



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) Command History for 1999

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


E. BARFIELD

COMMAND HISTORY

COMSTOCK began January 1999 moored at 32nd Street Naval Station, California, enjoying holiday leave and standdown, and anticipating a vigorous work-up schedule. In mid-January the ship was underway for part two of the Tailored Shipboard Training Availability (TSTA) and conducted Amphibious Specialty Training (AST) off the coast of Southern California. COMSTOCK moved on to the third phase of TSTA and proceeded to a successful Final Evaluation Problem (FEP), bringing the work-up schedule to a close.

In February, Supply Department completed an almost perfect Logistics Management Assessment. Engineering department also completed several diesel inspections ensuring our engineering plant was fully prepared for the upcoming Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (CARAT) 1999 Exercise. CARAT is a series of bilateral maneuvers conducted with military forces of Southeast Asia nations designed to enhance the cooperative and naval interoperability of participating countries and the U.S.

On March 3, COMSTOCK got underway as CARAT flagship with Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE embarked, and in company with USS GEORGE PHILIP and USS GARY to make final preparations for

the upcoming deployment. Following the Group Sail DESRON ONE disembarked and COMSTOCK moved on to final diesel inspections. On April 14, the ship got underway for Commanding Officer's Underway training. Crewmembers completed Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs) and a Replenishment At Sea (RAS).

COMSTOCK deployed on May 21. Prior to deploying, Assault Craft Unit FIVE and Beachmaster Unit ONE embarked. The ship reached Pearl Harbor, HI on May 28. Personnel began offloading OPLIFT vehicles, and equipment, from the well deck. In Pearl Harbor, the ship embarked Captain B.L. Morgan, Commander, Destroyer Squadron ONE, his staff, USMC personnel, Mobile Dive Unit ONE, and Combat Construction Battalion 133 for deployment. After onloading all equipment, the ship got underway en route Okinawa, Japan on May 31. COMSTOCK reached Okinawa on June 13 and made final preparations to begin exercises with Malaysian military forces.

On June 27, the ship reached Lumut, Malaysia to train with the Royal Malaysian Navy. July 2 the ship hosted Malaysian naval personnel for a day of Flight Deck Fire Fighting Training and a tour of all shipboard damage control equipment. After getting underway on July 5, COMSTOCK worked with USS FREDERICK (LST 1184) and the Malaysian LST INDERAPURA to conduct DIVTAC shiphandling maneuvers on July 6. The following day, July 7,

COMSTOCK participated in the amphibious assault exercise PENYU TRIDENT in Malaysian waters. Two Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) from Assault Craft Unit FIVE (ACU5) transported Marines and their equipment to the beach. That same day, July 7, COMSTOCK returned to port. In the community, volunteers worked hard to improve the quality of life for the people of Malaysia. As ambassadors of good will, many crewmembers volunteered to paint a kindergarten school, make minor repairs and clean up the schoolyard. Landing Force CARAT's medical and dental team participated in a civic action program which provided free health care. COMSTOCK got underway from Lumut on July 10 enroute Singapore.

COMSTOCK arrived at the Republic of Singapore on July 11, and hosted a reception on the flight deck on July 12. Amphibious operations continued along with extensive damage control training. On July 14, damage control repair teams from COMSTOCK and GARY met with members of Squadron 185 from the Republic of Singapore Navy at Panguma Naval Training Center to share damage control ideas and conduct drills. July 19, COMSTOCK got underway to conduct an amphibious assault exercise, held on July 20. In addition to welcoming U.S. Sailors and Marines onto their military installations, the people of Singapore welcomed U.S. personnel into their community. COMSTOCK Sailors visited the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to

clean up the building and prepare for a festival while Marines traveled to the Singapore Children's Society to trim several tree limbs and remove debris from the grounds. July 23 the ship got underway enroute Thailand.

During the third phase of CARAT held in Sattahip, Thailand from July 26-August 5, two COMSTOCK officers had the opportunity to set sail on HTMS SURIN, a Thai naval vessel built ten years ago in Bangkok, Thailand. They assisted the Royal Thai officers in amphibious planning, rehearsal and assault. On August 2, COMSTOCK got underway to conduct flight operations with a Thai S-70B helicopter. The following day, August 3, the ship participated in a convoy exercise with Thai and American ships. Divers from the Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit interacted with Royal Thai Salvage Divers completing a series of familiarization and demonstration dives and lectures. COMSTOCK Sailors continued to work hard in the community improving the quality of life for the people of Thailand. Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion worked alongside Royal Thai Marine Corps Combat Engineers to construct a multipurpose building from the ground up at a primary school in the Rayong Province of Thailand. Over forty Project Handclasp volunteers painted a Thailand elementary school building and brought roller skates, volleyballs and soccer balls donated by the Project Handclasp

chapter in San Diego. On August 6, COMSTOCK got underway enroute Surabaya, Indonesia.

Before completing the last phase of training, COMSTOCK celebrated "crossing the line" while transiting through the Java Sea on August 9. From August 11-25 United States forces and Indonesian forces conducted the final phase of CARAT '99. This portion of the exercise began with opening ceremonies held in Surabaya, Indonesia on August 11. COMSTOCK hosted Admiral Achmad Sutjipto, Chief of Naval Staff of the Indonesian Navy, to observe a Robo-ski live fire exercise and participate in LCAC familiarization exercises. In addition to amphibious training, COMSTOCK conducted flight deck familiarization training with an Indonesian Bell 412 aircrew in preparation for Deck Landing Qualifications. On August 13 the ship embarked an Indonesian pilot to ensure communications and the aircrew completed six flight deck landings. In separate CARAT Indonesia exercises, U.S. Marine Corps personnel conducted Medical and Dental Civic Action Programs with Indonesian Marine Corps forces. U.S. medical personnel treated over 1700 Indonesian civilians, completing 84 cataract surgeries and distributing over 1200 pair of glasses. This concluded the CARAT portion of the deployment. Project Handclasp CARAT 99 Sailors and Marines conducted over 25 Community Relations (COMREL) projects in the five countries visited.

On August 26, COMSTOCK anchored approximately 2 nautical miles off the western coast of Bali, Indonesia where crewmembers enjoyed five days of liberty. COMSTOCK refueled off the coast of Northern Australia on September 4. Sailors and Marines worked together to bring on approximately 25,000 gallons of fuel from HMAS SUCCESS (OR 304), an Australian ship from Darwin.

The ship had a brief stay in Okinawa, September 9-13, to offload Marine Corps personnel and their equipment and embark AAVs for return to Hawaii. The ship moored pierside in Pearl Harbor, HI on September 24. COMSTOCK welcomed friends and family for a Tiger Cruise, and got underway from Pearl Harbor September 29. The ship conducted a burial at sea ceremony on October 4, honoring a deceased veteran by scattering his ashes upon the ocean. On October 6, COMSTOCK entered San Diego Bay after completing a successful CARAT '99 deployment.

In October, Post-Deployment Upkeep was conducted along with preparations for the ship's upcoming Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA). In November and December COMSTOCK's engineering plant received a major overhaul including all Ship Service Diesel Generators and Main Propulsion Diesel Engines. Crewmembers ended the year with friends and family on Holiday Standdown. In 1999, COMSTOCK traveled approximately 30,000 miles and conducted over 250 Deck Landing Qualifications.

CHRONOLOGY

1-10 JAN	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
11-12 JAN	UNDERWAY TSTA II
13-15 JAN	UNDERWAY AMPHIBIOUS SPECIALTY TRAINING
16-18 JAN	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
19-22 JAN	UNDERWAY AMPHIBIOUS SPECIALTY TRAINING
23-24 JAN	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
25 JAN	INPORT TSTA III
26-28 JAN	UNDERWAY FINAL EVALUATION PROBLEM
29 JAN-15 FEB	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
16-19 FEB	LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT
20-21 FEB	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
22-23 FEB	CBR LTT
24-26 FEB	SESI
27-28 FEB	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
1-2 MAR	UNDERWAY TYT
3-5 MAR	UNDERWAY COMDESRON ONE GROUP SAIL
6 MAR-4 APR	INPORT SAN DIEGO PRE-DEPLOYMENT OVERSEAS MOVEMENT
5-9 APR	DIESEL INSPECTION
10-12 APR	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
13 APR	FAST CRUISE
14-16 APR	CO'S UNDERWAY TRAINING
17-27 APR	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
28-30 APR	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN FRANCISCO, CA

1-2 MAY	INPORT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
3-5 MAY	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CA
6-20 MAY	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
21 MAY	DEPLOY CARAT 99
21-29 MAY	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HI
30 MAY-5 JUN	INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HI
6-14 JUN	UNDERWAY ENROUTE OKINAWA, JAPAN
15-17 JUN	INPORT OKINAWA, JAPAN
18-26 JUN	UNDERWAY ENROUTE LUMUT, MALAYSIA
27 JUN-9 JUL	CARAT EXERCISE MALAYSIA PHASE
10 JUL	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SINGAPORE
11-22 JUL	CARAT EXERCISE SINGAPORE PHASE
23-25 JUL	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SATTAHIP, THAILAND
26 JUL-5 AUG	CARAT EXERCISE THAILAND PHASE
6-10 AUG	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SURABAYA, INDONESIA
11-24 AUG	CARAT EXERCISE INDONESIA PHASE
25 AUG	UNDERWAY ENROUTE BALI, INDONESIA
26-31 AUG	INPORT BALI, INDONESIA
1-8 SEP	UNDERWAY ENROUTE OKINAWA, JAPAN
9-13 SEP	INPORT OKINAWA, JAPAN
14-23 SEP	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HI
24-28 SEP	INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HI
29 SEP-6 OCT	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CA
6 OCT	ARRIVE SAN DIEGO, CA
7 OCT-2 NOV	POST DEPLOYMENT UPKEEP

3 NOV	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SEAL BEACH, CA
4 NOV	INPORT SEAL BEACH AMMO OFFLOAD
5-6 NOV	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CA
7-16 NOV	INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA
17 NOV-31 DEC	PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY

SHIP'S MISSION

United States Ship COMSTOCK (LSD 45) is the fifth ship of the WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41) class, and the third ship of the class to serve in the Pacific fleet.

COMSTOCK's mission is to transport United States Marines and combat equipment to designated areas around the world. Forces are launched using assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. COMSTOCK is capable of carrying four Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCACs) which have the ability to exceed 40 knots while carrying a 60-ton payload. Using these transport vehicles, COMSTOCK is able to conduct amphibious assaults against a significantly wider range of beaches and other littoral areas of the world's geography as described in "Forward...From the Sea."

LCACs and other assault craft are handled in the ship's well deck which floods up to ten feet. After the landing craft heads out to sea, the ship's Combat Information Center takes control and directs them to shore.

To provide continuing support to the assault force, COMSTOCK is equipped with the Navy's latest advanced technology including the Ship Self-Defense System(SSDS) defensive combat system, 20-ton and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair facilities, two helicopter landing areas, complete medical and dental facilities and an automated computer based supply system.

Immediate Senior in Command:

Commander, Amphibious Group Three

Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD-45):

E. Barfield, CDR, USN/1110