



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MHC CREW CONQUEST
FPO AA 34092-1954

IN REPLY REFER TO
5757
Ser 00/009
27 Feb 07

From: Commanding Officer, MHC CREW CONQUEST
To: Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, and
Washington, D.C.

Subj: MHC CREW CONQUEST 2006 COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12J

Encl: (1) MHC CREW CONQUEST Command History
(2) LCDR Robert S. Smith, Commanding Officer,
Biography

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

/s/

R. S. SMITH

MHC CREW CONQUEST COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Data

Name of Command: MHC CREW CONQUEST

Unit Identification Code (UIC): 40177

Name and Rank of Commanding Officer:

Last: Smith **First:** Robert **M.I.:** S **Rank:** LCDR

Date Assumed Command: 2006-07-07

Mission / Command Employment / Area of Operations:

Mission: Mine Countermeasure Operations at sea

Command Employment: Operation ENDURING FREEDOM,
Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Global War
on Terrorism.

Area of Operations: Gulf of Mexico, Arabian Gulf

Permanent Location: Naval Station Ingleside, Ingleside, TX

Immediate Superior in Command:

Operational: Commander, Mine Countermeasure Squadron TWO

Administrative: Commander, Surface Force Atlantic Fleet

Task Force / Group / Unit name: Not Applicable

**Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned under
operational control:** Not Applicable

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 5 Enlisted: 38 Civilians: 0

Command Point of Contact:

LT [REDACTED]
Operations Officer

[REDACTED] (Bldg 100)

DSN: [REDACTED]

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2. Commander's Assessment

MHC CREW CONQUEST started 2006 completing a successful Arabian Gulf deployment. Excellent forethought and attention to detail in making preparations for Crew Swap, ensured that USS CARDINAL (MHC 60) was left in the highest state of readiness, allowing the relieving crew, MHC CREW LOYALTY, to get CARDINAL underway immediately to fulfill obligations in the 5th fleet AOR. While on deployment, embarked in CARDINAL, CONQUEST was able to perform all tasking with much success and perform Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) with the Australian Navy (AU) in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG), a first since MHC's are not designed, nor equipped to perform this mission.

CONQUEST has always been a crew that could be counted on and can make the mission happen. As such, on deployment CONQUEST ensured CARDINAL logged the most underway time and

completed all of the assigned tasking for the Forward Deployed MHC class ships. CONQUEST/CARDINAL was consistently designated and utilized as the "Ready Surge" ship for MCMDIV 31. Upon returning to Ingleside and embarking in USS CORMORANT (MHC 57), CONQUEST again made sure that CORMORANT was repeatedly designated the "ready ship" for several evolutions conducted by other MIW ships. CORMORANT also was the only ship able to support the daily underways required for training two Egyptian Navy crews in preparations for Foreign Military Sales. CONQUEST maintained CORMORANT in a Ready for Sea condition and never quit asking to participate in operations, exercises and evolutions. The following maintenance and operations were performed on the hulls:

USS CARDINAL (MHC 60): Deployment 5th fleet AOR

USS CORMORANT (MHC 57): 2 CREW SWAPS
1 DEI
2 CMAV'S
2 ATFP LTT'S
1 ATFP CERTIFICATION
1 C5RA
FMS/EGYPTIAN/GREEK NAVY TRAINING

3. Chronology and Narrative

A. Chronology

Legend:

3M: Material, Maintenance, and Management
ATFP: Anti-Terrorism Force Protection
C5RA: Command, Control, Communications, Computers,
Calibration and Readiness Assessment.
CNO: Chief of Naval Operations
POM: Preparation for Overseas Movement
DEI: Diesel Engine Inspection
DECOM: Decommissioning
HURREX: Hurricane Exercise
HVM: Heavy Weather Moor
SMI: Supply Management Inspection
MCMRON: Mine Countermeasure Squadron
AOR: Area of Responsibility
NAG: Northern Arabian Gulf
SAR: Search and Rescue
SMC: Supply Management Certification
SSDG: Ship's Service Diesel Generator
LTT: Limited Team Trainer

PMA: Post Maintenance Availability
CMAV: Continuous Maintenance Availability
EODMU: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit
FMS: Foreign Military Sales
ULT: Unit Level Training

January

16-20 Crew Swap with MHC Crew LOYALTY, disembarked USS
CARDINAL (MHC 60)
25 Depart Fifth Fleet AOR
26 Arrive Corpus Christi Area
31- Crew Swap with MHC Crew FORCE, Embarked USS
CORMORANT (MHC 57)

February

01-03 Continued Crew Swap with MHC Crew FORCE
03 Change of Command, USS CORMORANT (MHC 57)
03-28 Holiday Leave and POM
09-10 Hull Cleaning

March

01-03 Holiday Leave and POM
09-10 Pierside Trials
14-16 Underway for ULT
20-31 CMAV 6A2

April

03-06 Supply LTT
10-14 Engineering LTT
19-20 Communications Drills
24-27 CONQUEST Gunshoot

May

01 Berth Shift A-7-1
02-03 HVM Conference, HVM Exercise
09-12 Underway for ULT
15-19 3M LTT
26 Dependent's Cruise

June

06-09 Underway ULT
12-13 1A SSDG DEI, CMAV 6A3, SYSCAL
26-29 3M/Supply LTT

July

05 Underway for ULT

07 Change of Command
10 Underway for ULT
17-21 SMC

August

08 Underway for ULT
16-18 ATFP LTT
28 Berth Shift

September

05-08 ATFP LTT
12-29 CNO FY-06 PMA

October

01-18 CNO Fy-06 PMA
23 Underway for ULT
24 SAR LTT
31 ATFP Certification

November

01 ATFP Certification
01-03 C5RA
16 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
21 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
28 Underway for ULT/FMS Training

December

01-03 FMS Training
05-06 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
08 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
11-12 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
14 Underway for ULT/FMS Training
20-31 Christmas Standdown

B. Narrative

In 2006, MHC CREW CONQUEST was an invaluable asset for MIW forces in readiness and battle force reliability. CONQUEST has consistently defined combat excellence and dependability among other Crews onboard Naval Station Ingleside, TX and forward-deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

In January, CONQUEST was completing another successful deployment to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and The Global War on Terrorism, attached to MCMDIV 31 and CTG 55.1.

While deployed to Fifth Fleet AOR, CONQUEST assumed command of USS CARDINAL (MHC 60) and completed the deployment in the first two weeks of January. MHC Crew LOYALTY arrived in 5th Fleet AOR on the 16th of January to commence Crew Swap with CONQUEST. Crew LOYALTY assumed command of CARDINAL on the 20th of January and CONQUEST departed the 5th Fleet AOR on the 22 of January. Crew CONQUEST arrived INCONUS on 26th of January and commenced crew swap of USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) with CREW FORCE. CONQUEST assumed command of CORMORANT in February.

The crew of CONQUEST relaxed after a highly successful deployment with POM for the month of February. Upon completion of POM in the 1st week of March, commenced Pier-side Trials to test and successfully operate all equipment. Upon completion of the pier-side trials CONQUEST then departed on Unit Level Training in the Corpus Christi Operating Area (CCOA). CONQUEST then commenced CMAV 6A2 to end the month of March.

The month of April was a training month for CONQUEST. In preparation of the upcoming Supply Certification, CONQUEST conducted a Supply LTT for an initial look at CONQUEST'S records and accountability. Engineering received an initial look as well to ensure that all programs and equipment were operating at the max capability. Rounding out the month were some Communications and a Gunshoot to ensure all personnel's qualifications were current. CONQUEST was then ordered to assume Hurricane Condition ECHO, in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. CONQUEST then conducted a berth shift in order to participate in HURREX 2006, conducted in the first week of May.

Completing HURREX 06 successfully, CONQUEST then was underway for ULT. Upon completion of the Unit Level Training, a 3M LTT was conducted by Squadron Two Personnel. CONQUEST invited all family, friends, and guests for a Dependant's Cruise prior to Memorial Day. The Dependant's Cruise was a highly successful evolution, with a steel beach during the transit out and a tour of the ship. Family and Friends were able to witness the firing of the 50 caliber gun, able to steer the ship, and take turns sitting in the Captain's Chair.

The summer months were times of maintenance and upkeep for CONQUEST. Beginning the month of June, unit level training in the CCOA was conducted to ensure successful equipment operation. DEI for 1A SSDG, CMAV 6A3, and SYSCAL rounded out a month full of maintenance. Another unit level training exercise was conducted to verify equipment in preparation for the Change of Command. On the 7th of July, LCDR Robert S. Smith, JR, relieved CDR Jeffrey Cronin on USS CORMORANT (MHC 57).

CONQUEST then took on another certification, the SMC. This was completed successfully, with the Squadron TWO Commander stating that these were the highest scores that he had ever seen on the waterfront. Force protection was next on the agenda; CONQUEST was host to an ATFP LTT in preparation for the certification in October.

CONQUEST entered a CNO FY-06 PMA beginning the month of September and this continued until Oct. Training still continued with a SAR and another ATFP LTT. Ending the month of October and beginning of November, ATFP certification was completed with much success. CONQUEST continued to set the standard in certifications and was ready to commence the FMS Training and ensure that the Egyptian Navy was ready to successfully operate a MHC. November and December were training months for CONQUEST. The Egyptian Navy arrived in the first week of November and was eager and ready to learn. CONQUEST was again up the challenge, ready to work and train the Egyptian Officers and Sailors. CONQUEST maintained CORMORANT in top material condition, being the only ship able to support FMS Operations. CONQUEST trained the Egyptian Navy in navigation, Minehunting, and engineering plant operations. Daily underways were an occurrence, with the Egyptian Navy in full operation of the ship with CONQUEST'S Sailors guiding the way. CONQUEST'S trained the Egyptian Sailors so well CONQUEST received another group of Sailors to train. Both groups were able to successfully operate MHC upon completion of this FMS Training.

CONQUEST's crew morale has been among the highest on the South Texas waterfront, which is demonstrated by CONQUEST maintaining the ability to fly the Gold and Silver Warfare Excellence Pennants, plus the retention pennants for the third Quarter of 06.

CONQUEST's awards for this demanding year include:
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on
Terrorism Service Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

4. Supporting Reports

None

5. Published Documents

None

6. Photographs

None