



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 20374-0571

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 2001 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.

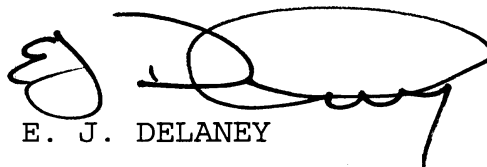
b. Command composition and organization.

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

(2) The ship's crew consists of 28 Officers and 340 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 2001.

d. Narrative. Enclosure (3) is a historical narrative of significant events in 2001.



E. J. DELANEY

USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

**CDR EDWARD J. DELANEY
COMMANDING OFFICER**

**LCDR PAUL J. MEISCH
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**CMDMC (AW/NAC) EDWARD E. RYBAT
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF**

DEPARTMENT HEADS

LCDR [REDACTED] - MEDICAL OFFICER
LCDR [REDACTED] - DENTAL OFFICER
LT [REDACTED] - FIRST LIEUTENANT
LT [REDACTED] - SUPPLY OFFICER
LT [REDACTED] - CHIEF ENGINEER
LT [REDACTED] - OPERATIONS OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED] - NAVIGATOR
LTJG [REDACTED] - TRAINING OFFICER
CWO2 [REDACTED], USMC - COMBAT CARGO OFFICER

USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01 - 21 JAN	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
22 - 25 JAN	Underway en route ST Thomas, Virgin Island
26 - 29 JAN	PVST ST Thomas, Virgin Island
30 JAN	Combat System Ship Qualification Trial
31 JAN-13 FEB	Underway Cherry Point OPAREA/ UNLOAD/ MEUEX-12
14 - 15 FEB	Transit en route Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base
16 - 26 FEB	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/ PREINSURV/ INSURV
27 FEB	Underway VIRGINA CAPES/ Material Inspection
28 FEB-08 MAR	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/ INSURV
09 - 10 MAR	Underway VIRGINA CAPES/ Embark MEU 24
11 MAR	Underway en route Mayport, Florida
12 - 13 MAR	Inport Mayport Florida/ Force Protection Stand Down/ Inport Training
14 - 19 MAR	Underway Cherry Point OPAREA/ SACEX
20 - 27 MAR	Backload Onslow Bay/ SOCEX Cherry Point OPAREA
28 MAR-24 APR	Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/ POM Stand Down
25 - 26 APR	Underway Onslow Bay, NC/ Embark MEU 24
27 APR-08 MAY	En route Mediterranean Sea/ MED Cruise 2001
09 - 10 MAY	Inport Rota, Spain/ ARG Turnover
11 - 13 MAY	Underway en route Palma, Spain

14 - 17 MAY Inport Palma, Spain
 18 - 31 MAY Underway Western MED/ Exercise Alexander the Great
 01 - 17 JUN Underway Eastern MED en route Marmaris, Turkey
 11 JUN Pre-Sail Conference ONBD USS Kearsarge
 18 - 21 JUN Inport Marmaris, Turkey
 22 - 24 JUN Underway Central MED en route Limassol, Cyprus
 25 - 27 JUN Inport Limassol, Cyprus
 28 JUN-03 JUL Underway Central MED en route Bari, Italy/ Albanian Exercise
 04 - 06 JUL Inport Bari, Italy
 07 - 13 JUL Underway Adriatic Sea/ PHIBEX/ VADM Johnson, COMSIXTHFLT Visit
 14 - 15 JUL Transit Central MED en route Souda Bay, Crete
 16 - 22 JUL Inport Souda Bay, Crete/ Hump Day Party
 23 JUL Underway Eastern MED en route Rhodes, Greece
 24 - 26 JUL Inport Rhodes, Greece
 27 JUL-01 AUG Underway Adriatic Sea en route Rijeka, Croatia/ USMC Safety Stand Down
 02 - 12 AUG Inport Rijeka, Croatia/ IMAV
 14 - 16 AUG Underway Central MED en route Toulon, France
 17 - 20 AUG Inport Toulon, France
 21 AUG Underway Central MED en route Barcelona, Spain
 22 - 24 AUG Inport Barcelona, Spain
 25 - 26 AUG Underway Central MED en route Gaeta, Italy

27 - 30 AUG Inport Gaeta, Italy

31 AUG-02 SEP Underway Central MED en route Koper, Slovenia

03 - 06 SEP Inport Koper, Slovenia

07 - 11 SEP Underway Central MED

12 SEP Offload "F" Co/ Exercise - Livorno, Italy

13 - 17 SEP Transit to Ionian Sea/ SAG-B operations

18 - 21 SEP Transit Western MED en route Rota, Spain

22 - 25 SEP Inport Rota, Spain/ Commence Offload/
Washdown/ Agricultural Inspection

26 SEP-01 OCT Underway Rota OPAREA/ ARG Turnover

02 - 13 OCT Transit Atlantic Ocean

14 OCT Anchor Onslow Bay/ Offload/ Visit ADM Moran/
Underway Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base

15 OCT-02 DEC Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/
Post Deployment Stand Down

03 - 04 DEC Underway JAX OPAREA en route Mayport, Florida

05 - 09 DEC Inport Mayport, Florida/ DC Drill and
Training

10 - 11 DEC Underway Virginia CAPES

12 - 31 DEC Inport Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base/
Holiday Stand Down

CARTER HALL began 2001 with continued preparations for the ship's Mediterranean deployment scheduled to begin in April. Upon conclusion of the crew's holiday leave period, the ship got underway Jan. 22 for a three-day port visit to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. After getting underway from sunny St. Thomas, CARTER HALL was ready for her next challenge. The crew conducted Combat System Ship Qualification Trials and made naval history by becoming the first Ship Self-Defense System (SSDS) and Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM)-equipped amphibious ship in the U.S. Navy to shoot down a 'stream raid' - two simultaneously launched hostile missiles. After this historic event, she also participated in MEUEX-12 in the Cherry Point OPAREA before returning to Little Creek in mid-February. The crew spent the rest of the month in port conducting PREINSURV and INSURV inspections to examine the ship's operational readiness and material condition. CARTER HALL finished February with a one-day underway to the Virginia Capes (Feb. 27) to conduct a Material Inspection, then returned home to Little Creek to finish the INSURV by March 8.

CARTER HALL continued deployment preparations with force protection stand down training in Little Creek, then unloaded the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Mar. 9 and steamed to Mayport, Fla., the next day to put their

knowledge into practice. Arriving on the 12th, the crew and embarked Marines spent the next two days defending the ship against a variety of simulated attacks using the same force protection procedures they would implement at ports-of-call during the deployment.

Having successfully met all Force Protection requirements, CARTER HALL returned to the Cherry Point OPAREA for a Supporting Arms Coordination Exercise (SACEX) then to Onslow Bay, N.C., for a backload and Special Operations Capable Exercise (SOCEX). These exercises served to hone CARTER HALL and the 24th MEU's ability to work together. Her crew had completed an 18-month Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) in 10 months - another groundbreaking first in the U.S. Navy for the CARTER HALL team. They were ready for the Mediterranean deployment and whatever challenges it would bring. They took a well-deserved Period of Maintenance (POM) stand down from Mar. 28 to Apr. 24 with their families, then got underway Apr. 25 to begin a new chapter in the ship's life.

The next day, Apr. 26, CARTER HALL loaded Marines of the 24th MEU and their equipment in Onslow Bay and began her 11-day transit through the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), which included CARTER HALL, USS KEARSARGE and USS PONCE.

Upon entering the Mediterranean, CARTER HALL made her first port visit of the deployment in Rota, Spain, along with KEARSARGE and PONCE to conduct a turnover with the NASSAU Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

After a one-day transit from Rota, CARTER HALL moored in the city of Palma, Spain, the first liberty port of the deployment. Sailors and Marines enjoyed their introduction to the Mediterranean for three days, then headed to the western Mediterranean to participate in two exercises, Trident D'Or (Golden Trident) and Alexander The Great.

Trident D'Or, a multinational exercise designed to train and improve tactical coordination and communication among participating forces, took place around the southernmost tip of Sardinia, Italy and involved sea, land and air units from the United States, Italy, Spain and France. CARTER HALL began its role in the exercise with an amphibious landing May 21 by the embarked 24th MEU force.

Following Trident D'Or and a Pre-Sail Conference onboard KEARSARGE June 11, CARTER HALL headed into the Eastern Mediterranean for a four-day port visit to Marmaris, Turkey. Sailors and Marines enjoyed beautiful weather, the hospitality of the Turkish people and good prices on Turkish carpets, leather goods and jewelry there.

Exercise 'Alexander the Great,' a bilateral Greek - U.S. small-scale amphibious exercise, was held in the Aegean Sea June 5 - 15. During the exercise, a 24th MEU amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) platoon embarked on CARTER HALL made history by becoming the first U.S. AAV platoon to embark a Greek warship.

July was a busy month for CARTER HALL. It began with an Albanian amphibious exercise and a port visit to Bari, Italy, and continued with another amphibious exercise in the Adriatic Sea and a visit by Vice Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, Commander, Sixth Fleet. Vice Admiral Johnson visited CARTER HALL July 11 for a firsthand look at the unique capabilities the warship brought to his area of responsibility during its deployment.

After arriving aboard CARTER HALL, Vice Admiral Johnson toured the ship to learn more about its capabilities from the Sailors and Marines who make up the CARTER HALL team. He also toured the ship's well deck and vehicle storage areas, speaking to Assault Craft Unit 4 Sailors about their Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) vehicles and to 24th MEU Marines about their armored assault vehicles (AAVs) and tanks. Together, the LCACs, AAVs and tanks fulfill a vital role in CARTER HALL'S mission -

getting Marines to the beach, and making sure they stay there.

Following a stop in Limassol, Cyprus, the ship headed to Souda Bay, Crete, where the crew celebrated the deployment halfway point, July 19, with a pierside 'Hump Day' party featuring free food and softball and basketball tournaments. Finally, CARTER HALL pulled into Rhodes, Greece, a popular European tourist destination, for a three-day visit.

In August, the ship pulled into Rijeka, Croatia for a 13-day Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV) period. During FMAV, repair personnel from USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39) completed 135 jobs for CARTER HALL, from making new tablecloths for the galley to re-calibrating equipment and repairing one of the ship's diesel engines. The crew of the KEARSARGE and PONCE also assisted in repair efforts on board CARTER HALL.

From Rijeka, CARTER HALL conducted a whirlwind tour of Europe with port visits to Toulon, France, Barcelona, Spain and Gaeta, Italy. Many crewmembers took advantage of opportunities to visit Paris and Rome with organized tours and see famous sights they'd only read about or seen on television.

CARTER HALL began September underway in the central Mediterranean en route to Koper, Slovenia for a four-day port visit, then steamed into the Ligurian Sea and offloaded Marines at Livorno, Italy for inland training. As a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S., CARTER HALL, as directed by COMSIXTHFLT, conducted a backload of her embarked Marines and headed back out into the Ionian Sea to rendezvous with the KEARSARGE ARG for Surface Action Group (SAG) operations. Upon completion of those operations, the ARG was ordered to transit to Rota for turnover, and CARTER HALL conducted a ship and vehicle wash down and agricultural inspection prior to her return to the United States.

Following turnover with the BATAAN ARG, CARTER HALL began the transit back across the Atlantic Oct 2. On Oct. 14, she moored in Onslow Bay to offload the 24th MEU and was visited by COMPHIBGRU TWO, Admiral Moran, who offered his congratulations on a successful deployment. After his departure CARTER HALL got underway for the last time of the deployment and arrived home in Little Creek the next morning, Oct. 15, 2001, after 170 days deployed.

The crew enjoyed a post-deployment stand down from Oct. 15 - Dec. 2, then got underway to the JAX OPAREA. On Dec. 5, CARTER HALL arrived in Mayport, Fla., for four days

of damage control drills and training, then returned to Little Creek Dec. 12 to commence her holiday stand down until the end of the year.