Award for 2QFY03, and amassed the highest reenlistment rates of any Cruiser in LANTFLT in FY03.

Early May, TICONDEROGA sailors enjoyed some time inport Pascagoula after completing the arduous training cycle. After a brief period inport, TICONDEROGA received satisfactory grades for ordnance handling during SSEI, and Harpoon Material Certification during the last week in May.

In early June, TICONDEROGA passed the Engineering Certification. During the last week in June TICONDEROGA departed Mississippi and steamed north to Eastport, Maine for a CNO High Priority Port Visit. The entire crew enjoyed spending the Fourth of July weekend in Eastport. During that time the crew participated in parades, memorials and numerous community service projects.

July was a busy month with the ship taking part in many Groupsail and COMPTUEX exercises. TICONDEROGA was the flagship during Groupsail 03-3 and hosted Commander, DESTROYER SQUADRON FOURTEEN. As the flagship of the opposing forces, TICONDEROGA disrupted the ENTERPRISE Battle Group's plans for attack.

On July 15, DESTROYER SQUADRON FOURTEEN, commanded by CAPT Bernard Jackson, embarked on TICONDEROGA for Group Sail 03-3. Also joining the opposing forces were USS KLAKRING, USS STEPHEN W GROVES and USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS. The mission of Group Sail was to provide participants with valuable multi-ship/strike

group experience as well as exploit fighting capabilities in a multi-warfare environment.

While executing exercises in all warfare areas, all ships conducted an opposed replenishment at sea (RAS) with a subsurface threat, numerous live fire events, and complicated tactical maneuvers. TICONDEROGA completed a complex choke point transit and opposed RAS with the aid of USNS JOHN LENTHALL, a SH-60F from HS-75, and one P-3C Orion. Once complete, TICONDEROGA conducted vectoring tactics with an embarked SH-60B helicopter from HSL-60 and over-the-side REXTORP shots in a round-robin fashion.

After completing these ASW centric events, Group Sail shifted focus to AAW and SUW warfare. With the assistance of Afloat Training Group Mayport (ATGM), TICONDEROGA completed gunnery exercises by shooting her main batteries and small arms at ATGM's roboski, swatski, and remote-controlled aircraft. Each individual event afforded TICONDEROGA's gunners an opportunity to attune their shooting skills as well as flex combat fighting teams rules of engagement and procedures for engaging hostile targets. Using lear jets with towed drone units, TICONDEROGA completed AAW exercises by firing main batteries and CIWS at air targets. Combat teams were then tested in their war fighting knowledge when the embarked SH-60B helicopter acted as a low, slow flying aircraft simulating terrorists.

Group Sail 03-3 provided invaluable training for TICONDEROGA in the form of a Maritime Integrated Tactical Training (MITT) scenario. The MITT scenario was composed of Blue Forces (ENT CSG) and Orange Forces, Group Sail 03-3 participants, and for two intense days, each pitted fighting skills to exploit not only the US's ability to analyze opposing ship actions and apply ROE, but to test strategic, deliberate planning theorems. Orange Forces, with TICONDEROGA acting as the flagship, wasted no time challenging Blue Forces. Culminating in the equivalent of a Final Battle Problem, all participants were awarded the opportunity to make tactical decisions for coordinated operations in a fast pace environment in order to carry our realistic, multi-warfare missions.

After completion of Groupsail 03-3 TICONDEROGA sailed back to Pascagoula, MS. TICONDEROGA successfully passed the 3M certification with outstanding scores. TICONDEROGA's crew demonstrated their pride in ownership through their aggressive maintenance and preservation efforts resulting in an unrivaled 99.4% RAR, 100%ACF and 98.8% SAR during the 3M assist visit.

TICONDEROGA spent the month of September underway completing pre-deployment certifications. The VBSS team was certified for the upcoming Counter Narcotics Deployment in 2004. TICONDEROGA also completed her total ship survivability exercise (major conflagration). As the final certification before

deployment, TICONDEROGA successfully completed a Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) in September.

TICONDEROGA began C5RA/HMERA in October. At the same time, the wardroom, mess decks and several staterooms underwent a complete rehabilitation. Also in October, earned an overall grade of satisfactory during the last CMS Inspection conducted by COMDESRON SIX. Inspectors noted EKMS as the best overall account in NAVAL SURFACE GROUP TWO. TICONDEROGA Sailors enjoyed Thanksgiving stand down with their families.

In the beginning of December, TICONDEROGA was underway for a few days before starting the Holiday Leave stand down. With TICONDEROGA's final training and deployment nearing, Sailors were able to spend the some time with their families.

TICONDEROGA was awarded **all five** of the command excellence awards for CY03 as a testament to the standards maintained by her crew. TICONDEROGA consistently maintained an exceptional level of performance in 2003; ensuring all operational requirements were met and completed, and all assigned tasking was effective and efficient. TICONDEROGA received the Maritime Warfare Excellence Award; Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award; Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare Excellence Award; Supply Management Excellence Award; and the TYCOM Ship Safety Award.

TICONDEROGA also won the coveted Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy for 2003 as the most improved ship in the fleet. TICONDEROGA

made astounding improvements in all areas during 2003, amassing an impressive list of successes during an intense operational schedule, while turning around morale and achieving an impressive state of overall readiness.