

## USS SENTRY (MCM 3) CNO Environmental Award Narrative

1. Introduction. USS SENTRY (MCM 3) is a Mine Countermeasures ship of approximately 80 crewmembers, forward deployed in Manama, Bahrain.

### 2. Background.

a. USS SENTRY (MCM 3) faced unique environmental challenges throughout the past fiscal year. Most notably, SENTRY was surged out of the Arabian Gulf in support of OPERATION DECISIVE STORM on only 72 hours notice. Throughout this unprecedented 60-day out-of-area tasking, SENTRY had many challenges surrounding the disposal of refuse. MCM class ships, unlike larger combatants, are not equipped with waste processing systems such as metal and glass shredders or plastic waste processing units. SENTRY's culinary specialists devised methods to sort trash and garbage that allowed for the crew to more easily dispose of biodegradable items at sea, while holding plastics and paper waste until they could be properly disposed of during port visits.

b. SENTRY's environmental management organization and staffing is manned in accordance with OPNAV 3120.32C. The ship staffs an Environmental Compliance Board which consists of the Executive Officer, Safety Officer, Department Heads, collateral-duty Environmental Compliance Officer, Legal Officer and the Command Master Chief, who advise the Commanding Officer in executing her responsibilities under environmental laws and regulations.

### 3. Program Summary.

a. SENTRY utilizes a Command Environmental Compliance Board which meets quarterly in conjunction with the quarterly Safety Council to discuss the ship's program and implement training for oil spill and HW training.

b. SENTRY's most outstanding program features and accomplishments of FY15 were:

- 0 Fuel, HazMat, or Oily Waste spills.
- Maintained fully certified OWS system, historically very difficult on MCM class ships.
- Scored ABOVE AVERAGE (85%) on INSURV Environmental Protection.

### 4. Accomplishments. SENTRY's activities and achievements during the past fiscal year included:

a. Air Pollution Control. SENTRY operates the minimum number of engines necessary to support the ship's mission in order to minimize air pollution and fuel consumption. Stringent refrigerant logs are kept in order to identify any possible leaks so they can be repaired immediately.

b. Water Pollution Control. SENTRY strictly adheres to CHT and oily waste discharge restrictions, despite unproportionally small holding tanks. The ship is outfitted with one 80 gallon CHT holding tank for a crew of 80, but had no CHT spills or unintentional discharges in FY15. SENTRY maintains 2 fully stocked Oil Spill Containment kits, 1 HM spill kit, and 1 CHT spill kit at all times. Training is conducted for all personnel quarterly, and spill response drills are conducted quarterly for all hands. Waste oil and oily waste are kept in segregated containers, where they can be disposed of at proper facilities on shore. Bilge water is pumped daily to container trucks, where they are transported to disposal facilities.

c. Solid Waste Management. While at sea, solid waste is always sorted into paper, food, plastic, and metal. As MCM class ships are not equipped with waste processing systems, plastic is retained onboard until it can be disposed of at proper facilities. Since many Mine Warfare missions are in littoral areas, SENTRY often holds all trash onboard until returning to port.

d. Oily Waste Management. SENTRY maintained one of the only functional and certified Oily Waste Systems in the MCM class during FY15.

e. Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste Management. SENTRY's Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste Program is in compliance with the Consolidated Hazardous Material Reutilization and Inventory Management Program (CHRIMP), and was assessed during FY15 as part of a Type Commander Material Inspection (TYCOM MI), the Board of Inspections and Survey (INSURV), and the Supply Management Certification (SMC). Utilization of HM is limited to the amount needed for the specific job and additional quantities are returned to our storage locker within 24 hours. Additionally, due to the small size of the MCM Class ship, additional HM storage is provided by Fleet Logistics Center Bahrain which allows for available space to be reserved for high movement items and/or specific HAZMAT needed for forecasted use in the near future.

f. Protective Measures Assessment Protocol. SENTRY runs PMAP prior to all required evolutions and retains records onboard.

g. Sonar Positional Report System. SENTRY is not equipped with MFAS.

h. Environmental Awareness. SENTRY conducts all required Environmental Protection training and drills to include HAZMAT Spills and Oily Waste Spills.

### USS SENTRY (MCM 3) Award Brochure

USS SENTRY (MCM 3) is forward deployed to the United States FIFTH Fleet Area of Responsibility, homeport Manama, Bahrain. Her crew of 81 officers and sailors efficiently and effectively perform a wide array of Mine Warfare missions throughout the Arabian Gulf and beyond. Outfitted with the SQQ-32v(4) Mine Hunting Sonar, the AN/SLQ 38 Mechanical Minesweeping Equipment, and the AN/SLQ-37v Influence Minesweeping System, SENTRY and her crew provides a specialized mission set to the operational commander.

USS SENTRY (MCM 3) faced unique environmental challenges throughout FY15. Most notably, SENTRY was surged out of the Arabian Gulf in support of OPERATION DECISIVE STORM on only 72 hours notice. Throughout this unprecedented 60-day out-of-area tasking, SENTRY had many challenges sustaining operations well beyond normal expectations. MCM class ships, unlike larger combatants, are not equipped with waste processing systems such as metal and glass shredders or plastic waste processing units. SENTRY's culinary specialists devised methods to sort trash and garbage that allowed for the crew to more easily dispose of biodegradable items at sea, while holding plastics and paper waste until they could be properly disposed of during port visits.

Throughout FY15, USS SENTRY notable environmental achievements included:

- 0 Fuel, HazMat, or Oily Waste spills.
- Maintained fully certified OWS system, historically very difficult on MCM class ships.
- Scored ABOVE AVERAGE (85%) on INSURV Environmental Protection.

USS SENTRY (MCM 3) is proud to execute Mine Warfare mission tasking while balancing environmentally responsible policy and operations.

