



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)  
FPO NEW YORK 09564-1707

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser LPD4-X/320  
27 February 1985

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORIES

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) Ship's History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

*F. A. Olds*  
F. A. OLDS

Copy to:  
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL HISTORY (OP-09BH)  
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

1984

SHIP'S HISTORY 1984  
USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

January 1984, the ship was berthed at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, undergoing an intensive IMAV period in preparation to deploy to Northern Europe. USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) got underway on February 13, 1984 to participate in cold weather operations termed "United Effort/Teamwork '84." The first week of the exercise was spent off the coast of North Carolina which saw AUSTIN functioning as a support base for its embarked squadron, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 (HM-14). Additionally, COMMINEGRU TWO and his staff were embarked with AUSTIN as their flagship. The minesweeping detachment was tasked to clear the channel and approaches to Morehead City, N.C. Working with minesweepers USS FEARLESS, USS AFFRAY, USS EXULTANT, AND USS EXPLOIT the AUSTIN AND HM-14 Sea Stallion helicopters provided the aerial minesweeping dimension to the operation. On February 17, 1984 Austin moored in Morehead City, North Carolina to off-load HM-14 and onload over 700 Marines of Regimental Landing Team 2, a 12 man Navy Seal team and the largest onload of Marine vehicles in the ship's history, consisting of 135 vehicles including five M-60 tanks, six 155mm Howitzers, 20 five ton trucks and numerous jeeps and trucks for a deployment to the North Atlantic as a unit in exercise "Teamwork '84."

"Teamwork '84" was a multi-national NATO exercise which consisted of over 150 ships from the United States, Denmark, United Kingdom, Norway, France and Canada. During the three weeks crossing from Morehead City to Malangen Fjord, Norway, termed United Effort, Austin acted as Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) for one-third of the ships involved in the transit for four days and two thirds of the ships for five days. The exercise gave AUSTIN her first chance at underway refueling with HMS ANTRIM as receiving ship on 11 March 1984, as both ships crossed the Arctic Circle and the crew and embarked Marines became "Blue Noses". March 12, 1984 AUSTIN anchored in Malangen Fjord, Norway. As the Commander of the Advance Force, AUSTIN was the staging platform for Navy Seal and Marine reconnaissance teams in the Fjords.

From March 27 to April 14, 1984, AUSTIN was conducted port visits to Amsterdam and Vlissingen, Holland and Portsmouth, England. AUSTIN hosted a Visit Ship while in Amsterdam and Vlissingen with more than 2000 guests attending. Also, AUSTIN hosted several luncheons for Royal Netherlands Navy personnel, the American Ambassador to the Netherlands, American Counsel General, Rotterdam, the Queens Commissioner, the Mayors of Vlissingen and Verre, and the Commander Naval Base Vlissingen. In Portsmouth, the vehicles was once again off-loaded, inspected by USDA and onloaded. By the final off-load in Morehead April 27th, AUSTIN made a total of over 800 vehicle moves. AUSTIN returned to her homeport of Norfolk, VA 28 April 1984.

On 4 June 1984 AUSTIN was underway to Charleston, South Carolina operating areas to conduct helo and well deck operations and returned to Norfolk 11 Jun 84. From 15-17 Jun and 26 Jul - 03 Aug the ship was in the Virginia Capes operating areas conducting more helo and well deck operations. AUSTIN was ordered out of its homeport 10-14 Sept '84 for the threat Hurricane Diana posed to the Norfolk area. The ship was underway 24-29 Sept for an OPPE inspection in which the ship successfully passed the first time around. 10-18 October 1984, AUSTIN was involved in Amphibious Refresher Training off the

coast of Virginia. During the month of November, the ship received a state-of-the-art (AN/SRN-25) TACAN System. On 19 November 1984, AUSTIN shifted berths from Norfolk to Little Creek, VA Amphibious Base for the installation of the Close - In Weapons System (CIWS) and Halon system. On PM 19 November 1984, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, RADM Rogers, broke his flag on AUSTIN and his staff embarked with AUSTIN performing flagship duties for the remainder of 1984. From 2-4 December 1984, AUSTIN returned to the Virginia Capes operating areas to conduct helo operations and moored back in Little Creek for the holiday period.