



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 1996
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) Command History for 1996
1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


G. S. JACKSON

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 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. The well deck can be flooded up to 6 feet forward and 10 feet aft when embarking or launching 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 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 1996	
JAN 1-22	POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP
JAN 23-FEB 04	INPORT SAN DIEGO
FEB 5	START OF DPMA/ENTER DRY DOCK
FEB 9	CREW MOVE ASHORE/UNDOCK
MAR 1-31	DOCK PHASED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (DPMA)
MAR 20	MACHINERY PACKAGE COMPLETE
MAR 21	SHIP RETURN TO NAVSTA

Encl (1)

APR 1-31	DPMA
APR 19	PRE LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT (PLOA)
APR 20-30	UNDOCK
MAY 1-3	DPMA/SAFE TO START ASSESSMENT
MAY 6	DPMA/SAN DIEGO AERONAUTICAL SHIPBOARD INSTALLATION REPRESENTATIVE (ASIR) TECH ASSIST
MAY 7	DPMA/MACHINERY SPACE LOOKOUT SAN DIEGO ASIR TECH ASSIST/PLOA II
MAY 8-10	DPMA/SAN DIEGO ASIR TECH ASSIST/PLOA II
MAY 13-17	DPMA/ASIR/SAN DIEGO
MAY 17	DPMA/SAN DIEGO/AAV
MAY 19-20	DPMA
MAY 21-23	DPMA/LOA/SAN DIEGO
MAY 24	DPMA/LOA/PROPULSION PLANT
MAY 28	DPMA/DOCK TRIALS/CREW CERTIFICATION
MAY 29	FAST CRUISE
JUNE 3-5	DPMA/SOCAL/SEA TRIALS
JUNE 6-7	END OF DPMA/SAN DIEGO/DELIVER SHIP
JUNE 8-9	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JUNE 10-11	SAN DIEGO DOCKSIDE UNREP SIMULATOR/INPORT SAN DIEGO/ UPKEEP/LOGISTICS ASSESSMENT TRAINING REVIEW (LATR)/SAN DIEGO CHT INSPECTION
JUNE 12-14	SAN DIEGO LATR/SAN DIEGO CHT INSPECTION/UPKEEP

Encl (2)

JUNE 17-21	SAN DIEGO COMMANDERS' ASSESSMENT OF READINESS AND TRAINING (CART) PHASE TWO INPORT
JUNE 22-24	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP/ARE
JUNE 25	AMMO ONLOAD NORTH ISLAND/AMPHIB OPS
JUNE 26-28	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AMPHIBS/HELICOPTER OPS
JUNE 29-30	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JUL 1-14	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
JUL 15-19	CART II
JUL 20-21	INPORT SAN DIEGO
JUL 22-26	TAILORED SHIPS TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TSTA) I- U/W
JUL 27-28	INPORT SAN DIEGO
JUL 29-AUG 2	TSTA I-U/W
AUG 3-4	INPORT SAN DIEGO
AUG 5-9	TSTA I-U/W
AUG 10-31	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
SEP 1-8	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
SEP 9-13	TSTA II-INPORT
SEP 14-15	INPORT SAN DIEGO
SEP 16-20	TSTA II-U/W
SEP 21-22	INPORT SAN DIEGO
SEP 23-27	TSTA II-U/W
SEP 28-29	INPORT SAN DIEGO

Encl (1)

SEP 30-OCT 4	TSTA I-U/W/GUEST CRUISE
OCT 5-8	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
OCT 9-11	U/W TRANSIT: NORTH PAC/EMBARK NJROTC CADETS
OCT 12-15	PVST: SAN FRANCISCO-FLEET WEEK
OCT 16-18	U/W TRANSIT: NORTH PAC
OCT 19-23	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
OCT 24	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP/VISIT SHIP
OCT 25	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
OCT 26-27	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
OCT 28	TSTA I-INPORT
OCT 29-NOV 1	TSTA I-U/W/NJROTC EMBARK
NOV 2-3	INPORT SAN DIEGO/UPKEEP
NOV 4	TSTA I-INPORT
NOV 5-8	TSTA I-U/W/GUEST CRUISE
NOV 9-11	INPORT SAN DIEGO
NOV 12-20	INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (IMAV)/AVAIL
NOV 21	VISIT SHIP/IMAV
NOV 22	SAFETY STANDDOWN/IMAV
NOV 23-30	IMAV
DEC 1	IMAV
DEC 2-6	TSTA II-INPORT
DEC 7-8	INPORT SAN DIEGO
DEC 9 Encl (1)	TSTA II-INPORT

DEC 10-13	TSTA II-U/W/GUEST CRUISE
DEC 14-15	INPORT SAN DIEGO
DEC 16	TSTA II-INPORT
DEC 17	NJROTC EMBARK
DEC 17-20	TSTA II-U/W
DEC 21-27	HOLIDAY UPKEEP
DEC 28-29	VISIT SHIP/HOLIDAY UPKEEP
DEC 30-31	HOLIDAY UPKEEP

Encl (1)

NARRATIVE

This was a year of interdeployment maintenance and limited operations for COMSTOCK. In December 1995, COMSTOCK returned from WESTPAC 95 and the crew enjoyed a month of post deployment leave and upkeep during January.

From February through June the ship was involved with Docked Phased Maintenance Avail (DPMA). In early February, COMSTOCK entered dry-dock and the crew moved ashore to facilitate DPMA.

In the later part of March, the machinery package was complete and the ship returned to Naval Station.

In April COMSTOCK, commenced Pre Light Off Assessment (PLOA) operations and undocked from April 20-30.

May 1st marked the beginning of the Safe to Steam Assessment. The majority of the month was spent doing Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representative (ASIR) while the ship was in San Diego. On the 17th COMSTOCK finished ASIR. The month ended with LOA and dock trials. The Crew Certification also took place.

June kicked off with operations of the coast of Southern California. On June 6 DPMA took place in San Diego followed by a few days inport for upkeep. The next couple days were extremely busy for the crew. While dockside in San Diego the crew received training on underway replenishments with a simulator. Logistics Assessment Training Review (LATR) was conducted and a CHT inspection took place. In the middle of June, the Commander's Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase Two (CART II) inport commenced. The Aviation Recertification Exam followed. On June 25, the ship conducted amphibious operations and ammunition was loaded at NAS North Island. Southern California amphibious operations along with helicopter operations wrapped up the month of June.

On July 15-19, CART II phase two began while the ship was inport.

The majority of July, August and September were spent conducting Tailored Ship's Training Availabilities both in port and underway in the social opareas.

COMSTOCK was underway for a guest cruise from October 1-4. On October 9 the ship was underway for exercise NORTH PAC to embark Navy Junior ROTC students enroute San Francisco. After completing CART II and Tailored Ships Training Assessment (TSTA) I and II, COMSTOCK participated in Fleet Week in San Francisco.

COMSTOCK was the designated visit ship for the people of San Diego on October 24. More Navy Junior ROTC students checked on board to experience life at sea. A guest cruise took place on November 5-8. This provided a once in a lifetime opportunity with family members to experience firsthand what the US Navy was all about.

On November 12 the ship conducted an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV.)

The crew received training in various topics during the Safety Standown on November 22. Topics included Damage Control, Hearing Conservation, Respiratory Protection, and Electrical Safety. The rest of the month consisted of a continuing IMAV.

COMSTOCK welcomed more guests and ROTC members on board during the month of December. The last days of the year consisted of holiday leave and upkeep.

Encl (1)