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

5750  
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LB APR 1995

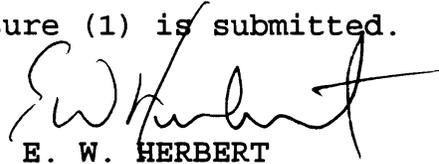
From: Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) Command History for 1994

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

  
E. W. HERBERT

## 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 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 "Forward...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 Group THREE

Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)

E. W. Herbert, III, CDR, USN/1110

### CHRONOLOGY FOR THE YEAR 1994

1 - 31 JAN	SOMALIA OPERATIONS ISO OPERATION RESTORE HOPE
1 - 6 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PHUKET, THAILAND
7 - 11 FEB	PORT VISIT PHUKET, THAILAND
12 - 17 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE HONG KONG
18 - 21 FEB	PORT VISIT HONG KONG
22 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SASEBO, JAPAN
23 - 24 FEB	PORT VISIT SASEBO, JAPAN/LCAC SWAP OUT
25 FEB - 6 MAR	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

7 - 8 MAR PORT VISIT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII/PICKUP TIGERS  
 9 - 16 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE CAMP PANDELTON/TIGER CRUISE  
 17 MAR MARINE OFFLOAD CAMP PANDELTON  
 18 MAR HOMECOMING, SAN DIEGO  
 19 MAR-17 APR POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD  
 18 - 20 APR UNDERWAY MATERIAL INSPECTION (UMI) REHEARSAL  
 21 - 25 APR INPORT SAN DIEGO (INSURV PREPS)  
 26 - 28 APR UNDERWAY MATERIAL INSPECTION (UMI) REHEARSAL  
 29 APR - 1 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 2 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO (INSURV)  
 3 MAY INSURV UNDERWAY MATERIAL INSPECTION (UMI)  
 4 - 6 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO (INSURV)  
 7 -15 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO AVAILABILITY PERIOD  
 16 MAY DEAD STICK MOVE TO SOUTHWEST MARINE PIER 3  
 17 MAY MARJORIE STERRETT BATTLESHIP AWARD FUND  
 PRESENTATION BY COMNAVSURFPAC  
 17 MAY-16 AUG PMA/WOMEN AT SEA PROGRAM INTEGRATION/EMBARK WOMEN  
 CREWMEMBERS  
 10 - 12 AUG LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT (LOA)  
 15 AUG FASTCRUISE/DOCKTRIALS  
 16 - 17 AUG UNDERWAY CART IIA  
 18 - 21 AUG INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 22 - 26 AUG CART IIB (INPORT)  
 27 AUG - 1 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 2 SEP AVIATION ASSIST VISIT  
 3 - 5 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 6 - 7 SEP CART II (INPORT)

8 - 9 SEP UNDERWAY CART II  
 10 - 11 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 12 - 16 SEP UNDERWAY SOCIAL  
 12 SEP AMMO ONLOAD (PIER BRAVO)  
 17 - 25 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 26 SEP - 2 OCT TSTA I (INPORT)  
 3 - 7 OCT UNDERWAY TSTA I  
 8 - 10 OCT INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 11 -14 OCT UNDERWAY TSTA I  
 15 - 16 OCT INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 17 - 21 OCT UNDERWAY TSTA I  
 22 OCT-17 NOV INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 24 - 28 OCT ENGINEERING READINESS REVIEW. SCLISIS VALIDATION.  
 14 - 17 NOV TSTA II INPORT  
 18 - 23 NOV TSTA IV UNDERWAY/AMPHIB REFTRA  
 24 - 27 NOV INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 28 NOV - 2 DEC TSTA II UNDERWAY  
 5 - 9 DEC FEP UNDERWAY  
 10 - 11 DEC INPORT SAN DIEGO  
 12 - 14 DEC UNDERWAY SOCIAL FOR AAV/FLIGHT OPERATIONS  
 15 - 31 DEC HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD

**NARRATIVE**

COMSTOCK SPENT THE FIRST MONTH OF 1994 OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION RESTORE HOPE, CONDUCTING OVER 190 AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS. COMSTOCK PERFORMED DUTIES AS MOGADISHU AIR CONTROL, CONTROLLING OVER 4,400 AIRCRAFT IN AND OUT OF MOGADISHU THAT BROUGHT U.N. AND U.S. TROOPS AND SUPPLIES. ADDITIONALLY, COMSTOCK LANDED 23,861,500 POUNDS OF EQUIPMENT VIA LCAC AND FERRIED 4,485 PASSENGERS AND OVER 1,500 VEHICLES.

DEPLOYMENT WAS EXTENDED FOR TWO WEEKS AND COMSTOCK BEGAN HER TRANSIT BACK TO HER HOMEPORT IN SAN DIEGO ON 1 FEB. ON THE WAY HOME COMSTOCK STOPPED IN PHUKET, THAILAND AND HONG KONG FOR PORT VISITS. SHE ALSO VISITED SASEBO, JAPAN BRIEFLY TO SWAP OUT LCAC. ON 7 MAR COMSTOCK ARRIVED IN HAWAII AND PICKED UP HER TIGERS FOR THE FINAL LEG BACK TO SAN DIEGO. JUST PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN SAN DIEGO, COMSTOCK MADE A BRIEF STOP AT CAMP PENDELTON TO OFFLOAD LCAC AND MARINE EQUIPMENT. COMSTOCK ENJOYED A WELL DESERVED HOMECOMING ON 18 MAR.

RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT BEGAN A ONE MONTH LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD. IN APRIL SHE WAS UNDERWAY ONCE AGAIN IN PREPARATION FOR INSURV. THE INSURV WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. MANY INSPECTORS COMMENTED THAT COMSTOCK WAS THE BEST SHIP THEY HAD EVER INSPECTED.

COMSTOCK MOVED TO SOUTHWEST MARINE SHIPYARD ON 16 MAY TO BEGIN A THREE MONTH MAINTENANCE PERIOD. DURING THIS PERIOD, COMSTOCK EMBARKED THE FIRST FEMALE CREWMEMBERS TO SERVE ABOARD A NAVSURFPAC COMBATANT VESSEL. ON 17 MAY, VICE ADMIRAL ROBINSON, COMNAVSURFPAC, VISITED COMSTOCK TO PRESENT THE MARJORIE STERRETT BATTLESHIP FUND AWARD FOR HER SELECTION AS THE MOST COMBAT READY SHIP IN THE PACIFIC FLEET.

IN AUGUST, COMSTOCK LEFT THE SHIPYARD AND BEGAN HER PRE-DEPLOYMENT WORKUPS COMMENCING WITH LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT (LOA) IN EARLY AUGUST. CART II FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY IN MID AUGUST. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER COMSTOCK COMPLETED AN AVIATION ASSIST VISIT (AAV) WHICH WAS UPGRADED TO AN AVIATION READINESS EXAMINATION (ARE). COMSTOCK SPENT THE REST OF SEPTEMBER COMPLETING THE CART PROCESS WHICH LED INTO THE TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TSTA) ON 26 SEPTEMBER. MOST OF OCTOBER WAS SPENT COMPLETING THE TSTA I PHASE OF PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING. ON 24 OCTOBER COMSTOCK BECAME THE FIRST PACIFIC FLEET SHIP TO GO THROUGH AN ENGINEERING READINESS REVIEW (ERR). ERR IS DESIGNED TO TAKE AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT THE ENGINEERING PLANT AND FINE TUNE IT. COMSTOCK SPENT THE WEEK OF 14 NOVEMBER UNDERGOING THE INPORT TSTA II TRAINING PHASE. SHE SPENT THE FOLLOWING WEEK UNDERWAY COMPLETING THE TSTA IV PHASE. THE WEEK OF 28 NOVEMBER WAS SPENT UNDERWAY COMPLETING THE TSTA II UNDERWAY PHASE. COMSTOCK COMPLETED THE TSTA PROCESS WITH THE FINAL EVALUATION PHASE (FEP) UNDERWAY DURING THE WEEK OF 5 DECEMBER.

COMSTOCK'S LAST UNDERWAY PERIOD FOR 1994 WAS SPENT IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATING AREA HONING HER AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE EXPERTISE DURING THE WEEK OF 12 DECEMBER. UPON RETURN COMSTOCK BEGAN A WELL DESERVED HOLIDAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD.