



Rec'd 2/4/92
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAIPAN LHA-2
FPO AE 09549-1605

5750
Ser LHA2:32/ 044
20 JAN 1992

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20374-0571

SUBJ: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History 1991
(2) Welcome Aboard pamphlet with Commanding Officer's
Biography
(3) Officer Billet Listing - 1991
(4) Navy Journalists' Articles (7)
(5) Navy Photographs (19)
(6) USS SAIPAN Familygrams (2)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.


C. M. deGRUY

Copy to: (w/o encls 2 through 6)
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMPHIBRON TWO
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
Command History - 1991

1. Command Organization.

- a. Commanding Officer
Captain Laurence H. Turner, Jr., USN
Captain Charles M. deGruy, USN
- b. Executive Officer
Captain Harvey J. Gannon, USN
- c. Command Master Chief
AVCM(AW/SW) Jon C. Jewett, USN

2. Mission. To embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine amphibious landing force in an assault by AV-8B Harrier aircraft, CH-46, CH-53, and UH-1 helicopters, LCAC, LCU, and LCM-8 landing craft onto a hostile shore from the sea. SAIPAN serves as the flagship for Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) operations. Evacuation, disaster relief, and hospital ship duties are secondary missions of USS SAIPAN.

3. Composition. SAIPAN's crew is composed of 63 officers and 904 enlisted personnel. The administrative chain of command is via COMPHIBRON TWELVE, COMPHIBGRU TWO, and COMNAVSURFLANT.

4. Chronology.

01 - 06 JAN	Holiday upkeep, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.
23 - 25 JAN	Sea Trials.
04 - 08 FEB	Type Training (TYT), Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA). CH-53/MH-53 flight operations. Preparations for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) and Combat Systems Assessment (CSA).
13 - 14 FEB	EMAT.
27 FEB	Inport phase of CSA.
28 FEB - 07 MAR	CSA, TYT, and OPPE preparations. Anchored for four hours at Golf Anchorage to search ship after receiving a bomb threat. Completed CSA satisfactorily. CH-53/MH-53/SH-3 flight operations.
16 - 30 MAR	Judge Advocate General Corps (JAGC) Officer onboard for training.
17 - 29 MAR	Selected Reservists (SELRES) onboard for training.

Enclosure (1)

22 - 29 MAR TYT and OPPE in VCOA. CH-53/SH-3 flight operations. Wet well boat operations.

08 - 12 APR SOSMRC students onboard for training.

09 - 12 APR TYT and SOSMRC curriculum. CH-53/MH-53/SH-3 flight operations.

23 - 25 APR Ammunition offload, Golf Anchorage, Norfolk

07 - 10 MAY TYT and MH-53/CH-47/SH-60/AH-6 flight operations.

22 MAY PCO Captain Charles M. deGruy, USN, reported onboard.

28 MAY - 25 JUN NROTC Midshipmen onboard for training.

29 - 31 MAY TYT and AV-8B/CH-53/AH-1/UH-1 flight operations.

05 JUN Captain Charles M. deGruy, USN relieved Captain Laurence H. Turner Jr., USN as Commanding Officer of USS SAIPAN (LHA-2).

10 - 14 JUN Stage II Carrier Qualifications. Scientists at Sea onboard for orientation. AV-8B/CH-46/CH-53/UH-1 flight operations.

15 JUN - 14 JUL Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) period.

18 JUN Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO, Captain Eric L. Peterson, USN, embarked.

15 JUL - 12 AUG Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT)/FLEETEX 4-91/SOCEX 3-91.

13 - 15 AUG Ammunition onload, Golf Anchorage.

16 AUG - 16 SEP Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM), Naval Station Norfolk.

17 SEP - 31 DEC Deploy Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) 3-91 Central Command (CENTCOM), Arabian Gulf

30 SEP - 05 OCT Port Visit Palma de Mallorca, Spain

09 OCT Transit Suez Canal, INCHOP CENTCOM

17 OCT Turnover with USS PELELIU (LHA-3) in Gulf of Oman

01 NOV - 09 NOV Port Visit Manama, Bahrain

11 NOV - 20 NOV Exercise EAGER MACE in Kuwait. Hosted U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, Chief of Staff Kuwaiti Armed Forces, Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense Director of Operations, Kuwaiti Surgeon General, and Commander Peninsula Shield Forces. Community relations project at the American School of Kuwait to repair damages done by Iraqi soldiers during the occupation of the country.

24 - 29 NOV Port Visit Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Local American and British families hosted Thanksgiving dinner for 125 crewmembers.

01 - 08 DEC 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Mobile Training Team (MTT) with Royal Saudi Arabian Marines at Ras as Ghar, Saudi Arabia.

10 - 16 DEC Port Visit Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

19 DEC Captain Kenneth L. Pyle, USN, relieved Captain Eric L. Peterson as Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO.

20 - 31 DEC Port Visit Manama, Bahrain. Restricted Availability (RAV) period.