



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

*Rec. 05/24/00
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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 1999

1. Command Composition and Organization as of 01 January 1999
Mission - Amphibious Warfare
Immediate Superior in Command - COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP THREE : Rear
Admiral S. G. Smith
Commander - CAPT J. A. Winnefeld, USN
Relieved by: CAPT R. W. Brinkley
Permanent Duty Station - Naval Station, San Diego

2. Chronology:

01 JAN	PORT VISIT, HONG KONG
02 JAN - 05 JAN	TRANSIT TO SINGAPORE
06 JAN - 10 JAN	PORT VISIT, SINGAPORE
11 JAN - 12 JAN	TRANSIT TO PHUKET
13 JAN - 15 JAN	PORT VISIT, PHUKET, THAILAND
16 JAN - 23 JAN	TRANSIT TO GULF OF ADEN
23 JAN - 31 JAN	GULF OF ADEN OPERATIONS
01 FEB - 23 FEB	RED SEA OPERATIONS
02 FEB - 11 FEB	NEW PERSONNEL INDOCTRINATION
24 FEB - 28 FEB	TRANSIT THROUGH GULF OF OMAN / STRAITS OF HORMUZ
01 MAR - 02 MAR	ANCHORED, BAHRAIN
03 MAR	TRANSIT TO KUWAIT
04 MAR - 31 MAR	EAGER MACE
04 MAR - 07 MAR	INPORT, KUWAIT
08 MAR	TRANSIT TO BAHRAIN
09 MAR - 13 MAR	INPORT, BAHRAIN
14 MAR - 26 MAR	NORTHERN ARABIAN GULF OPERATIONS
27 MAR - 31 MAR	INPORT, KUWAIT
01 APR - 10 APR	OPERATION MIO SURGE
11 APR - 15 APR	INPORT MAINTENANCE, JEBEL ALI, UAE
16 APR - 19 APR	TRANSIT THROUGH STRAITS OF HORMUZ / GULF OF OMAN
20 APR - 28 APR	TRANSIT TO BALI
29 APR - 03 MAY	INPORT, BALI, INDONESIA
04 MAY - 10 MAY	TRANSIT TO CAIRNS
11 MAY - 15 MAY	PORT VISIT, CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA
16 MAY - 25 MAY	TRANSIT TO PEARL HARBOR
26 MAY - 27 MAY	PORT VISIT, PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
28 MAY - 03 JUN	TRANSIT TO U.S. MAINLAND
04 JUN	MARINE OFFLOAD - CAMP PENDLETON
05 JUN	ARRIVAL SAN DIEGO
05 JUN - 04 JUL	POST DEPLOYMENT STANDOWN / UPKEEP PERIOD
05 JUL	TRANSIT TO SEAL BEACH
05 JUL - 09 JUL	AMMUNITION OFFLOAD, SEAL BEACH
09 JUL	RETURN TO SAN DIEGO
10 JUL -12 JUL	INPORT, INSURV PREPARATIONS

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13 JUL	UNDERWAY, INSURV PREPARATIONS
14 JUL - 18 JUL	INPORT, INSURV PREPARATIONS
19 JUL - 23 JUL	INSURV
20 JUL	UNDERWAY INSURV PERIOD
24 JUL - 27 JUL	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
28 JUL - 28 SEP	SIMA AVAILABILITY
28 JUL - 28 SEP	PMA, SOUTHWEST MARINE
14 SEP - 17 SEP	RIB BOAT CREW TRAINING
20 SEP - 22 SEP	LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT
28 SEP - 29 SEP	UNDERWAY, SEA TRIALS
04 OCT - 17 OCT	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
04 OCT - 08 OCT	RIB DAVIT TRAINING
12 OCT - 15 OCT	ARE / ASIR
18 OCT - 22 OCT	UNDERWAY, SOCIAL
23 OCT - 31 OCT	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
01 NOV	INPORT, CART II
02 NOV - 05 NOV	UNDERWAY, CART II
06 NOV - 14 NOV	UPKEEP SAN DIEGO
22 NOV - 24 NOV	INPORT, TSTA I
29 NOV	INPORT, TSTA I
30 NOV - 03 DEC	UNDERWAY, TSTA I
06 DEC	INPORT, TSTA I
07 DEC - 10DEC	UNDERWAY, TSTA I
13 DEC	UNDERWAY, TSTA I ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION
16 DEC	CHANGE OF COMMAND
17 DEC - 31 DEC	HOLIDAY LEAVE / UPKEEP PERIOD

3. Narrative

The month of January began with the crew of CLEVELAND still enjoying a port visit to Hong Kong. On the morning of 2 January, CLEVELAND sailed out of Hong Kong harbor en-route to Singapore. Arriving on the 6th, CLEVELAND stayed in Singapore until the morning of 11 January, taking advantage of another great liberty port. The two day trip to Phuket, Thailand on the 11th and 12th of January found the CLEVELAND transiting one of the busiest sea-lanes in the world, the Straits of Malacca. CLEVELAND anchored at Phuket, Thailand the morning of 13 January to enjoy the last port visit prior to beginning the operational phase of deployment. After departing Phuket on 16 January, CLEVELAND headed west to the Gulf of Aden, located north of the Horn of Africa.

The month of February was spent primarily in the Red Sea / Gulf of Aden area, shuttling back and forth through the Bab el Mandeb waterway that separates the two bodies of water. CLEVELAND was in place to conduct Non-combatant Evacuation Operations which may have become necessary due to the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. As it turned out, no evacuations were necessary and CLEVELAND was ordered to proceed into the Arabian Gulf. The transit began on the 24th of February with CLEVELAND making its way through the Gulf of Oman and the Straits of Hormuz by the 28th.

CLEVELAND anchored off Bahrain on 1 March for an overnight stop before continuing north towards Kuwait on the 2nd. CLEVELAND arrived in Kuwait the morning of 4 March for a four-day in-port period spent offloading the Marines

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and special units for participation in exercise Eager Mace. The offload complete, CLEVELAND departed Kuwait on 8 March for a quick transit back to Bahrain. Arriving on the 9th of March for a four-day stay, CLEVELAND was in the midst of making final preparations to participate in Northern Arabian Gulf operations. The heavy workload did not prevent the crew from receiving liberty prior to returning to sea. Underway on the 14th of March, the CLEVELAND was once again in her element, conducting Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf. The month was wound to a close with a stop in Kuwait from 27-31 March to re-load the Marines and their equipment.

April began with the commencement of MIO SURGE; Maritime Interdiction Operations aimed at preventing violations of United Nations sanctions applying to Iraq. The MIO SURGE operation was conducted from 1-10 April in the Northern Arabian Gulf. On the 11th of April, CLEVELAND pulled into Jebel Ali, U.A.E. for a much needed maintenance availability. The crew was able to spend some time on liberty in Dubai, a very cosmopolitan city not far from Jebel Ali. CLEVELAND departed Jebel Ali on 16 April, commencing a transit through the Straits of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman into the Indian Ocean headed towards Indonesia. Cleveland began the port visit in Bali, Indonesia on the 29th of April.

CLEVELAND began the month of May still enjoying liberty in Bali. Departing on the 4th of May, CLEVELAND headed east towards the Coral Sea and Cairns, Australia. The port visit to Cairns lasted from 11-15 April and marked the final international stop of the deployment. The transit to Hawaii began on the morning of the 16th and before the trip was complete a major transformation would occur to many of the Sailors and Marines onboard. On the 21st day of May, at Latitude 00' and Longitude 180', CLEVELAND initiated 450 new members into the ranks of the Golden Shellbacks. With that milestone behind them, the crew enjoyed the final stop before returning to San Diego, a brief stay at Pearl Harbor from 26-27 May. 28 May found the CLEVELAND once again underway, this time headed for home. CLEVELAND now had the largest complement thus far on deployment with over 50 friends and relatives on board to participate in Tiger Cruise 99.

CLEVELAND offloaded the Marines and their equipment near Camp Pendleton on the 4th of June. The crew welcomed aboard over 25 more tigers to ride the CLEVELAND the final night of deployment. On the 5th of June CLEVELAND entered San Diego Harbor ending an extremely successful Western Pacific deployment. The rest of June was spent conducting post deployment stand down and an upkeep period.

Stand down ended on the 5th of July as the CLEVELAND got underway to transit to Seal Beach. Ammunition Offload was conducted at Seal Beach from 5-9 July followed by a return to San Diego on the 9th. INSURV preparations were conducted from the 10th until the 18th of June with a one-day underway on the 13th. The INSURV assessment occurred from 19-23 July with outstanding results. CLEVELAND commenced a Planned Maintenance Availability at Southwest Marine Shipyard on the 28th of July to conduct extensive upgrades and repairs to the ship. The entire month of August was spent in the yards continuing the PMA.

September was spent winding up the availability and preparing for sea. Much had been done that required extensive training such as the installation of a new Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat and its accompanying Boat Davit. The

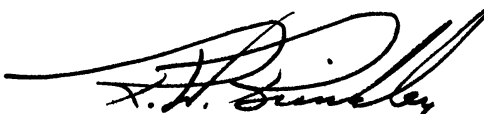
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Light-Off Assessment was conducted from 20-28 September. Sea Trials commenced upon departing Southwest Marine shipyard on the 28th of September, a day earlier than planned. The Sea Trials were completed overnight and CLEVELAND returned to San Diego on the 29th ready to begin the training cycle.

Upkeep efforts continued throughout October along with a very important aviation evaluation. The ARE / ASIR was conducted from 12-15 October with outstanding results. CLEVELAND got underway from 18-22 October to conduct aviation operations in the SOCAL area and to continue improving training team proficiency.

November began with CART II in port and underway phases from the 1st through the 5th. After a short upkeep period from 6-14 November, CLEVELAND continued on in the training cycle with TSTA I. TSTA I in port evaluations were conducted 22-24 November and on the 29th, followed by an underway evaluation which began on the 30th and continued into December.

TSTA I continued in December with an in port evaluation on the 6th and an underway evaluation from the 7th until the 10th. TSTA I final Engineering Certification took place underway on the 13th of December. CLEVELAND conducted a Change of Command ceremony on the 16th of December. Captain J. A. Winnefeld was relieved, with Captain R. W. Brinkley assuming duties as the twenty-second commanding officer of USS CLEVELAND. The Change of Command was followed by commencement of the holiday leave period continuing into the next year.



R. W. BRINKLEY