



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)
FPO NEW YORK, 09501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LPD4:MER:bs

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10 APR 1974

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History; 1 January - 31 December, 1973 Supplement

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) 1973 Command History Supplement

1. In compliance with reference (a) the 1973 Command History supplement is forwarded herein as enclosure (1).


J. R. POWELL, JR.

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Command History - 1973 Supplement

1. Chronology of Outstanding Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
01 JAN - 14 MAR	IN NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD (NNSY) - ENTERED SHIP-YARD 11 JULY 1972
15 MAR - 16 MAR	POST REPAIR TRIALS; REGULAR OVERHAUL COMPLETED
17 MAR - 21 MAR	INPORT NORVA, STORES LOADOUT
22 MAR - 25 MAR	TRANSIT FROM NORFOLK, VA TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
26 MAR - 20 APR	REFRESHER TRAINING GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
20 APR - 23 APR	TRANSIT FROM GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA TO NORFOLK, VA
24 APR - 29 APR	INPORT NORFOLK, VA
30 APR - 04 MAY	TYPE TRAINING WITH UNITS OF MARG 2-73 AT ONSLOW BEACH, NC - UNITS EMBARKED OF BLT 2/6
05 MAY - 06 MAY	INPORT NORFOLK, VA
07 MAY - 11 MAY	AMPHIBIOUS REFRESHER TRAINING LITTLE CREEK, VA
12 MAY - 29 MAY	INPORT NORFOLK, VA - PREPARE FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT
30 MAY - 01 JUN	EXPLOSIVE ANCHORAGE, NORFOLK, VA
02 JUN - 06 JUN	INPORT NORFOLK, VA
07 JUN - 21 JUN	TRANSIT TO ROTA, SPAIN VIA MOOREHEAD CITY, NC - UNITS EMBARKED - "H" CO. 2/10, "E" CO. 2/10, BMU DET 62-73, LSU DET, LCU 1645, SHORE PARTY, 2 CAUSEWAY TENDER BOATS, 2 LARC-5 AND 1 LCM-6
21 JUN	INCHOP TO SIXTH FLEET AS MEMBER OF MARG 2-73
23 JUN - 24 JUN	TURNAWAY LANDING CARBONERAS, SPAIN
25 JUN - 28 JUN	PORT VISIT, ALICANTE, SPAIN

Enclosure (1)

29 JUN - 02 JUL ENROUTE TIMBAKION, CRETE

03 JUL - 11 JUL PHIBLEX 1-74, TIMBAKION, CRETE

12 JUL - 13 JUL ENROUTE TRIESTE, ITALY

14 JUL - 18 JUL PORT VISIT TRIESTE, ITALY

18 JUL - 22 JUL PORT VISIT, VENICE, ITALY

22 JUL - 23 JUL ENROUTE CORFU, GREECE

24 JUL - 28 JUL PORT VISIT, CORFU, GREECE

29 JUL - 30 JUL ENROUTE TIMBAKION, CRETE

31 JUL OFFLOAD MARINE UNITS AND EQUIPMENT FOR TRAINING
ASHORE TIMBAKION, CRETE

01 AUG - 07 AUG PORT VISIT ATHENS, GREECE

03 AUG CHANGE OF COMMAND; CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. GUTHRIE WAS
RELIEVED BY CAPTAIN J. RICHARD POWELL, JR.

06 AUG AUSTIN AWARDED ANNUAL DEPARTMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD
IN SUPPLY (FIFTH CONSECUTIVE)

08 AUG - 13 AUG LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO MARINE UNITS ASHORE,
TIMBAKION, CRETE

11 AUG LOST STARBOARD ANCHOR, DUE MATERIAL FAILURE, TIM-
BAKION, CRETE IN 60 KNOT WINDS

14 AUG - 17 AUG CONDUCTED SEARCH, ASSISTED BY USS HOIST (ARS-40)
FOR STARBOARD ANCHOR. SEARCH UNSUCCESSFUL.

18 AUG - 19 AUG ENROUTE TO PORTO SCUDO, SARDINIA, ITALY

20 AUG - 25 AUG PHIBLEX 2-74 - PORTO SCUDO, SARDINIA, ITALY

26 AUG - 28 AUG ENROUTE TO BARCELONA, SPAIN

29 AUG - 13 SEP PORT VISIT BARCELONA, SPAIN; DEPENDENT'S CHARTER
FLIGHT - 52 DEPENDENTS VISITED BARCELONA WITH 30
CREWMEMBERS RETURNING TO CONUS ON LEAVE

14 SEP - 18 SEP ENROUTE TO THRACE, GREECE

18 SEP - 04 OCT NATO EXERCISE "DEEP FURROW" - VISITED BY ^{VADM} E. B. BELL, COMPHIBLANT, LANDINGS OBSERVED BY OVER 300 PRESS AND NATO DIGNITARIES

20 SEP STARBOARD ANCHOR REPLACED (ANCHOR TRANSPORTED FROM CONUS BY USS PENSACOLA)

05 OCT - 10 OCT TENDER AVAILABILITY, ATHENS, GREECE

10 OCT ENROUTE SOUDHA BAY, CRETE: SIXTH FLEET REACTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI WAR

10 OCT - 25 OCT TRAINING ANCHORAGE (MIDEAST CRISIS), SOUDHA BAY, CRETE

12 OCT ORE INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY COMPHIBRON SIX

23 OCT ADMIN INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY COMPHIBRON SIX

25 OCT - 25 NOV AT SEA/TRAINING ANCHORAGE - MIDEASTERN CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (MIDEAST CRISIS)

11 NOV - 14 NOV GYTHION, AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS

26 NOV - 28 NOV TRAINING ANCHORAGE, SOUDHA BAY, CRETE

28 NOV - 30 NOV PORT VISIT RHODES, GREECE

01 DEC TRAINING ANCHORAGE SOUDHA BAY, CRETE; TURNOVER TO UNITS OF MED 3-73

02 DEC ENROUTE TO CORFU, GREECE

03 DEC - 05 DEC PORT VISIT CORFU, GREECE

06 DEC - 08 DEC ENROUTE TO ROTA, SPAIN

08 DEC - 10 DEC DESNAIL, ROTA, SPAIN

11 DEC OUTCHOP SIXTH FLEET

11 DEC - 19 DEC ENROUTE MOOREHEAD CITY, NC

19 DEC OFFLOAD MOOREHEAD CITY BLT 2/6 UNITS

19 DEC - 20 DEC FATHER-SON OVERNIGHT CRUISE - 18 DEPENDENTS EMBARKED

20 DEC - 31 DEC INPORT NORFOLK, VA - COMMENCED POST DEPLOYMENT STAND DOWN, HOLIDAY LEAVE

II. Basic Narrative

A. Command Organization and Relations

1. Captain William S. Guthrie, USN 30 July 1971 - 3 August 1973
Captain J. Richard Powell, Jr., USN 3 August 1973 - Present
2. Home Port: Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia
3. Mission: "To transport and land troops and their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft or amphibious vehicles augmented by helicopter lift."
4. Allowance 25 Officers 413 Enlisted Men
 28 Officers 423 Enlisted Men

B. Operations

1. Deployments: MED 2-73, 7 June 1973 - 20 December 1973
2. Inport periods:

Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va.	01 JAN - 14 MAR
Norfolk, Va.	17 MAR - 21 MAR
Port au Prince, Haiti	13 APR - 14 APR
Norfolk, Va.	24 APR - 29 APR
Norfolk, Va.	05 MAY - 06 MAY
Norfolk, Va.	12 MAY - 29 MAY
Norfolk, Va.	02 JUN - 06 JUN
Alicante, Spain	25 JUN - 28 JUN
Trieste, Italy	14 JUL - 18 JUL
Venice, Italy	18 JUL - 22 JUL
Corfu, Greece	24 JUL - 28 JUL
Athens, Greece	01 AUG - 07 AUG
Barcelona, Spain	29 AUG - 13 SEP
Athens, Greece	05 OCT - 10 OCT
Rhodes, Greece	28 NOV - 30 NOV
Corfu, Greece	03 DEC - 05 DEC
Rota, Spain	09 DEC - 10 DEC
Norfolk, Va.	20 DEC - 31 DEC

3. Significant Deployment Events - Noted in Section 1 of Chronology.

4. Special Topics

A. Flight time: 695 landings during various amphibious vertical assault exercises, medevacs, and administrative lifts. Helos included UH1, UH2, UH3, CH46, CH53.

B. Ammo Expenditure: 1046 rounds of 3"/50 caliber and 852 rounds of 50 caliber ammunition were expended on air and surface gunnery exercises.

C. Troops carried - 310 Marine Officers and troops of BLT 2/6.

D. Number of unreps - 7 vertical replenishments, 5 underway replenishments, and 14 underway refuelings.

E. Development of tactics - continued the development of the underway launch of tank landing vehicles, conducting three underway launches during the year.

F. Awards/Commendations: Supply Dept E - fifth consecutive award

G. Ship's Store: AUSTIN's walk-in Ship's Store was opened on 22 September 1973. This new facility resulted in a 40% increase in sales and a capability to handle customers at twice the rate of the store-front operation. The increase in sales and display area allows the store to stock a wider selection of merchandise. During 1973 AUSTIN's Ship's Store and Soda Fountain provided approximately \$20,000.00 profit for use by AUSTIN's Welfare and Recreation Fund. This fund is used to provide recreational facilities and activities for AUSTIN's crew.

H. CCTV: A CCTV installation consisting of studio system equipment and basic distribution system with seventeen area service monitors was completed by ship's personnel. System capabilities include black and white live telecast from studio or remote locations with portable camera, canned programming using 1" or 3/4" VTR tape, 16mm film chain operation, 35 mm slide or film strip projection, and 4 track audio cassette override. The CCTV has been used primarily for showing weekly entertainment units and video taped special events. These are provided by AFRTS. The system is also used to show the daily crew's movie and commercial TV programming when within reception range. The CCTV system has great potential in the areas of training and command and control.

I. Mideast Crisis: During the period from 10 October - 2 December AUSTIN participated in Sixth Fleet contingency operations resulting from the Middle East Crisis. Operations consisted of steaming in a "holding area" southwest of Crete, inport training anchorage in Soudha Bay, Crete, and practice amphibious landings at Gythion, Greece.

III. Documentary Annexes.

A. Roster of officers and assigned billets as of December 1973.