



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1996 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl:
- (1) Command History Chronology
  - (2) Command History Narrative
  - (3) Commanding Officer's biography
  - (4) Commanding Officer's photograph
  - (5) Welcome Aboard pamphlet
  - (6) Command Guidance pamphlet
  - (7) Various newspaper articles published in 1996
  - (8) Ship's picture

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

  
T. R. BEALL  
LCDR USN  
BYDIRCO

**USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62) COMMAND HISTORY KEY**

**CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS**

06 Jan End second Christmas leave period.

19 Jan Nuclear Power Candidates ship tour.

22 Jan Commence PRAV upkeep.

25 Jan Medical QA visit.  
Galley/Messdecks reopen, meals resume onboard.

26 Jan YMCA ship of the week.

30 Jan Engineering ATG assist visit.

07 Feb Small arms qualifications for Sections 1 and 3.

08 Feb Small arms qualifications for Sections 2 and 4.  
CIC, LINK, EW exercises.

09 Feb Doctrine Review Board.

10 Feb Christening for son of GSE1 [REDACTED] onboard.

13 Feb Ombudsmen Luncheon.

14 Feb Counter Intelligence Awareness briefing.

16 Feb Helicopter firefighting team qualifications held.

20 Feb ASIR Technical assist commenced.

23 Feb ASIR Technical assist completed.

27 Feb RADM Robert M. Nutwell, CCG-3 visits ship.  
Junior Officer Detailer Visit.

29 Feb Surface Rescue Team Trainer conducted.

05 Mar LATR commences.  
Navy-wide E-4 examination administered.

Enclosure (1)

07 Mar Navy-wide E-5 examination administered.  
Engineering/ATG training program review.

08 Mar Blue Flag 96-2 conducted.  
LATR completed.

12 Mar RADM Robert S. Cole, CINCPACFLT N43 visits ship.  
ASIR Inspection commences.  
Navy-wide E-6 examination administered.

13 Mar CCG-3 Engineering Assessment commences.  
Funeral for HT3 Shawn Blair.

15 Mar ASIR inspection completed.  
CCG-3 Engineering Assessment completed.  
OS2 ██████████ reenlists.

19 Mar Fast Cruise.

20 Mar Underway Southern California OPAREA for Sea Trials.

21 Mar Inport San Diego.

22 Mar PRAV complete.

25 Mar Tomahawk material certification begins.

29 Mar SK1 ██████████ retires.  
EN1 ██████████ reenlists.  
GMG1 ██████████ reenlists.  
Force Medical Master Chief retires onboard.  
Tomahawk material certification complete.

01 Apr 1997 ROH Work Definition Conference.  
Harpoon material certification begins.

03 Apr Local leaders embarked for "Leaders to Sea" program.  
Underway SoCal OPAREA.  
Harpoon material certification complete.

04 Apr Inport San Diego

05 Apr VADM and Mrs. Edward Martin (ship's sponsor) visit ship.

08 Apr Underway SoCal OPAREA enroute Seal Beach, CA.

Enclosure (1)

09 Apr Inport Seal Beach, CA.

10 Apr Weapons onload conducted.  
Underway SoCal oparea.

11 Apr Embarked "Leaders to Sea" via helicopter transfer.

12 Apr Inport San Diego.

13 Apr EM1 [REDACTED] retires onboard.

15 Apr CART II commences.

19 Apr CART II completed.  
EM2(SW) [REDACTED] reenlists onboard.

22 Apr Underway enroute Acapulco, Mexico.

26 Apr Anchored Acapulco Bay, Mexico.

27 Apr Capt. Eldon S. Wilson, U.S. Naval Attache to Mexico retires onboard.

30 Apr Underway enroute San Diego, CA.

02 May SK2 [REDACTED] reenlists onboard.

03 May Inport San Diego, CA.  
FCCS [REDACTED] reenlists onboard.  
GMM1 [REDACTED] reenlists onboard.

06 May RADM Nutwell visits and attends luncheon.  
CHANCELLORSVILLE awarded the Spokane Trophy for the competitive year of 1995.

08 May Command physical readiness test conducted.

14 May Safety standdown.  
Spouse information night for upcoming deployment.

17 May Awards ceremony.

27 May Embark first group of midshipmen.

28 May Underway SoCal OPAREA for engineering training.

Enclosure (1)

31 May Inport San Diego, Ca.  
01 Jun Awards ceremony.

03 Jun Tour conducted for Tiffany Elementary school kindergarten class.

04 Jun Underway SoCal OPAREA.

06 Jun Underway replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK.

07 Jun Inport San Diego, CA.

10 Jun Underway SoCal OPAREA for TSTA II seamanship training.

14 Jun Inport San Diego, CA.  
FC1 ██████ reenlists onboard.

17 Jun Navy Food Management Team visit commences.  
Industrial Hygiene Survey commences.

21 Jun Navy Food Management Team visit completed.  
Industrial Hygiene Survey completed.  
Disembark first group of Midshipmen.

24 Jun Ship's Explosive Safety Inspection commences.  
Embark second group of midshipmen.

26 Jun Capt. Michael L. Erno, CNSP Supply Officer, attends luncheon onboard.

27 Jun Reception for Chilean Ship LYNCH wardroom held onboard.

28 Jun Ship's Explosive Safety Inspection completed.

11 Jul Students from the College of Eastern Utah tour ship.

12 Jul YN1 ██████ retirement ceremony held onboard.

13 Jul Ship's picnic held at Adm. Baker Field.

15 Jul Underway SoCal OPAREA.

16 Jul Underway replenishment with USNS Rappahannock.

19 Jul Inport San Diego, CA.  
Disembarked second group of midshipmen.

22 Jul Underway SoCal OPAREA for missile exercise.  
Embarked third and final group of midshipmen.

23 Jul Launched two SM-2 missiles at air targets. Both engagements were evaluated as kills.

24 Jul Underway replenishment with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK.  
Inport San Diego, CA.

26 Jul Embarked six Spokane, WA residents for trip to Seattle Seafair.

27 Jul Underway enroute Seattle, WA for Seafair Festival.  
Comptuex with USS CONSTELLATION.

30 Jul Inport Port Hadlock, WA.

31 Jul Embarked 63 guests for trip to Seattle.  
Underway enroute Seattle, WA.

05 Aug Underway enroute San Diego, CA.  
Underway replenishment with USS RANIER.

08 Aug Inport San Diego, CA.

12 Aug LMA commences.

16 Aug LMA completed.  
Disembarked last group of midshipmen.

21 Aug RADM Nutwell, CCG-3 visits.  
CHANCELLORSVILLE awarded second consecutive Battle "E".

22 Aug Underway SoCal OPAREA for practice Engineering Certification.  
Underway replenishment with USS RAPPAHANNOCK.

23 Aug Inport San Diego, CA.

26 Aug Underway for Engineering Certification.

27 Aug Inport San Diego, CA.

03 Sep Combat Systems Readiness Review commences.

Enclosure (1)

05 Sep Navy-wide E-4 advancement exam administered.

08 Sep Combat Systems Readiness Review completed.

09 Sep Underway SoCal OPAREA for Engineering Certification preparations.

10 Sep Navy-wide E-5 advancement exam administered.

12 Sep Navy-wide E-6 advancement exam administered.

13 Sep Inport San Diego, CA.

16 Sep Underway SoCal OPAREA for TSTA III/practice FEP.

20 Sep POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremony.

23 Sep Underway SoCal OPAREA for Engineering Certification.

25 Sep Cruise Missile Qualification commences.

27 Sep Inport San Diego, CA.  
Navy physical readiness test administered.

01 Oct Underway SoCal OPAREA for Final Evaluation Period rehearsal.  
Enroute Seal Beach, CA for Ammunition onload.

03 Oct Inport Seal Beach, CA.

04 Oct Underway enroute San Diego, CA.

08 Oct Underway SoCal OPAREA for Final Evaluation Period.

10 Oct Inport San Diego, CA.

12 Oct SPY array resurfacing begins.

01 Nov Underway SoCal OPAREA for family cruise.

02 Nov Inport San Diego, CA.

04 Nov USS CHANCELLORSVILLE's seventh birthday.  
SPY array resurfacing complete.

05 Nov RADM Nutwell visits for pre-deployment address to crew.

Enclosure (1)

06 Nov Underway enroute Rodman, Panama for counter-narcotics deployment.

08 Nov Safety Standdown.

11 Nov Inchop JIATF East.

14 Nov Inport Rodman, Panama for brief stop for fuel.

15 Nov Underway, transit Panama Canal enroute Caribbean Sea.

21 Nov CHANCELLORSVILLE, with assistance from Saberhawk 63 of HSL-47,confiscates 19 bales of cocaine thrown overboard by an unknown drug runner.

25 Nov Anchored Cartagena, Colombia for brief stop for fuel. Underway Caribbean.

26 Nov CHANCELLORSVILLE, with assistance from Saberhawk 71 of HSL-47,confiscates 39 bales of cocaine thrown overboard by a second unknown drug runner.

02 Dec Inport Colon, Panama for brief stop for fuel. Underway Caribbean.

03 Dec Burial at sea conducted for relative of one crewmember and five veterans. Awards ceremony.

06 Dec Inport Aruba, Netherlands Antilles for port visit.

07 Dec Reception held onboard for local dignitaries.

10 Dec Underway enroute Panama Canal.

12 Dec Southbound transit of Panama Canal enroute Rodman, Panama.  
Inport Rodman, Panama for a brief stop for fuel.

13 Dec Underway Eastern Pacific, conducting counter-narcotics operations.

18 Dec CHANCELLORSVILLE spots fishing boat adrift 83 miles out to sea, rigs towline and tows "SOCRATES" to safety.

Enclosure (1)



- 23 Dec Brief stop for fuel, Rodman, Panama.
- 24 Dec Underway Eastern Pacific.  
Christmas Eve candlelight service.
- 25 Dec Christmas celebration underway.  
Inmarsat phone call received from Secretary of the  
Navy.
- 30 Dec Inport Rodman, Panama for New Year's port visit.

## USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62)

### COMMAND HISTORY 1996

For USS CHANCELLORSVILLE, 1996 started with the completion of the second Christmas leave period. Included in the first weeks of January were preparations in support of the upcoming PRAV. Making improvements around the ship did not wait for the pending availability. New decks and galley improvements commenced the second week of January and continued through the first days of PRAV. A minor inconvenience to the crew was the transit to USS BOXER for meals, but the sacrifice paid dividends when the mess decks and galley reopened on January 25 with many new improvements in place.

Pier 13 Naval Station, San Diego was CHANCELLORSVILLE's home for the next 2 1/2 months. Much of the work conducted during the availability was focused on habitability. Numerous decks were resurfaced with PRC deck covering for the first time, making them aesthetically more pleasing to the eye and much more durable than the conventional deck painting. Major improvements were installed in all the enlisted berthing areas. New couches, decks, paint, and art for resulted in the spaces looking the best they had looked since commissioning. The crew also traded old mattresses for new; ensuring a better nights sleep for everyone in the year to come.

Improvements were not limited to habitability. The Aegis Combat System, the most complex shipboard combat system in the world, received an upgrade. The Baseline 3.3 upgrade was a welcome addition to an already powerful ship.

PRAV was completed on March 22nd following a rigorous fast cruise and sea trials, which were conducted on the 20th of March in the Southern California OPAREA. All tests went extremely well and the crew was soon ready to commence the training cycle that would ready them for November deployment.

In the Spring, CHANCELLORSVILLE was afforded the opportunity to participate in a multitude of public affairs activities. CHANCELLORSVILLE soon after was selected by the Force Medical Master Chief as his platform for retirement. Following was the embarkation of approximately 20 civilian business and government leaders. The "Leaders to Sea" program provides an opportunity for various community leaders to see exactly what "their" Navy is doing for them. All members embarked were impressed by the men of CHANCELLORSVILLE. Many commented on the professionalism and dedication displayed by the crew as they were shown the various warfare capabilities of the ship. The "Leaders to Sea" cruise concluded with a HSL-45 Helo transfer of the visitors to North Island Naval Air Station.

Enclosure (2)

CHANCELLORSVILLE was underway again on the 8th of April, enroute Seal Beach, CA for post-PRAV ammunition onload. The underway was period included a second embarkation of 13 civilians for the "Leaders to Sea" program. The ship's return to San Diego marked the start of CART II.

CART II was completed on April 19th. Members of Afloat Training Group Pacific, who administered the assessment, held all departments in high regard. Many assessors were impressed with the level of knowledge and expertise maintained by the crew through PRAV. Minor deficiencies were found but 95% were corrected prior to the completion of CART II. Following the successful completion of another assessment, the crew was ready for a well deserved "break in the action."

Acapulco, Mexico provided that break. Arriving in Acapulco on April 26th, CHANCELLORSVILLE was readied for the retirement ceremony that was to be held the following day. Captain Eldon S. Wilson, a naval attaché to Mexico, retired onboard on the 27th of April. Among the guests present were many high ranking Mexican naval officials, friends and family of Capt. Wilson and the crew of CHANCELLORSVILLE. Acapulco provided a multitude of activities including fantastic nightlife, unique dining experiences, beautiful beaches and the famous Acapulco cliff divers. Acapulco quickly became the port of choice for the crew and would be visited again in less than a year.

CHANCELLORSVILLE returned to San Diego on May 3rd to a welcome of well over 150 friends and family. May 6th brought a rare honor for a Pacific fleet ship. RADM Robert M. Nutwell, CCG-3, presented Captain Hebert and the crew of CHANCELLORSVILLE with the Spokane Trophy for the 1995 competitive cycle. The Spokane Trophy is given to the Pacific Fleet ship judged most combat ready for a given year. The presentation was a welcome award for the crew who had given their best throughout the previous year.

June brought underway time early in the month for engineering tasks and drills. The remainder of the month was occupied with various maintenance, the most significant of which was the change out of the main propulsion gas turbine 2B. An original engine which was commissioned with the ship, she was honorably piped ashore after seven years of reliable service and replaced with a new turbine. The ship was also busy with various inspections which included a Navy Food Management Team visit for the Supply Department. Industrial Hygiene Survey for Medical and Engineering and the Ships Explosive Safety Inspection for Combat Systems. All were completed satisfactorily with high marks from evaluators.

The ship also welcomed the first of three groups of midshipmen scheduled to perform summer training onboard. CHANCELLORSVILLE also acted as sponsor for the visiting Chilean Ship LYNCH. CHANCELLORSVILLE was the obvious choice since Lt. Marco

Enclosure (2)

Arellano of the Chilean Navy was already embarked onboard CHANCELLORSVILLE for a one year officer exchange program tour. An evening reception was held on the flight deck of CHANCELLORSVILLE on June 27<sup>th</sup> for the wardroom of LYNCH. Gifts and camaraderie were exchanged by the Captains and wardrooms of both ships. The reception will surely be remembered for many years by those who attended.

July was arguably the busiest month of 1996 for CHANCELLORSVILLE. Beginning with a new group of midshipmen reporting aboard. They were quickly indoctrinated into shipboard exercises. CHANCELLORSVILLE had the opportunity to conduct a missile exercise off San Clemente, CA. In the early morning of July 23, CHANCELLORSVILLE took tactical control of the USS JOHN PAUL JONES, USS Curtis Wilbur, USS John A. Moore, USS Rueben James and the USS Jarrett. Forming the group into a column, CHANCELLORSVILLE fired her first SM-2, from the forward launcher, at a low altitude, high speed target. The engagement was judged a kill by proximity. The second engagement involved a high altitude target. The after launcher provided the SM-2 and this shot was a "skin to skin" direct hit. Captain Hebert and the Combat Systems Officer, Lt. [REDACTED], could not have been happier with the results. "The procedures were followed to the letter and the crew's expertise and training were responsible for the successful engagement of both targets." commented Lt. [REDACTED].

CHANCELLORSVILLE was again underway on July 27<sup>th</sup>. After embarking six guests from the Spokane, WA Navy League, CHANCELLORSVILLE rendezvoused with the USS CONSTELLATION and steered a course for Seattle, WA to participate in the Seattle Seafair. CHANCELLORSVILLE spent the night of 30 July in Port Hadlock, Wa. The following morning 63 more guests were welcomed aboard for the five hour transit to the port of Seattle. The Seattle Seafair provided the crew with plenty to do. Many attended the welcome to Seattle parties the first night inport. Others attended concerts, clubs, hydroplane races and parades which were being held throughout the Seafair. Nearly 1,700 guests visited the ship inport; giving the crew a chance to show off the Pacific Fleet's finest cruiser.

CHANCELLORSVILLE returned to San Diego on August 8<sup>th</sup> and the Supply Department prepared for the Logistics Management Assessment to be held from August 12 to August 16. Supply performed extremely well and easily won CHANCELLORSVILLE her sixth consecutive Supply "E". RADM Nutwell again visited on August 21<sup>st</sup> to formally award the crew their second consecutive Battle "E". Engineering Certification found the CHANCELLORSVILLE at sea once again. Though the crew and specifically the members of the Engineering Department put forth good effort, their efforts fell just short and it was determined that more training was needed before the engineering plant was certified.

September brought yet another busy month of workups and inspections. The Combat Systems Readiness Review was completed in less than half the time normally required, in no small part due to the dedication and hard work of the members of the Combat Systems

Enclosure (2)

Department. The inspection team was very impressed with the crew's knowledge and determination to finish the review quickly in order to meet other pressing obligations for the ship. A previously planned inport period was rescheduled for a SoCal underway to facilitate Engineering Certification preparations. Afloat Training Group, Pacific assisted the ship with deficiencies found in the initial certification. With dedicated training and hard work the Engineering Department was ready for the recertification.

On September 20, 1996 the crew of CHANCELLORSVILLE gathered for a somber yet patriotic POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremony. VADM Edward Martin, a POW in Vietnam and the husband of CHANCELLORSVILLE's sponsor. He gave a stirring speech about his experiences as a POW and reiterated what it meant to serve one's country in the military.

The last week in September was busy as usual. The Engineering Certification was passed with ease, thanks to the hard work of all involved. TSTA III and the Final Evaluation Period were also completed with great success by early October. The success of these final certifications were in no small part due to the dedication of CHANCELLORSVILLE's crew. Though facing minor setbacks the crew always looked to improve on their performance and their ability to "accomplish the mission."

With CHANCELLORSVILLE ready for deployment, friends and families were invited aboard on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> for an opportunity to sail with the ship on a one day family cruise. All enjoyed the day underway and took advantage of a host of activities and the chance to learn more about what their friends and loved ones do.

On the morning of November 6<sup>th</sup>, CHANCELLORSVILLE was finally underway for the counter-narcotics deployment the crew had worked 10 months preparing for. The transit to the Panama Canal was quiet and allowed the crew to get into the mode of operating for extended periods. Following a brief stop for fuel, a northbound transit of the Panama Canal was conducted. A first for many of the crew, and also a rare daytime transit for a Navy warship, the transit afforded the crew the opportunity to get a great view of the beautiful Panamanian countryside.

Shortly after beginning the patrol, CHANCELLORSVILLE, was called to assist in the pursuit of a "go-fast" drug runner which was speeding west in the Caribbean. Though the smuggler was not caught, the chase forced him to dump his cargo overboard. CHANCELLORSVILLE quickly moved in and with the help of the embarked helicopters of HSL-47, recovered 19 bales of pure cocaine. A quick stop for fuel in Cardagen, Colombia followed.

While still fueling, CHANCELLORSVILLE received another call reporting a "go-fast" off the coast of Colombia. Speeding out of port the ship received word that the smuggler had

dumped his cargo and sped to safety. Once the dump position was plotted, the Navigator, LTjg [REDACTED], calculated the approximate position the cocaine would be the next morning, using current tables for the area. Speeding through the night to the plotted intercept point, the sun rose and all around the ship were bales of pure cocaine ready to be brought aboard. Again using the helicopter embarked and the rescue swimmer, 39 Bales were recovered.

A busy two weeks ended with a four day port of call in Aruba. A reception was held onboard for local dignitaries on the flight deck and gifts were exchanged between the Commanding Officer and the Dutch Marine unit stationed in Aruba. Aruba, a beautiful Caribbean Island, was enjoyed by the entire crew. This ended CHANCELLORSVILLE's time in the Caribbean as she made her way for the return transit to the Pacific.

While patrolling in the early morning of December 18<sup>th</sup>, SM2 [REDACTED] spotted a flickering light on the horizon. Closing the light, ship's force identified it as a flaming rag being waved by a person on a small fishing vessel. Upon pulling alongside it was learned that the fishing vessel "SOCRATES" had been adrift and without power for 10 days. Repair division quickly rigged damage control equipment and boarded the vessel to stop leaks which were endangering the vessel's stability. Once repairs were complete, water and supplies were provided while CHANCELLORSVILLE maneuvered into a position to facilitate rigging a towline. Deck Division performed magnificently throughout the towing evolution. The "SOCRATES" was towed to territorial waters and turned over to the local authorities for repairs.

The ship spent the night of December 23<sup>rd</sup> in Rodman to refuel and take on stores, but was again underway on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Though being underway, away from friends and families is always hard, the wardroom tried to boost everyone's holiday spirit. With Ensign [REDACTED] bearing a remarkable resemblance to ol' Saint Nick, the officers, toured the ship, caroling throughout. A competition was held between the divisional spaces to see who could show the most Christmas spirit through decorations. Electrical division won for their light display and egg nog tavern which was set up in the electrical shop. The evening ended with a midnight candlelight service held on the flight deck and led by the ship's chaplain, Lt. [REDACTED].

Christmas day began with an early morning INMARSAT phone call from the Secretary of the Navy, who talked with the Captain, and subsequently passed a message to the crew via a patch through the 1MC system. A wonderful Christmas meal was prepared for the crew by the Supply Department and everyone enjoyed the "home cooking" and traditional Christmas food.

An inport period ended 1996 and the crew celebrated the coming of 1997 in various places throughout Panama City. 1996 brought many challenges, but with the pending return to San Diego and a regular overhaul on the horizon, CHANCELLORSVILLE is ready for even more in 1997.

Enclosure (2)