



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757
Ser LPD4-NAV/404
1 August 1988

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC

Subj: 1987 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(2) Command History 1987 Chronology
(3) Command History 1987 Narrative
(4) Current Ship's Photo

1987 →

1. As required by reference (a), the 1987 Command History for USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) is forwarded.

S. D. GASTAR

Copy to:
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

USS AUSTIN COMMAND HISTORY '87 CHRONOLOGY

JAN 1-31 DRYDOCK PLANNED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (DPRAV) AT NORSHIPCO SHIPYARD. WORK COMPLETED INCLUDED: REMOUNTING FORWARD CLOSE IN WEAPONS SYSTEM MOUNT (CIWS), INSTALLATION OF AN UNDERWATER HULL CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM, REMOVING, REPAIRING AND REPLACING BOTH SCREWS AND RUDDERS, HULL SANDBLASTING AND PAINTING, AND INSTALLATION OF NEW AFFF FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM.

JAN 23 LIGHT-OFF BOILERS

JAN 26 DOCK TRIALS NORSHIPCO SHIPYARD

FEB 5 SIMULATED UNDERWAY (FAST CRUISE)

FEB 11 UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPERATING AREA

FEB 11-12 STEAMING INDEPENDENTLY VICINITY VIRGINIA CAPES. COMPLETED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY. CONDUCTED DAMAGE CONTROL DRILLS, GENERAL QUARTERS, AND MAN OVERBOARD.

FEB 12-13 ANCHORED AT WHISKEY ANCHORAGE FOR ONLOADING AMMUNITION

FEB 14-23 MOORED PORTSIDE TO PIER 7, NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VA

FEB 23-26 UNDERWAY CONDUCTING SAR EFFORT FOR LOST FISHING VESSEL DELORES MARIE.

FEB 26- MOORED PORTSIDE TO PIER 2, NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VA

MAR 8

MAR 3 CONDUCTED COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW

MAR 9-17 UNDERWAY VIRGINIA CAPES OPERATING AREA FOR AMPHIBIOUS REFTRA.
DRILLS CONDUCTED INCLUDED: ABANDON SHIP, MAN OVERBOARD, GENERAL
QUARTERS, STEERING CASUALTY, GUN QUARTERS, WELL DECK - SMALL BOAT
OPERATIONS AND BASIC ENGINEERING CASUALTY CONTROL EXERCISES.

MAR 17 ANCHORED LA-7 VICINITY OF CHEASPEAKE BAY BRIDGE TUNNEL DUE TO SEVERE
WEATHER CONDITIONS.

MAR 18 MOORED PIER 15 NORTH, NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, LITTLE CREEK, VA.
READY DUTY ARG.

MAR 23 - CONDUCTED IMAV WITH SIMA, LITTLE CREEK

APR 12

MAR 25-27 COMMAND INSPECTION

MAR 31 USMC HABITABILITY INSPECTION

APR 13 UNDERWAY ENROUTE YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, YORKTOWN, VA

APR 13-16 MOORED YORKTOWN FOR CLASS 5 L-FORM AND AMMO ONLOAD.

APR 15 COMPLETED ONLOAD

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APR 16 UNDERWAY ENROUTE NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA
APR 16-27 MOORED QUAY WALL EAST NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA

APR 27 - UNDERWAY FOR MARG 3-87 WORKUPS
MAY 19

APR 28 MOORED MOREHEAD CITY, NC EMBARKED MARINE ELEMENTS OF MAU 24 ICW MARG
3-87 WORKUPS.

APR 28 UNDERWAY ENROUTE PUERTO RICAN OP AREA

MAY 4-6 ANCHORED OFF VIEQUES ISLAND CONDUCTING AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS

MAY 10-11 MOORED ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO

MAY 11 UNDERWAY ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC

MAY 16-18 CONDUCTED SOCEX 3-87

MAY 18 MOORED MOREHEAD CITY, NC FOR OFFLOAD OF EMBARKED MARINE ELEMENTS.
UNDERWAY ENROUTE NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA

MAY 19 - MOORED QUAY WALL EAST NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA FOR POM PERIOD
JUN 18

JUN 18 UNDERWAY ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC

JUN 19 MOORED MOREHEAD CITY, NC. EMBARKED MARINE ELEMENTS OF MAU 24 ICW MARG
3-87.

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JUN 19-30 UNDERWAY ENROUTE ROTA, SPAIN

JUN 30 CHOP TO CINCUSNAVELR LONDON, UK

JUL 1-3 ANCHORED INPORT ROTA, SPAIN FOR MED INCHOP/MARG TURNOVER

JUL 3-4 MOORED PIER 1 ROTA, SPAIN

JUL 4 UNDERWAY/FROM ROTA, SPAIN FOR ADVANCE FORCE OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SIERRA DE RETIN SPANISH PHIBEX.

JUL 5-8 SIERRA DE RETIN SPANISH PHIBEX

JUL 8 ENTER MEDITERRANEAN THRU STRAIGHTS OF GIBRALTAR ENROUTE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN.

JUL 11 AUSTIN DETACHED TO PROCEED TO NAPLES FOR REPAIRS TO NUMBER ONE BOILER SIDEWALL TUBES.

JUL 13 - MED MOORED NAPLES, ITALY UNDERGOING BOILER REPAIRS, INCLUDING THE
AUG 10 REPLACEMENT OF 39 SIDEWALL TUBES IN NUMBER ONE BOILER.

AUG 5 CTF-61/CTF-62 EMBARKED USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

AUG 11-16 UNDERWAY ENROUTE EGYPT FOR OPERATION BRIGHT STAR PHIBEX

AUG 16-22 ANCHORED VICINITY OF EL HAMMAN, EGYPT CONDUCTING OPERATION BRIGHT STAR 87.

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AUG 22-24 UNDERWAY ENROUTE AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY FOR ONLOAD OF SIX CH-46'S AND
HMM 263 DET PERSONNEL.

AUG 24 MOORED NAVY FUELING PIER, AUGUSTA BAY SICILY

AUG 24-27 UNDERWAY ENROUTE HAIFA, ISRAEL FOR PORT VISIT AND RAV AT THE ISRAEL
NATIONAL SHIPYARD. ONLOAD HMM 263 DET PERSONNEL.

AUG 27 - MOORED ISRAEL SHIPYARD LTD. KISHON HARBOR, HAIFA, ISRAEL.

SEP 14

SEP 4 U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ONBOARD.

SEP 11 PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT S. D. GASTAR ARRIVES ONBOARD.

SEP 14 - UNDERWAY FOR EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION '87, ENROUTE CAPO TEULADA
SEP 19 SARDINIA STEAMING IN COMPANY WITH USS LAURENCE COUNTY (LST-1194) AND
USS SAGINAW (LST-1188). OTC IS COMPHIBRON SIX EMBARKED ON USS AUSTIN
(LPD-4).

SEP 19 ANCHORED OFF CAPO TEULADA SARDINIA

SEP 20-25 CONDUCT EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION '87.

SEP 21 COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET ONBOARD

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SEP 23 CAPT R. S. SMITH IS RELIEVED BY CAPT S. D. GASTAR AS COMMANDING OFFICER, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

SEP 23 UNDERWAY ISE FOR ENGINEERING TRAINING IAW COMPHIBRON SIX NIGHT INTENTIONS.

SEP 24 ANCHORED PT GULFO DI TEULADA SARDINIA

SEP 25 UNDERWAY ISE FOR TRAINING IAW COMPHIBRON SIX NIGHT INTENTIONS.

SEP 25 - ANCHORED PT GULFO DI TEULADA SARDINIA

SEP 26

SEP 26 - UNDERWAY ENROUTE AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY DISPLAY DETERMINATION '87 PRESAIL

SEP 28 CONFERENCE FOR AEGEAN SEA PHASE. STEAMING IN COMPANY WITH USS SPEIGAL GROVE (LSD-32), USS LAWORE COUNTY (LST-1194), AND USS SAGINAW (LST-1188). OTC IS COMPHIBRON SIX EMBARKED ON USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

SEP 28 ANCHORED AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY.

SEP 28 - UNDERWAY ENROUTE DOGANBEY, TURKEY IAW COMSIXTHFLT QUARTERLY OP

OCT 3 SCHEDULE TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION DISPLAY DETERMINATION.

OCT 3 ANCHORED VICINITY DOGANBEY, TURKEY FOR REHEARSAL LANDING AND PLANNING CONFERENCE.

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OCT 3-4 UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAROS BAY, TURKEY IAW COMSIXTHFLT QUARTERLY OP SCHEDULE

OCT 4-11 ANCHORED VICINITY SAROS KORFEZI, TURKEY. PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION DISPLAY DETERMINATION.

OCT 9 UNDERWAY VICINITY SAROS KORFEZI, TURKEY TO CONDUCT GUNNEX IN SUPPORT OF DISPLAY DETERMINATION.

OCT 11-14 UNDERWAY ENROUTE AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY IAW COMSIXTHFLT OP SCHEDULE FOR OUTCHOP/TURNOVER. STEAMING IN COMPANY WITH USS LAMORE COUNTY (LST-1194) AND USS SPIEGAL GROVE (LSD-32) OTC IS COMPHIBRON SIX ON USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

OCT 14-16 MOORED NATO PIER AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY CONDUCT TURNOVER WITH MARG 4-87 UNITS.

OCT 16-18 UNDERWAY ENROUTE PALMA DE MALLORCA, SPAIN IAW COMSIXTHFLT QUARTERLY OP SCHEDULE. STEAMING WITH USS LAMORE COUNTY (LST-1194) AND USS SPIEGAL GROVE (LSD-32). OTC IS CTG 61.9 EMBARKED USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

OCT 18-29 MOORED DIGUE DEL OESTE, DARSENC DE PORTO PI PALMA DE MALLORCA, SPAIN FOR PORT VISIT/RAV WITH USS ORION (AS-18).

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OCT 21-23 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED 3-M INSPECTION.

OCT 28-30 UNDERWAY ENROUTE ROTA, SPAIN FOR WASHDOWN.

OCT 30-31 MOORED ROTA, SPAIN.

NOV 1-12 UNDERWAY ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC IAW COMSECONDFLT QUARTERLY OPS SCHEDULE. STEAMING IN COMPANY WITH USS SPIEGAL GROVE (LSD-32), USS LAMOURE COUNTY (LST-1194), USS SAGINAW (LST-1188). OTC IS CTU 22.1.2 EMBARKED USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

NOV 10-12 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OPPE.

NOV 11 CH-46D/HMM-263 DET DEBARKED ONSLOW BAY.

NOV 12 MOORED MOREHEAD CITY, NC. DEBARKED MARINE ELEMENTS OF MAU 24.

NOV 12-13 UNDERWAY ENROUTE: LITTLE CREEK, VA IAW COMSECONDFLT OP SCHEDULE, OPERATING ISE. OTC IS CTU 22.1.2 EMBARKED USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

NOV 13 - MOORED QUAY WALL NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, LITTLE CREEK, VA FOR POST
DEC 31 DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP.

USS AUSTIN COMMAND HISTORY '87 NARRATIVE

The year 1987 was an exciting and challenging one in the long and illustrious service life of the USS AUSTIN (LPD-4). The year began with the AUSTIN in drydock at NORSHIPCO Shipyard in Norfolk, VA, undergoing a Drydock Planned Restricted Availability or DPRAV. Work completed included remounting and lowering the forward closed in weapons system mount (CIWS), installation of an underwater hull cathodic protection system, removing, repairing and replacing both screws and rudders, sandblasting preserving and painting the hull and the installation of a new AFFF fire fighting system.

AUSTIN completed the availability on time and was underway for sea trials 11 February 1987. Upon the successful completion of sea trials, and an ammo onload at Whiskey Anchorage, AUSTIN was moored Naval Station Norfolk, 23 February 1988, when she was directed to sortie to assist in the SAR effort for the lost fishing vessel DELORES MARIE. AUSTIN was underway for three days assisting various units of the Atlantic Fleet and the U.S. Coast Guard in the unsuccessful search and rescue effort.

AUSTIN returned to Norfolk on 26 February and prepared for a scheduled combat systems readiness review or CSRR. The CSRR was conducted on 3 March and AUSTIN was found to be satisfactory.

On 9 March, AUSTIN was underway operating in the Virginia Capes area conducting amphibious refresher training. Drills including abandon ship, man overboard, general quarters, steering casualty, gun quarters and well deck/small boat operations were conducted as the crew of the AUSTIN worked themselves back into underway form. The engineering department also used this training time to it's advantage by drilling all watchstanders during regularly scheduled basic engineering casualty control exercises.

AUSTIN pulled into the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, VA on 18 March 1987, and began preparations for an IMAV with SIMA Little Creek, conducted 23 March - 12

April. During the IMAV period AUSTIN also successfully underwent a Command Inspection and a USMC Habitability Inspection.

Following an ammo and L-Form onload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown VA, April 13-16 AUSTIN was underway 27 April-19 May for MARG/LF6F Blue-Green water workups.

The first stop in the voyage south to the Puerto Rican Op area was Morehead City, NC where the AUSTIN embarked elements of MAU 24. Then it was south to Vieques Island and the PROA to conduct amphibious operations in conjunction with the workups. Upon completion of the MARG workups AUSTIN entered Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for a washdown/backload prior to returning to the United States. On 11 May, AUSTIN was underway enroute Morehead City, NC. After the completion of SOCEX 3-87 16 May, AUSTIN arrived in Morehead City, NC on 18 May to offload all embarked marine elements. Once the offload was complete later that day AUSTIN was underway and headed for home.

From 19 May to 18 June AUSTIN was moored to the quay wall Little Creek, VA for a pre-overseas movement period (POM), for upkeep and leave prior to deployment.

On 18 June the long awaited day arrived and as family and well wishers looked on the AUSTIN left for its Mediterranean deployment.

The first stop was Morehead City, NC on 19 June to embark elements of MAU 24. Upon completion of the onload AUSTIN was underway enroute Rota, Spain.

On 30 June AUSTIN choped to CINUSNAVELR London, UK and on 1 July anchored inport Rota for the Mediterranean inchoop and turnover with MARG/LF6F 2-87. On 4 July, AUSTIN embarked Spanish marines and was underway from Rota for advance force operations in support of Sierra De Retin Spanish Phibex. From 5-8 July AUSTIN conducted amphibious landings and training ashore in conjunction with Spanish forces at Sierra Del Retin.

AUSTIN entered the Mediterranean through the Straights of Gibraltar enroute to the central Mediterranean on 8 July.

On 11 July, AUSTIN was detached and ordered to Naples, Italy to undergo repairs to the sidewall tubes in number one boiler. AUSTIN was med moored in Naples from 13 July-10 August while 39 sidewall tubes were replaced in number one boiler, due

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to oxygen pitting.

During this period MARG 3-87 was reconfigured in order to meet U.S. commitments in the Persian Gulf and CTF-SIX ONE/CTF-SIX TWO embarked on AUSTIN 5 August. On 11 August, AUSTIN sailed from Naples enroute Egypt for operation Bright Star Phiblex.

From 16-22 August, AUSTIN was anchored in the vicinity of El Hamman, Egypt participating in Operation Bright Star '87. While at anchor AUSTIN hosted COMUSMARCENT and COMSIXTHFLT onboard to visit CTF-SIX ONE/CTF-SIX TWO. AUSTIN also embarked an Egyptian ranger company with combat rubber raiding craft and hosted the US Ambassador to Egypt who landed on the beach in LCU 1644 as a part of assault wave five. Operation Bright star was deemed a success and the crew of the AUSTIN found it very challenging and educational working closely with the Egyptian Military.

On 22 August AUSTIN departed EL Hamman enroute Augusta Bay, Sicily and on 24 August embarked HMM 263 DET Charlie (6 HC-46 aircraft) and departed enroute Haifa, Israel.

AUSTIN arrived Kishon Harbor, Haifa, Israel on 27 August for a RAV at the Israel National Shipyard scheduled for 27 August - 14 September. On 4 September the AUSTIN hosted the US Ambassador to Israel and on 13 September the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visited the AUSTIN.

On 11 September the prospective commanding officer CAPT S.D. GASTAR arrived onboard and on 14 September, AUSTIN was underway enroute Capo Teulada to participate in NATO exercise Display Determination '87. From 20 September - 11 October AUSTIN participated in Display Determination '87 with several other NATO units, including Naval forces from Italy and Turkey. The exercise included landings in Sardinia, live fire exercises, an opposed transit to Doganbey, Turkey and a landing in Saros Bay. Turkey.

On 23 September, AUSTIN conducted a change of command and CAPT R. S. Smith was relieved by CAPT S. D. GASTAR as Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4).

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Upon completion of Display Determination '87 on 11 October, AUSTIN was underway enroute Augusta Bay, Sicily. From 14-16 October, AUSTIN was moored in Augusta Bay and conducted a turnover with MARG/LF6F 4-87.

Upon completion of the turnover AUSTIN was underway 16 October enroute Palma De Mallorca. AUSTIN arrived in Palma De Mallorca on 18 October and began a RAV with the USS ORION, scheduled for 18-27 October. While in Palma, AUSTIN successfully completed it's 3-M inspection.

On 28 October AUSTIN was underway enroute Rota Spain for washdown and backload conducted 30-31 October. On 1 November, AUSTIN departed Rota Spain enroute Morehead City, NC and the MARG outchopped CINCUSNAVELR. November 10-12 AUSTIN successfully completed its outchop OPPE. On 11 November HMM 263 Det Charlie flew off and on November 12 AUSTIN arrived in Morehead City, North Carolina and debarked Marine elements of MAU 24. Following the completion of the offload AUSTIN was underway enroute to Little Creek, VA.

AUSTIN arrived in Little Creek, VA on 13 November and began a post deployment leave and upkeep period thru 31 December.