



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
FPO AP 96662-1710

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center  
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57  
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS CLEVELAND's (LPD 7) Command History  
(2) 3 1/2 Disk (Command History)

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

  
W. C. MARSH

January 24, 1997

USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)

To: Director of Naval History

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization as of 01 January 1996:  
Mission - Amphibious Warfare  
Immediate Superior In Command - COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP THREE  
- Rear Admiral C.R. Saffell  
Commander - CAPT L. W. Nelms, USN  
Permanent Duty Station - Naval Station, San Diego

2. Chronology:

09 Jan 96 - Underway for OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION  
(OPPE) Preps.  
12 Jan 96 - Return from OPPE Preps/Moored Pier 12.  
16 Jan 96 - Underway for OPPE Preps.  
19 Jan 96 - Return from OPPE Preps/Moored Pier 12.  
23 Jan 96 - Underway for OPPE Preps.  
26 Jan 96 - Return from OPPE Preps/Moored Pier 12.  
30 Jan 96 - Embark COMPHIBRON FIVE.  
16 Feb 96 - Disembark COMPHIBRON FIVE.  
20 Feb 96 - Underway for OPPE Preps.  
23 Feb 96 - Return from OPPE Preps/Moored Pier 12.  
27 Feb 96 - Underway for OPPE Preps.  
29 Feb 96 - Anchored at Anchorage 216/Underway for OPPE Preps.  
04 Mar 96 - Anchored at Anchorage 216.  
05 Mar 96 - OPPE Inbrief/Commence OPPE/Underway for OPPE.  
07 Mar 96 - Return from OPPE/Moored Pier 12.  
11 Mar 96 - TAILORED SHIPS TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TSTA) III  
Inbrief/Underway for TSTA III.  
15 Mar 96 - Return from TSTA III/Moored Pier 11.  
19 Mar 96 - FINAL EVALUATION PROBLEM (FEP) Inbrief/Underway for  
FEP.  
21 Mar 96 - Return from FEP/moored Pier 11.  
28 Mar 96 - Embark COMPHIBRON FIVE.  
15 Apr 96 - Commence KSQ-1 and Sailor Phone Installation.  
17 Apr 96 - USS CLEVELAND was Awarded the Allen G. Ogden Award  
for Flight Deck Safety.  
20 Apr 96 - Disembark COMPHIBRON FIVE/Embark COMPHIBGRU THREE.  
26 Apr 96 - Command Picnic; Captains Cup Sports Challenge '96.  
02 May 96 - Underway for deadstick move to Berth 61 North side  
of Pier 6.  
06 May 96 - Commence Exercise RIMPAC '96-2 Onload/Embark MSSG 11/  
Embark SEAL Team Three Det. Alpha.  
07 May 96 - Commence Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR).  
08 May 96 - Conducted Fast Cruise.  
09 May 96 - ISIC shifted to COMPHIBRON FIVE/Embark Cryptological  
Direct Support Element (CDSE)  
11 May 96 - Underway for Transit to Pearl Harbor HI/Embark Beach  
Master Unit (BMU) 1 Det. Foxtrot/Embark Assault Craft  
Unit 1 (ACU) 1 Det. Alpha.

18 May 96 - Commence Off-load at PTA Hawaii HI.  
 20 May 96 - Moored FISC Pier Pearl Harbor HI.  
 23 May 96 - Underway for Exercise RIMPAC '96-2, Assigned to  
 Multi-national Force/Commence RIMPAC '96-2.  
 30 May 96 - Commence Backload at PTA Hawaii HI.  
 16 Jun 96 - Moored Berth F-13 Ford Island Pearl Harbor HI/  
 Commence Port Visit Pearl Harbor HI.  
 21 Jun 96 - Underway for Transit to NAVSTA San Diego CA.  
 25 Jun 96 - Commence Comprehensive Communications Assessment.  
 27 Jun 96 - Commence RIMPAC '96-2 Off-load at Camp Pendleton CA/  
 Disembark MSSG 11/Disembark SEAL Team 3 Det.  
 Alpha/Disembark BMU 1 Det. Foxtrot/Disembark ACU 1  
 Det. Alpha.  
 28 Jun 96 - Return from Exercise RIMPAC '96/Moored Pier 11.  
 29 Jun 96 - Disembark CDSE.  
 08 Jul 96 - Commence Medical Readiness Evaluation (MRE).  
 09 Jul 96 - Underway for Transit to NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach CA.  
 10 Jul 96 - Moored NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach CA/Commence Weapons  
 Onload.  
 11 Jul 96 - Underway for transit to NAVSTA San Diego CA/Moored  
 Pier 11.  
 12 Jul 96 - Commence FLEETEX Onload/Embark MSSG 11/Embark SEAL  
 Team Three Det. Alpha/Embark BMU 1 Det. Foxtrot/ Embark  
 ACU 1 Det. Alpha.  
 13 Jul 96 - Embark CDSE.  
 15 Jul 96 - Underway for FLEETEX.  
 22 Jul 96 - Return from FLEETEX/Moored Pier 11./Disembark MSSG  
 11/Disembark SEAL Team 3 Det. Alpha/Disembark BMU 1  
 Det. Foxtrot/Disembark ACU 1 Det. Alpha.  
 23 Jul 96 - Commence FLEETEX Off-load/Disembark MSSG 11/Disembark  
 SEAL Team 3 Det. Alpha/Disembark BMU 1 Det.  
 Foxtrot/Disembark ACU 1 Det. Alpha/Disembark CDSE.  
 30 Jul 96 - Commence Environmental Health Survey.  
 07 Aug 96 - Embark MSSG 11/Embark CDSE.  
  
 08 Aug 96 - Underway for JTFEX/Commence JTFEX Onload/Embark SEAL  
 Team 3 Det. Alpha/Embark BMU 1 Det. Foxtrot/Embark  
 ACU 1 Det. Alpha.  
 10 Aug 96 - Anchored at Anchorage 173/Commence MSSG 11 Off-load.  
 11 Aug 96 - Underway from for JTFEX.  
 13 Aug 96 - Anchored at Anchorage 173/Commence MSSG 11 Backload.  
 16 Aug 96 - Commence JTFEX Amphibious Assault/Disembark MSSG 11/  
 Disembark SEAL Team 3 Det. Alpha/Disembark BMU 1 Det.  
 Foxtrot/Disembark ACU 1 Det. Alpha.  
 17 Aug 96 - Anchored at the Del Mar Boat Basin/Underway for  
 Return to NAVSTA San Diego CA.  
 19 Aug 96 - Return from JTFEX/Moored Pier 11/Commence Pre-  
 Overseas Movement (POM) Period/Disembark CDSE.  
 20 Aug 96 - Commence JTFEX Offload/6I4 IMAV Arrival Conference,  
 Commence 6I4 IMAV.  
 26 Aug 96 - Commence SCLISIS Equipment Validation/CENTCOM Liason  
 Team Visit.  
 09 Sep 96 - Commence NIPERNET/SIPERNET Instalation.

13 Sep 96 - Underway for Family/Guest Day Cruise/Return from Family/Guest Day Cruise/Moored Pier 11.  
 16 Sep 96 - Commenced Chief Petty Officer Initiations.  
 17 Sep 96 - Embark COMPHIBRON FIVE/Commence Shipwide Safety Standown.  
 18 Sep 96 - Commence Postal Inspection.  
 23 Sep 96 - Disembark COMPHIBRON FIVE.  
 24 Sep 96 - Underway for Pre-Deployment Sea Trials.  
 26 Sep 96 - Return from Pre-Deployment Sea Trials/Moored Pier 11.  
 03 Oct 96 - Commence WESTPAC '96 Onload.  
 08 Oct 96 - Underway for WESTPAC '96 Onload/Embark MSSG 11/Embark SEAL Team 3 Det. Alpha/Embark BMU 1 Det. Foxtrot/Embark ACU 1 Det. Alpha. Return from WESTPAC '96 Onload/Moored Pier 11/Embark CDSE.  
 09 Oct 96 - COMNAVSURFPAC Pre-Deployment Visit.  
 10 Oct 96 - Underway for WESTPAC '96.  
 17 Oct 96 - Commence AMPHIBEX KAULA PTA Hawaii.  
 19 Oct 96 - Participated in Search And Rescue (SAR) Operations for Sailor missing from USS HARPERS FERRY.  
 24 Oct 96 - Assigned to Task Group 76.5  
 05 Nov 96 - Moored Sembawang Pier Singapore/Commence Singapore Maintenance Availability.  
 08 Nov 96 - Change of Command; CAPT L. W. Nelms, USN was relieved by CAPT. W. C. Marsh, USN.  
 11 Nov 96 - Underway for transit to Penang Malaysia.  
  
 12 Nov 96 - Anchored in Man-O-War Anchorage, Penang Harbor Malaysia/Moored Swettenham Pier Penang Malaysia/Commence Port Visit, Penang Malaysia.  
 18 Nov 96 - Anchored in Man-O-War Anchorage Penang Harbor Malaysia.  
 21 Nov 96 - Underway for Indian Ocean Transit.  
 28 Nov 96 - Assigned to Task Force 051/052/Commence Exercise Sea Soldier '97.  
 10 Dec 96 - Anchored in Muscat Harbor Oman/Commence Port Visit in Muscat Oman.  
 12 Dec 96 - Underway for Strait of Hormuz Transit.  
 13 Dec 96 - Embark COMPHIBGRU THREE/Assigned to Task Force 050/Transit Strait of Hormuz.  
 14 Dec 96 - Commence Exercise Eastern Maverick '97/Disembark COMPHIBGRU THREE.  
 20 Dec 96 - Moored Berth 5 Kuwait Harbor for Exercise Eager Mace 97-1 Off-Load/Commence Eager Mace 97-1 Off-Load/Commence Eager Mace 97-1.  
 21 Dec 96 - COMFIFTHFLT Visit.  
 22 Dec 96 - Completed Exercise Eager Mace 97-1 Off-Load.  
 28 Dec 96 - Underway in Support of Operations Southern Watch/Vigilant Sentinel, Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG).

### 3. Narrative:

During the first few months of 1996 USS CLEVELAND conducted extensive preparations before conducting, and passing, OPPE.

After OPPE, CLEVELAND completed TSTA III and FEP, this completed the training cycle requirements following the last CNO maintenance availability.

A C4I improvement was conducted installing the KSQ-1 system, a part of JMCIS, and the Sailorfon, allowing personnel to make commercial long distance phone calls while at sea, CSRR followed this. During the installation, the Allen G. Ogden Award for Flight Deck Safety was awarded to USS CLEVELAND. Also a command picnic and "Captains Cup Sports Challenge" was held at Admiral Baker Field.

Next, CLEVELAND was assigned to COMPHIBRON FIVE, the ESSEX Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), embarked portions of the Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and participated in Exercise RIMPAC '96-2, an international training exercise involving six nations (United States, Canada, Japan, Chili, Australia, and the Republic of Korea). During this exercise CLEVELAND was assigned to the Multi-National Force. Also, a Comprehensive Communications assessment was conducted during the return transit. Upon returning from RIMPAC all embarked units were off-loaded at Camp Pendleton CA.

Following the off-load an MRE was conducted and then a Major Weapons Onload at NAVWEPSTA Seal Beach CA, in preparation for WESTPAC '96. After the Onload, CLEVELAND again embarked portions of the 11th MEU and participated in FLEETEX and then JTFEX. Between FLEETEX and JTFEX an Environmental Health Survey was conducted. During JTFEX the 11th MEU achieved Special Operations Capable (SOC) certification, this concluded the ESSEX ARG's pre-deployment battle group workups. After battle group workups were completed and all embarked forces were off-loaded, POM leave period commenced.

During the POM period, CLEVELAND conducted a 6I4 maintenance availability with SIMA San Diego, a SCLISIS Equipment Validation, and the installation of the SIPRNET/NIPRNET allowing INTERNET access for the ship while at sea. After the POM period CLEVELAND got underway for a Family/ Guest Day cruise. A few days after the Family/Guest Day cruise, the newly selected CPOs were initiated and a few days after that a Postal Inspection was conducted. CLEVELAND got underway for a few days for pre-deployment sea trials and on loading of selected equipment at Camp Pendleton before WESTPAC. Following sea trials selected units from the 11th MEU(SOC) returned to CLEVELAND and embarked for WESTPAC '96. Before deploying, CLEVELAND was visited by COMNAVSURFPAC.

On 10 April, 1996 CLEVELAND departed on a six-month Western Pacific/Indian Ocean/Arabian Gulf deployment. At the beginning of the deployment CLEVELAND, in company with the ESSEX ARG transited to the Hawaiian PTA operating area for an amphibious exercise KAULA. At the end of the exercise CLEVELAND participated in the SAR operations for a sailor lost overboard fro the USS HARPERS FERRY. Following the unsuccessful SAR CLEVELAND transited across the Western Pacific and through the Philippine Islands to Singapore. While in Singapore, the ship conducted a maintenance availability and a Change of Command. After getting underway for Singapore CLEVELAND transited up the

Strait of Malaca, in company with HARPERS FERRY for a port visit on the Island of Penang Malaysia. Following this port visit the ship got underway and transited the Indian Ocean en route to the Arabian Sea. Upon arriving in the Arabian Sea CLEVELAND participated in Exercise Sea Soldier '97, a bilateral training exercise with the armed forces of Oman. At the end of the exercise CLEVELAND commenced a port visit in Muscat Oman. After getting underway from Muscat, CLEVELAND embarked COMPHIBGRU THREE and transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to the Arabian Gulf. After arriving in the Arabian Gulf, CLEVELAND disembarked COMPHIBGRU THREE and participated in Exercise Eastern Maverick '97, a bilateral training exercise with the armed forces of Qatar. Following Eastern Maverick the ship transited the Northern Arabian Gulf to Kuwait City and off-loaded it's embarked units for Exercise Eager Mace '97-1, a month long bilateral training exercise with the armed forces of Kuwait. During the off-load CLEVELAND was visited by COMFIFTHFLT. After the Eager Mace off-load CLEVELAND got underway to participate in operation Vigilant Sentinel, MIO operations in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG).