



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000

1. Command Composition and Organization as of 01 January 2000
Mission - Amphibious Warfare
Immediate Superior in Command - Commander, Amphibious Group THREE:
Rear Admiral W. J. Marshall III
Commander - CAPT R. W. Brinkley
Permanent Duty Station - Naval Station, San Diego

2. Chronology:

JAN00: TSTA I/II/III
01-08FEB00: Recovery & Salvage of Alaska Airlines Flight 261
11FEB00: Final Evaluation Problem
01-05MAY00: Amphibious Specialty Training (AST)
15-23MAY00: RIMPAC EAST
07-11AUG00: USMC Reserve Amphibious Orientation Training (AOT)
02-13OCT00: Fleet Week San Francisco/Tiger Cruise
30OCT - 09NOV00: COMPTUEX/BGSIT
11-15DEC00: True at Sea

3. Narrative:

In January of 2000 CLEVELAND conducted Tailored Ship Training Availability (TSTA) phases one and two. The TSTA phases were the beginning of the Inter Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), the training and maintenance intensive period between six month deployments. The first week of February found CLEVELAND called upon to act as On-Scene Afloat Coordinator for Alaska Air Flight 261 Search and Recovery. The ship provided valuable communications relay capability, a flight deck, a wet well, and assisted in the coordination of the U.S. Coast Guard's enforcement of the crash site exclusion area. Our presence was a media focal point, superbly showcasing the Navy's involvement in this sensitive operation. The Basic Phase of the IDTC ended with the Final Evaluation Period (FEP), during which time a group of trainers from Afloat Training Group observed the ship conducting a series of drills and assessing and grading their performance. CLEVELAND satisfactorily completed FEP one month ahead of schedule on 11 Feb.

From 01-05 May, CLEVELAND began the intermediate phase of the IDTC by participating in Amphibious Specialty Training (AST) where the ship was trained in the launch, recovery and control of several types of amphibious craft. During the last two weeks in May (15-23) the ship participated in Exercise RIMPAC EAST 00, as the Mine Countermeasures (MCM) Command Ship for Commander, MCM Squadron THREE, and support platform for MCM Explosive Ordinance Disposal Units, MCM Mammals, MCM Very Shallow Water Detachment (Det) and Mine Countermeasure Squadron (HM-15). From move aboard to mission

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execution, every detail was handled with professionalism and style. During RIMPAC EAST, the MCM Mammals, which consisted of three highly trained mine detecting dolphins, conducted numerous training exercises in the Southern California area to hone their mine detecting skills. The dolphins were housed in three large pools in the well deck. The HM-15 Det consisted of two CH-53's.

For four days in August 07-11, CLEVELAND served as Flagship for Commander, Amphibious Squadron ONE and a United States Marine Corps Reserve Special Purpose Marine-Air-Ground Task Force for Amphibious Orientation Training. CLEVELAND participated in considerable amphibious planning with USMC Reservists throughout the summer, and conducted a surface and air amphibious rehearsal and assault in support of the 25th Marines.

CLEVELAND participated in Fleet Week San Francisco from 02-13 October. This visit provided an excellent opportunity for civilians to see firsthand the important mission executed by the amphibious Navy. CLEVELAND put on static displays of weapons, Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV), Helicopters, and damage control equipment. The ship hosted over 25 tours while in San Francisco.

From 30 October-09 November CLEVELAND conducted Combined Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), which begins the advanced phase of the IDTC. While underway for COMPTUEX, CLEVELAND began to work with USS HARPERS FERRY and USS BOXER, the other two ships that would make up the BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with which the CLEVELAND would deploy in March 2001. During COMPTUEX the ARG conducted a beach landing where they launched AAV's, Landing Craft Units, Landing Craft Air Cushioned, Helicopters, and Combat Rubber Raiding Craft.

CLEVELAND ended the year with TRUE at Sea, which was conducted 11-15 December. TRUE at Sea is another exercise in the advanced phase of the IDTC where the ship perfects its amphibious assault beach landings.

4. CLEVELAND received the following awards in the year 2000: the 2000 Battle Efficiency Award, Allen G. Ogden Award, 2000 Pacific Fleet Commander in Chief, Retention Excellence Award, and the Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon with Operational Distinguishing Device.



L. S. RICE