



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS NASSAU (LHA-4)
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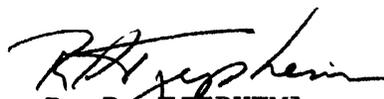
From: Commanding Officer, USS NASSAU (LHA 4)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center

Subj: 2000 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) 2000 Command History
(2) Organizational Chart
(3) Information Pamphlet
(4) 22 MEU Information Pamphlet
(5) Commanding Officer Biography
(6) Unit Photo

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.


R. P. TJEPKEMA

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Ship's Mission: The mission of USS NASSAU (LHA 4) is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine landing force in an assault by helicopters, landing craft, amphibious vehicles or by a combination of these methods; thus possessing the capabilities of the LPH, LSD and LPD class ships. NASSAU can operate independently or in conjunction with other units conducting heliborne and surface amphibious operations. The TARAWA class multipurpose amphibious assault ship was designed to maintain "Tactical Integrity" or to get a balanced force to the same point at the same time.

NASSAU carries a complete Marine Battalion Landing Team (approximately 1,800 personnel), supplies and equipment required for an assault and vehicles to land the team ashore either by helicopter and/or small amphibious craft.

A secondary mission of NASSAU is that of evacuation and civilian disaster relief. Hundreds of tons of relief materials can be carried aboard and delivered to disaster victims within hours of the ship's arrival on the scene. Additionally, NASSAU is capable of providing fresh water and electricity from the ship's engineering plant until restoration of domestic services. NASSAU's medical facilities provide hospitalization for up to 300 patients (including intensive care) and outpatient treatment for hundreds of sick or injured personnel.

22 Marine Expeditionary Unit, including the battalion's supporting elements, Battalion Landing Team 1/8, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 and MEU Service Support Group 22, were embarked on board USS NASSAU for the ship's 2000-2001 deployment. Aircraft flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 included 12 CH-46E Sea Knights (Tailcodes 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 11, 12, 13), six AH-1W Sea Cobras (Tailcodes 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45), three UH-1B Huey Iroquois (Tailcodes 30, 31, 32) and four CH-53E Sea Stallions (Tailcodes 22, 23, 24, and 25). Also embarked was Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX, Detachment SIX with two HH 46D helicopters (Tailcodes 00 and 01) to primarily provide Search and Rescue operations, and Beach Master Unit TWO to provide Landing Craft Unit support for delivery of 22 MEU to the beach and return.

NASSAU is attached to Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO which was commanded by Commodore William J. Luti. During the year 2000, NASSAU was commanded by CAPT Gerard M. Mauer, Jr., with CAPT Edward C. Zurey, Jr. as the Executive Officer. An organizational chart is attached as enclosure (2).

Enclosure (1)

2. CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JANUARY - DECEMBER 2000

01 JAN - 17 MAR: COMPLEX OVERHAUL, PORTSMOUTH, VA
17 MAR - 20 MAR: SEA TRIALS, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
07 APR CHANGE OF COMMAND
11 APR - 14 APR: UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
26 APR - 04 MAY: MISSILE EXERCISE, SOUTH PUERTO RICO OPAREA
04 MAY - 08 MAY: AIR AND SEA SHOW, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
08 MAY - 11 MAY: UNDERWAY CHERRY POINT OPAREA
16 JUN - 20 JUN: OPERATION SAIL 2000, NORFOLK, VA
25 JUN - 30 JUN: WEAPONS ONLOAD, EARLE, NJ
01 JUL - 04 JUL: INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW 2000, NEW YORK, NY
10 JUL AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON TWO EMBARKS
13 JUL - 21 JUL: PMINT/FEP, CHERRY POINT/VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
07 AUG - 01 SEP: FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY, NORFOLK, VA
12 SEP - 22 SEP: MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT EXERCISE, CHERRY POINT OPAREA
27 SEP - 28 SEP: UNDERWAY DEMONSTRATION, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
09 OCT - 26 OCT: JOINT TASK FORCE EXERCISE, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
18 OCT - 20 OCT: PORT VISIT ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR
28 OCT - 27 NOV: PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT (POM) PERIOD
28 NOV: MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP DEPLOYMENT 1-01
29 NOV - 30 NOV: MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT ONLOAD, CHERRY POINT
01 DEC - 09 DEC: ATLANTIC OCEAN TRANSIT
10 DEC: OUTCHOP FROM COMSECONDFLT
11 DEC: INCHOP TO COMSIXTHFLT
11 DEC - 14 DEC: AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP TURNOVER, ROTA, SPAIN
14 DEC - 21 DEC: SPANISH AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE
23 DEC - 31 DEC: PORT VISIT BRINDISI, ITALY

3. NARRATIVE. USS NASSAU completed a nine month complex overhaul at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in March 2000. Among the accomplishments of the overhaul were the upgrade of the Firemain and Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) systems with high-performance butterfly valves; the conversion of Fire Pumps 3 and 4 from steam turbine to electrical power; replacement of the ship's damage control console with the new damage control quarters (DCQ) system; replacement of the port propeller; and the complete overhaul of number one and two boilers. After a successful Light-Off Assessment, USS NASSAU completed Sea Trials from 17-20 March 2000.

On Friday, 7 April 2000, Captain Ronald R. Chapman was relieved by Captain Gerard M. Mauer, Jr., as Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU.

On 26 April, USS NASSAU sailed to the South Puerto Rico Operating Area for a Missile Exercise. After successfully completing the exercise, USS NASSAU made a four day port visit to

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to participate in the Fort Lauderdale Air and Sea Show on Saturday, 6 May and Sunday, 7 May. For Saturday's show, USS NASSAU anchored in the bay and hosted over 1,000 guests, who watched the show, which featured the Navy's Blue Angels from the ship's flight deck.

On Friday, 16 June, USS NASSAU anchored in Hampton Roads at the mouth of the Elizabeth River and hosted over 1,200 guests, who viewed the arrival of the tall ships of OPSAIL 2000 as they entered Norfolk Harbor. Over 150 ships and vessels from more than 60 nations paraded 30 miles from Fort Story to downtown Norfolk, Virginia. Among the 1,200 guests were the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet Admiral Vernon Clark, Senators Warner and Robb of Virginia, Congressman Sisisky and Governor Gilmore.

In preparation for the ship's deployment, USS NASSAU completed a weapons onload at Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J. from 26-30 June. Leaving NWS Earle, the ship proceeded to New York Harbor where she participated in the International Naval Review 2000. Among the highlights of the weeklong visit, Captain Mauer reenlisted 13 USS NASSAU Sailors at the Statue of Liberty. On Tuesday, 4 July, USS NASSAU hosted 2,000 guests, including General James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, who viewed the parade of tall ships of OPSAIL 2000 as they entered New York Harbor. From 5-8 July, USS NASSAU moored at the former Staten Island Naval Station, where the crew hosted over 12,000 visitors.

On 10 July, Commodore William J. Luti, Commander Amphibious Squadron TWO, embarked on board.

From 13-21 July, PHIBRON TWO, USS NASSAU and 22 MEU participated in the PHIBRON/MEU Integration Exercise (PMINT) in preparation for the scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. During this exercise, USS NASSAU unloaded over 1200 Marines and 52 vehicles.

From 5-14 September, USS NASSAU and 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit performed underway operations to further hone the skills necessary to successfully complete our deployment.

While underway, 10 of USS NASSAU's Sailors were advanced to Chief Petty Officer on September 16th.

From 9-28 October, USS NASSAU participated in a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) requiring the operating units of the NASSAU Amphibious Readiness Group (NASARG) to conduct live amphibious assault exercises on the island of Vieques, the first use of Vieques after the island was reopened for Navy training exercises. The NASARG then joined the units of the USS TRUMAN Battle Group for additional training exercises. From 18-20 October, USS NASSAU conducted an entire equipment washdown at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico.

After completing a Pre-Overseas Movement Period (POM) from 28 October-27 November USS NASSAU and other ships within the NASARG departed Norfolk Naval Base for a six-month Mediterranean deployment.

The NASARG transited to Camp LeJeune to onload the 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit. On 1 December the NASARG commenced transiting the Atlantic Ocean arriving at Rota, Spain on 11 December. Departing Rota on 14 December, the NASARG participated in an Amphibious Exercise with the Spanish Fleet prior to transiting the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

At approximately 0300 on the morning of 20 December, USS NASSAU discovered a small boat adrift and sinking. The boat, meant to carry only seven passengers, held 30 men. The Officer of the Deck maneuvered the ship close enough that the small craft could be brought along side. Crewmembers were able to rescue 29 of the 30 passengers from the overloaded boat.

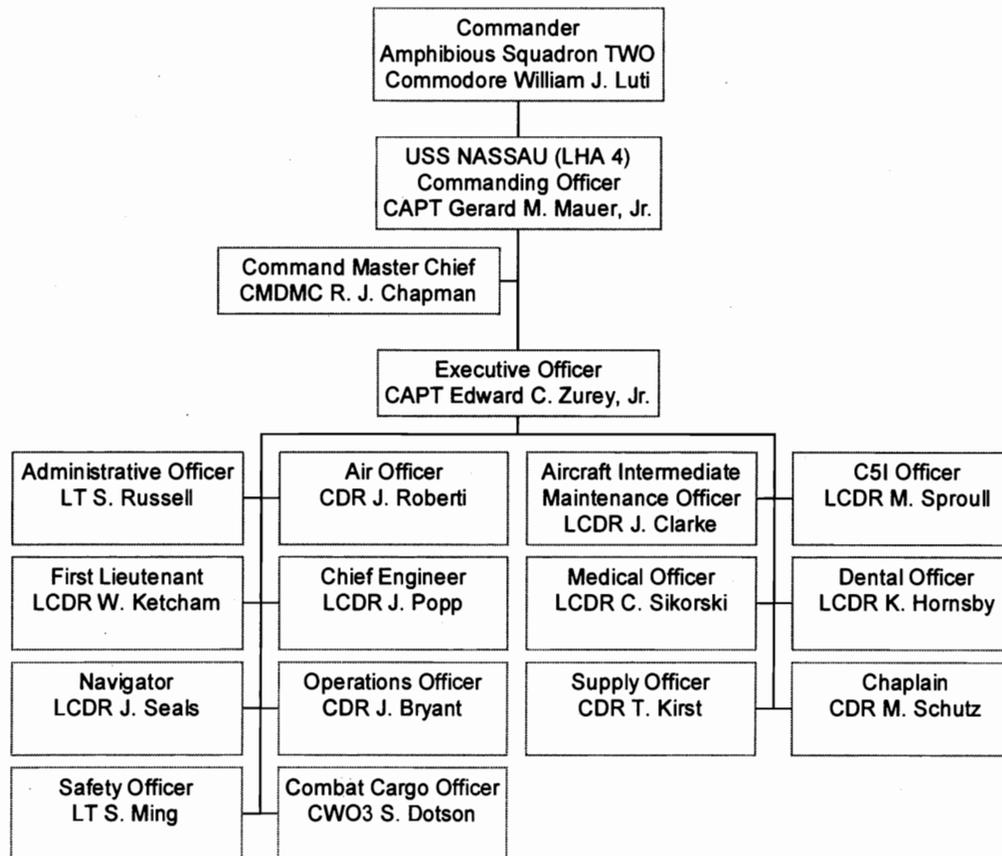
USS NASSAU was in port in Brindisi, Italy, from 23 December through 4 January 2001. Crewmembers celebrated Christmas Eve Mass with the Pope in Rome and rang in the New Year with a number of activities held on board the ship throughout the evening including basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, a spades tournaments, and college football bowl games on the big screen set up in the Hangar Bay.

NASSAU provided PACE courses to 407 Sailors and established the first ever afloat Masters Degree Program in coordination with Old Dominion University. Over 500 NASSAU Sailors participated in numerous community relations projects in Puerto Rico, Florida, Norfolk, New York and Rota, Spain.

During 2000, USS NASSAU was awarded the Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic's Excellence award for Engineering, Command and Control, Supply, and Medical operations. NASSAU also earned the Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic's 'Surface Ship Safety Award.'

A01(AW) Michael Utter has been named USS NASSAU's Sailor of the Year for the year 2000.

USS NASSAU (LHA 4) ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Enclosure (2)