



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COMSTOCK (LSD-45)
FPO AP 96662-1733

Rec 3/19/93

5750
Ser 00/054
01 Mar 93

From: Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1992

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) Command History for 1992

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. L. Harris".

W. L. HARRIS

SHIP'S MISSION

United States Ship COMSTOCK (LSD 45) is the fifth ship of the WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) class, and the third ship of the class to serve in the Pacific Fleet.

COMSTOCK'S mission is to transport United States Marines with their combat equipment to designated areas around the world, and then to launch and support assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. COMSTOCK can carry four of the new Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC). The LCAC is an assault hovercraft with the ability to exceed 40 knots while carrying a 60 ton payload. Using this new craft, COMSTOCK forces will be able to carry out an amphibious assault against a significantly wider range of beaches and other littoral areas of the world's geography as described in the new Navy whitepaper "...From the Sea".

COMSTOCK accomplishes her mission through the use of a well deck which is flooded to embark and launch assault craft. After leaving the ship, the assault craft are directed towards the shore by the ship's Combat Information Center.

To provide continuing support to the assault force, COMSTOCK is equipped with the Navy's latest advanced technology including updated communication and combat systems, 20-ton and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair facilities, two helicopter landing areas, complete medical and dental facilities and an automated computer based supply system.

IMMEDIATE SENIOR IN COMMAND

Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN

Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)

(W. L. Harris, Jr., CDR, USN/1110)

CHRONOLOGY FOR THE YEAR 1992

15 JAN

UNDERWAY LOCAL SAN DIEGO AREA. CONDUCT MAN OVERBOARD DRILL. SET GQ. CONDUCTED UNREP WITH USNS JOHN ERICSSON.

16-17 JAN

INPORT SAN DIEGO.

18 JAN

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY, CDR R. H. HOWE, THE COMMISSIONING COMMANDING OFFICER, IS RELIEVED BY CDR W. L. HARRIS, JR.

19 JAN - 20 JAN

COMPLETED AN AVIATION READINESS ASSIST VISIT THAT WAS UPGRADED TO AN AVIATION READINESS EXAM.

21 JAN-27 JAN

INPORT SAN DIEGO, PIER 6.

28 JAN

COMPLETED UNDERWATER HULL CLEANING.

29 JAN - 03 FEB

INPORT SAN DIEGO, PIER 6.

4-5 FEB

UNDERWAY INDEPENDENT STEAMING SO CAL. CONDUCTED 50 CAL. & 25 MM GUNNERY EXERCISE. CONDUCTED ISIC ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT.

6 FEB

INPORT SAN DIEGO. COMPHIBRON ONE IS ABOARD FOR LUNCHEON.

7-9 FEB

INPORT SAN DIEGO.

10-11 FEB

EMBARKED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PHOENIX NAVY LEAGUE. UNDERWAY SO CAL FOR LCU OPERATIONS. ANCHORED IN VICINITY OF THE SILVER STRAND.

12 FEB

CONDUCT UNREP WITH USS ROANOKE.

14-17 FEB

INPORT SAN DIEGO.

18-19 FEB

UNDERWAY FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

20 FEB

INPORT TREASURE ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO, TO EMBARK FUEL BARGE FOR
TRANSPORT TO KEY WEST, FL. MOORED AT PIER 1 BERTH 3.

21-23 FEB

UNDERWAY TO SAN DIEGO.

24 FEB

CONDUCTED COMPTUEX (TRUE) TRAINING IN COMPANY WITH COMPHIBRON
ONE.

26 FEB

CONDUCTED LCAC OPERATIONS.

27 FEB

CONDUCTED MODIFIED 1-ALPHA AND FLIGHT QUARTERS.

28 FEB

INPORT SAN DIEGO.

2 MAR

UNDERWAY FOR PORT HUENEME. ARRIVED AT 1843, STBD SIDE TO WHARF.
EMBARK DAMAGED LARCS FOR TRANSPORT TO GULFPORT, MS, FOR REPAIRS.

4 MAR

UNDERWAY FROM FORT HUENEME. CONDUCTED UNREP WITH USNS KAWANISHI.

5-13 MAR

UNDERWAY FOR CANCUN, MX.

14 MAR

TRANSITED THE PANAMA CANAL.

17-21 MAR

ANCHOR CANCUN, MX. LIBERTY PORT.

22 MAR

UNDERWAY FOR KEY WEST, FL.

23 MAR

ARRIVED AT ENTRANCE TO KEY WEST, FL, AND TRANSFERRED FUEL BARGE TO NAVAL STATION AUTHORITIES. DEPARTED KEY WEST. RESPONDED TO DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM SV OSPRY. ONE MAN INJURED WITH BROKEN ARM AND ONE WOMAN NOT INJURED ONBOARD. TRANSFERRED COMSTOCK MEDICAL OFFICER VIA LCPL-2 TO RENDER ASSISTANCE. INJURED MAN TREATED AND TRANSFERRED TO COAST GUARD CUTTER FOR FURTHER TRANSFER TO MAINLAND (FLORIDA).

25 MAR

INPORT GULFPORT. LARC OFFLOAD.

26 MAR

UNDERWAY FROM GULFPORT. ENROUTE TO PANAMA CITY, FL, TO EMBARK FOUR LCAC FOR TRANSPORT TO CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

27 MAR

CONDUCT FLIGHT QUARTERS. ARRIVE PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA. LIBERTY PORT.

30 MAR - 2 APR

UNDERWAY TO PANAMA CANAL. EMBARKED FOUR LCAC.

3 APR

TRANSITED PANAMA CANAL.

4-7 APR

ENROUTE TO ACAPULCO.

8-10 APR

ANCHORED FOR PORT VISIT, ACAPULCO.

11-14 APR

15 APR

DEBARKED LCAC AT CAMP PENDLETON, CA.
UNDERWAY TO SEAL BEACH. CONDUCTED 1-ALPHA OPERATIONS.

16 APR

ARRIVE SEAL BEACH. MOORED STBD SIDE AT THE NAVAL WEAPONS STATION FOR AMMO OFFLOAD.

17 APR

ENROUTE SAN DIEGO.

18-20 APR

INPORT SAN DIEGO

20 APR - 24 APR

COMPLETED EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL SMA/3M INSPECTION.

24 APR - 20 JUL

CONDUCTED PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY AT SOUTHWEST MARINE SHIPYARDS.

04-08 MAY

CONDUCTED MTT PHASE ONE

01-05 JUN

CONDUCTED ISIC ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT

29 JUN - 02 JUL

CONDUCTED MTT PHASE ONE BRAVO

13-15 JUL

CONDUCTED ISIC LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT

21-22 JUL

DEPART SHIPYARDS. UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS.

23 JUL

COMPLETE SEA TRIALS. INPORT SAN DIEGO.

12 AUG

AMMUNITION ONLOAD FROM NAS NORTH ISLAND.

13 AUG

CONDUCTED SEXUAL HARASSMENT STANDDOWN.

14 AUG

COMMENCED FAST CRUISE. FAST CRUISE INCLUDED CONDITIONS 1A, CONDITION IV FOR SECTIONS ONE, TWO AND THREE. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS AND GENERAL QUARTERS. CONDUCTED ABANDON SHIP DRILL.

18 AUG

RENO NAVY LEAGUE/NJROTC REPORT ON BOARD. SPONSORED NAVY LEAGUE DINNER.

19 AUG

UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO TO PICK UP ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

20 AUG

RENO NAVY LEAGUE ADOPTION CEREMONY HELD ON FLIGHT DECK. GQ FOR REFTRA BATTLE PROBLEM/HIT ALPHA CIWS PACFIRE, 50 CAL. SHOOT

21 AUG

ARRIVED NAS ALAMEDA. DEBARKED NJROTC AND RENO NAVY LEAGUE MEMBERS.

25 AUG

COMMENCE ARMY ONLOAD OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TRUCKS, EARTHMOVERS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

27 AUG

RENO NAVY LEAGUE HOLDS PICNIC FOR COMSTOCK AT RENO, NV, IDLEWILD PARK.

31 AUG - 1 SEP

UNDERWAY FROM NAS ALAMEDA. GQ: REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.

2 SEP

ARRIVE SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND. OFFLOAD ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/NIGHT STEAM.

3 SEP

ARRIVE VICINITY DEL MAR BOAT BASIN FOR CAUSEWAY ONLOAD. CAUSEWAY OFFLOAD VICINITY GLORIETTA BAY. COMPLETED CART II INCLUDING TRE AND PTRI. MOORED NAVSTA SAN DIEGO PIER 10.

4 - 6 SEP

INPORT SAN DIEGO.

11 SEP

ATG ARRIVES. CONDUCT ENGINEERING DRILLS SET I & II. GQ: CHECK ZEBRA, TBP, DC DRILLS, VISUAL SIGNALLING DRILLS. UNDERWAY FOR VISIBILITY EXERCISE/SWEPT CHANNEL EXERCISE.

14 SEP

UNDERWAY OFF OF THE SILVER STRAND. CONDUCTED ANNUAL ANCHOR WINDLASS DROP TEST. GQ REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. READY DECK FOR LANDING QUALIFICATIONS.

16 SEP

UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT RAIDEX 1-92. EMBARK MARINE PERSONNEL AT CAMP PENDLETON USING 17 CRRCS AND 14 AAVS. 200 PERSONNEL EMBARKED. GQ: SETTING ZEBRA. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS SUPPORTING RAIDEX 1-92. LAUNCH RAID FORCE.

17 SEP

OFFLOAD BLT 3/1. PRECISION ANCHORING: SILVER STRAND. MOORED SAN DIEGO.

21 SEP

UNDERWAY TO EMBARK LCU; UNDERWAY TO SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND. CONDUCT LCU OPERATIONS. CONDITION 1A.

22 SEP

LCAC OPERATIONS (864TH BACKLOAD)

23 SEP

UNDERWAY FOR UNREP DETAIL WITH USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3). GQ: CBR WALKTHROUGH.

25 SEP

ARRIVE NAS ALAMEDA. CONDUCT LCU OPERATIONS TO OFFLOAD THE ARMY 864TH ENGINEERING BATTALION.

28 SEP

50 MAN WORKING PARTY FOR STORES ONLOAD. MTT ARRIVAL. SELECTED HOT AND COLD CHECKS.

29 SEP - 1 OCT

UNDERWAY TO NORTH ISLAND.

2 OCT

COMPLETED MTT PHASE TWO. ARRIVE NAS NORTH ISLAND FOR AMMO ONLOAD. UNDERWAY FOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.

3 OCT

MOORED SAN DIEGO.

5 OCT

ATG RIDERS ARRIVE. UNDERWAY FOR TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I. ANCHOR ATG ANCHORAGE. EMBARK REMAINING ATG RIDERS. CONDUCT CON-1-EX. PRECISION ANCHORING. DEBARK ATG THEN NIGHT STEAMING.

6 OCT

ANCHOR TO A BUOY OFF OF SILVER STRAND. GQ: PACFIRE/REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING; ABANDON SHIP/EMERGENCY DESTRUCTION. REWS OPERATIONS WITH USS SHILOH OCE. NIGHT STEAM.

7 OCT

EMBARK ATG. CONDUCT CON-1-EX; BATTLE MESSING; ANCHOR DRILLS. DEBARK ATG. UNDERWAY NIGHT STEAM.

8 OCT

UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT DETAIL WITH USNS JOHN ERICSSON AND USS TRUXTON ALSO PARTICIPATING. FORM STEAMING.

9 OCT

MAN OVERBOARD DRILLS. SWEEP CHANNEL EXERCISE. ATG BOAT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY TO SAN DIEGO. MOOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.

13 OCT

UNDERWAY FOR TOW/BE TOWED EXERCISE. HELO CRASH WALK-THRU. CIWS PACFIRE EXERCISE.

14 OCT

ANCHOR/EMBARK ATG RIDERS. UNDERWAY FOR LOW VISIBILITY EXERCISE. CON-1-EX CBR TRAINING. BATTLE MESSING. SWEEP CHANNEL EXERCISE. REMAIN AT ANCHOR OVERNIGHT.

15 OCT

UNDERWAY FOR CON-1-EX FIRE/FLOODING. BATTLE MESSING. DEBARK
ATG. UNDERWAY.

16 OCT

ANCHOR/EMBARK ATG RIDERS. UNDERWAY FOR TOW/BE TOWED EXERCISE.
ANCHOR/DEBARK ATG. MOOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.

19 OCT

COMMENCE COMMAND INSPECTION BY COMPHIBRON SEVEN.

20 OCT

COTHEN REP ARRIVES FOR COTHEN RADIO INSTALLATION. ALL HANDS FALL
IN FOR SUMMER WHITES PERSONNEL INSPECTION.

22 OCT

COMPLETED COMMAND INSPECTION. SHIP OF THE WEEK BRIEF WITH
COMPHIBRON SEVEN. DEPENDENT'S FAIR. OMBUDSMAN/WIVES
APPRECIATION DINNER ON THE TURNTABLE.

26 OCT

COMPHIBRON SEVEN FLAG SHIFT TO USS PEORIA.

27 OCT

PROJECT HANDCLASP PALLET ONLOAD (8). OPERATIONS MEETING WITH USS
CLEVELAND OPERATIONS OFFICER FOR MUTUAL TRAINING.

30 OCT

UNDERWAY FOR MAZATLAN. RENDEZVOUS WITH USS CLEVELAND. CONDUCT
COMMUNICATIONS DRILLS; TACTICAL MANEUVERING; FLASHING LIGHT AND
CHALLENGE AND REPLY.

2 NOV

ARRIVE IN MAZATLAN MEXICO.

3 NOV

HELD LUNCHEON FOR LOCAL DIGNITARIES.

4 NOV

HOLD COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT HANDCLASP AND HOLD SHIP'S TOURS.

6 NOV

UNDERWAY FOR COUNTERNARCOTIC OPERATIONS.

13 NOV

GQ: BATTLE PROBLEM/25MM GUN SHOOT

15 NOV

STEEL BEACH PICNIC HELD ON FLIGHT DECK.

16 NOV

ARRIVE RODMAN, PANAMA FOR REFUELING. UNDERWAY TO CONTINUE DRUG OPERATIONS.

19 NOV

HELD CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONIES. CROSSED THE EQUATOR.

20-25 NOV

UNDERWAY IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERNARCOTIC OPERATIONS

26 NOV

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING.

28 NOV

MOORED NAVSTA RODMAN. LIBERTY PORT.

30 NOV

REFUELING EVOLUTION.

1 DEC

UNDERWAY IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS. GQ: STATION TRAINING.

2 DEC

HELD FLIGHT QUARTERS: LOG HELO FROM USS RENTZ.

4 DEC

GQ: BATTLE PROBLEM/DAMAGE CONTROL/CIWS SHOOT.

6 DEC

10

HELD STEEL BEACH PICNIC ON FLIGHT DECK.

9 DEC

SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATION ON THE FLIGHT DECK.

10 DEC

CONDUCT SAFETY STANDDOWN. SET CONDITION III.

12 DEC

HELD GQ: MASS CONFLAG BATTLE PROBLEM/ABANDON SHIP DRILL.

13 DEC

SET CONDITION 1 ALPHA - WET WELL & FLIGHT QUARTERS.

14 DEC

SMALL ARMS TRAINING - .45 CALIBER AND SHOTGUN ON THE FLIGHT DECK.

15 DEC

SMALL ARMS TRAINING - .45 CALIBER AND M-14 ON THE FLIGHT DECK.

17 DEC

CUSTOMS INSPECTION FOR ENTERING PORT. SET CONDITION 1 ALPHA FOR CONVENTIONAL BOAT OPERATIONS/FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

18 DEC

CONDUCT UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN ERICSSON. ARRIVE NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. COMMENCE FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.

NARRATIVE

JANUARY WAS AS MUCH A NEW BEGINNING FOR COMSTOCK AS IT WAS FOR THE YEAR. AFTER RESTING UP FROM THE 1991 DEPLOYMENT, THE FIRST MAJOR ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS THE CHANGE OF COMMAND. CDR W.L. HARRIS, JR. RELIEVED CDR R.H. HOWE AS COMMANDING OFFICER AND IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT THE TASKS AT HAND.

EARLY FEBRUARY SAW THE FIRST UNDERWAY FOR NEW CAPTAIN AND CREW. TWO DAYS AT SEA FOR GUNNERY EXERCISES WAS NUMBER ONE ON THE AGENDA FOLLOWED BY WETWELL OPS ALONG THE SILVER STRAND AND AN UNREP. THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY WAS SPENT TRAVELING TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR ONE DAY OF LIBERTY. THE TRANSIT TIME WAS FILLED WITH TRAINING IN FLIGHT, WETWELL, AND CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS.

THE FIRST BIG JOURNEY OF THE YEAR WAS A TRIP TO THE NOW FAMILIAR PORT OF PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA. STOPPING IN PORT HUENEME TO TAKE ON SOME LARCS AND SAN FRANCISCO TO EMBARK A FUEL BARGE, COMSTOCK FILLED HER TANKS ALONGSIDE THE USNS KAWANISHI AND BEGAN THE 12,000 NM ROUND TRIP. THIS VOYAGE INCLUDED COMSTOCK'S FOURTH AND FIFTH TRANSIT OF THE PANAMA CANAL AND SOME WELL-DESERVED LIBERTY ANCHORED IN CANCUN, MEXICO. STOPPING BRIEFLY OUTSIDE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, TO TRANSFER THE FUEL BARGE TO THE NAVAL STATION, THE SHIP PROCEEDED TO GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI TO OFFLOAD THE LARCS, THEN SET SAIL FOR HER FINAL DESTINATION OF PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA. AFTER A FEW DAYS TO ENJOY THE FLORIDA SURROUNDINGS WHICH WERE SHARED BY THOUSANDS OF SPRING-BREAK TOURISTS, COMSTOCK EMBARKED FOUR LCAC FOR TRANSPORT TO CAMP PENDLETON, CA. THE TRIP INCLUDED A RETURN THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL FOLLOWED BY A PORT VISIT TO ACAPULCO. ACAPULCO WAS FOLLOWED THE OFFLOAD OF LCAC AT CAMP PENDLETON AND A ONE-DAY STAY IN SEAL BEACH TO OFFLOAD AMMO. FOLLOWING THE OFFLOAD, COMSTOCK SET SAIL FOR HOME AND SAN DIEGO'S SOUTHWEST MARINE FOR THE PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY WHICH LASTED UNTIL 20 JULY.

IT WAS GOOD TO BE AT SEA AGAIN AFTER THE THREE MONTH PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY ALTHOUGH THE RIGOROUS PACE OF SEA TRIALS LEFT LITTLE TIME FOR REFLECTION. THE CREW PUT THE COMSTOCK TO THE TEST AND SHE WAS FOUND TO BE FIT AS EVER. ONLOADING AMMUNITION AT NORTH ISLAND WAS FOLLOWED SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY THE 14 AUGUST FAST CRUISE, GEARING UP FOR ANOTHER COMPETITIVE CYCLE AND MAKING ALL FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR SOME TRUE STEAMING TIME. THE FIRST OPLIFT SINCE PMA WAS A JAUNT UP TO NAS ALAMEDA TO PICK UP ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSPORT TO SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND. THE RENO NAVY LEAGUE WAS ONBOARD FOR THE TRIP TO ALAMEDA. THEIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A CEREMONY IN WHICH THE RENO NAVY LEAGUE ADOPTED THE SHIP AND CREW OF COMSTOCK ON THE FLIGHT DECK AND A LITTLE SHOW OF COMSTOCK'S CIWS AND .50 CAL GUNFIRE CAPABILITY, CULMINATING IN A PICNIC FOR THE CREW AT RENO IDLEWILD PARK ONCE IN PORT ALAMEDA.

ON 2 SEPTEMBER THE ARMY EQUIPMENT WAS OFFLOADED ONTO SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, BUT BEFORE RETURNING HOME, COMSTOCK TRANSFERRED A CAUSEWAY FROM DEL MAR BOAT BASIN TO GLORIETTA BAY. IN MID-SEPTEMBER THE PACE PICKED UP IN EARNEST. EMBARKING ATG ON MONDAY THE 11TH, COMSTOCK SPENT A HARD WEEK OF TRAINING BY RUNNING DRILLS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT, DAWN TO DUSK, AND THEN SOME. THE NEXT WEEK WAS SPENT IN SUPPORT OF RAIDEX 1-92, INVOLVING 200 EMBARKED MARINES AND OVER 30 LANDING CRAFT. WITH LITTLE TIME TO REST, COMSTOCK BACKLOADED THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS EQUIPMENT FROM SAN CLEMENTE AND DELIVERED IT TO ALAMEDA NAVAL AIR STATION TWO DAYS LATER.

AFTER RETURNING TO SAN DIEGO AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER SAW THE CREW CONTINUE TO HONE THEIR DAMAGE CONTROL AND WARFIGHTING SKILLS FOR TWO MORE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING PRIOR

TO THE MINI-DEPLOYMENT TO CENTRAL AMERICA FOR COUNTER-NARCOTIC OPERATIONS. LONG OVERDUE BUT DELIVERED IN STYLE WAS THE DEPENDENT'S FAIR HELD ONBOARD 22 OCTOBER WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY AN OMBUDSMAN/WIVES APPRECIATION DINNER HELD ON THE TURNTABLE. THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER WAS SPENT MAKING FINAL UNDERWAY PREPARATIONS, AND BEFORE THE MONTH WAS OVER THE CREW LEFT HOME AGAIN FOR FIFTY DAYS.

NOVEMBER WAS A MONTH OF NEW EXPERIENCES AS COMSTOCK ARRIVED IN MAZATLAN, MEXICO. HOSTING SEVERAL LOCAL DIGNITARIES, PROVIDING TOURS FOR HUNDREDS OF VISITORS, AND DELIVERING PALLETS OF PROJECT HANDCLASP MATERIALS, THE SHIP AND CREW OUTDID THEMSELVES IN SPREADING GOODWILL AND A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND HER NAVY. COMSTOCK SPENT THE REST OF THE MONTH WATCHING AND REPORTING SUSPECTED NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, WHILE MAXIMIZING THE AT-SEA OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN AND PREPARE FOR THE OPPE WHICH WOULD BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE MONTH ALSO INCLUDED THE SHIPS SECOND CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY AND THE MORE WIDELY KNOWN (BUT NOT AS SALTY) THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION. AFTER ENJOYING A FEW DAYS IN RODMAN, PANAMA FOR LIBERTY AND REFUELING, THE COUNTER NARCOTICS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING CONTINUED INTO THE MIDDLE OF DECEMBER.

TO THE TUNE OF MOTLEY CRUE'S "HOME SWEET HOME" COMSTOCK BROKE AWAY FROM THE USNS JOHN ERICSSON AND RETURNED TO HER HOMEPORT OF SAN DIEGO ON 18 DECEMBER TO BEGIN THE WELL EARNED HOLIDAY LEAVE. THOUGH ONLY HER SECOND FULL YEAR IN COMMISSION, THE CREW HAD PROVEN ON EVERY OCCASION THAT COMSTOCK HAD THE TEAMWORK, DRIVE AND COURAGE TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE PLACED BEFORE HER. AT YEARS END THE FUTURE IS NOT CERTAIN, BUT MORE TRAINING AVAILABILITIES, EXERCISES, AN OPPE, AND AN ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT ARE IN THE WORKS. HAVING EXPERIENCED THE GREATEST OPTEMPO OF ANY SHIP IN THE SQUADRON, COMSTOCK HAS SECURED HER PLACE AS THE NAVY'S PREMIER GATOR, AND EAGERLY AWAITS THE TRIALS THAT LIE AHEAD.