DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

LTJG, USNR

J. E. KRIEWALDT
By direction

Copy to:
COMPHIBRON THREE
COMPHIBGRU THREE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Mission: OGDEN is an AUSTIN-class amphibious transport doc (LPD) which employs a "balanced load" concept. Capable of carrying troops, cargo, tanks, and helicopters, OGDEN can simultaneously launch amphibious assaults by sea and air. OGDEN combines the functions of four different classes of ships: the dock landing ship (LSD), the tank landing ship (LST), the attack transport (LPA), and the attack cargo ship (LKA).

Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Amphibious Group THREE

Homeport: San Diego, California

Short Title: USS OGDEN (LPD 5)

UIC: 07176

Commanding Officer:	CDR L. D. Crow, USN	01JAN03 - 19DEC03
	CDR M. P. Taylor, USN	19DEC03 -
Executive Officer:	LCDR L. D. Davis, USN	01JAN03 - 07FEB03
	LCDR A. J. Anglin, USN	07FEB03 -
Chief Engineer:	LCDR L. M. Bell, USN	01JAN03 - 01NOV03
	LT B. Brown, USN	01NOV03 -
Operations Officer:	LCDR J. C. Melton, USN	01JAN03 - 30MAY03
	LT J. T. Cahill, USN	30MAY03 -
First Lieutenant:	LT L. J. Regelbrugge, USN	01JAN03 -
Aviation Officer:	LCDR F. D. Cotts, USN	01JAN03 - 19DEC03
	LT P. D. Bowdich, USN	19DEC03-
Supply Officer:	LT W. D. Booth, USN	01JAN03 - 23JUN03
	LT D. E. Roberts, USN	23JUN03 -
Navigator:	LTJG A. K. Tajuddin, USNR	01JAN03 - 14NOV03
	LTJG J. E. Kriewaldt, USNR	14NOV03 -

CHRONOLOGY

1 January	-	9 January	Holiday Standdown
24 January			Sea Trials
3 February	-	5 February	Underway for Training
17 February	-	22 February	CART II
24 February	-	27 February	Inport TSTA
24 February	-	27 February	SMA
28 February	-	07 March	Underway for TSTA Preps
12 March	-	16 March	Underway for TSTA Preps
24 March	-	01 April	Underway for TSTA/Ammo Onload
01 April	-	04 April	Ammo Onload, Seal Beach
08 April	-	10 April	Underway for AST (off Camp Pendleton)
15 April	-	18 April	Underway for FEP
21 April	-	25 April	Force Protection Week
28 April	-	01 May	Underway for UD
09 May	-	23 May	Underway for ESG EX
09 June	-	19 June	Underway for COMPTUEX
23 July	-	25 July	FP EX
25 July	-	08 August	Underway for JTFEX
22 August			Underway for WESTPAC 2003
29 August	-	04 September	Inport Pearl Harbor, HI
20 September	-	22 September	Inport Changi Naval Base, Singapore
22 September	-	23 September	Transited the Straits of Malacca

02 October			Transited the Straits of Hormuz
20 October	-	24 October	Inport NSA Bahrain, UAE
26 October			Transited the Straits of Hormuz
03 November	-	04 November	Inport Djibouti, DJ
26 December			Transited the Straits of Hormuz
28 December	-	04 January 04	Inport NSA Bahrain, UAE

NARRATIVE

After a relaxing holiday standdown and the successful completion of the COMPHIBGRU THREE Ready for Sea Assessment, OGDEN departed the Southwest Marine Shipyard under her own power on 24 January 2003. The departure from Southwest Marine marked the beginning of an extremely condensed training cycle.

In February, the highly abbreviated training cycle began, starting with numerous LTT visits and leading directly into Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II. CART II was held inport in its entirety due to several discrepancies that were awaiting repair: all the battle damage and equipment casualties were simulated pierside. After only a day, the Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) process began, starting with another inport evaluation period and proceeding into an underway training period. During this underway period, the crew conducted drills continuously until the underway was curtailed due to an improperly installed system in the engineering plant. In order to reduce the risk to the boilers, OGDEN pulled in for the weekend and got underway again on 12 March to complete her remaining training objectives.

On 24 March, OGDEN got underway again for more training and an LCU onload. OGDEN entered port on 1 April and began a three day ammunition onload at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA. The following week was dedicated to Amphibious Specialty Training (AST), however during the third AAV run off the coast of Camp Pendleton, the ship ingested kelp into all underwater intakes and OGDEN was stranded overnight without power. OGDEN was towed out the following evening and moored in San Diego under her own power very early on 10 April.

The remainder of the month was very successful as OGDEN passed Final Evaluation Period (FEP), then Force Protection Week, then Underway Demonstration (UD), each one week after the other, with flying colors: this marked the completion of the Basic Training Phase. In May, the Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) left port for the first time together. Joint events between CRUDES and Amphib ships included DIVTACS, UNREPs, and USW. COMPTUEX followed in June and operations focused more on working together in opposed transits and UNREPS as wargames became more detailed and oriented toward real world events.

In July, OGDEN completed a 4 week maintenance availability. Contractors completed final jobs to prepare for what had the potential to be a 9 month deployment. Additionally, OGDEN completed a three day force protection exercise. Then, on 25 July, OGDEN left for her final exercise before deployment: JTFEX. The ESG spent two weeks in SOCAL engaged in mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and managing small craft surface threats.

On 22 August, the first Expeditionary Strike Group departed San Diego, CA for deployment. Along with the OGDEN were the PELELIU, DECATUR, JARRETT, and GERMANTOWN. The trip to Pearl Harbor took a week, but OGDEN suffered a boiler casualty the first day and spent the remainder of the week attempting to make repairs. In spite of difficulties, all the ships pulled into Hawaii together. The PORT ROYAL and GREENVILLE joined ESG-1 and they departed Hawaii and headed west.

ESG-1 entered the straits of Malacca on 20 September and pulled into Changi Naval Base, Singapore, later that same day. After a day and a half of liberty, ESG-1 left again the morning of 22 September and completed the transit of the Straits of Malacca. The rest of the transit was conducted as one unit until 01 October 03 when two of the seven ships were detached on other duties. The remaining five transited the Straits of Hormuz the afternoon and evening of 02 October.

OGDEN participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Sweeney during the month of October, then transited the Straits of Hormuz again for operations in the vicinity of Djibouti.

OGDEN completed operations IVO Horn of Africa during November, and celebrated Thanksgiving at sea. In December, OGDEN conducted a Change of Command at sea. Following the COC, OGDEN conducted a Replenishment at Sea with the FS SOMME (a French Oiler), and pulled into Djibouti for a brief stop to conduct a backload of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. OGDEN celebrated the Christmas holiday at sea, and transited the Straits of Hormuz the following day enroute to a long awaited port visit at NSA Bahrain for the New Year's holiday.