



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96665-1731

5750
Ser LSD43/C052

DECLASSIFIED

10 MAR 1989

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (5)

From: Commanding Officer, USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20370

Subj: USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1988

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Basic Historical Narrative for 1988
(4) Special Topics for 1988
(5) OPSUMS - *in comp. ref.*

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.


G. S. RHODES

Copy to: (w/o encl)
COMNAVSURFPAC
COMPHIBGRU THREE
COMPHIBRON SEVEN

DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **MISSION:** USS FORT MCHENRY'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. FORT MCHENRY carries the 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 new craft, FORT MCHENRY forces is able to carry out an amphibious assault against a wider range of beaches.

FORT MCHENRY accomplishes her mission through the use of a well deck which is flooded to embark and launch 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, FORT MCHENRY is equipped with the Navy's latest advanced technology including updated communication and combat systems, 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.

2. **ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:** COMNAVSURFPAC
 COMPHIBGRU THREE
 COMPHIBRON SEVEN
 USS FORT MCHENRY

3. **COMMANDING OFFICER:** Commander George S. Rhodes.

4. **HOMEPORT:** San Diego, California.

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CHRONOLOGY

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01 Jan - 03 Jan | Holiday Upkeep |
| 04 Jan - 08 Jan | Amphib REFTRA |
| 09 Jan - 10 Jan | Inport |
| 11 Jan - 15 Jan | Amphib REFTRA |
| 13 Jan | Ammo Offload Seal Beach |
| 16 Jan - 09 Mar | PSA |
| 16 Jan - 18 Jan | Inport |
| 20 Jan | Troop Space Eval |
| 25 Jan | Welfare and Recreation Inspection |
| 25 Jan - 29 Jan | 3M Assist Visit |
| 19 Jan - 18 Mar | FVMF/IMAV R-AVAIL (SIMA) |
| 01 Jan - 27 Mar | Assigned TU 015.7.1 |
| 29 Feb | Medical Assist Visit (TAV) |
| 09 Mar - 09 Mar | Fast Cruise |
| 10 Mar | STRL |
| 11 Mar - 18 Mar | PSA |
| 14 Mar | MRE |
| 19 Mar - 20 Mar | Inport |
| 21 Mar - 25 Mar | MTT Inport PH I |
| 21 Mar - 25 Mar | CSRT |
| 22 Mar - 23 Mar | Hull Cleaning |
| 26 Mar - 27 Mar | Inport |
| 28 Mar - 01 Apr | ISE |
| 30 Mar | DLQ/VERT |
| 28 Mar - 30 Mar | Assigned TG 036.4 |

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| 01 Apr | ENRAT San Diego |
| 02 Apr - 03 Apr | Inport |
| 04 Apr | ISE |
| 05 Apr | Ammo Onload (Cross Deck from USS Germantown) |
| 06 Apr - 07 Apr | ISE |
| 08 Apr - 10 Apr | Inport, Onload KU 88-2 |
| 11 Apr - 12 Apr | MTT Inport |
| 13 Apr - 14 Apr | MTT Phase II |
| 15 Apr - 29 Apr | KU 88-2 |
| 30 Apr - 01 May | Inport |
| 02 May - 03 May | MTT Inport Phase III |
| 04 May - 05 May | MTT Underway Phase III |
| 06 May - 09 May | Inport |
| 10 May - 11 May | ISE |
| 12 May | Training Support (CRRC) |
| 13 May | SESI - Command Inspection |
| 12 May - 15 May | Inport |
| 16 May - 18 May | OPPE |
| 19 May - 30 May | POM |
| 23 May - 10 Jun | IMAVS/FVMF |
| 24 May | Mess/Berth Inspection |
| 30 May - 03 Jun | Food Management Team |
| 02 Jun - 12 Jun | POM |
| 13 Jun - 14 Jun | RE-OPPE |
| 15 Jun | RFS |
| 16 Jun - 30 Jun | Transit 88-18 |

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| 01 Jul - 06 Jul | MLTSL Okinawa |
| 07 Jul - 08 Jul | Inport Okinawa |
| 09 Jul - 11 Jul | MLTSL Subic |
| 12 Jul | Anchor Subic |
| 13 Jul - 16 Jul | Upkeep Subic |
| 17 Jul - 20 Jul | MLTSL Thailand |
| 21 Jul - 03 Aug | COBRA GOLD 88 |
| 04 Aug - 07 Aug | Visit Phattaya Beach, Thailand |
| 08 Aug - 17 Aug | MLTSL Fremantle, Western Australia |
| 18 Aug - 24 Aug | Visit Fremantle |
| 25 Aug - 31 Aug | VALIANT USHER 88-6 |
| 01 Sep - 06 Sep | MLTSL Indonesia |
| 07 Sep - 16 Sep | Burma NEO Contingency |
| 17 Sep - 20 Sep | MLTSL Subic |
| 21 Sep - 13 Oct | Upkeep Subic |
| 14 Oct - 17 Oct | VALIANT USHER 89-1 |
| 18 Oct - 20 Oct | MLTSL Hong Kong |
| 21 Oct - 23 Oct | Anchor Hong Kong |
| 24 Oct - 28 Oct | MLTSL Okinawa |
| 29 Oct | Anchor Okinawa |
| 30 Oct - 31 Oct | MLTSL Pohang, Korea |
| 01 Nov | Anchor Pohang |
| 02 Nov - 11 Nov | VALIANT BLITZ 89-1 |
| 12 Nov - 14 Nov | Visit Puson, Korea |
| 15 Nov - 16 Nov | MLTSL Okinawa |
| 17 Nov | Offload Okinawa |

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| 18 Nov - 20 Nov | MLTSL Yokosuka, Japan |
| 21 Nov - 25 Nov | Upkeep Yokosuka |
| 26 Nov - 29 Nov | MLTSL MIDPAC |
| 30 Nov - 05 Dec | MLTSL Pearl Harbor |
| 06 Dec - 07 Dec | Inport Pearl Harbor |
| 08 Dec - 15 Dec | TRANSITEX 89-5 |
| 15 Dec | Offload Camp Pendelton |
| 16 Dec - 31 Dec | Holiday Upkeep |

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS FORT MCHENRY entered 1988 moored to Pier 10 Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

- 4-15 Jan FORT MCHENRY conducted Amphibious Refresher Training. Exercises included well deck operations, amphibious operations (launches and recovery), helicopter flight operations, precision anchorage (right flank red and blue beach), and ammunition offloading. FORT MCHENRY received "outstanding" grades in deck seamanship, well deck operations, landing craft air cushion (LCAC) and amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) operations and "excellent" grades in all other areas with an overall grade of "excellent."
- 15 Jan-10 Mar FORT MCHENRY spent two months moored to Pier 3, Southwest Marine shipyard, San Diego, CA. undergoing it's Post Shakedown Availability.
- 10 Mar FORT MCHENRY got underway for one day of Post Shakedown Availability trials. Moored Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 28 Mar-1 Apr FORT MCHENRY got underway for local operations (General Quarters, Flight Quarters, ECC drills, etc.). Moored to Pier 10, 1 Apr, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 4-7 Apr FORT MCHENRY got underway for local operations (General Quarters, SRBOC and CIWS firing, Flight Quarters, etc.). Moored to Pier 6, 7 April, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 7 Apr Embarked Kernel Usher 88-2 USMC advance party.
- 12-29 Apr FORT MCHENRY participated in KU 88-2 amphibious exercise. Embarked personnel included Marines (B BTRY 1/11, A CO 1st TKBN, C CO 1st CEB, HVWPSN 2/1 and MSSG-15), TACRON 12 and ACU-5 (LCAC)/BMU-1. Moored to Pier 6, 29 April, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 4-6 May FORT MCHENRY got underway for full power run and ECC drills. Moored to Pier 10, 6 May, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 10-11 May FORT MCHENRY got underway for ECC drills. Moored to Pier 10, 11 May, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 16-17 May FORT MCHENRY got underway for an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). The exam was terminated due to an Engineering design flaw. Moored to Pier 6, 17 May, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 27 May FORT MCHENRY hosted COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON THREE change of command ceremony. Captain Donald F. Santamaria relieved Captain William A. Gaines.
- 31 May-1 Jun FORT MCHENRY got underway for Sea Trials. Moored to Pier 6, 1 Jun, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 7 Jun ACU-5 and 15th MEU embarked.

13 Jun FORT MCHENRY got underway for and passed RE-OPPE. Moored Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

16 Jun-16 Dec FORT MCHENRY got underway, under the Tactical Control of COMPHIBRON THREE, for it's maiden six month deployment to the Western Pacific. Embarked units included 15th MEU, TACRON-12 and ACU-5. Other units in the Amphibious Readiness Group included USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS OGDEN (LPD-5) and USS FRESNO (LST-1182).

16 Jun-7 Jul FORT MCHENRY transited to Okinawa. Numerous drills were conducted, including General Quarters, ECC, Flashing Light, Nancy, Non Maneuvering, Leap Frogs, Gun exercises, CIWS firings, Flight Operations, Mass Conflagration, Deceptive Lighting, EMCON, Semaphore, INCSEA, DIVTACS, Flaghoist, TACCEX, Challenge and Reply, Man Overboard, CBR and SAREX.

2 Jul Underway Replenishment with USNS HASSAYAMPA (T-AO-145)

7-8 Jul FORT MCHENRY anchored (B185) Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan for various meetings on USS New Orleans (LPH-11).

8 Jul FORT MCHENRY got underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines (RP).

12 Jul FORT MCHENRY anchored G-4 Subic Bay, RP for ammo and provisions onload.

13-17 Jul FORT MCHENRY moored Alava Pier 5/6, Subic Bay, RP.

17 Jul FORT MCHENRY got underway for Cobra Gold-88 exercise off coast of Thailand.

21 Jul FORT MCHENRY anchored Sattahip, Thailand.

24 Jul-1 Aug FORT MCHENRY participated in the Major Joint and Combined Amphibious Exercise Cobra Gold-88.

30 Jul Underway Replenishment with USNS MISPELLION (T-AO-105).

4-8 Aug FORT MCHENRY anchored Phattaya Beach, Thailand for port visit.

8 Aug FORT MCHENRY got underway for Fremantle, Western Australia and celebrated it's first birthday with a picnic on flightdeck.

11 Aug FORT MCHENRY crossed the equator, initiating 444 new shellbacks.

18-25 Aug FORT MCHENRY moored outboard USS OGDEN (LPD-5) in Fremantle, Western Australia for a port visit.

25 Aug FORT MCHENRY got underway for the Major Joint and Combined Amphibious Exercise Valiant Usher 88-6.

26-30 Aug FORT MCHENRY participated in Valiant Usher 88-6 amphibious exercise off coast of Australia.

30 Aug FORT MCHENRY began transit to Subic Bay, RP.

7 Sep ARG diverted to Burma for possible Non-Combat Evacuation Operation (NEO).

16 Sep Vertical replenishment with USNS MISPELLION (T-AO-105).

17 Sep FORT MCHENRY resumes transit to Subic Bay, RP.

21 Sep-14 Oct FORT MCHENRY moored Alava Pier 7/8 Subic Bay, RP for 3-M assist visit and repair availability.

14 Oct FORT MCHENRY got underway for Hong Kong.

17 Oct Moored to a buoy for the first time (in Subic Bay, R.P.).

20-24 Oct FORT MCHENRY moored to buoy 10 Hong Kong for a port visit.

24 Oct FORT MCHENRY got underway for Okinawa, Japan.

29 Oct FORT MCHENRY anchored Okinawa, Japan.

30 Oct FORT MCHENRY got underway for Korea.

1 Nov FORT MCHENRY anchored Pohang, South Korea.

3-8 Nov FORT MCHENRY participated in the Major Joint Amphibious Exercise Valiant Blitz 89-1 off coast of Pohang, South Korea.

7 Nov Underway Replenishment with USNS SPICA (T-AFS-9).

8 Nov FORT MCHENRY anchored Pohang, South Korea then got underway for Pusan, South Korea.

10 Nov Embarked USMC personnel celebrated the corp's 213th birthday on flight deck.

12-15 Nov FORT MCHENRY moored Pusan, South Korea for port visit.

15 Nov FORT MCHENRY got underway for Okinawa, Japan.

17 Nov FORT MCHENRY moored Okinawa, Japan then got underway for Yokosuka, Japan.

20-26 Nov FORT MCHENRY moored Berth 3, Naval Station, Yokosuka, Japan.

26 Nov FORT MCHENRY got underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

6-8 Dec FORT MCHENRY moored Pier K-8, Pearl Harbor Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

8 Dec FORT MCHENRY got underway for San Diego, CA.

8-16 Dec FORT MCHENRY conducted it's second Tiger Cruise (42 tigers).

14 Dec Underway Replenishment with USS ROANOKE (AOR-7).
16-31 Dec FORT MCHENRY moored Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Command Organization:

Commanding Officer: CDR G. S. Rhodes
Executive Officer: CDR T. P. Labrecque

Significant Statistical Data:

Engine Hours: 1A 2242.24
1B 2296.66
2A 2084.60
2B 2405.80

Generator Hours: 1SSDG 2709.30
2SSDG 2626.50
3SSDG 2419.90
4SSDG 2480.70

Miles Steamed: 36,779.4

Ammo Expended: 3 rounds of 7.62mm Grenade Cartridge
110 rounds of 12 Ga. Shotgun
2775 rounds of 7.62mm M-14
214 rounds of 25mm Cartridge Mts 23 & 24
4686 rounds of 20mm Cartridge CIWS
600 rounds of .50 Cal. Cartridge
5488 rounds of .45 Cal.
7 rounds of Marine Location MK 58 Mod 1
24 rounds of SRBOC
1 round of Signal ILL MK 2