

OPNAVINST 5750.12J
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Classification (when filled in): UNCLASSIFIED

Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. Instructions on submitting this form and the required attachments are at the end.

1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: **USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7)**

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: **23027**

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: **BANISTER** First: **GRADY** M.I.: **T** Rank: **CAPT**

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): **2012-02-28**

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: **Certification Exercise BOLD ALLIGATOR Jan-Feb12; 9-month deployment to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AOR) in support of maritime security operations and theater cooperation efforts from March - December 2012.**

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): **Naval Station Norfolk, VA**

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: **Amphibious Squadron EIGHT**

Administrative: **Amphibious Squadron EIGHT**

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): **TF 48-4, Exercises AFRICAN LION, EAGER LION, and International Mine Countermeasure. Assigned to CTF-50 while deployed in Arabian Sea in support of theater security operations and theater cooperation efforts.**

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): **NA**

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: **MV-22 Ospreys, AV-8B Harriers, MH-60S Sea Hawks, CH-53E Super Stallions, UH-1N Huey's and AH-1 Cobras.**

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): **24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8, Marine Medium Tiltrotor (Reinforced) 261, Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 21, Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 4, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22, and Naval Beach Group (NBG), which includes Assault Craft Unit TWO (ACU 2), Assault Craft Unit FOUR (ACU 4), and Beachmaster Unit TWO (BMU 2).**

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 73 Enlisted: 921 Civilian: 1

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): MCC(SW/AW) [REDACTED]

Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7)
FPO AE 09574-1664

2. Commander's Assessment

The Commander's Assessment briefly tells the story of the command's role in national defense and should highlight any general and specific lessons-learned. It should contain the commander's commentary, insights and reflections on the unit's activities. Attention should be directed to significant issues impacting training, operations and mission accomplishment during the reporting period. Descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to major command decisions and results of those decisions are particularly desired. Also desired are accounts of specific contributions of individuals in the command to mission accomplishment. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, particular attention should be given to the commander's estimate of the situation, records

of discussions and decisions, descriptions of circumstances and sequence of events leading to operational decisions and results of those decisions. For a unit returning from deployment or participating in a single operation this can normally be a single assessment. For higher-echelon commands or units engaging in multiple operations, a separate assessment for each operation in addition to an overall assessment may be appropriate.

During calendar 2012, IWO JIMA has by far exceeded every expectation for all assignments given to her. Her highly impressive results during Certification Exercise and a 9-month deployment to the FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet AORs in support of maritime security operations and theater cooperation efforts have proved the Sailors of IWO JIMA are ready to complete any task necessary at any time. The ability of my ship to respond and be prepared to respond to possible vital mission tasking in response to the Israel/Gaza and Syrian conflicts while deployed was nothing short of outstanding and I have no doubt that IWO JIMA will continue to be successful in the years to come.

3. Chronology and Narrative

Chronology should include dates of movements; local operations and training; exercises and operations (define acronyms and purpose of exercise or operation); installation of new weapons systems or changes; major physical changes to facilities, ship or aircraft; Class A or B mishaps; port visits; unit awards received; reserve augmentation; and other significant operational or administrative events.

01 JAN 12 - 15 JAN 12	Upkeep	Norfolk, VA
16 JAN 12 - 20 JAN 12	Ammo Onload	Atlantic Ocean/ Earle, NJ
21 JAN 12 - 26 JAN 12	UPKEEP	Norfolk, VA
27 JAN 12 - 19 FEB 12	CERTEX/BOLD ALLIGATOR 12	Atlantic Ocean
28 FEB 12	Change of Command	Norfolk, VA
20 FEB 12 - 26 MAR 12	Upkeep/POM	Norfolk, VA
27 MAR 12 - 29 MAR 12	Deploy/CPOA/MEU Onload	Atlantic Ocean
30 MAR 12 - 07 APR 12	Transit	Atlantic Ocean
8 APR 12 - 18 APR 12	Exercise AFRICAN LION	Morocco Operating Area
19 APR 12 - 23 APR 12	Port Visit	Rota, Spain
24 APR 12 - 30 APR 12	Transit	Mediterranean Sea
01 MAY 12 - 01 MAY 12	Transit	Suez Canal
02 MAY 12 - 04 MAY 12	Off Load	Aqaba, Jordan
05 MAY 12 - 06 MAY 12	Transit	Red Sea
07 MAY 12 - 29 MAY 12	Exercise EAGER LION	Red Sea
30 MAY 12 - 02 JUN 12	Backload	Aqaba, Jordan
03 JUN 12 - 05 JUN 12	Transit	Red Sea
06 JUN 12 - 10 JUL 12	CTF 50 OPS	Arabian Gulf/Gulf of Aden/Gulf of Oman/North Arabian Sea
11 JUL 12 - 17 JUL 12	Port Visit	Bahrain
18 JUL 12 - 17 SEP 12	CTF 50 OPS	Arabian Gulf/Gulf of Aden/Gulf of Oman/

18 SEP 12 - 30 SEP 12	CTF 50 OPS	North Arabian Sea
01 OCT 12 - 04 OCT 12	Agricultural Washdown	Arabian Gulf
05 OCT 12 - 04 NOV 12	CTF 50 OPS	Aqaba, Jordan
05 NOV 12 - 05 NOV 12	Transit	Gulf of Aden/Red Sea
05 NOV 12 - 11 NOV 12	Transit	Suez Canal
11 NOV 12 - 13 NOV 12	Port Visit	Mediterranean Sea
14 NOV 12 - 17 NOV 12	Transit	Rota, Spain
17 NOV 12 - 23 NOV 12	Transit	Atlantic Ocean
24 NOV 12 - 04 DEC 12	Underway	Mediterranean Sea
04 DEC 12 - 08 DEC 12	Transit	Mediterranean Sea
09 DEC 12 - 20 DEC 12	Transit	Atlantic Ocean
20 DEC 12	Return to Homeport	Norfolk, VA

The short narrative should amplify chronology entries (such as objectives and results of exercises/operations; commander's evaluation of exercises/operations, etc). Entries may refer to an enclosure of this report without additional description if the enclosure sufficiently reports the incident/event. For all other entries, give the date or period in YYYY-MM-DD format and provide a brief narrative. All significant events during the reporting period are to be included.

At the beginning of CY 2012, IWO JIMA was preparing for a scheduled 8-month deployment to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet AORs. IWO JIMA completed a highly successful Bold Alligator 2012 (BA12) and Certification Exercise (CERTEX) as part of her final training phase in preparation for deployment. BA12 and CERTEX comprised of eight allied nations: Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, New Zealand, and United Kingdom, making it the largest amphibious exercise conducted by both Navy and Marine Corps in 10 years. BA12 and CERTEX executed both live and synthetic scenarios and operations were run continuously like in real world situations. The IWO JIMA Amphibious Ready Group (IWO ARG), to include the Amphibious Ready Group flagship USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) with embarked 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8 deployed March 27, 2012 for a scheduled 8-month deployment to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet AORs. During her deployment, IWO ARG supported Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, Exercises AFRICAN LION, EAGER LION and International Mine Countermeasure, along with theater and maritime security cooperation efforts in the Mediterranean and Arabian Seas. IWO ARG completed joint and bi-lateral Exercise AFRICAN LION on April 17, 2012. This exercise between Kingdom of Morocco and U.S. military which served as integrated field training for the ARG/MEU team, prior to arriving at their operational station. The Joint Task Force (JTF), led by Marine Forces Africa (MARFORAF), were designated as JTF-MOROCCO and a Task Force (TF) led by 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division were designated as TF-AFRICAN LION, giving the exercise great historical and operational importance, being one of the first times an ARG/MEU team has been utilized as an all land based operation.

Following African Lion, IWO JIMA transited the Suez Canal to FIFTH Fleet on 1 May and immediately began Exercise EAGER LION 2012. EAGER LION was an irregular warfare-themed exercise focusing on missions that America's allies could potentially perform during deployments and other assorted military operations whose goals were to bolster military relations through combined multi-national efforts designed to meet

current and potential threats to international security. Participating military forces included more than 19 countries from five continents and 12,000 participants. Upon completion of EAGER LION on 28 May. IWO JIMA remained on station in the Arabian Sea to support maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the FIFTH Fleet. On 5 November, IWO JIMA transit the Suez Canal into SIXTH Fleet where she made a scheduled port visit to Rota, Spain from 11-14 November. Upon departing from Rota, IWO JIMA was instructed by higher authority to stop steaming west across the Atlantic and remain at location until further direction on 14 November. On 17 November, IWO JIMA was directed to transit back across the Mediterranean and remain off the coast of Israel as a contingency plan to evacuate American citizens from Israel due to the Israel/Gaza conflict if needed. IWO JIMA arrived off the coast of Crete on 23 November and remained on station until 4 December. IWO JIMA was notified that an evacuation plan was not needed and the ARG was directed to transit to homeport. Here are some significant highlights from deployment.

- Aircraft conducted more than 2,878 flight sorties and logged more than 4,873 flight hours. There were more than 310 small boat sorties conducted in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet AORs .
- Steamed more than 51,000 nautical miles throughout the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean, Red and Arabian Seas, and Arabian Gulf.
- Participated in bi-lateral exercises and operations in the EUCOM and CENTCOM AORs including African Lion with the Moroccan military and Eager Lion with the Saudi Arabian and Jordanian Navies and a total of 19 countries from five different continents and more than 11,000 participants. Significantly advanced international coalition interoperability through persistent engagement and communications both in port and at-sea.
- Hosted first engagement for a large deck in more than seven years while in port Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Hosted five U.S. Embassy engagements onboard while off the coast of Morocco, in port Aqaba, Jordan; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Rota, Spain.
- Hosted more than 200 distinguished visitors, including U.S. Ambassadors to Jordan, Morocco and Spain, COMUSAFRICOM, and numerous members of parliament, foreign Cabinet-level Ministers, heads of service and military officers of the U.S. and foreign militaries and government officials. Engagements included more than 85 different nations.
- 160 Sailors earned an Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) qualification and 220 Sailors qualified Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS).
- Twenty-three men serving onboard returned home to a new baby.

- 175 Sailors and Marines continued their education by completing Navy College Program for Afloat College Education courses.
- More than 100 Sailors and Marines provided over 250 man-hours for three different community relations projects working with volunteers from partner nations.

Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet forwarded a personal praise for the Blue/Green team of IWO JIMA which read:

"Congratulations to the Officers and crew of the IWO JIMA Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 24th MEU for your truly exceptional performance while deployed to the FIFTH Fleet area of operations. You executed your vital tasking with a degree of operational precision that will serve as the standard for all future ARG/MEU teams. The IWO ARG and 24th MEU displayed superior performance from day one by providing critical support to vital national tasking. Your support of TF 48-4, Exercise EAGER LION, and the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise promoting theater security cooperation by enhancing interoperability with our GCC partners while also decreasing our response time to regional unrest."

UNIT AWARDS:

During calendar year 2011, IWO JIMA was selected for the Battle Efficiency Award "E", Retention Excellence Award "Golden Anchor", FY11 CNO's Safety Afloat Award, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Medical department received the Surgeon General's Health Promotions Blue and Green "H" Awards.

IWO JIMA is awaiting the results of the following awards:

- 1) 2012 Maritime Warfare (Power Projection/Sea Control) Excellence Award
- 2) 2012 Engineering/Survivability Excellence Award
- 3) 2012 Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare Excellence Award
- 4) 2012 Secretary of Defense Maintenance (PHOENIX) Award
- 5) 2011 Battle Efficiency Award "E"

4. Supporting Reports

Supporting Reports are those reports required by other instructions that provide significant data about the command during the calendar year. These reports may be submitted "as is," eliminating the need to duplicate information for this report that is already contained in reports prepared in response to other instructions and requirements. Examples include battle efficiency, safety and other award submissions, major staff or command studies, and end of cruise reports or briefs. For units engaged in or directly supporting combat, significant wartime or peacetime operations (named operations, non-combat evacuation operations, disaster relief or other humanitarian operations, etc.) or major exercises, enclosures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Situation Reports
- b. Intentions Messages
- c. Operational Reports
- d. Operations Orders/Deployment Orders
- e. Operational Plans
- f. Personal For Messages
- g. After Action Reports
- h. Significant Electronic Message Traffic (outgoing/e-mail/chat)
- i. Battle Damage Assessments
- j. Casualty Reports
- k. End-of-Cruise/Deployment Reports
- l. Intelligence Summaries
- m. Major Exercise Reports

List below the items submitted, indicating the classification of each. Electronic reports should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF, or plain text. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Submit electronic reports via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

5. Published Documents

List below the published documents being submitted in either electronic or paper format, indicating the classification of each item. Documents to be submitted include cruise books, change of command programs, commissioning/decommissioning brochures, establishment/disestablishment/deactivation brochures, copy of command's web site, news releases, biography of commander, welcome aboard brochures, newspaper articles, command studies, statistical data, etc.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM.

(U) CY 2012 Stories

(U) Welcome Aboard brochure

6. Photographs

List below official photographs and any other command-generated media being submitted in either electronic or paper format. Photographs to be submitted include: official photo of commanding officer; recent photo of ship, aircraft, or facility; and photos of historic events associated with the

command. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. Photographs in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained below. Enclosures that do not exist in electronic format should be listed below and submitted in the same manner as the CD-ROM. Also include any photographs covering operational strikes, battle damage (especially that sustained by own ship, aircraft, facilities or equipment), or other relevant photos relating to combat or deployment operations.

(U) CO, XO, CMC Photos and Biographies

(U) All Released Photos 2012

(U) Command Crest Logo

Submit this Command Operations Report as follows:

Via e-mail, to one of the three e-mail addresses:

All air/aviation commands: aviationhistory@navy.mil

All ships: shiphistory@navy.mil

All other commands: archives@navy.mil

Place any attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward paper records included as attachments in the same manner. **Do not forward Command Operations Reports via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures.** Address all shipments to:

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All air/aviation commands: aviationhistory@nhc.navy.smil.mil

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Place any **classified** attachments too large for transmission via e-mail on CD-ROM and send by an approved commercial courier, such as FEDEX or UPS. Check CDs for readability before submission to guard against corruption. Forward classified paper records included as attachments in the same manner. **Do not send attachments to the Command Operations Report via U.S. mail, as all mail addressed to the Naval Historical Center is irradiated and will result in destruction of discs and damage to paper enclosures.** Ensure all items are properly marked and wrapped.

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The inner wrapper should read: ONI Historian, ONI-ODB EXT 2975

Telephone numbers for the ONI Historian are DSN 659-4488/5901, Commercial (301) 669-4488/5901.

* The attention line should read **Ships History** for all ships, **Aviation History** for all air/aviation commands, and **Operational Archives** for all other commands. Telephone numbers for these branches are as follows: Ships History Branch, DSN 288-6802, Commercial (202) 433-6802; Aviation History Branch, DSN 288-2321, Commercial (202) 433-2321; Operational Archives Branch, DSN 288-3224, Commercial (202) 433-3224.