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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
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5750
LSD43/CO
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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 1994

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Basic Historical Narrative for 1994
(4) Special topics for 1994
(5) Press Releases for 1994

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


C. F. WEBBER

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. MISSION: USS FORT MCHENRY's mission is to transport Combat Troops with their equipment to designated areas around the world and to launch and support assault landing craft (primarily Air Cushion Landing Craft--LCAC) and helicopters during amphibious operations against a hostile shore.

FORT MCHENRY accomplishes this mission through the use of a well deck and flight deck. After leaving the ship, helicopters and landing craft are directed towards the shore by the ship's Combat Information Center.

2. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE: COMNAVSURFPAC
COMPHIBRON NINE
USS FORT MCHENRY

3. COMMANDING OFFICER: Commander Charles F. Webber, U.S. Navy

4. HOMEPORT: San Diego, California

Enclosure (1)

CHRONOLOGY

10 - 14 Jan	Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA IV)
18 - 21 Jan	Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA IV)
07 - 11 Feb	Final Evaluation Period (FEP)
15 - 19 Feb	COMPTUEX
28 Feb - 04 Mar	COMPTUEX
14 - 18 Mar	Combat Systems Readiness Review
23 - 30 Mar	FLEETEX
22 Apr - 04 May	FLEETEX
01 Jun	Sea Trials/Family Cruise
09 Jun	Departed San Diego on scheduled six month deployment to Western Pacific and Southwest Asia.
09 Jun - 03 Jul	ENR Hong Kong
26 - 28 Jun	Amphibious Exercise, Tinian
04 - 08 Jul	IPT Hong Kong
09 - 13 Jul	ENR Singapore
14 - 18 Jul	IPT Singapore
19 Jul - 04 Aug	ENR Aqaba, Jordan
05 - 11 Aug	IPT Aqaba, Jordan Exercise Infinite Moonlight
12 - 23 Aug	ENR Bahrain
23 - 25 Aug	IPT Bahrain
26 Aug	ENR Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
27 Aug - 01 Sep	IPT Jebel Ali, U.A.E.
02 - 08 Sep	ENR Mogadishu, Somalia

Enclosure (2)

09 - 15 Sep	MODLOC vicinity of Mogadishu, Somalia, Operation Restore Hope
16 - 20 Sep	ENR Oman
21 - 27 Sep	MODLOC vicinity of Oman, Exercise Sea Soldier IX
28 Sep - 01 Oct	ENR U.A.E.
02 - 08 Oct	MODLOC vicinity of Oman, Exercise Iron Magic
09 Oct	ENR Kuwait
09 - 19 Oct	MODLOC vicinity of Kuwait, Operation Vigilant Warrior
20 Oct	ENR Jebel Ali, U.A.E.
21 - 28 Oct	IPT Jebel Ali, U.A.E.
29 Oct - 08 Nov	ENR Singapore
09 - 11 Nov	IPT Singapore
12 - 28 Nov	ENR Pearl Harbor, HI
29 - 30 Nov	IPT Pearl Harbor, HI
01 - 08 Dec	ENR San Diego, CA
09 - 31 Dec	Holiday leave and upkeep

Enclosure (2)

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS FORT McHENRY entered 1994 moored at pier 10, Naval Station, San Diego California. Significant events of 1994 included:

- 10 - 21 Jan FORT McHENRY completed the amphibious phase of the Tailored Ship's Training Availability.
- 07 - 11 Feb FORT McHENRY completed the final phase of the Tailored Ship's Training Availability, successfully passing the Final Evaluation Period.
- 15 - 19 Feb FORT McHENRY participated in two COMPTUEX, and two
28 Feb-04 Mar FLEETEX, with other units of the TRIPOLI
23 - 30 Mar Amphibious Readiness Group, Fifteenth Marine
22 Apr-04 May Expeditionary Unit and the Kitty Hawk Carrier
Battle Group.
- 14 - 18 Mar FORT McHENRY completed a comprehensive Combat Systems Readiness Review which tested all of the ship's combat systems to ensure they were at their highest possible state of readiness.
- 01 Jun Families and friends of FORT McHENRY sailors were given a chance to see first hand what their loved ones do during a one day Family Cruise.
- 09 Jun FORT McHENRY departed on its fourth deployment to the Western Pacific and Southwest Asia with other ships of the TRIPOLI ARG including USS TRIPOLI and USS CLEVELAND. The ARG was later joined by USS RUSHMORE which deployed late as a last minute replacement. FORT McHENRY embarked the following units of the Fifteenth Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU): Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/4 Light Armored Reconnaissance Company, Combat Engineer Battalion, Marine Service and Support Group 15. Detachment FOXTROT with four LCAC and 50 crew members from Assault Craft Unit Five (ACU-5) also embarked.
- 26 - 28 Jun Marine units from 15th MEU conducted an Amphibious Exercise on the Island of Tinian.
- 27 Jun FORT McHENRY Sailors and Marines participated in a service laying to rest the remains of eight former U.S. servicemen whose families had requested their remains be buried at sea.

Enclosure (3)

- 05 - 11 Aug Following port visits in Hong Kong and Singapore, FORT MCHENRY steamed into the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba. Commander BLT 1/4 was embarked for BLT 1/4 participation in Exercise Infinite Moonlight--the first ever exercise between U.S. Marines and Jordanian Armed Forces. Coincidentally, during the visit, the Israeli-Jordanian border was opened at Aqaba for the first time in 40 years.
- 02 - 16 Sep Following port visits in Bahrain and a brief maintenance availability in Jebel Ali, U.A.E., FORT MCHENRY traveled south with the TRIPOLI ARG in support of a potential evacuation of U.S. personnel in Somalia. The show of force was enough to deter any hostile actions on the part of warring clans as the U.S. Liaison Office relocated from Mogadishu to Mombasa, Kenya.
- 21 - 27 Sep FORT MCHENRY Sailors and Marines participated in Exercise Sea Soldier IX with the Oman Armed Forces.
- 02 - 08 Oct FORT MCHENRY Sailors and Marines participated in Exercise Iron Magic with the armed forces of U.A.E.
- 09 Oct FORT MCHENRY and the TRIPOLI ARG were ordered to proceed to the Northern Arabian Gulf to counter aggressive moves by Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. When over eighty thousand Iraqi troops positioned near the Iraqi-Kuwait border. FORT MCHENRY and other ships of the ARG were on station within hours and remained on station for 11 days as the first elements of Operation Vigilant Warrior.
- 21 - 28 Oct As tensions eased in the Northern Arabian Gulf, FORT MCHENRY enjoyed a port visit to Jebel Ali, U.A.E. after over 50 consecutive days at sea.
- 09 Nov The first women to be permanently assigned to the crew of FORT MCHENRY arrived. LT Terri Keppinger reported as the Supply Officer and LT Kristin Jacobsen reported as the Electrical Officer.
- 09 Dec FORT MCHENRY returned safely to San Diego following a six month deployment. A well deserved holiday leave and upkeep period followed.

SPECIAL TOPICS FOR 1994

Command Organization:

Commanding Officer: CDR C. F. Webber

Executive Officer: LCDR W. V. Scardina (01 Jan - 06 Jun)
LCDR D. W. Johnston Jr. (06 Jun-31 Dec)

Significant Historical Data:

Engine Hours: 1A - 2,231
1B - 2,046
2A - 2,027
2B - 2,229

Generator Hours: NR 1 SSDG - 2,763
NR 2 SSDG - 2,516
NR 3 SSDG - 2,591
NR 4 SSDG - 2,095

Miles Steamed: 42,354 NM

Ammo Expended: 270 rounds of 12 ga shotgun
853 rounds of 7.62 mm M-14
1950 rounds of 7.62 mm M-60
850 rounds of .45 cal cartridge
2,234 rounds of .50 cal cartridge
2,741 rounds of 20 mm CIWS cartridge
1,256 rounds of 25 mm cartridge
6 rounds of hand grenade
7 rounds of rifle grenade
16 rounds of 5.125 chaff cartridge