



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
FPO AP 98665-1731

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From: Commanding Officer, USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Basic Historical Narrative for 1995
(4) Special Topics for 1995
(5) Welcome Aboard Brochure
(6) Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer

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


M. W. BRANNON

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 to launch and support assault landing craft (primarily Landing Craft, Air Cushion--(LCAC)) and helicopters during amphibious operations against a hostile shore.

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

2. **ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:** COMNAVSURFPAC
COMPHIBGRU ONE
COMPHIBRON ELEVEN
USS FORT MCHENRY

3. **COMMANDING OFFICER:** Commander Michael W. Brannon

4. **HOMEPORT:** Sasebo, Japan

CHRONOLOGY

01 - 05 Jan Leave/Holiday Stand Down

06 Jan MLOC Inspection

09 Jan Fast Cruise

10 Jan U/W for Ammo offload

17 Jan U/W to enter Southwest Marine

07 - 10 Feb Homeport Shift Conference

14 -17 Feb Sasebo brief

27 Feb - 03 Mar Pre LOA assist visit

07 Mar Women at Sea Program established

10 Mar Flight Deck certified for firefighting

15 Mar Counter Intelligence brief for
Ops Dept/Officers

16 Mar Pre - ATG Training visit

20 - 24 Mar Pre LOA Assist visit along with a CHT
recertification inspection

27 Mar Refueled in preparation to depart yards

28 Mar Pre LOA ATG Phase III visit

30 Mar LMA Pre - Assist visit

03 - 04 Apr Commence ASIR TA, Machinery testing and light
off all machinery

05 Apr Hot and Cold checks

06 Apr Conducted an LOA, Hot/Cold checks and
Engineering Admin Review

11 Apr Sea and Anchor detail Anchored at ATG
anchorage 215 Smoke float onload
Sea Trials

12 Apr Full power run Engineering drills

13 Apr Anchor tested, Moored Pier 6, Naval Station
San Diego

Enclosure (2)

17 Apr	Industrial hygiene survey Assist visit
24 - 28 Apr	CART IIB, AAV
01 - 05 May	ATG inspection
08 - 10 May	Sea trials phase II
11 - 12 May	TSTA I meeting
15 - 19 May	Navy Food Management Team review
20 May	Deadstick to Pier 11
22 May	Enroute Camp Pendleton to Embark 4 LCAC (Underway for TSTA I)
23 - 26 May	TSTA I underway continued
25 May	UNREP with USNS J. A. HIGGINS. First since WESTPAC.
May - 02 Jun	Underway for TSTA I continued
05 - 09 Jun	OPPE Preps, underway from Pier 11
12 - 16 Jun	Mock OPPE underway
16 Jun	TACAN certification (new piece of equipment) moor pier 12
30 Jun	Embarked LCAC and ACU5
01 - 05 Jul	Anchored Santa Barbra
05 Jul	Debark LCAC and ACU5
06 Jul	Moor Pier 6 in San Diego
07 Jul	Full Dress White inspection
11 Jul	PCO, CDR M. W. Brannon reports for duty
12 -13 Jul	Underway SOCAL
14 Jul	Change of Command
17 - 20 Jul	Underway for TSTA IV
22 - 31 Jul	Upkeep San Diego

01 - 30 Aug	POM Mainspace Fire training
28 Aug	Fast Cruise
01- 08 Sep	Last week in San Diego. Enroute Hawaii
09 - 10 Sep	Inport Hawaii
11 - 19 Sep	Enroute Guam
20 - 21 Sep	Inport Guam
21 - 23 Sep	Underway for Valiant Mark 95
24 Sep	Inport Guam
26 - 27 Sep	OPPE
28 Sep	Inport Guam
29 Sep - 04 Oct	Enroute Sasebo, JA.
04 Oct	LCAC offload, Arrived Sasebo, JA.
13 - 14 Oct	Underway to pick up LCAC at Sakibe and enroute White Beach, Okinawa
15 - 16 Oct	Inport White Beach, Okinawa
17 - 18 Oct	Underway, enroute Pohang, Korea
19 -21 Oct	Inport Pohang, Korea
22 - 28 Oct	Underway for exercise Foal Eagle 95
29 -31 Oct	Inport Chinhea for presail
01 Nov	Assault on Hasari cancelled due to sea conditions
02 - 03 Nov	Assault on Tosokri
04 - 06 Nov	Inport Pohang, Korea
07 Nov	Ship to ship contact with USS DUBUQUE in Pusan, Korea
08 - 10 Nov	Inport Pusan, Korea
11 Nov	Enroute Okinawa, Japan

16 Nov	Offload LCAC at Sakibe, Moor India Basin
17 Nov - 05 Dec	Upkeep
05 - 06 Dec	Prior to Holiday stand down, conducted engineering OPTTEST
07 Dec	Inport Sasebo
08 - 29 Dec	Diesel inspection

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS FORT MCHENRY entered 1995 moored at pier 6, 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, CA. Significant events of 1995 included:

- 01- 05 Jan Completing holiday leave period. Crew preparing for a new year that would include a home port change.
- 06 Jan First MLOC inspection of the year. Successful evolution.
- 09 Jan Ship conducts fast cruise.
- 10 Jan Underway for ammunition offload and then returned to pier 6.
- 17 Jan Ship departed for the Southwest Marine. Progress meetings were conducted with SWM and SIMA.
- 07 - 10 Feb Homeport Shift conference at Washington, D.C. was conducted. The crew was informed that she would be replacing the USS SAN BERNADINO in Sasebo.
- 14 - 17 Feb Representative from Sasebo Fleet Activities arrived to brief the crew about the Japanese culture and customs.
- 27 Feb - 03 Mar Light Off Assessment assist visit by COMPHIBRON 9 conducted.
- 07 Mar The Women at Sea training went smoothly. Training was advantageous to the entire crew.
- 10 Mar Recertified Flight Deck and Helo qualifications.
- 15 Mar FORT MCHENRY conducted Counter Intelligence brief for the Operations department and Wardroom.
- 16 Mar FORT MCHENRY conducted a Pre-ATG training visit (to assist the crew in training).
- 20 - 24 Mar Conducted Pre-LOA assist visit and recertified CHT system.
- 27 Mar FORT MCHENRY refueled prior to the berth shift to pier 6.

Enclosure (3)

28 Mar ATG conducted Phase III of Pre-LOA visit.

30 Mar Conducted an LMA Pre-assist visit.

03 - 04 Apr Commenced ASIR TA and machinery testing

05- 06 Apr FORT MCHENRY conducted an LOA with hot and cold checks and an Engineering Admin review.

11 -13 Apr Sea and anchor detail set. Ship anchored at at ATG 215. Conducted engineering drills including a full power run. FORT MCHENRY also conducted an anchor drop test.

17 Apr Conducted an Industrial Hygiene Survey assist visit.

24 - 28 Apr FORT MCHENRY conducted CART IIB. Onloaded AAV's

01 - 05 May ATG arrived and started a complete check from the signal bridge all the way to the bilges.

08 - 10 May Underway for ammo onload and sea trial phase II. Conducted navigation checks earlier than forecasted. Ship returned on the 10th.

11 - 12 May Conducted TSTA I. Corpsman presented a Health Fair for the crew and their families. They answered questions on nuetrition, staying in shape and sexually transmitted diseases.

15 - 19 May Supply department received a Food Management Team review. TSTA I inport throughout the week.

20 May Deadstick berth shift to pier 11

22 May Underway enroutte to Camp Pendleton to embarked four LCAC and ACU4. Underway for TSTA I.

25 May FORT MCHENRY conducted first UNREP since WESTPAC. UNREP conducted with USNS J. A. HIGGINS.

05 - 09 Jun Commenced the preparations for OPPE. Underway for pier 11 with tug support (Deadsticking).

12 - 16 Jun Underway for mock OPPE drills. TACAN certification conducted. Moored pier 12.

20 - 22 Jun Continuous drills being conducted. An underway CPG-3 mock OPPE team onboard to conduct drills.

30 Jun Ship conducted well deck operations to onload two LCAC and ACU5. Enroute to Santa Barbara.

01 - 05 Jul Arrived Santa Barabra. Ship anchored. Crew members participated in a Fourth of July Parade.

06 Jul Ship underway for Pier 6 in San Diego. Moored.

07 Jul Navy full dress white inspection conducted.

12 Jul Navigational Check Ride including a UNREP. Underway time for PCO.

13 Jul Moored pier 6. TSTA IV Pre-embark meeting inport.

15 Jul CDR Michael W. Brannon relieved CDR Charles F. Webber as Commanding Officer

17 - 20 JUL Underway to conduct TSTA IV with LCAC, flight quarters, AAV training and two LCU operations.

22 Jul- 28 Aug Inport for final upkeep period prior Homeport Shift. Preparing for transit to Sasebo. Mainspace fire drills were conducted daily. Fast cruise conducted one 28 Aug.

29 Aug Underway for a Dependents Cruise. Returned to pier 6

01 - 08 Sep Underway for Hawaii. Stop at Camp Pendleton to pick up two LCAC and ACU5. While underway, FORT MCHENRY conducted extensive engineering training due to a major turn over of personnel in the main spaces and in preparation for OPPE.

09 - 10 Sep Inport Hawaii. Continued preparations for arrival in Sasebo.

11 - 19 Sep Underway enroute to Guam. Continued preparations for OPPE.

20 - 21 Sep Inport Guam. Conducted briefs for Valiant Mark 95. Marines embarked for exercise. Oil spill reported inport.

21 - 23 Sep Underway enroute to Tinian for Valiant Mark 95. LC-58 took green water into her prop causing major damage. No personnel injured.

24 Sep Inport Guam.

26 - 27 Sep Underway in the vicinity of Guam for OPPE. Drills were successful in the typical FORT MCHENRY style.

28 Sep Inport Guam for OPPE debrief.

29 Sep - 03 Oct Underway enroute Sasebo. LCAC offload Sakibe.

04 Aug Arrived Sasebo, JA. Ship was met by RADM Doran, COMPHIBGRU 1 and CAPT Klein, COMPHIBRON 11.

13 - 14 Oct Underway for Okinawa. Recieved 4 CAC at Sakibe.

15 - 16 Oct Inport White Beach, Okinawa to onload Marines and equipment for Exercise Foal Eagle 95 in South Korea.

17 - 18 Oct Underway for Pohang, Korea.

19 - 21 Oct Inport Pohang to embark ROKN Marines. This is the first time ROKN Marines have embarked FORT MCHENRY.

22 - 28 Oct Underway for Exercise Foal Eagle 95. Conducted several LCAC operations.

29 - 31 Oct Anchored Chinhea, Korea for presail. Underway to conduct PAX transfer with USS HELENA. Despite heavy seas, the exercise was successful.

01 Nov Assault on Hasari cancelled due to sea conditions.

04 - 06 Nov Inport Pohang for debrief and refueling.

02 - 03 Nov Conducted an assault on Tosokri which included an offload and backload.

07 Nov Ship to ship contact with USS DUBUQUE in Pusan, Korea

08 - 11 Nov Inport Pusan, Korea.

12 Nov Underway enroute to Okinawa.

13 - 14 Nov Offload 31st MEU Marines at White Beach.

15 - 16 Nov Underway enroute to Sasebo. Offload LCAC at Sakibe. Moored at India Basin.

17 Nov - 05 Dec Upkeep.

05 -06 Dec Prior to Holiday stand down, conducted engineering operational test.

07 Dec Inport Sasebo.

08 - 29 Dec Conducted a diesel inspection. High rate of crew change out required continued training.

SPECIAL TOPICS FOR 1995

Command Organization:

Commanding Officer: CDR C. F. Webber (01 Jan - 15 Jul)
CDR M. W. Brannon (15 Jul - 31 Dec)

Executive Officer: LCDR D. W. Johnston, Jr. (01 Jan - 04 Oct)
LCDR D. J. Burger, Jr. (04 Oct - 31 Dec)

Significant Statistical Data:

Engine Hours: 1A - 14843
1B - 561
2A - 12520
2B - 14761

Generator Hours: NR 1 SSDG - 16453
NR 2 SSDG - 17390
NR 3 SSDG - 15558
NR 4 SSDG - 17503

Miles Steamed: 15,903 NM

Ammo Expended: 5 rounds of M3 Grenade
15 rounds of Location Marker Mk58 Mod 1
8 rounds of 5.125 Chaff Cartridge
200 rounds of 12 Ga. Shotgun
1070 rounds of 7.62mm M-14
3000 rounds of 20mm CIWS Cartridge
2040 rounds of .50 cal. Cartridge
1555 rounds of .45 cal. Cartridge