



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

5700
Ser CG 47/133
29 Sep 04

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY SUBMISSION FOR CY 2004

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology for Calendar Year 2004
(3) Narrative of Events for Calendar Year 2004
(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 a circular stamp or mark.

G. W. ZEIDERS III

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS TICONDEROGA (CG47) is part of Destroyer Squadron Fourteen, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and is homeported in Pascagoula, MS. Her crew is comprised of approximately 35 officers and 325 enlisted personnel. TICONDEROGA'S operational mission during 2004 was air surveillance and surface interdiction of suspected narcotics traffickers in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific Oceans. To deter drug traffickers from delivering illegal drugs to the United States, TICONDEROGA deployed under the tactical control of Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South (JIATF-S) with both a SH-60 helicopter (JAGUAR 601) and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments (LEDET 408 and LEDET 409) embarked. USS TICONDEROGA's Commanding Officer was Glenn W. Zeiders III.

CHRONOLOGY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2004

01 JAN New Year's Day
16 JAN Depart Pascagoula, MS for Mayport, FL
19 JAN-05 FEB TRAV in Mayport, FL
06 FEB Depart Mayport, FL for Pascagoula, MS
09 FEB Arrive Pascagoula, MS
09 FEB-09 MAR POM
10 MAR Depart Pascagoula, MS for CDOPS Deployment
15-17 MAR Cozumel, Mexico
27-28 MAR Colon, Panama
01-09 APR Mayport, Florida
12-13 APR Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
27-29 APR Cartagena, Colombia
06-07 MAY Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
17-19 MAY Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
28-30 MAY Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
11-13 JUN Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
22-24 JUN Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
08-10 JUL Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama
15-16 JUL Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
19-23 JUL Mayport, FL - Decommissioning Stores Offload
26-30 JUL Yorktown, VA - Ammunition Offload
03 AUG Pascagoula, MS
30 SEP Decommissioning Ceremony

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2004

The New Year began with the crew of TICONDEROGA continuing the holiday leave period. After the leave periods expired, TICONDEROGA refocused and prepared for Training Availability in Mayport, Florida.

On 16 January, TICONDEROGA departed Pascagoula, MS on her three day journey to Mayport. TICONDEROGA completed the final CDOPS certification and training requirements during this period. Over 200 people attended schools in Mayport, saving the ship over \$100,000 in TADTAR funds.

When TICONDEROGA returned to Pascagoula in February, she began the POM period and final preparations for deployment. The ship also went into a modified stand down in order to give the Sailors some time to prepare for the long period away from home.

TICONDEROGA departed on her final deployment on 10 March 2004. After participating in divtacs with USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51), TICONDEROGA enjoyed liberty in Cozumel, Mexico on 15-17 March.

On April 10, 2004 while conducting law enforcement and patrol, TICONDEROGA's helicopter, Jaguar 605, located a migrant sailing vessel headed towards Florida. The vessel was identified by LEDET 408 boarding team as an 18-foot homemade sailing vessel with eight Cuban nationals aboard. Because the sailing vessel was continuously taking on water, it was determined to be unseaworthy and TICONDEROGA was directed to

take all persons aboard due to safety of life at sea. After receiving a medical screening, TICONDEROGA rendezvoused with Coast Guard Cutter KINGFISHER and transferred all Cuban migrants.

TICONDEROGA, in conjunction with Colombian military authorities successfully located, tracked and pursued a 'Go-Fast' on April 21, 2004. With the use of surface and air interdiction tactics, TICONDEROGA quickly responded and effectively demonstrated exceptional tactical coordination in the boarding and eventual seizure of one Logistics Support Vessel (LSV). With careful scrutiny, LEDET 408 and TICONDEROGA Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) members meticulously combed the vessel and questioned the crew eventually leading to the discovery of approximately 5,808 pounds of cocaine and also the apprehension of seven crewmembers.

TICONDEROGA conducted a Right of Visit boarding of a suspect 'Go-Fast' vessel in the Eastern Pacific on May 9, 2004. The 'Go-Fast' visually spotted TICONDEROGA and immediately commenced evasive maneuvers. During the ensuing 2.5 hour chase, the 'Go-Fast' made sporadic course and speed changes and ignored all verbal and visual communications to stop. TICONDEROGA launched embarked helicopter, Jaguar 605, and the 'Go-Fast' began to jettison approximately 30 packages. Jaguar 605 marked the debris fields with sonobouys and smoke floats, allowing TICONDEROGA to later pick-up packages. The 'Go-Fast' finally

surrendered and TICONDEROGA brought the detainees onboard. The vessel was scuttled with small arms fire and ships deck guns as a hazard to navigation. TICONDEROGA returned to the debris fields to recover contraband. Sixteen bales (833 bales) of cocaine were seized.

TICONDEROGA patrolled the Caribbean for 54 days until transiting through the Panama Canal on 5 May 2004. Upon exiting the canal, TICONDEROGA conducted counter-narcotic operations in the Eastern Pacific. On 15 May 2004, TICONDEROGA actively assimilated intelligence over the previous 48 hours involving a suspected 'Go-Fast' transit from Colombia to Mexico. During an aerial search, Jaguar 605 reported a 'Go-Fast' tying up alongside an LSV. The 'Go-Fast' spotted Jaguar 605 and immediately detached from the LSV and fled the scene. The 'Go-Fast' entered Costa Rican territorial seas after a near 7-hour pursuit. The Costa Rican Navy joined TICONDEROGA in the pursuit with two surface vessels, a helicopter and a fixed wing aircraft. The 'Go-Fast' beached on the Costa Rican coastline and the people onboard immediately ran into the mountain terrain. Costa Rican Authorities apprehended the fleeing suspects. The four detainees caught off the coast of Costa Rica were immediately prosecuted in Costa Rica and given year-long sentences for their actions.

On June 23, 2004 TICONDEROGA, continuing operations in the Eastern Pacific, effectively pursued and captured her fourth

'Go-Fast' for the deployment. TICONDEROGA's helicopter, Jaguar 605, acquired the 'Go-Fast' and sent position updates to TICONDEROGA. After a high-speed chase, TICONDEROGA closed the 'Go-Fast' to 500 yards and employed three volleys of warning shots in order to gain compliance. The 'Go-Fast' surrendered and TICONDEROGA recovered 72 bales of cocaine weighing approximately 3,600 pounds.

On June 21, TICONDEROGA crossed the equator in the Pacific Ocean and took part in the time-honored crossing the line ceremony. Approximately 200 "Wogs," Sailors that have never crossed the equator before, were initiated by the crew's Shellbacks.

TICONDEROGA successfully captured a fifth and final 'Go-Fast' vessel in the Eastern Pacific on June 28, 2004. TICONDEROGA visually acquired the 'Go-Fast' vessel southwest of Panama and began to close the target. The 'Go-Fast' counter detected TICONDEROGA and began fleeing at a high rate of speed. During the chase, the 'Go-Fast' jettisoned 20-30 bales. TICONDEROGA, with the assistance of another Navy vessel, was able to stop the 'Go-Fast' and recover a total of 38 bales weighing approximately 2,176 pounds.

In addition to capturing five go-fasts, TICONDEROGA disrupted 11 narcotics networks to prevent an unknown amount of drugs entering the States. Specifically, three LSV's were given 'return to port' orders due to ten issued DIMAR violations.

From 19 to 23 July, TICONDEROGA stopped in Mayport to offload hazardous materials and stores. After the offload was complete, she departed for Yorktown, VA where she offloaded all weapons. On 30 July, TICONDEROGA departed Yorktown on her last voyage back to homeport. In addition to TICONDEROGA's crew, Tigers embarked for the historic trip.

TICONDEROGA returned to Pascagoula, MS on August 3, 2004. During the five-month deployment, TICONDEROGA intercepted five drug smuggling 'Go-Fasts' and one fishing boat netting over 14,000 pounds of cocaine and detaining 25 suspects in the process.

TICONDEROGA's crew immediately began decommissioning preparations when she returned to homeport. With only a limited time to decommission, the crew and contractors worked around the clock to prepare the ship in record time.

On September 30, 2004 TICONDEROGA, the first Aegis Cruiser, was decommissioned from Naval Service.