



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)  
FPO AE 09573-1738

Rec'd 9/16/96

5757

Ser LSD 50/ 363

21 Aug 96

From: Commanding Officer, USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Organization  
(2) Chronology of Events  
(3) Historical Narrative  
(4) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer  
(5) Commissioning Book  
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(7) Ship's picture

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) for calendar year 1995 is hereby forwarded.

a. Command Mission. The mission of USS CARTER HALL is to transport and launch loaded amphibious craft and vehicles with their crews and embarked personnel in an amphibious assault, to act as Primary Control Ship during an amphibious assault and render limited docking and repair service to small ships and craft.

b. Command Composition and Organization

(1) USS CARTER HALL is homeported in Little Creek, Virginia and is assigned to Amphibious Group Two, commanded by RADM Wirt R. Fladd, USN.

(2) The ship's crew consists of 22 officers and 326 enlisted men and the organization is outlined in enclosure (1).

c. Chronology. Enclosure (2) is a chronology of the events and milestones reached during 1995.

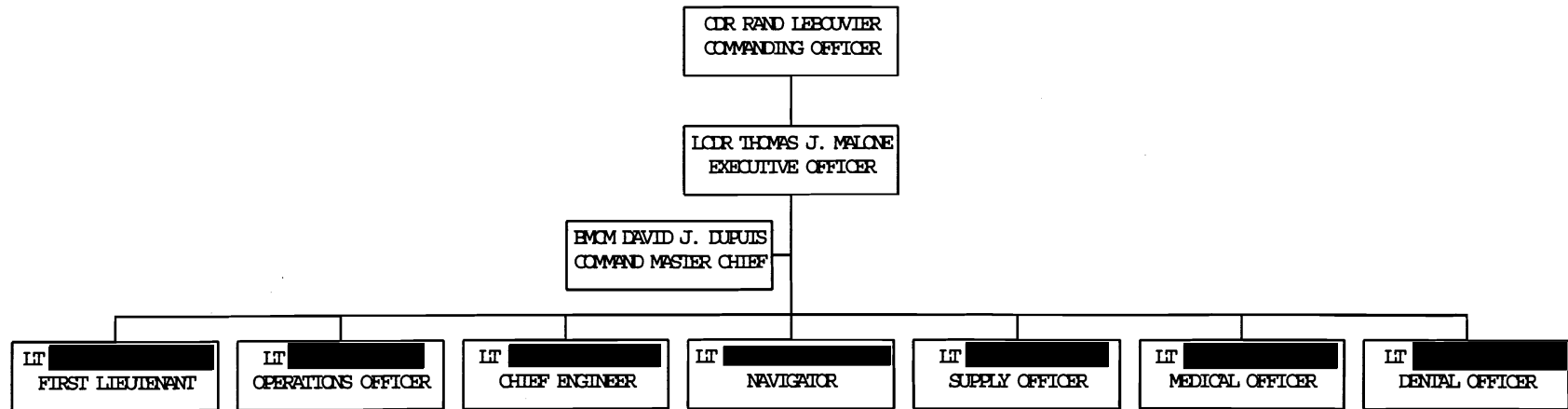
Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

d. Narrative. Enclosure (3) is a historical narrative of events in 1995.



R. D. LEBOUVIER

# USS CARTER HALL COMMAND ORGANIZATION



Encl (1)

CARTER HALL (LSD 50)

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
11 Nov 91	Keel laid.
02 Oct 93	Christened by Mary Elam Howard at Avondale Industries Inc., New Orleans, LA.
15 Jan 94	First crew member, EN1 [REDACTED] reports on board.
17 Jun 94	Precommissioning Detachment CARTER HALL established at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, VA.
21 Jul 94	Precommissioning Unit CARTER HALL established at Avondale Industries, Inc., New Orleans, LA.
14 Jul 95	Precommissioning Detachment CARTER HALL is disestablished.
31 Jul 95	CARTER HALL delivered to the Navy by Avondale Industries Inc.
26 Sep 95	CARTER HALL is placed in commission without ceremony. Ship departs from Avondale Shipyard to the Julia Street Wharf in New Orleans for the commissioning ceremony.
30 Sep 95	Commissioning ceremony. VADM Douglas Katz USN, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, was the Commissioning Officer. GEN Charles Krulak USMC, the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, was the guest speaker.
02 Oct 95	USS CARTER HALL departs New Orleans enroute to her homeport of Little Creek, Virginia, with a planned port call in Key West, Florida.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
03 Oct 95	CARTER HALL rendezvous with three LCAC's from ACU-4 off the coast of Panama City, Florida. Training is conducted, then two LCAC's, are embarked for transport to Little Creek, Virginia.
05 Oct 95	CARTER HALL arrives in Key West, Florida, for its first port visit.
10 Oct 95	CARTER HALL departs Key West, Florida, bound for Little Creek, Virginia.
13 Oct 95	USS CARTER HALL arrives at its home port, NAB Little Creek, Virginia.
06 Nov 95	CARTER HALL gets underway for at sea training. LCAC operations conducted with ACU-4.
07 Nov 95	A CH-46D, from HC-8, lands on CARTER HALL. It is the first aircraft to land on board.
08 Nov 95	Flight operations with Night Vision Devices conducted. LCAC operations with ACU-4 conducted.
09 Nov 95	Moored, NAB Little Creek, Virginia.
27 Nov 95	Underway for Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT). Conducted first gunnery exercise and live Close In Weapons System fire.
30 Nov 95	CARTER HALL conducts its first underway replenishment. UNREPs with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6).
01 Dec 95	Moored, NAB Little Creek, Virginia.
04 Dec 95	Underway for at sea training. LCAC operations conducted with ACU-4.
05 Dec 95	Night LCAC operations conducted with ACU-4.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
06 Dec 95	Flight operations conducted with CH-46D's.
07 Dec 95	Flight operations conducted with CH-46D's.
08 Dec 95	Moored, NAB Little Creek, Virginia.
15 Dec 95	First members of the crew advanced under the Command Advancement Program.

## USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)

### Historical Narrative

USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) was built by Avondale Industries, Incorporated in New Orleans, Louisiana. The keel was laid on November 11th, 1991 and the ship was launched and christened on October 2nd, 1993 by Mrs. Mary Elam Howard, wife of Mr. J. Daniel Howard, former Under Secretary of the Navy. USS CARTER HALL was named for the famous and historical estate built by Nathaniel Burwell in honor of his grandfather Robert "King" Carter. The estate is located in Clarke County, in northwestern Virginia.

USS CARTER HALL is the second of four cargo variants of the WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) class and is the second ship to bear the name. Its predecessor, USS CARTER HALL (LSD 3) was commissioned in 1943 and earned decorations in both World War II and the Vietnam Conflict before being decommissioned on October 31st, 1969.

The ship's Original Plankowner, Engineman First Class [REDACTED] reported to Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Virginia on January 15th, 1994. On June 17th, 1994 Precommissioning Detachment CARTER HALL was established by Lieutenant [REDACTED]. The mission of PCD CARTER HALL

was to ensure the ship's personnel received the required schools and training prior to reporting to the Precommissioning Unit in New Orleans. Precommissioning Unit CARTER HALL was established in New Orleans, LA, on July 21st, 1994 by Lieutenant [REDACTED]. The Precommissioning Unit was responsible for ordering and inventorying the equipment to be outfitted on board as well as ensuring testing and inspection proceeded according to schedule.

As the crew completed its training in Norfolk, personnel began to transfer to the unit in New Orleans. Transfer of personnel to New Orleans was split into four phases. Phase 1 or the On Sight Inspection (OSI) team consisted of about 25 personnel and arrived in New Orleans in early February 1995. The first nucleus crew (NUC1), phase 2, transferred to New Orleans in March and consisted of an additional 25 personnel. The second nucleus crew (NUC2), phase 3, reported to New Orleans in May. The balance of the crew, phase 4, reported to New Orleans in July. After the detachment of the final balance crew members, Precommissioning Detachment CARTER HALL was disestablished on July 14th, 1995.

With the arrival of the balance crew on July 17th, the entire crew had assembled at the Precommissioning Unit in New



Orleans. The last two weeks before delivery the crew focused on training and outfitting.

CARTER HALL was delivered to the Navy by Avondale Industries on July 31st, 1995. Upon delivery the crew moved on board and started the final phase of training and outfitting prior to commissioning.

USS CARTER HALL was commissioned without ceremony on September 26th, 1995 and the commissioning ceremony was held on September 30th. VADM Douglas Katz USN, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet placed CARTER HALL into commission with CDR Rand D. LeBouvier as the first Commanding Officer. The guest speaker for the ceremony was GEN Charles Krulak USMC, the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps. Immediately following commissioning, CARTER HALL started making preparations for getting underway for Little Creek, Virginia due to the approach of Hurricane Opal. CARTER HALL departed New Orleans on October 2nd, bound for Little Creek with a port visit scheduled for Key West, Florida.

On October 3rd CARTER HALL conducted its first amphibious operations. After rendezvous with three LCACs from Assault Craft Unit 4, off the coast of Panama City, Florida, CARTER HALL practiced embarking and debarking the LCACs. After completing the LCAC training, two of the LCACs were embarked for further

transport to Little Creek, while the third returned to Panama City.

CARTER HALL arrived in Key West, Florida for its first liberty port late in the evening of October 5th. The crew enjoyed the hospitality of the city of Key West, and the Commanding Officer was presented with a key to the city. CARTER HALL concluded its visit to Key West on October 10th, getting underway for the final leg of the trip to Little Creek.

On October 13th, CARTER HALL arrived at its home port, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia. The homecoming was followed by a ten day standdown period, and the ship remained in port for upkeep the remainder of the month.

CARTER HALL remained in port until November 6th, when she proceeded underway to conduct training in the Virginia Capes operating area. On November 6th CARTER HALL conducted LCAC recovery and launching operations with ACU-4. Flight Quarters was set for the first time on November 7th. A CH-46D, from HC-8, was the first aircraft to land on CARTER HALL's flight deck. The aircrew made approximately thirty landings and take offs providing excellent training for CARTER HALL's flight deck crew. On November 8th, the first night flight operations with night vision goggles were conducted on board. CARTER HALL also participated in LCAC launches and recoveries on November 8th.

CARTER HALL returned to Little Creek on the ninth of November.

CARTER HALL remained in port until November 27th.

On the 27th of November, CARTER HALL set sail for the Virginia Capes operating area to conduct its Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT). These trials tested all of CARTER HALL's combat systems including radars, guns and the Close in Weapons System (CIWS). CARTER HALL conducted its first underway replenishment with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6) on November 30th. CARTER HALL returned to port on December 1st.

CARTER HALL returned to sea on Monday, December 4th, for additional training. The week was spent training with LCACs from ACU-4 and conducting flight operations with aircraft from HC-6 and HC-8. CARTER HALL returned to port on December 8th.

On December 15th CARTER HALL advanced three sailors under the Command Advancement Program. For the remainder of December, the ship stood down for the holidays. During this period the ship also began preparations for Shakedown Training to be conducted in Mayport, Florida in early January 1996.