



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)  
FPO AP 96665-1731

*Rec'd 6/10/97*

5750  
Ser LSD43/CO

**03 APR 1997**

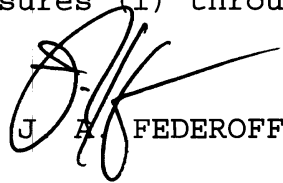
From: Commanding Officer, USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Basic Historical Narrative for 1996  
(4) Special Topics for 1996  
(5) Welcome Aboard Brochure  
(6) Biography and photograph of Commanding Officer

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

  
J. A. FEDEROFF

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **MISSION:** USS FORT MCHENRY's mission is to transport United States Marines or United States Army 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 potentially 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

### COMMANDING OFFICER:

Commander Michael W. Brannon (1 Jan 96 - 2 Mar 97)

4. **HOMEPORT:** Sasebo, Japan

## CHRONOLOGY

01 - 05 Jan	Leave/Holiday Stand Down
05 - 06 Jan	Underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
06 - 08 Jan	Load USMC Buckner Bay, Okinawa
10 Jan	Blue/Green Workups
11 - 20 Jan	Local ops
26 - 28 Jan	Inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa to embark CTF 76 Staff members for China visit
29 - 31 Jan	Underway enroute Shanghai, China
31 Jan - 4 Feb	Goodwill port visit to Shanghai, People's Republic of China
05 - 06 Feb	Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan
06 - 07 Feb	Inport Sasebo, Japan
07 - 08 Feb	Underway enroute Chinhae, Korea
08 - 09 Feb	Port visit Chinhae, Korea
12 - 18 Feb	Exercise VALIANT USHER 96-2k
19 Feb	CIWS shoot
22 - 23 Feb	Offload USMC at White Beach, Okinawa
27 Feb	Inport Sasebo
01 - 31 Mar	Upkeep Sasebo
04 - 10 Mar	Diesel inspection
25 - 29 Mar	LMA

26 Mar	DSRA ship check
29 Mar	Alcohol Aware Training
08 - 12 Apr	Semi-Annual PRT tests
15 Apr	Primary hull cleaning
18 Apr	Underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
19 - 20 Apr	Onload USMC, Buckner Bay
20 - 27 Apr	Underway enroute Sattahip, Thailand
20 - 27 Apr	AFFF testing
28 Apr - 02 May	Inport Sattahip, Thailand
03 - 08 May	MCMEX (W/Royal Thai Navy)
09 - 10 May	Inport Sattahip, Thailand
11 - 22 May	Exercise COBRA GOLD '96
22 - 25 May	Anchor Pattaya, Thailand
23 - 25 May	Embark PACTRAMID I Midshipmen
26 May - 01 June	Underway enroute Hong Kong
01 - 04 June	Port visit Hong Kong
05 - 07 June	Underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
08 - 09 June	Offload USMC Buckner Bay
10 - 12 June	Mid-Cycle Assessment
13 June	DLQ's IVO Okinawa
14 - 15 June	Onload USMC Buckner Bay
16 - 29 June	Blue/Green Workups
21 June	Debark PACTRAMID I Midshipmen, embark PACTRAMID II Midshipmen

30 June - 06 Jul	SOCEX
06 - 07 Jul	Offload USMC Buckner Bay, Okinawa
08 - 09 Jul	Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan
10 Jul	Ammo offload
11 - 14 Jul	Upkeep Sasebo, Japan
15 Jul - 20 Oct	SRA
15 - 19 Jul	3M assist
	Hull Cleaning
25 Jul - 15 Aug	TAV
29 Jul - 02 Aug	LTT-E
12 - 15 Aug	LTT-D
19 - 23 Aug	LTT-E (PLOT)
26 - 30 Aug	LTT Inport
09 - 13 Sept	Semi-Annual PRT
10 - 13 Sept	ASIR Tech assist (Pre-ASIR)
11 Sept	Command Health Care Council meeting
16 - 20 Sept	Recreation Fund inspection
16 - 17 Sept	PMS seminar
23 - 27 Sept	LTT-E PLOT - Inport
30 Sept	ASIR
07 - 11 Oct	Fleet Eng process (CART II)
07 - 09 Oct	Light-Off Assessment
	LTT-E Independent Engineering
	Readiness Assessment
15 Oct	Ammo onload
15 - 18 Oct	Sea Trials

23 Oct	Inport Drills - CIC/Comms
28 - 30 Oct	Underwater Hull cleaning
04 - 09 Nov	Underway East China Sea
06 Nov	Anchor Iwakuni - Exercise KEEN SWORD
09 - 17 Nov	Upkeep Sasebo, Japan
18 - 22 Nov	Underway ISE LCAC Craft Readiness Evaluation
20 Nov	CIWS DTE/TACAN/IFF checks
23 Nov - 01 Dec	Upkeep Sasebo, Japan
25 Nov	De-Rat certification
25 - 27 Nov	Industrial Health Survey
02 - 05 Dec	SRTT assist visit
02 - 06 Dec	CART II inport Sasebo
06 - 07	Underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa
08 Dec	Onload USMC Buckner Bay, Okinawa
08 - 15 Dec	Blue/Green Workups
16 - 19 Dec	VALEX 97-1
20 Dec	Offload USMC Buckner Bay, Okinawa
21 - 22 Dec	Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan
23 Dec - 07 Jan 1997	Holiday Upkeep

## BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

USS FORT MCHENRY entered 1996 moored at pier I-2, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. Significant events of 1996 included:

- 01 - 02 Jan Completed holiday leave period. Crew prepared for a new year that would consist of a rigorous operational schedule, including an important port visit to Shanghai, People's Republic of China, Exercise VALIANT USHER in Korea, COBRA GOLD '96 off the coast of Thailand and a three-month SRA period.
- 05 - 08 Jan FORT MCHENRY underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa to onload the men, women and equipment of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force.
- 09 - 25 Jan FORT MCHENRY conducted Blue/Green Workups and local ops off the coast of Okinawa in preparation for VALIANT USHER.
- 31 Jan - 04 Feb FORT MCHENRY arrived in Shanghai, People's Republic of China for an historic goodwill visit. FORT MCHENRY Sailors and embarked Marines played a vital role in fostering friendship between both nations. The arrival also marked the first time a front-line U.S. Navy amphibious vessel visited China.
- 07-08 Feb FORT MCHENRY enroute for Chinhae, Republic of South Korea. Moored at Chinhae 08 Feb for two-day port call which included a visit from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Charles C. Krulak.
- 12 - 18 Feb FORT MCHENRY participated in Exercise VALIANT USHER with 31st MEU. Offloaded embarked personnel 22 Feb, Buckner Bay, Okinawa.
- 27 Feb FORT MCHENRY moored to I-1, Sasebo, Japan.
- 1 - 31 Mar Upkeep Sasebo.
- 08 - 12 Apr Semi-Annual Physical Readiness Tests held in Nimitz Park, Sasebo.

18 Apr FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Embarks First Battalion, Seventh Marines and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 19 - 20 Apr.

20 - 27 Apr FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Sattahip, Thailand.

28 Apr - 02 May FORT MCHENRY moored Sattahip, Thailand for five-day port visit. Crew benefitted from rest and relaxation before long month of exercises.

03 - 08 May FORT MCHENRY participates in Mine Countermeasure Exercise with two Royal Thai Naval vessels off the coast of Thailand. The crew gained valuable experience and knowledge from working with the Royal Thai Navy during this successful evolution.

09 - 10 May Moored Sattahip, Thailand for two-day port visit.

11 - 12 May FORT MCHENRY underway for Exercise COBRA GOLD '96 in the Gulf of Thailand. The ship provided amphibious and flight operational support during the exercise, which was designed to improve combat readiness and exhibit American resolve in that region. FORT MCHENRY was one of six U.S. Navy ships involved in the exercise, which also included four Royal Thai Navy vessels.

22 - 25 May FORT MCHENRY anchors Pattaya, Thailand for a four day port visit.

26 May - 01 Jun FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Hong Kong.

01 - 04 Jun FORT MCHENRY arrives in Hong Kong for a four day port visit. Crew has some much-needed rest and relaxation, and explored the extraordinary Hong Kong territory as it prepared to be returned to the People's Republic of China in 1997.

05 - 07 Jun FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

08 - 09 Jun FORT MCHENRY inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Offloaded First Battalion, Seventh Marines and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262.



10 - 12 Jun Mid-Cycle Assessment.

14 - 15 Jun Onload USMC Buckner Bay, Okinawa for local operations.

16 - 29 Jun Blue/Green workups off the coast of Okinawa. Training is a benefit for the crew and embarked Marines.

30 Jun - 06 Jul FORT MCHENRY conducts Special Operations Certification Exercise off coast of Okinawa.

06 - 07 Jul Inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Offload USMC.

08 - 09 Jul FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Sasebo, Japan.

10 Jul FORT MCHENRY anchored India Basin, Japan. Ammunition Offload for Selected Restricted Availability.

11 - 14 Jul FORT MCHENRY moored Sasebo, Japan. Three-day rest and relaxation standown.

15 Jul - 20 Oct Selected Restricted Availability (SRA).

16 - 19 Jul FORT MCHENRY conducts Typhoon evasion underway in East China Sea.

29 Jul - 02 Aug Limited Team Training - Engineering.

12 - 15 Aug Limited Team Training - Damage Control.

19 - 23 Aug Limited Team Training - Engineering.

15 Aug FORT MCHENRY commenced a dead-stick move from India 1 to India 8 at Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Japan for typhoon preparation.

09 - 13 Sept FORT MCHENRY crew conducted semi-annual Physical Readiness Test.

10 - 13 Sept Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representative Technical Assist visit

16 - 20 Sept Inspection of FORT MCHENRY's Recreation Fund.

23 - 27 Sept Limited Team Training - Engineering.

30 Sept Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representative Technical Assist visit

07 - 11 Oct Fleet Engineering Process for CART II.

07 - 09 Oct Light-Off Assessment conducted by Afloat Training Group, Western Pacific. FORT MCHENRY conducted extensive drills and exercises, including Hot and Cold checks, Engineering Administrative review and Duty Section Main Space fire drills. All areas were found to be satisfactory.

15 Oct FORT MCHENRY underway and anchors in Sasebo Bay, Japan, for ammunition onload.

15 - 18 Oct FORT MCHENRY underway for Sea Trials. The ship successfully demonstrated operational capabilities after SRA.

19 Oct - 04 Nov FORT MCHENRY inport Sasebo, Japan.

04 Nov FORT MCHENRY underway for Exercise KEEN SWORD.

06 Nov FORT MCHENRY anchored Iwakuni, Japan.

04 - 08 Nov FORT MCHENRY participated in Exercise KEEN SWOARD and played host to many Japanese distinguished visitors.

09 - 17 Nov FORT MCHENRY inport Sasebo, Japan

18 - 23 Nov FORT MCHENRY underway for local operations, including General Quarters, Close-In-Weapons-System checks, LCAC ops and flight quarters.

23 Nov - 01 Dec FORT MCHENRY inport Sasebo, Japan. Crew celebrated Thanksgiving with family and friends.

02 - 06 Dec CART II inport Sasebo conducted by Afloat Training Group Western Pacific. ATG reviewed FORT MCHENRY's Engineering Admin status and ship-wide training status. Crew conducted Main Space fire drill, Hit-A General Quarters drills and weapons drills.

06 - 07 Dec FORT MCHENRY underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

08 Dec FORT MCHENRY inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa and unloaded 31st Marine Expeditionary Force for local ops.

09 - 19 Dec FORT MCHENRY conducted Blue/Green workups and local ops with embarked personnel off the coast of Okinawa.

20 Dec FORT MCHENRY inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa and offloaded 31st MEU.

21 - 22 Dec FORT MCHENRY underway enroute Sasebo, Japan.

23 - 07 Jan FORT MCHENRY inport Sasebo, Japan for Holiday Upkeep.

**SPECIAL TOPICS FOR 1996**

Command Organization:

Commanding Officer: CDR M. W. Brannon (01 Jan - 31 Dec)

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

Significant Statistical Data:

Engine Hours:           1A - 1,081.1  
                          1B - 1,235.1  
                          2A - 178.6  
                          2B - 2362.7

Generator Hours:       NR 1 SSDG - 2060.6  
                          NR 2 SSDG - 1795.3  
                          NR 3 SSDG - 1597.4  
                          NR 4 SSDG - 2068.3

Miles Steamed:         24,562.2 NM

Ammo Expended:         8 rounds of M3 Grenade  
                          18 rounds of Location Marker Mk58 Mod 1  
                          8 rounds of 5.125 Chaff Cartridge  
                          695 rounds of 12 Ga. Shotgun

Enclosure (4)

1475 rounds of 7.62mm M-14  
3600 rounds of 20mm CIWS Cartridge  
2040 rounds of .50 cal. Cartridge  
3746 rounds of .45 cal. Cartridge  
432 rounds of .25 cal. Cartridge