



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, DC 20374

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 2000 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 render limited docking and repair services to small ship and craft.

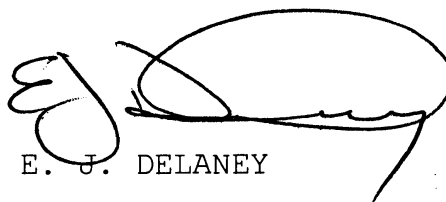
b. Command composition and organization.

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

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

c. Chronology. Enclosure (2) is a chronology of the events and milestones reached during 2000.

d. Narrative. Enclosure (3) is a historical narrative of significant events in 2000.

  
E. J. DELANEY

USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

CDR EDWARD J. DELANEY  
COMMANDING OFFICER

LCDR CURTIS J. GILBERT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FCCM (SW) JAMES L. OGBORN  
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

DEPARTMENT HEADS

LCDR [REDACTED] - CHIEF ENGINEER  
LT [REDACTED] - SUPPLY OFFICER  
LT [REDACTED] - FIRST LIEUTENANT  
LT [REDACTED] - OPERATIONS OFFICER  
LT [REDACTED] - MEDICAL OFFICER  
LT [REDACTED] - DENTAL OFFICER  
LT [REDACTED] - TRAINING OFFICER  
CAPT [REDACTED] USMC - COMBAT CARGO OFFICER  
LTJG [REDACTED] - NAVIGATOR

**USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)**

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY 2000**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
1 JAN- 1 FEB	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
1 FEB- 2 FEB	Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ CO'S Time
2- 7 FEB	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
7- 11 FEB	Underway Onslow Bay, North Carolina/ CAPEX
11- 22 FEB	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
22 FEB- 7 JUN	Berth shift to Moon Engineering, Portsmouth, VA
7- 9 JUN	Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ Sea Trials
25 JUN	Change of Command
9 JUN- 10 JUL	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
10- 14 JUL	Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ CO'S Time
14- 24 JUL	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
24- 28 JUL	Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ Onslow Bay, NC
28 JUL- 7 AUG	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
7- 10 AUG	Underway enroute Onslow Bay, NC
10- 23 AUG	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/ Engineering Initial Assessment
23 AUG	Underway enroute Yorktown Weapons Station
23- 24 AUG	Inport Yorktown Weapons Station/ Ammunition Onload
24 AUG	Underway enroute Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/ Richmond Navy League aboard CARTER HALL

24 AUG- 5 SEP Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/  
Supply Management Assist Visit

5- 8 SEP Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ CO'S Time

8- 14 SEP Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base

14- 15 SEP Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ CO'S Time

15- 29 SEP Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base

29 SEP- 1 OCT Underway enroute Ft. Lauderdale, FL/ Broward  
Navy Days

1 OCT- 5 OCT Inport Ft. Lauderdale, FL/ Broward Navy Days

5- 6 OCT Underway enroute Savannah, GA/ Octoberfest

6- 10 OCT Inport Savannah, GA/ Octoberfest

10- 15 OCT Underway enroute Onslow Bay, NC/ Type  
Commanders' Amphibious Training

15- 16 OCT Underway enroute Little Creek Naval  
Amphibious Base

16- 23 OCT Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base

23- 27 OCT Underway VACAPES OPAREA

27-30 OCT Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base

30 OCT- 2 NOV Underway VACAPES OPAREA/ Final Evaluation  
Period

2- 27 NOV Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/  
Fleet Maintenance Availability

27-29 NOV Underway enroute VACAPES OPAREA in support  
of Underway Demonstration/ Baltimore, MD

29 NOV- 4 DEC Inport Baltimore, MD/ Army- Navy Game

4- 15 DEC Underway Onslow Bay, North Carolina/  
PHIBRON/MEU Integration Training

15-31 DEC

Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/  
Holiday Stand-down

## **USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)**

### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

USS CARTER HALL began 2000 with many of its crew continuing to enjoy the holiday leave period which followed the ship's return from the UNITAS/WATC 40-99 deployment in December 1999. The entire crew returned from stand down on 15 Jan 2000. The remainder of January was spent preparing the ship to enter its' Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA).

While on deployment, the ship found out its Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) was shortened from the standard 18 months to 10. The time provided for personal turnover, ship modification, upgrade, and overhaul were decreased, with the schedule of assessment and operational exercises maintained in the much shorter schedule. During February CARTER HALL and her crew got underway to maintain their operational readiness, exercising in the Virginia Capes.

CARTER HALL was selected to participate as the Navy Amphibious platform for a Capabilities Exercise (CAPEX) in Onslow Bay, NC, from 7-11 February. The ship provided critical tactical support for Marine Units to successfully showcase Navy/Marine amphibious assault tactics and procedures. CARTER HALL returned to Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek for final preparations to shift berths to Moon Engineering, Portsmouth,

VA, which received the contract as the shipyard conducting the PMA.

On February 22, USS CARTER HALL got underway from NAB Little Creek, for their short transit upriver to Moon Engineering. The ship's PMA was a series of overhauls, improvements, and upgrades to every aspect of the ship and its equipment.

From the tear-out of the Combat Information Center and subsequent installation of the Ship's Self Defense System (SSDS), to the overhaul and corrective maintenance of the ship's engines and associated engineering spaces, CARTER HALL was receiving the treatment it deserved after such a successful deployment and its first five years in the Fleet. The improvements in the combat systems installation provided the technical hardware and software that would integrate CARTER HALL's sensors and give its warfighters a greater tactical advantage. Along with SSDS, the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) system was installed aboard the ship, extending its anti ship missile defense to a greater range than was provided, until then, by the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Phalanx 20mm cannon.

CARTER HALL's exterior preservation was also a major part of the work done during its PMA. Flight deck non-skid was sand blasted, relayed, and repainted. In the well deck, wooden batter boards were replaced by more durable synthetic, and its

wooden deck was replaced in much needed areas. The ship's anchors were lowered and paid out onto barges, where they, along with their full length of chain, were chipped, brushed, and primed before receiving the many coats necessary to prepare them for working up toward deployment again.

In the final weeks of the yard period, CARTER HALL successfully completed the Light-Off Assessment of their engineering plant and the final inspections evaluating the ship's readiness for underway. On 7 June, following a successful Fast Cruise, pier side, CARTER HALL departed Moon Engineering and proceeded to the Virginia Capes Operations Area (VACAPES OPAREA) for Sea Trials, the traditional operational evaluation for a ship departing a yard period.

On 23 June, with CARTER HALL returned to its berth at Quay Wall East, NAB Little Creek, the ship's crew assembled for its 3<sup>rd</sup> Change of Command. Commander Pamela A. Markiewicz turned the helm of the ship over in a traditionally short and reserved ceremony to Commander Edward J. Delaney.

For the remainder of June and July, CARTER HALL got underway for Commanding Officer's time in the VACAPES OPAREA. Their Marine counterparts were welcomed back onboard for another CAPEX at Onslow Bay, NC. During the end of July and the beginning of August, the ship passed the first of its IDTC hurdles. The crew successfully completed their Command



Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II), observed by their Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC), Commander Amphibious Group Two (COMPHIBGRU2), and evaluated by Afloat Training Group, Atlantic (ATGLANT).

CARTER HALL got underway from 7-10 August to train with a platoon of Marine Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) at Onslow Bay, NC. During the training, the ship and AAVs conducted both static and dynamic launches of the AAV platoon, working with the Marines that would embark CARTER HALL for her next deployment. Returning to NAB Little Creek, the ship's Engineering Department was successful in completing its Initial Assessment for their engineering plant programs.

On 23 August, CARTER HALL transited the York River enroute Yorktown Weapons Station for its ammunition onload. Spending only one evening there, the ship was fortunate on the 24<sup>th</sup> to be joined for the transit by Richmond Navy League for a steel-beach picnic during the return to NAB Little Creek.

To begin September, CARTER HALL went underway to the VACAPES OPAREA in anticipation of the coming visit of the Ship's Engineering Maintenance Team (SEMAT) Assist and Command, Control, Computers, Communications, and Combat System Systems Readiness Assessment (C5RA). This visit employed technical experts and representatives from both Fleet Training Support Center Atlantic (FTSCLANT) and NAVSEA to troubleshoot

Engineering and Operations Departments' systems to determine work items and expedite the process of procurement and repair.

CARTER HALL remained in Little Creek through the end of September. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, having the last line cast off from the pier at NAB Little Creek, CARTER HALL began her transit to Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Savannah, GA; and Onslow Bay, NC. The transit to Ft. Lauderdale was a result of CARTER HALL being chosen to represent the Navy at Broward Navy Days. Although the weather did not cooperate, the crew enjoyed the festivities that Broward Navy Days is famous for, and also found time to be active in their host community through two walk-the-kids-to-school programs sponsored by the public schools system. On 5 October, CARTER HALL made a one-day transit to Savannah, GA, to participate in their famous Oktoberfest.

On 10 October, having enjoyed the renowned hospitality of Savannah, CARTER HALL sounded one prolonged blast in thanks as it made a morning transit by River Street. The ship then transited to Onslow Bay, NC, to participate in Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT). The exercises and drills, including man overboard, general quarters, and abandon ship, were conducted as administrative indoctrination in shipboard living for the Navy-Marine Corps Team. Having completed TCAT, CARTER HALL returned to Little Creek, where she and her crew prepared for the final assessment for the Basic Phase of IDTC, Final

Evaluation Period (FEP). This assessment combined all of the crews training and operations to date in determining their ability to properly and effectively fight the ship in a battle problem.

Following the success in FEP, CARTER HALL returned to its homeport for a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV) that would end up being CARTER HALL's last major maintenance and upkeep availability prior to deployment.

After celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday, CARTER HALL got underway for a two-day engineering Underway Demonstration assessment in the VACAPES OPAREA. Completing the assessment, CARTER HALL made a transit to an exciting port visit at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD, making CARTER HALL, at 609 feet, the largest ship ever to moor there. The ship and her crew participated in the festivities for the Army-Navy Game during their stay in the Inner Harbor, making the short walk to cheer on the U.S. Naval Academy at PSINet Stadium.

Following their stay in Baltimore, including the Navy victory over Army, CARTER HALL departed for Onslow Bay, NC. Rendezvousing with USS KEARSARGE (LHA-3) and USS PONCE (LPD-15), the two other ships of the Commander Amphibious Squadron 6 (COMPHIBRON6) Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG), the three ships transited to Onslow Bay, NC, to participate in PHIBRON/Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Integration Training (PMINT). PMINT

provides the PHIBRON and MEU staffs the opportunity to deconflict operational and logistic requirements in employing their subordinate units prior to entering their more exercise intensive phase of deployment preparation. On 15 December, after their return from PMINT, CARTER HALL's crew began their holiday stand-down that would bring them to the New Year.