



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: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval historical Center,
Washington Naval Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg 57, Washington,
DC, 20374-5060

Subj: 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological Sequence of Events
(3) Narrative/Significant Installations

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded as the history for USS Comstock (LSD 45) for calendar year 2001.


J. A. PADFIELD

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PAO

USS COMSTOCK COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS *Comstock* (LSD 45), UIC 21452, is the fifth ship of the *Whidbey Island* (LSD 41) class Dock Landing Ship and the fourth ship of the class to serve in the Pacific fleet. The mission of *Comstock* is to embark, deploy, land and support elements of a Marine Corps landing force in an assault by helicopters, a wide array of assault craft, and amphibious vehicles. To provide continuing support to the assault force, *Comstock* is equipped with a modern communication suite, state-of-the-art combat systems equipment, and an expertly trained crew.

CDR S. M. Harris commands *USS Comstock*, which is assigned to Amphibious Group Three and supports Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) based in Camp Pendleton, CA.

USS *Comstock's* immediate senior in command is Commander, Amphibious Group THREE.

Command Structure

Commanding Officer: CDR Sinclair M. Harris
Executive Officer: LCDR William J. Schmidt
Command Master Chief: CMDCM (SW/AW/SS) Scott D. Shumway
Chief Engineer: LCDR [REDACTED]
First Lieutenant: LT [REDACTED]
Operations Officer: LT [REDACTED] (through OCT01)
LT [REDACTED]
Supply Officer: LT [REDACTED] (through 20AUG01)
LT [REDACTED]
Medical Officer: LT [REDACTED] (through 01AUG01)
LT [REDACTED]
Dental Officer: LT [REDACTED]

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS 2001

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>JANUARY</u>	
08 Jan	Holiday leave period ends
19 Jan	Fast Cruise
22 Jan-02 Feb	Amphibious Specialty Training (AST)
29 Jan-09 Feb	Amphibious Readiness Group Certification
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
12-23 Feb	Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2)
26 Feb	IART Underway
<u>MARCH</u>	
02-05 Mar	Port Visit San Francisco, California
06-09 Mar	IART Underway
13-15 Mar	Amphibious Readiness Group Certification
19-23 Mar	Exercise Kernal Blitz onload
26 Mar-06 Apr	Exercise Kernal Blitz
<u>APRIL</u>	
06-30 Apr	Inport San Diego Upkeep
16-19 Apr	Physical Readiness Test (PRT)
<u>MAY</u>	
01-11 May	COMPTUEX, Underway
29-31 May	Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (ATFP) Training Exercise
<u>JUNE</u>	
01-13 Jun	FLEETEX, Underway
22 Jun-02 Jul	ARG/SOC, Underway
<u>JULY</u>	
06 Jul-06 Aug	Pre-Overseas Movement (POM)
28 Jul	Onload World War II PBY Catalina

AUGUST

07-09 Aug Sea Trials, Underway
13 Aug Departure for WESTPAC/Arabian Gulf Deployment
2001
20-21 Aug Port Visit, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
22 Aug Commence WESTPAC '01 400 Mile Club
26 Aug "Crossing the Line" Ceremony

SEPTEMBER

07-12 Sep Port Visit Darwin, Australia
Offload PBY Catalina
11 Sep World Trade Center & Pentagon attacked by
terrorists
12 Sep Depart Darwin, Australia early and transit to
FIFTHFLT AOR
15-18 Sep Operation Handclasp: East Timor Humanitarian
Operation
17 Sep East Timor VIPs visit
28 Sep On station in Northern Arabian Sea

OCTOBER

03 Oct Operation Enduring Freedom Commenced
Marine offload and securing of Pasni Airfield in
Pakistan
26 Oct Transit Straights of Hormuz
28 Oct Port Visit Bahrain

NOVEMBER

03 Nov Transit Straights of Hormuz

DECEMBER

24 Dec Commandant of the Marine Corps visited
31 Dec New Years Eve Party in Northern Arabian Sea

Command Narrative

The crew of USS *Comstock* began 2001 with a well-deserved Holiday leave period concluding on 08 January. During the leave period the C4I program installation was completed, which significantly upgraded *Comstock's* communication capabilities for the 21st century. IT-21 was installed and many new computers were added to the ship's inventory. *Comstock* finished the month of January with commencement of Amphibious Specialty Training (AST) and Amphibious Readiness Group Certification (ARG CERT).

AST and ARG CERT concluded at the beginning of February, and during this month key Operations Department personnel participated in Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2). As Spring approached, *Comstock* transited with several other amphibious ships North up the coast of California to participate in "Fleet Week" San Francisco, California. Immediately following a fantastic San Francisco port visit, *Comstock* prepared for Exercise Kernal Blitz, a major bi-annual West Coast Amphibious Exercise.

As the summer months approached, *Comstock's* preparations for the next upcoming deployment were accelerating. The ship was underway in early May for COMPTUEX with Peleliu ARG. Advanced training for the upcoming deployment continued in June with FLEETEX and ARG/SOC.

When the ship returned to Naval Station, San Diego at the end of June, *Comstock* was certified deployment ready. The crew's well-earned Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) leave periods began and final deployment preparations were made. During the POM period, a PBV Catalina was onloaded onto the flight deck for further transfer to Australia. The PBV was a gift that would be donated to the Australians for their support of the United States during World War II in the Pacific Theater. Many Australians and Americans alike flew in PBV Catalinas during WWII to survey and conduct reconnaissance missions in the Pacific Theater.

In early August, with the entire crew back onboard, *Comstock* conducted a pre-deployment Sea Trials Underway period to flex all

systems prior to deployment. The ship set sail for Hawaii on 13 August, for refueling and logistics load-out. After a quick port stop in Hawaii, *Comstock* headed in a southeasterly direction to cross the Equator and the International Date Line simultaneously for a "Crossing the Line" Ceremony.

As *Comstock* continued westward, she stopped in Darwin, Australia for five days of liberty and the offload of the PBY Catalina. During the final day inport Darwin, Australia, the terrorist attacks of September 11th occurred. *Comstock* immediately set FPCON "D" and was underway by 0600 the next morning. Initially, *Comstock* headed for East Timor, where she had prior engagements to participate in Operation Handclasp, a humanitarian operation in support of East Timor. While *Comstock* was sitting off the coast of East Timor, a number of VIPs from East Timor and the Middle East came onboard to tour the ship and enjoy a first-rate American lunch. They were very impressed with the crew's living conditions, as the living conditions in East Timor hardly meet even the most basic human needs. They took numerous pictures with *Comstock* crewmembers and took full advantage of the ship's store.

After Operation HANDCLASP, *Comstock* headed west once again. This time, she sailed directly for the Northern Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, bypassing her original port visits of Singapore and Thailand. In early October, a number of the Marines were offloaded for insertion into Pakistan to secure the Pasni Airfield in support of the War on Terrorism.

Comstock remained on station in the Northern Arabian Gulf until she received orders to transit through the Strait of Hormuz and the Southern Arabian Gulf to offload the majority of the remaining Marines in Bahrain. *Comstock* departed the Arabian Gulf and transited once again through the Strait of Hormuz to return to the Northern Arabian Sea on 03 November for further support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The year concluded with a visit by the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps on Christmas Eve. The crew celebrated the last

few hours of New Year's Eve onboard the ship and underway, but nonetheless enjoying the camaraderie and esprit de corps that built up during an arduous deployment, highlighted by the crew's active participation in the War on Terrorism.