



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)
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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: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS AUSTIN (LPD-4)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Command History 1995 Chronology
(3) Command History 1995 Narrative
(4) Current Ship's Photo
(5) Welcome Aboard Package

1995

1. In accordance with reference (a), the 1995 Command History for USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) is forwarded.

AmbA
A. M. PETRUSKA

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU TWO

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

AUSTIN is an Amphibious Transport Dock Ship designed to transport and land ashore her complement of up to 900 Marines and their equipment by both helicopter and surface amphibious landing craft. AUSTIN carries enough equipment and supplies to sustain her assault force ashore for 15 days, unsupported.

AUSTIN is homeported in Norfolk, VA and under the administrative command of Commander Amphibious Group Two, RADM Fladd.

AUSTIN's Commanding Officer is Captain Andrew M. Petruska, United States Navy.

1995 COMMAND HISTORY

01-20 JAN INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 6
3 JAN PATG SECURITY ASSIST VISIT
9 JAN MOGAS INSPECTION
13 JAN U/W BERTH SHIFT TO PIER 7 BERTH 6
20 JAN U/W ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC.
21 JAN ARRIVE MOREHAD CITY, COMMENCE ONLOAD OF BLT 3/2 MARINES
21 JAN U/W ENROUTE GITMO, CUBA
25 JAN ARRIVE GITMO, CUBA
26-27 JAN U/W LOCAL OPS GITMO OPAREA
28-31 JAN INPORT GITMO, CUBA
31 JAN- 03 FEB U/W LOCAL OPS GITMO OPAREA
03-07 FEB INPORT GITMO, CUBA
06 FEB **AUSTIN'S 30th BIRTHDAY**
08-09 FEB U/W ENROUTE KEY WEST, FL.
10-13 FEB INPORT, KEY WEST FL.
14-16 FEB ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC.
17 FEB INPORT MOREHEAD CITY, NC. OFFLOAD BLT 3/2 MARINES
17-18 FEB ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA.
18-27 FEB INPORT NORFOLK, VA.
28 FEB- 01 MAR AMMO OFFLOAD, GULF ANCHORAGE, NORFOLK, VA.
02-17 MAR INPORT NORFOLK, VA.
06-10 MAR 3M ASSIST VISIT. LMA ASSIST VISIT.
07 MAR E-4 EXAM
09 MAR E-5 EXAM
14 MAR SAFETY SURVEY
17 MAR U/W FOR NORSHIPCO DPMA
17 MAR- JUL 07 ARRIVE NORSHIPCO
08-14 APR DRY-DOCK, NORSHIPCO
12MAY- 02 JUN DRY-DOCK, NORSHIPCO
06-07 JUL U/W VACAPES FOR SEA TRAILS
08 JUL-07 AUG INPORT NORFOLK, PIER 20 BERTH 6
08-11 AUG U/W VACAPES FOR ETG
11-14 AUG INPORT NORFOLK VA, PIER 20 BERTH SIX
15-21 AUG U/W VACAPES FOR HURRICANE FELIX EVASION
21 AUG- 10 SEP INPORT NORFOLK VA, PIER 20 BERTH 1
28 AUG- 01 SEP LMA/3M ASSIST VISIT
28 AUG- 01 SEP AVCERT INSPECTION
07 SEP E-4 EXAM
11-15 SEP U/W VACAPES FOR TSTA I FTG (PART I)
12 SEP E-5 EXAM
14 SEP E-6 EXAM
15 SEP CPO FROCKING
16-17 SEP INPORT NORFOLK VA, PIER 20 BERTH 5
18-22 SEP U/W VACAPES/CHERRY POINT OPAREA/ENROUTE BOSTON, MA.
18 SEP UNREP WITH USNS BIG HORN
18-21 SEP TSTA I FTG (PART II)
22-24 SEP PORT VISIT BOSTON, MA.
25-27 SEP U/W ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA.
25-27 SEP TSTA II ETG (PART II)
25-27 SEP NJROTC RIDERS FROM ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL, BOSTON, MA.

26 SEP	AWARDS CEREMONY
28 SEP- 09 OCT	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 2
28 SEP- 10 OCT	PIONEER UNMANNED AVIATION VEHICLE INSTALLATION
28 SEP	LCAC CERTIFICATION
30 SEP- 01 OCT	VISIT SHIP
03 OCT	BROWN OUT TO PIER 20 (CAUSED DAMAGE TO NUMEROUS EQUIPMENT)
05 OCT	NAV CHECKRIDE (ADMIN PORTION)
02-06 OCT	DISBURSING AUDIT
10-13 OCT	U/W VACAPES FOR TSTA II ETG AND NAV CHECKRIDE
14-22 OCT	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 6
16-20 OCT	LMA/3M INSPECTION
16-20 OCT	PIONEER UNMANNED AVIATION VEHICLE INSTALLATION (CONTINUED)
23-27 OCT	U/W VACAPES FOR SPECIAL ETG VISIT
23 OCT	GOLF ANCHORAGE FOR #1 BOILER REPAIR
28 OCT- 09 NOV	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 2 BERTH 6
30 OCT- 03 NOV	PARSE ELEVATOR POM GROOM
01 NOV	PERSONNEL INSPECTION
02 NOV	CMS A&A TEAM TRAINING VISIT
06 NOV	DETAILER VISIT TO BUPERS
09-13 NOV	U/W VACAPES FOR OPPE PREPARATIONS
09-11 NOV	ERAT
13 NOV	RETURNED TO PORT DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER IN VACAPES
14 NOV- 01 DEC	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 6
14-16 NOV	OPPE
20-22 NOV	COMMAND INSPECTION
22 NOV	TRAFFIC SAFETY STANDDOWN
22 NOV- 01 DEC	THANKSGIVING LEAVE PERIOD
28 NOV	TYCOMMEX
28 NOV	E-5/E-6 FROCKING CEREMONY
28-29 NOV	STANDARDS OF CONDUCT STANDDOWN
28 NOV- 01 DEC	COMMAND PRT
02- 08 DEC	U/W VACAPES AND LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE
02-08 DEC	AMPHIBIOUS REFRESHER TRAINING/ TSTA IV
09-10 DEC	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 6
11-15 DEC	AMMO ONLOAD - NWS YORKTOWN
11 DEC	TRANSIT TO NWS YORKTOWN
11-14 DEC	CROSSED DECK AMMO FROM USS NASHVILLE
15 DEC	DEPENDENTS CRUISE/TRANSIT TO NORFOLK
16-31 DEC	INPORT NORFOLK, VA. PIER 20 BERTH 6
16-31 DEC	STANDDOWN FOR HOLIDAY LAVE AND UPKEEP
18 DEC	SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
22 DEC	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

COMMAND HISTORY 1995 NARRATIVE

The year 1995 commenced with AUSTIN moored starboard side to pier 20, berth 6, Norfolk Naval station. The plant was cold iron and receiving all shore services. Half of the crew was on a well deserved holiday leave period.

In mid-January, AUSTIN was tasked to support Operation Safe Passage, the transfer of detained Cuban migrants from Guantanamo Bay to Panama. Conversions began immediately to transform the ship into a floating detention center. The welldeck was strung with chain link fencing and concertina wire, sanitation facilities were hastily improvised, and the overall ship was ready. The AUSTIN steamed to Guantanamo Bay to await tasking, but her services were not needed. The ship then took advantage of the time to complete extensive training before an yard period.

In March the AUSTIN went to the Norshipco yards for some much needed depot level work. Air conditioning repairs, main condenser overhaul, and shaft work dominated the yard period. She went into dry-dock twice, and even though she is thirty years old, was found to be in good shape and fit for further service.

In July, the AUSTIN left the yards for sea trails, passing with flying colors. A short inport period followed to finish up some small jobs. With repairs complete she was ready to continue her work up schedule.

In August, the ship began arduous work ups with an ETG visit. Then came an unexpected hurricane evasion for hurricane Felix. The entire Fleet in Norfolk was sortied and steamed to the safety of deep water. The evasion lasted about a week with no major casualties.

Engineering training/assist visits dominated the early fall schedule. The pace was fast and furious, but allowed the crew an enjoyable port visit to Boston, MA. These engineering work ups culminated in a successful OPPE, the first ship in AMPHIBGRU TWO to pass on its first try.

In December the operation tempo shifted to amphibious warfare training. Amphibious Refresher Training went extremely well, demonstrating the crew's warfare prowess. Ammunition and Marine LFORM was crossed decked to the AUSTIN in Yorktown, VA., followed by a Dependent's Day Cruise on the return to Norfolk.

The crew's outstanding performance and hard work during the year paid off well. AUSTIN passed all inspections on the first try with at least a grade of satisfactory, with many outstandings. The ship won the TYCOMM's Safety Award and the year culminated with AUSTIN winning its THIRD CONSECUTIVE Battle Efficiency Award.

The year ended as it started, with the crew home with their loved ones, basking in the joy and satisfaction of knowing that the year's hard work has paid off, and ready for the challenges of 1996.