



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

Revised 5/24/00
No disk

5750

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MAY 10 2000

From: Commanding Officer, USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center Washington Navy Yard
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1998

1. Command Composition and Organization as of 01 January 1998

Mission - Amphibious Warfare
Immediate Superior in Command - COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP THREE:
Rear Admiral D. L. Brewer
Relieved by - Rear Admiral S. G. Smith,
USN
CAPT W. C. Marsh, USN
Relieved by - CAPT J. A. Winnefeld, USN
Permanent Duty Station - Naval Station, San Diego

2. Chronology:

01 JAN - 11 JAN	HOLIDAY UPKEEP PERIOD
01 JAN - 08 FEB	SIMA AVAILABILITY, SAN DIEGO
05 JAN - 09 JAN	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT - DCPO CLOSURES
12 JAN - 16 JAN	CART II
19 JAN - 23 JAN	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT CONVEYORS AND TLI SYSTEMS
19 JAN - 30 JAN	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT - BALLAST CONTROL
21 JAN - 22 JAN	SHIPHANDLING SIMULATOR
26 JAN - 30 JAN	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT - AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS
02 FEB - 09 FEB	TSTA I - INPORT
05 FEB - 06 FEB	UNREP SIMULATOR
10 FEB - 13 FEB	TSTA I - UNDERWAY
16 FEB	TSTA I - INPORT
17 FEB - 20 FEB	TSTA I - UNDERWAY
23 FEB	TSTA I - INPORT
24 FEB - 27 FEB	TSTA I - UNDERWAY
01 MAR - 22 MAR	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
02 MAR - 04 MAR	ATGPAC ASSIST VISIT - SH
02 MAR - 06 MAR	ATGPAC ASSIST VISIT - MS
02 MAR - 06 MAR	A/C GROOM
02 MAR - 13 MAR	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT - CONVEYORS / DUMBWAITERS
16 MAR - 17 MAR	AAV PLATOON LEADER SCHOOL VISIT
16 MAR - 20 MAR	SEMAT ASSIST VISIT - CHT SYSTEM
16 MAR - 20 MAR	NAVY FOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM VISIT
16 MAR - 20 MAR	ATGPAC ASSIST VISIT - SK
23 MAR - 02 APR	TSTA II - UNDERWAY
23 MAR - 30 MAR	OPERATION BRIGHT VICTORY
03 APR - 05 APR	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
06 APR	TSTA II - INPORT
07 APR - 10 APR	TSTA II - UNDERWAY
11 APR - 03 MAY	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
18 APR - 30 APR	SPS-40E INSTALL
20 APR - 30 APR	SIMA AVAILABILITY, SAN DIEGO

5750

MAY 10 2000

27 APR - 01 MAY	LMA
04 MAY - 05 MAY	TSTA III - INPORT
06 MAY - 08 MAY	TSTA III - UNDERWAY
09 MAY - 11 MAY	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
12 MAY - 14 MAY	FEP
15 MAY - 29 MAY	SIMA AVAILABILITY, SAN DIEGO
15 MAY - 31 MAY	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
15 MAY - 31 MAY	SPS-40E INSTALL
01 JUN - 19 JUN	ALASKAN ROADS
01 JUN	LOAD LCU'S - CAMP PENDLETON
02 JUN - 04 JUN	AMMO AND PERSONNEL ONLOAD - SEAL BEACH
05 JUN - 08 JUN	TRANSIT TO VICTORIA, B. C.
09 JUN - 11 JUN	PORT VISIT, VICTORIA, B. C., CANADA
12 JUN - 13 JUN	TRANSIT TO ANNETTE ISLAND, ALASKA
14 JUN	CONDUCT OFFLOAD - ANNETTE ISLAND, ALASKA
15 JUN - 19 JUN	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO
20 JUN - 30 JUN	SIMA AVAILABILITY, SAN DIEGO
20 JUN - 12 JUL	SPS-40E INSTALL
20 JUN - 12 JUL	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
22 JUN - 26 JUN	SESI
22 JUN - 26 JUN	AVIATION ORDNANCE SAFETY SURVEY
24 JUN - 08 JUL	CAREER PROGRAM INFORMATION ASSESSMENT
13 JUL - 14 AUG	RIMPAC / COMPUTEX
01 AUG - 04 AUG	PORT VISIT, PEARL HARBOR
03 AUG	CHANGE OF COMMAND
15 AUG - 13 SEP	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
24 AUG - 25 AUG	SHIPHANDLING SIMULATOR
14 SEP - 25 SEP	FLEETEX / SACCEX
26 SEP - 05 OCT	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
28 SEP - 02 OCT	CSRR
06 OCT - 16 OCT	ARGCERT
17 OCT - 23 NOV	POM PERIOD
19 OCT	MRE
04 NOV	SAR EVALUATION
24 NOV	UNDERWAY, SOCIAL
25 NOV - 04 DEC	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
05 DEC - 31 DEC	WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT
05 DEC - 11 DEC	ENROUTE TO HAWAIIAN OPAREA
12 DEC - 15 DEC	AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING
14 DEC - 15 DEC	PORT VISIT - PEARL HARBOR
15 DEC - 17 DEC	EXERCISE FREQUENCY HUNTER
18 DEC - 29 DEC	ENROUTE TO PORT, HONG KONG
DEC - 31 DEC	PORT VISIT - HONG KONG

3. Narrative

January of 1998 began with the continuation of the holiday upkeep period. CLEVELAND then commenced the demanding certification process by undergoing CART II the week of 12-16 January. Assist visits from SEMAT were conducted throughout the month on the following equipment: conveyors, TLI systems, ballast control, and air conditioning systems. Simulator training was conducted for bridge and combat systems personnel.

During February, CLEVELAND completed three in-port and underway evaluations to satisfy TSTA I requirements. The Combat Systems, Engineering, Damage Control, and Ship-handling training teams demonstrated effective training methods throughout a rigorous series of drills and exercises. The bridge team conducted effective UNREP training at the ship-handling simulator.

Maintenance efforts were renewed in March with an upkeep period lasting until the 22nd. Assist visits from ATGPAC targeted the Supply Department's SH, MS, and SK divisions. The air conditioning systems were groomed to increase efficiency and correct minor deficiencies. The Navy Food Management Team visited from 16-20 March to conduct training for food service personnel and determine any areas that might need improvement. SEMAT conducted a follow up visit to conduct further troubleshooting and guidance on recurring minor problems with the conveyors and also assisted on the CHT system. March ended with a TSTA II underway evaluation exercise named Bright Victory conducted in the SOCAL operating area.

TSTA II evaluation period continued into April and was completed on the 10th. Upkeep efforts were kept up as time permitted throughout the month including the commencement of a SIMA availability period from 20-30 April. Installation of the SPS-40E radar began mid-month which represented a significant improvement to the CLEVELAND's electronic suite. LMA was conducted the final week of April with outstanding results.

TSTA III and FEP were completed in May certifying CLEVELAND to conduct operations in all warfare areas. The rest of May was spent with ongoing efforts at upkeep including a SIMA availability running from 15-29 May. The installation of the SPS-40E radar continued throughout the availability period.

June began with the on-load of LCU's from Camp Pendleton on the 1st day of the month. Ammunition on-load was conducted from 2-4 June at Seal Beach along with the on-load of Marine personnel in order for CLEVELAND to conduct OPERATION ALASKAN ROADS. CLEVELAND began the transit to Victoria, British Columbia on 5 June, arriving on the 9th for a three-day port visit. The transit to Annette Island, Alaska began on the 12th of June with offload conducted on the 14th. CLEVELAND then returned to San Diego, arriving on 20 June. The SIMA availability resumed upon returning and continued until 30 June. SESI was conducted from 22-26 June along with an Aviation Ordnance Safety Survey. A Career Program Information Assessment began on 24 June and continued into July.

The installation of the SPS-40E radar was completed and tested prior to the 12th of July. CLEVELAND departed San Diego on 13 July to participate in RIMPAC-98, a major exercise off the coast of Hawaii. The exercise included ships from many countries around the world employed as members of two opposing forces allowing CLEVELAND the opportunity to demonstrate the level of experience and knowledge the crew had obtained through the training cycle.

CLEVELAND conducted a port visit to Pearl Harbor from the 1st until the 4th of August. The primary reason for the stop was the Change of Command ceremony conducted on the 3rd. Captain W. C. Marsh was relieved, with Captain J. A. Winnefeld assuming duties as the twenty-first commanding officer of USS CLEVELAND. With a new captain and a port visit behind them, the crew of CLEVELAND set off on the 4th of August to return to San Diego, arriving on the

MAY 10 2000

15th. Upkeep efforts filled the rest of August as the crew began to prepare for the upcoming deployment.

Upkeep efforts continued throughout the month with a break from 14 -25 September while CLEVELAND participated in FLEETEX/SACCEX. This exercise demonstrated the ability of CLEVELAND to play an integral role in carrying out the mission requirements for the BOXER Amphibious Readiness Group. The other members of the ARG were USS BOXER (LHD 4) and USS HARPER'S FERRY (LSD 49). CSRR was conducted the last week of September ensuring Combat Systems was prepared for the upcoming deployment.

ARGCERT was conducted from 6-16 October. This final certification exercise was required prior to deployment to test the capabilities of all participants to work together as an effective team. The ships of the ARG carry a Marine Element Unit, Special Boat Unit, SEALs, Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel, Marine Recon, UAV detachment, SEABEE's, and many smaller but no less important forces. With a successful ARGCERT behind it, the CLEVELAND commenced a POM period on the 17th for the crew to take some leave prior to deployment. The POM period continued into November, allowing enough time prior to the deployment to complete preparations.

November was primarily spent ensuring all equipment was in operating condition with sufficient supplies on-hand to conduct maintenance and repair equipment if necessary during deployment. A successful Search and Rescue evaluation was conducted on the 4th of November. POM ended on 24 November, just in time for a one-day underway excursion to make final preparations for the now impending deployment. The final week of November was an upkeep period to target last minute repairs.

On December 5th, CLEVELAND departed San Diego en-route to the Hawaiian operating area commencing WESTPAC. Amphibious training was conducted from 12-15 December. After deploying some amphibious elements on the 14th, CLEVELAND entered Pearl Harbor for a short two-day port visit. Departing Pearl Harbor on the 15th, CLEVELAND picked up the amphibious units and commenced exercise Frequency Hunter. Frequency Hunter ended on 17 December and CLEVELAND began the transit towards Hong Kong. En-route the CLEVELAND passed close to the island of Iwo Jima, paying respects to the many men whose lives were lost during that great battle of World War II. CLEVELAND entered the port of Hong Kong on the 30th of December for a port visit that would include time to celebrate the beginning of a new year.



R. W. BRINKLEY