



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) COMMAND HISTORY for 1998

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

[Handwritten Signature]
E. BARFIELD

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 and combat equipment to designated areas around the world. Forces are launched using assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. COMSTOCK is capable of carrying four Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCACs) which have the ability to exceed 40 knots while carrying a 60-ton payload. Using this craft, COMSTOCK is able to conduct amphibious assaults against a significantly wider range of beaches and other littoral areas of the world's geography as described in "Forward....From the Sea."

LCACs and other assault craft are handled in the ship's well deck which floods up to ten feet. After the landing craft heads out to sea, the ship's Combat Information Center takes control and directs them to shore.

To provide continuing support to the assault force, COMSTOCK is equipped with the Navy's latest advanced technology including updated communication and combat system, 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. Barfield, CDR, USN/xxxx

CHRONOLOGY

1-4 JAN	INPORT KUWAIT
1-6 JAN	OPERATION "EAGER MACE"
5-6 JAN	UNDERWAY ENROUTE JEBEL ALI
7-9 JAN	INPORT JEBEL ALI
10 JAN	UNDERWAY STRAITS OF HORMUZ TRANSIT
11-18 JAN	UNDERWAY OPERATIONS INDIAN OCEAN
19 JAN	INPORT PORT BLAIR, INDIA
20-21 JAN	UNDERWAY OPERATIONS INDIAN OCEAN
22-24 JAN	INPORT PENANG, MALAYSIA
25-28 JAN	UNDERWAY ENROUTE BALI, INDONESIA
28 JAN	CROSS EQUATOR
29 JAN-02 FEB	INPORT BALI, INDONESIA
3-8 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE GUAM
9 FEB	INPORT GUAM
9-11 FEB	MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT
10-17 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
18-19 FEB	INPORT PEARL HARBOR
20-26 FEB	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO
27 FEB- 29 MAR	INPORT SAN DIEGO POST DEPLOYMENT UPKEEP
30 MAR- 1APR	UNDERWAY PRE-INSURV
2-6 APR	INPORT SAN DIEGO
6-10 APR	INSURV

7 APR UNDERWAY INSURV

11-26 APR INPORT SAN DIEGO

27-28 APR UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN FRANCISCO

29 APR- 3 MAY INPORT SAN FRANCISCO

4-6 MAY UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO

7-17 MAY INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

18 MAY-22 JULY PLANNED MAINTENANCE ASSESSEMENT:
RAM/SSDS INSTALL

1-5 JUNE PRE-LIGHT OFF TRAINING I/II

22-26 JUNE PRE-LIGHT OFF TRAINING III

23-25 JULY UNDERWAY SEA TRIALS

26-30 JULY INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

31 JULY-3 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE EVERETT, WASHINGTON

4 AUGUST INPORT EVERETT

5 AUGUST UNDERWAY ENROUTE SEATTLE

6-9 AUG INPORT SEATTLE SEAFAIR

10-14 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO

15 AUG- 1 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

17-18 AUG NAVOSH SAFETY INSPECTION

2-4 SEP UNDERWAY OPERATIONS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

5-7 SEP INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

8-11 SEP UNDERWAY COMMANDERS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS
AND TRAINING II

12 SEP- 5 OCT INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

21-25 SEP	PMT/LATR INSPECTION
25 SEP	CHANGE OF COMMAND
1-9 OCT	ICAS INSTALL
6-9 OCT	UNDERWAY SOCIAL OPERATIONS/ LEADERS TO SEA
10-18 OCT	INPORT SAN DIEGO
13-16 OCT	TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I INPORT
19-22 OCT	UNDERWAY TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I
23 OCT	TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I INPORT
23-28 OCT	INPORT SAN DIEGO
26-28 OCT	TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I INPORT
29-30 OCT	UNDERWAY TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY I
31 OCT-30 NOV	DIESEL INSPECTIONS
1-3 DEC	UNDERWAY TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY II
4-6 DEC	INPORT SAN DIEGO
7-11 DEC	UNDERWAY TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY II/COMBINED SHIP SYSTEMS QUALIFICATION TRIALS
12-13 DEC	INPORT SAN DIEGO
14-15 DEC	UNDERWAY ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION

14-18 DEC

UNDERWAY TAILORED SHIP TRAINING

AVAILABILITY II/COMBINED SHIP SYSTEMS

QUALIFICATION TRIALS

19-31 DEC

INPORT SAN DIEGO UPKEEP

USS COMSTOCK COMMAND HISTORY

COMSTOCK began January 1998 with the ship moored pier side in Kuwait City re-embarking equipment for the conclusion of Operation Eager Mace. The ship was in the Arabian Gulf as part of the PELELIU Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). The ARG, which included USS JUNEAU, USS PELELIU, and the 13th MEU, had been forward deployed since August 28, 1997.

On January 10 the navigation team steered safely through the Straits of Hormuz marking COMSTOCK's exit from the Persian Gulf. The ship changed operational control to 7th Fleet on January 14 and began the return home to Naval Station San Diego via several liberty ports.

COMSTOCK's first port visit of 1998 was Port Blair, India on January 19. Tour guides welcomed over one-thousand local Indian people. Officers from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force were also invited to the wardroom for a luncheon and brief.

After leaving Port Blair, COMSTOCK proceeded to anchor off the coast of Penang, Malaysia where crew members

enjoyed five days of liberty. The ship crossed the equator on January 28 while en route to Bali, Indonesia.

On February 3 COMSTOCK began its transit from Bali to Guam. The ship moored for a few hours to pick up the Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA) team and bring on stores. The crew completed a successful MCA while underway and prepared for its final port call, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. COMSTOCK welcomed friends and family for a Tiger Cruise giving them the opportunity to experience life at sea. The guests observed air demonstrations, Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) operations and received training on the ship's mission and capabilities. On February 26 the ship anchored off the coast of Southern California near Camp Pendleton to offload Marine personnel and equipment. WESTPAC '97-'98 ended on February 27 when COMSTOCK was pierside San Diego once again.

In March, COMSTOCK received the prestigious Silver Eagle Award which recognizes commands for their excellence in Health Promotions Programs. Post-Deployment Upkeep was conducted along with preparations for the ship's upcoming Inspection Survey.

COMSTOCK completed a successful INSURV and the ship got underway to San Francisco. May 18 to July 22 the ship began its Planned Maintenance Assessment (PMA) or mini-overhaul. New weapon systems - The Rolling Air Frame Missile (RAM) and Close In Weapon System (CIWS) - were installed allowing the ship to track and shoot down incoming missiles. COMSTOCK's Combat Information Center (CIC) was overhauled with the Ship's Self Defense System (SSDS). Console operators in CIC were now capable of controlling all weapon systems from a single location.

With new renovations crew members were eager to head to sea. The ship got underway to conduct various tracking exercises and missile shoots. At the same time Commander Amphibious Group Three and his staff embarked for the Seattle Seafair. COMSTOCK led the Parade of Ships beginning in Everett and ending in Elliot Bay. COMSTOCK hosted a reception, ship visits and attended the commissioning of the USS BRIDGE.

September marked the beginning of a vigorous work-up cycle. COMSTOCK completed the second phase of Commander's Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) and quickly moved on to Ship's Qualification Test and Trials. COMSTOCK

also worked with Marine pilots from Camp Pendleton and earned its Aviation Certification.

A Change of Command ceremony was held September 25 onboard COMSTOCK when CDR E. Barfield relieved CDR G.S. Jackson and assumed the duties as Commanding Officer.

As October began the ship was underway conducting amphibious and flight operations. The crew focused on damage control and spent many hours in general quarters conducting phase one of Tailored Shipboard Training Availability.

Afloat Training Group came onboard in November to conduct numerous diesel engine inspections. The month was spent inport preparing and training for the Tailored Shipboard Training Availability and Engineering Certification.

December concluded the second phase of TSTA. During the TSTA cycle, COMSTOCK completed the following events: one day and one night underway replenishment, successful 25 mm and 50 cal gun shoots, three precision anchorages, one Man Overboard drill and numerous harbor transit navigation

packages. COMSTOCK achieved superior results during the Combined Ship Systems Qualification Trials to include: over 20 hours of air contact tracking exercises, the firing of 12 rounds of Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Chaff, six pre-aim calibration firings and one direct hit towed drone engagement of the Close-In Weapon System, two skin-on skin intercepts of a BQM-34S drone during two Rolling Airframe Missile firings. Additionally, COMSTOCK validated the principle of the Rolling Airframe Missile being able to acquire and intercept through a chaff cloud. Engineering department was busy conducting numerous casualty control drills. On December 14-15 COMSTOCK received an excellent in all five areas assessed during the Engineering Certification. The ship moored in time to get home for the holidays allowing the crew to spend time with loved ones.