



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS PONCE (LPD-15)
FPO AE 09582-1717

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PONCE (LPD 15)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center,
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5060.

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events
(2) Historical Narrative
(3) USS PONCE (LPD 15) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the annual command history for USS PONCE (LPD 15) for calendar year 1998 is hereby forwarded.

a. Command Mission. PONCE's mission as an amphibious transport dock is to embark United States Marine Corps and Navy support elements and, by both water and airborne means, conduct amphibious landings to obtain beach heads, prosecute further operations ashore, or deny areas or facilities to the enemy.

b. Command composition and organization.

(1) PONCE is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, and is assigned to Amphibious Group Two, commanded by RADM G. S. Holder, USN.

(2) The ship's crew consists of 23 officers and 341 enlisted men. The ship's organization is as follows:

Commanding Officer:	CDR C. B. Chace
Executive Officer:	LCDR R. S. McKenna
Command Master Chief:	AFCM(AW/NAC) R. P. Neal
Chief Engineer:	LT C. P. Taylor
Operations Officer:	LT D. A. Kennett
First Lieutenant:	LT K. L. Jordan
Air Officer:	LT M. A. Joynt
Supply Officer:	LT S. M. Arthur
Navigator:	LTJG S. L. Smith
Medical Officer:	LT T. A. Curran
Dental Officer:	LT W. R. Plaster

c. Chronology. Enclosure (1) is a chronology of the events and milestones reached during 1998.

d. Narrative. Enclosure (2) is an historical narrative of significant events in 1998.

C. B. CHACE

USS PONCE (LPD 15)
Chronology of Events

JANUARY 98

06 JAN 98 CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD ENDS
07 JAN 98 DEAD STICK MOVE TO METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD
08 JAN 98 DRYDOCK PHASED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY ARRIVAL
CONFERENCE
15 JAN 98 CPO EXAM
16 JAN 98 FROCKING/AWARD CEREMONY
29 JAN 98 ENLISTED EXAMINING BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD FOR MMFR J. H. RABURN
30 JAN 98 DRYDOCK AT METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD

FEBRUARY 98

03 FEB 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
05 FEB 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
06 FEB 98 ENLISTED DETAILER SITE VISIT
REENLISTMENT OF MMCS (SW) NICHOLSON
13 FEB 98 REENLISTMENT OF BT2 HOWELL/EN2 BENJAMIN
18 FEB 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
COMMAND ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING
RETENTION TEAM MEETING
19 FEB 98 SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING
20 FEB 98 REENLISTMENT OF MM1 (SW) SMITH
23 FEB 98 PLOT II INBRIEF (ETG)
24 FEB 98 CPG-2 SAFETY COMMITTEE SUMMARY
27 FEB 98 PLOT II OUTBRIEF
CAPTAIN'S MAST

MARCH 98

02 MAR 98 CNSL PQS ASSIST VISIT INBRIEF
INDOC DIVISION (WEEK ONE)

03 MAR 98 E-4 EXAM
SURFACE WARFARE SUPPLY CORPS OFFICER BOARD
OFFICER OF THE DECK/COMMAND DUTY OFFICER BOARD
CNLS PQS ASSIST VISIT OUTBRIEF

04 MAR 98 9MM PISTOL QUALIFICATION

05 MAR 98 E-5 EXAM
AWARD CEREMONY

09 MAR 98 INDOC DIVISION (WEEK TWO)

10 MAR 98 E-6 EXAM

12 MAR 98 SHOTGUN QUALIFICATION

17 MAR 98 COMMAND INSPECTION INBRIEF
CMEO SURVEY

19 MAR 98 OHSAT COMMENCES
COMMAND INSPECTION OUTBRIEF

23 MAR 98 DISBURSING AUDIT COMMENCES

24 MAR 98 COMMAND SAFETY STANDDOWN

26 MAR 98 REENLISTMENT OF BM2 PACE

31 MAR 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
DISBURSING AUDIT DEBRIEF

APRIL 98

01 APR 98 UNDOCKING CONFERENCE

02 APR 98 HULL BOARD/UNDERWATER HULL INSPECTION
UNDOCKING BRIEF

03 APR 98 UNDOCKING

07 APR 98 REENLISTMENT OF DC3 BRITTEN
JP-5 ONLOAD BRIEF

08 APR 98 JP-5/LUBE OIL ONLOAD

09 APR 98 F-76 ONLOAD

10 APR 98 F-76 ONLOAD
STEEL BEACH PICNIC
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

12 APR 98 EASTER SERVICES

13 APR 98 REENLISTMENT OF HM2 LOFTICE/HM2 DAVIS
MAGAZINE SPRINKLER INSPECTION INBRIEF
INDOC DIVISION (WEEK ONE)

15 APR 98 NAVY WIDE EXAM MAKE-UPS
CAPTAIN'S MAST

16 APR 98 NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF FUND DRIVE RAFFLE

20 APR 98 INDOC DIVISION (WEEK TWO)

22 APR 98 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YN1 CHARLES W. COLE, JR.

24 APR 98 REENLISTMENT OF SH3 MANRIQUE

27 APR 98 UNIFORM SHIFT TO SUMMER WHITES
LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT INBRIEF

30 APR 98 COMMAND ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING

MAY 98

01 MAY 98 REENLISTMENT OF YNCM(SW/AW) ROGERS (CMC)

04 MAY 98 AVIATION TECH ASSIST INBRIEF
REENLISTMENT OF BM3 MARTIN
CDO BOARD

05 MAY 98 REENLISTMENT OF BM3 CANTEY
CDO BOARD

07 MAY 98 CREW CERTIFICATION/DOCK TRIALS
AVIATION TECH ASSIST OUTBRIEF

08 MAY 98 FAST CRUISE

11 MAY 98 REENLISTMENT OF SMC(SW/AW) SCHISEL
BOILER LIGHT-OFF
NAVIGATION BRIEF

12 MAY 98 U/W FOR SEA TRIALS

13 MAY 98 FULL POWER RUN
RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

15 MAY 98 REENLISTMENT OF MM2 WARD/BT2 TERRY
AWARD CEREMONY
COMMAND PICNIC

18 MAY 98 CNSL LAN SURVEY
HERO SURVEY
COMMAND PHYSICAL READINESS TEST (PRT)

19 MAY 98 GENERAL QUARTERS (GQ) DRILL
COMMAND PRT

20 MAY 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OMBUDSMEN LUNCHEON
FIRING ZONE SURVEY
COMMAND PRT

21 MAY 98 SURFACE SHIP SAFETY SURVEY
COMMAND PRT (SWIM)
GQ DRILL
SPOUSE APPRECIATION DINNER

22 MAY 98 COMMAND PRT
REENLISTMENT OF SK3 WYSOCKI/SK3 VENTURA/FC2
WILKERSON

26 MAY 98 EMBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE I
LAN SURVEY
CIWS ORDALT COMMENCES
HORSE
ATG COMPASS ASSIST VISIT
REENLISTMENT OF QM1 LUCKIE/QM2 JACKSON/QM2 SEALS/
YN2 TURNER/HM2 ROBERTS
GQ DRILL

27 MAY 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

28 MAY 98 REENLISTMENT OF SM2 ROBINSON
GQ DRILL

29 MAY 98 NAVIGATION CHECK RIDE (ADMIN)
WELL DECK CERTIFICATION
SPAWARSYSCEN JMCIS REVIEW
REENLISTMENT OF ABF1 PATRICK/ABH1 VASQUEZ
CIWS FIRING ZONE CUTOFF SURVEY

JUNE 98

02 JUN 98 DEADSTICK BRIEF/DEADSTICK TO PIER 20
GQ DRILL

03 JUN 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
BECCES/FLYING SQUAD DRILL

04 JUN 98 CHANGE OF COMMAND REHEARSAL
AWARD CEREMONY

05 JUN 98 CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

08 JUN 98 CAPTAIN'S CALL
BECCES/GQ
NAVIGATION BRIEF

U/W FOR CART II (FTG)
NAVIGATION CHECK RIDE (U/W)

09 JUN 98 BECCES/GQ
JO SHIPHANDLING
NAVIGATION BRIEF

10 JUN 98 ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN/EMBARK NAV CHECK RIDE TEAM
NAVIGATION CHECK RIDE (U/W)
RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA
FROCKING CEREMONY
HERO/HERP SURVEY
BECCES/GQ

11 JUN 98 MHE ONLOAD
REFUELING
HERO/HERP SURVEY COMPLETE

15 JUN 98 CART II (FTG/CSTG)
CAPTAIN'S CALL
AVIATION CERTIFICATION INBRIEF
DE-RAT INSPECTION

16 JUN 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST

17 JUN 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

18 JUN 98 CART II OUTBRIEF

19 JUN 98 DEBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE I
STRAGGLERS PRT
CAPTAIN'S MAST
AVIATION CERTIFICATION OUTBRIEF

22 JUN 98 EMBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE II
COMMENCE E-CART II (PEB/ETG)

24 JUN 98 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
ENGINEERING ORAL BOARDS/DRILLS

25 JUN 98 BLOOD DRIVE

26 JUN 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE WATCH (EOOW) BOARD
SMOKE FLOAT ONLOAD
E-CART II OUTBRIEF

29 JUN 98 INDOC DIVISION (WEEK I)
PETTY OFFICER INDOC
GAS MASK ISSUE

AMMO ONLOAD
REENLISTMENT OF MM3 HOOPER

JULY 98

01 JUL 98 QUALITY OF LIFE INSPECTION (PART I)
 COMMAND PRT MAKE-UP

03 JUL 98 FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY ROUTINE

06 JUL 98 COMMENCE TSTA I (ETG)/ LIT FIRES #1 BOILER

07 JUL 98 GQ/MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL (MSFD)

08 JUL 98 U/W FOR TSTA I (ETG)

09 JUL 98 REENLISTMENT OF PC2 GREER

10 JUL 98 FLIGHT QUARTERS
 ESWS BOARD
 ETG TSTA I OUTBRIEF
 RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA
 CAPTAIN'S MAST

13 JUL 98 LMA ASSIST VISIT
 TSTA II (CSTG)
 AMMUNITION ONLOAD
 RANDOM CONFIGURATION VALIDITY INBRIEF
 INDOC DIVISION (WEEK II)
 CAPTAIN'S CALL/AWARD CEREMONY/FROCKING CEREMONY

14 JUL 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
 JUNIOR/SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER BOARDS
 SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER: SM1 (SW) COOPER
 JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER: EW3 (SW) BLACKBURN
 OMBUDSMAN LUNCHEON WITH THE COMMANDING OFFICER

15 JUL 98 ENGINEERING DUTY OFFICER (EDO) BOARD

16 JUL 98 EOOW BOARDS
 LOWER AND RECOVER LCPL FOR TRAINING

17 JUL 98 LMA ASSIST VISIT/RANDOM CONFIGURATION VALIDITY
 OUTBRIEFS
 TSTA II CSTG OUTBRIEF
 DEBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE II
 AMMUNITION ONLOAD

20 JUL 98 EMBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE III

21 JUL 98 U/W FOR TSTA II (FTG)
 PRECISION ANCHORAGE AT G-4 ENROUTE TO VACAPES
 OPAREA
 GQ DRILL/ADMIN WALK THROUGH

22 JUL 98 50 CAL/25 MM PACFIRE
MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
FLIGHT QUARTERS

23 JUL 98 FLIGHT QUARTERS

24 JUL 98 GQ DRILL
ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE
EMERGENCY LCAC RECOVERY TRAINING
REENLISTMENT OF BM1(SW) MYERS
U/W VACAPES OPAREA OVERNIGHT

25 JUL 98 ANCHOR LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE/CONDUCT AAV OPERATIONS

26 JUL 98 CONDUCT AAV OPERATIONS
U/W VACAPES OPAREA

27 JUL 98 ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN
CONDUCT LCU OPERATIONS/STERNGATE MARRIAGES
U/W FOR LCU RECOVERY/LAUNCHES

28 JUL 98 LCAC EMERGENCY RECOVERY/LAUNCH
LCU WET WELL OPERATIONS
LAUNCH/RECOVERY OF LCAC AT NIGHT
U/W VACAPES OPAREA

29 JUL 98 EMCON DRILL
MAINSPEACE FIRE/GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
FLIGHT OPERATIONS (DLQ/NVD OPS)

30 JUL 98 ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN/LCU OPERATIONS/PAX TRANSFER
U/W VACAPES OPAREA OVERNIGHT

31 JUL 98 ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN
LCPL PAX TRANSFER OF CPG-2 REPS
U/W VACAPES OPAREA
ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST (ESWS) BOARDS

AUGUST 98

01 AUG 98 REENLISTMENT OF CTRCM(SW) MAGDALENSKI (CMC)
NIXIE STREAM
ICE CREAM SOCIAL/MWR RAFFLE

02 AUG 98 CIWS/25MM/50 CAL PACFIRE
STEEL BEACH PICNIC
ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN OVERNIGHT

03 AUG 98 LCPL PAX TRANSFER (FTG)
U/W VACAPES OPAREA
BECCES/GQ DRILL (CBR)

04 AUG 98 LEAP FROGS WITH USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)
ESWS BOARDS
FLIGHT OPERATIONS (DLQ/NVD OPS)
BECCES

05 AUG 98 RAS WITH USNS LARAMIE
MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
BECCES/GQ DRILL (CBR)
FLIGHT OPERATIONS

06 AUG 98 ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN FOR LCU OPERATIONS
EOOW BOARDS
FLIGHT QUARTERS/MASS CASUALTY DRILL
GQ/MASS CONFLAG DRILL
BECCES
FLIGHT OPERATIONS (DLQ/VERTREP TRAINING)

07 AUG 98 CAPTAIN'S CALL/AWARD CEREMONY
RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA

10 AUG 98 PATG VISIT INBRIEF
SCIP
SPAR INSTALL

11 AUG 98 SNAP IN THE BOX INBRIEF
CAPTAIN'S MAST

12 AUG 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST

14 AUG 98 PATG OUTBRIEF
DEBARK MIDSHIPMEN PHASE III
RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR MMC(SW) CHAMBERS
REENLISTMENT OF MM2 BURBO
FAMILY DAY PICNIC

17 AUG 98 MOTOR WHALE BOAT REMOVAL
MOGAS IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION
SURFACE WARFARE TRAINING WEEK
SPAR INSTALL

18 AUG 98 SCIP OUTBRIEF

19 AUG 98 MOTOR WHALE BOAT REMOVAL COMMENCES
QUALITY OF LIFE VISIT
COMMUNICATIONS ASSIST TEAM INBRIEF
GQ/MSFD

20 AUG 98 SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING

24 AUG 98 TSTA II (ETG) INBRIEF
LIGHT FIRES #1 BOILER

25 AUG 98 NAVIGATION BRIEF/ U/W VACAPES OPAREA
RECOVER LCU 1643 FOR HURRICANE BONNIE SORTIE

29 AUG 98 NAV BRIEF/RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA
EMERGENT BOILER REPAIRS #1 BOILER

31 AUG 98 NAV BRIEF/ U/W VACAPES OPAREA
BECCES

SEPTEMBER 98

01 SEP 98 REENLISTMENT OF AS3 JEMISON
9MM PISTOL QUALIFICATIONS

BECCES
COMMENCE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER INDOC

02 SEP 98 BECCES
9MM PISTOL QUALIFICATIONS
FLIGHT OPERATIONS (DLQS)

03 SEP 98 FLIGHT QUARTERS/PAX TRANSFER

04 SEP 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
NAV BRIEF/RETURN TO NORFOLK, VA

10 SEP 98 E-4 EXAM

11 SEP 98 UNDERWAY FOR TAILORED SHIPS TRAINING AVAILABILITY
(TSTA) II/ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION
ANCHOR AT LYNNHAVEN, UNDERWAY OVERNIGHT

13 SEP 98 BECCES

14 SEP 98 FLIGHT QUARTERS
BECCES

15 SEP 98 E-5 EXAM
9MM QUALIFICATION SHOOT
BECCES
FLIGHT OPERATIONS/DLQS

16 SEP 98 RETENTION TEAM MEETING
CPO FROCKING CEREMONY
NIXIE STREAM
CIWS PACFIRE
FLIGHT OPERATIONS/DLQS

17 SEP 98 FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR PAX TRANSFER
ECERT/BECCES

18 SEP 98 E-6 EXAM
ARRIVE ONSLOW BAY, NC, ANCHOR
CHAFF FIRING EXERCISE
LAUNCH LCPLS/LCU
AAV DRIVER TRAINING
FLIGHT OPERATIONS

19 SEP 98 LCU OPERATIONS
UNDERWAY, ONSLOW BAY
AAV OPERATIONS/DRIVER TRAINING
FLIGHT OPERATIONS
FLASHING LIGHT DRILLS
MEDICAL DRILLS

20 SEP 98 FLIGHT OPERATIONS
AMPHIBIOUS LANDING REHEARSAL
FLASHING LIGHT AND RADIOTELEPHONE DRILLS

21 SEP 98 LCU/AAV OPERATIONS/LAUNCH LCPLS
FLIGHT OPERATIONS

22 SEP 98 FLIGHT OPERATIONS
LOW SLOW FLIER EXERCISE
MASS CASUALTY DRILL
ARG COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE
TSTA III TRAINING EVENTS

23 SEP 98 TSTA III TRAINING EVENTS

24 SEP 98 SET MOPP LEVEL II
REENLISTMENT OF ABH3 ARMSTRONG
UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT
TSTA III TRAINING EVENTS
LEAR WITH JAMMING POD EXERCISE
MULTI-SHIP EW EXERCISE

25 SEP 98 ARRIVE INPORT NORFOLK, VA

28 SEP 98 REENLISTMENT OF AS2 DENTON

29 SEP 98 BLOOD DRIVE
DIESEL TREND ANALYSIS

30 SEP 98 REENLISTMENT OF MM3 DAVIS AND EW2 (SW) WOODIN
DIESEL TREND ANALYSIS

OCTOBER 98

01 OCT 98 GQ TRAINING

05 OCT 98 UNDERWAY FOR YORKTOWN (AMMO ONLOAD 05-09 OCT)

09 OCT 98 UNDERWAY FOR NORFOLK NAVAL STATION
REENLISTMENT OF SK3 CARAS AND GM2 MANNING

13 OCT 98 UNDERWAY FOR FINAL EVALUATION PERIOD (FEP)
FLIGHT OPERATIONS

14 OCT 98 FEP EVENTS/FLIGHT OPERATIONS

15 OCT 98 COORDINATED AMPHIBIOUS LANDING WITH USS KEARSARGE
LCU OPERATIONS FOR PAX TRANSFER
UNREP WITH USNS PATUXENT
NIXIE STREAM
REENLISTMENT OF ABH1(SW) STEWARD

16 OCT 98 CIWS PACFIRE
CHAFF FIRING EXERCISE
ARRIVE, NORFOLK NAVAL STATION

19 OCT 98 LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT (19-23 OCT)

20 OCT 98 CO'S CALL/COMMAND MASTER CHIEF TURNOVER
AFCM(AW/NAC) NEAL RELIEVES AS CMC

22 OCT 98 COMMAND ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING

23 OCT 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
COMPHIBRON TWO EMBARKS (23 OCT- 05 NOV)

27 OCT 98 CSRR/TARGET
WARFARE COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE (27-30 OCT)

28 OCT 98 CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSIS VISIT
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 98

02 NOV 98 REENLISTMENT OF OS3 TETI
CSRR/TARGET CONTINUES
SNAPSHOT

03 NOV 98 NATO SECRET INSPECTION
NORTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER VISIT

04 NOV 98 CAPTAIN'S MAST
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

05 NOV 98 SEMIANNUAL PRT

06 NOV 98 SEMIANNUAL PRT
GQ/ABANDON SHIP TRAINING

09 NOV 98 SEMIANNUAL PRT
COMMAND INDOC (2 WEEKS)
DEAD STICK BERTH SHIFT
Y2K INVENTORY

10 NOV 98 PRT
NATO SECRET INSPECTION
MWR MEETING
IMAV ARRIVAL CONFERENCE

12 NOV 98 COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE (KEARSARGE ARG)
PRT
ESWS BOARD FOR OS2 ARCHIE

13 NOV 98 DEPT/DIV CAREER COUNSELOR TRAINING

16 NOV 98 SESI INSPECTION INBRIEF
REENLISTMENT OF BT1 LANGSTON

17 NOV 98 REENLISTMENT OF SKC CALLWOOD
COMMAND ASSESSMENT MEETING

18 NOV 98 REENLISTMENT OF BM2 KENDIG

19 NOV 98 DEAD STICK BERTH SHIFT

20 NOV 98 AWARD CEREMONY

23 NOV 98 CPG-2 VISIT
GCCS EXECUTIVE BRIEF

24 NOV 98 AWARD CEREMONY/CO'S CALL
SAFETY STANDDOWN
CPO RETENTION TEAM MEETING

30 NOV 98 AMMO ONLOAD
SHIPHANDLING SIMULATOR TRAINING
PMINT PRESAIL CONFERENCE (KSG)
CIWS INSTALL
REENLISTMENT OF MMC NUGENT

DECEMBER 98

01 DEC 98 LIGHT FIRES #1/#2 BOILERS
SHIPHANDLING SIMULATOR

02 DEC 98 SHIPHANDLING SIMULATOR
REENLISTMENT OF MM3 ROBINSON
TOW EXERCISE PLANNING MEETING W/GUNSTON HALL

03 DEC 98 PMINT PRESAIL CONFERENCE (KEARSARGE)
NAVIGATION/SOE/UAV BRIEF
LIGHT FIRES #1/#2 BOILERS

04 DEC 98 U/W FOR PMINT, ONSLOW BAY, NC
EMBARK LANDING CRAFT
MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
BECCES

05 DEC 98 LAUNCH LCU, ONLOAD/DRIVER TRAINING
UAV OPS
CRRC OPS
FLIGHT OPS
SHIPBOARD ORIENTATION FOR MSSG 26

06 DEC 98 LAUNCH LCU W/PAX
UAV OPS
CRRC OPS
FLIGHT OPS
SHIPBOARD ORIENTATION

07 DEC 98 LCU OPS (PAX TRANSFER AND EQUIPMENT ONLOAD)
UAV OPS
FLIGHT OPS
LEAPFROGS WITH GUNSTON HALL

08 DEC 98 LCU OPS
TOWING EXERCISE (GUNSTON HALL)
SOY BOARD
WALKING BLOODBANK DRILL
RECOVER LCU
SHIPBOARD ORIENTATION FOR MSSG 26

09 DEC 98 LCU OPS
BECCES/MSFD/GQ
BLUE JACKET OF THE QUARTER SELECTION BOARD
UAV OPS
FLIGHT OPS

10 DEC 98 LCU OPS
UAV OPS
UNREP BRIEF
CAPTAIN'S MAST
UNREP W/ USNS BIGHORN

11 DEC 98 CIWS PACFIRE/TDU SHOOT
NAVIGATION BRIEF
DEBARK LANDING CRAFT
MOOR PIER 4, NAVSTA NORFOLK, VA

14 DEC 98 PETTY OFFICER INDOC
COMMUNICATIONS READINESS ASSESSMENT
REENLISTMENT OF MM2 DAVIS

15 DEC 98 PO INDOC
REENLISTMENT OF DC2 OLDEN
CICWO BOARD

16 DEC 98 CDO BOARD
FROCKING/AWARD CEREMONY
CAPTAIN'S MAST

CHRISTMAS PARTY (VA BEACH HILTON)
REENLISTMENT OF RP2 (SW/FMF) MCCALL, EW2 (SW)
ALMOND, AND RM2 ENGELKE

17 DEC 98 HOLIDAY STANDDOWN BEGINS
FIRST LEAVE PERIOD COMMENCES

29 DEC 98 FIRST LEAVE PERIOD ENDS
SECOND LEAVE PERIOD COMMENCES

USS PONCE (LPD 15)
Historical Narrative

PONCE commenced 1998 by completing holiday leave and upkeep period and moving into the dry dock at Metro Machine Shipyard for her five month Dry-Docking Phased Maintenance Availability.

In March, **PONCE** successfully completed Light-Off Assessment, demonstrating superb damage control ability to fight a major main space fire using only in port duty section fire parties.

In April, **PONCE** shined once again during the ISIC's Command Inspection, particularly in traffic safety and physical security.

In May, **PONCE** completed the shipyard period and got underway for two days for sea trials. At the end of May, Midshipmen embarked from various commissioning sources for some excellent training.

June's biggest event was the Change of Command. Commander William V. Scardina was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Christopher B. Chace. The interdeployment training cycle began with Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II, which was an excellent opportunity for **PONCE** to assess her strong and weak points, and focus on improving her battle skills.

Tailored Ship's Training Availability I and II took place through July and August, when the Afloat Training Group joined **PONCE** for yet another display of excellence. **PONCE** completed both TSTAs and the vital and challenging Engineering Certification with rave reviews from all training teams, setting the standard for the Fleet.

In September, **PONCE** completed the first of many exercises with 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit in preparation for the upcoming deployment in the spring of 1999. This was the first time the ships and Marine elements under Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO had the opportunity to work together, and the exercise was completed with amazing results.

October brought about the Final Evaluation Phase of the interdeployment training cycle, and the Logistics Management Assessment, in which **PONCE** once again proved her high state of readiness for deployment. The remainder of October and November were spent in an Intermediate Maintenance Availability in Norfolk, Virginia.

In December, **PONCE** ended another highly successful year with a much-deserved holiday standdown.