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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: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20370

Subj: 1989 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Command History 1989 Chronology
(3) Command History 1989 Narrative
(4) Current Ship's Photo
(5) Marg 1-89 Cruise Book
(6) PHINIA Information
(7) DRAGONHAMMER Information
(8) SARDINIA Information

1989
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1. As required by reference (a), the 1989 Command History for
USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) is forwarded.

C. M. deGruy
C. M. deGruy

Copy to:
COMPHIBRON TWELVE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

AUSTIN is a "Landing Platform Dock" amphibious ship designed to transport and land ashore her complement of Marines and their equipment by either helicopter or surface amphibious landing craft.

AUSTIN is under the operational command of Commander Amphibious Squadron Twelve with no units assigned under her.

During 1989 AUSTIN had two Commanding Officers: Captain S. D. Gastar and Captain C. M. deGruy.

AUSTIN's permanent duty station is Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

30 DEC - 30 JUN MARG 1-89
 01 JAN - 10 JAN Enroute Rota, Spain
 11 JAN - 16 JAN Inport Rota; INCHOP; Turnover USS NASHVILLE
 17 JAN - 22 JAN Enroute Alexandria, Egypt
 23 JAN - 25 JAN Inport Alexandria, Egypt
 26 JAN - 31 JAN Enroute Toulon, France
 01 FEB - 03 FEB Inport Toulon, France
 04 FEB - 08 FEB Enroute Straits of Bonafacio, Corsica
 09 FEB - 14 FEB Operation PHINIA
 15 FEB - 19 FEB Enroute Haifa, Israel
 20 FEB - 09 MAR RAV, Haifa, Israel
 10 MAR - 12 MAR Enroute Antalya, Turkey
 13 MAR - 16 MAR Inport Antalya, Turkey
 17 MAR - 19 MAR Enroute Naples, Italy
 20 MAR - 03 APR Inport Naples, Italy
 04 MAR - 06 MAR Enroute Palma de Mallorca, Spain
 07 APR - 16 APR Inport Palma de Mallorca, Spain
 17 APR - 19 APR Enroute Capo Teulada, Sardinia
 20 APR - 26 APR Operation DRAGONHAMMER
 27 APR - 29 APR Enroute Marseille, France
 30 APR - 17 MAY Inport Marseille, France
 18 MAY - 21 MAY Enroute Netunno, Italy
 22 MAY - 23 MAY Inport Netunno, Italy
 24 MAY - 25 MAY Enroute Rappallo, Italy
 26 MAY - 29 MAY Inport Rappallo, Italy
 30 MAY - 05 JUN Enroute Capo Teulado, Sardinia
 06 JUN - 10 JUN Operation SARDINIA
 11 JUN - 13 JUN Enroute Rota, Spain
 14 JUN - 17 JUN Inport Rota; Turnover USS SHREVEPORT; OUTCHOP
 18 JUN - 28 JUN Enroute Morehead City, North Carolina
 23 JUN - 25 JUN OPPE
 29 JUN Offload Morehead City, North Carolina
 29 JUN - 30 JUN Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
 01 JUL - 30 JUL Post Deployment LV & UPK, Norfolk, Virginia
 31 JUL - 02 AUG Enroute Onslow Bay, North Carolina
 03 AUG - 04 AUG Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
 05 AUG - 06 AUG Inport Norfolk, Virginia
 07 AUG - 10 AUG Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA)
 11 AUG - 13 AUG Inport Norfolk, Virginia
 14 AUG - 18 AUG Underway; Guests of the Navy Cruise
 19 AUG - 14 SEP IMAV, Norfolk, Virginia
 15 SEP - 17 SEP Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
 17 SEP - 18 SEP Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
 18 SEP - 22 SEP RAV, Norfolk, Virginia
 23 SEP - 28 SEP Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
 (Hurricane Hugo Disaster Relief Ops)
 27 SEP Water delivery stop, San Juan, Puerto Rico
 28 SEP - 29 SEP Enroute Frederiksted, Saint Croix
 30 SEP - 03 OCT At anchor Frederiksted, Saint Croix
 04 OCT Enroute Culebra, Puerto Rico
 04 OCT - 13 OCT At anchor Culebra, Puerto Rico
 13 OCT Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico

Enclosure 2

14	OCT	-	17	OCT	Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
18	OCT	-	22	OCT	Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
23	OCT	-	03	NOV	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
04	NOV	-	07	NOV	Enroute Kingston, Jamaica
08	NOV	-	10	NOV	Inport Kingston, Jamaica
11	NOV	-	13	NOV	Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
13	NOV	-	14	NOV	Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
14	NOV	-	17	NOV	Enroute Alucroix, Saint Croix
17	NOV	-	18	NOV	At anchor Alucroix, Saint Croix
18	NOV	-	21	NOV	Enroute Morehead City, North Carolina
21	NOV	-	22	NOV	At anchor Morehead City, North Carolina
22	NOV				Enroute Norfolk, Virginia
23	NOV	-	30	NOV	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
01	DEC	-	03	DEC	Enroute Boston, Massachusetts
04	DEC	-	06	DEC	Inport Boston, Massachusetts
07	DEC	-	10	DEC	Enroute Little Creek, Virginia
11	DEC	-	30	DEC	Holiday LV & UPKP, Little Creek, Virginia

COMMAND HISTORY 1989

1989 commenced with USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) underway enroute Mediterranean Deployment 1-89 with LCU 1654 and two pusher boats embarked in the well deck, and carrying YP 663 and YP 665 on the flight deck for delivery to Alexandria, Egypt. She traveled in company with USS GUADALCANAL (LPH-7), USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41), USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY (LST-1192), and USS NEWPORT (LST-1179) under the command of COMPHIBRON 2. After a short stop in Morehead City, North Carolina to pick up MSSG-22, BLT-38, and troops of Kilo Company, AUSTIN proceeded to Rota, Spain, arriving 11 January, where she INCHOPed to Commander Sixth Fleet and relieved USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13).

In Rota, AUSTIN offloaded her Marines, so that they could participate in training with the other Marines in the MARG. She departed from Rota 16 January after embarking a team of Navy Seals and a Stinger Team and proceeded independently to Alexandria, Egypt to deliver the two YP's.

Upon arrival in Egypt on 22 January, the two YP's were offloaded with much fanfare and flourish. The American Consulate in Alexandria extended the warmest welcome to AUSTIN and her crew with a reception for the officers, a party with entertainment for the crew and exceptional hospitality all

around. While in port Alexandria, many of the crew took advantage of tours of Alexandria, the Cairo Museum and the Pyramids.

AUSTIN departed Alexandria 26 January, returning to the western Mediterranean where she made a port call in Toulon, France 01-03 February. Here she reembarked her Marine contingent which had been on training exercises during her absence.

AUSTIN departed Toulon, France 03 January enroute the Straits of Bonafacio, Corsica for Operation PHINIA. Operation PHINIA (09-14 February) was a multi-national NATO exercise combining the French Aircraft Carrier FOCH and various other French ships with U. S. assets to perform a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation on the Island of Sardinia with joint forces of the US Marines and the French Army.

Following Operation PHINIA, AUSTIN conducted a much-needed RAV in Haifa, Israel from 19 February - 09 March. The crew took advantage of the time in port to participate in tours to Jerusalem, Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea and Tel Aviv.

From Israel AUSTIN proceeded to Antalya, Turkey for another port visit 13-17 March, where tours were available to carpet factories and many ruins of historic biblical towns.

AUSTIN then steamed from Turkey to Naples, Italy arriving 19 March. There were tours to many places including Rome, Pompeii, and Pisa.

Departing from Italy 03 April, AUSTIN made a port call in Palma de Mallorca from 07-16 April.

AUSTIN departed from Palma de Mallorca 17 April and proceeded to Capo Teulada, Sardinia for Operation DRAGONHAMMER. Units of the French, Italian, Spanish, German, British and U.S. Navies combined with French, American and Italian troops in a multi-national NATO exercise that conducted amphibious operations on the coast of Sardinia from 20-26 April.

AUSTIN departed from Capo Teulada, Sardinia and made a port call in Marseilles, France 30 April - 17 May. While the sailors were resting in Marseilles, AUSTIN's Marines from Kilo Company conducted ground operations with units of the French Army.

There were two more short port visits in Netunno, Italy, 22-23 May, and Rappallo, Italy, 26-29 May.

On May 30th AUSTIN departed for Capo Teulada, Sardinia for Operation SARDINIA, 06-10 June. Operation SARDINIA was another large scale amphibious assault involving air and surface support

from the NIMITZ Battle Group and units of the Italian Navy.

AUSTIN departed Capo Teulado on the 11th of June for Rota, Spain and OUTCHOP, arriving 13 June. After turnover with USS SHREVEPORT, AUSTIN commenced the voyage home on the 18th of June. While in transit, AUSTIN was given a surprise OPPE and passed with flying colors receiving a two year qualification.

Arriving at Morehead City, North Carolina on 29 June, AUSTIN disembarked her Marine contingent. Here, also, AUSTIN embarked about a hundred dependents for a "tiger cruise," turned her head northward to Norfolk, loved ones, and home, where she arrived 30 June, completing her six month Mediterranean Deployment.

Thirty days of post deployment leave and upkeep from 01-30 July followed the return voyage.

August saw AUSTIN conducting three short trips to sea: 31 July - 04 August to Onslow Bay for training services, 07-10 August in the Virginia Capes Operating Area for LCAC training services, and 14-18 August for a "Guests of the Navy" Cruise.

September held something different in store. AUSTIN was initially ordered to proceed to Guantanamo Bay Cuba 15 September to onload CB equipment, but was stopped by Hurricane Hugo and a necessary boiler repair off the coast of Hatteras,

Enclosure 3

North Carolina. AUSTIN was ordered to return to Norfolk until Hurricane Hugo passed, arriving 18 September. On 23 September, on less than 24 hours notice, AUSTIN deployed to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to conduct emergency disaster relief. She delivered 50,000 gallons of fresh water to San Juan, Puerto Rico 27 September; repair parts to Roosevelt Roads, 28 September; and then lending assistance to Frederiksted, Saint Croix 30 September - 03 October and the Island of Culebra, 04-13 October. Following this effort there was a short port visit to Roosevelt Roads, 14-17 October to backload equipment and she then returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

After just twelve days in Norfolk, AUSTIN again steamed to the Caribbean to Kingston, Jamaica on 04 November for the Marine Corp's birthday celebration 08-10 November, to Roosevelt Roads 13-14 November to onload LCU 1657, on to Saint Croix to load CJTF 140 Unit, 17-18 November. From there she returned to Norfolk via Morehead City, North Carolina, arriving 22 November.

After a short visit to Norfolk, 23-30 November, AUSTIN made a port visit to Boston, Massachusetts 04-06 December arriving back at Little Creek, Virginia 11 December. This commenced a Holiday Leave Period in Little Creek, Virginia to finish out the year with the crew of AUSTIN having spent approximately 245 days away from home port in the year 1989.

Enclosure 3