



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)
FPO AP 96662-1710

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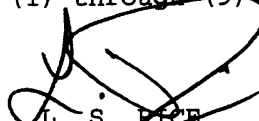
From: Commanding Officer, USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Command History Chronology, 01 January 2001 - 31 December 2001
(3) Chronology Narrative
(4) Current Commanding Officer's Biography
(5) Ship's Photograph
(6) Press Releases for 2001
(7) Current Ship's "Welcome Aboard" Pamphlet
(8) Situational Reports
(9) Deployment Force Protection Lessons Learned

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are submitted.


L. S. RIFE

I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

UIC: 07181, CLE

Mission: To boldly and safely conduct Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare in support of our amphibious ready group commander. CLEVELAND has been guided by seven command principles:

- (1) Integrity
- (2) Level of knowledge
- (3) Procedural compliance
- (4) Forceful Backup
- (5) Formality
- (6) Questioning attitude
- (7) Foresight

Organizational Structure- USS CLEVELAND is attached to COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP THREE.

Name of Commander- CAPT Lawrence S. Rice, USN

Permanent Duty Station- Naval Station San Diego, CA

II. CHRONOLOGY

01 JANUARY 2001 -31 DECEMBER 2001

01– 07 Jan 01:	Holiday leave and upkeep period
08– 19 Jan 01:	Fleet Exercise – Southern California (SOCAL) Operating Area (OPAREA)
20-26 Jan 01:	INPORT
27 Jan 01:	Dependent's Day Cruise
29 Jan – 09 Feb 01:	Special Operations Capable Certification Exercise SOCAL OPAREA
10 Feb- 06 Mar 01:	Pre-deployment leave and upkeep
07-08 Mar 01:	Readiness for Sea, underway
14 Mar 01:	Depart Western Pacific Deployment
15 Mar 01:	Embarked 11 Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC)
16-19 Mar 01:	Transit Western Pacific Enroute Hawaii
20-23 Mar 01:	Inport Hawaii, Force Protection Exercise
24 Mar- 06 Apr 01:	Transit Western Pacific Enroute Darwin
07-08 Apr 01:	Inport Darwin, Australia (Refuel)
09-11 Apr 01:	East Timor, Humanitarian Assistance Operations
12-15 Apr 01:	Transit enroute Singapore
16-20 Apr 01:	Inport Singapore (Changi Naval Base)
21 Apr 01:	Strait of Malacca Transit
22-26 Apr 01:	Phuket, Thailand (Anchored) (LIBERTY I)

27 Apr- 07 May 01:	Transit Indian Ocean/North Arabian Sea enroute Bahrain
05-08 May:	Maritime Interception Operations Arabian Gulf/Strait of Hormuz
08-10 May 01:	Inport Bahrain
10-13 May 01:	Inport Kuwait City, Kuwait in support of Exercise EAGER MACE
14-17 May 01:	Kuwait (Anchored) in support of Exercise EAGER MACE
17-25 May 01:	Underway for Maritime Interception Operations, North Arabian Gulf
26-28 May 01:	Transit AG/ARG OPS
29 May-01 Jun 01:	Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates (Change of Command)
02- 04 Jun 01:	Transit Gulf of Oman
05-06 Jun 01:	Transit Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Strait of Bab El Mandeb
07-08 Jun 01:	Transit Red Sea
07-18 Jun 01:	Anchored/Underway in support of Exercise RED REEF, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
19-20 Jun 01:	Transit Red Sea/Gulf of Aquaba Enroute Aquaba, Jordan ISO Exercise Infinite Moonlight
21 Jun 01:	Inport Aqaba, Jordan
21-22 Jun 01:	Offload 11 th MEU(SOC) ISO Exercise Infinite Moonlight, Aquaba, Jordan
23 Jun 01:	Emergent back load 11 th MEU(SOC)
24 Jun 01:	Transit Gulf of Aquaba
25-26 Jun 01:	Transit Red Sea

27-28 Jun 01:	Transit Gulf of Aden/ Bab El Mandeb
29-30 Jun 01:	Transit Gulf of Oman/ North Arabian Sea
01-17 Jul 01:	ARG Operations in Arabian Gulf
18-21 Jul 01:	Inport Bahrain
22-31 Jul 01:	Outchop 5 th Fleet – Transit Indian Ocean enroute Thailand
01-05 Aug 01:	Phuket, Thailand (Anchored) (LIBERTY II)
06-14 Aug 01:	Transit South China Sea/Philippine Sea enroute Guam
15-23 Aug 01:	Inport Guam (Agricultural wash down) (LIBERTY)
24 Aug- 01 Sep 01:	Transit Western Pacific enroute Hawaii
02-06 Sep 01:	Inport Honolulu Hawaii (LIBERTY)/ Embark Tigers
07-10 Sep 01:	Transit Western Pacific enroute San Diego
11 Sep 01:	Arrive Vicinity Camp Pendleton, CA Commence Offload 11 th MEU(SOC)
12-13 Sep 01:	Anchored Camp Pendleton
13 Sep 01:	Underway Enroute San Diego
14 Sep 01:	Arrive Homeport San Diego CA
14 Sep – 15 Oct 01:	Upkeep/Training Inport San Diego CA
16-18 Oct 01:	Underway Southern California (Ammunition Cross deck w/OGDEN)
19 Oct 01:	Inport San Diego CA
06-09 Nov 01:	Underway Southern California (Deck Landing Qualifications)
05-07 Dec 01:	Underway Southern California
08-31 Dec01:	Holiday leave period

III. NARRATIVE

2001 was a busy year for CLEVELAND. With pre-deployment work-ups, a deployment to the Arabian Gulf, and post deployment upkeep and training, CLEVELAND Sailors had little time for rest and relaxation.

The year began with a Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX), when the CONSTELLATION Battle Group (BG) joined forces with the BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) to perform integrated operations in preparation for deployment. As part of the BOXER ARG, CLEVELAND carried 15 Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV's), 18 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC's), a SEAL Detachment, a Beachmaster Unit Detachment, a Special Boat Unit with two 10 meter Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB), and one Landing Craft Unit.

Upon completion of FLEETEX, CLEVELAND transitioned into the Special Operations Capable Certification Exercise (SOCCEX). During SOCCEX, the SEALS Special Boat Unit proved their Special Operations competence by conducting exercises such as gas oil platform takedowns and non-compliant visit boarding search and seizures. In addition, the embarked Special Operations capable Marine Expeditionary Unit, honed their skills with reconnaissance missions and beach assaults.

Following SOCCEX, CLEVELAND advanced to the final underway prior to Western Pacific Deployment, Readiness for Sea. The final shakedown before a ship deploys, Readiness for Sea allowed Team CLEVELAND to work out any bugs prior to heading into harms way.

On March 14th CLEVELAND departed San Diego for the Arabian Gulf on WESTPAC 2001. The BOXER ARG, consisting of three ships, USS BOXER (LHD 4) the flagship, USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49), and USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7). Spread among the three ships was elements of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

The first port of call was Honolulu, Hawaii. There the ARG conducted a rigorous, two day force protection exercise in preparation for the high threat levels overseas. Upon completion of the exercise the crew enjoyed two days of liberty.

On April 9th, the Sailors and Marines of the BOXER ARG arrived off the coast of East Timor where they conducted a Humanitarian Assistance Operation. The ARG provided eighteen pallets of Project Handclasp Goods, 60 metric tons of food, administered medical and dental aid to 280 patients, and rebuilt two schools during the three-day stay. CLEVELAND Sailors and Marines felt great pride in being able to significantly improve living conditions in this poverty stricken country.

After the successful Humanitarian Assistance Operation in East Timor, CLEVELAND continued north to Singapore's Changi Naval Base for a four day maintenance availability and liberty stop. CLEVELAND then completed a two day transit of the Straits of Malacca and anchored off the coast of Phuket, Thailand.

After the highly enjoyable port visit in Thailand, CLEVELAND continued westward to the Arabian Gulf. Upon entering the Arabian Gulf, CLEVELAND immediately conducted a MIO takedown.

CLEVELAND made a quick port stop in Bahrain and then headed to Kuwait to conduct Exercise EAGER MACE, a two week, bilateral exercise with the Kuwaiti Army. CLEVELAND offloaded her Marines and then headed to the Northern Arabian Gulf for MIO where she served as the mother ship for a week and a half. Mother ship duties included providing security teams on numerous vessels 24/7 and commanding other Navy vessels in the area on their MIO duties. As the only ship in the ARG to participate in Mother ship duties it proved to be an exciting yet dangerous time for the CLEVELAND crew.

CLEVELAND's next tasking was to return to Kuwait, recover the Marines and then steam to Bahrain, for a Change of Command Ceremony, but the force protection condition in Bahrain caused the port visit to be cancelled. The port visit was rescheduled for Jebel Ali, UAE, where a simple Change of Command was held. On May 29th 2001 Captain Ronald W. Brinkley, USN, was relieved by Captain Lawrence S. Rice, USN, as Commanding Officer of USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7).

Upon completion of the Change of Command and a day of liberty, CLEVELAND headed out of the Arabian Gulf and into the Red Sea to conduct Exercise RED REEF. RED REEF allowed for the ARG to work jointly with the Saudi Royal Naval Force while the Marines practiced their skills ashore with the Saudi Royal Army.

The final exercise for the Marines for WESTPAC 2001 took the BOXER ARG northward to Aquaba, Jordan, where the Marines were offloaded for Infinite Moonlight, a ten-day exercise with the Jordanian Army. However, due to a credible terrorist threat, the BOXER ARG was forced into an immediate evacuation and back load the Marines and their equipment in less than 24 hours.

CLE headed back to the Arabian Gulf for a quick stop in Bahrain before departing the Gulf for the last time. Our first stop on our way home was Phuket, Thailand for some much needed relaxation. After a four day port visit, the ship plotted a course to Guam for the agricultural wash down and a nine day port visit.

Before entering the United States again, the ship had to pass a complete agricultural inspection to ensure it would not bring foreign diseases onto American soil. CLE had begun cleaning the ship for the agricultural inspection weeks earlier, so upon arrival in Guam, CLE easily passed the inspection and enjoyed a nine day port visit.

CLE's final port stop for WESTPAC was Honolulu, Hawaii, to pick up over a hundred Tigers-family members and friends of the CLE Sailors and Marines who chose to sail with CLE back to San Diego. CLE ended her six month deployment on September 14th, 2001, with her return to San Diego.

CLE ended 2001 with underway periods for an ammunition cross deck to USS Pearl Harbor and USS OGDEN and deck landing qualifications with helicopters from HC-3.