



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)  
FPO AE 09549-1605**

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14 Apr 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)  
To: Director of Naval History (H09BH), Naval Historical Center  
805 Kidder Breese Street SE, Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS SAIPAN (LHA 2) FOR CY 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Floppy Disk  
(2) Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. L. Hackney", is positioned above the printed name.

N. L. HACKNEY

Copy:  
Command Files

# USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)

## Command History - 2002

### 1. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission. To embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine amphibious landing force able to conduct opposed assault operations from the sea. Elements of the landing force may include AV-8 Harrier attack jets, CH-46, CH-53, AH-1W and UH-1 helicopters, conventional landing craft, air cushion or tracked amphibious vehicles or a combination of these elements. USS SAIPAN has served in roles as the flagship for the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) operations, with secondary missions of evacuation, disaster relief, and as hospital ship.

#### b. Organizational Structure.

(1) Immediate Senior in Command:

Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT, Norfolk, Virginia

(2) Units under operational/administrative control: None

(3) Command Organization:

**Commanding Officer**

Captain Norma L. Hackney, USN  
(1 January - 31 December 2002)

**Executive Officer**

Captain Christopher A. Hase, USN  
(1 January - 31 December 2002)

**Command Master Chief**

CMDMC(SW/SS) Abraham Jackson, USN  
(1 January - 31 December 2002)

(4) Composition. USS SAIPAN's crew is composed of 68 officers and 1058 enlisted personnel.

### 2. Chronology (CY 2002)

*01 - 21 January*

Inport Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Continuation of Holiday Leave standdown period.

*01 January*

- Continuation of Complex Overhaul (COH) USS SAIPAN and Crew Berthing/Messing Barge both moored at Pier 6 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Portsmouth, VA.

- Continuation of Holiday leave standdown period through 14 January.

*17 January*

Visit by RADM Antinitus, Director, Installations/Logistics Directorate (SPAWAR Code 04).

*30 January*

Visit by Ms. Maren Leed, Professional Staff Member (PSM), Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Readiness Subcommittee.

*20 February*

Command awarded COMNAVSURFLANT 2001 "Green H" Unit Wellness Award.

*21 February*

Command conducted Spouse Orientation Briefing for spouses of newly arrived crewmembers at Fleet and Family Support Center, Norfolk, VA.

*28 February*

Command formally established pen pal partnership with Augusta (Georgia) U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Division.

*08 March*

Commanding Officer, Captain Hackney, visited by Augusta Sea Cadet Division Instructor Linda Hastings, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

*11 March*

Grand Opening of the Mariana's Buffet (ship's Enlisted Mess).

*12 - 14 March*

Conducted Light Off Assessment (LOA) in Forward Main Machinery Room (FWD MMR). SAIPAN did not light off at this time.

*15 March*

SAIPAN crewmember IS3 Joshua P. Jane selected as COMPHIBGRU TWO 2001 Intelligence Specialist of the Year.

*20 - 22 March*

Completed Light Off Assessment (LOA) in FWD MMR. SAIPAN ready to light off.

*27 - 28 March*

Conducted Fast Cruise.

*04 April*

Visit by Adroit Systems Inc. (2 contractors) for fact-finding project to discuss Amphibious Warfare capabilities for incorporation in future shipbuilding.

*05 April*

Conducted Fast Cruise. Grand Opening of Ship's Store and Ship's Library.

*10 April*

Departed underway from NNSY Portsmouth, VA. Commenced Sea Trials in VACAPES.

*12 April*

Arrived homeport Naval Station Norfolk, berthed Pier 10.

*16 April*

Tour visit by 30 members of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Tour visit by 254 U.S. Marines with The Basic School (TBS) Expeditionary Warfare Orientation (EWO) School who stayed overnight.

17 April

Tour visit by 38 U.S. Marines with the Logistics Embarkation Career Course. Command visit by Rear Admiral Kevin Moran, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO.

18 April

Command hosted ship tours and held banquet in Hangar Bay for 192 guests during the Boy Scouts of America (Tidewater Council) Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner.

22 April

Tour visit by 100 international officers with the NATO Defense College.

23 April

Command's Medical Department visited by 7 members of the University of Rio Grande (Partners in Education) to conduct Navy accreditation of the Hospital Corpsmen rating. Command's Security Department visited by 4 members of the House Armed Services Committee conducting overview of Anti-terrorism/Force Protection.

24 April

Commanding Officer Captain Hackney presents certificates to 18 Honor Roll students at command's Adopt-a-School Tallwood Elementary, Virginia Beach, VA.

25 April

Tour visit by 3 guests with SACLANT's Executive Assistant. Tour visit by 180 officers with the (U.K.) Royal Navy Staff College.

29 April

SAIPAN's community relations activities earns the command the "Daily Points of Light" Award from the Points of Light Foundation (an organization which oversees the President's Community Service Award).

29 April - 03 May

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute to Naval Station Mayport.

03 - 06 May

Arrived Naval Station Mayport for port visit.

06 - 10 May

Departed underway from Naval Station Mayport enroute to Naval Station Norfolk.

14 May

Tour visit by 270 U.S. Marines with The Basic School (TBS) Expeditionary Warfare Orientation School.

15 May

Tour visit by 23 members of the National Defense Industry Association.

16 May

Conducted Command Equal Opportunity (EO) Standdown Naval Station Norfolk, Bldg. C-9.

20 May

Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT (COMPHIBRON EIGHT) staff commenced its move aboard SAIPAN. Tour visit by 25 Joint Forces Staff College students.

22 May

Commanding Officer, Captain Hackney is recognized as being one of the "Outstanding Professional Women of Hampton Roads" during the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Hampton Roads Outstanding Professional Women awards ceremony held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, VA.

28 - 31 May

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Embarked 24 Midshipmen for Phase II training, 6 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets (Flying Midshipmen Training Air Wing, Alexandria, VA), and over 40 contractors with the Joint Strike Fighter Program.

31 May

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

4 June

Tour visit by 14 U.S. Naval Academy faculty members.

6 June

Tour visit by 17 Officers with the German Naval Academy.

7 June

Command Adopt-a-School volunteers visit Tallwood Elementary School in Virginia Beach to participate in annual "Field Day" sports and interaction event.

10 - 12 June

Commenced CART II.

13 June

Tour visit by 20 members from the NMITC Ground Intelligence Officer Course (GIOC).

15 June

Tour visit by 50 Boy Scouts. Visit of Commanding Officer's guests.

17 - 21 June

Conducted practice In-Service (INSURV) Inspection.

19 June

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

21 June

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

22 June

Tour visit by 31 Navy Recruiters from Virginia Beach Recruiting area.

24 - 28 June

Conducted Career Oriented Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID).

2 July

Tour visit by Brigadier General John R. Wallace, United Kingdom Army, Commander, 104 Logistics Brigade, and five other officers.

8 - 12 July

Conducted Supply Management Assessment (SMA).

8 - 22 July

Conducted Ship's Navigation and Aircraft Inertial Alignment (SNAIDS) Ship check.

11 July

Command participated in BUPERS "Project Sail" Video-teleconference Detailing. Event covered by Navy/Marine Corps News team.

12 July

Tour visit by 41 Hampton Roads U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and escorts.

15 - 17 July

Conducted Initial Assessment (IA).

18 July

Tour visit by 30 civilian government employees with the Center for Naval Analysis. Tour visit by 3 VIP guests of the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

19 July

Tour visit by 7 guests of the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

21 - 26 July

12 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets (Flying Midshipmen Training Air Wing, Alexandria, VA) embarked aboard.

22 - 26 July

38 U.S. Navy Midshipmen embarked aboard for Phase III training.

22 July

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Conducted ATG Engineering Training Team In-brief. Conducted OPTEVFOR CH-53 Project Testing.

24 July

Conducted High Power Steering Testing/Crash Back/Astern Steering Checks.

25 July

Commenced Well Deck Certification Phase II comprising of daytime LCAC operations and LCU day/night operations.

26 July

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

29 July

Supply Department visited by 6 Coca-Cola Executives.

1 August

Tour visit by 35 members of the Catholic Alumni Club Pittsburgh, PA.

2 August

Tour visit by 20 imagery analysts from the National Imagery Mapping Agency (NIMA).

8 August

Tour visit by 20 officers with the Uruguay War College

12 - 15 August

Conducted Battle Group Inport Exercise (BGIE).

12 August

Photo shoot by Commander, Naval Recruiting Command advertising contractors.

13 August

Tour visit by 45 members of the Hampton Roads Sea Cadets.

14 August

Tour visit by 60 N.C. State students with the Piedmont Consortium NROTC Unit.

16 August

Command hosted Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Change of Command Ceremony in ship's hangar bay.

19 - 27 August

Conducted Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA II).

19 August

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

27 August

Conducted Underway Demonstration. Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

28 August

Command Picnic observed at Naval Base Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, VA.

29 August

Tour visit by 50 senior military (O-6/O-7) and civilians with the National Defense University International Fellows Class of 2003.

4 September

Tour visit by 10 representatives with the U.S. General Services Administration.

5 September

Passed CRC (Communications Readiness Certificate).

5 September

Tour visit by 27 members with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and 17 U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis) Midshipmen.

11 September

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Observed "9/11 Remembrance/Patriot Day" ceremony.

13 September

Participated in Exercise "ARMoured KNIGHT" involving embarked units with HC6, ACU2, and LCU's 1650 and 1658.

16 September

Conducted Chief Petty Officer pinning/frocking ceremony.

21 September

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

23 September

Conducted Incline Experiment.

24 September

Tour visit by 14 students and escorts with the Presidential Management Intern (PMI) program.

28 September

Command hosted tours and lunch in the hangar bay for 198 guests attending the USS ALSTEDE (AAF-48) Reunion.

01 - 04 October

Conducted Supply Management Inspection (SMI).

01 October

Tour visit by 12 guests of the Commanding Officer.

08 - 10 October

Conducted Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

08 October

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute Naval Station Mayport for port visit.

10 October

Arrived Naval Station Mayport.

13 October

Command observed Navy Birthday with all hands awards ceremony.

15 October

Departed underway from Naval Station Mayport enroute Naval Station Norfolk. Observed official date of command's commissioning (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

23 October

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk

23 October

Passed ISIC Navigation Checkride inspection.

30 October

Hosted tour and reception in celebration of command's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary attended by approximately 100 SAIPAN Island government representatives, USS SAIPAN (CVL 48) crewmembers, former LHA 2 Commanding Officers and crewmembers, and command partnership organization representatives.

04 - 08 November

Conducted In-Service Inspection (INSURV).

06 November

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

07 November

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

13 November

Tour visit by 45 Naval Attaches. Command celebrated holiday party at Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA.

18 November

Conducted Spouse Orientation training.

02 December

Departed underway enroute to Staten Island, NY for port visit. Commenced Operation TIGER CRUISE for 33 participants.

05 December

Arrived Staten Island, NY, moored at "The Sullivan's" Pier at the former Homeport Naval Base.

06 December

Command participated in "Caps for Kids" community relations project at the Staten Island University Hospital. Hosted reception on board in the hangar bay for over 150 VIPs and invited guests.

07 December

Commanding Officer and Chief Petty Officers participated in Staten Island observance of Pearl Harbor Anniversary. Conducted general ship visiting for over 150 guests. 170 crewmembers attend Army/Navy football game.

08 December

Conducted general ship's visiting for over 150 guests.

09 December

Departed underway from Staten Island, NY enroute to Naval Station Norfolk. Commenced Operation Tiger Cruise with 77 Tigers, 29 Staten Island NJROTC students, and 14 Arlington U.S. Naval Sea Cadets.

10 December

Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

13 December - 27 December

Commenced Holiday Leave Standdown.

31 December

Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute to Naval Weapons Station, Earle, Colts Neck, NJ for Ammunition Onload.

### **3. Basic Historic Narrative.**

Upon completion of Complex overhaul, new flight deck non-skid was laid. This surface provides the safety factor needed to move and operate aircraft and equipment at sea.

Aviation Certification (AVCERT) was completed 22 April 2002, less than 10 days out of overhaul. The ship was operating aircraft on 19 April 2002, less than 14 days out of overhaul.

At the end of CY 2002, the ship had accumulated over 3,000 flight deck evolutions, over 300 aircraft moves and over 100 elevator runs. V-4 division on-loaded over 440,000 gallons of JP-5 without incident upon leaving NNSY.

By the end of CY 2002 they had pumped over 300,000 gallons of JP-5, servicing over 500 aircraft all without incident.

The following were USS SAIPAN's required inspections:

<b>INSPECTION</b>	<b>PERIODICITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Boiler	18-24 months	21 May 01
CMS	24 months	06-09 Nov 01
Dental Readiness	Once per IDTC	Scheduled Feb 03
Diesel Engine	12-24 months (after last inspection)	21 Oct 01
Medical Readiness	Once per IDTC	Scheduled Mar 03
Navigation Check Ride	Two per IDTC	23 Oct 02
Supply Management	24 months	04 Oct 02
Underwater Hull	Quarterly	May 02
Underway Material	Every third IDTC	Scheduled 4-8 Nov 02

The following were USS SAIPAN's required certifications:

<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>PERIODICITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
AT-FP	Once per IDTC	10 Oct 02
AVCERT	24 months	26 Apr 02
ARQ	24 months	26 Apr 02
COMMS Readiness	24 months	09 Nov 02
De-Ratting Certification	6 months	28 May 02
Oil Pollution Abatement	5 years (ICW UMI)	29 Mar 02
TACAN System	24 months	10 Apr 02
Well Deck Phase I	Once per IDTC (ICW CART II)	16 Apr 02

The following were USS SAIPAN's required assessments:

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>PERIODICITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Aviation Ordnance Safety Cargo and Weapons	Once per IDTC (during JTFX)	Scheduled 03 Feb 03
Elevator	Once per IDTC (SEMAT II)	Scheduled Jun 02
C5RA	Once per IDTC (90 to 140 prior to deployment)	Scheduled Mar/Apr 03
CAMSEE	Once per IDTC	Scheduled Mar 03
Field Cal Activity	30 days prior to C5RA	Scheduled Mar 03
Light Off Assessment/Exam	Following PMA/COH	12-14 Mar 02
NAVOSH and Environmental Protection	Once per IDTC (NTE 36 months ICW UMI)	15-19 Jun 02
ORM Training Team	Once per IDTC	14 Feb 02
Quality Assurance	Once every FMAV/PMA/COH	27 Aug 02
SAR Phase I	Once per IDTC (prior to CART II)	22 May 02
SAR Phase II	Once per IDTC (during CART II)	15 Apr 02
SEMAT I	Once per IDTC (prior to FMAV/PMA/COH)	Jan 02
SEMAT II	Once per IDTC (ICW C5RA)	Scheduled Apr/May 03
Test Equipment Cal Readiness	Once per IDTC (60 days prior to C5RA)	Scheduled Feb 03
Underway Demo	Once per IDTC (prior to FEP)	27 Aug 02
SMA	As requested	12 Jul 02