



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)  
FPO NEW YORK, 09501

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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5750  
Ser 97

MAR 5 1973

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

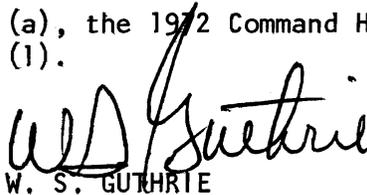
Subj: Command History 1 January - 31 December 1972 Supplement

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) 1972 Command History Supplement

1972

1. In compliance with reference (a), the 1972 Command History Supplement is forwarded herein as enclosure (1).

  
W. S. GUTHRIE

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## Command History-1972 Supplement

### I. Chronology of Outstanding Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
12-15 January	Conducted Basic School Exercise 1-72 for the Marine Basic Officer School.
17-29 January	Participated in Exercise "SNOWY BEACH," a large scale amphibious landing exercise at Sheepscot Bay, Maine.
15 February - 20 March	Participated in the annual "SPRINGBOARD OPERATION" in the Carribean.
17-20 April	Visited the U.S. Naval Academy. Onboard tours and landing craft indoctrinations were conducted for Fourth-Class Midshipmen.
24-27 April	Conducted type training in the VACAPES Operating Areas.
10-21 May	Participated in annual Atlantic Command Joint Exercise "EXOTIC DANCER".
1-15 June	Participated in Exercise "ESCORT TIGER" and delivered fleet freight to various Carribean ports.
5-6 July	Offloaded all ammunition in preparation for regular shipyard overhaul.
11 July	Entered Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Baltimore, Maryland for regular overhaul.
4 August	AUSTIN awarded annual Departmental Excellence Awards in Amphibious Assault (sixth consecutive), Air (sixth consecutive), Engineering (sixth consecutive), Operations (fourth consecutive), Supply (fourth consecutive), Communications (third consecutive).
14 August	Work on shipyard jobs stopped due to strike by Shipyard Workers.
11 October	AUSTIN towed to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va. for completion of overhaul.

### II. Basic Narrative

#### A. Command Organization and Relations

1. Captain William S. Guthrie, USN      30 July 1971 - Present
2. Home Port: Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia

Enclosure (1)

3. Mission: "To transport and land troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft or amphibious vehicles augmented by helicopter lift.

4. Allowance            25 Officers            411 Enlisted Men  
                             28 Officers            423 Enlisted Men

B. Operations

1. Deployments: None

2. Inport periods:

Norfolk, Va.	01 Jan - 11 Jan
Norfolk, Va.	30 Jan - 14 Feb
San Juan, Puerto Rico	20 Feb - 22 Feb
Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands	04 Mar - 09 Mar
Vieques Island, Virgin Islands	14 Mar - 17 Mar
Norfolk, Va.	21 Mar - 16 Apr
Annapolis, Md.	17 Apr - 20 Apr
Norfolk, Va.	21 Apr - 23 Apr
Norfolk, Va.	27 Apr - 09 May
Norfolk, Va.	22 May - 31 May
Norfolk, Va.	16 June - 26 June
Norfolk, Va.	28 June - 10 July
Baltimore, Md.	12 July - 11 Oct
Portsmouth, Va.	12 Oct - 31 Dec

3. Significant Deployment Events

NONE

4. Special Topics

A. Flight time: Missions: 504 Missions including 262 landings by CH-53 helicopters during a vertical envelopment exercise.

B. Ammo Expenditure: 599 rounds of 3"/50 caliber ammunition were expended on air and surface gunnery exercises.

C. Troops carried - 1441 Marine Officers and troops.

D. Number of unreps - 2 vertical replenishments, and 3 normal underway replenishments.

E. Development of tactics - continued the development of the underway launch of tank landing vehicles, conducting four launches during the year.

F. Awards/Commendations: noted in section I of chronology.

### III. Documentary Annexes

A. Roster of officers and assigned billets as of 31 December 1972.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
LT David Albert BLAKE	First Lieutenant
ENS Gary Lee CARTER	Asst. Fuels and Aircraft Handling Officer
ENS Thomas Richard DANCO	1st Division Officer
LCDR William Earl DORAN	Supply Officer
ENS John Michael DZURA	Asst. Weapons Officer
ENS Patrick Cleburne GRACE	2nd Division Officer
CAPT William Sherrod GUTHRIE	Commanding Officer
LT James Kenneth HERSTOFF	Medical Officer
WO1 Robert Bertram HOFFMAN	Ship's Boatswain
LTJG Robert Joseph JOYCE	Asst. Supply Officer
LT Thomas William LAFORCE	CIC Officer
LTJG Danny Edward LAKES	Sales Officer
LCDR Clyde Everett LASSEN	Air Officer
LTJG John Lawrence MCCONNELL	Communications Officer
ENS Anthony (NMN) OVER III	X Division Officer
CDR Sherman Henry OWENS	Executive Officer
LCDR Albert Michael PENTA	Engineering Officer
LTJG Calvin Mark PRARIE	Fuels and Aircraft Handling Officer
LT Richard Louis RAPOSA	Dental Officer
LCDR Mahlon Edmond REGISTER	Operations Officer
LT Lawrence Arvid SHOBERG	Chaplain
ENS Dennis Lee SMITH	B Division Officer
LTJG William Jeffrey STEELMAN	Weapons Officer
CWO2 James Benjamin TAYLOR	Damage Control Asst/Ballasting Officer
CWO2 Donald Noyes TOMPKINS	Electrical Officer
ENS Michael Durward WALTERS	Main Propulsion Assistant
LT William Arden WELDON	Navigator
ENS Michael Ray WIERIMA	Disbursing Officer
1st/LT Michael Lambert WINBERRY	Combat Cargo Officer
CWO2 Richard Walter YEATMAN	Electronics Material Officer
ENS Edwin Jerome ZWIESLER Jr.	Asst. Communications Officer

Enclosure (1)