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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ESSEX (LHD 2)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AP 96643-1661

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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14 JUL 94

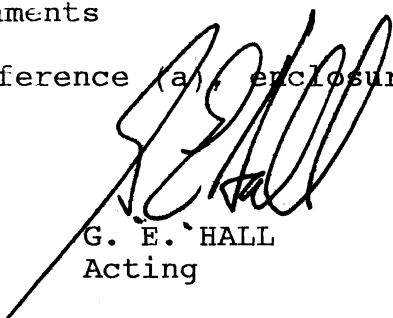
From: Commanding Officer, USS ESSEX (LHD 2)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

  
G. E. HALL  
Acting

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: The mission of the USS ESSEX (LHD 2) is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine landing force in an assault by aircraft, landing craft and amphibious vehicles. The USS ESSEX role is the primary flag ship of an amphibious task group. The USS ESSEX is the second ship of the Wasp (LHD 1) class multipurpose amphibious assault ships.

USS ESSEX is specifically designed to operate Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) for a waterborne assault, carry Harrier II (AV-8B) Jump Jets for close in air support of the assault force and Helicopters for the deployment of troops and cargo. USS ESSEX operates with a full range of Navy and Marine Corps helicopters, conventional Landing Craft and amphibious vehicles. The USS ESSEX load out consists of troops, tanks, trucks, armored vehicles, artillery, ammunition and supplies necessary to fully support and amphibious assault.

USS ESSEX is 844 feet long, with a beam of 106 feet. Two steam propulsion plants, capable of developing a combined 70,000 shaft horsepower, to give the 40,500 ton ship the ability to sustain speeds in excess of 20 knots. USS ESSEX has more than 22,000 square feet of vehicle storage space and 100,000 cubic feet of cargo space. Living areas accommodate the 1099 crewmembers and 1961 embarked troops and air crews. For combat support, as well as humanitarian missions, ESSEX has six fully equipped operating rooms, four dental operating rooms and hospital facilities capable of caring for 600 patients. USS ESSEX is home ported in San Diego, Ca. On a moments notice she could readily become the largest hospital in San Diego county.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: COMPHIBRON NINE  
COMNAVSEASYSKOM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMANDING OFFICER: CAPT JOHN A. CASSIDY, USN

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: CDR CHARLES AREIZAGA, USN

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPPLY OFFICER-----CDR [REDACTED] SC, USN  
AIR OFFICER-----CDR [REDACTED] USN  
AIR INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE OFFICER-----  
CDR [REDACTED] USN  
OPERATIONS OFFICER-----CDR [REDACTED] USN  
CHIEF ENGINEER-----CDR [REDACTED] USN  
CHAPLAIN-----LCDR [REDACTED] CHC, USN  
NAVIGATOR-----LCDR [REDACTED] 5 [REDACTED], USN  
COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER-----LCDR [REDACTED] USN  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER-----LCDR [REDACTED] USN  
DENTAL OFFICER-----LCDR [REDACTED] DC, USN

FIRST LIEUTENANT-----LT [REDACTED], USN  
MEDICAL OFFICER-----LT [REDACTED], MC, USN  
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF-----BMCM(SW) B. F. NELSON, USN

PERMANENT HOME PORT: NAVAL STATION 32ND ST, SAN DIEGO, CA

CHRONOLOGY 1993

JANUARY 93

- 04 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCIAL OPAREA
- 08 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
- 11 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCIAL OPAREA
- 12 CONDUCTED FIRST AV8 FLIGHT OPS
- 19 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
- 22 CREW MEMBER DIED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT.

FEBRUARY 93

- 05 HELD AWARD CEREMONY
- 08 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO SOCIAL OPAREA
- 10 CONDUCTED AT SEA NATO SEA SPARROW WEAPONS ONLOAD
- 12 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
- 16 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO SOCIAL OPAREA
- 19 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
- 22 BROKE COMPHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG
- 24 COMMANDING OFFICER DEPARTED FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PHOENIX,  
AZ
- 25 COMMANDING OFFICER RETURNED
- 26 HELD AWARDS CEREMONY

MARCH 93

- 08 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO SOCIAL OPAREA
- 09 CONDUCTED 1ST UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS WABASH (AOR5)
- 11 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRE.  
CONDUCTED CONREP WITH USS WABASH (AOR5).
- 12 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRE.
- 13 BROKE PHIBRON NINE'S FLAG.
- 14 CONDUCTED NATO SEA SPARROW MISSILE SHOOT.
- 15 CONDUCTED NATO SEA SPARROW MISSILE SHOOT.  
HAULED DOWN PHIBRON NINE'S FLAG.
- 17 CONDUCTED LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 18 CONDUCTED DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS WITH MARINE HELOS.  
EMBARKED USMC PERSONNEL VIA HELOS.
- 19 CONDUCTED LCAC AND HELO TROOP LANDING TRAINING.
- 20 CONDUCTED LCAC AND CH-53 EMI TESTING.
- 22 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 23 BROKE PHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG.
- 29 RADM OLSON, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY ARRIVED  
FOR FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS.
- 30 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR FCT UNDERWAY EVOLUTIONS.  
RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. HAULED DOWN PHIBGRU THREE'S  
FLAG. BROKE RADM OLSON'S FLAG. BROKE PHIBRON NINE'S FLAG.

APRIL 93

- 02 FINAL CONTRACT TRIAL OUTBRIEF.
- 06 COMPHIBRON ONE EMBARKED, BERTH SHIFT FROM PIER 2 TO PIER 8 NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 13 CONGRESSIONAL STAFF VISIT.
- 15 OFFICIAL VISIT FOR LT. GEN F. BRESSON COMMANDING OFFICER, FRENCH NATIONAL DEFENSE ADVANCED STUDIES INSTITUTE.
- 16 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS ONBOARD. GATOR CALL ON FLIGHT DECK.
- 19 AWARD CEREMONY HELD, COMPHIBRON ONE DEBARKED. ESSEX UNDERWAY FOR SOCIAL OPAREA UNDERWAY TRAINING.
- 20 CONDUCTED LCAC WELL DECK OPS.
- 21 CONDUCTED LCAC WELL DECK OPS.
- 23 CONDUCTED FLIGHT DECK LANDING QUALS (DLQS).
- 24 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRE AND DLQS.
- 25 CONDUCTED DLQS.
- 26 CONDUCTED 50 CAL GUN SHOOT AND DLQS.
- 27 CONDUCTED DLQS.
- 28 CONDUCTED LCU OPS, RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 29 AWARD CEREMONY HELD.

MAY 93

- 03 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.  
CONDUCTED UNREP WITH USNS GUADALUPE.
- 04 CONDUCTED DAY AND NIGHT HELICOPTER DLQS.
- 05 CONDUCTED MISSILE OFFLOAD AND INITIAL NIGHT VISION DEVICE  
(NVD) DLQS.
- 06 CONDUCTED NVD DLQS
- 07 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 10 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
- 12 HELD A BURIAL AT SEA CEREMONY.
- 13 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 14 HELD AWARD CEREMONY.
- 25 UNDERWAY FROM NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO.
- 26 CONDUCTED WEL DECK OPERATIONS AND DAY AND NIGHT HELICOPTER  
DLQS.
- 27 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.



JUNE 93

- 04 AWARDS ARE PRESENTED TO THE EVENT WINNERS OF SURFACE LINE WEEK.
- 09 OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION (OPPE) COMMENCED,  
UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 11 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, COMPLETED OPPE.
- 14 COMMENCED A RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY.  
HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY.
- 25 HELD AWARD CEREMONY.
- 28 COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL HOSPITAL SAN DIEGO VISITS.

JULY 93

- 09 COMPHIBRON THREE EMBARKED.
- 14 OFFICIAL VISIT BY INSPECTION OF THE GERMAN NAVY.
- 16 ESSEX DAY AT SEA WORLD.
- 21 OFFICIAL VISIT BY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.
- 23 HELD AWARD CEREMONY.
- 30 COMPHIBRON THREE DISEMBARKED. COMPLETED RESTRICTED  
AVAILABILITY. COMMENCED ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH ROBERT  
MUELLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CHULA VISTA.

AUGUST 93

- 02 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCIAL OPAREA.
- 03 CONDUCTED LCAC OPS.
- 04 CONDUCTED LCU OPS.
- 05 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 08 EMBARKED 400 MARINES AND 21 SEA CADETS WITH 3 INSTRUCTORS.
- 09 OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCIAL OPAREA. CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS WITH CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS.
- 10 CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS TO MEDVAC, VIA HELO, TO NAVAL HOSPITAL SAN DIEGO. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS. CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS WITH 2 UH-1N HUEY AND 2 AH-1W COBRA HELOS.
- 11 CONDUCTED AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT EXERCISE. DEPARTED SOCIAL OPAREA ENROUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO.
- 12 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRE AND 50 CAL GUN SHOOT TRAINING.
- 13 ARRIVED SAN FRANCISCO.
- 16 DEPARTED SAN FRANCISCO FOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 18 CONDUCTED LCAC AND FLIGHT OPS. ARRIVED NAVSTA SAN DIEGO AND DEBARKED SEA CADETS.
- 19 SERVED AS A STATIC DISPLAY PLATFORM FOR THE SURFACE NAVAL ASSOCIATION EXPEDITIONARY SYMPOSIUM.
- 20 SET FLIGHT QUARTERS TO LAUNCH CH-46, CH-53, UH-1 AND AH-1 HELOS.
- 23 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS AND LCAC OPS. ARRIVED LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD.
- 26 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY.

SEPTEMBER 93

- 01 CONTINUING PSA AT LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD.
- 02 HELD AWARDS CEREMONY, ONE NAVY MARINE CORPS MEDAL AND NINE GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS AWARDED.
- 16 FROCKED AND INITIATED 10 CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS.
- 23 A STEEL YARD PICNIC HELD ONBOARD FOR ESSEX CREW AND LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD WORKERS. HELD AN AWARDS CEREMONY, ONE DISTINGUISHED MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, TWO JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDALS, TWO NAVAL COMMENDATION MEDALS, EIGHT NAVAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS AND FOUR GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.
- 27 LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED] AND LT [REDACTED] WERE FROCKED TO LCDR AND 10 NEWLY FROCKED CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS WERE ACKNOWLEDGED.
- 30 SAILOR OF THE QUARTER--HM2 [REDACTED], SENIOR SAILOR OF THE MONTH--DK1 [REDACTED] AND JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER--FN [REDACTED] WERE HONORED AT AN AWARDS CEREMONY.

OCTOBER 93

- 01 CONTINUING PSA AT LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD.
- 07 COMMANDING OFFICER ATTENDED PSA MID-AVAILABILITY CONFERENCE. NAVSEA PMS 377, LHD PROGRAM DIRECTOR, TOURED ESSEX.
- 14 CMS ASSIST VISIT.
- 18 SHIP CELEBRATED IT'S FIRST BIRTHDAY WITH A PIZZA PARTY ON THE FLIGHT DECK.
- 20 DK1(SW/AW) [REDACTED] WAS SELECTED AS SQUADRON SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER AND HM2(SW/AW) [REDACTED] WAS SELECTED AS SQUADRON SAILOR OF THE QUARTER BY COMPHIBRON NINE.
- 22 USS ESSEX WON THE OVERALL LARGE COMMAND CATEGORY DURING NAVSTA LONG BEACH SURFACE LINE WEEK COMPETITION. ESSEX WAS PRESENTED 16 FIRST PLACE TROPHIES AND 13 SECOND PLACE AND EIGHT THIRD PLACE AWARDS.
- 28 CLASS ALPHA FIRE IN SPACE 02-125-1-Q. WELDERS TORCH IGNITED SMALL CARDBOARD BOX. NO DAMAGE.

NOVEMBER 93

- 01 BEGIN CART IIB (AAV/LMA/PPAT). FINAL BRIEFING FOR 29 NOV 93, AMMO ONLOAD WHILE ANCHORED OFF OF FALLBROOK, CA. END OF 1993 CFC CAMPAIGN, KEY WORKERS COLLECTED \$37,926.80, 94% OF GOAL.
- 02 HM2(SW/AW) [REDACTED] WAS SELECTED AS COMPHIBGRU THREE SAILOR OF THE QUARTER.
- 03 HELD AN AWARDS CEREMONY, SEVEN NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS AND SIX GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE PRESENTED.
- 04 SHIP'S ENLISTED GALLEY REOPENED FOR THE NOON MEAL AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATION, STEAK AND LOBSTER WAS SERVED TO THE CREW TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENT.
- 08 RADM PERKINS, COMPHIBGRU THREE, TOURED ESSEX.
- 10 MARINE CORPS REPRESENTATIVES ONBOARD ESSEX COMMEMORATED THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BY SERVING CAKE AND ICE CREAM TO THE CREW ON THE FLIGHT DECK.
- 11 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE. STATIONED SEA AND ANCHORR DETAIL, THEN ROTATED THROUGH ALL UNDERWAY WATCH SECTIONS, FOLLOWED BY GQ AND ABANDON SHIP. ALSO SET CONDITION 1A, FLIGHT QUARTERS AND LOW VISIBILITY.
- 16 LIT OFF AFT PLANT, THEN SHIFTED FROM SHORE POWER TO SHIP'S POWER. REFUELED.
- 17 LIT OFF FWD PLANT.
- 18 END OF POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY AT LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD. EMBARKED 91 SHIPRIDERS. UNDERWAY FOR NAVSTA SAN DIEGO AND POST PSA SEA TRIALS. COMMENCED ESSEX SMOKE OUT DAY. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR ONE CH-46. CONDUCTED SPN 35/CAL MOD ALIGNMENT TEST.
- 19 DISEMBARKED 54 SHIPRIDERS TO TUGS IN LONG BEACH OUTER HARBOR. CONCLUDED POST PSA SEA TRIALS. COMMENCED CDF CALIBRATION.
- 20 SET GENERAL QUARTERS, THEN CONDITION 1A. COMPLETED CDF CALIBRATION.
- 21 SET FLIGHT QUARTERS, RECEIVED ONE CH-53 AND DISEMBARKED 11 PERSONNEL. COMMENCED NSSM FENCE TEST.
- 22 LAUNCHED AND RECOVERED ONE CH-53 FROM VARIOUS SPOTS. CONCLUDED NSSM FENCE TEST. STATIONED ANCHORR DETAIL FOR ENTERING CORONADO ROADS. LAUNCHED THE RHIB BOAT, TRANSFERRING TWO PASSENGERS TO FLEET LANDING SAN DIEGO, THEN RECOVERED THE RHIB.
- 23 SET GENERAL QUARTERS TO TEST COUNTER-MEASURE WASH DOWN SYSTEM. RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N.

DECEMBER 93

- 01 SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. CONTINUE AMMO ONLOAD.
- 02 FINISHED AMMO ONLOAD. SET RHIB DETAIL. UNDERWAY FROM ANCHORAGE OFF CAMP PENDLETON, CA.
- 03 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. CLASS "C" FIRE.
- 04 HELD SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- 06 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. UAV OPS.
- 07 CONTINUED UAV OPS. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. GENERAL QUARTERS.
- 08 CONTINUED UAV OPS. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. COMPHIBGRU THREE AND MAJOR GENERAL JENKINS ARRIVED.
- 09 RATO LAUNCH - UAV OPS. GENERAL QUARTERS. SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. COMPHIBGRU THREE AND MAJOR GENERAL JENKINS DEPARTED. AV-8 DLQS.
- 10 SET FLIGHT QUARTERS. GENERAL QUARTERS. RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 12 HELD USS ESSEX CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- 13 HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY. BEGIN FIRST CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD. COMPHIBGRU THREE FLAG SHIFT TO USS ESSEX. HELD TWO RETIREMENT CEREMONIES.
- 14 HELD TWO RE-ENLISTMENT CEREMONIES.
- 16 HELD A RE-ENLISTMENT CEREMONY.
- 17 HELD A RE-ENLISTMENT CEREMONY.
- 25 HELD CHRISTMAS DINNER IN ENLISTED MESS.
- 27 BEGIN SECOND CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD.

NARRATIVE 1993

JANUARY 93

- 04 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR THE SOCIAL OPAREA SHIPS EVOLUTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD INCLUDE EQUIPMENT TESTING AND CREW TRAINING.
- 08 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, BERTH 25N
- 11 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR THE SOCIAL OPAREA FOR CREW TRAINING.
- 12 CONDUCTED THE FIRST AV8 HARRIER JET AIRCRAFT OPS (USMC).
- 19 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, AT BERTH 25N.
- 22 MM2 STEVEN DAVID ARNOLD, USN, DIED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. THE ACCIDENT OCCURED ON CALIFORNIA STATE HIGHWAY 94, SAN DIEGO, CA. MM2 ARNOLD HAD BEEN TRAVELING WESTBOUND ON HIGHWAY #94 AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED WHEN HE LOST CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE HE WAS DRIVING. THE VEHICLE LEFT THE ROADWAY AND STRUCK A TREE. MM2 ARNOLD WAS TRANSPORTED TO UCSD HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD. A SHIPMATE WAS A PASSENGER, HE SUSTAINED INJURIES BUT SURVIVED. MM2 ARNOLD WAS OPERATING HIS PERSONAL VEHICLE AND WAS IN A LIBERTY STATUS AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT.



FEBRUARY 93

- 05 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY AT MORNING QUARTERS, FOUR NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS AND 15 GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.
- 08 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCAL OPAREA TO CONDUCT SHIPBOARD TRAINING. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS AND FLIGHT OPS WITH AV8 FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS.
- 10 CONDUCTED A NATO SEA SPARROW MISSILE ONLOAD AT SEA OFF NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND VIA CH-46 HELOS.
- 12 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 16 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO SOCAL OPAREA FOR SHIPBOARD TRAINING.
- 19 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 22 BROKE COMPHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG IN ACCORDANCE WITH CPG 3 MSG 220830Z FEB.
- 24 THE COMMANDING OFFICER DEPARTED FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PHOENIX, AZ. THE US NAVY LEAGUE, PHOENIX CHAPTER, HOSTED A "FROM THE SEA" SYMPOSIUM. THE CO GAVE A PRESENTATION TO INVITED GUESTS.
- 25 THE COMMANDING OFFICER RETURNED FROM PHOENIX, AZ.
- 26 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY AT MORNING QUARTERS, TWO NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS AND FOUR GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.

MARCH 93

- 08 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO SOCAL OPAREA FOR COMBAT SYSTEMS SHIP QUALIFICATION TESTING (CSSQT) AND GENERAL SHIP TRAINING. HAULED DOWN COMPHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG.
- 09 CONDUCTED 1ST UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT, WITH USS WABASH (AOR5) FOR TRAINING ONLY, FROM 0805 TO 0928. NO MATERIAL WAS TRANSFERRED DURING THIS EVENT. DURING THE EVENING AN ACTUAL UNREP WAS CONDUCTED WITH USS WABASH. DFM AND JP5 WERE RECEIVED AT STATIONS 3 & 7.
- 11 CONDUCTED A CIWS PAC FIRE USING MTS 21 AND 22. AFTER THE PACFIRE A PRACTICE CONREP WITH USS WABASH WAS CONDUCTED AT STATION 5. NO MATERIAL WAS TRANSFERRED DURING THIS EVENT. DURING THE EVENING AN ACTUAL UNREP WAS CONDUCTED WITH USS WABASH. DFM AND JP5 WERE RECEIVED AT STATIONS 3 & 7.
- 12 CONDUCTED A CIWS PAC FIRE USING MTS 21 & 22 PRIOR TO A GUN SHOOT USING A TOWED TARGET AS PART OF CSSQT. THE CIWS SHOOT WAS SUCCESSFUL.
- 13 COMPHIBRON NINE BREAKS HIS FLAG ONBOARD PER MSG 111413Z MAR 93. CONDUCTED CIWS SHOOT USING MTS 21, 22 & 23 AGAINST A TOWED TARGET, THE GUN SHOOT WAS SUCCESSFUL. COMPHIBRON NINE ARRIVED VIA CH-46 FROM HC-11.
- 14 CONDUCTED NATO SEA SPARROW MISSILE FIRING EXERCISE AGAINST A REMOTE PILOTED DRONE TARGET ON THE PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE (PMR) AS PART OF CSSQT. SIX MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED SUCCESSFULLY.
- 15 CONTINUED THE MISSILE LAUNCHING PORTION OF CSSQT. LAUNCHED FOUR NSSM AND DEPARTED PMR. WHILE RETURNING TO SOCAL OPAREA, LAUNCHED 32 SRBOC ROUNDS, ONE ROUND FROM EACH CHAFF LAUNCHER, ALL CHAFF LAUNCHERS WERE FIRED SUCCESSFULLY. COMPHIBRON NINE DEPARTED VIA CH-46 FROM HC-11 HAULED DOWN HIS FLAG.
- 17 CONDUCTED LCAC OPS OFF CAMP PENDELTON. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF ACU5 CAME ABOARD FOR A VISIT.
- 18 CONDUCTED DIQ'S WITH MARINE HELICOPTERS, EMBARKED 382 US MARINES VIA CH-46 HELOS. THE MARINES WERE MADE UP OF ELEMENTS FROM 1ST AND 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT. THEY PROVIDED TRAINING FOR COMBAT CARGO PERSONNEL INVOLVING MOVEMENT FROM TROOP SPACES TO EMBARKATION AREAS.
- 19 CONDUCTED LCAC AND HELO ASSAULT ON CAMP PENDELTON AS PART OF CSSQT. ALL MARINES AND EQUIPMENT WERE OFF LOADED DURING THE EVOLUTION.
- 20 CONDUCTED LCAC AND CH-53 EMI TESTING.

- 21 CONDUCTED CH-53 EMI TESTING.
- 22 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 23 BROKE COMPHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG PER MSG 191595Z MAR 93.
- 29 RADM OLSON, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY, ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND INSPECTION PARTY (TOTAL 206 PERSONNEL) CAME ABOARD TO CONDUCT FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS.
- 30 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO TO CONDUCT THE UNDERWAY PORTION OF FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS. HAULED DOWN COMPHIBGRU THREE'S FLAG, BROKE RADM OLSON'S FLAG. COMPHIBRON NINE BROKE HIS FLAG AND RODE THE SHIP TO OBSERVE CONTRACT TRIALS. COMPLETED ASSIGNED EVOLUTIONS AND RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, BERTH 25N.

APRIL 93

- 02 RADM OLSON CONDUCTED THE FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS OUTBRIEF ONBOARD. ALONG WITH GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE SUPERB CLEANLINESS OF THE SHIP, HE ALSO PRAISED THE OFFICERS AND MEN FOR THE HARD WORK AND PREPARATION RESULTING IN AN OUTSTANDING INSPECTION. RADM OLSON DEPARTED AND HIS FLAG WAS HAULED DOWN.
- 06 COMPHIBRON ONE EMBARKED AND HIS FLAG WAS BROKEN PER MSG 021955Z APR 93. SHIFTED BERTH TO PIER 8 BERTH 86S NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 13 HOSTED A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF VISIT. THE VISIT WAS A WEST COAST ORIENTATION TRIP TO FAMILIARIZE SENATE STAFF PERSONNEL WITH NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES.
- 15 HOSTED AN OFFICIAL VISIT FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANCOIS BRESSON, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL DEFENSE ADVANCED STUDIES INSTITUTE. ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE APPROXIMATELY 50 MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE'S STAFF.
- 16 ADM FRANK B. KELSO, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, CAME ABOARD AND CONDUCTED A GATOR CALL ON THE FLIGHT DECK. ALL IN PORT SAN DIEGO AMPHIBS SENT REPRESENTATIVES.
- 19 AN AWARD CEREMONY WAS HELD ON THE FLIGHT DECK. ONE JOINT SERVICES COMMENDATION MEDAL AND SEVEN GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED. THE COMMAND SAILORS OF THE QUARTER WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED: IC1 [REDACTED] IS THE ESSEX SAILOR OF THE YEAR FOR 1992; NC1 [REDACTED] SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER FOR 2ND QUARTER FY93; QM2 [REDACTED] SAILOR OF THE QUARTER FOR 2ND QUARTER FY93 AND RUNNER UP AS COMPHIBRON NINE SAILOR OF THE QUARTER; AND SN [REDACTED] WAS CHOSEN AS ESSEX AND COMPHIBRON NINE JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER FOR THE 2ND QUARTER FY93 AND RUNNER UP AS COMPHIBGRU THREE JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER. COMPHIBRON ONE DEBARKED AND HIS FLAG WAS HAULED DOWN. DEPARTED SAN DIEGO FOR CREW TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL OPAREA.
- 20 CONDUCTED WELL DECK QUALIFICATIONS WITH LCAC'S FROM ACU5.
- 21 CONDUCTED WELL DECK QUALS WITH LCAC'S.
- 23 CONDUCTED FLIGHT DECK QUALS WITH AH-1, CH-46, CH-53 HELOS AND AV8 HARRIERS.
- 24 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRE FOR MTS 21, 22, 23. ALL GUNS FIRED SUCCESSFULLY. CONDUCTED DLQS FOR AV8S.
- 25 CONDUCTED DLQS FOR AV8S.
- 26 CONDUCTED 50 CAL MACHINE GUN SHOOT FROM ALL 50 CAL MTS CONDUCTED DLQS FOR AV8S AND CH-46 HELOS.

- 27 CONDUCTED DLQS FOR AV8S AND CH-46 HELOS.
- 28 CONDUCTED LCU WELL DECK OPS. RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 8, BERTH 86S.
- 29 AWARD CEREMONY HELD, FOUR ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST AND ONE ENLISTED AIR WARFARE SPECIALIST QUALIFICATION PINS WERE PRESENTED.

MAY 93

- 03 DEPARTED NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR CREW TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL OPAREA. CONDUCTED AN UNREP WITH USNS GUADALUPE, RECEIVED DFM AT STATIONS 3 AND 7.
- 04 CONDUCTED FLIGHT DECK QUALS WITH CH-53 HELOS.
- 05 CONDUCTED AN AT SEA NATO SEA SPARROW MISSILE OFFLOAD. ONE MISSILE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NORTH ISLAN WEAPON STATION. CONDUCTED DLQS WITH CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS. UPON COMPLETION OF THE DLQS, FLIGHT OPS CONTINUED WITH PHASE II NIGHT VISION GOGGLE (NVG) CERTIFICATION.
- 06 CONDUCTED DLQS WITH CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS. NVG CERTIFICATION CONTINUED.
- 07 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 10 DEPARTED SAN DIEGO FOR CREW TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL OPAREA.
- 12 HELD A BURIAL AT SEA. THE CREMATED REMAINS OF ETCM [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN (RET), FATHER-IN-LAW OF CREW MEMBER MMC (SW) [REDACTED], WERE COMMITTED TO THE DEEP.
- 13 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 14 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY. TWO NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS, THREE GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS AND ONE LETTER OF COMMENDATION, WERE AWARDED. TWO SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER PINS, ONE SUPPLY SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER PIN AND TWO ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST PINS WERE PRESENTED.
- 25 DEPARTED NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR THE SOCIAL OPAREA TO CONDUCT CREW TRAINING.
- 26 CONDUCTED WELL DECK QUALS WITH LCAC'S FROM ACU-5. CONDUCTED DLQS WITH CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS.
- 27 CONDUCTED LCU OPS, RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N.

JUNE 93

- 04 VADM ROBINSON PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE WINNING COMMANDS FOR SURFACE LINE WEEK COMPETITION 1993. USS ESSEX WON FIRST PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

CRYPTOLOGY	MARLINESPIKE SEAMANSHIP
CELESTIAL FIX	GIG COMPETITION
SEA STORY	LATHE OPERATIONS
TENNIS	DAMAGE CONTROL MARATHON
SMARTEST QUARTERDECK	
POWER CABLE TUG-O-WAR	
PHYSICAL EXCELLENCE	

ESSEX ALSO WON THE OVERALL PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY FOR LARGE SHIPS.

- 09 THE PROPULSION EXAMINATION BOARD (PEB) ARRIVED TO CONDUCT AN OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION, CAPTAIN PARKER WAS THE SENIOR MEMBER. COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON NINE EMBARKED PER MSG 041913Z JUN 93 FOR THE OCCASION. DEPARTED SAN DIEGO FOR THE SOCIAL OPAREA TO CONDUCT THE UNDERWAY PORTION OF OPPE.
- 11 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N. THE OPPE WAS GRADED SATISFACTORY. CAPT PARKER, PEB AND COMPHIBRON NINE DEPARTED.
- 14 COMMENCED A RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY. CONTINENTAL MARITIME AND SOUTHWEST MARINE WERE CONTRACTORS. HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY: EIGHT CREW MEMBERS WERE FROCKED TO 1ST CLASS PETTY OFFICER AND 14 CREW MEMBERS WERE FROCKED TO 2ND CLASS PETTY OFFICER.
- 25 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY. ONE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AND SIX GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.
- 28 RADM RIDENOUR, COMMANDING OFFICER NAVAL HOSPITAL SAN DIEGO AND 50 INTERN DOCTORS, ATTENDED A COMNAVSURFPAC SPONSORED MEDICAL SEMINAR AND SHIP TOUR ONBOARD ESSEX.

JULY 93

- 09 COMPHIBRON THREE EMBARKED HIS STAFF AND BROKE HIS FLAG
- 14 VICE ADMIRAL HEIM-PETER WEYHER, INSPECTOR OF THE GERMAN NAVY (CNO EQUIVALENT) AND PARTY, CAME ABOARD FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT.
- 16 USS ESSEX DAY AT SEA WORLD. SHIP'S MWR PROVIDED FREE PARKING, LUNCH, HAT AND ALL DAY ENTRANCE TO SEA WORLD FOR ESSEX CREW MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS.
- 21 GENERAL W. BOOMER, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND PARTY, CAME ABOARD FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT. DURING THE VISIT GUNNERY SERGEANT YOUNG & GUNNERY SERGEANT GENTILE WERE FROCKED.
- 23 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY. ONE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, TWO ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST PINS AND SIX GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.
- 30 COMPHIBRON THREE DISEMBARKED, HAULED DOWN HIS FLAG. COMPLETED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY. ADOPT-A-SCHOOL -- THE XO, REPRESENTING THE CAPTAIN AND A GROUP OF 20 OFFICER & ENLISTED VOLUNTEERS VISITED THE ROBERT MUELLER SCHOOL. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BILL COLLINS, ESSEX SAILORS TOURED THE SCHOOL AND JOINED STUDENTS FOR LUNCH IN THEIR CAFETERIA.



AUGUST 93

- 02 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR THE SOCAL OPAREA FOR SEA TRIALS, FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AND CREW TRAINING.
- 03 CONDUCTED LCAC OPS AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO TEST CRAFT MANEUVERABILITY INSIDE THE WELL DECK FOLLOWING THE UPPER VEHICLE DECK EXTENSION MODIFICATION.
- 04 CONDUCTED LCU OPS. TESTED CRAFT MANEUVERABILITY IN THE WELL.
- 05 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED TO PIER 2, BERTH 25N.
- 08 EMBARKED 400 MARINES FOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT TRAINING AND 21 SEA CADETS AND 3 CADET INSTRUCTORS FOR TRAINING.
- 09 THE HONORABLE JOHN H. DALTON, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, CAME ABOARD FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND TOUR. SECRETARY DALTON HELD A FLEET CALL ON THE FLIGHT DECK FOR ALL INPORT SHIPS. UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR CREW TRAINING. CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS WITH CH-46 AND CH-53 HELOS. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS.
- 10 CONDUCTED AN EARLY MORNING MEDEVAC OF A CREW MEMBER, VIA HELO, TO NAVAL HOSPITAL SAN DIEGO. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS AND FLIGHT OPS FOR RECOVERY OF 2 UH-1N HUEY AND 2 AH-1W COBRA HELOS.
- 11 CONDUCTED AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT EXERCISE AGAINST CAMP PENDLETON. THE EMBARKED MARINES AND EQUIPMENT WERE TRANSPORTED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LANDING AREAS VIA HELOS AND LCACS. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE EXERCISE, DEPARTED THE SOCAL OPAREA ENROUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO.
- 12 CONDUCTED CIWS PAC FIRES FROM MTS 21 AND 23. CONDUCTED 50 CAL MACHINE GUN TRAINING FOR ALL MTS.
- 13 ENTERED SAN FRANCISCO BAY, MOORED PIER 35, SAN FRANCISCO, FOR A PORT VISIT AND CREW LIBERTY.
- 16 UNDERWAY FROM SAN FRANCISCO ENROUTE TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 18 CONDUCTED LCAC OPS TO RECOVER ONE LCAC. CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS TO RECOVER THE FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT: CH-46, CH-53, UH-1, AH-1 AND AV8. THESE AIRCRAFT AND THE LCAC WERE BROUGHT ONBOARD AS STATIC DISPLAYS FOR THE SURFACE NAVAL ASSOC. SYMPOSIUM. RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER 2, BERTH 25N. DEBARKED THE SEA CADETS AND INSTRUCTORS.
- 19 HOSTED SURFACE NAVAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPEDITIONARY SYMPOSIUM. THE ASSOCIATION HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR MEMBERS WHICH WAS HELD ON THE HANGAR DECK. ASSOC. MEMBERS WHO DESIRED, TOURED THE SHIP AND VIEWED THE STATIC DISPLAYS.

- 20 CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPS TO LAUNCH THE STATIC DISPLAY HELOS.
- 23 HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY, LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED] AND LTJG [REDACTED] PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT. UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO ENROUTE TO LONG BEACH. CONDUCTED LCAC OPS AND FLIGHT OPS TO LAUNCH THE LCAC AND AV8. ARRIVED LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD, MOORED PIER 1. COMMENCED A 70 DAY POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY.
- 26 HELD AN AWARD CEREMONY, 26 NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDALS WERE AWARDED.

DECEMBER 93

01 ANCHORED OFF CAMP PENDLETON, CONTINUE AMMO ONLOAD. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR AMMO ONLOAD VIA VERTREP (CH-46 HELOS).

02 ANCHORED OFF CAMP PENDLETON, CONCLUDED AMMO ONLOAD VIA VERTREP CH-46 HELOS, 968.21 TONS WERE LOADED. CONTINUED STOWING AMMO BELOW. UNDERWAY FROM ANCHORAGE. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR DLQS FOR AH-1 AND CH-46 HELOS. LAUNCHED RHIB IN CORONADO ROADS FOR RETURN OF TWO CIVILIANS TO FLEET LANDING.

03 RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, MOORED PIER TWO, BERTH 25N. CLASS "C" FIRE IN AFT SHORE POWER SWITCHBOARD, SHORTLY AFTER TYING UP, CAUSED POWER OUTAGE.

04 ABOUT 600 SEIP'S PERSONNEL, PLUS GUESTS, ATTENDED SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

06 UNDERWAY FROM NAVSTA SAN DIEGO FOR SOCIAL OPAREA. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR RECEIVING ONE UAV, DLQS FOR TWO AV-8S AND ONE CH-46.

07 SET GENERAL QUARTERS. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS AND CONDUCTED DLQS WITH UAV. CONDUCTED DLQS WITH FOUR AV-8S AND ONE CH-46 HELO.

08 SET GENERAL QUARTERS. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS AND CONDUCTED DLQS WITH UAV. RECEIVED ONE CH-46 HELO WITH SEVEN PASSENGERS, AMONG THEM RADM PERKINS (COMPHIBGRU THREE) AND MAJOR GENERAL JENKINS FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY. CONDUCTED DLQS FOR THREE AV-8S AND ONE CH-46.

09 SET GENERAL QUARTERS. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR UAV RATO LAUNCH. RADM PERKINS (COMPHIBGRU THREE) AND MAJOR GENERAL JENKINS DEPART ON CH-46 HELO. CONDUCTED DLQS WITH THREE AV-8S AND ONE CH-46.

10 STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS. CONDUCTED DLQS WITH THREE AV-8S AND ONE CH-46. SET GENERAL QUARTERS AND ACTIVATED AFFF STATIONS IN ZONES 1 THROUGH TWELVE. MOORED NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, PIER TWO, BERTH 25N.

12 HELD USS ESSEX CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY ON BOARD.

13 HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY ON THE FLIGHT DECK. FROCKED FIVE FIRST CLASS, 16 SECOND CLASS AND 72 THIRD CLASS. COMPHIBGRU THREE BROKE HIS FLAG ONBOARD BEGAN FIRST CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD.

14 HELD TOW REENLISTMENT CEREMONIES ON BOARD FOR ABF2 [REDACTED] AND MA2 [REDACTED].

16 HELD A REENLISTMENT CEREMONY ON BOARD FOR GYSGT [REDACTED].

17 HELD A REENLISTMENT CEREMONY ON BOARD FOR AO2 [REDACTED].

24 HELD CAPTAIN'S CALL. COL LOWMAN, U.S. ARMY, VISITED ESSEX TO DISCUSS FINAL PREPARATION FOR ONLOAD OF THE UAV. HELD A RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR BTCM SZULIST AND SHCS SWOPE.

25 THANKSGIVING DINNER WAS SERVED IN THE GALLEY FOR ESSEX CREW, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

29 UNDERWAY FOR AMMO ONLOAD. ANCHORED OFF CAMP PENDLETON, CA. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS, COMMENCED RECEIVING AN EXPECTED 1000 TONS OF AMMO DELIVERED VIA VERTREP (CH-46 HELO).

30 ANCHORED OFF CAMP PENDLETON, CA. STATIONED FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR AMMO ONLOAD VIA VERTREP (CH-46 HELOS).

25 CHRISTMAS WAS OBSERVED ON ESSEX BY SERVING A CHRISTMAS DINNER TO THE CREW AND THEIR GUESTS.

27 BEGAN SECOND CHRISTMAS LEAVE PERIOD.