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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

5750
Ser LSD43/ 053
18 Apr 90

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 1989

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Basic Historical Narrative for 1989
(4) Special Topics for 1989
(5) Welcome Aboard Brochure (w CDR Hayes)
(6) 1988 WESTPAC Cruise Book

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted.


J. A. HAYES

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

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 are 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 James A. Hayes
4. **HOMEPORT:** San Diego, California.

CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan - 14 Jan	Leave Upkeep San Diego
09 Jan - 13 Jan	Supship Boston Shipcheck
15 Jan - 24 Jan	Upkeep San Diego
17 Jan - 20 Jan	Aviation Training Assist
17 Jan	Guestship: SWOSDOC
17 Jan - 19 Jan	Amphibious Boat Control Trainer
19 Jan	Inport Linkex Drill
19 Jan - 20 Jan	Dockside Unrep Simulator
20 Jan	BMCM {SW} Holloway Retirement
23 Jan	Move to Pier 6/Load:KERNAL BLITZ 89-1
25 Jan	SOCAL: Training Anchorage
26 Jan - 09 Feb	Exer: SOCAL: KERNAL BLITZ 89-1
10 Feb - 05 Mar	Upkeep San Diego
13 Feb	ASIR: Aviation Certification
13 Feb - 03 Mar	IMAV: San Diego: R-Avail/S-Avail/FVMF
13 Feb - 03 Mar	KG-84 Installation
14 Feb	FTG Command Visit
16 Feb	Seal Team Five: Hull Familiarization
16 Feb	Inport Linkex Pre-Ex Mtg
20 Feb - 24 Feb	Conveyer/Dumbwaiter Assist Visit
21 Feb - 03 Mar	MATINSP: DIESEL INSP: 2 SSDG/2B MPDE
21 Feb - 24 Feb	SMTT Assist Visit
22 Feb	Seal Team Five: Sneak Attack
23 Feb	Inport Linkex
02 Mar	AAV: Aviation Assist Visit

07 Mar - 08 Mar	TRE: SOCAL: Anchorage
09 Mar - 10 Mar	ISE: SOCAL: ECC
10 Mar - 10 Mar	CALTROP 89: Linkup with HMAS TOBRUK
11 Mar - 12 Mar	Inport San Diego
13 Mar - 18 Mar	CALTROP 89: 7th Infantry Light
19 Mar - 21 Mar	Port Visit: San Francisco, CA
22 Mar - 24 Mar	ISE: SOCAL
25 Mar - 26 Mar	Inport San Diego
27 Mar - 31 Mar	Surface Warfare Training Week
28 Mar	NAVSEA MECH CAL CERT Review
01 Apr - 27 Apr	Inport San Diego
28 Apr - 05 May	Enroute Prince William Sound, Alaska
05 May - 06 May	Onload Workers, Valdez, Alaska
07 May	Anchored Prince William Sound
10 Jun - 14 Jun	Transit Vancouver, British Columbia
14 Jun - 17 Jun	Port Visit Vancouver
18 Jun - 22 Jun	Transit San Diego
22 Jun - 27 Jul	Upkeep San Diego
03 Jul - 21 Jul	MATINSP: DIESEL
03 Jul - 27 Jul	IMAV/ R/S{ACADIA}/ FVMF
06 Jul	Seal Team Three Sneak Attack
09 Jul - 14 Jul	Surface Warfare Training Week
21 Jul	Training Services: Educators Visit
25 Jul	VSTSP: Landing Force Training Command PAC {USMC}
28 Jul - 01 Aug	Multiple Sail: Seattle, WA
02 Aug - 06 Aug	Inport: Seattle Sea Festival

07 Aug - 11 Aug	Multiple Sail: San Diego
12 Aug - 04 Sep	Upkeep San Diego
16 Aug	Seal Team Five Sneak Attack
18 Aug	Training Services: Educators Visit
24 Aug	COMPHIBRON SEVEN Change of Command
29 Aug	FORT MCHENRY Change of Command
05 Sep - 06 Sep	Engineering Assessment
07 Sep - 08 Sep	Engineering Assessment SOCAL
09 Sep - 13 Sep	Inport San Diego
14 Sep - 15 Sep	Individual Ship Exercise SOCAL
16 Sep - 17 Sep	Port Visit Newport Beach, CA
18 Sep - 01 Oct	Upkeep San Diego
18 Sep - 22 Sep	Administrative Inspection Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection
19 Sep	Safety Survey
21 Sep	Retirement Home Visit
29 Sep	San Diego Accolades Ceremony
02 Oct	Individual Ship Exercise SOCAL
03 Oct	Ammo Offload Seal Beach
04 Oct	Individual Ship Exercise SOCAL
05 Oct - 15 Oct	Upkeep San Diego
12 Oct	Visit Ship
16 Oct - 10 Dec	PMA San Diego
16 Oct - 31 Dec	IMAV: R/FVMF
16 Oct - 31 Dec	Holiday Upkeep San Diego
05 Dec - 07 Dec	MATINSP: San Diego LOA
07 Dec - 08 Dec	Dock Trials San Diego

11 Dec	Fast Cruise
12 Dec	SRA: PMA
13 Dec - 14 Dec	Sea Trials: SOCAL
15 Dec - 31 Dec	SRA: PMA

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS FORT MCHENRY entered 1989 moored to Pier 10 Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

- 1-23 Jan FORT MCHENRY spent three weeks moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 20 Jan FORT MCHENRY hosted retirement ceremony for her initial Command Master Chief, BMCM{SW} Jesse J. Holloway.
- 23 Jan FORT MCHENRY got underway to move to Pier 6, Naval Station, San Diego, CA. to onload troops and equipment for exercise KERNAL BLITZ 89-1.
- 25 Jan FORT MCHENRY got underway for local operations {Training Anchorage}.
- 26 Jan-9 Feb FORT MCHENRY got underway to participate in the exercise KERNAL BLITZ 89-1.
- 10 Feb-5 Mar FORT MCHENRY spent three weeks of upkeep moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 7-10 Mar FORT MCHENRY got underway for Training Readiness Evaluation and ECC drills. Moored Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 13-18 Mar FORT MCHENRY got underway for CALTROP 89 with the 7th Infantry Light.
- 19-21 Mar FORT MCHENRY moored Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA for port visit.
- 22-24 Mar FORT MCHENRY got underway for return to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 25 Mar-27 Apr FORT MCHENRY spent five weeks moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.
- 28 Apr-5 May FORT MCHENRY got underway for transit to Prince William Sound, Alaska to participate in the Joint Task Force Alaskan Oil Spill Clean-Up effort.
- 5-6 May FORT MCHENRY moored Valdez, Alaska to onload civilian workers hired by Exxon.
- 7 May-10 Jun FORT MCHENRY spent 34 days at anchorage in Prince William Sound, Alaska assisting in the oil spill clean-up effort. Entire crew later received the Coast Guard SOS ribbon for their diligence and hard work.
- 10-14 Jun FORT MCHENRY got underway for Victoria, British Columbia. A fishing boat in distress forced FORT MCHENRY to alter plans and proceed to Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 14-17 Jun FORT MCHENRY moored Vancouver, British Columbia for port visit.

18-22 Jun FORT MCHENRY got underway for return to San Diego.

22 Jun-27 Jul FORT MCHENRY spent five weeks moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

28 Jul-1 Aug FORT MCHENRY got underway for multiple sail enroute to Seattle, WA.

2-6 Aug FORT MCHENRY moored Seattle, WA for port visit during Seattle Sea Festival.

7-11 Aug FORT MCHENRY got underway for multiple sail return to San Diego.

12 Aug-4 Sep FORT MCHENRY spent 23 days moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

24 Aug FORT MCHENRY hosted COMPHIBRON SEVEN Change of Command ceremony. Captain Murphy relieved Commadore Terry.

29 Aug FORT MCHENRY hosted FORT MCHENRY Change of Command ceremony. CDR J. A. Hayes relieved CDR G. S. Rhodes.

7-8 Sep FORT MCHENRY got underway for an Engineering Assessment. Moored Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

14-17 Sep FORT MCHENRY got underway for Individual Ship Exercise and port visit to Newport Beach, CA.

16-17 Sep FORT MCHENRY anchored Newport Beach, CA. for port visit.

18 Sep-1 Oct FORT MCHENRY spent 13 days moored to Pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

29 Sep FORT MCHENRY hosted San Diego Accolades ceremony.

2-4 Oct FORT MCHENRY got underway for Individual Ship Exercises and Ammo offload Seal Beach.

5-15 Oct FORT MCHENRY spent 10 days moored to Mole Pier, Naval Station, San Diego, CA. in an upkeep status.

16 Oct-10 Dec FORT MCHENRY spent 55 days in Phased Maintenance Availability, moored to Mole Pier, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

13-14 Dec FORT MCHENRY got underway for Sea Trials. Moored Mole Pier, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

16-31 Dec FORT MCHENRY spent 15 days in Holiday Upkeep status, moored to Mole Pier, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Command Organization:

Commanding Officer: CDR J. A. Hayes

Executive Officer: LCDR I. K. Magid

Significant Statistical Data:

Engine Hours: 1A 3490.29
1B 4462.25
2A 3733.15
2B 3734.50

Generator Hours: 1SSDG 4465.67
2SSDG 4903.07
3SSDG 4535.34
4SSDG 4474.41

Miles Steamed: 12,923

Ammo Expended: 4 rounds of 7.62mm Grenade Cartridge
550 rounds of 12 Ga. Shotgun
545 rounds of 7.62mm M-14
1304 rounds of 20mm Cartridge CIWS
298 rounds of .50 Cal. Cartridge
1050 rounds of .45 Cal.
4 rounds of Marine Location MK 58 Mod 1
624 rounds of 7.62mm Linked (M-60)
1 round of Signal ILL MK 2