



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Subj: 1985 ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

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1985

1. IAW ref (a), 1985 Austin Command History is forwarded.

R. S. Smith
R. S. SMITH

AUSTIN began 1985 berthed at the quaywall at the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va. On 14 January, AUSTIN got underway for five days independent steaming, returning to the Naval Operating Base at Norfolk 18 January. Between 18 January and 1 March, AUSTIN had six days underway conducting local operations IAW CINCLANTFLT Quarterly Employment Schedule.

During the week of 18 -22 March, AUSTIN was given an In-Service Inspection with 19 March designated as the day for underway machinery tests. AUSTIN received a "Safe to Steam" mark subsequent to the inspection. On 8 April, AUSTIN got underway for Onslow Bay, North Carolina, where she conducted LVT and Helo training operations. From Onslow Bay AUSTIN proceeded to Boston MA., for a liberty port visit. CIWS system checks were completed and the Close IN Weapons System was accepted 16 April. AUSTIN returned to Norfolk, VA. on 22 April.

On May 9, AUSTIN went to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA. for ammunition loadout. On 20 May AUSTIN was underway to conduct green water MARG workups in preparation for deployment ICW MARG 2-85. The workups included basic amphibious training and took place in Onslow Bay off the North Carolina coast. Wet well operations, small boat training, helicopter operations and general drills were conducted. Ships in company with AUSTIN included USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), USS LAMOURE COUNTY (LST-1194), USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1197) and USS PENSACOLA (LSD-38).

In June 1985, AUSTIN continued exercises off the North Carolina coast in preparation for deployment to the Mediterranean. Pre-overseas movement period commenced on 3 June. On 2 July, AUSTIN departed Norfolk for Morehead City, North Carolina to embark marines and equipment for the MARG deployment. Upon completion of the onload, AUSTIN got underway for the Mediterranean Sea, steaming as a member of Amphibious Squadron Four, including USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1197), USS LAMOURE COUNTY (LST-1194) and USS PENSACOLA (LSD-38). PHIBRON FOUR arrived at Naval Station,

Rota, Spain on 13 July and relieved the departing Amphibious Squadron. On 14 July AUSTIN departed Rota, Spain enroute to the Eastern Mediterranean. AUSTIN steamed in a modified location at condition III in the Eastern Mediterranean for nine days

ON 3 August, AUSTIN anchored off the coast of Egypt near Alexandria. AUSTIN, with task force 61, conducted "Operation Brightstar". This amphibious exercise was conducted with the Egyptians and included an amphibious assault. AUSTIN launched two waves of LVT's and served as an alternate helo platform throughout the operation. After "Operation Brightstar" AUSTIN was assigned to a MODLOC area south of Cyprus. On 17 August, AUSTIN completed MODLOC duties and sailed for Catania, Sicily. AUSTIN's port visit in Catania was four days in duration, then she sailed for an 11 day port visit to Livorno, Italy.

On 5 September, AUSTIN sailed for duties in the Central Mediterranean. On arrival, AUSTIN rendezvoused with other units of TF 61 which in addition to the previously mentioned amphibious units also included USNS NEOSHO and USS DEWEY (DDG-45). From 15 to 20 September, AUSTIN participated in a NATO exercise named "Display Determination 85". During this multi-national exercise, AUSTIN anchored off the southern coast of Sardinia near Capo Tuelado and launched two training assaults consisting of LVT's. This operation was also marked by the arrival of the prospective Commanding Officer, Captain Robert S. Smith.

ON 20 September, Captain R. S. Smith properly relieved Captain Fred A. Olds as Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN.

AUSTIN continued duties after "Display Determination 85" steaming towards MODLOC in the Eastern Mediterranean.

After a brief stay in the Eastern Mediterranean, AUSTIN sailed for Naples, Italy. AUSTIN entered Naples, Italy on 14 October for a six day port visit. On 21 October, AUSTIN again sailed for the Eastern Mediterranean, where AUSTIN and

USS SCOTT (DDG-995) conducted dual ship operations. AUSTIN then sailed for a seven day port visit to Palma De Mallorca, Spain. After departing Palma De Mallorca November 11, AUSTIN once again headed for the Eastern Mediterranean where the ship spent the next 12 days. AUSTIN then departed the Eastern Mediterranean for Rota, Spain to conduct washdown of the well deck and various Marine Corps equipment.

AUSTIN arrived in port Rota, Spain on 4 December 1985 where the MARG turnover was conducted. Amphibious Squadron Six relieved Amphibious Squadron Four later that day. AUSTIN and the ships which had comprised MARG 2-85 remained in Rota conducting washdown until 7 December when the ships sailed for Morehead City, North Carolina to debark USMC units and equipment. Enroute, a multitude of joint ship training evolutions were conducted until arrival in Morehead City 18 December. Following offload of Marine Corps equipment and personnel, AUSTIN left Morehead City 19 December for homeport. The morning of 20 December, USS AUSTIN returned to Naval Operating Base, Norfolk VA. for the holidays and to prepare for the upcoming PRAV in 1986.