



Rec'd 3/22/94  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS ASHLAND (LSD 48)  
FPO AE 09564-1736

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAR 0 1 1994

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-- Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (2)

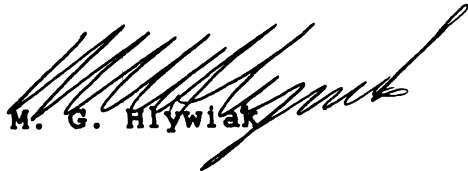
From: Commanding Officer, USS ASHLAND (LSD 48)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12E

Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) Supporting Documentation (C) [IN CLASS FILE]  
(3) Press Releases  
(4) Ship's Public Affair Releases

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) through (4)  
are forwarded.

  
M. G. Hlywiak

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## USS ASHLAND (LSD 48) COMMAND HISTORY

### 1. Command Composition and Organization:

a. Mission: Amphibious warfare; designed to transport Marines and their combat equipment to designated areas throughout the world, and then to launch and support assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations ashore.

b. Organizational Structure: Assigned to Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN, Little Creek, Virginia.

c. Commanding Officer: Captain D. W. Keith, USN.

d. Homeport: Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia.

### 2. Chronology:

POST-SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY III WITH CONCURRENT IMAV	01 JANUARY - 12 FEBRUARY 1993
AVIATION ASSIST VISIT	08 FEBRUARY 1993
AVIATION CERTIFICATION	11 FEBRUARY 1993
SURPRISE DISBURSING/PERSONNEL AUDIT/INSPECTION	11 FEBRUARY 1993
DEPENDENTS CRUISE	16 FEBRUARY 1993
AMMUNITION ONLOAD YORKTOWN VA	16 - 17 FEBRUARY 1993
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY	16 - 19 FEBRUARY 1993
AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING READINESS EVALUATION	18 - 19 FEBRUARY 1993
WELLDECK CERTIFICATION	22 FEBRUARY 1993
DEPERMING, NORFOLK VA	01 - 04 MARCH 1993
SHIPBOARD CRANE IMPROVEMENT VISIT	08 - 11 MARCH 1993
COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW PHASE I	08 - 11 MARCH 1993
AUXILIARY SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW	08 - 11 MARCH 1993
SHIP'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCE	08 - 12 MARCH 1993
COMMUNICATION INSTALLATION	
COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO VISIT	09 MARCH 1993
UNDERWAY TRAINING, VACAPES OPERATIONS AREA	15 - 19 MARCH 1993
INPORT COMBAT SYSTEMS LIMITED TEAM TRAINER	22 - 26 MARCH 1993
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INSPECTION	22 - 26 MARCH 1993
COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO	24 MARCH 1993
QUALITY OF LIFE VISIT	
TEMPEST CERTIFICATION	25 MARCH 1993
ENGINEERING/DAMAGE CONTROL	29 MARCH - 09 APRIL 1993

LIMITED TEAM TRAINER	
AMPHIBIOUS REFRESHER TRAINING	12 - 19 APRIL 1993
LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE AND	
ONSLow BAY, NORTH CAROLINA	
INPORT LITTLE CREEK, VA	20 - 25 APRIL 1993
TYPE COMMANDER'S AMPHIBIOUS	26 - 30 APRIL 1993
TRAINING, ONSLOW BAY, NC	
OCEAN VENTURE '93	01 - 15 MAY 1993
COMMANDER SECOND FLEET VISIT	14 MAY 1993
PORT VISIT, MOREHEAD CITY, NC	21 - 22 MAY 1993
PHASE II JOINT TASK GROUP 93-2	23 - 29 MAY 1993
AMERICA BATTLE GROUP WORKUPS	
ONSLow BAY, NC	
INPORT LITTLE CREEK VIRGINIA	29 MAY - 06 JULY 1993
TYCOMMEX	09 JUNE 1993
SPA-25G RADAR REPEATER	14 - 25 JUNE 1993
INSTALLATION	
SNAP III INSTALLATION	14 JUNE - 08 AUGUST 1993
COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW	28 JUNE 1993
PHASE II	
AEC/PMT VISIT (PMA 94 PREPS)	28 JUNE - 02 JULY 1993
AMMUNITION ONLOAD, LITTLE CREEK	30 JUNE 1993
VIRGINIA	
MEDICAL READINESS INSPECTION	30 JUNE - 02 JULY 1993
COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT TEAM	01 JULY 1993
VISIT	
UNDERWAY ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY NC	06 - 07 JULY 1993
DIESEL ENGINE INSPECTION	06 JULY 1993
MSSG 22/22 MEU ONLOAD, MOREHEAD	07 JULY 1993
CITY, NC	
JOINT TASK GROUP 93-2 PHASE III	08 - 20 JULY 1993
AMERICA BATTLE GROUP WORKUPS	
ONSLow BAY, NC, CHERRY POINT	
OPERATING AREA	
MSSG 22/22 MEU OFFLOAD, MOREHEAD	21 JULY 1993
CITY, NC	
ENROUTE LITTLE CREEK, VA	21 - 22 JULY 1993
INPORT LITTLE CREEK, VA FOR	22 JULY - 11 AUGUST 1993
PREPARE FOR OVERSEAS	
MOVEMENT PERIOD	
UNDERWAY FOR JTG 93-2	11 AUGUST 1993
MEDITERRANEAN DEPLOYMENT	
ARRIVE MOREHEAD CITY, NC FOR	12 AUGUST 1993
ONLOAD ELEMENTS OF MSSG 22 AND	
22 MEU	
ATLANTIC OCEAN TRANSIT, JOIN UP	12 - 25 AUGUST 1993
WITH UNITS OF JTG 93-2 ENROUTE	
ROTA, SP	
CONDUCTED BURIAL AT SEA CEREMONY	
FOR FN [REDACTED], WORLD WAR	
II VETERAN, FATHER OF CREW MEMBER	

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ENCM(SW) [REDACTED]	
ARRIVE ANCHORAGE, ROTA, SP	25 - 27 AUGUST 1993
TURNOVER WITH USS SAIPAN ARG	
ENTERED ROTA, PORT VISIT	27 AUG - 01 SEP 93
DEPART ROTA, ENROUTE SIERRA DE	01 - 04 SEPTEMBER 1993
RETIN, SP FOR AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE	
"SPANISH PHIBEX"	
PARTICIPATION IN "SPANISH PHIBEX"	04 - 08 SEPTEMBER 1993
DEPART SIERRA DE RETIN, TRANSIT	09 SEPTEMBER 1993
STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR	
ENROUTE ADRIATIC SEA	09 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1993
ARRIVE ADRIATIC, COMMENCE	12 - 15 SEPTEMBER 1993
UNITED NATIONS OPERATION DENY	
FLIGHT/PROVIDE PROMISE	
DEPART ADRIATIC SEA, ENROUTE	16 - 19 SEPTEMBER 1993
IZMIR, TURKEY	
ANCHORED IZMIR, TURKEY	19 - 22 SEPTEMBER 1993
DEPART IZMIR, TURKEY	22 SEPTEMBER 1993
ANCHORED DOGENBEY, TURKEY	
AMPHIBIOUS LANDING REHEARSAL	
ENROUTE SAROS BAY, TURKEY FOR	25 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1993
NATO EXERCISE DYNAMIC GUARD	
COMPLETED DYNAMIC GUARD, ENROUTE	01 OCTOBER 1993
BLACK SEA	
TRANSIT DARDENELLES/BOSPORUS	01 - 02 OCTOBER 1993
STRAIT, ENROUTE CONSTANTA, ROMANIA	
ARRIVE PORT VISIT CONSTANTA,	02 - 06 OCTOBER 1993
ROMANIA	
DEPART CONSTANTA, ENROUTE VARNA,	06 - 07 OCTOBER 1993
BULGARIA	
BLACK SEA OPS CANCELLED,	07 OCTOBER 1993
DIVERTED TO SOMALIA	
TRANSIT DARDENELLES/BOSPORUS	07 - 08 OCTOBER 1993
STRAIT, MEDITERRANEAN SEA	
MED, ENROUTE SUEZ CANAL	08 - 10 OCTOBER 1993
TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL, DESTINATION	11 OCTOBER 1993
SOMALIA	
EXIT SUEZ CANAL, ENROUTE SOMALIA	12 - 18 OCTOBER 1993
CONDUCTED BURIAL AT SEA CEREMONY	17 OCTOBER 1993
FOR WORLD WAR II VETERAN GM2 [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED], FATHER-IN-LAW OF	
CREWMEMBER OS1 [REDACTED],	
IN THE RED SEA	
ARRIVE SOMALIA, PARTICIPATE IN	18 OCT - 04 NOV 1993
OPERATION RESTORE HOPE	
CROSSED THE EQUATOR	25 OCTOBER 1993
COMPLETED ROLE IN OPERATION	05 - 10 NOVEMBER 1993
RESTORE HOPE, ENROUTE MEDITERRANEAN	
SEA	
HELD CROSSING THE LINE INITIATION	06 NOVEMBER 1993
CEREMONY	

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CELEBRATED MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY	10 NOVEMBER 1993
ENTER SUEZ CANAL, ENROUTE EGYPT	11 NOVEMBER 1993
UNDERWAY EAST MED, ENROUTE KHALIQ EL ARAB, EGYPT FOR EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR	12 NOVEMBER 1993
ANCHORED KHALIQ EL ARAB, EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR	13 - 18 NOVEMBER 1993
COMPLETED BRIGHT STAR, ENROUTE TOULON, FRANCE. TRANSIT STRAITS OF MESSINA AND BONIFACIO	18 - 23 NOVEMBER 1993
PORT VISIT, TOULON, FRANCE	23 NOV - 08 DEC 1993
DEPART TOULON, CONDUCT EXERCISE MAYFLOWER	08 - 11 DECEMBER 1993
COMPLETE EXERCISE MAYFLOWER, ENROUTE PORT VISIT BARCELONA, SP	11 - 13 DECEMBER 1993
ARRIVE PORT VISIT BARCELONA, SP	13 - 17 DECEMBER 1993
DEPART BARCELONA, ENROUTE NAPLES, IT	17 - 21 DECEMBER 1993
INPORT NAPLES, IT	21 DEC 1993 - 03 JAN 1994

3. Narrative:

USS ASHLAND (LSD 48) began 1993 completing Post Shakedown Availability (PSA) Phase III at Metro Machine Shipyard, Norfolk, Virginia. ASHLAND departed Metro Machine on 12 February 1993 enroute NAB Little Creek, Va.

Following PSA III, ASHLAND remained inport Little Creek until 16 February 1993. ASHLAND departed Little Creek enroute Yorktown Naval Weapons Station (NAVWEPSTA) for ammunition onload and dependents cruise. Arriving at Yorktown on the afternoon of the 16th, the dependents departed the ship for return to Little Creek while the crew began unloading ammunition. The onload was completed on the 17th of February and ASHLAND departed Yorktown NAVWEPSTA for Little Creek, arriving that evening.

The month of March began with ASHLAND underway on the 1st enroute to the Magnetic Silencing Facility, Norfolk, Va. Deperming was completed on 04 March and following a successful run through the deperming range ASHLAND returned to Little Creek, remaining inport until 15 March. On 15 March, ASHLAND departed Little Creek for Lynnhaven Anchorage "C" to conduct well deck operations. ASHLAND departed Lynnhaven Anchorage on the 16th enroute VACAPES OPERATIONS AREA (VACAPES OPAREA) to conduct independent ship training, returning to home port on the 19th.

ASHLAND was underway on 29 March, enroute VACAPES OPAREA for Engineering and Damage Control Limited Team Trainer (LTT). Seven members from Fleet Training Group (FTG) Norfolk were assigned as evaluators. After successfully completing two weeks of engineering and damage control drills, ASHLAND returned to home port on 9 April.

On the 12th of April, the ship embarked eight instructors from Naval Amphibious School and was underway from Little Creek to conduct Amphibious Refresher Training (AMPHIBREFTRA) at Lynnhaven Anchorage and Onslow Bay, N.C. ASHLAND was assigned to CTG 43.6 for the duration of AMPHIB REFTRA. The ship operated and trained in all facets of amphibious operations from wet well operations, launching small boats to flight operations. ASHLAND returned to Little Creek on April 19th, successfully completing AMPHIBREFTRA.

ASHLAND was underway on April 26th enroute Morehead City, N.C., commencing Type Commanders Amphibious Training (TCAT) and Ocean Venture (OV) 93. The ship embarked 3 LCAC's from Assault Craft Unit (ACU) FOUR, four members of the U.S. Army 7th Transportation Group and the advanced element of 28 Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The ship arrived at Morehead City on 27 April to begin embarkation of 28 MEU. The ship completed onload the afternoon of 27 April and departed Morehead City enroute

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Onslow Bay, N.C. to conduct amphibious landing exercises. On the 29th of April ASHLAND was assigned to CTG 145.2 for OV-93. The ship completed TCAT on 30 April, departed Onslow Bay enroute south Puerto Rico Operations Area (SPROA) for OV-93.

The month of May began with ASHLAND in company with USS TORTUGA (LSD 46), USS HARLAN COUNTY (LST 1196), USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7) participating in the joint exercise OV-93. Amphibious landing exercises were conducted from ASHLAND, coupled with flight operations with Navy, Marine and Air Force helicopters transporting Marines and equipment to Vieques Island and providing close air support. The ship completed OV-93 on 15 May. Departing the SPROA enroute Morehead City and chopping to COMPHIBRON EIGHT (CTG 22.4) for operational control and tasking on the 16th.

ASHLAND arrived Morehead City on 21 May for debarking elements of 28 MEU and ACU-4. The crew enjoyed a night of liberty before embarking members of 22 MEU, SEAL Team 8, Special Boat Unit 20 and 3 LCU's from ACU-2. Underway from Morehead City on the 22nd, the ship began its participation in the USS AMERICA Joint Task Group (JTG) Phase I and II work-ups. Additional amphibious exercises were conducted as well as training in coordination and operating with other units of JTG. Ten midshipmen from the Naval Academy were assigned on the 23rd as part of LANTRAMID I.

All embarked Marine elements were detached from ASHLAND during an amphibious landing exercise at Onslow Bay. The ship successfully completed JTG Phases I and II on the 28th and began its transit to Little Creek, arriving on 29 May.

ASHLAND remained inport until July 6. During this inport period the ship had the SPA-25G radar repeaters and the SNAP III maintenance system installed. The following assist visits and inspections were also conducted: Combat System Readiness Review Phase II, Medical Readiness Inspection, Communications Assessment Team visit and an ammunition onload at Little Creek.

From 06-22 July, ASHLAND was underway for participation in JTG Phase III. Upon departure from home port, the ship embarked the following units: SBU-20, ACU-2 and BMU-2. Arriving in Morehead City on the morning of 7 July, the ship began on-loading elements of 22 MEU. Departing Morehead City on the afternoon of the 7th, the ship proceeded to the Cherry Point Operating Area in the vicinity of Onslow Bay to conduct amphibious, well deck, flight and special operations. The ship practiced close coordination required for amphibious landings in a multi-ship environment. In company were USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12) and USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7). Joint Task Group Phase III concluded 21 July with the off-load of 22 MEU at Morehead City. ASHLAND

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departed Morehead for Little Creek, arriving 22 July. Upon arrival at Little Creek, the ship began its pre-overseas movement (POM) period, allowing crewmembers to take leave and re-supply the ship prior to its departure for deployment.

On August 11, ASHLAND shifted colors and was underway on its first deployment, joining GUADALCANAL and SHREVEPORT for the transit to Morehead City for the on-load of 22 MEU. With the on-load complete, the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) departed Morehead to join other units of the AMERICA Joint Task Group for the transit across the Atlantic. Enroute, ASHLAND conducted several war-at-sea battle problems with other ships of the group and general quarters drills.

During the transit, ASHLAND conducted a burial at sea for the late Fireman First Class [REDACTED] USN, World War II veteran on August 15, in the vicinity of Bermuda. Fireman [REDACTED]'s remains were committed to the deep by his son, ENCM(SW) [REDACTED], Plankowner, USS ASHLAND.

The ARG continued the transit, detaching from the remainder of the AMERICA Battle Group in the eastern Atlantic, arriving at anchor Rota, Spain on 25 August. The relieving ARG conducted a turnover with the outgoing ARG, the turnover complete, ASHLAND entered Rota on August 27th for resupply and port visit.

On 01 September ASHLAND departed Rota with GUADALCANAL and SHREVEPORT, enroute Sierra De Retin, Spain for amphibious exercise Spanish PHIBLEX 93. This exercise involved the ARG and Spanish naval, air and ground forces. Amphibious landings were made by embarked members of 22 MEU and special operations forces, with Spanish ground forces acting as aggressors. The exercise came to a successful conclusion, with the back-load complete, the ship departed Sierra De Retin and proceeded to the Strait of Gibraltar on 09 September, enroute to the Adriatic Sea.

ASHLAND arrived in the Adriatic on September 12. Assuming duties with United Nation forces, the ship participated in Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise, enforcing UN sanctions against Bosnia and Serbia. ASHLAND departed the Adriatic on 16 September enroute to Izmir, Turkey for Dynamic Guard 3-93 NATO exercise planning conference. The ship anchored at Izmir on the 19th of September.

ASHLAND remained in Izmir until 22 September. The ship departed Izmir, enroute Dogenbey, Turkey for an amphibious landing rehearsal in preparations for Dynamic Guard. ASHLAND weighed anchor on September 23rd and began its transit to Saros Bay, Turkey, the site of Dynamic Guard 3-93. The ship arrived at Saros Bay on 25 September. Operating with Spanish and Turkish ships, ASHLAND conducted amphibious landing exercises with

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embarked Marines, Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) and Beach Masters. Dynamic Guard 3-93 concluded 30 September, ASHLAND proceeded south for an underway replenishment rendezvous prior to departing independently for Black Sea operations.

October began with ASHLAND transiting the Dardenelles and Bosphorus Strait enroute to the Black Sea for what was scheduled to be port visits in Constanta, Romania; Varna, Bulgaria and Istanbul, Turkey. ASHLAND assumed task group command of CTG 68.1, in support of Black Sea operations. The ship arrived at Constanta, Romania on 02 October. Crewmembers assisted the local populace through community relations projects such as repairing a children's hospital wing, cleaning and maintenance for a local school and teaching Romanian children how to play American style sports. A wreath laying ceremony was held honoring Romanian soldiers killed in World War II. ASHLAND was represented by the Commanding Officer, an honor guard and a contingent of Navy and Marine Corps officers and enlisted crewmembers. ASHLAND reciprocated the Romanian hospitality by hosting a reception for the local military and civic leaders in the wardroom. In attendance was the Romanian equivalent of the Chief of Naval Operations. Ship tours were provided for the general public.

ASHLAND departed Romania on 06 October enroute Varna, Bulgaria. The ship was within sight of Bulgaria when orders were received cancelling further Black Sea operations and diverting ASHLAND to Somalia. ASHLAND proceeded south, exiting the Black Sea on the 7th of October and began the return trip through the Bosphorus and Dardenelles. The ship entered the Mediterranean on 8 October and commenced the transit towards the Suez Canal, rejoining the GUADALCANAL and SHREVEPORT.

Arriving at Port Said, ASHLAND commenced a night time transit of the Suez Canal on the evening of the 11th. Exiting the morning of the 12th, the ship proceeded towards Somalia. Upon exiting the Suez, ASHLAND was assigned to CINCPACFLT and Task Force 156, COMUSNAVCENT.

Enroute the crew conducted a burial at sea ceremony for World War II Navy veteran Gunners' Mate Second Class [REDACTED], father-in-law of Petty Officer First Class [REDACTED], Plankowner, USS ASHLAND. His remains were committed to the deep in the Indian Ocean by OS1 [REDACTED].

ASHLAND arrived on station off Somalia on 18 October, in support of United Nations Operation Restore Hope. The ship served as a ready platform for flight operations, launching amphibious landings, or receiving personnel evacuated from Mogadishu. The ships of the CINCLANTFLT ARG worked closely with amphibious and combatant ships from CINCPACFLT. On October 25, ASHLAND crossed the equator, entering King Neptune's domain.

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However, the "Crossing the Line" initiation ceremony had to be postponed as ASHLAND resumed its patrol off Somalia. The month of October closed with ASHLAND continuing operations off Somalia.

On the 4th of November the ship was detached from Operation Restore Hope and began its transit for the Suez Canal. The initiation ceremony for crossing the line was held on November 6th. All three ships of the GUADALCANAL ARG steamed in formation while the "polly-wogs" became "trusty shell-backs". The ASHLAND alone initiated over 600 personnel in the day long ceremony.

ASHLAND entered the Suez Canal and commenced its northerly transit on 11 November. The ship was once again assigned to CINCLANTFLT and COMSIXTHFLT, CTF 61. Exiting the canal on 12 November, the ship proceeded to Khaliq El Arab, Egypt for Exercise Bright Star. Arriving at Khaliq El Arab on the 13th, ASHLAND anchored and began off-loading all embarked troops and equipment for participation in Bright Star. Exercise Bright Star was a joint and combined U.S. and Egyptian exercise. On 19 November, Exercise Bright Star concluded and ASHLAND proceeded towards Toulon, France. Enroute, the ship transited the Straits of Messina and Bonifacio arriving in Toulon on the 23rd.

The inport period at Toulon consisted of voyage repair and much deserved liberty for the crew. ASHLAND participated in several social events sponsored by the France/Etats Unis Society and the Navy League of southern France, organizations dedicated to hosting visiting American ships and learning about American culture. Elements of 22 MEU and SBU-20 participated in winter warfare exercises in the mountains at Camp De Canjeurs. ASHLAND embarked 100 cadets from the French Military Academy for training in amphibious warfare. The ship departed Toulon on December 8, enroute to the Gulf of Aigues-Mortes for Exercise Mayflower. Exercise Mayflower is an amphibious exercise utilizing the embarked French military students as the assault force and U.S. Marines as the opposing force. After the exercise, the Marines returned to the ship aboard AAV's and LCU 1663. ASHLAND departed Aigues-Mortes on 10 December for a scheduled port visit to Barcelona, Spain.

On 13 December, ASHLAND and GUADALCANAL arrived in Barcelona while SHREVEPORT made a visit to Palma De Majorca. The ship departed Barcelona on the 17th, rendezvoused with SHREVEPORT and proceeded to Naples, Italy. Arriving on the 21st of December, ASHLAND finished 1993 in Naples.

**Officers assigned to USS ASHLAND as of 31 December 1993**

CAPT Douglas W. Keith  
LCDR [REDACTED]

ENS [REDACTED]  
ENS [REDACTED]

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LCDR [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED] SC  
LT [REDACTED] SC  
LT [REDACTED] MC  
LT [REDACTED] DC  
LTJG [REDACTED]

CWO3 [REDACTED]