



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FALCON (MHC-59)
FPO AA 34091-1957

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757
Ser 0/018
31 Mar 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS FALCON (MHC 59)
To: Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, and
Washington, D.C.

Subj: USS FALCON (MHC 59) 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) CNO message DTG 051955ZFEB02
(b) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12G DATED 29 Mar 99

- Encl: (1) USS FALCON Command History
(2) Deployment CD (Disc)
(3) FALCON's newspaper articles in the Foscle (5)
1. Top FALCON Sailors named
2. FALCON Personnel 'Shine' at game
3. Bravo Zulu: Happy Birthday to FALCON
4. FALCON takes family members for cruise
5. FALCON sailors get VIP treatment
(4) LCDR Dermot P. Cashman's, Commanding Officer,
Biography
(5) FALCON's INSURV Message
(6) FALCON's Award Inputs (6)
1. Battle E and Command Excellence Awards input
a. Maritime Warfare Excellence Award
b. Command, Control, Communications and
Information Warfare Excellence Award
c. Engineering/Survivability Award
d. Supply Management Excellence Award
2. Battenberg Cup Award
3. The Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy
(7) Floppy Disk [Disk Damaged]
1. All award inputs (6)
2. Pictures of FALCON with Statue of Liberty in
background (2)
3. LCDR Cashman's Biography and Picture
4. FALCON's 2002 command history

1. Per references (a) and (b), enclosures (1-7) are forwarded.

DAVID T. GLENISTER

USS FALCON COMMAND HISTORY 2002

1. Command Composition and Organization

Title: USS FALCON (MHC 59)

Unit Identification Code: 22151

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Commander Dermot P. Cashman, USN

Mission: To conduct sustained mine countermeasures operations at sea, in both the littoral and high seas, in support of operational tasking and national objectives. To consistently maintain the highest states of personnel and material combat readiness in order to meet all tasking on short notice. Be prepared to work closely with United States and allied Mine Warfare Forces to provide a potent, survivable and dependable mine countermeasures capability worldwide.

Immediate Senior in Command: Captain R. K. Young (Jan02-Jun02), USN, and Captain B. F. Dagnall (Jun02-Dec02), USN, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE

Homeport: Ingleside, Texas

2. Chronology

January

01-13	Holiday Leave, Standdown and Upkeep
14	Fast cruise
15-16	Underway (ENG LTT)
21-31	Fleet Maintenance Availability
26-27	Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend
28-31	3M Assessment
28-31	Underway (ENG LTT)

February

01	FMAV
01	3M Assessment
01	Underway (ENG LTT)
04-06	Underway (ENG LTT)
07	Ammo Onload
07-08	Small Arms Qualifications
08	FALCON's Birthday
08-13	CSOSS Validation
11-13	EMR Preps/Offload
13-15	EMR
19-22	Underway (ENG LTT)
27-28	Engineering Initial Assessment

March

04-06 Deck, Aviation, Seamanship, Mine Warfare, and
Navigation (DASMN) Limited Team Trainers (LTT)
05-06 Mine Warfare LTT
07-08 Underway (ENG LTT)
11 MIW LTT
13-14 Underway (ENG LTT)
16-17 Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend
19-21 DASMN LTT
20 Underway Corpus Christie Operation Area (CCOA)
21-22 Underway Demonstration CCOA
25-29 Combat System Operating Sequencing System (CSOCC)
Implementation
25-29 Radar Navigation (RADNAV) Certification
26-28 Integrated Training Team (ITT) LTT

April

01-04 MIW LTT
01-05 Technical Availability
01-05 Voith-Schneider Propellers (VSP) Oil Changeout
03 Afloat Training Group (ATG) MEDALEX
08-12 Final Evaluation Period (FEP) Rehearsal
09 Squadron Exercise-Final Planning Conference
(RONEX-FPC)/Gulf of Mexico Exercise-Middle
Planning Conference (GOMEX-MPC)
17 ATG MEDALEX
19 Safety Survey
20-21 Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend
22-26 FEP
22-26 RONEX Inport Training
29-30 Hurricane Exercise HURREX-2002
30 RONEX Pre-sail Conference

May

01-04 RONEX/Underway Enroute Panama City Operation Area
(PCOA)
01-16 RONEX 02-2
05-06 RONEX/Inport Pascagoula, MS
07-10 RONEX/Underway Evolution
10 RONEX/Hotwash
11-12 RONEX/Inport Panama City, FL
13-16 RONEX/Underway Enroute Ingleside, TX
18-19 Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend

May Cont'd

20-31 Diesel Inspection (DEI)
20-31 Shipboard Integrated System Calibration (SISCAL)
20-31 SEMAT-2/C5RA

June

01-07 SISCAL
01-07 FMAV
08-09 Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend
18 Hull Clean
24-28 Inspection Survey (INSURV)
29-30 Inport Ingleside, TX

July

01-12 DEI
08-12 GOMEX Inport Training
15 Electromagnetic Roll (EMR)
15-26 GOMEX 2002-2
15-26 Naval Reserve Force Two-week Active
27-28 Naval Reserve Force Training Weekend

August

01-14 Pre-deployment Leave/Upkeep
19-30 FMAV

September

01-10 Preparation for Deployment
10-12 Fast Cruise
13 Mine Warfare Readiness Group Two (MIWRG-2) Pre-sail Conference
17 Deployment Westlant-2002
17-18 Underway Enroute Beaumont, TX
19-22 Inport Beaumont, TX (Navy Days)
27-28 Underway Enroute Ingleside, TX
29-30 Inport Ingleside, TX

October

01-03 Inport Ingleside, TX
04-08 Underway Enroute Key West, FL
09-11 Inport Key West, FL
12-13 Underway Enroute Mayport, FL
14-20 Inport Mayport, FL

October Cont'd

21-22 Underway JTFEX 2003-1
23 Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) Morehead City, VA
24-26 Underway JTFEX 2003-1
27 BSF Morehead City, VA
28-31 Underway JTFEX 2003-1

November

01-03 BSF Morehead City, VA
04 Underway Enroute Little Creek, VA
05-19 Inport Little Creek, VA
20 Underway Virginia Cape Operation Area (VCOA)
Forward Area Combine Degaussing Acoustic Range
(FACDAR)
21-23 Inport Little Creek, VA
24-25 Underway Enroute New York City, NY
26-30 Inport NYC, NY

December

01 Inport NYC, NY
02-05 Underway Enroute Mayport, FL
02-06 Command Assessment Readiness Training One (CART I)
06-08 Inport Mayport, FL
09-11 Underway Enroute Key West, FL
12-14 Inport Key West, FL
15-19 Underway Enroute Ingleside, TX
20 Completion of Westlant 2002
20-31 Inport Ingleside, TX/Holiday Leave and Stand down

3. Narrative

In 2002, USS FALCON (MHC 59) has been the benchmark for MCM forces in warfighting readiness, battle force reliability, innovative and comprehensive training and crewmember quality of life improvement initiatives. She has consistently defined combat excellence among other ships in Ingleside, TX. FALCON has transitioned from M4 in all warfare areas, due to shipyard availability, to M1 and M2 in all areas. She has successfully flown the SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle 800% more than calendar year 2001. FALCON has fully participated in every exercise available for an MHC during the past year including a highly complex assessment by the Naval Board of Inspection and Survey.

FALCON's crew morale has been among the highest on the South Texas Navy waterfront, which is demonstrated in achieving recognition on the CINCLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll twice this year as well as maintaining the ability to fly the Gold and Silver Warfare Excellence Pennants. This outstanding retention led to FALCON receiving the Golden Anchor Award. Spearheaded by a willingness to "think out of the box" with regards to duty sections and watchstanding, FALCON was one of the pioneers in combining shipboard duty requirements with another MHC to allow for a pseudo Eight-Section Duty Rotation for the minimally manned crews of the Mine Warfare ships.

FALCON successfully participated in three major exercises (RONEX-2002, GOMEX-2002 and JTFEX 2003-1). During RONEX-2002, FALCON flawlessly functioned as the CTU throughout the entire exercise, a role that had not been undertaken by FALCON in over two years. GOMEX 02-2, FALCON proved her proficiency by having the most on-station time of the squadron MHCs. During JTFEX 2003-1, FALCON again operated as the CTU in the complex and dynamic multi-national and multi-service Battle Group Exercise with the HARRY S. TRUMAN. Even though her "WestLant-2002" deployment was delayed several times by three different hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, FALCON successfully arranged and scheduled all port visits for all ships in the Task Unit. Additionally, FALCON volunteered to embark a Fly-Away EOD Detachment to conduct experimental testing to determine the effects of the EOD Fly-Away Dive Locker (FADL) on the magnetic signature of the ship. These tests included two additional complex navigation details to and from the Electro-Magnetic Roll Facility. She effectively completed all operational commitments during calendar year 2002. These included an intensive and compressed Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, and two Family Day Cruises, as well as several "Public Affairs" visits by students from the Mine Warfare Training Center for indoctrination tours of the MHC-51 Class of ships.

FALCON's Engineering Department personnel have transitioned from an allotment of sailors achieving little more than the minimum standard, to a cohesive unit, which has well exceeded expectations on the waterfront. After multiple Limited Team Trainers (LTT) with Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI), FALCON completed a successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA). From there, FALCON achieved an outstanding on her Initial Assessment (IA), earning high marks from Afloat Training Group Atlantic (N43), in regards to watch-stander's enthusiasm and an overall

pride in their spaces. With no assistance from ATGI, FALCON continued to build on the lessons learned and earned a 93.3 % at the Underway Demonstration (UD); over ten percent above the fleet minimum required for an "Outstanding," and the highest ever earned in Ingleside. Once again, N43 took special note of the watch teams, well coordinated, highly effective casualty response ability and was impressed by their aggressive desire to go above and beyond. Furthermore, FALCON breezed through her FEP and INSURV inspection, performing her first successful underway Detect-to-Engage sequence in two years during INSURV.

FALCON participated in a CINCLANTFLT Hi-Visibility Port Visit to Beaumont, Texas in support of Beaumont Navy Days. During the port visit to Beaumont, FALCON participated in four major Community Relations Projects, which included "Caps for Kids", maintenance of a Battered Women's Shelter, a Retirement Community and an Orphanage. Additionally, FALCON provided over 75 people with VIP Tours and hosted a formal dinner onboard honoring the Mayor of the City of Beaumont. FALCON was also invited to be the featured "guest" of a Corpus Christi Icerays Minor League Hockey game, in which the Commanding Officer was given the honor of dropping the first puck.

FALCON's awards for this demanding year include: Maritime Warfare Excellence Award, Command, Control, Communication and Information Warfare Excellence Award, Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award for IA and IDTC, and Supply Management Excellence Award for increased efficiency and reliability of logistics. In addition, she also received the Retention Excellence Award and the TYCOM Surface Ship Safety Award. Through it all, 2002 was an eventful and productive year for FALCON.

18 Oct 2002

From: Commanding Officer, USS FALCON (MHC 59)
To: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE
Subj: BATTLE EFFICIENCY AND COMMAND EXCELLENCE AWARDS
INPUT

Ref: (a) COMNAVSURFFORINST 3502.1, Surface Force
Training Manual

Encl: (1) Maritime Warfare Excellence Award
(2) Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award
(3) Command, Control, Communications and
Information Warfare Excellence Award
(4) Supply Management Excellence Award

1. The following nomination is submitted in accordance with reference (a). In the past year, Team FALCON has been the benchmark of MCM forces in warfighting readiness, battle force reliability, innovative and comprehensive training and crewmember quality of life improvement initiatives. Team FALCON has consistently defined combat excellence on the waterfront. Specific supporting accomplishments include:

a. Conducted a high priority port visit to Beaumont, Texas in support of Beaumont Navy Days. Additionally, hosted a formal dinner honoring the Mayor of Beaumont.

b. Achieved a new standard with a 99.7% on the CRA, leading to immediate CRC. Set the standard for communications readiness, while also serving as the ATG "model ship" for other ships seeking Communications Certification.

c. Completed an intensive comprehensive "total ship" inspection by the INSURV Board.

d. Successfully operated in complex multi-ship exercises as the CTU for RONEX 2002-2, JTFEX 2003-1 and the WestLant-2002 deployment.

e. Completed the CMWC ADP and LAN Certification and Inspection.

f. Named to the CINCLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll twice in recognition of our sustained superior retention program.

g. Flew the Gold and Silver Surface Warfare Excellence Pennants throughout 2002 in recognition of our superior officer and enlisted warfare specialty qualification programs.

ENCL(6)

h. Filled the role of SOPA much of 2002 ensuring force protection requirements were met for the entire waterfront.

2. Team FALCON's Engineering Department personnel have transitioned from an allotment of sailors achieving little more than the minimum standard, to a cohesive unit which has well exceeded expectations on the waterfront. After multiple Limited Team Trainers (LTT) with Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI), FALCON completed a successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA). From there, FALCON achieved an outstanding on her Initial Assessment (IA), earning high marks from Afloat Training Group Atlantic (N43), in regards to watchstander's enthusiasm and an overall pride in their spaces. With no assistance from ATGI, FALCON continued to build on the lessons learned and earned a 93.3 % at the Underway Demonstration (UD), over ten percent above the fleet minimum required for an "Outstanding," and the highest ever earned in Ingleside. Once again, N43 took special note of the watch teams, well-coordinated, highly effective casualty response ability and was impressed by their aggressive desire to go above and beyond.

3. While all of the above achievements are, in my opinion, noteworthy, Team FALCON really proved her mettle by completing every commitment, inspection and exercise on time, every time. From completing the 3M Baseline Assessment (with a 3-MC billet gapped) in January to completing the EMR requirement and an Initial Assessment which almost qualified for a Underway Demonstration (UD) in February. This was followed with an "Outstanding" UD which arguably set the standard for the waterfront. Quickly and efficiently, the ship completed the remaining Basic Phase requirements in Damage Control, Medical, Seamanship, Navigation, and Force Protection, a Family Day Cruise, and participation in RONEX 02-2 where FALCON assumed the role of CTU 21.1.1 and performed superbly. Return from RONEX was immediately followed with C5RA/SEMAT II and SISCAL which preceded a FMAV and intensive preparations for INSURV. July and August included a DEI visit, GOMEX 02-2 where FALCON had the most on-station time of the squadron MHC's and accomplished two visits to the EMR as well as certifying Force Protection for deployment, a second Family Day Cruise, and a generous pre-deployment standdown. Westlant 2002 has included a highly successful Beaumont Navy Days visit as well as stops in Key West, Mayport, Norfolk and New York as well as participation in JTFEX 03-1, again as Task Unit Commander. Throughout this deployment FALCON has gone above and beyond in the execution of force protection,

logistics support, SOE development, and flexible scheduling for all three ships.

4. Team FALCON, in my opinion, has earned strongest consideration for selection as Mine Countermeasures Squadron One's Battle Efficiency Award winner for 2002.

DERMOT P. CASHMAN

USS FALCON (MHC-59)
MARITIME WARFARE EXCELLENCE AWARD

1. The requirements and criteria applicable to the Command Excellence Award for Maritime Warfare have been satisfactorily completed as follows:

- a. Live Firing Exercises
 - (1) FALCON had zero non-ordnance related weapons firing failures.
 - (2) FALCON did not require any exercise modification.
 - (3) FALCON is M1 or M2 in all critical mission areas.
- b. Safely completed two ammunition on-loads.

2. Additionally, FALCON has accomplished the following achievements:

- a. Successfully completed an in-depth INSURV Inspection.
- b. Completed a CSOSS Validation and Implementation, being the first MCMRON ONE ship to accomplish this requirement.
- d. Completed three Electro-Magnetic Roll Check Rangings, including two "experimental" rangings with an EOD Detachment embarked to conduct initial MHC-51 Class measurements of an EOD Detachment effect on a ship's signature.
- c. In a period of less than three months, successfully completed RONEX, GOMEX, FEP and an INSURV Inspection.
 - During RONEX, performed superbly as Commander Task Unit 21.1.1
 - During INSURV, performed 1st successful underway Detect-to-Engage sequence.
 - During GOMEX, had the most on-station time of the squadron MHC's.
- d. Performed as Task Unit Commander during Westlant 2002 deployment including JTFEX 03-1; this included coordinating all aspects of navigation, SOE development, force protection, and logistics.

3. Team FALCON has clearly demonstrated both sustained superior performance and a readiness to conduct our primary mission, Mine Warfare. As such, FALCON merits favorable consideration for the Maritime Excellence Award.

USS FALCON (MHC-59)
COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WARFARE
EXCELLENCE AWARD

1. The requirements and criteria applicable to the Command Excellence Award for Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare have been satisfactorily completed as follows:

A. Communications:

(1) CMS Inspection conducted December-2001. Team FALCON has had zero CMS Incidents during 2002.

(2) FALCON completed a Communications Readiness Certification on 11Dec01 with an overall score of 99.7%.

(3) FALCON completed a NATO Secret Control Inspection Jan-2002 with zero discrepancies.

(5) Team FALCON has been the model ship for Afloat Training Group to use as a reference standard while training other ships on the waterfront.

B. Navigation:

(1) FALCON completed a Radar Navigation Certification in March.

(2) FALCON performed as the Navigation lead for multi-ship task units in support of RONEX 02-2 and Westlant 2002. This included a low visibility transit up the Sabine River to Beaumont-TX in support of a CLF Hi-Priority Port Visit.

C. Seamanship:

(1) FALCON performed flawlessly throughout all phases of the IDTC, in which all Deck Evolutions were graded as Fully Effective.

(2) FALCON anchored safely over 25 times in 2002 with the utmost professionalism.

2. Team FALCON has clearly sustained superior performance in Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare and merits favorable consideration for this Command Excellence Award.

USS FALCON (MHC-59)
ENGINEERING/SURVIVABILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Team FALCON has continued its record of sustained superior Engineering and Damage Control performance. Team FALCON has maintained outstanding engineering reliability and proven damage control readiness. Specific accomplishments include:

- Completed an ATG Atlantic Engineering Readiness (N43) led Initial Assessment, with outstanding results. FALCON was certified in firefighting, and specific comments include, "The ship's self assessment was excellent and the material condition of the engineering plant was well above average." The ATG Team Leader, also, promulgated copies of the Engineering Training Team (ETT) Brief to other ships going through the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), as prime example of a well-organized and thorough training team brief.
- Spearheaded waterfront-wide research initiatives into the high failure rate of the Walton Three-Way Diverter Valve, installed on all IF Diesel Engines. FALCON, in conjunction with FTSCCLANT, compiled and evaluated hours of trend analysis data and valve design features. The results have gained SURFLANT level recognition, and have caused the manufacturer to provide a more reliable and cost effective substitute, which if authorized, could save each ship in upwards of \$25,000.00, quarterly.
- Set a new Engineering Standard on the waterfront. Completed an ATG Atlantic Engineering Readiness (N43) led Underway Demonstration, with the following results, "The obvious pride in their spaces that these engineers demonstrated was also reflected in their conduct of routine evolutions and casualty control drills where they achieved an overall operations score of .933 [As per COMNAVSURFORINST 3540.2, the minimum score required for "Outstanding" is .88] for an adjective grade of outstanding. Their enthusiasm and dedication was a pleasure to observe."
- While completing the IDTC "On Target-On Time," with outstanding results, Team FALCON also completed an intensive two-week material assessment and overhaul of the Multi-Purpose Crane, in preparation for the ship's upcoming INSURV Inspection. FALCON's engineers earned above average grades from the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) in Auxiliaries, Electrical, and Damage Control.

- Successfully maintained a high level of overall diesel engine performance. After completing the INSURV Inspection, Team FALCON went on to complete Diesel Engine Inspections on 1A Ship's Service Diesel Engine and NR 1 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine, with minimal material and administrative deficiencies.
- Instrumental in recognizing and initiating corrective action for a previously noted Class-wide problem with the Voith-Schneider Cycloidal Propeller (VSP). Thanks to Team FALCON's unbiased and honest self-assessment, a water contamination problem in the MHC-51 Class VSP low pressure oil system was brought to the Board of Inspection and Survey's attention, resulting in Class Advisory 04-02, directing action on the NSWCCD-SSES and PMS 490 level.

USS FALCON (MHC-59)
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Team FALCON consistently demonstrated sustained superior performance in shipboard operations relating to management of material, financial and personnel resources, resulting in enhanced combat readiness. Increased efficiency and reliability of logistics also had a large positive impact on crew morale and quality of life. Specific accomplishments include:

* FALCON completed an outstanding Supply Management Inspection (SMI) on 18 May 01, earning impressive scores of:

- Storekeeping: 93.0% - Food Service: 93.2%

* DLR carcass charges of 0% for FY00, FY01 and FY02 exhibit the meticulous care the entire FALCON team shows for the Supply System and the importance placed on not wasting precious government resources.

* FALCON continues to be nominated as the "show ship" answering to all required calls, tours, and distinguished visitors, including the Mayor of Beaumont, Mrs. Evelyn Lord, RADM Ryan (CMWC), RADM Stavardis (CRUDESGRU 12), Commanding Officer Military Sealift Command-Beaumont, TX, JROTC units, and various civilian dignitaries. All praised the excellent food service and the resulting enhancement of quality of life.

* FALCON'S new Supply Officer and Leading Storekeeper have teamed to resurrect the Food Service area by creating better menus, increased productivity on the messdecks and new messdeck vending, resulting in increased morale of the ship's crew.

* The Leading Storekeeper was able to recoup \$7,800 in cancellations and aged unfilled order listing for immediate use in FY 02 upon reviewing Material Outstanding File.

* The Supply Officer and Leading Storekeeper were able to expedite acquiring desperately needed parts to fix a limiting casualty on the main engines while on deployment by working directly with the manufacturers and FISC Ingleside. These parts allowed for the repair of the engines and negated delay or cancellation of deployment due to engineering casualties.

18 Oct 2002

From: Commanding Officer, USS FALCON (MHC-59)
To: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE

Subj: BATTENBERG CUP AWARD

Ref: (a) COMNAVSURFORINST 3502.1, Surface Force
Training Manual

1. The following information regarding notable achievements by USS FALCON during calendar year 2002 merit nomination for this award.

a.) FALCON has transitioned from M4 in all warfare areas, due to shipyard availability, to M1 and M2 in all areas. FALCON has successfully flown the SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle 800% more than Calendar Year 2001. FALCON has fully participated in every exercise available for an MHC during the past year including a highly complex assessment by Naval Board of Inspection and Survey.

b.) FALCON's crew morale has been among the highest on the South Texas Navy waterfront which is demonstrated in achieving recognition on the CINCLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll twice this year as well as maintaining the ability to fly the Gold and Silver Warfare Excellence Pennants. Spearheaded by a willingness to "think out of the box" with regards to duty sections and watchstanding, FALCON has combined shipboard duty requirements with another MHC to allow for a pseudo Eight-Section Duty Rotation for the minimally manned crews of the Mine Warfare ships. FALCON participated in a CINCLANTFLT Hi-Visibility Port Visit to Beaumont, Texas in support of Beaumont Navy Days. During the port visit to Beaumont, FALCON participated in four major Community Relations Projects which included "Caps for Kids", maintenance of a Battered Women's Shelter, a Retirement Community and an Orphanage. Additionally, FALCON provided over 75 people with VIP Tours and hosted a formal dinner onboard honoring the Mayor of the City of Beaumont. FALCON was also invited to be the featured "guest" of a Corpus Christi Icerays Minor League Hockey game, in which the Commanding Officer was given the honor of dropping the first puck.

c.) FALCON successfully participated in three major exercises (RONEX-2002, GOMEX-2002 and JTFEX 2003-1). During RONEX-2002, FALCON flawlessly functioned as the CTU throughout the entire exercise, a role which had not been undertaken by FALCON in over two years. During JTFEX 2003-

1, FALCON again operated as the CTU in the complex and dynamic multi-national and multi-service Battle Group Exercise with the HARRY S. TRUMAN. Additionally, FALCON volunteered to embark a Fly-Away EOD Detachment to conduct experimental testing to determine the effects of the EOD Fly-Away Dive Locker on the magnetic signature of the ship. These tests included two additional complex navigation details to and from the Electro-Magnetic Roll Facility.

d.) FALCON successfully completed all operational commitments during Calendar Year 2002. These included an intensive and compressed Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, and two Family Day Cruises, as well as several "Public Affairs" visits by students from the Mine Warfare Training Center for indoctrination tours of the MHC-51 Class of ships.

e.) FALCON's Engineering Department personnel have transitioned from an allotment of sailors achieving little more than the minimum standard, to a cohesive unit which has well exceeded expectations on the waterfront. After multiple Limited Team Trainers (LTT) with Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI), FALCON completed a successful Light-Off Assessment (LOA). From there, FALCON achieved an outstanding on her Initial Assessment (IA), earning high marks from Afloat Training Group Atlantic (N43), in regards to watch-stander's enthusiasm and an overall pride in their spaces. With no assistance from ATGI, FALCON continued to build on the lessons learned and earned a 93.3 % at the Underway Demonstration (UD), over ten percent above the fleet minimum required for an "Outstanding," and the highest ever earned in Ingleside. Once again, N43 took special note of the watch teams, well coordinated, highly effective casualty response ability and was impressed by their aggressive desire to go above and beyond.

f.) FALCON's "WestLant-2002" deployment in support of HARRY S. TRUMAN and JTFEX 2003-1 was delayed several times by three different hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. Despite the delays, FALCON successfully arranged and scheduled all port visits for all ships in the Task Unit.

DERMOT P. CASHMAN

18 Oct 2002

From: Commanding Officer, USS FALCON (MHC-59)
To: Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE
Subj: THE ARLEIGH BURKE FLEET TROPHY
Ref: (a) COMNAVSURFORINST 3502.1, Surface Force
Training Manual

1. The following information regarding notable achievements by USS FALCON during calendar year 2002 merit nomination for this award.

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DERMOT P. CASHMAN