



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**USS BATAAN (LHD 5)
FPO AE 09565-1657**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:
5720
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21 Apr 03**

From: Commanding Officer, USS BATAAN (LHD 5)
To: Naval Historical Center (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) USS BATAAN (LHD 5) Command History 2002
(2) Official Biography of the Commanding Officer
(3) Official Biography of the Executive Officer
(4) Official Biography of the Command Master Chief
(5) Welcome Aboard Brochure
(6) Change of Command Program

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. S. YERGER".

E. S. YERGER

BATAAN's assault support system coordinates horizontal and vertical movement of troops, cargo and vehicles. The monorail trains move at speeds up to 600-feet-per-minute and transports cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a 13,600 square-foot well deck. There, troops, vehicles and cargo can be loaded aboard landing craft for transit ashore. The LCAC can "fly" in and out of the well deck, or the well deck can be ballasted down for conventional craft, such as the Landing Craft Unit. Simultaneously, helicopters and Harrier "jump" jets can be brought from the hangar bay to the flight deck by the ship's two deck-edge elevators, and loaded with supplies and weapons from three cargo elevators.

The ship's armament system includes the NATO Sea Sparrow Surface Missile System for anti-air warfare protection, two Rolling Airframe Missile Systems and two Phalanx Close-in-Weapons System mounts to counter threats from aircraft, and incoming missiles. Six missile-decoy launchers augment BATAAN's anti-ship missile defenses.

CHRONOLOGY

Command Employment:

DATE	EMPLOYMENT
01 JAN 02 - 20 APR 02	OPERATION ENDURING/SWIFT FREEDOM
08 JUN 02 - 08 OCT 02	PMA-02
27 OCT 02 - 02 NOV 02	PVST MAYPORT FL

Significant Exercises and Operations

ENDURING FREEDOM/SWIFT FREEDOM - BATAAN continued to support COMFIFTHFLEET and Commander, Task Force 58 in the destruction of Taliban/Al Qaeda forces deep inside Afghanistan. After being detached on 8 March, BATAAN transited the Red Sea and entered the Mediterranean Sea and returned to Norfolk, VA. 20 April 2002.

Operational Command Shifts

On 18 March BATAAN was relieved by USS WASP (LHD 1) as Task Force 58.31. On 21 March, BATAAN chopped from FIFTH Fleet to SIXTH Fleet and on 10 April chopped to Commander, SECOND Fleet. BATAAN assumed duties and responsibilities as SECOND Fleet Flagship on 25 November.

Command Elements aboard BATAAN during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

- Commander Amphibious Squadron EIGHT
- Tactical Air Squadron TWENTY-ONE, Detachment TWO
- Naval Special Warfare Task Unit
- Naval Beach Group TWO
- Assault Craft Unit FOUR, Detachment Bravo
- Helicopter Squadron SIX, Detachment ONE
- Fleet Surgical Team FOUR
- Explosive Ordnance Detachment, Mobile Unit TWO
- 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)
- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 (REIN)
- Marine Battalion Landing Team 3/6

Command Awards

Navy Unit Commendation
Lightning Bolt Award for C5I Excellence
COMLANTFLT Retention Excellence Award
COMLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll Award 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters

Retention Status. BATAAN had 156 re-enlistments in FY-02, of which 72 provided more than \$1.65 million in Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses.

Zone	CNSL Goals	BATAAN	
		Last 12 Months	BATAAN Last Qtr
A	52%	65%	83%
B	64%	67%	100%
C	85%	79%	83%

Advancements. Overall promotion rate for BATAAN 37%

Rank	Number Of Candidates	Number Selected	BATAAN Average	NAVY Average
PO3	237	116	48.9%	46.5%
PO2	423	85	20.%	19.7%
PO1	136	32	23.5%	19.9%

ESWS Qualifications

E-1 through E9 205

EAWS Qualifications

E-1 through E-9 325

Change of Command. On November 28, 2002, Captain Martin R. Allard was relieved as USS BATAAN's fourth Commanding Officer by Captain Earle S. Yerger in a ceremony onboard USS BATAAN (LHD 5) moored in Norfolk, Va.

Troop Embarkation. USS BATAAN (LHD 5) had elements of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) embarked through 19 April 2002 where they disembarked in Moorehead City, N.C.

Unique Events. Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) - BATAAN was moored at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA from 8 June 2002 to 8 Oct 2002 for the scheduled PMA. The following installation/upgrades occurred:

- AN/SPS-73 Radar (Navigation radar).
- GBS Dual SRR-2 (Global Broadcast System).
- Hydra Trunk Land Mobile Install (Internal portable communications).
- ADNS/TSS LAR Groom (Communications System Groom).
- CPS (Zone Pressurization for CBR defense).
- WSN 7 (Replace ship's initial navigation system).
- Video wall upgrade (Large screens for CIC).
- TVSS (Surge suppressors for electronic equipment).
- Digital Print Shop (Improve bulk print capability).
- AN/SRC-57 DWTS BRAVO (Enhanced communication link).
- ENG Surveillance (Engineering surveillance cameras).

- NITES 2002, UMK-4 1&2 INRC2 (Improve weather data capability).
- CASS Test Station (AIMD aircraft electronics test bed).
- Navy Order Wire (Weather information circuit).
- MAPA-C (Ordnance inventory control).
- JTIDS (Link 16 data sharing).
- MAA cameras (MAA surveillance cameras).
- Boiler Upgrade.
- OMMS-NG Upgrade.

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

AVIATION INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT (AIMD)

Focused on aircraft combat readiness support, AIMD masterfully contributed to the efforts that enabled BATAAN to depart from homeport on short notice. Developed 166 Navy and Marine Corps personnel into a maintenance force to provide 100 percent support of all maintenance requirements for 24 embarked Air Combat Element aircraft in order to complete all flight deck qualification requirements. Maintained over 2,811 items of Support Equipment for 12 work centers, while completing all necessary ship-wide upgrades and alterations, during the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) and successfully completing all certifications and evaluations.

Demonstrating exceptional repair capabilities, BATAAN successfully spearheaded the implementation and installation of Consolidated Automated Support System (CASS) RF High Power, a \$3.5 million Testing and Diagnostic system to support the Navy's latest technologies. The system was installed three months ahead of schedule due solely to the liaison with contractors, shipyard port engineer, and ship's force to ensure facility availability to meet accelerated schedule.

USS BATAAN was directly responsible for the readiness of all Material Handling Equipment during ammunition off-load and on-load evolutions at Naval Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey. AIMD ensured all forklifts were fully mission capable and fueled/charged around the clock, allowing the C5I Department to move over 900 tons of ammunition safely and ahead of schedule.

Planned, coordinated, and assisted the Engineering Department and SIMA in the calibration and repair of over 300 Shipboard Instrumentation for Hull, Mechanical and Electrical Equipment (HM&E) items in support of Shipboard Instrumentation and Systems on-site Calibration (SISCAL) during PMA-02.

AIR DEPARTMENT

BATAAN's Air Department set numerous aviation related records for an L-class ship. From deployment flight-time records to the number of take-offs and landings, fuel transferred, and maintenance evolutions supported during a Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf deployment, BATAAN excelled above and beyond anyone's expectations.

Post deployment, BATAAN's crew completed an extremely disruptive six month Planned Maintenance Availability period in four months and emerged from the shipyard ready to conduct flight operations in every respect. BATAAN's Air Department successfully passed its Aviation Certification and Aviation Readiness Qualification inspections on the first look.

The Department's Crash and Salvage Crew responded to several aircraft emergencies, including two H-53 hung nose gears, an AH-1W ground strike, and eight chip indications from various aircraft. All emergencies were handled with the utmost professionalism and without any further aircraft damage or personal injuries.

Other record setting evolutions:

Total Aircraft Moves: 5,269
Elevator Evolutions: 835
JP-5 Transferred: 1,596,935

CY02 Actual Numbers

Flight Hours

PLATFORM	DAY	NIGHT	TOTAL
Rotary	471.2	174.4	645.6
Fixed	605.9	64.1	670.0

Landings

PLATFORM	DAY	NVD	UNAIDED	TOTAL
Rotary	2,246	763	450	3,459
Fixed	153	51	28	232

C5I DEPARTMENT

On 1 October 2002, C4I Department merged with Combat Systems Department to form C5I Department. Major accomplishments for the year are as follows:

From January to December, the Aviation Ordnancemen were major contributors to BATAAN's operational success and mission readiness. During the year, they expended over 100,000 rounds of 25MM, 20MM, .50CAL, 7.62MM, 5.56MM and other small arms ammunition in support of missions and training proficiency exercises.

From January to March, the support continued in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Their many accomplishments included:

- Assembly, strike-up and expenditure of over 42 tons of air-to-ground weapons.
- Salvage and backload of over 200 pallets of ammunition from Forward Operating Bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, saving the Navy over \$4 million in ammunition costs.
- Backloading ammunition left behind in Afghanistan by USS PELELIU (LHA 5).

The Gunner's Mates continued training the ship's force in the use of small arms and crew-served weapons, ensuring USS BATAAN was ready to support increased security requirements.

Unique events:

- Conducted successful supersonic Detect-to-Engage exercise with all AAW systems in February.
- Conducted PACFIRES on both CIWS mounts in the months of January, February, March, April, November, and December.
- During deployment in March and April, the port side WCS-8 dome sustained substantial damage during flight operations. ET's patched the damaged dome to prevent further damage to the satellite communications equipment inside, saving \$1.2 million--the cost to replace the equipment had the dome not been temporarily repaired. Additionally, the repairs also enabled BATAAN to remain fully mission capable in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
- During the recent PMA (June through October), CS Division saved \$75K as a result of ship's force preserving and painting AFT mast and SMQ-11 platform.

- In September and October, CS Division saved an additional \$250K through the troubleshooting of systems and replacing the components in the UYQ-21 and EHF systems.
- In support of Aviation Certification in October and November, CS Division worked tirelessly to install and bring the new Hydra system to operational capability.
- Completed Communications Readiness and CMS Certification in November.

DECK DEPARTMENT

Significant evolutions conducted:

- Conducted more than 20 underway replenishments.
- Received more than ten million gallons of DFM.
- Received more than three million gallons of JP-5.
- Received more than 400 pallets of stores, mail and supplies via CONREP.
- Completed more than 200 sill crossings during LCAC operations.
- Completed 8 wet-well operations with LCUs.
- Completed more than 10 precision anchorages.
- Painted and preserved both port and starboard sides.
- Conducted over 30 mooring evolutions.
- Safely transited the Suez Canal.
- Overhauled and preserved departmental spaces during a vigorous PMA, including upper and lower vehicle stowage areas, major portions of the well deck, the ship's refueling stations, departmental berthing spaces, and the ship's small boats.
- Completed Well Deck certification within one week of departing NNSY, ensuring BATAAN was ready to conduct amphibious assault operations.
- Successfully completed CART II, along with earning SAR certification.
- Sent 25 gallons of fuel to a distressed vessel in high seas while in VACAPES OPAREA, October 2002, demonstrating the versatility of BATAAN's dedicated Boatswain's Mates.
- Achieved 100% combat readiness within two weeks of prepare to deploy orders in support contingency operations against Iraq.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The Medical Department was the recipient of the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet Unit Wellness Award for 2002.

In December, BATAAN was given two weeks notice of a possible deployment to the Persian Gulf. Even upon such short notice, the Medical Department received a C-1 readiness status on their Medical Readiness Assessment, a score indicative of the highest state of shipboard medical readiness.

The Medical Department treated over 2,500 patients during the past year, filling over 3,000 prescriptions and dispensed in excess of 9,000 over the counter medications.

Seven Medical Corps Officers received their Surface Warfare Medical Corps Officer qualification.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

In January, 2001 BATAAN's Supply Department set up and operated ship's stores in Pasni, Pakistan and Kandahar, Afghanistan, as well as augmenting Marine messing in Kandahar with fresh fruit, sodas, and hot soups and oatmeal. Eventually, over 3,500 DOD and coalition troops benefited from BATAAN's support. Eight Supply Department personnel participated in Kandahar on a voluntary basis. This is believed to have been the first time a Navy shipboard supply department has supported troops ashore in this manner. The store was open approximately five weeks and generated sales of \$115,000.

BATAAN returned from deployment in April, 2002 with several supply successes. The Food Service Division won its third consecutive NEY Award for food service excellence - the first time a ship other than a CVN accomplished this. The Supply Department also received its third consecutive Blue "E" for Logistics Management. Over the course of the deployment, many aviation support records were set, including the total number of aircraft flying hours, while maintaining all supply support metrics above CNO and TYCOM goals. Additionally, over 3,500 pallets of stores were safely and efficiently received during the course of deployment.

In June, 2002 BATAAN entered her Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The Supply Department used this opportunity to repair, overhaul or replace most of the galley and laundry equipment, while completing preservation and paint out of numerous storerooms, passages, work spaces and fan rooms.

In October, 2002, shortly after completion of PMA and sea trials, BATAAN completed a successful Supply Management Assessment (SMA), with grades above 90% in both Food Service and Ship's Store, eliminating the requirement for a follow-on inspection. Stock Control/Stores/Aviation Support were inspected in December, 2002 and achieved a satisfactory grade which then qualified BATAAN for her fourth consecutive Blue "E" for Logistics Excellence.

December 2002 concluded with the notification to prepare for an unscheduled deployment in support of contingency operations against Iraq. The supply team ordered, received and stowed provisions to support 45 days of operations, topped off on ship's store items and sodas, and received over 100 pallets of storeroom items in a two week period.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

- Scheduled 246 Schools for 2067 Bataan Sailors from May through December.
- Coordinated training in support of NTCSS II update to include RADM, R-Supply, OMMS-NG, and NALCOMIS for all Bataan users and administrators.
- January through April: Hosted a Video Teleconferenced Master Level College Course with Old Dominion University.
- Hosted 104 PACE Students for instructor taught PACE.
- Hosted 14 Academic Skills students in Reading, Math and English Composition.
- Administered 17 CLEP Exams and 78 SAT tests.
- Coordinated Video Teleconferencing through the Family Support Group for Valentine's Day.
- Conducted School of the Ship for over 400 newly reporting Sailors.

- Conducted Inport Watch Team Training for all Duty Section Personnel.
- Successfully completed CART II ahead of ISIC requirements, enabling BATAAN to be combat ready well in advance.

Note: Throughout Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the Training Department maintained an active Integrated Training Team, which will provided the foundation for a successful Planned Maintenance Availability and upcoming Inter-Deployment Training Cycle.

Personal Excellence Program

The following is a list of schools, groups, and people with whom the Personal Excellence Partnership Committee and E-Pal Committee have been corresponding. I do not have any photographs. The following applies:

Organization

Area of Support

The Ship's Project	Homemade Clothing Items and Food
Ms. Ellen Harpin Casselberry, Fla.	Goodies, Personal Hygiene Items, Letters
First Colonial High School Virginia Beach, Va.	Flag, Letters, Cookies, Paintings, Cards
Granby Elementary School Norfolk, Va.	Letters, Paintings, Cards
Tempe Elementary School Tempe, Ariz.	Letters
Korean War Era Veterans Mr. & Mrs. Al Soehrmann Eckert, Colo.	Support Cards
Girl Scouts of America Ms. Amy Drake Viginia Beach, Va.	Letters, Cards
USS Eisenhower	Letters, Magazines, Goodies
Meriwether Lewis School Charlottesville, Va.	Letters, Paintings
Ridge Elementary School Ridge, Md.	Cards, Letters
Newsome Park Elementary School Newport News, Va.	Letters, Cards
Junior Troops 288 Madison, Ohio	Letters
Cure of ARS School Leawood, Kansas	Large Personalized Flag, Painted with Kids Footprints
Ms. Donna Wooten Fairbanks, Alaska	Support Letter
Hampton Inn Virginia Beach, Va.	Toiletries

Bataan Elementary School
Port Clinton, Ohio

Letters, Cards, Paintings

Crystal Lake Middle School
Pompano Beach, Fla.

Letters, Banner

To date, our Personal Excellence Partnership Committee, Penpal/E-pal Committee, along with numerous volunteers throughout the command have forwarded more than 4000 letters and e-mails to our supporters.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ship hosted Events/Visits/Media Embarks

MONTH	EVENTS/VISITS/MEDIA EMBARKS
February	Pakistani Naval Officers Commander, FIFTH Fleet
March	President of Malta American Ambassador to Malta British Ambassador to Malta Tunisian Ambassador to Malta
April	Star and Stripes Europe Operation Enduring Freedom, The Opening Chapter video shoot Return from Deployment (April 20) WVEC Channel 13 Norfolk WAVY TV10 Norfolk WTKR TV Channel 3 Norfolk
May	SACLANT Officer Visit Expeditionary Warfare Intelligence Course (EWIC) Swedish National Defense College Naval Supply Corps/Face the Fleet Group Granby Elementary The Basic School - Expeditionary Warfare Orientation (EWO)
June	Joint Intel Officer Visit NATO Infrastructure Staff NATO Working Group
July	German Public Affairs Officer (SACLANT) COMPHIBGRU TWO Intel Reservists CNSL/Rear Admiral Foley
August	The Basic School - Expeditionary Warfare Orientation (EWO)
October	Commander, Second Fleet
November	Change of Command (November 28) Gainesville High School NJROTC Cadets USMC students from The Basic School