



**USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
FPO NEW YORK 09501**

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LHA2/01Q:ivm
5750
Ser 210
5 MAR 1979

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20390

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is
submitted.



J. R. ALLINGHAM

COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
1 JAN 78 - 31 DEC 78

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

(1) Captain Fred W. Johnston, USN
1 JAN 78 - 31 DEC 78

b. Mission

(1) 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 all these methods.

(2) Evacuation and disaster relief.

c. Composition of Command

(1) The crew of SAIPAN consists of 55 officers and 762 enlisted men. Additional units embarked when fully loaded will include a Marine Amphibious Unit, which consists of a Battalion Landing Team and a Composit Helicopter Squadron. USS SAIPAN has also served as flagship for Commander, Amphibious Group TWO.

d. Homeport

(1) Naval Base, Norfolk, VA

2. Summary of Operations

a. 1 JAN 78 - 13 FEB 78 - Inport, upkeep, Human Resources Availability, install NTDS MOD 4.

b. 13 FEB 78 - 17 FEB 78 - Underway Virginia Capes, gun missile structural firing.

c. 17 FEB 78 - 6 MAR 78 - Inport, underway replenishment training.

d. 6 MAR 78 - 11 MAR 78 - Ship's Electronic System Evaluation Facility, Underway replenishment and Ship's Qualification Training.

e. 12 MAR 78 - Inport.

f. 13 MAR 78 - 17 MAR 78 - Underway replenishment, Ship's Qualification Training and Ship's Electronic System Evaluation Facility Tests.

Enclosure (1)

- g. 18 MAR 78 - 16 APR 78 - Restricted Availability
- h. 17 APR 78 - 19 APR 78 - Enroute Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- i. 20 APR 78 - 23 APR 78 - Ft. Lauderdale Port Visit
- j. 24 APR 78 - 28 APR 78 - FORACS, Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Sites
- k. 28 APR 78 - 15 MAY 78 - Inport Norfolk, VA
- l. 15 MAY 78 - 24 MAY 78 - Gun and Missile Ship's Qualification Training, Navy Guest Cruise.
- m. 24 MAY 78 - 1 JUN 78 - Inport, boiler repair.
- n. 1 JUN 78 - 5 JUN 78 - Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- o. 5 JUN 78 - 25 JUN 78 - Refresher Training Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- p. 25 JUN 78 - 30 JUN 78 - Enroute New York City.
- q. 30 JUN 78 - 5 JUL 78 - Port visit New York City.
- r. 5 JUL 78 - 6 JUL 78 - Enroute Norfolk, VA, Navy Guest Cruise.
- s. 6 JUL 78 - 7 AUG 78 - Upkeep, Restricted Availability for Final Contract Trials.
- t. 7 AUG 78 - 8 AUG 78 - Independent Ship's Exercise for Final Contract Trial rehearsals.
- u. 8 AUG 78 - 28 AUG 78 - Final Contract Trial Preparations.
- v. 28 AUG 78 - 29 AUG 78 - Final Contract Trials.
- w. 29 AUG 78 - 3 SEP 78 - Inport completion of Final Contract Trials.
- x. 3 SEP 78 - Enter Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
- y. 23 SEP 78 - 20 DEC 78 - Enter Dry Dock #4, Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
- z. 21 DEC 78 - 31 DEC 78 - Norfolk Naval Shipyard Post Shakedown Availability.

3. Special Topics

- a. Major Command Problems

(1) The major command problems during this period included manpower, material, supply and training problems normally associated with the post commissioning, outfitting and shakedown period.

b. Significant Statistics

(1) Hours Flown: 368.0

(2) Landings: 502

c. Weapons Systems

(1) 3 5 inch/54 Guns MK 45 MOD 0

(2) 6 20mm Machine Gun MK 16 MOD 5

(3) 2 Basic Point Defense Missile Launchers MK 25
MOD 0

(4) MK 15 MD0 Fire Control System

(5) MK 86 MD4 Fire Control System

d. N/A

e. N/A

f. First AV-8 Harrier landing aboard LHA class ship:
27 July 1978.

g. Distinguished visitors

(1) Mr. Patrick Duffy, British Under-Secretary of
State for Military Affairs: 4 April 1978

(2) Mayor Edward Koch, New York City: 3 July 1978

(3) Vice Admiral A. M. Synnot, Chief of Naval Staff,
Royal Australian Navy: 3 July 1978.

h. New York City Port Visit

(1) USS SAIPAN visited New York City 30 June 1978 -
5 July 1978 to participate as the Navy Host Ship in the annual
Harbor Festival. During this time, SAIPAN proved to be the
major attraction as over 50,000 guests boarded the ship on
three visiting days, July 2, 3, 4 1978.

i. On 23 September 1978, USS SAIPAN entered the Norfolk
Naval Shipyard for Post Shakedown Availability.