



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ESSEX (LHD 2)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

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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.



T. F. RADICH

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 Landing Craft, Air Cushioned (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 an 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, California. In a moments notice she could easily become the largest hospital in San Diego county.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: COMPHIBRON FIVE
 COMPHIBGRU THREE

COMMANDING OFFICER: CAPT JOHN A. CASSIDY, USN
 1 January 1995 - 20 October 1995

RELIEVED BY

CAPT THOMAS F. RADICH, USN
20 October 1995 - 31 December 1995

Enclosure (1)

USS ESSEX (LHD 2) CHRONOLOGY 1995

JANUARY

- 1 MOORED JEBEL ALI.
- 3 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 6 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 8 UNDERWAY FROM JEBEL ALI FOR SAUDI ARABIA. CONDUCTED ACE SAFETY STANDDOWN.
- 9 UNREP WITH USNS WALTER S. DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED OFF SAUDI ARABIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN NAUTICAL MANTIS.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MASS CASUALTY DRILL.
- 12 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP WITH USNS SPICA.
- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. 10,000TH LANDING ON ESSEX BY CAPT CASSIDY. SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICER VISIT. UNREP WITH USS CIMMARON. UNDERWAY TO DEPART SEA ECHELON AREA.
- 16 CREW PARTICIPATED IN A DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SAUDI AMBASSADOR ARRIVED.
- 18 UNDERWAY FOR TRANSIT TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS. SPECIAL COURTS-MARTIAL TOOK PLACE. MASS CASUALTY DRILL.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MASS CASUALTY DRILL.
- 20 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED AT AL HAMBRA FOR IRON MAGIC.
- 21 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES.

JANUARY (CON'T)

- 22 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. EMBARKED UAE MARINES VIA LCAC. ANCHOR AL HAMBRA.
- 23 LCAC OPERATIONS TO BACKLOAD FROM IRON MAGIC. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR DUBAI.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MOORED DUBAI.
- 25 "HUMP DAY".
- 26 UNDERWAY FOR KENYA.
- 27 UNREP WITH USNS DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. TRANSITED STRAIT OF HORMUZ.
- 28 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. HARRIER LOST. SEARCH COMMENCES.
- 30 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CIWS PACFIRE. PHIBRON NINE ANNOUNCES ESSEX AS WINNER OF COMMODORE'S CUP FOR LARGE SHIP. SEARCH CONCLUDES. CAPT RAYMOND D. MCKAY, USMC, NOT RECOVERED.
- 31 AWARDS CEREMONY. SEARCH CONCLUDED.

FEBRUARY

- 1 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CAPT MCKAY. LIVE FIRE OF CIWS, 50 CAL, AND 25MM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANNOUNCED AS 1ST IN LARGE AFLOAT CATEGORY FOR PACFLT IN THE NEY COMPETITION.
- 2 CROSSED THE EQUATOR. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. RENDEZVOUS WITH USS BELLEAU WOOD.
- 3-6 AMPHIBEX OFF KENYA.
- 3 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED MOMBASA, KENYA.
- 4 UNDERWAY TO UNGAMA BAY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ICE CREAM SOCIAL.
- 5 AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION. LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ARRIVED UNGAMA BAY. VISIT BY MGEN ZINNIE, COMMANDER ARMED FORCES UNITED SHIELD.

FEBRUARY (CON'T)

- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. POSTEX DEBRIEF. UNDERWAY FOR MOGADISHU.
- 7 UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS DIEHL AND USS KISKA. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 8 ARRIVED MOGADISHU. FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 9 OPERATION UNITED SHIELD. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 13-28 CART PHASE I
- 13 LIVE FIRE OF CIWS AND 25MM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 ANNOUNCED AS TYCOM SURFACE SHIP SAFETY AWARD WINNER. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS ERICSSON.
- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 16 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS SPICA.
- 18 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. HUEY CRASH. SGT HARRIS NOT RECOVERED. FOUR SURVIVORS RECOVERED IN LESS THAN 11 MINUTES.
- 20 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SGT HARRIS. AK3 JUMPS OVERBOARD AND IS RECOVERED.
- 21 NO FLY DAY. CONDUCTED BEACH RECONNAISSANCE.
- 22 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS. AMPHIBIOUS REHEARSAL.
- 23 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VADM REDD, COMUSNAVCENT, VISIT. VERTREP WITH USS KISKA.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

FEBRUARY (CON'T)

- 25 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. AMPHIBIOUS REHEARSAL.
- 26 UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS ERICSSON.
- 27 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 28 D-DAY FOR UNITED SHIELD. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

MARCH

- 1 SUPPORT UNITED SHIELD OPERATIONS ASHORE. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 2 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR BACKLOAD.
- 3 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. BACKLOAD COMPLETE. DEPART MOGADISHU OPAREA.
- 4 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 5 EN ROUTE AUSTRALIA. POST OPERATION UNITED SHIELD SPECIAL DINNER.
- 6 UNREP WITH USNS ERICSSON.
- 7 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNITED SHIELD DEBRIEF.
- 8 AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 9 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CPA DIEGO GARCIA FOR HELO TRANSFER OF PARTS AND PERSONNEL.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 11 MARDI GRAS NIGHT. CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY.
- 13 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. DTE SEQUENCE.
- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 16 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

MARCH (CON'T)

- 17 MOOR FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA.
- 18 GENERAL TOURS AND RECEPTION.
- 19 PUBLIC TOURS CONTINUE.
- 20 MEMORIAL SERVICE. ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENT OF THE 1994 BATTLE
"E" AWARD.
- 21 VIP LUNCH.
- 23 UNDERWAY INDEPENDENT STEAMING FOR OKINAWA.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 25 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 27 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. PASS LOMBOK STRAIT.
- 28 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 29 AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF
THE 1994 ALLEN G. OGDEN AWARD FOR CRASH AND SALVAGE.
- 30 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 31 COMPHIBRON FIVE AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

APRIL

- 2 STEEL BEACH PICNIC
- 3 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHOR BUCKNER BAY FOR LCAC
TRANSFER. CG III MEF VISIT. TETHER OUT NAVCENT. VEHICLE
WASHDOWN.
- 4 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR PEARL HARBOR.
UNREP WITH USNS DIEHL.
- 5 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

APRIL (CON'T)

- 7 CIWS PACFIRE. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 8 FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS. UNREP WITH USNS MARS.
RENDEZVOUS WITH USS FORT FISHER AND USS ODGEN.
- 9 ICE CREAM SOCIAL. CHOP TO THIRD FLEET.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 11 CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE. REPEATED 11 APR. FLIGHT
OPERATIONS.
- 12 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNREP WITH USS WILLAMETTE.
- 15 MOOR PEARL HARBOR. SHIP VISIT BY MGEN KRULAK, FMFPAC, AND
RADM FITZGERALD, DEPUTY AND CHIEF OF STAFF US PACFLT.
- 16-25 TIGER CRUISE.
- 17 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO. COM THIRD FLEET VISIT.
- 18 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 20 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CIWS AND 25MM PACFIRE.
- 21 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 22 STEEL BEACH PICNIC.
- 23 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 24 ANCHOR OFF CAMP PENDLETON FOR END OF DEPLOYMENT OFFLOAD.
FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS. USO SHOW.
- 25 MOOR PIER TWO, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO.

MAY

- 3 COMPHIBGRU THREE BREAKS HIS FLAG ONBOARD ESSEX.
- 7 COMPHIBGRU THREE HAULS DOWN HIS FLAG.
- 10 AWARDS CEREMONY.
- 12 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY.
- 16 CMS A&A VISIT.
- 17 CO TAD TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 20 ARMED FORCES DAY.
- 25 ALL HANDS SAFETY STANDDOWN. CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 30 UNDERWAY FOR CAMP PENDLETON.
- 31 ANCHORED NEAR CAMP PENDLETON. FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR PRE-SRA AMMO OFF-LOAD.

JUNE

- 1 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP AMMO OFF-LOAD. UNDERWAY FOR NIGHT STEAM.
- 2 ANCHOR. CONTINUE AMMO OFF-LOAD. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION VISIT. UNDERWAY FOR NIGHT STEAM. CONDUCTED SWING SHIP.
- 4 DTE SEQUENCE. CONDUCTED DLQ'S.
- 5 RHIB BOAT OPERATIONS TO DEL MAR BOAT BASIN. LCAC PROFICIENCY TRAINING. DLQ'S.
- 6 DLQ'S. LCAC PROFICIENCY TRAINING.
- 7 MOOR PIER 13 NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 8 FAMILY FUN DAY AT SAN DIEGO FAMILY FUN CENTER.
- 9 SRA/SIMA ARRIVAL CONFERENCE.

JUNE (CON'T)

- 12 CHIEF OF CHAPLAIN'S VISIT. START SRA.
- 19-23 SURFACE LINE WEEK
- 23 ESSEX ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF LARGE AFLOAT ATHLETICS.
- 24 USS JASON DECOMMISSIONING. SURFPAC BALL.
- 27 RADM GUNN, COMPHIBGRU THREE VISITS TO PRESENT BATTLE "E".

JULY

- 5-7 PLOA-1.
- 9-31 ESSEX HOSTS JDS HARUNA.
- 11 WREATH CEREMONY AT FORT ROSECRANS CEMETERY.
- 14 AWARDED 2ND PLACE IN NEY COMPETITION. JDS HARUNA RECEPTION.
- 26 DC OLYMPICS AND SPORTS DAY.
- 31-4 AUG PLOA-2.

AUGUST

- 1-4 INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY.
- 2 CONDUCTED A GRADED MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL AS PART OF PLOA-2.
- 3 CONDUCTED A GRADED MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL AS PART OF PLOA-2.
- 10 AWARDS CEREMONY.
- 14 SHIP HANDLING COMPETITION.
- 21 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY VISIT.
- 23 SAN DIEGO ARMED FORCES YMCA 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.
- 25 AIRMAN BEEM COMMITTED SUICIDE.
- 26 SHIP'S PICNIC.

AUGUST (CON'T)

28-1 SEP PLOA-3. MULTI-THREAT TEAM TRAINER.

30 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR AN BEEM.

30-1 SEP SHIP SIMULATOR.

SEPTEMBER

5-8 ASIR T/A.

5 COMPHIBRON FIVE EMBARKS.

6 ESSEX DAY AT JACK MURPHY STADIUM FOR PADRES GAME.

7 SECNAV VISIT.

8 USS TRIPOLI DECOMMISSIONING.

14 PCO CAPTAIN RADICH EMBARKS.

14-15 DOCKSIDE UNREP SIMULATOR.

15 COMPHIBGRU THREE CHANGE OF COMMAND ONBOARD USS TARAWA.

18-22 MOCK CART II. RADM MARFIAK, COMCRUDESGRU 5, VISITS.

19-29 CFC FUND DRIVE.

25-26 AAV.

29 RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE, VISIT.

30 USS SAN BERNARDINO DECOMMISSIONING.

OCTOBER

2-3 PLAO CONTINUES.

3 LOA SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED.

4 LIGHT OFF.

5 AMMO ONLOAD. JP-5 ONLOAD.

OCTOBER (CON'T)

- 6 CAPT ERNO, CNSP FORCE SUPPLY OFFICER, VISITS FOR GRAND OPENING OF THE SHIP'S STORE. YMCA SENIOR ENLISTED BALL.
- 10 SAFETY STANDDOWN. CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 11 ANNOUNCED AS COMPHIBGRU THREE NOMINEE FOR CINCPACFLT GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD.
- 13 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 16 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 17 UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS. BIRTHDAY OF THE ESSEX.
- 18 SEA TRIALS. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 19 RADM OXENBOLD, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, AND RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE VISIT.
- 20 CHANGE OF COMMAND. CAPT JOHN A. CASSIDY IS RELIEVED BY CAPT THOMAS F. RADICH.
- 23-27 CART II.
- 24-25 ARE.
- 26 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 27 RADM JACOBY, RADM SAFFELL, CINCPACFLT N2 CAPT CIMERAL, AND COMMARFORPAC G2 COL WICKMAN VISIT FOR INTEL MEETING.
- 30 CATF SURGEON VISIT.

NOVEMBER

- 1 ADM MCGINN, COMCARGRU ONE, VISIT.
- 2 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT.
- 5 CINCPAC C4I MILCOM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES TOUR.
- 6-10 TSTA I INPORT AND ASIR.

NOVEMBER (CON'T)

- 6 RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE, AND COL PARKENS, USAF, VISIT.
- 9 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 13 UNDERWAY TO CONDUCT TSTA I UNDERWAY PHASE I. PHIBRON FIVE HAULS DOWN HIS FLAG AND EMBARKS USS FORT FISHER.
- 14 CONDUCTED DLQ'S. REWS RANGE.
- 15 CONDUCTED DLQ'S. CCC-27 COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE.
- 16 CONDUCTED UNREP APPROACHES WITH USNS DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CCC-27 COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 18 PHIBRON FIVE BREAKS FLAG ONBOARD USS ESSEX.
- 20-22 LATR/3M ASSIST.
- 27 UNDERWAY FOR TSTA I. CONDUCTED DLQ'S. LCAC OPERATIONS. SATNAV CHECK RIDE BY COMPHIBGRU THREE. PHIBRON FIVE HAULS DOWN FLAG AND EMBARKS ON USS FORT FISHER.
- 28 CHAPLAIN CORPS 220TH ANNIVERSARY. LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 29 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SATISFACTORY ECONOMY TRIAL. NVG OPERATIONS. NIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 30 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. NIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS. NVG OPERATIONS.

DECEMBER

- 1 MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA, SAN DIEGO.
- 2 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE HANGAR BAY.
- 4 UNDERWAY FOR AMMO ONLOAD.

DECEMBER (CON'T)

- 5 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD. PALLET OF AMMO KNOCKS LIFE RAFT OFF SHIP. LIFE RAFT RECOVERED. PALLET OF ROCKET MOTORS INADVERTENTLY JETTISONED.
- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD.
- 7 FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND WELL DECK OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD.
- 8 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA, SAN DIEGO. AWARDS CEREMONY.
- 9 COMPHIBRON FIVE BREAKS HIS FLAG ONBOARD ESSEX.
- 11-14 PPAT VISIT.
- 13 LFORM ONLOAD. MOELLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT CONSISTING OF 93 STUDENTS.
- 14 CAPT EDWARD F. NEY INSPECTION. ESSEX CHRISTMAS PARTY. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TOUR.
- 14-15 SHIP SIMULATOR.
- 16-27 FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 27-8 JAN SECOND HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 22 ESSEX WINS DRESS SHIP HOLIDAY COMPETITION. ESSEX EARNS SECNAV ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD NOMINATION.
- 29 CUB SCOUT TOUR.
- 30 HOLIDAY BOWL HIGH SCHOOL BAND TOURS CONSISTING OF 200 PEOPLE.

USS ESSEX (LHD 2) NARRATIVE 1995

JANUARY

AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY, ESSEX WAS MOORED IN JEBEL ALI. LCAC'S FROM ACU-5 AND THE 13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT CONSISTING OF BATTALION LANDING TEAM 3RD BATTALION/1ST MARINES, MARINE AIRCRAFT SQUADRON 161 AND MEU SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP THIRTEEN WERE EMBARKED. THE ARG WAS COMMANDED BY COMMODORE GARY W. STUBBS, COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON FIVE. USS OGDEN (LPD-5) AND USS FORT FISHER (LSD-40), BOTH ATTACHED TO THE ARG WERE ALSO MOORED WITH ESSEX. IN JANUARY, ESSEX FINISHED THE HOLIDAY PERIOD AND A TWO WEEK TENDER AVAILABILITY IN JEBEL ALI, U.A.E. AND SAILED FOR AN EXERCISE WITH U.A.E IN THE SOUTHERN ARABIAN GULF. DURING THIS PERIOD, ESSEX AND ACU-5 SAILORS CONDUCTED REPAIRS TO AN LCAC FROM ANOTHER SHIP THAT SUFFERED A CLASS "B" MISHAP IN DECEMBER, TURNING A NON-OPERATIONAL CRAFT INTO A MUCH NEEDED COMBAT READY ASSET. THIS CONCLUDED, SHE SAILED FOR TWO DAYS OF LIBERTY IN DUBAI PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE GULF, HEADED FOR SOMALIA.

- 1 STILL MOORED JEBEL ALI. ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF THE LARGE AFLOAT CATEGORY FOR PACFLT IN THE NEY COMPETITION.
- 3 INPORT FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 6 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 8 UNDERWAY FROM JEBEL ALI FOR SAUDI ARABIA. CONDUCTED ACE SAFETY STANDDOWN.
- 9 UNREP WITH USNS WALTER S. DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED OFF SAUDI ARABIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN NAUTICAL MANTIS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MASS CASUALTY DRILL. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR A MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.
- 12 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP WITH USNS SPICA.

JANUARY (CON'T)

- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. 10,000TH LANDING ON ESSEX BY CAPT CASSIDY. SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICER VISIT. UNREP WITH USS CIMMARON. UNDERWAY TO DEPART SEA ECHELON AREA.
- 16 ANCHORED. CREW PARTICIPATED IN A DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROGRAM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR ITT DRILL.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SAUDI AMBASSADOR ARRIVED.
- 18 UNDERWAY FOR TRANSIT TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS. SPECIAL COURTS-MARTIAL TOOK PLACE. MASS CASUALTY DRILL.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MASS CASUALTY DRILL.
- 20 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED AT AL HAMBRA FOR IRON MAGIC. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.
- 21 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES.
- 22 ANCHOR AL HAMBRA. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. EMBARKED UAE MARINES VIA LCAC.
- 23 LCAC OPERATIONS TO OFFLOAD FROM IRON MAGIC. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR DUBAI.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MOORED DUBAI.
- 25 "HUMP DAY".
- 26 UNDERWAY FOR KENYA.
- 27 UNREP WITH USNS DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. STRAIT OF HORMUZ TRANSIT.
- 28 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 29 DC OLYMPICS HELD.
- 30 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CIWS PACFIRE. HARRIER LOST DURING NIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SEARCH COMMENCES.

JANUARY (CON'T)

- 31 AWARDS CEREMONY. PHIBRON 9 ANNOUNCES ESSEX AS WINNER OF COMMODORE'S CUP FOR LARGE SHIP CATEGORY. CAPT RAYMOND N. MCKAY, USMC, NOT RECOVERED. SEARCH CONCLUDED AFTER 24 HOURS, MORE THAN 4,200 SQUARE MILES SEARCHED WITH A P-3 AIRCRAFT, MORE THAN 30 HELICOPTER SORTIES, SMALL BOATS AND THE THREE SHIPS OF THE ARG.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE LARGEST AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT OPERATION CONDUCTED SINCE THE KOREAN CONFLICT. OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED WITH THE ITALIAN, BRITISH, FRENCH, TURKISH, AND INDONESIAN NAVIES AND MARINE CORPS. ESSEX RECEIVED NUMEROUS ACCOLADES FOR THIS TEXTBOOK OPERATION INCLUDING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON A JOB WELL DONE.

- 1 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CAPT MCKAY. LIVE FIRE OF CIWS, 50 CAL, AND 25MM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL. IN MOGADISHU, THE PAKISTANI BRIGADE WAS EVACUATING THE EMBASSY AND UNIVERSITY COMPOUND TO RELOCATE TO THE AIRPORT.
- 2 CROSSED THE EQUATOR. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. RENDEZVOUS USS BELLEAU WOOD. THE HARRIERS WERE BASED OFF THE BELLEAU WOOD DURING UNITED SHIELD AND IT WAS USED AS THE COMMAND PLATFORM. CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY WAS POSTPONED THROUGHOUT THE ARG UNTIL THE FOCUS COULD BE SHIFTED FROM PREPARATIONS FOR UNITED SHIELD.
- 3-6 AMPHIBEX OFF KENYA.
- 3 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHORED OFF MOMBASA, KENYA.
- 4 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ICE CREAM SOCIAL. UNDERWAY FOR UNGAMA BAY.
- 5 AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION. LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ARRIVED UNGAMA BAY. VISIT BY MGEN ZINNIE, COMMANDER ARMED FORCES UNITED SHIELD.
- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. POSTEX DEBRIEF. UNDERWAY FOR MOGADISHU, SOMALIA.

- 7 UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS DIEHL AND USS KISKA. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 8 ARRIVED MOGADISHU. FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 9 OPERATION UNITED SHIELD. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 13-28 CART PHASE I
- 13 LIVE FIRE OF CIWS AND 25MM. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 ANNOUNCED AS TYCOM SURFACE SHIP SAFETY AWARD WINNER. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS ERICSSON.
- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 16 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.
- 17-20 EGYPTIAN FORCES WITHDRAW FROM MOGADISHU AIRPORT VIA UN CONTRACTED AIRCRAFT.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS SPICA.
- 18 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. HUEY CRASHED IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKEOFF. SGT JUSTIN A. HARRIS WAS NOT RECOVERED. IT APPEARED THE "GUNNER'S BELT" HE WAS WEARING SERVED TO DRAG HIM DOWN WITH THE HELICOPTER WHEN IT SANK. HIS BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED. THE FOUR SURVIVORS RECOVERED IN 11 MINUTES.
- 20 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SGT HARRIS. A DISGRUNTLED AK3 [REDACTED] JUMPED OVERBOARD AND WAS IMMEDIATELY RECOVERED WITHOUT RESISTANCE.
- 21 NO FLY DAY. CONDUCTED BEACH RECONAISSANCE.
- 22 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS. AMPHIBIOUS REHEARSAL PRACTICE LANDING AND SURFACE SHIP MOVEMENT.

FEBRUARY (CON'T)

- 23 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VADM REDD, COMUSNAVCENT, VISIT. VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 25 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. AMPHIBIOUS REHEARSAL.
- 26 UNREP/VERTREP USNS ERICSSON.
- 27 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 28 D-DAY FOR UNITED SHIELD, US MARINES AND ITALIAN FORCES LAND AT MOGADISU IN FORCE. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. LCAC OPERATIONS.

MARCH

IN MARCH, ESSEX COMPLETED THE MOST DIFFICULT PORTION OF UNITED SHIELD AS U.S. FORCES ESTABLISHED PERIMETERS, ALLOWED ALLIED FORCES TO WITHDRAW AND THEN THE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP WITHDREW OUR OWN FORCES LEAVING SOMALIA TO THE SOMALI'S. NEXT, BEGAN THE LONG-AWAITED TRANSIT HOME VIA A FIVE DAY PORT VISIT TO PERTH, AUSTRALIA, WHICH WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED. AT THE END OF MARCH ESSEX ANCHORED FOR A FEW DAYS IN OKINAWA TO SWAP TWO LCAC'S USED FOR DEPLOYMENT, WHICH WERE TO BE KEPT IN THE SEVENTH FLEET AOR, FOR TWO NEEDING TRANSPORT HOME FOR DEPOT LEVEL REPAIRS AND UPGRADES. THE END OF THE MONTH WAS MARKED BY THE ESSEX BEING AWARDED ALL POSSIBLE COMMAND EXCELLENCE AWARDS, INCLUDING THE COVETED BATTLE "E". THE TRANSIT HOME WAS USED TO BEGIN PREPARING THE SHIP FOR THE NEXT DEPLOYMENT, SO THAT WHEN THE NEXT CYCLE BEGAN, ALL TRAINING TEAMS WOULD BE READY TO CONTINUE THE ESTABLISHED STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

- 1 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SUPPORT UNITED SHIELD OPERATIONS ASHORE. REMAINING BANGLADESHI FORCES EMBARK ON UN CONTRACTED SHIPPING IN MOGADISHU AND THE PAKISTANI FORCES TURN OVER THE AIRPORT TO PREPARE TO BOARD COMMERCIAL SHIPPING.
- 2 REMAINING PAKISTANI FORCES EMBARK ON UN CONTRACTED SHIPPING, ITALIAN FORCES COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM MOGADISHU. U.S. FORCES REMAIN AS REAR GUARD. FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND LCAC OPERATIONS FOR BACKLOAD.

MARCH (CON'T)

- 3 FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND LCAC OPERATIOANS. BACKLOAD COMPLETE.
DEPART MOGADISHU OPAREA.
- 4 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONREP/VERTREP WITH USNS KISKA.
- 5 EN ROUTE AUSTRALIA. POST OPERATION UNITED SHIELD SPECIAL
DINNER.
- 6 UNREP WITH USNS ERICSSON.
- 7 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNITED SHIELD DEBRIEF.
- 8 AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 9 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CPA DIEGO GARCIA FOR HELO TRANSFER OF
PARTS AND PERSONNEL.
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 11 CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY AT 14 57" S, 080 34"E. MARDI
GRAS NIGHT.
- 13 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. DETECT TO ENGAGE SEQUENCE PRACTICED.
- 15 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 16 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR
LOCKER TRAINING.
- 17 MOOR FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA.
- 18 GENERAL TOURS AND RECEPTION.
- 19 PUBLIC TOURS CONTINUE.
- 20 ESSEX PROVIDED COLOR GUARD AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS FOR A
MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING AUSTRALIAN WW II VETERANS.
ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENT OF THE 1994 BATTLE "E" AWARD.
- 21 VIP LUNCH AND TOUR FOR AMERICAN COUNSEL, DANIEL P. CLAFFEY
AND BUSINESS LEADERS FROM PERTH AUSTRALIA.

MARCH (CON'T)

- 23 UNDERWAY FOR INDEPENDENT STEAMING TO OKINAWA. FORT FISHER AND OGDEN REMAINED INPORT FREMANTLE DUE TO BAD WEATHER. ESSEX WAS THE ONLY SHIP REQUIRED TO TRAVEL TO OKINAWA FOR THE LCAC SWAP, SO EVEN WITH A LATER DEPARTURE, FORT FISHER AND OGDEN COULD USE A SLOWER SPEED OF ADVANCE AND STILL MEET ESSEX ALONG HER TRACK SHORTLY AFTER OKINAWA.
- 24 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 25 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 27 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. PASSED THROUGH LOMBOK STRAIT.
- 28 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 29 AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF THE 1994 ALLEN G. OGDEN AWARD FOR CRASH AND SALVAGE.
- 30 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 31 COMPHIBRON FIVE AWARDS CEREMONY. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

APRIL

HOMECOMING FINALLY CAME IN APRIL, BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER THE OFFLOAD OF ALL EMBARKED UNITS. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL, A SHIPBOARD SAFETY FAIR WAS CONDUCTED TO EDUCATE ALL PERSONNEL AND THEIR TIGER CRUISE GUESTS IN VARIOUS HOME AND WORK RELATED SAFETY TOPICS. TWO CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROLMEN ASSISTED WITH AN EXCELLENT BRIEF ON NEW STATE LAWS AND CALIFORNIA'S POLICIES CONCERNING DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

- 2 STEEL BEACH PICNIC
- 3 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ANCHOR BUCKNER BAY FOR LCAC TRANSFER. CG III MEF VISIT. TETHER OUT NAVCENT TO SEVENTH FLEET (TG 76.3). VEHICLE WASHDOWN.
- 4 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR PEARL HARBOR. UNREP WITH USNS DIEHL.

APRIL

- 5 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR TOTAL SHIP SURVIVABILITY WALK-THRU.
- 7 CIWS PACFIRE. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 8 FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS. UNREP WITH USNS MARS. RENDEZVOUS WITH USS FORT FISHER AND USS OGDEN.
- 9 ICE CREAM SOCIAL. CHOP TO THIRD FLEET (TG 36.3).
- 10 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 11 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR TSS.
- 11 CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE. REPEATED 11 APR. FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 12 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 14 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. UNREP WITH USS WILLAMETTE.
- 15 MOOR PEARL HARBOR. SHIP VISIT BY MGEN KRULAK, FMFPAC, AND RADM FITZGERALD, DEPUTY AND CHIEF OF STAFF US PACFLT.
- 16-25 TIGER CRUISE.
- 17 UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO. COM THIRD FLEET VISIT.
- 18 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 19 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 20 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CIWS AND 25MM PACFIRE.
- 21 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 22 STEEL BEACH PICNIC.
- 23 FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

APRIL

- 24 ANCHOR OFF CAMP PENDLETON FOR END OF DEPLOYMENT OFFLOAD.
FLIGHT AND LCAC OPERATIONS. USO SHOW.
- 25 MOOR PIER TWO, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO.

MAY

MAY WAS SPENT IN POST-DEPLOYMENT STANDDOWN. IT WAS ALSO MARKED BY THE AWARD OF THE 1994 CNO SAFETY AWARD. AT THE END OF THE MONTH, ESSEX CONDUCTED THE FIRST AMMUNITION OFFLOAD IN RECENT HISTORY WITH NO DAMAGED MATERIALS AND ZERO INVENTORY DISCREPANCIES. THIS IS ENTIRELY CREDITED TO THE SUPERB TEAMWORK EXHIBITED BY THE ESSEX CREW IN BOTH EVERYDAY OPERATIONS, THE PLANNING OF THE OFFLOAD, AND THE CONDUCT OF THE OFFLOAD ITSELF.

- 3 COMPHIBGRU THREE BREAKS HIS FLAG ONBOARD ESSEX.
- 7 COMPHIBGRU THREE HAULS DOWN HIS FLAG.
- 10 AWARDS CEREMONY.
- 12 MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY.
- 16 CMS A&A VISIT.
- 17 CO TAD TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 20 ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION.
- 25 ALL HANDS SAFETY STANDDOWN. CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 30 UNDERWAY FOR CAMP PENDLETON.
- 31 ANCHORED NEAR CAMP PENDLETON. FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR PRE-SRA
AMMO OFF-LOAD.

JUNE

IN JUNE, ESSEX ENTERED A SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (SRA) PERIOD. ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS WERE OVERHAULED OR REPLACED, AND SEVERAL QUALITY OF LIFE INVESTMENTS MADE TO INCREASE FUTURE MISSION READINESS. ESSEX SAFETY PERSONNEL MADE DAILY INSPECTIONS OF WORK SITES WITH SUPERINTENDENT OF SHIPBUILDING AND CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVES. ANY MINOR DISCREPANCIES WERE CORRECTED ON THE SPOT AND WORK WAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED TO FIX IMMEDIATE SAFETY CONCERNS.

- 1 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. VERTREP AMMO OFF-LOAD. UNDERWAY FOR NIGHT STEAM.
- 2 ANCHOR. CONTINUE AMMO OFF-LOAD. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION VISIT. UNDERWAY FOR NIGHT STEAM. CONDUCTED SWING SHIP. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING AND TOTAL SHIP SURVIVABILITY (TSS) WALK-THRU.
- 3 CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR TSS.
- 4 DTE SEQUENCE. CONDUCTED DLQ'S.
- 5 RHIB BOAT OPERATIONS TO DEL MAR BOAT BASIN. LCAC PROFICIENCY TRAINING. DLQ'S. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.
- 6 DLQ'S. LCAC PROFICIENCY TRAINING. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 7 MOOR PIER 13 NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO FOR SRA.
- 8 FAMILY FUN DAY AT SAN DIEGO FAMILY FUN CENTER.
- 9 SRA/SIMA ARRIVAL CONFERENCE.
- 12 CHIEF OF CHAPLAIN'S VISIT. START SRA.
- 19-23 SURFACE LINE WEEK
- 23 ESSEX ANNOUNCED AS WINNER OF LARGE AFLOAT ATHLETIC COMPETITION.
- 24 USS JASON DECOMMISSIONING. SURFPAC BALL.

JUNE (CON'T)

27 RADM GUNN, COMPHIBGRU THREE, VISITS TO PRESENT BATTLE "E".

JULY

THE SRA CONTINUED. THE CREW HAD TO ADJUST TO FINISH ADJUSTING TO WORKING IN AN INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT INSTEAD OF AS PART OF AN OPERATIONAL UNIT. WITH HALF OF THE HEADS SHUT DOWN AND MANY OF THE BERTHING COMPARTMENTS UNINHABITABLE THROUGH JULY AND AUGUST IT WAS UNPLEASANT FOR ALL CONCERNED.

5-7 PRE-LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT (PLOA)-1.

9-31 ESSEX HOSTS JDS HARUNA.

11 WREATH CEREMONY AT FORT ROSECRANS CEMETERY.

14 AWARDED 2ND PLACE IN NEY COMPETITION. JDS HARUNA RECEPTION.

26 DC OLYMPICS AND SPORTS DAY.

31-4 AUG PLOA-2.

AUGUST

THE SRA CONTINUED. TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH EFFORTS STARTED TO SHIFT TO GETTING THE ESSEX READY TO GO TO SEA AGAIN.

1-4 INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY.

2 CONDUCTED A GRADED MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL AS PART OF PLOA-2.

3 CONDUCTED A GRADED MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL AS PART OF PLOA-2.

10 AWARDS CEREMONY.

14 SHIPHANDLING COMPETITION.

21 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY VISIT.

23 SAN DIEGO ARMED FORCES YMCA 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

AUGUST (CON'T)

- 25 AIRMAN GAVIN BEEM WAS FOUND AT 0320 ONBOARD AFTER COMMITTING SUICIDE BY HANGING HIMSELF OFF A CATWALK. SURVIVORS INCLUDE HIS WIFE AND A SON. AN OUTSTANDING WORKER, HE WAS WELL LIKED AND SHOWED NO INDICATIONS OF DEPRESSION OR TENDENCIES TOWARD SELF-ENDANGERMENT.
- 26 SHIP'S PICNIC.
- 28-1 PLOA-3. MULTI THREAT TEAM TRAINER.
- 30 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR AIRMAN BEEM.
- 30-1 SEP SHIP SIMULATOR TRAINING.

SEPTEMBER

CAPT RADICH, PCO, ARRIVED AND RECEIVED HIS INITIAL IN-BRIEFS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS. ESSEX STRUGGLES WITH SUPSHIP AND THE CONTRACTOR TO MEET THE SCHEDULE AND COMPLETE ALL WORK ON TIME TO DEPART AND BEGIN THE WORK UP CYCLE FOR DEPLOYMENT.

- 5-8 ASIR T/A.
- 5 COMPHIBRON FIVE EMBARKS.
- 6 ESSEX DAY AT JACK MURPHY STADIUM FOR PADRES GAME.
- 7 SECNAV VISIT BY HONORABLE JOHN DALTON.
- 8 USS TRIPOLI DECOMMISSIONING.
- 14 PCO CAPTAIN RADICH EMBARKS.
- 14-15 DOCKSIDE UNREP SIMULATOR.
- 15 COMPHIBGRU THREE CHANGE OF COMMAND ONBOARD USS TARAWA.
- 18-22 MOCK CART II. RADM MARFIAK, COMCRUDESGRU 5, VISITS.
- 19-29 CFC FUND DRIVE.
- 25-26 AAV.

SEPTEMBER (CON'T)

- 29 RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE, VISIT.
- 30 USS SAN BERNARDINO DECOMMISSIONING.

OCTOBER

SRA WAS FINALLY COMPLETED, MISHAP-FREE, IN OCTOBER. PRIOR TO SEA TRIALS, AN EXTENSIVE SAFETY STANDDOWN WAS HELD, STRESSING PROPER PROCEDURES AND SECURING FOR SEA. THE CHANGE OF COMMAND ALSO OCCURRED THIS MONTH WITH SEA TRIALS AS CAPT CASSIDY'S LAST UNDERWAY PERIOD AS CO.

- 2-3 PLOA CONTINUES.
- 3 LOA SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED.
- 4 LIGHT OFF.
- 5 AMMO ONLOAD. JP-5 ONLOAD.
- 6 CAPT ERNO, CNSP FORCE SUPPLY OFFICER, VISITS FOR GRAND OPENING OF THE SHIP'S STORE. YMCA SENIOR ENLISTED BALL. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING.
- 10 SAFETY STANDDOWN. CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 11 ANNOUNCED AS COMPHIBGRU 3 NOMINEE FOR CINCPACFLT GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD.
- 13 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 16 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE.
- 17 UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS. BIRTHDAY OF THE ESSEX.
- 18 SEA TRIALS. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO.
- 19 RADM OXENBOLD, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, AND RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE, VISIT.
- 20 CHANGE OF COMMAND. CAPT JOHN A. CASSIDY IS RELIEVED BY CAPT THOMAS F. RADICH.

OCTOBER (CON'T)

23-27 CART II.

24-25 ARE.

26 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.

27 RADM JACOBY, RADM SAFFELL, CINPACFLT N2 CAPT CIMERAL, AND COMMARFORPAC G2 COL WICKMAN VISIT FOR INTEL MEETING.

30 CATF SURGEONS VISIT AND ORIENTATION.

NOVEMBER

SEA TRIALS AND TAILORED SHIP TRAINING AVAILABILITY (TSTA) PHASE I WERE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WITH NO MISHAPS OR CASUALTIES. VALUABLE TRAINING INVESTMENTS WERE MADE AND THE SHIP RAPIDLY REGAINED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY PRIOR TO NEXT DEPLOYMENT.

1 ADM MCGINN, COMCARGRU 1, VISIT.

2 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT.

5 CINCPAC C4I MILCOM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES TOUR.

6 RADM SAFFELL, COMPHIBGRU THREE, AND COL PARKENS, USAF, VISIT.

6-10 TSTA I INPORT AND ASIR.

9 CONDUCTED FAST CRUISE. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL.

13 UNDERWAY TO CONDUCT TSTA I UNDERWAY PHASE I. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL. PHIBRON FIVE HAULS DOWN FLAG AND EMBARKS ON USS FORT FISHER.

14 CONDUCTED DLQ'S. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING. REWS RANGE EXERCISE.

15 CONDUCTED DLQ'S. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS FOR MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL. CCC-27 (COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS) EXERCISE.

NOVEMBER

- 16 CONDUCTED UNREP APPROACHES WITH USNS DIEHL. FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CCC-27 COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED.
- 17 FLIGHT OPERATIONS. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO.
- 18 PHIBRON FIVE BRAKS FLAG ON ESSEX.
- 20-22 LATR/3M ASSIST.
- 27 UNDERWAY FOR TSTA I. CONDUCTED DLQ'S. CONDUCTED LCAC OPERATIONS. SATISFACTORY NAVIGATION CHECK RIDE BY COMPHIBGRU THREE OBSERVER (ISIC). PHIBRON FIVE HAULS DOWN FLAG AND EMBARKS ON USS FORT FISHER.
- 28 CHAPLAIN CORPS 220TH ANNIVERSARY. LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 29 LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS. SATISFACTORY ECONOMY TRIAL. NVG OPERATIONS. NIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS.
- 30 NIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS. CONDUCTED GENERAL QUARTERS. NVG OPERATIONS.

DECEMBER

IN DECEMBER, ESSEX CONDUCTED AN AMMUNITION ONLOAD AT CAMP PENDLETON. DURING THE ONLOAD, HELICOPTER ASSETS WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE OPERATION FOR OTHER MISSIONS, MAKING COMPLETION SEEM IMPOSSIBLE. ESSEX RESPONDED BY GATHERING HELICOPTERS FROM MARINE CORPS UNITS, HELICOPTERS FROM AT-SEA UNITS THAT WERE AVAILABLE, AND LCU'S TO COMPLETE THE ONLOAD SAFELY IN THE ALLOTTED TIME PERIOD. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND A IMMENSELY SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE CREW WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH.

- 1 MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA, SAN DIEGO.
- 2 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE HANGAR BAY.
- 4 UNDERWAY FOR AMMO ONLOAD.

DECEMBER (CON'T)

- 5 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD. PALLET OF AMMO KNOCKS LIFE RAFT OFF SHIP. LIFE RAFT IS RECOVERED. PALLET OF ROCKET MOTORS INADVERTENTLY JETTISONED.
- 6 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD.
- 7 FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND WELL DECK OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD.
- 8 FLIGHT OPERATIONS FOR AMMO ONLOAD. MOOR PIER TWO, NAVSTA, SAN DIEGO. AWARDS CEREMONY.
- 9 COMPHIBRON FIVE BREAKS HIS FLAG ONBOARD ESSEX.
- 11-14 PPAT VISIT.
- 13 LFORM ONLOAD. MOELLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT CONSISTING OF 93 STUDENTS.
- 14 CAPT EDWARD F. NEY INSPECTION. ESSEX CHRISTMAS PARTY. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TOUR.
- 14-15 SHIP SIMULATOR TRAINING.
- 16-27 FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 27-8 JAN SECOND HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 22 ESSEX WINS DRESS SHIP HOLIDAY COMPETITION. ESSEX EARNS SECNAV ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD NOMINATION.
- 29 CUB SCOUT TOUR.
- 30 HOLIDAY BOWL HIGH SCHOOL BAND TOURS CONSISTING OF 200 PEOPLE.