



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
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Subj: USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command composition and organization
(2) Historical narrative
(3) Command chronology
(4) Special topics

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded as USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) 1998 Command History.

R. B. Landolt
R. B. LANDOLT

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.

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

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

3. COMMANDING OFFICER. Commander Richard B. Landolt

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE FOR 1998

- 1 - 20 Jan Crew prepares for a year which would include a two-month DSRA, a three-month underway period including a series of goodwill port visits and exercises designed to enhance interoperability between U.S. forces and forces from several Asian countries, a port visit to Yokosuka, Japan and exercise FOAL EAGLE off the coast of South Korea.
- 20 - 21 Jan Crew moves off FORT MCHENRY and onto the berthing barge moored in Juliet basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan for seven weeks during SRA.
- 23 Jan - 27 Mar Docking Ship's Restricted Availability. FORT MCHENRY enters drydock No. 6 at Ship Repair Facility, Sasebo. The ship undergoes eight weeks of maintenance and repairs to engines, systems, structures, decks and spaces.
- 17 Mar Crew moves from berthing barge back on to FORT MCHENRY. The Ship is now out of drydock but still in SRA.
- 1 - 3 Apr FORT MCHENRY gets underway for sea trials. Crew conducts training and tests engines and systems performance.
- 14 - 16 Apr Crew gets underway to conduct training for underway evolutions, watchstanding and damage control.
- 6 May Embark Captain Frank Guest, Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE. Captain Guest commands the U.S. Navy element of Cooperation and Readiness Afloat Training (CARAT 98).
- 7 May Commence XO turnover. Lieutenant Commander John Braunschweig relieves Lieutenant Commander Sheila Scarborough as FORT MCHENRY's Executive Officer.
- 8 May Deploy for CARAT 98. FORT MCHENRY departs Sasebo enroute to Okinawa to embark the U.S. Marines of Landing Force CARAT.

9 - 10 May LF CARAT onload. FORT MCHENRY takes on 400 U.S. Marines from the III Expeditionary Force and their combat equipment.

17 - 21 May Brunei phase of CARAT 98. USS FORT MCHENRY and USS SIDES (FFG 14) combine with elements of the Royal Brunei Navy to participate in Exercise Kingfisher. The exercise included tactical signal drills, torpedo evasion drills, tactical maneuvering drills, ship-to-ship communication drills and amphibious assault training. The crew enjoyed liberty in Brunei which included a sportsday hosted by the RBN.

26 - 30 May Inport, Sembawang Port, Singapore. FORT MCHENRY's Commanding Officer, CDR Jack A. Federoff, visits with Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific, RADM Stephen R. Loeffler. U.S. Marines of LF CARAT and SEABEES of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE, U.S. Pacific Fleet build a Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) landing ramp at Port Sembawang to support future LF exercises. U.S. Marines of LF CARAT participate in mountain climbing and repelling exercises.

1 Jun FORT MCHENRY receives COMNAVSURFPAC Wellness Unit Award. The Award recognizes the ship's medical and health management programs as well as the ship's safety record during 1997.

1 Jun FORT MCHENRY receives the CNO Surface Ship Safety Award. The award recognizes "Outstanding contributions to fleet readiness through safety" during 1997.

2-6 Jun Deployed in support of JIATF WEST operations.

7 Jun FORT MCHENRY frocks 27 enlisted Sailors to the next higher paygrade.

8 Jun - 2 Jul Malaysia phase of CARAT 98. FORT MCHENRY makes port visits to Penang, Kelang and Lumut, Malaysia. The ship interoperates with other U.S. elements of CARAT 98 to conduct communications and wargaming exercises. LF CARAT participates in bilateral training with the Royal Malaysia Army and Navy. LF CARAT does field weapons training, including a live-

fire exercise, and conducts military tactics and survival tactics training with RMA. LF CARAT demonstrates embarkation and debarkation of Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) aboard a Malaysian LST. Sailors from FORT MCHENRY and U.S. Marines from LF CARAT volunteer time at three schools for handicapped children in Lumut. FORT MCHENRY crew and LF CARAT enjoy liberty in Malaysia including participating in a sportsfest in Lumut.

- 6 - 17 Jul Thailand phase of CARAT 98. FORT MCHENRY conducts training with other U.S. elements of CARAT 98. The ship also participates in a combined U.S./Thai amphibious assault exercise in the Gulf of Thailand. LF CARAT conducts live-fire training and a combined arms attack exercise with Thai Marines in Ban Chan Krem. FORT MCHENRY Sailors and members of LF CARAT sacrifice off-duty hours in Pattaya to donate humanitarian supplies to local children. The ship's crew and LF CARAT enjoy liberty in Pattaya.
- 3 - 6 Aug Okinawa. LF CARAT offloads personnel and equipment concluding CARAT 98. FORT MCHENRY Sailors enjoy liberty in Okinawa. Several FORT MCHENRY family members have made the trip from Sasebo to Okinawa to relax with their families and friends and ride the ship back to Sasebo.
- 7 Aug Family Cruise. FORT MCHENRY embarks 50 family members for the underway to Sasebo.
- 28 - 31 Aug Inport Yokosuka, Japan. FORT MCHENRY visits Shipboard Electronic Systems Evaluation Facility (SESEF) to undergo testing of electromagnetic transmitting and receiving equipment. The ship's crew enjoys liberty in Yokosuka.
- 16 Sep Inport Sasebo. FORT MCHENRY frocks seven Sailors to Chief Petty Officer.
- 28 Sep - 2 Oct Inport Sasebo. Afloat Training Group Western Pacific conducts a 3M Baseline Assist Visit in FORT MCHENRY. ATG provides training and

feedback on the ship's Maintenance and Material Management Program.

- 19 - 20 Oct Nav Checkride. PHIBRON ELEVEN conducts a check of FORT MCHENRY's navigation department. The ship Maneuvers in the East China Sea for two days while navigation personnel, charts, systems and equipment are evaluated.
- 21 - 23 Oct Okinawa. FORT MCHENRY unloads 300 U.S. Marines and their combat equipment to participate in exercise FOAL EAGLE.
- 27 Oct - 4 Nov Exercise FOAL EAGLE. FORT MCHENRY and embarked U.S. Marines participate in a joint exercise between the U.S. and South Korean militaries designed to prepare sea, air and land units from the two countries to defend South Korea in the event of enemy invasion. The ship conducts communication, amphibious, command and control and counter-special forces training during the Exercise. The U.S. Navy ships of the BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Ready Group and the KIITY HAWK Battle Group also participate in FOAL EAGLE.
- 8 - 12 Nov Okinawa. FORT MCHENRY offloads the U.S. Marines and equipment from FOAL EAGLE.
- 13 Nov Ship commences second phase of DSRA in Sasebo, Japan.
- 24 - Nov CDR Richard B. Landolt relieves CDR Jack A. Federoff as Commanding Officer.
- 17 - Dec FORT MCHENRY frocks 36 enlisted Sailors to the next higher paygrade.

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 - 4 Jan,	Inport, Sasebo, Japan
5 Jan	Berth Shift to Akasaki Pier Ammo Offload
	Pre-Asir Tech Assist Visit
6-8 Jan	Defuel at Akasaki
6-8 Jan	FCA Certification
9 Jan	Berth Shift To India Basin
12 - 16 Jan	Combat Systems Readiness Review
20 - 21 Jan	Crew moves off to berthing barge
23 Jan	Berth shift to Drydock
23 Jan - 27 Mar	Docking Ship's Restricted Availability
13 Mar	Berth shift to India Basin
17 Mar	Crew moves off the ship
30 Mar	Dock trials
30 Mar	Berth shift to Akasaki Fuel Pier
30 Mar	Fast Cruise
1 - 3 Apr	Sea trials
5 - 8 Apr	FY99 SRA Shipchecks
6 Apr	Semi-Annual Physical Readiness Test
6 Apr	CTT Training
6 - 10 Apr	HAZMINCEN Assist Visit
7 Apr	CMS Training Visit
9 Apr	Ammo onload
10 Apr	LCAC crews arrive

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14 - 16 Apr	Underway for training
17 Apr	Family Cruise
18 Apr	Reefer conversion
20 - 27 Apr	Fuel/Lube Oil Purifier Groom
21 - 23 Apr	Communications Exercise
23 Apr	Aviation Readiness Evaluation
27 Apr - 1 May	Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection
6 May - 31 May	Embark Commander, Destroyer Squadron THREE ONE
7 May	Commence XO turnover
8 May	Deploy for CARAT 98
8 - 9 May	Enroute Okinawa
9 - 10 May	Landing Force CARAT onload
12 - 17 May	Enroute Muara, Brunei
15 May	PASSEX with Royal Brunei Navy
16 May	GUNEX (for USS SIDES)
16 May	Underway replenishment
17 - 19 May	Anchored, Muara, Brunei
19 - 20 May	Exercise, South China Sea
19 May	Anchored, Muara, Brunei
20 May	Surface shoot - 25mm/.50 Cal
20 May	SCREENEX/Flashing Light/Leapfrogs
20 May	Night Exercise
21 May	Anchored, Muara, Brunei
22 May	Underway

24 May	Cross the Equator
26 - 30 May	Arrive, Sembawang, Singapore
31 May - 5 Jun	Underway
1 Jun	FORT MCHENRY Receives Wellness Unit Award And CNO Surface Ship Safety Award
6 Jun	Inport, Singapore
7 Jun	Underway, enroute Penang, Malaysia
7 Jun	FORT MCHENRY frocks 27 enlisted Sailors to the next higher paygrade
8 - 10 Jun	Moored, Penang, Malaysia
11 Jun	Underway, enroute Port Kelang, Malaysia
12 - 15 Jun	Moored, Port Kelang, Malaysia
16 Jun	Underway, enroute, Lumut, Malaysia
21 Jun - 2 Jul	Moored, Lumut, Malaysia
22 - 24 Jun	Communications Exercise
23 Jun	Midshipmen Welcome Aboard
29 - 30 Jun	Wargame
1 Jul	U.S. Marine Ammo offload
3 - 5 Jul	Underway, enroute, Sattahip, Thailand
6 Jul	Arrive, Sattahip, Thailand
6 Jul	OTH-T Exercise vs USS SALVOR
6 - 12 Jul	Inport, Sattahip, Thailand
13 - 15 Jul	Amphibious Exercise, Gulf Of Thailand
16 - 17 Jul	Inport, Sattahip, Thailand

17 Jul	Seven FORT MCHENRY First Class Petty Officers are selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer
18 Jul	Underway, enroute, Sembawang, Singapore
19 Jul	Arrive, Sembawang, Singapore
19 - 24 Jul	Inport, Singapore
25 Jul - 2 Aug	Enroute, Okinawa
3 Aug	Arrive, Okinawa
3- 5 Aug	Offload LF CARAT
6 - 7 Aug	Family Cruise
7 Aug	Arrive, Sasebo, Japan
24 Aug	Underway
24 - 27 Aug	Enroute, Yokosuka, Japan
28 - 31 Aug	Inport Yokosuka, Japan
7 Sep - 16 Oct	Tender Availability
16 Sep	FORT MCHENRY frocks CPO Selectees
21 - 25 Sep	Semi-Annual Physical Readiness Test
28 Sep - 2 Oct	3M Baseline Assist Visit (ATG WESTPAC)
19 - 20 Oct	Navigation Checkride
20 - 21 Oct	Underway, enroute Okinawa
21 - 23 Oct	U.S. Marine onload
24 - 6 Oct	Enroute, Pohang, Korea
27 Oct	Arrive, Pohang, Korea
27 - 28 Oct	Inport, Pohang, Korea
27 Oct - 4 Nov	Exercise FOAL EAGLE

27 - 29 Oct	Counter Special Operations Forces Training
29 Oct	Underway, coast of South Korea
30 Oct	Opposed ATF Convoy (Arg/Rok Arg)
31 Oct	Amphibious Assault Rehearsal
1 Nov	Amphibious Assault Exercise
3 Nov	Backload U.S. Marines
6 - 7 Nov	Enroute, Okinawa
8 Nov	Arrive, Okinawa
8 - 12 Nov	Offload U.S. Marines
12 Nov	Underway
12 - 13 Nov	Enroute, Sasebo, Japan
13 Nov	Arrive, Sasebo, Japan
23 Nov - 18 Dec	Ship's Restricted Availability
24 Nov	Change of Command
18 Dec- 31 Dec	Inport Sasebo, Japan

SPECIAL TOPICS

Commanding Officer: CDR Jack A. Federoff (1Jan97 - 24Nov98)
CDR Richard B. Landolt (24Nov - 31Dec98)

Executive Officer: LCDR Shelia A. Scarborough (1Jan97 - 7May98)
LCDR John J. Braunschweig (7May98-31Dec98)

Significant Statistical Data:

Engine Hours: 1A MPDE - 836.2
1B MPDE - 730.1
2A MPDE - 748.2
2B MPDE - 710.0

Generator Hours: 1SSDG - 1360.1
2SSDG - 1614.4
3SSDG - 1310.9
4SSDG - 1787.4

Miles Steamed: 19,616.5

Ammunition Expended: 615 rounds of 12 guage shotgun
61 rounds of M14 blank
5 rounds of M14 7.62mm
6,335 rounds of 9mm
100 rounds of 50 cal
1,300 round of 25mm
2,250 rounds of 20mm CIWS
2 rounds of M3 grenades