



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

5750

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) Command History for 1995

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Whalen".

D. WHALEN

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):

D. Whalen, CDR, USN/1110

CHRONOLOGY FOR THE YEAR 1995

JAN 1 - 3	INPORT SAN DIEGO
JAN 4 - 6	SOCAL OPS/ECC DRILLS
JAN 7 - 8	INPORT SAN DIEGO
JAN 9 - 22	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JAN 23 - 26	TSTA III/SOCAL OP AREA
JAN 27 - 30	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JAN 31	TSTA III/SOCAL OPAREA
FEB 1	TSTA III/SOCAL OPAREA
FEB 2 - 6	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP

FEB 7	OPPE/INPORT SAN DIEGO
FEB 8 - 9	OPPE/SOCAL OPAREA
FEB 10 - 16	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
FEB 17 - 23	COMPTUEX: SOCAL 95-6M
FEB 24 - 26	INPORT SAN DIEGO
FEB 27 - 28	FEP/SOCAL OPAREA
MAR 1 - 3	FEP/SOCAL OPAREA
MAR 4 - 5	INPORT SAN DIEGO
MAR 6 - 10	FEP/SOCAL OPAREA
MAR 11 - 12	INPORT SAN DIEGO
MAR 13 - 22	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
MAR 23	INPORT TSTM: SAN DIEGO
MAR 24 - 31	EXERCISE KERNEL BLITZ 95/COMPTUEX 95 - 7M
APR 1 - 2	INPORT SAN DIEGO
APR 3 - 7	FLEETEX: SOCAL FLEETEX 95-1
APR 8 - 9	INPORT SAN DIEGO
APR 10 - 14	SOCAL CSRR MAINTENANCE
APR 15 - 16	INPORT SAN DIEGO
APR 17 - 21	CSRR: SOCAL
APR 22 - 23	INPORT SAN DIEGO
APR 24 - 30	FLEETEX: SOCAL FLEETEX 95 - 1M2
MAY 1 - 19	FLEETEX: SOCAL FLEETEX 95 - 1M2
MAY 20 - 31	INPORT SAN DIEGO/POM PERIOD
JUN 1 - 18	INPORT SAN DIEGO/POM PERIOD
JUN 19	CHANGE OF COMMAND
JUN 19 - 22	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JUN 23	UNDERWAY WESTPAC 95/ENROUTE OKINAWA
JUN 24	MARINE ONLOAD (CAMP PENDLETON)

JUN 25 - JUL 17	UNDERWAY ENROUTE HONG KONG
JUL 17 - 21	PORT VISIT HONG KONG
JUL 22 - 25	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SINGAPORE
JUL 26 - 30	PORT VISIT SINGAPORE
JUL 31 - AUG 14	UNDERWAY ENROUTE ARABIAN SEA/GULF OPERATING AREA/RED SEA
AUG 15 - 30	EXERCISE INFINITE MOONLIGHT (US/JORDAN JOINT OPERATIONS)
AUG 15 - 20	PORT VISIT AQABA, JORDAN/MARINE OFFLOAD
AUG 20 - 24	UNDERWAY RED SEA/OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF EXERCISE INFINITE MOONLIGHT
AUG 24 - 30	PORT VISIT AQABA, JORDAN/MARINE ONLOAD
AUG 30 - SEP 8	UNDERWAY ENROUTE JEBEL ALI
SEP 6 - 7	TRANSIT STRAITS OF HORMUZ
SEP 8 - 18	PORT VISIT JEBEL ALI/MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
SEP 19 - 21	UNDERWAY ENROUTE KUWAIT
SEP 22 - OCT 3	UNDERWAY PERSIAN GULF ISO EXERCISE EAGER MACE 96-1
OCT 4 - 9	PORT VISIT KUWAIT/MARINE ONLOAD
OCT 10 - 20	UNDERWAY ENROUTE BAHRAIN
OCT 10 - 16	OPERATIONS ISO EXERCISE NEON FALCON/ INTEGRATED OPS W/INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP
OCT 17 - 20	OPERATIONS ARABIAN GULF
OCT 20 - 23	PORT VISIT BAHRAIN
OCT 24 - 26	UNDERWAY ENROUTE JEBEL ALI/ OPERATIONS CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF
OCT 27 - NOV 5	PORT VISIT JEBEL ALI/UPKEEP/WASHDOWN
NOV 6 - 20	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PERTH, AUSTRALIA
NOV 6	TRANSIT STRAITS OF HORMUZ
NOV 6 - 10	TRANSIT NORTH ARABIAN SEA/GULF OF OMAN
NOV 11 - 19	INDIAN OCEAN OPERATIONS

NOV 20 - 25	PORT VISIT PERTH, AUSTRALIA
NOV 26 - DEC 14	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
DEC 14	PORT VISIT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII/PICK UP TIGERS
DEC 15 - 21	UNDERWAY ENROUTE CAMP PENDLETON/TIGER CRUISE
DEC 21	MARINE OFFLOAD CAMP PENDLETON
DEC 22	HOMECOMING
DEC 22 - 31	POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD

NARRATIVE

COMSTOCK began the new year full steam ahead, conducting the TSTA III portion of pre-deployment workups and OPPE preparations by the end of January. After a brief inport period in San Diego, COMSTOCK sailed through OPPE in the beginning of February and passed with flying colors.

COMSTOCK spent much of February underway in the SOCAL oparea, participating in COMPTUEX 95-6M and successfully completing the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) in early March.

Having completed all of the pre-underway workups, COMSTOCK was ready to begin the next phase of pre-deployment workups by participating in real-world scenario exercises with the NEW ORLEANS ARG and members of the 5th MEU from Camp Pendleton in KERNAL BLITZ 95/COMPTUEX 95-7M.

As April began, COMSTOCK was underway again, this time in support of FLEETEX 95-1 in Southern California. The middle of April brought the highly successful combat systems readiness review. On April 24, COMSTOCK was again underway, participating in FLEETEX 95-1M2. Upon completion of FLEETEX 95-1M2 on May 19, COMSTOCK returned to San Diego to take a well deserved break with a pre-deployment standdown from 20 May to 18 June.

For those Sailors not on leave, final preparations for deployment were made, and preparations for the upcoming change of command were completed. COMSTOCK got underway June 17 for a guest cruise to give friends and relatives an idea of what shipboard life is like.

On 19 June, a change of command ceremony was held in COMSTOCK. CDR D. WHALEN relieved CDR E.W. Herbert and assumed the duties of Commanding Officer. COMSTOCK departed San Diego on 23 June to commence WESTPAC 95.

On June 24, COMSTOCK made a brief stop at Camp Pendleton to onload Marines, then began the transit across the Pacific Ocean. COMSTOCK participated in amphibious operations off the coast of Okinawa. Upon completion of the amphibious exercises, COMSTOCK proceeded to Hong Kong to enjoy a liberty port. While in Hong Kong, the Sailors and Marines enjoyed the shopping and tourism offered by this busy city. After leaving Hong Kong, COMSTOCK proceeded south to Singapore. COMSTOCK anchored in the man-of-war anchorage and the crew set out on liberty. After departing Singapore, COMSTOCK began her transit to Aqaba, Jordan. COMSTOCK was diverted by some rough weather and re-visited some familiar waters off the coast of Somalia, as the ARG worked their way across the Indian Ocean and into the Red Sea. In August 95, COMSTOCK arrived in Aqaba, Jordan to participate in the previously scheduled exercise INFINITE MOONLIGHT. This joint exercise between U.S. And Jordanian armed forces came at a critical time as two top Iraqi officials fled their parent country to seek refuge in Jordan. The exercise was a huge success, and COMSTOCK again showed her professionalism as she offloaded all Marine Corps equipment by crane. The Sailors and Marines of COMSTOCK toured the Aqaba area as well as the ancient city of Petra. This visit gave many Sailors and Marines their first glimpse of the Middle East.

Upon the completion of exercise INFINITE MOONLIGHT, COMSTOCK was underway again, this time to the Arabian Gulf. COMSTOCK and the ARG were escorted through the Straits of Hormuz without incident and proceeded to Jebel Ali for some much needed maintenance and recreation. Following the maintenance availability in Jebel Ali, COMSTOCK sailed up the Arabian Gulf to Kuwait City, to participate in exercise EAGER MACE. The Marines were offloaded pierside, using a combination of LCAC and crane operations. COMSTOCK Sailors were able to spend a few days touring Kuwait City and visiting the army post, Camp Doha. While the Marines were participating in exercise EAGER MACE in Kuwait, COMSTOCK got underway to participate in integrated operations with USS INDEPENDENCE battle group. COMSTOCK returned to Kuwait to onload the Marines in early October. After leaving Kuwait, COMSTOCK participated in exercise NEON FALCON with Bahrain. COMSTOCK conducted a brief port visit in Bahrain before proceeding to Jebel Ali for some final maintenance before leaving the Arabian Gulf in early November.

COMSTOCK made another transit of the Straits of Hormuz without incident on NOV 6, enroute to Perth, Australia. COMSTOCK reached Perth on NOV 20, and spent the week of Thanksgiving enjoying the liberty. Once COMSTOCK departed Perth, she proceeded back to the United States. COMSTOCK arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 14 to pick up guests for the Tiger Cruise. The Tigers accompanied COMSTOCK for her return voyage from Pearl Harbor to San Diego, participating in numerous pre-planned activities and demonstrations. COMSTOCK made a brief stop off Camp Pendleton to offload the Marine Corps equipment and LCAC. COMSTOCK returned to San Diego on December 22 and was

showered with a fabulous welcome home greeting by the friends and families of COMSTOCK. The year was concluded with a leave and upkeep period.