



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS RUSHMORE (LSD 47)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (UPDATED)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS RUSHMORE Command History Narrative for Calendar
Year 1999
(2) Commanding Officer Photograph and Biography
(3) Ship's Photograph
(4) Ship's Newsletters from 1999

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

[REDACTED]

M. J. HOWARD

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU THREE (Code N002P)

I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

a. MISSION

1. To conduct sustained combat operations at sea anywhere in the world in support of national policy. The ship will be employed in operations with other forces in projecting naval power ashore from those sea areas under U.S. control.

2. To transport elements of a landing force to an amphibious objective area (AOA) and then launch assault craft in support of amphibious assault operations. USS RUSHMORE (LSD-47) operates primarily as an element of an amphibious task group or force in sustained offensive operations to gain or maintain sea control through the projection of power ashore.

3. USS RUSHMORE is designed to provide functional support in three primary mission areas:

- (a) amphibious warfare (AMW)
- (b) mobility (MOB)
- (c) command and control (CAC)

4. Secondary mission areas incorporated into the design:

- (a) special warfare (SPW)
- (b) fleet support operations (FSO)
- (c) non-combat operations (NCO)
- (d) ocean surveillance (RSV)
- (e) electronic warfare (EW)

5. Limited self-defense in the following areas:

- (a) anti-air warfare (AAW)
- (b) surface warfare (SUW)

b. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

COMMANDING OFFICER - Commander Michelle J. Howard, USN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Lt. Commander R. D. Graves, USN
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF - ETCM(SW) Adaiberto Flores, USN

DECK DEPARTMENT
FIRST LIEUTENANT -
FIRST DIVISION -

(b) (6)

THIRD DIVISION
SHIP'S BOATSWAIN

- Ensign (b) (6)
- Chief Warrant Officer 4 (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

CHIEF ENGINEER
MAIN PROPULSION ASSISTANT
AUXILIARY DIVISION

- Lt. Commander (b) (6)
- Lieutenant (b) (6)
- Lieutenant (JG) (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

ELECTRICAL DIVISION
REPAIR DIVISION
DAMAGE CONTROL ASSISTANT

- Ensign (b) (6)
- Ensign (b) (6)
- Chief Warrant Officer 2 (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

OPERATIONS OFFICER
COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER
DIVISION
COMMUNICATION DIVISION
ELECTRONICS MATERIAL
OFFICER

- Lieutenant (b) (6)
- Ensign (b) (6)
- Ensign (b) (6)
- Ensign (b) (6)

NAVIGATION

NAVIGATOR

- Lieutenant (b) (6)

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

SUPPLY OFFICER
DISBURSING OFFICER

- Lieutenant (b) (6)
- Lieutenant (JG) (b) (6)

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

TRAINING OFFICER

- Lieutenant (b) (6)

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER

- Lieutenant (b) (6)

DENTAL DEPARTMENT

DENTAL OFFICER

- Lieutenant (b) (6)

c. PERMANENT DUTY STATION - USS RUSHMORE's current home port is Naval Station San Diego, California.

II. CHRONOLOGY 1999

<u>Month/Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
01 FEB - 05 FEB	INSURV
22 FEB - 05 MAR	PELELIU ARG Y2K INTEROPERABILITY WORK-UP
12 MAR	CHANGE OF COMMAND
22 MAR - 06 APR	COMPTUEX/TRUE AT SEA
19 - 30 APR	KERNEL BLITZ 99/FLEETEX
08 - 19 MAY	SOCCERT
17 JUN	SEA TRIALS
21 JUN	DEPART FOR WESTPAC 99
28 JUN - 1 JUL	PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII PORT VISIT
14 - 23 JUL	SASEBO, JAPAN PORT VISIT
1 - 6 AUG	PHUKET, THAILAND PORT VISIT
16 AUG	STRAIT OF HORMUZ TRANSIT
21 - 26 AUG	JEBEL ALI, U. A. E. PORT VISIT
26 AUG - 10 SEP	EXERCISE IRON MAGIC WITH U. A. E.
10 - 16 SEP	JEBEL ALI, U. A. E. PORT VISIT
18 - 22 SEP	DOHA, QATAR PORT VISIT
28 SEP - 13 OCT	EXERCISE RED REEF WITH SAUDI ARABIA
2 - 5 OCT	JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA PORT VISIT
24 - 30 OCT	SINGAPORE PORT VISIT
07 - 12 NOV	GUAM PORT VISIT
19 - 23 NOV	MACKAY, AUSTRALIA PORT VISIT
25 - 28 NOV	BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA PORT VISIT
11 - 13 DEC	PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII PORT VISIT
13 - 21 DEC	TIGER CRUISE 99

19 - 20 DEC OFFLOAD MARINES, CAMP PENDLETON
21 DEC RETURN TO HOMEPORT, SAN DIEGO, CA
21 - 31 DEC POST-DEPLOYMENT/HOLIDAY STANDDOWN PERIOD

III. NARRATIVE

The keel was laid for LSD-47 on 09 November 1987 at Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana. It was the fourth LSD-41 "WHIDBEY ISLAND" class Landing Ship Dock to be contracted at Avondale Industries using the new modular construction method. She was christened "RUSHMORE" by Mrs. Meredith Brokaw, wife of NBC News anchorman, Tom Brokaw, upon her launching on 06 May 1989. The ship was commissioned on 1 June 1991.

RUSHMORE continued to lead the way in 1999 for the Pacific Fleet and the future of amphibious ships by continuing its role as the test platform for the "Smart Ship" program known as Gator 17. The program is designed to determine if new technologies and manning procedures can be used to reduce crew levels and workload for the LPD-17 class amphibious ships still in the design phase.

In early 1999, RUSHMORE conducted various work-ups and inspections in preparation for deployment in June. The ship's fifth Change of Command was held 12 March, during which Commander Michelle J. Howard relieved Commander T. R. Williams as Commanding Officer. Prior to deployment, RUSHMORE underwent the last of the pre-deployment work-ups and participated in KERNEL BLITZ/FLEETEX 99. RUSHMORE deployed on 21 June.

After a port visit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, RUSHMORE headed to Sasebo, Japan where repairs were made to the rudder. From Japan, RUSHMORE visited Phuket, Thailand before heading to the Arabian Gulf. During August and September, RUSHMORE had the opportunity to conduct international training exercises, including Operation IRON MAGIC with the United Arab Emirates and Exercise Red Reef with Saudi Arabia.

In mid-October, the PELELIU ARG departed the gulf. The RUSHMORE made a port visit to Singapore before going to Guam to offload, washdown, and then backload all 11th MEU vehicles and equipment. During the transit to Australia, the RUSHMORE crossed the equator and a "crossing the line" ceremony was held. RUSHMORE visited Mackay and Brisbane, Australia before returning to Pearl Harbor, where participants in Tiger Cruise 99 met the ship. RUSHMORE arrived in San Diego, CA on 21 December 1999.