



**(d) Homeport Information**

TARAWA was homeported at Naval Station, San Diego for all of 1989. From 08 July 90 through 20 December 90, TARAWA was on deployment to the Western Pacific.

**(e) Summary of operations and special events for 1989**

01 Jan - 10 Jan Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
11 Jan Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
11 Jan - 13 Jan Begin PHIBREFTRA. Anchored off Red Beach, Camp Pendleton, Ca. Conducted Flight Operations in connection with Refresher Training.  
13 Jan Underway from anchorage. RADM Baker, Commander Amphibious Group Three (CPG-3) visits TARAWA. Conducted Flight Operations.  
14 Jan - 16 Jan Conducted Flight Operations.  
17 Jan Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego. End of PHIBREFTRA.  
17 Jan - 24 Jan Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
25 Jan Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego. Begin Exercise KERNEL BLITZ 89-1. Anchored off Coronado Roads (Anchorage 170). CPG-3 and Commander, Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit (11th MEU) embarked. Conducted Flight Operations.  
26 Jan Underway from anchorage. Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca. COL Kuhn, Commander Marine Air Group 50 and BGEN Eschelman, Commander Fifth Marine Expeditionary Brigade embark TARAWA. Underway from anchorage.  
27 Jan Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.  
28 Jan Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. BGEN Huckabee, Commander Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Ca visits TARAWA.  
29 Jan Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations.  
30 Jan Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. COL Rothwell, Commander Regimental Landing Team 5 and CAPT Grabowsky, Commander Naval Special War Group One visit TARAWA.  
31 Jan Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations.  
01 Feb Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Chemical/Biological/Radiation Drill. Conducted night-time Underway Refueling with USNS Kawishiwi.  
02 Feb Conducted Flight Operations. LTGEN Godfrey, Fleet Marine Force Pacific visits TARAWA.

Exercised at General Quarters.  
 03 Feb Conducted Amphibious Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations. VADM Kihune, Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific and MGEN Monahan, Commander First Marine Expeditionary Brigade visit TARAWA. Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca.  
 04 Feb Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. MGEN Miller, Commander Third Marine Aircraft Wing visits TARAWA.  
 05 Feb Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. BGEN Hamilton, Commander First Force Service Support Group visits TARAWA. Underway from anchorage off Camp Pendleton, Ca.  
 06 Feb Conducted Amphibious Operations. Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca. Conducted Flight Operations. MGEN Monahan (1ST MEF) and Commander, Seventh Combat Aviation Brigade visit TARAWA.  
 07 Feb Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. Commander Amphibious Group Three debarks. Underway from anchorage off Camp Pendleton, Ca.  
 08 Feb Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. BGEN Eschelman (5th MEB) debarks. End of Exercise KERNEL BLITZ 89-1. Underway from anchorage. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
 08 Feb - 12 Mar Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
 16 Feb Exercised at General Quarters.  
 23 Feb Exercised at General Quarters.  
 10 Mar Change of Command - CAPT T.L. Blackmon relieved by CAPT W.R. Fladd as Commanding Officer. RADM Donovan, Commander Naval Military Personnel Command is the guest speaker.  
 13 Mar Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego. CAPT Durbin, Commander Amphibious Squadron One (CPR-1) embarked. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca. Underway from anchorage off Camp Pendleton, Ca.  
 14 Mar Conducted Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications. Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.  
 15 Mar Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. CPR-1 debarks.  
 16 Mar Conducted underway refueling with USNS Kawishiwi ending with normal breakaway. Conducted Flight Operations. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
 16 Mar - 20 Mar Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.  
 21 Mar Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego for

Underway Material Inspection portion of In-Service Inspection. Tested anchor. Conducted a full power build-up. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

21 Mar - 09 Apr Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

30 Mar Exercised at General Quarters.

10 Apr Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications (85 rounds expended).

11 Apr Conducted Amphibious Operations. CPR-1 embarks. Conducted Flight Operations.

12 Apr Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations.

13 Apr Conducted underway refueling with USNS Kawishiwi. Conducted Flight Operations.

14 Apr Conducted Flight Operations. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

14 Apr - 23 Apr Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

24 Apr Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego to begin Exercise KERNEL USHER 89-2. CPR-1 and 11th MEU embarked. Conducted Amphibious Operations.

25 Apr Anchored off Camp Pendleton, Ca. Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Underway from anchorage. CAPT Santamaria, Commander, Amphibious Squadron Three visits TARAWA.

26 Apr Conducted Flight Operations.

27 Apr Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted underway refueling of USS Bristol County with normal breakaway.

28 Apr RADM Baker (CPG-3) and RADM Mercer, Commander, Carrier Group Seven visit TARAWA. Exercised at General Quarters.

29 Apr MGEN Monahan (1ST MEB) visits TARAWA. Conducted gunnery exercise (10 rounds expended).

30 Apr Conducted Amphibious Operations. CAPT Levien, Commanding Officer, USS Vancouver visits TARAWA. Exercised at General Quarters.

01 May Conducted Amphibious Operations.

02 May Exercised at General Quarters.

03 May Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations.

04 May Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. Fired SRBOC Chaff to starboard - 3 rounds. Conducted underway refueling with USNS Kawishiwi with normal breakaway.

05 May Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted economy trials.

06 May Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Amphibious Operations.

07 May Conducted ECC drills. Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.

Exercise KERNEL USHER 89-2 ends. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

07 May - 13 Jun Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

07 Jun Conducted stern gate ballast operations.

08 Jun Exercised at General Quarters.

14 Jun Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego for Dependent's Cruise. Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored at Coronado Roads. Underway from anchorage. Moored port side to Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

14 Jun - 19 Jun Moored at Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego.

20 Jun Underway from Pier 7 Naval Station San Diego. Exercised at General Quarters. CPR-1 embarked. Conducted Flight Operations.

21 Jun Conducted Amphibious Operations. Conducted Flight Operations. CPR-1 departs. Exercised at General Quarters.

22 Jun Conducted underway refueling with USNS Kawishiwi. Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted gunnery exercise for Mount 51 - 10 rounds expended. Moored starboard side to Pier 8 Naval Station San Diego.

22 Jun - 07 Jul Moored at Pier 8 Naval Station San Diego.

08 Jul Underway from Pier 8 Naval Station San Diego for WESTPAC Deployment. CPR-1 and 11th MEU embarked. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with +8U time zone.

09 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

10 Jul Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with +9V time zone.

11 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

12 Jul Conducted underway refueling with USS Willamette. Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with +10W time zone.

13 Jul Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with +11X time zone. Conducted Flight Operations.

15 Jul Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Gunnery Exercise.

16 Jul Retarded clocks one hour to conform with +12Y time zone.

17 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

19 Jul Advanced clocks twenty-four hours to conform with -12M time zone. Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Gunnery Exercise - Mount 51. Eight rounds expended. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with -11L time zone.

20 Jul Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations.

21 Jul Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with -10K time zone.

22 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

23 Jul Retarded clocks one hour to conform with -9I time zone.

24 Jul Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted underway refueling with USNS Passumpsic.

25 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

26 Jul Moored starboard side to Pier 8, Berths 82 and 83, Pusan, South Korea.

27 Jul Executed personnel recall. Sortied from Pier 8 Pusan, South Korea to avoid Typhoon Judy.

29 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

30 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

31 Jul Conducted Flight Operations.

01 Aug Conducted underway refueling with USNS Passumpsic. Conducted Flight Operations.

02 Aug Slowed to five knots to avoid track of Tropical Storm Lola. Conducted Flight Operations.

03 Aug Anchored in Anchorage B-217, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Underway from Anchorage B-217, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Conducted Flight Operations.

04 Aug Conducted Gunnery Exercise. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 21. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 22. Exercised at General Quarters. Fired four rounds from Mount 51. Fired six rounds from Mount 52. Fired 49 rounds from 20mm Mount 25. Fired one round from 20mm Mount 21. Fired 49 rounds from 20mm Mount 22. Fired 49 rounds from 20mm Mount 23. Fired 49 rounds from 20mm mount 24. Fired two rounds from 20mm Mount 26. Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with -8H time zone.

05 Aug Passed through Luzon Straits. Conducted Flight Operations.

06 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

07 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored in Anchorage C-10, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Underway from Anchorage C-10. Moored port side to Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.

07 Aug - 13 Aug Moored at Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.

08 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

09 Aug Conducted stern gate ballast operations.

11 Aug Conducted stern gate ballast operations.

13 Aug Security alert called away for possible bomb on pier. Secured from bomb threat. Conducted stern gate ballast operations.

14 Aug Underway from Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP. Moored to Buoy No. 19 in Subic Bay. Underway from Buoy No. 19. Conducted Flight Operations. CPR-1 departs.

15 Aug Conducted Amphibious Operations. Anchored in

Anchorage C-10, Subic Bay, RP. Conducted Flight Operations. ASWINGSPAC visits TARAWA. Underway from Anchorage C-10, Subic Bay, RP. CPR-1 embarked. Conducted Night Vision Goggle operations.

16 Aug Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations.

17 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks one hour to conform to -7G time zone.

18 Aug Conducted shiphandling exercise with USS Vancouver. Conducted Night Vision Goggles Operations.

19 Aug Conducted Deceptive Lighting Exercise.

20 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

21 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

22 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored in Gulf of Thailand off Phattaya Beach, Thailand.

23 Aug - 25 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

26 Aug Underway from anchorage off Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Begin Exercise THALAY THAI 89-9. Conducted Flight Operations.

27 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. LTGEN Godfrey, Commander, Fleet Marine Force Pacific visits TARAWA. Exercised at General Quarters.

28 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Amphibious Operations for R-Day of THALAY THAI 89-9.

29 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Amphibious Operations for D-Day of THALAY THAI 89-9.

30 Aug Conducted Flight Operations. Royal Thai Navy Admiral and Commander, Seventh Fleet, ADM Chase visit TARAWA.

31 Aug Conducted Flight Operations.

01 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Emergency medical assistance provided for a Thai fishing vessel alongside. A 23 yr old Thai, Dang Bootityo, was diagnosed with an avulsion laceration and a second degree ankle sprain. He was treated and medivac'ed to Sattahip, Thailand.

02 Sep Conducted Flight Operations.

03 Sep Conducted Flight Operations.

04 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Advanced clocks one hour to conform with -8H time zone. Exercise THALAY THAI ends.

05 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted underway refueling with USNS Passumpsic.

06 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Two Soviet TU-16 Badgers sighted flying low.

07 Sep Conducted Gunnery Exercise - fired one round from Mount 52. Conducted Flight Operations.

08 Sep Exercised at General Quarters.  
 Conducted Flight Operations.  
 10 Sep Conducted Flight Operations.  
 11 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored in Anchorage C-10, Subic Bay, RP. Dragging of anchor reported by Navigator. Underway from Anchorage C-10 due to heavy winds in harbor. Moored port side to Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.  
 11 Sep - 27 Sep Moored at Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.  
 16 Sep Conducted Flight operations in port.  
 21 Sep Security Alert called away for swimmers in the water (BEARING GUARD 89).  
 27 Sep Underway from Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay for Exercise PACEX 89. Conducted Flight Operations.  
 28 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters for Mass Conflagration Drill.  
 29 Sep Conducted Flight Operations. Advanced clocks one hour to conform with -9I time zone. Exercised at General Quarters for Mass Conflagration Drill.  
 30 Sep Exercised at General Quarters for Mass Conflagration Drill. Conducted Flight Operations.  
 01 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.  
 03 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Alongside USNS Hassayampa for refueling.  
 04 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.  
 05 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.  
 06 Oct Alongside USS Wichita for refueling. Conducted Flight Operations.  
 07 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.  
 08 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.  
 09 Oct Conducted Underway Refueling with USNS Ponchatoula. Conducted Flight Operations.  
 10 Oct Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted Flight Operations.  
 11 Oct USS Downes reports two men overboard and requests assistance. Conducted Flight Operations. Detached from search and rescue operations for men overboard from USS Downes.  
 12 Oct - 16 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.  
 17 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored in Outer Harbor, Pohang, South Korea.  
 18 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Underway from Anchorage in Outer Harbor, Pohang, South Korea. Destroyer Squadron 35 embarked. Conducted Underway Refueling with USNS Passumpsic. Conducted Vertical Replenishment from USNS Passumpsic.  
 19 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Deputy Commandant, Republic of Korea Marine Corps and First Marine Air Wing visit TARAWA.

20 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. ADM Chase, Commander, Seventh Fleet visits TARAWA.

21 Oct - 24 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.

25 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. ADM Chase, Commander, Seventh Fleet visits TARAWA.

26 Oct Destroyer Squadron 35 debarks. Conducted Underway Refueling with USNS Ponchatoula.

27 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.

28 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Exercise PACEX 89 ends.

30 Oct Conducted Flight Operations. Moored port side to India Pier, Berths 7 and 8, Sasebo, Japan.

30 Oct - 05 Nov Moored at India Pier, Sasebo, Japan.

31 Oct Conducted Flight Operations.

05 Nov Conducted Flight Operations.

06 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. Underway from India Pier, Sasebo, Japan. Retarded clocks one hour to conform with -8H time zone.

07 Nov Conducted Gunnery Exercise. Fired five rounds from Mount 51. Fired five rounds from Mount 52. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 22. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 21. Conducted Flight Operations.

08 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters.

09 Nov Conducted Flight Operations.

10 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored at C-16 Anchorage, Subic Bay, RP. Underway from C-16 Anchorage, Subic Bay, RP to avoid effects of high winds in harbor associated with Super Typhoon Sarah.

11 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. Moored port side to Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.

11 Nov - 19 Nov Moored at Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay, RP.

19 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. Underway from Alava Pier Extension, Subic Bay RP.

20 Nov Conducted Flight Operations.

22 Nov Moored to Buoy A-51, Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong, BCC.

22 Nov - 27 Nov Moored at Buoy A-51, Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong, BCC.

27 Nov Underway from Buoy A-51, Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong, BCC.

28 Nov Exercised at General Quarters for Main Space Fire Drill.

29 Nov Advanced clocks one hour to conform with -9I time zone.

30 Nov Conducted Flight Operations. GEN Wells, Commander, First Marine Air Wing, visits TARAWA.

01 Dec Conducted Flight Operations.

02 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Exercised at General Quarters. Commanding Officer, USS Anchorage visits TARAWA.

04 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Advanced clocks one

hour to conform with -10K time zone. Conducted Underway Replishment with USNS Passumpsic.

05 Dec Conducted Flight Operations.

06 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with -11L time zone. Out Chop from Seventh Fleet to Third Fleet.

07 Dec Conducted Flight Operations.

08 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with -12M time zone. Exercised at General Quarters for ECC Drills. Conducted Flight Operations. Retarded clocks 24 hours to conform with +12Y time zone.

09 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with +11X time zone. Conducted Flight Operations.

11 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with +10W time zone. Conducted an Underway Refueling with USS Willamette. Conducted Flight Operations.

12 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Moored starboard side to Pier K-10, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Embarked 99 male dependents and guests for transit to San Diego. Underway from Pier K-10, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

13 Dec Exercised at General Quarters. Conducted a Man Overboard Drill.

14 Dec Conducted Flight Operations.

15 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with +9V time zone.

16 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Conducted Gunnery Exercise. Fired 50 rounds from 20mm Mount 25. Fired four rounds from Saluting Batteries. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 22. Fired 200 rounds from Mount 21. Fired five rounds from Mount 51. Fired four rounds from Mount 52.

17 Dec Conducted Flight Operations.

18 Dec Advanced clocks one hour to conform with +8U time zone. Conducted Flight Operations.

19 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Anchored off Del Mar Boat Basin, California. Offloaded marines and equip. Underway from anchorage off Del Mar Boat Basin, California. CPR-1 debarks.

20 Dec Conducted Flight Operations. Moored port side to Pier 8 Naval Station San Diego.

20 Dec - 31 Dec Moored at Pier 8 Naval Station San Diego.

**(f) Narrative History**

After successfully completing Refresher Training (REFTRA) in December 1988, TARAWA began 1989 operating in the Southern California OPAREAS with Amphibious Refresher Training (PHIBREFTRA) from 11 - 17 January and a major exercise, KERNEL BLITZ 89-1, from 25 January - 8 February.

Capt. Wirt R. Fladd relieved Capt. Thomas L. Blackmon on 10 March and successfully guided TARAWA through an In Service Inspection (INSURV) from 16 - 21 March and a Supply Management Assessment (SMA).

Upon completion of the INSURV and SMA, TARAWA participated in another major exercise, KERNEL USHER 89-2, off the Southern California coast from 24 April - 7 May. RADM Edward B. Baker, Jr., Commander, Amphibious Group Three was embarked onboard for this exercise.

Though scheduled to deploy to the Western Pacific on 20 June, some distressing events in Panama caused a delay until 8 July as TARAWA acted as the Ready Amphibious Ship for troops on standby.

TARAWA deployed to the Western Pacific from 8 July - 20 December as the flagship of Amphibious Readiness Group Alfa (ARG Alfa) under the leadership of Capt. James L. Durbin, Jr., Commander, Amphibious Squadron One. ARG Alfa participated in exercises THALAY THAI, PACEX '89, VALIANT MARK 89-9 and VALIANT BLITZ 90-1.

TARAWA made port calls during the deployment to Pusan, South Korea; Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan (twice); Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines (three times); Phattaya Beach, Thailand; Sasebo, Japan; Hong Kong, BCC and Pearl Harbor, HI.

One of TARAWA's favorite activities during the deployment was tropical cyclone evasion. Typhoon Judy caused TARAWA to sortie from Pusan, South Korea two days ahead of schedule; Tropical Storm Lola delayed TARAWA's arrival in Buckner Bay by 24 hours; Typhoon Sarah later caused TARAWA to sit off the southwest coast of Luzon for a day before it suddenly moved northward; and Super Typhoon Irma prevented TARAWA from approaching the Philippine Islands during the coup d'etat attempt against President Corazon Aquino in December as winds of 130 knots and maximum seas of 42 feet barred the way.

TARAWA arrived off Camp Pendleton, CA on 19 December and offloaded the embarked Marine troops and their equipment. TARAWA returned home to San Diego at 1000 on 20 December to a tremendous crowd of family and friends. TARAWA began a well-deserved stand-down period on 21 December, remaining pierside through the end of 1989.

## **(g) Statistical and Mission Highlights**

### **(1) Supply Department**

TARAWA's Supply Department had an extremely busy and successful year in 1989. Exercise KERNEL BLITZ 89-1 in January was TARAWA's first major amphibious exercise in over two years and the Supply Department's first support challenge of the year. KERNEL BLITZ was followed closely by TARAWA's Change of Command, INSURV and a Supply Management Assessment (SMA), all during the month of March. In April, the Supply Department supported exercise KERNEL USHER 89-2, the last major work-up prior to TARAWA's deployment to the Western Pacific on 08 July.

The Supply Department had two significant successes during the year. In March, at the conclusion of the SMA, TARAWA's Supply Department learned that it had earned grades of excellent in all

inspected functional areas and had qualified for the Supply Department Excellence Award, the Supply Blue "E". In October, TARAWA was officially awarded the Blue "E", becoming the first West Coast LHA ever to achieve this honor.

The second significant success occurred during the Western Pacific deployment, during which TARAWA successfully demonstrated that hard work and pre-deployment planning pay big dividends. During the deployment, TARAWA supported 24 helicopters from HMM-163 and achieved an overall Mission Capable rate of over 88%, well above the COMNAVAIRPAC Force goal. COMNAVAIRPAC commended TARAWA's Supply/AIMD Departments and HMM-163 as the "Blueprint for Success" for future deployments. Additionally, TARAWA's Supply service organizations set all time records in ship's store sales, food service and ADP support, and was the deployment prototype for COMNAVSURFPAC for a new disbursing payroll system.

The following are key indicators for 1989 from each Division within the Supply Department:

### S-1 (Stock Control)

During 1989, the Stock Control Division processed over 17,000 stock requisitions and 6,000 direct-turnover (DTO) requisitions.

In addition, S-1 administered/accounted for the following funds:

#### Supplies and Equipage

	NR	Other	Total
Granted	\$2,053,077.00	\$1,272,074.03	\$3,325,151.03
Obligated	2,053,068.11	1,272,055.12	3,325,123.23
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Year End Balance	8.89	18.91	27.80

#### Aviation Flight Maintenance

	7L	9S	Total
Granted	\$ 560,000.00	\$1,320,690.00	\$1,880,690.00
Obligated	559,946.95	1,320,678.60	1,880,625.55
	-----	-----	-----
Year End Balance	53.05	11.40	64.45

#### Flight Operations

	7F	7B	Total
Granted	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 43,500.00
Obligated	4,995.04	38,494.92	43,489.96
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Balance	4.96	5.08	10.04

## **S-2 (Food Service)**

TARAWA's Food Service operation set the standard for LHAs during 1989. After successfully "breaking-in" during several amphibious exercises early in 1989, the Food Service Division earned high praises during the March Supply Management Assessment (SMA) for cleanliness, sanitation, inventory validity and galley operations. During the Western Pacific deployment, Food Service prepared over 1 million meals and successfully supported a large number of special events, including several pizza "pig-outs", Wardroom "dining-ins", a flight-deck picnic, Texas barbeque night, an ice cream social and numerous special events for visiting VIP and Tiger Cruise personnel.

Just prior to the deployment, the mess deck area underwent a significant habitability upgrade. In place of the portable tables and chairs which had existed since the ship was commissioned, fixed seating "McDonald's-style" tables were installed. The installation greatly improved the overall appearance of the crew dining facility and increased seating capacity by over 30%.

Throughout the year, the food service operation was characterized by intensive planning and attention to detail, especially during the deployment. Frequent operational changes made provisions loads and meal schedules difficult to plan. Food Service Division remained fully provisioned by effectively planning loadouts and working long hours inport and during underway replenishments to receive as many stores as possible.

The Food Service Division was repeatedly commended during the year by embarked troops, visiting dignitaries and crew members for the quality of the food service support on board TARAWA. Hard work by many of TARAWA's cooks, messcooks and support from the embarked Marines combined with consistent equipment support from the Engineering Department to ensure success during the extremely heavy operating cycle experienced during 1989.

## **S-3 (Sales and Services)**

During 1989, the Sales and Services Division broke all previous records for sales in the ship's store. During the deployment, over \$800,000 in sales were made through the store and the vending machine operations. In addition, during the June-September quarter the store grossed over \$465,000 in sales -- an all time TARAWA record for a single quarter. These figures were made possible by extensive pre-deployment planning and loadouts, and by enlightened stock management and merchandising.

During 1989, a total of \$188,000 in ship's store profits were transferred to TARAWA's Welfare and Recreation Fund.

TARAWA's Sales and Services Division also provided exceptional support to the crew and embarked troops throughout the year by offering excellent laundry and barbershop services.

In July, TARAWA became the first SUADPS release 3.0/Combined Gen operation to deploy to the Western Pacific. Throughout the entire deployment, ADP maintained a system availability of over 95% and a user on-line availability of 78%. During the deployment, the ADP Division processed over 25 reorders, achieved remarkable "on-time" reporting for AV3M data for the entire deployment and successfully processed the first year-end update for a SUADPS Release 3.0 ship.

Despite a 90% turnover of personnel in 1989, the ADP Division successfully supported the numerous data processing requirements dictated by TARAWA's complex missions. During the Supply Management Assessment (SMA), TARAWA's ADP operation was graded outstanding in all areas and was called the "best afloat ADP operation on the West Coast" by the SMA inspectors.

## (2) AIMD

TARAWA's Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) continues to uphold its "can do" tradition by meeting each challenge head on and exceeding all goals. TARAWA's AIMD performs both organizational and intermediate levels of maintenance. Calendar year 1989 saw this department rise from non-existence due to an extensive yard period to a fine tuned team. One that is currently breaking all records in the "Gator Fleet." Specifics include:

- A. Production/Maintenance: COMNAVAIRPAC Pre-deployment Inspection results :
  - 1) Organizational Level: Outstanding
  - 2) Intermediate Level: Excellent
- B. Support Equipment Predeployment Inspection results:
  - 1) COMNAVSURFPAC 3M/PMS: 98% accomplishment rate
  - 2) COMASWINGSPAC: Outstanding
  - 3) COMNAVSURFPAC: Excellent
- C. Surpassed all CNO and CNAP goals, achieved and maintained the following readiness percentage:
  - 1) 93.9%/89.9% MC/FMC organizational level rates
  - 2) 90.5% ready for issue rate for Intermediate level
  - 3) 97.5% ready for issue rate for support and material handling equipment.
  - 4) Maintained a .01 percent error rate for 3M Aviation Maintenance Data Program.
  - 5) Documented 89,567 maintenance man hours with no minor or major safety incidents.
  - 6) Maintained an enviable zero percent overdue rate for the Calibration Lab.
  - 7) A 97.8% accuracy for oil analysis correlation program. Significantly enhanced repair capability, added an additional 327 BE4 cards to the ICRL.
  - 8) Deployed with 60 out of 61 test benches fully operational, highest ever for an LHA.

### (3) Air Department

The year 1989 was an extremely successful year for USS TARAWA and the Air Department. From January through June the department was extremely busy, participating in numerous HMM-163 Deck Landing Qualification (DLQ) periods and exercises KERNEL BLITZ and KERNEL USHER in the SOCAL operating areas. From July through December TARAWA was deployed on its Western Pacific deployment. The Air Department displayed pride and professionalism while meeting every commitment.

#### A. Safety related accomplishments include:

- 1) Set the pace in amphibious tactical development -- TARAWA was the first Pacific Fleet amphibious ship to complete an extended forward deployment fully Night Vision Goggle (NVG) qualified. Additionally, TARAWA was instrumental in the employment of the first shipboard NVG Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which was fundamental to the safe and professional NVG operations exercised throughout Third and Seventh Fleets.
- 2) Completed nine major assaults utilizing NVG under diverse and challenging environmental conditions.
- 3) Accomplished hundreds of day and night vertical lifts of external cargo without incident.
- 4) Aviation Fuels Division pumped 1,024,470 gallons of JP-5 fuel in support of flight operations.
- 5) Flawlessly executed over 3500 aircraft moves in every conceivable weather and deck condition. V-3 Division safely moved the entire complement of 25 embarked aircraft into the hangar on two occasions.

#### B. Selected operational statistics for the calendar year 1989 were:

- 1) Class A/B Flight Mishap/Flight Related Mishap: None.
- 2) Class A/B Personnel Injuries: None.
- 3) Ground Mishaps: None.
- 4) Flight Statistics:

	DAY	NIGHT	TOTAL
a) Helo Takeoff/Landings	9,276	4,148	13,424
b) VSTOL Takeoff/Landings	427	0	427
c) Total Takeoff/Landings	9,703	4,148	13,851
d) Total Flight Hours	5,897	1,446	7,343

### (4) Chaplain's Dept

The Chaplain's Dept is one of the smallest aboard. Its responsibilities and assigned tasks include:

#### A. Every Sunday At Sea:

- 1) Two Roman Catholic Masses
- 2) Three Protestant Worship Services
- 3) One Latter Day Saints Lay Leader Service
- 4) One Iglesia De Cristo Service

- B. Every Weekday At Sea:
  - 1) A 1200 Bible Study
  - 2) A 2000 Bible Study
  - 3) A 2000 Roman Catholic Mass
- C. Every Sunday In Port:
  - 1) One Protestant Worship Service
  - 2) One Roman Catholic Mass
- D. Monday thru Friday In Port:
  - 1) A 1200 Bible Study
  - 2) A Roman Catholic Mass (When Priest is available)
- E. Other:
  - 1) Two Prayer Breakfasts (One Officer and One Enlisted)
  - 2) Morning and Evening Prayers over LMC (While AT Sea)
  - 3) Administration of Shipboard Navy Relief Program
  - 4) Administration of Shipboard Red Cross Notifications
  - 5) Maintenance and management of Shipboard Library (3000+ books). Library is open eleven hours daily.

#### **(5) Combat Cargo**

Combat Cargo concluded 12 Months of successful embarkation, backload and offload of numerous cargo, vehicles and embarked marines in support of KERNEL BLITZ, KERNEL USHER and the Western Pacific deployment. Total short tons and marines transported are as follows:

- A. KERNEL BLITZ (25 January thru 8 February 89)
  - 1) 104 Vehicles - 1,045 S/T
  - 2) Cargo - 40 S/T
  - 3) Embarked Marines - 1,418
- B. KERNEL USHER (24 April thru 7 May 89)
  - 1) 149 Vehicles - 1,027 S/T
  - 2) Cargo - 49 S/T
  - 3) Embarked Marines - 1,550
- C. Western Pacific Deployment (8 July - 20 December 89)
  - 1) 136 Vehicles - 1,034 S/T
  - 2) Cargo - 275 S/T
  - 3) Embarked Marines - 1,751

#### **(6) Deck Department**

In 1989, the Deck Department featured prominently in the twelve Underway Refueling operations, twenty-one Anchoring evolutions and two Mooring to a Buoy evolutions conducted by TARAWA. The ship conducted Well Deck operations with a varied mix of amphibious landing craft during Amphibious Refreshing Training, KERNEL BLITZ 89-1, KERNEL USHER 89-2, VALIANT MARK 89-9, THALAY THAI, PACEX `89, and VALIANT BLITZ 90-1. During the Western Pacific deployment, TARAWA was augmented by ACU-1, Boat Group One, TEam Four consisting of four LCU's.

## **(7) Combat Systems**

The Combat Systems Department is responsible for the handling and care of all ordnance onboard TARAWA. In addition, Combat Systems maintains much of TARAWA's electronic gear such as air and surface search radars, radio communications equipment, meteorological and oceanographic equipment, gun fire control systems and antennas.

Number of Aviation Ordnance Rounds received	164,012
Number of Ground Ordnance Rounds received	441,203
Number of Shipfill Ordnance Rounds received	17,015
Number of EOD Ordnance Rounds received	36,474
	-----
Total Number of Ordnance Rounds received	658,704
Number of Aviation Ordnance Rounds expended/transferred	28,872
Number of Ground Ordnance Rounds expended/transferred	418,874
Number of Shipfill Ordnance Rounds expended/transferred	18,152
Number of EOD Ordnance Rounds expended/transferred	1,020
	-----
Total Number of Ordnance Rounds expended/transferred	466,918
Number of 5"/54 Rounds expended	484
Number of 50MM Machine Gun Rounds expended	400
Number of 20MM Machine Gun Rounds expended	439
Number of 20MM CIWS Burst/Rounds expended	1,600
Number of Small Arms Ammunition Rounds expended (Ship's Comp)	15,079
Number of Training Evolutions	60
Number of Ammo Onloads	22
Number of Ammo Offloads	7
Number of Ammo Transactions	131

### Qualifications:

Naval Gun Fire Support (NGFS): Outstanding

## **(8) Communications**

The Communications Department supported numerous pre-deployment evolutions, exercises and operations in the Eastern Pacific. During deployment, the Communications Department figured prominently in various fleet and bi-lateral exercises by providing C3 support to various flag staffs, both Navy and Marine. Items of distinction concerning the Communications Department in 1989:

- A. Received third consecutive Green "C" award from Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific.
- B. Handled a total of 86,095 Messages, both visual and electronic, for 1989.
- C. Served as Communications Control Center for various embarked staffs and during several bi-lateral exercises in support of Korean, Thai and Japanese Navies during the deployment.

## (9) Engineering

- A. Hours steamed:
- |                |            |      |            |      |       |      |
|----------------|------------|------|------------|------|-------|------|
| Pre-deployment | NR1 Boiler | 893  | NR2 Boiler | 914  | Total | 1807 |
| Deployment     | NR1 Boiler | 3192 | NR2 Boiler | 3192 | Total | 6384 |
- B. Revolutions of shafts:
- |                |           |            |      |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|------|------------|
| Pre-deployment | Starboard | 5,688,000  | Port | 5,688,000  |
| Deployment     | Starboard | 18,066,240 | Port | 18,066,240 |
- C. Number of ballast/deballast operations:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Pre-deployment | 6 |
| Deployment     | 9 |
- D. Amount of Fuel consumed:
- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Pre-deployment | 1,746,805 gals. |
| Deployment     | 4,492,558 gals. |
- E. Amount of Lube Oil consumed:
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Pre-deployment | 705 gals. (LO)   |
| Deployment     | 1,050 gals. (LO) |
- F. Amount of Fresh Water Manufactured:
- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Pre-deployment | 4,500,000 gals.  |
| Deployment     | 13,530,000 gals. |

## (10) Executive Department

### A. Admin

Originated 1,010 serialized pieces of correspondence  
Personnel Received on board 414/Personnel Transferred 218  
Discharged/released 98 personnel from active duty  
Number of reenlistments: 85  
TARAWA 1988 reenlistment rate: 40%  
Navy Achievement Medals: 34  
Letters of Commendation: 36

### B. Post Office

Volume of Mail dispatched during 1989:

First Class/Priority:	27,689 lbs.
Fourth Class/SAM/PARCEL POST:	17,327 lbs.

Volume of Mail received during 1989:

First Class/Priority:	187,472 lbs.
Fourth Class/SAM/PARCEL POST:	96,742 lbs.

Money Order and Stamp sales: \$1,019,263.00

### C. Master-At-Arms

UCMJ Violations--CO's NJP Mast:	144
Urine Samples collected:	1,149

### **(11) Medical Department**

The TARAWA Medical Department conducted its first Western Pacific deployment utilizing the new Fleet Surgical Team concept and had great success. The year 1989 also marked the first time that a frozen blood bank was activated on a deployed ship. The following specific items are provided:

Number of outpatient visits:	9,667
Number of In-patients admitted:	147
Number of surgical procedures:	147
Number of Laboratory tests performed	25,592
Number of pharmacy units dispensed:	12,490
Number of medevacs/lateral transfers	119
Number of X-RAYS taken:	2,036
Number of immunizations given:	2,881
Number of physical exams administered:	460
Number of audiograms administered:	1,186
Number of EKG's administered:	145
Number of pairs of glasses ordered:	393

Equipment Received:

- 1) Blood Bank Refrigerator
- 2) X-RAY Processor
- 3) ENT Cart
- 4) Field Anesthesia units (4)
- 5) Laboratory microscope

### **(12) Dental Department**

The year 1989 marked the first time that the USS TARAWA had a Dental Department with prosthetic capabilities. A general prosthetics laboratory was established in the department to provide support for fixed and removable prosthetics to the ship's crew. Dental Readiness was evaluated as Fully Ready by the Force Dental Officer prior to TARAWA's deploying to the Western Pacific.

During 1989, an old X-ray unit was replaced by a new state-of-the-art GENDEX X-ray unit and additional Perio-Pro X-ray developer was added to increase X-ray usage during deployment.

Highlights for the year included:

- 1) Performed over 10,000 dental procedures on 3,500 Marines and Sailors of the Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG).
- 2) Maintained Dental Readiness at 98% for TARAWA.
- 3) Maintained Dental Readiness for the ARG overall at 80%.

### **(13) Operations Department**

The Operations Department performed well in all exercises throughout the year.

The Meteorological Office (Metro) provided weather briefs to the embarked staffs and commanding officer daily. They briefed pilots and control centers hourly utilizing a newly developed Weather Channel.

Daily satellite images and daily weather products from teletype and Weather-Fax greatly assisted Metro's ability to provide near real-time support for the amphibious readiness group.

The Helicopter Direction Center (HDC) maintained safe approaches for both helicopters and harriers, and conducted over 1,000 carrier-controlled landings were safely performed during the Western Pacific deployment.

The Combat Information Center performed as ASUWC during all exercises and provided excellent support for the bridge and embarked staffs. They performed well in all warfare areas as well as amphibious boat control.

Electronic Countermeasures Module excelled in providing TARAWA with the initial warnings of an inbound threat to the Amphibious Readiness Group. Additionally, they performed as "EW" during all exercises in support of the embarked staffs.

During the deployment, the Public Affairs/CCTV Office provided daily live newscasts, 18 hours of live radio and three channels of TV programming. Many hours of video were filmed of the marines and sailors in action both ashore, at sea and in the air. In addition, work on a cruisebook continued at a frantic pace.

The Joint Intelligence Center performed its functions behind the closed doors of the Intel Center in support of the Amphibious Readiness Group, while the Photo Lab served the TARAWA crew and mission throughout the year, providing many high-quality photos of many important events and occasions.

#### (14) Safety Office

The year 1989 was a banner year for the Safety Office. The ship was awarded the CNO Surface Ship Safety Award for reporting period 1 January 1988 to 30 June 1989. In addition, the TARAWA was the Pacific Fleet nominee for the LHA/LPH class aviation ships for the Admiral Flatley Aviation Safety Award for 1989.

During the year, there were no major on-duty injuries reported. There were eleven minor on-duty injuries for a total of 27 lost work days and eleven off-duty injuries for 111 lost work days. There was one fatality due to an off-duty motor vehicle accident.

Despite a high tempo Western Pacific deployment, there were no operational mishaps during the entire cruise. The TARAWA returned from deployment with all its embarked aircraft plus six additional oplit aircraft and all the Marine ground equipment



G. W. Almy, CDR, USN  
Executive Officer