



Rev'd 4/23/93
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44)
FPO AE 09573-1732

5750
Ser LSD-44/145
8 April 1993

From: Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: FORWARDING OF REVISION OF SHIP'S HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 CH-1 of 17 November 1987

Encl: (1) Complete 1992 history of USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

M. P. Nowakowski
M. P. NOWAKOWSKI

USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) Narrative for 1992

From 1 January to 8 January 1992, GUNSTON HALL was moored to Pier 11, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk. Half of the crew was on holiday leave as the ship made preparations to get underway for Jamaica to off-load U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Preparations included receipt of fuel and stores at the pier.

From 8 January to 23 January 1992, GUNSTON HALL proceeded south to Rocky Point, Jamaica, and conducted an off load of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers via wet-well using Landing Craft Utility (LCU). The Corps of Engineers were part of a relief effort to construct schools and public buildings in southern Jamaica. The ship anchored in Portland Bight and from 12 January to 14 January 1992 conducted 72 hours of continuous LCU amphibious operations. On 15 January 1992, the ship arrived at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a brief stop to change LCUs for transport to Norfolk. Underway the same day, the ship arrived at Nassau, Bahamas and moored at Berth 19 Prince Charles Pier for a port visit 17 January to 20 January 1992. Underway on the 20th of January, the ship arrived at Little Creek on 23 January where she off-loaded the LCU and proceeded to homeport at the Naval Amphibious Base where she remained until 3 February.

On 29 and 30 January, GUNSTON HALL conducted a Diesel Mobile Training Team (DMTT) visit. The ship received grades of Satisfactory to Outstanding in all areas.

The ship was underway on 3 February for transit to Naval Station, Yorktown, Virginia, where she conducted an ammunition off-load on 3 and 4 of February in preparation for a Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) in Metro Machine Shipyard, Norfolk, Virginia. The ship removed all ammunition with the exception of training rounds for .45 Cal pistols. GUNSTON HALL then proceeded to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia and moored at Pier 2 where she defueled to 25 percent capacity on 6 February.

On 10 February 1992, GUNSTON HALL got underway from Naval Station, Norfolk to Metro Machine near downtown Norfolk and moored at Metro Machine Pier 3. The ship began a three month Planned Maintenance Availability.

From 10 February to 5 May 1992, GUNSTON HALL conducted her PMA yard period. On 5 March 1992, the ship was visited by Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN (Captain James C. Van Slyke, Lineal Number 001781-60). From 25 March 1992 through 20 April, Commander, Amphibious Squadron FOUR (Captain Morton W. Kenyon - Lineal Number - 001992-90) embarked in GUNSTON HALL. On 20 April 1992, Commander, Amphibious Squadron FOUR's pennant was shifted from the USS GUNSTON HALL to USS GUAM (Captain Gary W. Stubbs - Lineal Number - 002387-50). The ship conducted dockside trials on 30 April. On 1 May 1992, major flooding was reported in Auxiliary Machinery Room #1 (AMR1) due to a clogged Contaminated Holding Tank (CHT) riser valve. No major damage or injuries resulted. The ship shifted from Pier 3 to the Finger Pier, Metro Machine Shipyard on 1 May. The ship's 60 Ton Crane and 20 Ton Crane were satisfactorily weight tested on 4 May 1992.

The ship was underway on 5 and 6 May to conduct post-maintenance sea trials. The ship achieved 22 knots during a successful Full Power Run. On 6 May 1992, the ship moored at the Quaywall Dogleg NAB Little Creek where she remained until 13 May 1992.

From 13 May to 14 May 1992, GUNSTON HALL conducted a pierside and underway Engineering Readiness Assessment Team (ERAT) visit in preparation for an Operational Propulsion Plant Exam (OPPE). The ship was assessed to have no major discrepancies and on 14 May returned to the Quaywall, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek.

The ship was underway on 18 through 20 May operating in Virginia Capes Operations Area (VACAPES OPAREA). She conducted Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) operations and continued training for her upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

On 20 May GUNSTON HALL was dispatched with USS NASSAU (Captain Richard J. McCarthy - Lineal Number - 001990-00) to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for contingency operations and directed to prepare for a possible rescue of Haitian refugees. The ship conducted an Underway Replenishment (UNREP) with USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS on 23 May and continued training in preparation for OPPE. The ship conducted numerous Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCEs) and General Quarters (GQ) drills. On 27 May 1992, the ship was detached from contingency operations to returned to Naval Station Norfolk on 29 May where she moored to Pier 11.

GUNSTON HALL was underway to GOLF anchorage, off the Naval Station, on 5 June to conduct an ammunition on-load. Upon completion of the on-load that same day, the ship returned to and moored at the Quaywall, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek where she remained until 9 June 1992.

GUNSTON HALL was underway in the Virginia Capes Operating Area (VACAPES OPAREA) conducting additional training and OPPE preparations from 9 to 11 June 1992. The ship conducted BECCEs and GQ drills. On 11 June 1992, the ship returned to and moored at Pier 15, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek where she remained until 17 June 1992.

On 15 June 1992, GUNSTON HALL conducted a fuel on-load.

GUNSTON HALL was underway in the VACAPES OPAREA 17 through 19 June to conduct LCAC operations, a CIWS PACFIRE and BEECEs in preparation for OPPE. On 19 June 1992, the ship returned to and moored at Pier 15, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek where she remained until 22 June 1992.

GUNSTON HALL was underway in the VACAPES Oparea again 22 through 29 June conducting additional engineering and damage control training for OPPE, which was conducted 30 June to 2 July 1992 by the Propulsion Examining Board (PEB). On 30 June 1992, the ship embarked Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN (Captain Joseph K. Henderson - Lineal Number - 002047-70) to observe the OPPE. The ship received an overall grade of Satisfactory with an adjective grade of Excellent and a two year certification. On 2 July 1992, the ship returned to and moored at the Quaywall Dogleg, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek where she remained until 14 July 1992.

GUNSTON HALL was underway in the VACAPES Oparea from 14 through 16 July to conduct amphibious and basic type training with LCAC, LCU, and Helicopter Operations. On 16 July, the ship returned to and moored at the Quaywall, NAB Little Creek and hosted a visit by Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR) (Rear Admiral Virgil L. Hill - Lineal Number - 000065-00). GUNSTON HALL remained at NAB Little Creek until 3 August 1992.

Commander Michael P. Nowakowski (Lineal Number - 007379-40) relieved Commander William J. Marshall (Lineal Number - 006838-20) as Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL, on 24 July 1992. Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN (Captain Joseph K. Henderson - Lineal Number - 002047-70), NASSAU (Captain Richard J. McCarthy - Lineal Number - 001990-00), BARNSTABLE COUNTY (Captain Thomas M. Hayes - Lineal Number - 006656-00), NEWPORT (Commander Timothy A. Kok - Lineal Number - 006633-80), BEACHGRU TWO (Captain Robert M. Scott - Lineal Number - 002334-20) were in attendance.

GUNSTON HALL was underway to participate in Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) from 3 through 14 August 1992. This exercise consisted of basic amphibious warfare training and was phase one of two in preparation for the upcoming deployment of Mediterranean Amphibious Readiness Group (MARG) 1-93. TCAT was conducted in Cherry Point OPAREA, Onslow Bay, North Carolina. The ship operated in company with other ships designated to deploy as MARG 1-93: USS GUAM (Captain Gary W. Stubbs - Lineal Number - 002387-50), USS AUSTIN (Captain Charles C. Buchanan - Lineal Number - 002302-20), USS LA MOURE COUNTY (Commander Gary R. Hammond - Lineal Number - 006855-80), and USS SUMTER (Commander George R. Marvin - Lineal Number - 006916-80). On 5 August, the ship conducted an UNREP with USNS KANAWHA and a satisfactory Anti-Aircraft Warfare Exercise. On 8 August, the ship conducted small boat operations simulating Search and Rescue for downed aircraft. On 11 August, the ship hosted a visit by Commander, Amphibious Squadron FOUR (Captain Morton W. Kenyon - Lineal Number - 001992-90), Commander, Amphibious Group TWO (RADM Leonard F. Picotte - Lineal Number - 000220-00), LA MOURE COUNTY (Commander Gary R. Hammond - Lineal Number - 006855-80), and GUAM (Captain Gary W. Stubbs - Lineal Number - 002387-50). On 13 August, the ship conducted a satisfactory Degaussing Run at Naval Station Norfolk to test operations of the ship's magnetic degaussing system. On 14 August, the ship returned to and moored at the Quaywall, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek where she remained until 10 September 1992.

On 20 August 1992, GUNSTON HALL was visited by Commander, Second Fleet (VADM William J. Flanagan - Lineal Number - 000160-00). Commander, Second Fleet brought his family to visit the ship and after touring, disembarked via LCAC 38.

On 22 August 1992, GUNSTON HALL conducted a fuel on load.

From 10 September to 26 September 1992, GUNSTON HALL participated in Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX) and Special Operations Capable Exercise (SOCEX), both advanced phase 2 work-ups for MARG 1-93 deployment. On 11 September 1992, the ship moored in Morehead City, North Carolina, to on load MEU-22. That evening, during LCAC operations, LCAC 41 collided with LCAC 40, resulting in heavy damage to LCAC 41 but no injuries to personnel. The ship transited back to Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, to get a replacement LCAC (LCAC 37) and return to complete FLEETEX/SOCEX. On 12 September 1992, the ship conducted a small boat operation for a fishing vessel in distress. The vessel was assisted until a Coast Guard patrol boat arrived. As a part of FLEETEX, the ship conducted many LCAC and Helo operations. SOCEX was completed at the end of the work-ups and consisted of a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) exercise used to evaluate the MARG's ability to respond to an actual NEO situation. The MARG was evaluated to have a satisfactory NEO capability. FLEETEX and SOCEX took place in Cherry Point Oparea, Onslow Bay, North Carolina. On 24 September 1992, the ship moored at Morehead City to off load MEU-22. The ship then diverted south down the East Coast to avoid Hurricane Danielle. On 26 September 1992, the ship returned to and moored at the Quaywall, NAB Little Creek where she remained until deployment on 20 October 1992.

From 27 September to 19 October 1992, GUNSTON HALL observed a modified leave and stand down prior to MARG 1-93 deployment. On 1 October, the ship conducted a fuel on load. On 11 October 1992, the prospective Executive Officer, LCDR C. B. Chace, arrived, toured the ship, and departed. On 14 October, the ship was visited by Commander, Amphibious Squadron FOUR (Captain Morton W. Kenyon - Lineal Number - 001992-90).

GUNSTON HALL began her Mediterranean deployment on 20 October 1992. The ship arrived at Morehead City, North Carolina, on 21 October and conducted an on load of Marine Expeditionary Unit TWENTY-TWO (22 MEU). GUNSTON HALL departed Morehead City in company with USS GUAM (Captain Gary W. Stubbs - Lineal Number - 002387-50), USS AUSTIN (Captain Charles C. Buchanan - Lineal Number - 002302-20), USS LA MOURE COUNTY (Commander Gary R. Hammond - Lineal Number - 006855-80), and USS SUMTER (Commander George R. Marvin - Lineal Number - 006916-80) on 21 October 1992. Ships of the MARG conducted extensive drills enroute to the Mediterranean, including BECCEs, General Quarters drills, various communications drills and operations with helicopters and LCAC. On 27 October 1992, the ship conducted Leap Frogs with USS GUAM and USS AUSTIN.

The ship changed operational command to Sixth Fleet under Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR) on 01 November 1992.

The ship arrived in Rota, Spain, on 2 November to on load of provisions in preparation for contingency operations off Angola, Africa. GUNSTON HALL then proceeded south along the Coast of Africa toward Angola.

On 4 November 1992, the ship was recalled to Rota, Spain and while in route conducted a search for a downed CH-53 helicopter off the Canary Islands. The ship spent 4 and 5 November searching for survivors. The ship recovered wreckage and one crew member's body. No additional bodies were recovered.

On 7 November 1992, the ship was moored at Pier 3, Berth 2, Naval Station, Rota, Spain where she remained until 13 November. On 12 November 1992, the ship was visited by CINCUSNAVEUR, MSSG 22, and BLT 1/6.

On 13 November 1992, the ship was underway for a port visit to Algeciras, Spain. On 14 November 1992, the ship mustered all personnel at quarters as a man overboard was reported. All personnel were accounted for.

The ship arrived at Algeciras, Spain on 16 November and conducted a port visit through 19 November.

On 20 November 1992, the ship got underway and passed through the Straits of Gibraltar and operated in the western Mediterranean in preparation for exercise "GIBEX 92". The ship arrived at Gibraltar on 23 November and remained there through 25 November while embarked marines participated in GIBEX '92.

On 25 November 1992, the ship got underway from Gibraltar and anchored in Tangiers, Morocco, for several hours. After anchoring, the ship got underway for and arrived at Alicante, Spain on 27 November for a port visit through 3 December 1992.

On 3 December 1992, the ship got underway from Alicante, Spain and proceeded to the coast of Morocco for exercise "AFRICAN EAGLE," an amphibious assault exercise involving all units of MARG 1-92. USS JOHN F. KENNEDY battle group also participated, providing anti-air coverage and close air support. 22 MEU Marine Corps units conducted maneuvers ashore in conjunction with the Moroccan Army. "AFRICAN EAGLE" began on 7 December and concluded on 16 December 1992. During the exercise, on 8 December 1992, the ship conducted an Underway (UNREP) and Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) with USS KALAMAZOO (AOR-6).

On 16 December 1992, the ship departed Moroccan waters enroute to a port visit in Valencia, Spain. On 17 December 1992, the ship conducted another VERTREP and UNREP with USS KALAMAZOO.

The ship arrived at Valencia, Spain on 18 December and conducted a holiday port visit through 31 December.

On 31 December 1992, the ship got underway enroute to Israel.