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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
FPO AE 09534-1662

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5757
Ser ENG/365
2 July 1995

From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
(b) CNO ltr 5757 Ser 09BH/SH/5U505810 of 17 May 95

Encl: (1) 1994 Command History

1. As required by reference (a) and requested in reference (b), enclosure (1) is submitted. Currently USS KEARSARGE is on her maiden six-month deployment in the Mediterranean Sea. Numerous events have already occurred that will enhance our Command History for 1995.

W. U. UNGVARSKY
By direction

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) COMMAND HISTORY
CALENDAR YEAR 1994

Command Composition and Organization:

Mission: To load, transport and land troops and their equipment.

Organizational Structure:

Commander Amphibious Group Two
Rear Admiral Leonard F. Picote

Commanding Officer
Captain David J. Montgomery

Executive Officer
Commander Craig W. Wilson

Command Master Chief
OSCM(SW) Raymond L. Hart

Ship's Homeport: Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia

Chronology:

January

11 - COMPHIGRU Two completed Communications Readiness and Training (CRAT) visit. AIMD completed initial setup of multi-purpose welder; capable of all types of welding operations. MARS communications equipment installed in Debark Control.

14 - Installation of the Tactical Environmental Support System (TESS-3) to include the NITES interface with NTCS-A Command and Control System. AIMD completed and forwarded NDI maintenance, and radiation safety program instructions. Completed initial build up of emergency reclamation boxes. Composite repair console brought on line. Armament Weapons Support Equipment (AWSE) onloaded, to support Combat Systems transferred three personnel to AIMD. Completed move aboard of aviation support equipment from St. Juliens Creek (Portsmouth, Va.).

23 - Ship conducted Underway Replenishment (UNREP) for the first time.

25 - Amphibious Warfare School Tour

26 - Marshall Royal Air Force Tour.

28 - SECNAV visits.

February

7 - U.S. CINCLANT French Navy Tour. Open House (Visit Ship). AV-3M computer program installed. Initial IMRL inventory completed; listing sent to CNAL and CNSL. HCT-10 hydraulic/pneumatic test stand fully operational. Hydraulic tubing bender became operational.

7-11 - Combat System Operational Sequencing System (CSOSS) implementation.

12 - COMPHIGRU Two and Texas Community Leaders visit.

14-15 - Selected ammunition onload ISO CSSQT, pierside Norfolk, Va.

16 - Ship conducted first towing exercise. First Stergate marriage completed with a Landing Craft Utility (LCU).

18 - Recovery of drowned victim from Norfolk Harbor.

22 - Guantanamo Bay (CGTMO) Shakedown Training. REFTRA. Underway through SESEF Range for recording of Antenna Radiation Patterns.

March

8 - REFTRA Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

12-14 - Onloaded MRE's/LFORM POL ISO anticipating Haiti operations.

19 - First admission to KEARSARGE's Medical Department Ward.

27 - Completed personnel highline transfer exercises for the first time.

28 - CSSQT (Inport Phase conducted 28 Mar. - 6 Apr.)

April

7-2 - CSSQT (Underway Phase). Ship conducted first live NATO Sea Sparrow Missile firings.

7-29 - Combat Systems Ships Qualifications Trails (CSSQT) in Puerto Rico OPAREA.

10 - MARS station activated.

16 - Combat Systems Certification in Puerto Rico.

24 - KEARSARGE's Gospel Choir performed at the Naval Station Roosevelt Roads' Base Chapel, in Puerto Rico. IM-3 completed Avionics Bench Installation/Verification with NADEP Cherry Point.

May

4 - Conducted first Wetwell operation with an LCU. INSURV and Final Contract Trials; demonstrate AV-8 van evolution. Calibration Lab inspected during ETG, no discrepancies noted.

14-20 - INMARSAT Installation.

18 - Visit by ADM Henry H. Mauz, U.S. CINCLANTFLT.

June

2-9 - Ship participated in Fleet Week in New York City.

19 - Captain Christopher W. Cole assumed duties as USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) Executive Officer.

28 - OPPE

July

14 - Seven liferafts test-inflated for Inspections & Survey Team (INSURV); all tested satisfactorily.

28 - Gateguard Communication system installation completed, and circuit activated.

29 - INMARSAT installation completed.

August

22 - Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) availability. (August through November).

21 - Hosted Norfolk's Park Place Youth Council in ship's chapel.

September

6 - Began work on a "Habitat for Humanity House," in Portsmouth, Va.

6-9 - AIMD completed Pre-CAMSEE visit. QARs received "Bravo Zulu" from inspectors.

7-8 - Offloaded MRE's/LFORM POL for PSA shipyard period.

8 - Forty KEARSARGE Sailors participated in Volunteer Connection "Day of Caring," in Norfolk, Va.

13 - NALCOMIS Implementation Meeting held. AD2 Scott Curtis named KEARSARGE Military Citizen of the Year. Navy Oil Analysis Program (NOAP) Lab certified for aeronautical samples.

October

3-7 - Air Department (V-1) Training Readiness Evaluation

11 - The Dental Department completed its first Dental Readiness Evaluation (DRE) with a grade of "Outstanding."

17-21 - Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team (OHSAT) visits.

19 - Installed brake system on port and starboard anchors.

21 - Consolidation of the Combat Systems and AIMD calibration labs.

22 - Dedication of "Habitat for Humanity House" in Portsmouth, Va.

31 - Logistic Management Assessment conducted. (31 Oct. - 4 Nov.)

November

1-4 - Aviation Readiness Evaluation completed.

2 - First Aircraft Material Readiness Report (AMRR) transmitted during TCAT. First aircraft engines received onboard. Oil lab received conditional certification for physical properties testing.

3 - COMPHIGRU Two Lay Reader Training

4 - The Maintenance & Material Management (3M) Office attained a grade of 96.3 during the Logistic Management Assessment. Grade nine points above fleet average, and was the highest grade in the Atlantic Fleet during fiscal year 1994. Ship earned the Blue "E" Award for a grade of "Outstanding."

7-11 - Aviation Certification conducted.

13 - Marine CORPLAN (MCLAN) replaces Tactical Information Processing System (TIPS).

14 - Naval Safety Center, Norfolk conducted Baseline Industrial Hygiene Survey. Weight tested port and starboard anchors.

15 - Video Fax Data Terminal (VFDT) installed.

18 - Selective ammunition onload (90 Tons) ISO Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT), pierside Norfolk, Va. Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) availability completed. Depart Norfolk Naval Shipyard commence Joint Task Force (JTF) 1-95. The ship assumed Command as Electronic Warfare Control Ship over USS PENSACOLA (LSD-38) and USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13).

28 - Commenced Night Vision Goggles (NVG) qualifications. (28 Nov. - 15 Dec.) Embarked Marines from 2nd Battalion 6th Marines for Type Commanders Amphibious Training (TCAT). (Exercise lasted 28 Nov. -16 Dec. 94.)

December

1 - Asst. Deputy Commander, COMNAVSURFLANT Tour. First flight operations with ACE (HMM 263 and VMA 231) completed. NALCOMIS implementation and training conducted by CNAL/NAVMASSO. NALCOMIS initiated and utilized during TCAT operations. AIMD fully operational during TCAT operations. Marine "I" - level troops integrated into AIMD. AMS1 Todd Herbert named KEARSARGE Sailor of the Month.

16 - Captain William J. Ungvarsky reports as Prospective Executive Officer in order to support Captain Christopher W. Cole becoming, in January 1995, KEARSARGE's second Commanding Officer.

Narrative:

At the beginning of this reporting period, KEARSARGE (LHD-3) was preparing for her Maiden deployment in the spring of 1995. Ship conducted first Underway Replenishment (UNREP).

KEARSARGE conducted/ participated in Guantanamo Bay (CGTMO) Shakedown Training, Combat Systems Ships Qualifications, Type Commanders Amphibious Training, and Joint Task Force (JTF 1-95) exercises.

In March, KEARSARGE was put in an alert status for possible intervention in Haiti.

USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) participated in Fleet Week in New York City.

Captain Christopher W. Cole assumed duties as USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3) Executive Officer, and is to take command of KEARSARGE in January 1995.

Ship entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) availability August 22 through November 18, 1994. Upon completion of shipyard period departed for Joint Task Force (JTF) 1-95 Exercise, in preparation for March Mediterranean deployment.