



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
FPO AP 96865-1731

Rep, 05/1/01
w/odish.

5750
Ser CO/027
21 Feb 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57,
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) CY2000 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 the CY2000 USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) Command History.

D. F. BLAKE
Acting

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 SAN DIEGO CA
COMPHIBGRU ONE
COMPHIBRON ELEVEN
USS FORT MCHENRY

3. COMMANDING OFFICER. Commander Peter W. D. Morford

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE FOR CY2000

- 1 - 18 Jan Crew completes SRA as they prepare for a year which would include a three-month underway period including goodwill port visits and exercises designed to enhance interoperability between U.S. forces and forces from several Asian countries, a visit to Yokosuka, Japan for Training, Exercise FOAL EAGLE off the coast of South Korea.
- 24 - 27 Jan FORT MCHENRY performs sea trials after following an extensive SRA period.
- 8 Feb - 28 Mar FORT MCHENRY makes a port visit to Hong Kong. While in port, her crew completes two Community Relations projects. FORT MCHENRY then traveled to Manila, Philippines to participate in Exercise BALIKATAN 2000 which had been suspended for in five years. After Exercise BALIKATAN 2000, FORT MCHENRY completed Special Operations Capable Exercise 2000 in vicinity of Okinawa.
- 29 Mar - 1 May Command administers the Physical Readiness Test.
- 2 May - 5 June FORT MCHENRY participates in Exercise COBRA GOLD 2000 with Thai and Singapore Armed Forces. The exercise included a port visit to Pattaya, Thailand and a Community Relations Project.
- 22 May Prospective Commanding Officer (CDR Morford) embarks.
- 25 May Midshipmen arrive for phase one of summer midshipmen training.
- 26 May CDR Peter W. D. Morford relieves CDR Richard B. Landolt as Commanding Officer.
- 10 Jun - 6 Jul FORT MCHENRY is inport Sasebo for a continuous maintenance period.
- 13 - 16 Jun #3 Ship's Service Diesel Generator inspection.
- 22 Jun Midshipmen arrive for phase two of summer midshipmen training.

7-10 Jul FORT MCHENRY enroute Yokosuka.

10 - 24 Jul FORT MCHENRY completes a Training Availability inport Yokosuka, Japan. Courses include Leadership Continuum, Fire Fighting, and Damage Control in Yokosuka, Japan.

19 Jul Commander, Naval Forces Japan, RADM Chaplin visits FORT MCHENRY.

27 Jul - 23 Aug FORT MCHENRY is inport Sasebo for a continuous maintenance period.

6 Aug FORT MCHENRY'S MWR, Chief's Mess, and First Class Petty Officer's Association man a booth at the Saikai Community Festival, an event that brings the Sasebo community together with the military community.

7 - 19 Aug Boat Deck/05/07 Levels get refurbished with new non-skid.

23 - 30 Aug FORT MCHENRY gets underway for Exercise ELLIPSE CHARLIE. Due to Typhoon Prapiroon, the exercise is cancelled. The crew uses the time to perform General Quarters, Man Overboard Drills, Small Boat Officer qualifications, and a water barrier test for the last time of the year without embarked troops.

1 - 11 Sep Crew makes all preparations for three-month underway.

12 Sep FORT MCHENRY gets underway to avoid typhoon conditions.

16 Sep Commanding Officer advances one First Class Petty Officer to Chief Petty Officer and frocks six First Class Petty Officers to Chief Petty Officer.

20 - 21 Sep Crew unloads U.S. Marines and their equipment from MSSG-31 for Special Operations Capable Exercise.

22 Sep - 6 Oct FORT MCHENRY and embarked USMC personnel participate in BLUE-GREEN Work-ups and Special Operations Capable Exercise.

1 Oct Signalmen transfer from Operation Department to Navigation/Administration Department to become NN02 Division. Third Division transfers from Deck Department to Operations Department to become OW Division.

7 - 8 Oct Ship reconfigures in Okinawa. Offloads USMC personnel and equipment from MSSG-31 and brings on U.S. Marines and equipment from Marine Corps Battalion Landing Team 2/7.

10 Oct Soldiers and Equipment from USA Charlie Battery 6-37 Field Artillery embark for Exercise NEPTUNE THUNDER.

10 -13 Oct FORT MCHENRY works with USA Charlie Battery 6-37 Field Artillery during Exercise NEPTUNE THUNDER. The exercise allowed the Army unit to test their equipment on a moving platform.

16 - 19 Oct Crew makes a port visit to Kure, Japan. The ship's MWR provides buses to and from Sasebo for crewmembers to visit their families. Crewmembers enjoy excellent liberty in Kure, Hiroshima and, and MCAS Iwakuni.

22 - 25 Oct FORT MCHENRY visits Pohang, South Korea, where crewmembers participated with Sailors and Marines from USS ESSEX (LHD 2) on a Community Relations Project at a home for Alzheimer's patients.

27 Oct - 3 Nov Exercise FOAL EAGLE. FORT MCHENRY and embarked USMC participate in a joint exercise between U.S. and South Korean forces 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.

9 - 13 Nov FORT MCHENRY makes a port visit to Guam. Ship tours were held to show the residents of Guam an LSD Class ship.

16 Nov FORT MCHENRY performs a Burial at Sea for SM3 Bozie Mack (USN Ret.).

17 Nov Offload U.S. Marines and equipment from Marine Corps Battalion Landing Team 2/7.

18 Nov Afloat Training Group WESTPAC is aboard to conduct FORT MCHENRY'S Mid-cycle Assessment.

19 Nov - 31 Dec FORT MCHENRY is inport Sasebo for a leave and maintenance period.

1 Dec Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Blake arrives

7 Dec Executive Officer Turnover. LCDR Donovan F. Blake relieves LCDR Cedric E. Pringle as ship's Executive Officer.

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 - 23 Jan	Inport, Sasebo, Japan
1 - 18 Jan	Ship's Restricted Availability
5 - 7 Jan	Refueling
6 Jan	Stores Onload
11 - 17 Jan	Engineering/Casualty Steering Equipment Testing
11 - 14	CNSP Elevator Inspection
11 - 13	Aviation Safety Inspection Review Technical Assist
19 Jan	Dock Trials
20 Jan	Refueling
21 Jan	Fast Cruise
24 - 26 Jan	2B Main Propulsion Diesel Engine Run- in/Console Groom
24 - 27 Jan	Underway for Sea Trials
27 Jan	Ammo Onload
28 Jan - 7 Feb	Inport, Sasebo, Japan
1 Feb	Aviation Assist Visit, Sasebo
2 Feb	Diesel Fuel Marine Onload
3 Feb	JP5 Onload
8 - 9 Feb	Underway, enroute Okinawa
9 - 11 Feb	Moored Okinawa, Japan
	Amphibious Assault Vehicle Onload
10 Feb	Refueling
11 - 14 Feb	Underway, enroute Hong Kong, China

12 - 13 Feb	Transit Taiwan Strait
14 - 18 Feb	Anchored, Hong Kong, China
19 - 22 Feb	Underway, enroute Ternate/Manila
22 - 25 Feb	Inport Manila, Philippines
24 Feb	CINCPACFLT visit
26 Feb	Underway, Exercise BALIKATAN 2000
27 Feb	Amphibious Rehearsal
28 Feb	Amphibious Assault
29 Feb - 1 Mar	Support Amphibious Ready Group Ashore
29 Feb	Cross Training with USS DECATUR (DDG 73). Selected USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) and USS DECATUR (DDG 73) Sailors swap ships for a day.
1 Mar	Backload
2 - 3 Mar	Inport Manila, Philippines
3 Mar	Exercise BALIKATAN 2000 Closing Ceremonies
5 -6 Mar	Underway, enroute Okinawa, Japan
7 - 11 Mar	Inport, Okinawa, Japan
7 Mar	Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive
	Offload
8 Mar	Army UH-60 visits
	PERS-41 visit
9 - 10 Mar	Onload
11 - 16 Mar	Amphibious Specialty Training

11 - 21 Mar	BLUE/GREEN Work-Ups
12 Mar	Underway for Special Operations Capable Exercise
22 - 26 Mar	Special Operations Capable Exercise
27 Mar	Inport, Okinawa, Japan
	Offload, Buckner Bay, Japan
28 Mar	Underway, enroute Sasebo, Japan
	Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive starts
29 Mar -	Inport Sasebo, Japan
3 - 14 Apr	Combat Systems Readiness Review
	LCAC Craft Readiness Evaluation
3 - 5 Apr	Explosive Safety Inspection
3 Apr	Furuno Radar-00 Installation
10 - 14 Apr	Navy Food Management Team Visit
12 Apr	Inport Visual Drills
17 Apr	Shipboard Security Engagement Training
17 - 20 Apr	Physical Readiness Test
18 - 20 Apr	9250 Lube Oil Onload
19 Apr	Inport Drills
25 Apr	Diesel Fuel Marine Refueling
27 - 28 Apr	Onload Oplift 3D FSSG Personnel and Equipment
2 May	Underway, enroute Okinawa, Japan

4 May Inport, Okinawa, Japan

Onload, Buckner Bay, Japan

Refuel, Buckner Bay, Japan

Ammunition Onload, Buckner Bay, Japan

5 May Underway for Thailand and Exercise
COBRA GOLD

Exercise COBRA GOLD: Thai Cross-
Training

9 May Safety Standdown

10 May COBRA GOLD Offload - Joint Task Force
Enabler in view of Camp Chulaporn

11 May Anchored Sattahip, Thailand

12 - 25 May Exercise COBRA GOLD 2000, Gulf of
Thailand

15 May Enroute Songkhla Naval Base, Thailand

Thai Navy ship riders embark USS FORT
MCHENRY (LSD 43)

16 May Underway Replenishment with USNS
RAPPANANNOCK (TAO 24)

18 May Media Day for Non-Combatant Evacuation
Operation

21 May Enroute Pattaya, Thailand

Combined Amphibious Landing Force
Exercise (CALFEX)

22 - 23 May Operation in view of Pattaya, Thailand
for Combined Amphibious Landing Force
Exercise

22 May Prospective Commanding Officer, CDR
Peter W. D. Morford embarks

24 May	Enroute Gulf of Thailand
	Vertical and Underway Replenishment with USNS SAN JOSE (TAFS 7)
25 - 30 May	Anchored, Pattaya, Thailand for liberty port visit
25 May	Midshipmen Cruise Phase 1 begins
26 May	USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) Change of Command
30 May - 6 June	Underway, enroute Okinawa, Japan
5 Jun	Underway Replenishment with USNS YUKON (TAO 202)
6 Jun	Offload, Okinawa, Japan
9 Jun	Underway, enroute Sasebo, Japan
	Fresh Water Washdown
10 Jun - 6 Jul	Upkeep Sasebo
13 - 16 Jun	#3 Ship's Service Diesel Generator Inspection
15 - 16 Jun	Assault Craft Unit FIVE Offload
16 - Jun	Tender Availability
21 Jun	Sasebo Inport Training
22 Jun	Midshipmen Cruise Phase 2 begins
23 Jun	Commanding Officer TAD to Okinawa, Japan
27 Jun	Watertight/Airtight door hinge upgrade installation
28 Jun	Watchstander Weapons Qualifications
	Sasebo Inport Training for Radio, Combat Information Center, and Signalmen

5 Jul	HC-5 Detachment 6 Embarks USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43)
7 Jul	Underway, Yokosuka, Japan
9 Jul	Anchor, Yokosuka, Japan
10 - 24 Jul	Inport, Yokosuka, Japan Training Availability Yokosuka, Japan
11 Jul	Supply Management Assessment Yokosuka, Japan
17 - 18 Jul	Communications Exercise
19 Jul	Commander, Naval Forces Japan, RADM Chaplin onboard
24 Jul	Sasebo Port Engineer aboard for Ship's Restricted Availability CSMP Package Scrub
25 - 26 Jul	Enroute, Sasebo, Japan
27 Jul -	Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan
31 Jul	Rolling Airframe Missile/Ship's Self-Defense System Milestone Definition Meetings
6 Aug	Saikai Community Festival, Sasebo, Japan
7 - 18 Aug	Shipboard Engineering Maintenance Assist Team Visit
7 - 11 Aug	Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) 1 Review
7 - 19 Aug	Boat Deck/05/07 Levels Non-Skid Replacement
7 - 9 Aug	Chief Petty Officer Indoctrination
8 - 10 Aug	Command Managed Equal Opportunity Command Climate Survey
9 Aug	Sasebo Inport Drills

23 - 30 Aug	Underway for Exercise ELLIPSE CHARLIE
24 - 27 Aug	Industrial Hygiene Survey
28 - 29 Aug	BLUE-GREEN/Special Operations Capable Exercise Embark Planning Conference
31 Aug	Enroute, Sasebo, Japan
1 Sep	USMC Server Installation Phase 2
1 - 11 Sep	Continuous Maintenance/Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan
7 Sep	E-4 Advancement Exam
12 Sep	ATACMS Planning Conference continued
12 Sep	Underway due to weather conditions
14 Sep	E-5 Advancement Exam
16 Sep	Enroute, Okinawa, Japan
18 Sep	Freshwater Washdown
20 - 21 Sep	Onload, Okinawa
22 Sep - 02 Oct	PHIBTNG: Philippine Sea (BLUE-GREEN Work-ups)
26 Sep	Anthrax shots
27 Sep	Safety Standdown
1 Oct	Amphibious Ready Group Exercise
2 Oct	3 rd Division transfers to Operations Department
	Signalmen transfer to Navigation Department
3 - 6 Oct	Special Operations Capable Exercise 2000
7 - 8 Oct	Reconfigure, Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan

9 Oct	Enroute, Pusan, South Korea
10 - Oct	Exercise NEPTUNE THUNDER 2000
13 Oct	Navy Birthday
14 Oct	Offload, Pusan, South Korea
15 Oct	Enroute, East China Sea
16 Oct	Arrive, Kure, Japan
16 - 19 Oct	Port Visit, Kure, Japan
20 Oct	Enroute, Sea of Japan
22 - 25 Oct	Inport, Pohang, South Korea
26 Oct	Underway for Exercise FOAL EAGLE 2000
27 Oct - Nov	Exercise FOAL EAGLE 2000
27 Oct	Arrive Sea Echelon Area
3 Nov	Inport, Pohang, South Korea
4 - 8 Nov	Enroute, Guam
9 - 13 Nov	Inport, Guam
14 - 16 Nov	Enroute, Okinawa, Japan
14 Nov	Navy Food Management Team visit
	Rolling Air Missile/Ship's Self Defense System Pre-install Test Visit
16 Nov	Burial At Sea
17 Nov	Inport, Okinawa, Japan
	Offload
18 Nov	Mid-Cycle Assessment conducted by Afloat Training Group WESTPAC
	Enroute, Sasebo, Japan

19 Nov - 31 Dec	Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan
29 Nov - 4 Dec	Pre-Rolling Air Missile/Ship's Self Defense System Install Equipment Checks
1 Dec	Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Donovan F. Blake arrives
4 Dec	Physical Readiness Test Day 1
	Executive Officer Turnover
	Dental Readiness Examination
6 - 9 Dec	Ship's Restricted Availability Ship Checks

SPECIAL TOPICS

Commanding Officer: CDR Richard B. Landolt (24Nov98 - 26May00)
CDR Peter W. D. Morford (26May00 - 31Dec00)

Executive Officer: LCDR Cedric E. Pringle (27Jul99 - 7Dec00)
LCDR Donovan F. Blake (7Dec00 - 31Dec00)

Significant Statistical Data

Engine Hours: 1A MPDE - 1853.5
1B MPDE - 895.3
2A MPDE - 1286.2
2B MPDE - 1533.8

Generator Hours: 1SSDG - 2275.1
2SSDG - 2376.6
3SSDG - 1914.6
4SSDG - 1762.9

Nautical Miles Steamed: 25,400 NM

Ammunition Expended: 925 rounds of 12 guage shotgun
0 rounds of M14 blank
0 rounds of M14 7.62mm
7,700 rounds of 9mm
1,550 rounds of 50 cal
600 rounds of 25mm
2,552 rounds of 20mm CIWS
5 rounds of HEPDE 40mm grenades