DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

FPO NEW YORK 09501

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LPD4:LMH:scn
5750
Ser 331

28 MAY 1977

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

Subj: Command History; 1 January - 31 December, 1976 supplement

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 May 1971

Encl: (1) 1976 Command History Supplement 1976

1. In compliance with reference (a), the 1976 Command History supplement is forwarded herein as enclosure (1).

2. Late submission is regretted.

R. B. ROGERS

Copy to:
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMPHIBRON FOUR

COMMAND HISTORY 1976 SUPPLEMENT

I. Chronology of Outstanding Events

DATE	EVENT
01 JAN - 15 JUL	Part of Atlantic Amphibious Readiness Group
01 JAN - 11 JAN	Holiday leave period, Norfolk
01 JAN - 13 JAN	Continued Restricted Availability (RAV) Norfolk and concurrent Tender Availability (TAV) with Fleet Maintenance Group (FMAG) Norfolk
05 JAN - 06 JAN	NAVSURFLANT PMS Assist Visit
12 JAN - 13 JAN	Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection (NWAI)
14 JAN - 15 JAN	Underway for Ammunition onload
15 JAN - 21 JAN	Upkeep, Norfolk
16 JAN	Change of Command: Captain Curtis W. Miller, Jr., USN relieved Captain Joseph G. KAMRAD, USN, as Commanding Officer
20 JAN - 21 JAN	Seamanship Education Assistance Visit
21 JAN - 26 JAN	Transit to Caribbean as a unit of the Caribex 2-76, via Morehead City. Major units/equipment embarked: "K" Co 3/6; "F" BTRY 2/10; Det 20 TK BN; DET 20 RECON BN; 4 LCM-8s; 5 M60 Tanks and 6 106 mm Howitzers
27 JAN - 28 JAN	Amphibious Landing exercise at Windmill Beach, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO)
28 JAN - 30 JAN	GTMO Training Period
31 JAN - 02 FEB	Enroute Curacao, Netherland Antilles
02 FEB - 04 FEB	Port visit, Curacao, N. A.
04 FEB	Embarked Royal Netherland Marines
04 FEB - 16 FEB	Underway for Vieqas, P. R. and participation in Exercise RUM PUNCH 76/Doria Salute VIII

16 FEB - 21 FEB	Transit to Norfolk, via Morehead City to offload embarked Marine Units
21 FEB - 12 APR	Leave and Upkeep, Little Creek, Virginia
02 MAR	Annual Supply Inspection
09 MAR	COMPHIBGRU TWO Command Retention Inspection
11 MAR	COMNAVSURFLANT Human Resources Management System Assist Visit
11 MAR	COSAL Validation with NAVSEC
24 MAR - 25 MAR	Nuclear Weapons Assist Team visit
30 MAR	Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection
05 APR - 30 APR	Hull, Mechanical, and Electrical Validation
05 APR - 09 APR	CSTEX 6-76
08 APR	Host Ship for eighty (80) Canadian Officers
12 APR - 23 APR	Pre-Overhaul Test and Inspection
12 APR - 14 APR	Underway, independent steaming exercise in the Vacapes Operations Area for Machinery Condition Analysis Test
15 APR - 30 APR	Upkeep, Little Creek
22 APR	CMS Inspection by COMPHIBRON SIX
30 APR	Shift to Norfolk for refueling
30 APR - 03 MAY	Inport, Norfolk
03 MAY - 07 MAY	Underway Amphibious Training at Onslow Bay
07 MAY - 10 MAY	Upkeep, Norfolk and host ship for Reserve Unit LPH 6-13 (SRU) Chicago, Il for active duty training
08 MAY - 02 JUN	Embarked Lantramid 1-76
10 MAY - 20 MAY	Underway for exercise Solid Shield via Morehead City. Major units/equipment embarked: "I" Co 3/6; "L" Co 3/6; DET TOW PLT; DET 2D RECON BN; DET 2D ENG R BN;

	DET 2D TANK BN; DET REDEYE BTRY 2D LAAM BV; DET "M" Co 3/6; 2 M60 Tanks; 2 LCM-8s and 225 pallets
21 MAY - 09 JUN	Upkeep Norfolk
02 JUN - 04 JUN	NAVSURFLANT PMS Assist Visit
04 JUN - 23 JUL	Embarked LANTRAMID 2-76
09 JUN - 24 JUN	Underway for Caribbean via Morehead City for TF 22.1 Operations. Major units/ equipment embarked: "K" Co 3/6; "F" BTRY 2/10; DET 2D TANK BN; DET 2D RECON BN; 73 vehicles including 5 M60 Tanks, 6 105 mm HOW; 3 LCM-8s; 1 LCM-6; 263 pallets; and 1 CONEX BOX
25 JUN - 27 JUN	Port visit, Roosevelt Roads, PR
27 JUN - 02 JUL	Transit to New York City to participate in the International Naval Review
04 JUL	Participated in the International Naval Review
04 JUL - 07 JUL	Port visit, New York City
07 JUL - 10 JUL	Transit to Norfolk via Morehead City
10 JUL - 17 AUG	Inport Norfolk for upkeep/TAV
12 JUL - 26 JUL	COMPHIBRON SIX Embarked
14 JUL	Joint COMSEC Group Visit
15 JUL	Outchopped for Atlantic Fleet Readiness Group
19 JUL - 30 JUL	Electronic SECAS Validation
21 JUL - 23 JUL	Command Administration and Personnel Management Inspection
22 JUL	Host Ship for 50 Army Officers from Quartermaster School
23 JUL	COMPHBRON SIX PMS Inspection
23 JUL	DEBARKED LANTRAMID 2-76

27 JUL	Shipyard Work Definition Conference
29 JUL	Mobile Training Team Visit
30 JUL - 01 AUG	Host Ship for Reserve Unit 203 (SRU) Erie, PA for Active Duty Training
04 AUG	Postal Assist Visit
09 AUG - 12 AUG	Ship Manning Document (SMD) Survey
10 AUG	FMAG and TAV ends
11 AUG	Onload IUWG equipment
12 AUG	Communications Readiness Assist Team Visit
13 AUG	Command PEB Engineering Safety Monitor
16 AUG	CINCLANTFLT Postal Assist Team Visit
16 AUG - 19 AUG	Environmental Health Survey by EPMU-2
16 AUG - 18 AUG	COMNAVSURFLANT 3-M Inspection
17 AUG	Underway for Ammo Anchorage W-2. Commenced onload/offload of 3"/50 and L-FORM Ammunition
18 AUG - 20 AUG	Inport NOrfolk
18 AUG	Marine Corps Advance Party Embarkation
18 AUG	Communication Assist Team Visit
19 AUG	UDT-21, SEAL-2 and IUWG-2 personnel embark
20 AUG - 03 SEP	Transit to North Atlantic via Morehead City as a unit of the Advance Forces of Teamwork 76. Major units/equipment embarked: DET 2D FORCE RECON; DET 2D RADIO BN; DET 2D ANGLICO; DET MATCH-21; DET BMU-2; MACS-6; MWCS-28; 8th COMM BN; 4 CH-53 Helicopters; 1 LCU; 2 LARC-5s; 90 (MACS/MATCU) vans; 309 pallets and 11 CONEX BOXES
03 SEP - 04 SEP	Loche Ewe, Scotland for fuel
05 SEP - 08 SEP	Anchored, Orland, Norway
08 SEP - 12 SEP	Enroute Edinburgh, Scotland

12 SEP - 14 SEP	Port Visit, Edinburgh, Scotland
14 SEP - 15 SEP	Enroute Scapa Flow, Scotland
15 SEP	Anchored, Scapa Flow, Scotland for Bonded Item Conference
16 SEP - 30 SEP	Underway and at anchor as part of Operation Teamwork 76
30 SEP - 01 OCT	Enroute Esbjerg, Denmark
02 OCT - 05 OCT	Port visit/offload, Esbjerg, Denmark
05 OCT - 06 OCT	Enroute Amsterdam, Netherlands
06 OCT - 09 OCT	Port Visit, Amsterdam, Netherlands
10 OCT - 15 OCT	Underway for Operation Bonded Item
15 OCT	Esbjerg, Denmark for offload
15 OCT - 18 OCT	Underway for Operation Bonded Item and Enroute Bremerhaven, Germany
18 OCT - 22 OCT	Port Visit, Bremerhaven, Germany
22 OCT - 24 OCT	Enroute Esbjerg, Denmark
24 OCT - 25 OCT	Esbjerg, Denmark for backload
25 OCT - 26 OCT	Enroute Portsmouth, England
26 OCT - 29 OCT	Port Visit, Portsmouth, England
29 OCT - 11 NOV	Transit to Norfolk via Morehead City to Offload
11 NOV - 06 DEC	Leave/upkeep and final preparations for ROH; Norfolk
15 NOV - 03 DEC	Contractor Inspection for Overhaul
19 NOV - 21 NOV	Host ship for reserve unit 203 (SRU) Erie, PA for Active Duty Training
06 DEC - 07 DEC	Underway to provide services for USS Sylvania
07 DEC - 31 DEC	Unkeep/leave Norfolk
13 DEC - 07 JAN	IMAV (FMAG)

13 DEC - 28 DEC	First Christmas leave period
17 DEC	ROH contact awarded to Maryland Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Baltimore, Md.
22 DEC	Aviation Facility Assist Team (AFAT) visit
28 DEC	Second Holiday leave period begins

II - Basic Narrative

A. Command Organization and Relations

1. Captain Joseph G. KAMRAD, USN
   17 December 1974 - 16 January 1976
   Captain Curtis W. MILLER, JR., USN
   16 January 1976 - 31 December 1976

2. Homeport: Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia

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: 24 Officers 433 Enlisted Men
   On board: 24 Officers 436 Enlisted Men

B. Operations

1. Deployment

Caribex 2-76	21 JAN - 21 FEB
Solid Shield	10 MAY - 20 MAY
TF 22.1 OPS	09 JUN - 26 JUN
International Naval Review	27 JUN - 07 JUL
Teamwork 76/ Bonded Item	20 AUG - 10 NOV

2. Inport Periods

Norfolk, Virginia	01 JAN - 14 JAN
Norfolk, Virginia	16 JAN - 21 JAN
Little Creek, Virginia	21 FEB - 12 APR
Little Creek, Virginia	15 APR - 30 APR
Norfolk, Virginia	30 APR - 03 MAY
Norfolk, Virginia	07 MAY - 10 MAY
Norfolk, Virginia	21 MAY - 09 JUN
Roosevelt Roads, PR	25 JUN
Virgin Islands	25 JUN - 27 JUN
New York, New York	02 JUL - 07 JUL
Norfolk, Virginia	10 JUL - 17 AUG
Norfolk, Virginia	18 AUG - 20 AUG
Edinburgh, Scotland	12 SEP - 14 SEP
Esbjerg, Denmark	01 OCT - 04 OCT
Amsterdam, Holland	05 OCT - 08 OCT
Bremerhaven, Germany	18 OCT - 21 OCT
Esbjerg, Denmark	22 OCT - 24 OCT
Portsmouth, England	26 OCT - 28 OCT
Norfolk, Virginia	11 NOV - 07 DEC

Norfolk, Virginia 07 DEC - 31 DEC

3. Significant Deployment Events - Noted in Section I of Chronology

4. Special Topics

A. Flight time: 2526 Landings during various amphibious operations including the following:

142 Touch and Gos
293 shut downs
129 refuels
1635 PAX
119 ASAP missions
5 medivacs
203 vertreps

B. Ammo Expenditure: 414 rounds of 3"/50 caliber

C. Troops Carried:

Caribex 2-76 part I - 22 officers and 496 enlisted troops
Exercise Solid Shield - 39 officers and 754 enlisted troops
Caribex 2-76 part II - 14 officers and 378 enlisted troops
Teamwork/Bonded Item
(1) 84 officers, 651 enlisted troops and 1 civilian
(2) 20 officers and 72 enlisted British Royal Navy personnel from 846 squadron
6 officers and 99 enlisted British Royal Marines from Lima Company - 420 Commandos
(3) Transit to U. S. 68 officers and 609 enlisted troops

D. Number of unreps - 203 vertical replenishments, 3 underway replenishments and 4 underway refuelings

E. Development of tactics - continued the development of the underway launch of tank landing vehicles

F. Ship's Store: During 1976 AUSTIN's Ship Store and Soda Fountain provided approximately $19,000.00 profit for use by AUSTIN's Welfare and Recreation Fund. This fund is used to provide recreational facilities and activities for AUSTIN's crew.

III - Documentary Annexes

1. Roster of officers and assigned billets as of 31 December 1976:

CAPT Curtis W. MILLER, JR.	Commanding Officer
CDR Theodore J. KAISER, III	Executive Officer
LTJG Larry L. CANNON	Communications Officer
LTJG Charles H. CRAWFORD	Engineering Officer
LTJG Tobias M. CORDEK	Assistant Supply Officer
ENS Donald G. FRANK	Personnel Officer
LT William A. GEORGE	Air Officer
ENS Lawrence M. HUFTY	2nd Division Officer
LT Bradford L. KEENEY	Dental Officer
CWO Garland T. LOFTIS	Damage Control Assistant
LT Edward A. MARTIN	Navigation Officer
LTJG John D. MUNDT	Gunnery Officer
LT Ronald G. OSTROM	Supply Officer
LTJG Gary R. RHINESMITH	Main Propulsion Assistant
ENS Rudy L. SCHNEEBERGER	Disbursing Officer/Food Services Officer
LTJG Craig W. SCOTT	CIC Officer
LCDR Gary L. SHEPHERD	Operations Officer
ENS George J. SMITH, JR.	1st Division Officer
CWO John Peter SUDIK	Electronics Maintenance Officer
LTJG David H. TERNES	Ship's Bos'n/Boat Division Officer
LT David K. THOMAS	Aircraft Handling/Fuels Officer
LT David M. VALENTA	First Lieutenant
CWO Hal W. WINSLOW	Electrical Officer
1stLT Richard L. PLAUTZ	Combat Cargo Officer

Allowance - 24 & 1 Combat Cargo (Marine)

On Board - 24 & 1 Combat Cargo (Marine)