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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757  
Ser LPD4-NAV/122  
28 August 1989

From: Commanding Officer, USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20370

Subj: 1988 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(2) Command History 1988 Chronology  
(3) Command History 1988 Narrative  
(4) Current Ship's Photo

1988

1. As required by reference (a), the 1988 Command History for USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) is forwarded.

  
S. D. GASTAR

Copy to:  
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

01 JAN 88 MOORED LITTLE CREEK, NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE. ORDERED TO REPLACE USS PONCE FOR MARG 1-88 BLUE/GREEN WATER WORKUPS.

07-08 JAN 88 U/W ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC TO EMBARK MARINES.

09-13 JAN 88 U/W ENROUTE ISLE DE VIEQUES AND PUERTO RICAN OPAREA VIA STOP OVER ONSLOW BAY FOR TRAINING EXERCISES.

18 JAN 88 U/W ENROUTE ROOSEVELT ROADS FOR FRESHWATER WASHDOWN/BACKLOAD.

20-27 JAN 88 U/W ENROUTE NAVAL BASE NORFOLK (NOB).

28 JAN -  
05 FEB PIERSIDE NORFOLK UPKEEP.

05-09 FEB 88 U/W ENROUTE NEW ORLEANS FOR MARDI GRAS

10-17 FEB 88 PIERSIDE NEW ORLEANS

18-21 FEB 88 U/W ENROUTE NOB.

22 FEB -  
21 MAR PIERSIDE NOB FOR TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE

22 FEB 88 COMPHIBRON 4 EMBARKS PENNANT

25 FEB 88 MOGAS OFFLOAD. NON-NUCLEAR ORDNANCE HANDLING CERTIFICATION BOARD.

26 FEB 88 SMI (SUPPLY MATERIAL INSPECTION) ASSIST VISIT.

14 MAR 88 COMPHIBRON 12 PRE-INSURV TEAM BOARDS.

21-25 MAR 88 INSURV. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INSPECTION.

22 MAR 88 U/W VIRGINIA CAPES (VACAPES) OPAREA FOR INSURV UMI. DEGAUSSING RUN. RETURN TO NOB.

25 MAR 88 INSURV CRITIQUE.

25 MAR -  
11 APR PIERSIDE NOB.

11-12 APR 88 U/W ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC TO EMBARK MARINES. TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE OCEAN VENTURE '88.

12-18 APR 88 U/W ENROUTE ISLE DE VIEQUES AND PUERTO RICAN OPAREA VIA ONSLOW BAY, NC FOR AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONAL TRAINING DURING EXERCISE OCEAN VENTURE 88.

23 APR 88 U/W ENROUTE ROOSEVELT ROADS FOR WASH DOWN/BACKLOAD.

25-29 APR 88 U/W ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC.

29-30 APR 88 U/W ENROUTE NOB NORFOLK, VA.

3 MAY 88 WHISKEY ANCHORAGE FOR OFFLOAD OF AMMUNITION

4 MAY 88 MOORED NOB NORFOLK, VA.

6 MAY 88 MOVED TO MOON ENGINEERING, PORTSMOUTH, VA FOR PMA (PLANNED MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY). PMA SCHEDULED FOR 6 MAY - 25 AUG. EVOLUTIONS THAT OCCURRED WHILE AT MOON ENGINEERING: SUPPLY MATERIAL INSPECTION (SMI), SURFACE WARFARE TRAINING WEEK, CNSL (COMNAVSURFLANT) MEDICAL OFFICER REVIEW, CNSL AVIATION ASSIST VISIT, NAEC (NAVAL AVIATION ENGINEERING CENTER) TECH ASSIST VISIT, SMALL BOAT TRAINING, ELEVATOR ASSESSMENT VISIT, EOSS (ENGINEERING OPERATING SEQUENCE SYSTEM), SQUADRON LIGHT OFF EXAM AND DOCK TRIALS.

16-17 AUG 88 FAST CRUISE

18-19 AUG 88 U/W VACAPES FOR SEA TRIALS.

24-25 AUG 88 U/W VACAPES FOR FINAL SEA TRIALS.

02-11 SEP 88 U/W VACAPES FOR INDEPENDENT STEAMING/TRAINING: GQ, FIRE FIGHTING, WEAPONS TRAINING, AND PREPS FOR TCAT AND MARG 1-89.

12-14 SEP 88 YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION FOR AMMUNITION ONLOAD.

14-28 SEP 88 PIERSIDE NOB NORFOLK, VA.

28-30 SEP 88 U/W VACAPES FOR EMTT (ENGINEERING MOBILE TRAINING TEAM).

03-08 OCT 88 U/W ONSLOW BAY FOR TCAT (TYPE COMMANDERS AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING).

08 OCT -  
02 NOV PIERSIDE NOB NORFOLK, VA, PREDEPLOYMENT PREPS. INCLUDING: IMAV, PMS ASSIST VISIT, SAFETY SURVEY, TROOP HABITABILITY INSPECTION, NWAT (NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSESSMENT TEAM), CHT ASSIST VISIT, CABLEWAY INSPECTION, MSSG LOAD OUT, CNSL 3M TRAINING TEAM VISIT, RIGID RAIDER CRAFT CRADLE ONLOAD, FLIGHT DECK RESURFACING, CNSL ARE (AVIATION READINESS

EVALUATION) INSPECTION, NAEC CERTIFICATION, COMMAND INSPECTION, RETENTION ASSIST, REFUEL DFM AND MOGAS, AND SOSMRC SERVICES.

02-23 NOV 88 U/W FOR MARG 1-89 GREEN/BLUE WATER WORKUPS ENROUTE ISLE DE VIEQUES VIA MOREHEAD CITY, NC AND ONSLOW BAY OPERATING AREA.

23 NOV 88 RETURNED NOB NORFOLK, VA.

28-30 NOV 88 U/W VACAPES FOR OPPE.

01-06 DEC 88 PIERSIDE NOB FOR OPPE RE-EXAM PREPS.

07-11 DEC 88 U/W FOR OPPE RE-EXAM TRAINING.

12-13 DEC 88 U/W VACAPES FOR OPPE RE-EXAM.

14 DEC 88 WHISKEY ANCHORAGE FOR AMMUNITION ONLOAD.

14 DEC 88 MOVE PIERSIDE NOB NORFOLK, VA COMMENCE PCM (PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT) PERIOD.

15 DEC 88 SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

28 DEC 88 LOAD TWO YP'S FOR TRANSFER TO EGYPT.

30 DEC 88 U/W MARG 1-89 MEDITERRANEAN DEPLOYMENT. ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY.

31 DEC 88 LOAD MARINES. U/W ENROUTE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND SIXTH FLEET DUTIES.

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## COMMAND HISTORY 1988

1988 Commenced with USS AUSTIN moored to the Dog Leg Quay Wall at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek. Shortly after the first of January, she was ordered to replace USS PONCE during MARG 1-88 Work-Ups as USS PONCE was assigned other duties. Therefore, on the 7th of January we departed Little Creek, loaded LCU 1656 and transited to Morehead City, NC to load Marines for training. Following this brief stop in Morehead City, USS AUSTIN, USS IWO JIMA, USS HERMITAGE, USS EL PASO and USS HARLAN COUNTY with COMPHIBRON EIGHT as OTC embarked onboard USS IWO JIMA conducted training exercises Onslow Bay, NC and then proceeded on to the Isle of Vieques and the Puerto Rican OPAREA. After five days of honing our skills in amphibious assault, non-combatant evacuation (NEO), mass casualty training, general quarters, fire fighting, gunnery and various other training, we arrived at Roosevelt Roads on 15 January 1988 for equipment washdown and backload. On the 20th of January USS AUSTIN once again set sail for home. Stopping only long enough to offload Marines in Morehead City, we returned to Norfolk Naval Base on the 28th of the month with the honor of being named the "TOP OPERATOR".

USS AUSTIN remained in Norfolk until the 5th of February when we departed for New Orleans and Mardi Gras! During this period we conducted a burial at sea, engineering training and a Guest of the Navy Cruise program. Arriving at New Orleans on 10 February we

spent 8 fun filled days enjoying the festivities and then returned home, arriving in Norfolk on the 22nd of February.

Upon arrival in Norfolk COMPHIBRON 4 embarked his pennant in USS AUSTIN. On the 25th of February there was a Mogas offload and a Non-Nuclear Ordnance Handling assist visit. The following day there was a Supply Material Inspection (SMI) Assist visit. The rest of February and until the 21st of March we prepared for the INSURV Inspection. On the 14th of March COMPHIBRON 12 sent a Pre-INSURV Team onboard for a look at preparations.

On the 21st of March the INSURV commenced with a hazardous material inspection and a damage control inspection. The following day USS AUSTIN proceeded to the VACAPES OPAREA for the underway portion of the INSURV inspection. We conducted degaussing runs, full power trials, a combat systems assessment and a countermeasures washdown test returning to NOB that same evening. The inspection continued for three more days and the critique was held on the 25th of the month with COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMPHIBRON TWELVE attending.

From the 25th of March until the 11th of April USS AUSTIN remained inport Norfolk conducting maintenance. We were then ordered to participate in "Ocean Venture;" On the 11th of April we departed Norfolk, embarked LCU 1655 and proceeded to Morehead City, NC to embark Marines, arriving there on the 12th. We departed the same day for Isle of Vieques, Puerto Rico in company with USS GUADALCANAL, USS CHARLESTON, USS SUMTER, and USS BOULDER with COMPHIBRON SIX as OTC embarked in USS GUADALCANAL. Following a short stop in Onslow Bay for rehearsal training we arrived in the Puerto Rican OPAREA on the 18th of April where we conducted amphibious assault training. On the 23rd we transited to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for two days, then back to Morehead City, NC by the 29th and home to Norfolk on the 30th.

On the 3rd of May USS AUSTIN moved to Whiskey anchorage to offload ammunition in preparation for a four month phased maintenance availability at Moon Engineering beginning on the 6th. We remained at Moon Engineering in Portsmouth, VA, until the 25th of August. While at Moon the following training and inspections took place: SMI (Supply Material Inspection), Surface Warfare Training Week, CNSL (COMNAVSURFLANT) Aviation Assist Visit, NAEC (Naval Aviation Engineering Center) technical assist visit, small boat training, elevator assessment, EOSS (Engineering Operating Sequence System) visit and COMPHIBRON TWELVE Light Off Exam. Dock trials began on the 15th of August. Fast Cruise was conducted on the 16th and 17th, and sea trials on the 18th and 19th. Final sea trials were the 24th and 25th of August, after which we moored at Norfolk Naval

Base and commenced backload of repair parts and fuel until the 2nd of September.

On the 2nd of September USS AUSTIN proceeded to the VACAPES OPAREA for nine days of independent steaming exercises in order to get our sea legs back. During this time we conducted "Limited Type Training," including general quarters, engineering drills, fire fighting, gun quarters, etc, in preparation for MARG 1-89 workups and deployment. We moored at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station to load ammunition on the 12th and 13th and returned to Norfolk on the 14th.

The remaining days of September were filled to capacity by the following: Phase one of the CSRR (Combat Systems Readiness Review), Auxiliary Systems Readiness Review, Mogas assist visit, SGSI (Stabilized Glideslope Indicator) certification visit, a wind indicator certification visit, HME assist visit, and a COMPHIBRON TWO Marine berthing courtesy inspection, 27-30 September we embarked EMTT (Engineering Maintenance Training Team) to assist in our OPPE preparations.

On the 3rd of October the ship was once again underway to participate in TCAT (Type Commanders Amphibious Training) in the Onslow Bay area returning to Norfolk on the 7th where we remained until the 30th of the month conducting an IMAV (Intermediate Maintenance Availability). This period was exceptionally busy and included the following: a shipboard sanitization device visit,



flight deck resurfacing, the second phase of CSRR, PMS assist visit, the safety survey, a troop habitability inspection, nuclear weapons assessment team visit, CHT assist visit, cableway inspection, MSSG loadout, CNSL 3M Training team visit, Rigid Raider Craft cradle onload, a CNSL ARE (Aviation Readiness Evaluation), NAEC Flight Deck Certification, a Command Inspection, a Retention Team Visit, and Mogas onload.

The month of November was dedicated primarily to the MARG 1-89 Blue/Green Water Work-ups. This again took place in Onslow Bay and the Puerto Rican OPAREA around the Island of Vieques. We departed Norfolk on the 2nd in company with USS GUADALCANAL, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND, USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY and USS NEWPORT with COMPHIBRON TWO as OTC. Stopping first in Morehead City on the 3rd to pick up Marines, we transited to Onslow Bay for rehearsal landing training, then to the Isle of Vieques and the Puerto Rican OPAREA for more training arriving there on the 12th. After a brief stop in Roosevelt Roads on the 14th we returned via Morehead City to Norfolk Naval Base on the 23rd of November.

The Propulsion Examining Board arrived <sup>5</sup> the 28th of November for OPPE. After an intense three day period USS AUSTIN failed for fire fighting deficiencies during the main space fire drill and watchstander lack of knowledge. OPPE re-examination preps were conducted pierside from 1-6 December with 7 through 11 December for engineering casualty control drills with the engineering mobile training team embarked. Every thing was ready when the PEB team

returned 12 through 13 December for re-examination. The long months and countless hours of preparation paid off as AUSTIN passed the OPPE with high marks in most areas including the main space fire drill. With OPPE complete USS AUSTIN anchored at Whiskey anchorage for ammunition onload on the 14th of December. The pre-overseas movement period commenced on the afternoon of 14 December to allow a portion of the crew leave for the holidays. On the 15th of December an all hands Christmas party was held.

December 28th saw the loading of two 80 ton YP patrol craft, YP-663 and YP-665, formerly belonging to the U.S. Naval Academy, for transfer to the Egyptian Naval Academy. Finally, on 30 December 1988, USS AUSTIN got underway for MARG 1-89, a six month Mediterranean deployment. The last day of 1988 saw USS AUSTIN in Morehead City loading Marines which included elements of 22 MSSG, Kilo Company and an 81mm mortar platoon.