



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)
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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

1. As per reference (a), the annual command history for USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) for calendar year 1998 is hereby forwarded.

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

b. Command Composition and Organization.

(1) CARTER HALL is homeported in Little Creek, Virginia and is assigned to Amphibious Group Two, commanded by RADM William G. Sutton, U.S. Navy.

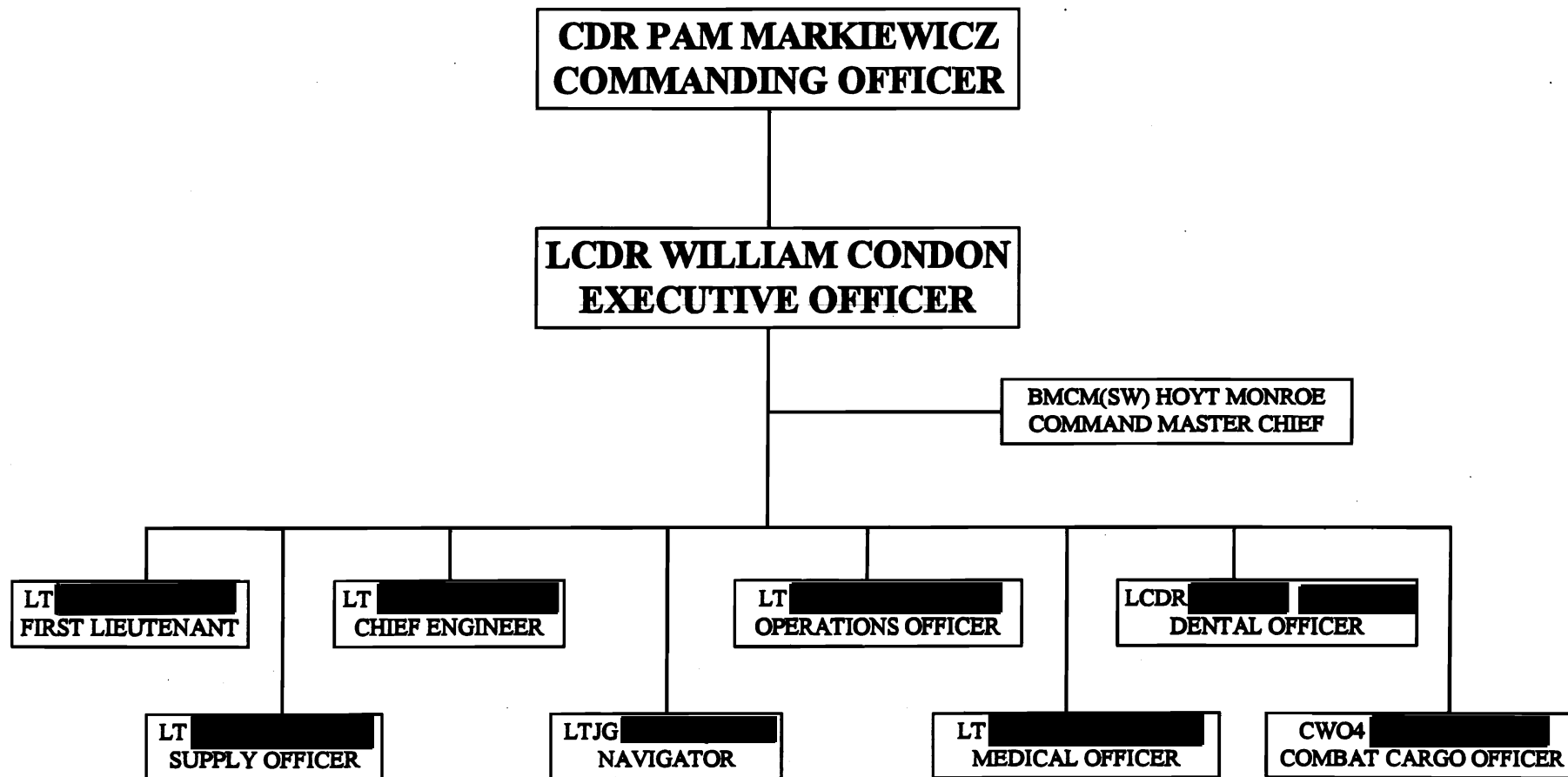
(2) The ship's crew consists of 22 officers and 300 enlisted personnel. The ship's organization is outlined in enclosure (1).

c. Chronology. Enclosure (2) is a chronology of the events and milestones achieved during 1998.

d. Narrative. Enclosure (3) is a historical narrative of significant events in 1998.

P. A. MARKIEWICZ

USS CARTER HALL COMMAND ORGANIZATION



USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) began her third full year of active service by commencing inspections to ensure a forward deployed status in preparation for a 1999 UNITAS deployment. It was a rigorous time of training for new crewmembers as CARTER HALL bid farewell to a majority of the Plankowner Crew that had served her since commissioning.

CARTER HALL had both a post-deployment standown and a holiday standown in late 1997 and early 1998. During the more than two months in which this took place, a large number of plankowners left, leaving CARTER HALL with the job of reorganizing inport and underway fire parties. January could be best characterized as a training month in which departing crewmembers passed on their skill and knowledge to the next CARTER HALL generation. Preparation for the Light-Off Assessment (LOA) was on the agenda for CARTER HALL's Engineering Department. Plot II classroom training and program reviews enabled that preparation.

January was also the first month in which alternative working hours were established onboard CARTER HALL. Commanding Officer, CDR Stanley DeGeus, and Command Master Chief, BMCMSW Jim Monroe, instituted five-section duty and 0600-1300 working hours. This was more than a welcome change. This marked a dramatic improvement in the quality of life onboard CARTER HALL, prompting many Sailors to consider extending their Naval careers.

In the meantime, annual training and inspections took place. The Ship's Security Team members spent a week on the shooting range at Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek to earn small arms qualifications for the upcoming year. The Engineering Department passed an Auxiliary Boiler Inspection, and the Postal program was deemed effective during an annual Postal Inspection.

January also marked a time when CARTER HALL welcomed potential Sailors aboard. The America Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, based in Richmond, Virginia, began making weekend

trips to CARTER HALL on a monthly basis. The Sea Cadets received valuable training and experienced shipboard life, enabling them to make sound decisions concerning prospective Naval careers. At the same time, weekend duty sections shared the load of the weekend work lists with temporary crewmembers.

January soon turned to February, and time passed swiftly as CARTER HALL prepared for a pre-LOA. Tiger teams assisted Engineering Department with preparations for Engineering inspections, and the new, shorter working hours did not deter crewmembers from completing their job. Later in the month, CARTER HALL's Dental Department went under the microscope, successfully completing the Dental Readiness Evaluation (DRE).

In early March, diligently prepared Sailors took the E4, E-5, and E-6 advancement exams. Also, RADM Gordon S. Holder, Commander of Amphibious Group Two, visited CARTER HALL and spoke with Sailors during a combined Admiral's Call/Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony, RADM Holder presented SMC(SW) [REDACTED] with his college diploma. SMC(SW) [REDACTED] graduated Magna Cum Laude from the State University of New York. SMC(SW) [REDACTED] earned his liberal arts degree by taking PACE and correspondence courses over a 15-year period. With retirement upcoming in the following months, SMC(SW) [REDACTED] was informed in April that he had been accepted to Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

All of the elbow grease and long duty days paid off for CARTER HALL Engineers in March and April. One month after CARTER HALL was assessed as ready for LOA, crewmembers satisfactorily demonstrated two Main Space Fire drills for LOA inspectors. Additionally, they completed satisfactory cold checks on Engineering Department equipment. This victory placed CARTER HALL one step closer to achieving a forward deployed status.

CARTER HALL received accolades and recognition in late March in two separate areas. First, the week-long CINCLANTFLT Disbursing

inspection was extremely successful. LTjg [REDACTED] and DK1(SW) [REDACTED] were lauded for their efforts for a seamless transition as the Navy's payment system was changed to include all Department of Defense personnel. Their outstanding accounting of Sailors' money during this transition was called "the best on the waterfront" by inspectors, resulting in Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for both of them.

Second, CARTER HALL was awarded the SECNAV Environmental Award for programs that contributed to the reduction of hazardous waste and preservation of plant and animal life in the sea and air. Among the programs that received extensive praise was the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Center. The HAZMAT Center maintains a strict accounting of all cleaning supplies, wax, stripper, paint, and other materials potentially harmful to the environment. This accounting reduces waste and the cost of maintaining supplies. Also, CARTER HALL flushed ballast tanks prior to transit from Rota, Spain, to Morehead City, North Carolina during their 1997 Mediterranean deployment. This flushing cleaned the tanks of marine and plant life, which could be potentially harmful if introduced to the ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay.

CARTER HALL got underway for the first time in 1998, April 8-9, for sea trials. Not only was it a chance to test the sea legs of new crewmembers, but the underway period also provided the opportunity to invite the Richmond Council Navy League to come onboard. While Navy Leaguers watched CARTER HALL perform the daily underway routine, Sailors listened to stories of the "Old Navy." The Navy League presented a check to CARTER HALL for \$6,000, which was used to refurbish CARTER HALL's Gym. It was a brief but enjoyable time underway.

One highlight of 1998 was CARTER HALL's port visit to Philadelphia, CDR DeGeus' hometown, May 1-3. First traveling to Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to pick up city council members, Navy

League members and the Philadelphia Phillies' mascot, the Phillie Phanatic, CARTER HALL moored at Penn's landing. The strategic location resulted in a weekend of non-stop activity. CARTER HALL crewmembers offered tours of the ship to more than 6,000 local residents. Additionally, crewmembers celebrated the Centennial Anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay, where the Republic of The Philippines declared its independence from Spain. It was a proud moment in CDR DeGeus' life as he was able to bring CARTER HALL to his hometown.

CARTER HALL remained inport for the remainder of May. A HORSE assist visit from FTSC/LANT helped crewmembers get ready for the upcoming CART II inspection. In the meantime, CARTER HALL bid a warm farewell to ENCS(SW) [REDACTED]. ENCS(SW) [REDACTED], a 20-year Navy veteran and CARTER HALL Plankowner, was the Leading Chief Petty Officer for the Engineering Department for three years.

The brief underway periods in April and May prepared CARTER HALL for EXERCISE COOPERATIVE OSPREY '98, June 3-19. For two weeks, CARTER HALL participated in amphibious operations off the coast of Onslow Beach, North Carolina. In the meantime, Marines performed integrated training drills with troops from around the world. Countries participating in COOPERATIVE OSPREY included Canada, Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Romania and the Netherlands. CARTER HALL performed well deck and flight deck operations while troops from around the world acquainted themselves with shipboard life.

Aside from a family cruise on the first of July, CARTER HALL spent one month inport before an aggressive underway schedule beginning in late July lasting into September. CART II inspection was completed with a satisfactory demonstration of a Main Space Fire drill in early July. The middle of the month was a bit more celebratory for two reasons. First, 18 Sailors were frocked to the

next highest rank on 16 July, and second, CARTER HALL held a summer picnic the following day.

The relaxation came to an end, as CARTER HALL spent 40 days of the next two months at sea. To help prepare for a Final Evaluation Phase (FEP), several assist visits and inspection groups accompanied CARTER HALL during the busy underway periods. While all this was taking place, Midshipmen shuffled on and off the ship throughout the summer. Representatives from the Naval Academy, The Citadel, Harvard, and other East Coast schools flocked to CARTER HALL and benefited tremendously from the training they received from running mates and other helpful crewmembers.

Two words brought shivers to CARTER HALL Sailors as they were preparing for a little rest during the heavy underway schedule: Hurricane Bonnie. CARTER HALL got underway August 25-29, to eliminate the chance of damage to an inport ship while Bonnie ravaged North Carolina and the Hampton Roads area. Sailors braved the high winds and 30-degree rolls while trying to maneuver around the devastating hurricane. NAB Little Creek never looked so good when the ship returned home.

CARTER HALL continued a schedule of underway periods and impressed the ETG teams, who declared crewmembers ready for PEB Engineering Certification. The positive results continued during ECERT as all of CARTER HALL's Engineering Programs were graded "effective" and fire drills were graded "satisfactory". CARTER HALL achieved Engineering Certification despite participation by many in Advancement Exams. After Certification, CARTER HALL participated in a Type Commander Amphibious Training (TCAT) exercise. Deck Department Sailors refined their skills in the well deck as CARTER HALL maintained Condition 1A to launch and receive LCACs and LCUs. Additionally, Navy Special Forces Teams boarded CARTER HALL during flight quarters to practice sneak attacks.

The end of September brought a maintenance availability period and an opportunity to look back at the Navy's past. Crewmembers and spouses of the World War II ship USS LINDENWALD (LSD 6) gathered for a memorial ceremony for shipmates lost both during the ship's service and since that time. LINDENWALD fought in several major Pacific battles, including those in the Leyte Gulf and Okinawa.

CARTER HALL collaborated with an Army LCV in October when they conducted sterngate marriages while CARTER HALL was inport. While the safe evolution was successful in Little Creek Harbor for two days, the sterngate marriage was a challenge in Chesapeake Bay during a brief underway period later in the month. CARTER HALL noted several lessons learned from the underway test, and the underway experience with the LCV may allow future Army-Navy collaboration.

Two big events marked CARTER HALL milestones in November. First, CARTER HALL successfully passed the Final Evaluation Phase. A new crew was now fit for deployment. Second, CDR Pam Markiewicz relieved CDR Stanley V. DeGeus as Commanding Officer onboard CARTER HALL during a Change of Command ceremony held on the flight deck. CDR Markiewicz became the third commanding officer to serve onboard CARTER HALL, following CDR DeGeus and CDR Rand LeBouvier.

The remainder of the year was quite festive and relaxed. CARTER HALL was underway for three days after Thanksgiving, but returned to celebrate the Christmas holidays with parties for both crewmembers and their children. After a ceremony to frock 17 new Petty Officers, CARTER HALL commenced a Holiday Leave and Standown Period.

The end of the year also marked some great victories - including HM2 [REDACTED]'s acceptance into the Navy's MECF program, Medical Officer LT [REDACTED]'s residency, CARTER HALL's Captain's Cup victory, and successful Combat Systems

Readiness Review (CSRR) and TARGET visits. CARTER HALL Sailors can look back and be proud of their accomplishments. They maintained a high level of readiness and trained new shipmates in order to preserve that readiness in the upcoming years. They look forward to both the challenges and good times which lie ahead in 1999.

CARTER HALL (LSD 50)
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

ENCL (2)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
01 Jan 98	New Year's Day observed.
06 Jan 98	Holiday standown period ends.
12 Jan 98	Pierside Assist Visit (PRAV) begins.
14 Jan 98	Marine Junior ROTC visit from Snow Hill High School, Snow Hill, MD.
16 Jan 98	E7 Advancement Exam.
19 Jan 98	Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday observed.
20-30 Jan 98	UNDERGO REMOVE (removal of excess material and validity enhancement)
21-22 Jan 98	Small arms qualifications for Ship's Self Defense Force take place at NAB Little Creek shooting range.
23-24 Jan 98	Naval Sea Cadets spend weekend onboard Carter Hall.
28 Jan 98	Ship's Postal Inspection conducted.
29 Jan 98	Auxiliary boiler inspection of #1 and #2 auxiliary boilers conducted by COMPHIBGRU TWO SGPI, BTCM [REDACTED]. Front wall of Auxiliary Boiler #1 rebricked.
9-13 Feb 98	PLOT II provided the Engineering Department with classroom training and program reviews in preparation for the upcoming LOA
10 Feb 98	EWI GLANT tour Marine officers (36) tour CARTER HALL
16 Feb 98	Presidents' Day observed.
21 Feb 98	Gator Ball
24 Feb 98	NATO secret inspection conducted by COMPHIBGRU TWO. CARTER HALL was graded "satisfactory" in accordance with NATO Secret Checklist.
25 Feb 98	DRE/CLF Dental Officer visit
27 Feb - 01 Mar 98	Naval Sea Cadets spend weekend onboard CARTER HALL.
03 Mar 98	COMPHIBGRU TWO visit and Admiral's Call. SMC(SW) [REDACTED] receives diploma for graduating Magna Cum Laude from the State University of New York.
05 Mar 98	E5 Advancement Exam
09-13 Mar 98	Pre LOA conducted. COMPHIBGRU TWO ERAT team assess CARTER HALL Engineering Department ready for LOA.
10 Mar 98	E6 Advancement Exam
14 Mar 98	Command wide Fire Party training conducted.

23-27 Mar 98	Disbursing inspection conducted. CINCLANTFLT Disbursing Audit Team grades CARTER HALL "satisfactory."
26 Mar 98	During Aviation Tech assist visit, Naval Sea Systems grants CARTER HALL certification to receive and launch helicopters.
28 Mar 98	CARTER HALL wins SECNAV Environmental Award.
1-3 Apr 98	LOA. Ship satisfactorily demonstrated two Main Space Fire drills and completed satisfactory cold checks on all equipment.
02 Apr 98	CARTER HALL sponsors USS OAK HILL (LSD 51) homecoming.
05 Apr 98	Small arms marksmanship ribbon shoot conducted.
08-09 Apr 98	Richmond Council Navy League accompanies CARTER HALL crew on sea trials.
10-19 Apr 98	Naval Sea Cadets spend spring break onboard CARTER HALL.
20, 22, 24 Apr 98	Semi-annual PRT conducted.
20 Apr 98	ARE/AVCERT, normally a three-day inspection, is conducted. COMNAVSURFLANT Aviation Readiness Evaluation Team evaluates CARTER HALL as "outstanding" in four hours.
23 Apr 98	Quality of Life Inspection held. COMPHIBGRU Chief of Staff grades CARTER HALL "satisfactory."
29 Apr - 01 May 98	Underway for sea trials and transit to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
01-03 May 98	Inport Philadelphia. Commanding Officer CDR DeGeus, a Philadelphia native, receives key to the city. CARTER HALL crewmembers attend Centennial Anniversary of Battle of Manila Bay, commemorated onboard USS OLYMPIA. CDR DeGeus throws out the first pitch at Philadelphia Phillies baseball game. CARTER HALL hosts the mayor of Philadelphia, Filipino Ambassador, and the Philadelphia Navy League.
03-05 May 98	Underway enroute to NAB, Little Creek.
05-08 May 98	HORSE: FTSCANT provided a team of experts to assist in grooming equipment and systems for upcoming CART II inspection.
08 May 98	ENCS (SW) [REDACTED] retires after 20 years of active duty, the last three years as CARTER HALL's Engineering Department Leading Chief Petty Officer.
16 May 98	Small arms marksmanship ribbon shoot conducted.
25 May 98	Memorial Day observed.
26 May 98	Midshipmen report onboard for summer training.
27 May 98	All hands Safety Standown conducted.

02 Jun 98	Students of Newtown Road Elementary School, affiliated with CARTER HALL via the Adopt-A-School program, tour the ship.
03-19 Jun 98	Exercise COOPERATIVE OSPREY '98, a NATO/Partnership for Peace exercise in which 16 countries (United States, Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) participate in amphibious and wartime exercises in vicinity of Onslow Beach, North Carolina.
20 Jun 98	Moor pierside, NAB Little Creek
01 Jul 98	Family Day Cruise
04 Jul 98	Independence Day observed.
06-10 Jul 98	CART II
14 Jul 98	CMS Inspection held. COMPHIBGRU TWO CMS Evaluation Team grades CARTER HALL as "satisfactory."
16 Jul 98	Frocking ceremony for E4-E6 advancees. CDR DeGeus announces the Richmond Council Navy League donation of \$6,000 to refurbish CARTER HALL's weight room.
17 Jul 98	Ship's summer picnic held at NAB Little Creek.
20-21 Jul 98	LMA Assist conducted.
20-30 Jul 98	TSTA I; CSTG
22-23 Jul 98	Underway and assist in training midshipmen from USS SOUTH CAROLINA.
23-26 Jul 98	Inport Little Creek
27-31 Jul 98	Underway
01-02 Aug 98	Inport Little Creek
03-06 Aug 98	Underway for TSTA I (ATG)
07-11 Aug 98	Inport Little Creek
12-17 Aug 98	Underway for TSTA I (ETG); AST weekend
18-24 Aug 98	Inport Little Creek
25-29 Aug 98	Underway for Hurricane Bonnie sortie
30-31 Aug 98	Inport Little Creek
01-03 Sep 98	Underway for TSTA II (ETG)
01 Sep 98	E4 Advancement Exam
03 Sep 98	E5 Advancement Exam
04-07 Sep 98	Inport Little Creek
07 Sep 98	Labor Day observed
08 Sep 98	E6 Advancement Exam
08-11 Sep 98	Underway for ECERT
12-14 Sep 98	Inport Little Creek
15-24 Sep 98	Underway for TCAT and TSTA II and CSTG
25 Sep - 23 Oct 98	Inport Little Creek; FMAV
28 Sep 98	Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection (SESI) held. SESI team grades CARTER HALL "satisfactory."

29 Sep 98	USS LINDENWALD (LSD 6) reunion and memorial ceremony held onboard CARTER HALL and at NAB.
30 Sep 98	Three-year anniversary of the comissioning of USS CARTER HALL.
09 Oct 98	More than 80 CARTER HALL crewmembers donate blood in the Red Cross Blood Drive.
12 Oct 98	Columbus Day observed
19, 21, 26 Oct 98	Semi-annual PRT conducted.
19-23 Oct 98	LMA
28-29 Oct 98	Underway for sterngate marriage attempts with Army LCU 2000
02-05 Nov 98	Underway for TSTA III/FEP
06 Nov 98	Inport Little Creek
11 Nov 98	Veterans' Day observed
23 Nov 98	Small arms marksmanship ribbon shoot
24 Nov 98	Change of Command rehearsal
25 Nov 98	Change of Command ceremony in which CDR Pamela A. Markiewicz relieved CDR Stanley V. DeGeus as Commanding Officer of USS CARTER HALL
26 Nov 98	Thanksgiving Day observed
01-03 Dec 98	Underway for DLQ training services
07-18 Dec 98	TARGET/CSRR Phase I
08 Dec 98	Quality of Life Inspection held. CARTER HALL is graded as "outstanding" by COMPHIBGRUTWO Chief of Staff.
09 Dec 98	CARTER HALL sponsors USS TORTUGA (LSD 46) homecoming
10 Dec 98	Ship's Christmas party
12 Dec 98	Children's Christmas party
17 Dec 98	Frocking and awards ceremony
18 Dec 98 - 07 Jan 99	Holiday standown