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. RYBAS
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

DEPARTMENT HEADS

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

Encl (1)
### USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)
#### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY 2001

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

Encl (2)
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 OAREA 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.