



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)  
FPO AP 96665-1737

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Ser

From: Commanding Officer, USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Command History Chronology, 01 January 2000 -  
31 December 2000  
(3) Chronology Narrative  
(4) Current Commanding Officer's Biography  
(5) Current Commanding Officer's Photograph  
(6) Ship's Photograph  
(7) Press Releases for 2000  
(8) Current Ship's "Welcome Aboard" Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted.

D. R. SHUNKWILER

## I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

**Mission:** The ship's mission is to project power ashore by transporting and launching amphibious craft and vehicles loaded with embarked Marines and their equipment in an amphibious assault. HARPERS FERRY can also render limited docking and repair service to small ships and craft, as well as act as the primary control ship in an amphibious operation. HARPERS FERRY is composed of a seamless organization of Sailors and Marines striving for excellence in all warfare areas. Dedicated to pursuing innovations, HARPERS FERRY views itself as an evolutionary step towards the Navy's development of a "littoral supremacy ship" that combines the capabilities of cruiser/destroyer type ships with an amphibious well deck. HARPERS FERRY has been guided by four command principles:

- (1) honesty and integrity in every action
- (2) taking care of the people
- (3) know your job and equipment
- (4) strive for improvement.

**Organizational Structure-** USS HARPERS FERRY is attached to COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP THREE.

**Name of Commander-** CDR Donald R. Shunkwiler, USN

**Permanent Duty Station-** Naval Station San Diego, CA

**ENCLOSURE( 1 )**

## II. CHRONOLOGY

### 01 JANUARY 2000 -31 DECEMBER 2000

01 JAN 00 – 09 JAN 00	HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD – SAN DIEGO, CA
10 JAN 00 – 10 JAN 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
11 JAN 00 – 13 JAN 00	TYPE TRAINING U/W - SOCAL OPAREA
14 JAN 00 – 18 JAN 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
19 JAN 00 – 20 JAN 00	TYPE TRAINING U/W - SOCAL OPAREA
21 JAN 00 – 31 JAN 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
24 JAN 00 – 11 FEB 00	TYPE SHIP TRAINING ASSESMENT (TSTA) A – SAN DIEGO, CA
01 FEB 00 – 04 FEB 00	TSTA A U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
05 FEB 00 – 07 FEB 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
08 FEB 00 – 11 FEB 00	TSTA A U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
12 FEB 00 – 16 FEB 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
17 FEB 00 – 18 FEB 00	ENGINEERING QUALIFICATION – SAN DIEGO, CA
19 FEB 00 – 06 MAR 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
28 FEB 00 – 23 MAR 00	TSTA B – SAN DIEGO, CA
07 MAR 00 – 10 MAR 00	TSTA B U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
11MAR 00 – 13 MAR 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
14 MAR 00 – 17 MAR 00	TSTA B U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
18MAR 00 – 20 MAR 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
21 MAR 00 – 23 MAR 00	TSTA B U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
24 MAR 00 – 02 APR 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
03 APR 00 – 04 APR 00	FINAL EVALUTAION PROBLEM U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
05 APR 00 – 21 MAY 00	C4I INSTALL PHASE I – SAN DIEGO, CA
22 MAY 00 – 26 MAY 00	AOT 2000 – SOCAL OPAREA
27 MAY 00 – 29 MAY 00	INPT SAN DIEGO

**ENCLOSURE( 2 )**

30 MAY 00 – 13 JUL 00	RIMPAC 2000 – HAWAII
30 MAY 00 – 05 JUN 00	TRANSIT TO PEARL HARBOR – U/W
06 JUN 00 – 07 JUN 00	PEARL HARBOR ONLOAD – PEARL HARBOR, HI
08 JUN 00 – 28JUN 00	RIMPAC U/W – HI OPAREA
14 JUN 00 – 14 JUN 00	MISSILE-EX - HI OPAREA
29 JUN 00 – 05 JUL 00	PEARL HARBOR VISIT – PEARL HARBOR, HI
06 JUL 00 – 13 JUL 00	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO, CA – U/W
13 JUL 00 – 22 JUL 00	JAPANESE SAN DIEGO PORT VISIT
23 JUL 00 – 27 JUL 00	INPT SAN DIEGO, CA
28 JUL 00 – 01 AUG 00	TRANSIT TO EVERETT, WA
01 AUG 00 – 01 AUG 00	INPT EVERETT
01 AUG 00 – 03 AUG 00	TRANSIT TO SEATTLE, WA
03 AUG 00 – 03 AUG 00	SEATTLE SEAFAIR PARADE OF SHIPS
03 AUG 00 – 06 AUG 00	SEATTLE SEAFAIR - INPT SEATTLE WA
07 AUG 00 – 13 AUG 00	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO
14 AUG 00 – 18 AUG 00	#2 SSDG AND 1A MPDE SURFPAC INSPECTIONS - INPT SAN DIEGO
19 AUG 00 – 20 AUG 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
21 AUG 00 – 25 AUG 00	#1 SSDG AND 1B MPDE SURFPAC INSPECTIONS - INPT SAN DIEGO
26 AUG 00 – 03 SEP 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
04 SEP 00 – 08 SEP 00	#3 SSDG AND 1A MPDE SURFPAC INSPECTIONS - INPT SAN DIEGO
09 SEP 00 – 01 OCT 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
02 OCT 00 – 06 OCT 00	TRANSIT TO SAN FRANCISCO
06 OCT 00 – 06 OCT 00	SAN FRANCISCO FLEETWEEK PARADE OF SHIPS
07 OCT 00 – 09 OCT 00	INPT OAKLAND, CA
10 OCT 00 – 12 OCT 00	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO CA
13 OCT 00 – 15 OCT 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
16 OCT 00 – 16 OCT 00	TYPE TRAINING U/W - SOCAL OPAREA
17 OCT 00 – 19 OCT 00	AMMUNITION ONLOAD - SEAL BEACH, CA

19 OCT 00 – 19 OCT 00	TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO FLEET WEEK PARADE OF SHIPS
20 OCT 00 – 29 OCT 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
30 OCT 00 – 09 NOV 00	COMPTUEX U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
30 OCT 00 – 03 NOV 00	BGSIT U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
10 NOV 00 – 12 NOV 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
13 NOV 00 – 17 NOV 00	#4 SSDG, #2 AUXILIARY BOILER, AND 2B MPDE SURFPAC INSPECTIONS - SAN DIEGO, CA
18 NOV 00 – 26 NOV 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
27 NOV 00 – 01 DEC 00	#1 AUXILIARY BOILER SURFPAC INSPECTION - SAN DIEGO, CA
02 DEC 00 – 06 DEC 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
07 DEC 00 – 07 DEC 00	NETHERLANDS DEFENSE COLLEGE VISIT – SAN DIEGO, CA
08 DEC 00 – 10 DEC 00	INPT SAN DIEGO
11 DEC 00 – 14 DEC 00	TRUE AT SEA TRAINING U/W – SOCAL OPAREA
13 DEC 00 – 13 DEC 00	RAM MISSILE FIRING – FLEETAHOT/SOCAL OPAREA
15 DEC 00 – 31 DEC 00	HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD – SAN DIEGO, CA
28 DEC 00 – 28 DEC 00	HOLIDAY STANDDOWN TURNOVER DAY – SAN DIEGO, CA
28 DEC 00 – 31 DEC 00	FRENCH NAVY SAN DIEGO PORT VISIT

### III. NARRATIVE

For the USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49), 2000 was a year of dedicated inter-deployment training, assessments and drilling evolutions in preparation for her next Western Pacific / Indian Ocean / Arabian Gulf Deployment.

After finishing the holiday leave cycle on January 9th, 2000, HARPERS FERRY rolled right into the first phase of the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA A). Members of training teams from Afloat Training Group, Pacific came onboard from January 24<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup> to re-establish the crew's level of proficiency and start honing the ship's war-fighting capabilities. The crew proved ready to meet the challenge scoring a satisfactory grade on the Training Availability. Immediately following, on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> was Engineering Qualification (E-QUAL). Throughout this two-day evolution, the Engineers presented their spaces, conducted main space fire drills, and tested equipment, earning a "safe to steam" review from visiting inspectors. TSTA B followed not too far behind from February 12<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, the ship continued to excel receiving an overall satisfactory score for the availability.

The grueling inspection cycle came to a close with the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. After earning passing scores, the HARPERS FERRY was ready for future operational commitments.

With the beginnings of the work-up phase complete, the ship's Operations Department started their first phase of the C4I install. The numerous large scale upgrades in Combat Systems, communications, and computers was a giant undertaking. This resulted in a much more effective warship all-around with improved working conditions. This success set the tone for the remainder of the year's exercises and accomplishments.

**ENCLOSURE(3)**

After all the initial assessments of combat and engineering capability were determined, and the crew was certified ready, and HARPERS FERRY embarked for their first underway training, AOT 2000 from May 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26th. After operating for five days off of the Southern California Operational area, the crew took a few relaxing days at home before leaving for RIMPAC 2000.

During RIMPAC 2000, the HARPERS FERRY embarked Marines from Combat Service Support Detachment NINETEEN, members of the Australian Army, Naval Academy and ROTC midshipmen, and Landing Craft Utility 1633 from Beach Master Unit ONE, for the six weeks of multinational exercises Naval exercises off of the coast of Hawaii. Naval vessels from Japan, Chile, Australia, Canada, and South Korea combined with the United States Navy for exercises including amphibious assaults, humanitarian aid and Non-combatant Evacuation Operation drills.

After these exercises, the crew of the HARPERS FERRY, and all embarked troops, earned some well-deserved liberty time in Honolulu.

Upon return from RIMPAC 00 on July 13<sup>th</sup>, the HARPERS FERRY hosted two destroyers, the MURASAME and HARUSAME, from a nine-ship flotilla from Japan visiting San Diego. After a short time inport, the ship and crew got back underway for Seattle Seafair on July 28<sup>th</sup>. After a few days transit, and a stop-off in Everett, the HARPERS FERRY joined the Seafair parade of ships on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Following Seattle Seafair, and upon HARPERS FERRY's return to homeport San Diego, the engineering department entered their heaviest work-up period of the year, the SURFPAC Diesel and Boiler Inspections. During every inport period from August until December 2000, the

ship's four diesel generators, four main propulsion diesel engines, and two auxiliary boilers underwent the exacting inspections and heavy workload repairs.

After a seven-week inport period of engineering inspections, and the final phase of the C4I Install, the ship got underway again for San Francisco Fleet Week 2000. After a short transit north, the HARPERS FERRY entered the San Francisco Fleet Week parade of ships on October 6<sup>th</sup>. While enjoying a few days in San Francisco, HARPERS FERRY hosted the Oakland Raiderettes to film a commercial for the Army-Navy game at their Oakland harbor Berthing. Following the return from San Francisco Fleet Week, HARPERS FERRY returned north again for an ammo onload at Seal Beach Naval ammo depot. The ship and crew then returned for eleven days inport before heading out to BGSIT and COMPTUEX on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

For the next eleven days the HARPERS FERRY joined the USS Cleveland (LPD 7) and USS Boxer (LHD 4) for pre-deployment exercises. These eleven days marked the beginning of the final preparations for the March 14, 2001 WESTPAC deployment to the Persian Gulf. Finalizing individual exercises such as humanitarian operations, emergency civilian extractions, and amphibious landings, the HARPERS FERRY was ready to prepare for joint operations with it's deploying Amphibious Readiness Group of COMPHIBRON SEVEN in the new year.

Upon the return to San Diego, the ship and crew recommenced the heavy workload in all shipboard departments for preparation for WESTPAC 01. Taking small breaks for tours of family members and a visit from the Netherlands Defense College, all crewmembers worked around the clock to ensure one hundred percent operational capability onboard HARPERS FERRY.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the HARPERS FERRY got underway for the last time in the year 2000 for True Training. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, in the SOCAL FLEETAHOT ZONE, HARPERS



FERRY conducted two successful Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Shots from its aft missile launcher. This concluded the HARPERS FERRY's proud operational year on the same high note it entered with.

Upon the return to San Diego on December 15<sup>th</sup>, The ship entered its holiday leave stand down for the remainder of the year. The ship's crew separated into two groups to take turns returning home to visit loved ones for the Holiday season with a turnover on December 28th. As the last year of the millennium closed out for the HARPERS FERRY, it fulfilled one last duty.

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, two French Naval vessels, the JEANNE D'ARC and the GEORGES LEYGUES, arrived in San Diego during their around-the-world training voyage. HARPERS FERRY performed host duties to these ships as they enjoyed San Diego's hospitality during their own time away from home.