



USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH) Department of the Navy,
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Subj: USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) Command History 1980

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C of January 1980

Encl: (1) Command History 1980

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded for calendar year 1980.


J. D. LAURANCE

USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) COMMAND HISTORY 1980

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) remained in Amphibious Squadron Two throughout 1980.

b. The Commanding Officer of USS NASHVILLE from 1 January 1980 until 22 February 1980 was Captain Dwight D. TIMM, USN. Captain TIMM was relieved by Captain J. D. LAURANCE, USN on 22 February 1980. Captain LAURANCE remained the Commanding Officer through 31 December 1980.

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

a. Chronology

1 January - 19 January	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
20 January - 23 January	Underway for READEX 1 - 80
24 January	Inport NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico
25 January - 27 January	Underway for READEX 1 - 80
28 January	Inport NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
29 January - 31 January	Underway for NOB, Norfolk, VA
1 February - 3 February	Inport NOB, Norfolk, VA
4 February	Underway for AMPHIBREFTRA
4 February - 7 February	Anchored Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk, VA.
8 February - 10 February	Inport NOB, Norfolk, VA
11 February	Underway for AMPHIBREFTRA
11 February - 14 February	Anchored Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk, VA.
15 February - 27 February	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
28 February	Underway for Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk, VA. returned NOB same day.
29 February - 2 March	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA
3 March	Underway for Ammunition Anchorage
3 March - 5 March	Anchored Hampton Roads
6 March - 9 April	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.

10 April	Underway VACAPES OPAREA returned to Craney Island, VA. same night.
11 April	Underway for NOB, Norfolk, VA., moored same day.
11 April - 13 April	Inport NOB, Norfolk, VA.
14 April - 17 April	Underway for MARG 2 - 80 Workup
17 April - 19 April	Inport Newport, Rhode Island
20 April - 24 April	Underway for MARG 2 - 80 Workup
25 April - 27 April	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
28 April - 1 May	Underway for MARG 2 - 80 Workup
2 May - 3 June	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
4 June	Underway MARG 2 - 80
5 June	Inport Moorehead City, North Carolina. Underway same day
6 June - 16 June	Underway MARG 2 - 80
17 June - 18 June	Inport Rota, Spain
19 June - 22 June	Underway MARG 2 - 80
23 June - 29 June	Amphibious Operations Carboneras, Spain
30 June	Underway MARG 2 - 80
1 July - 4 July	Anchored Valencia, Spain
5 July - 6 July	Underway MARG 2 - 80
7 July - 11 July	Amphibious Operations Bizerte, Tunisia
12 July - 16 July	Underway MARG 2 - 80
16 July	Anchored Port Said, Egypt
17 July	Southerly Transit, Suez Canal
18 July - 25 July	Underway MARG 2 - 80
26 July - 30 July	Inport Mombasa, Kenya
31 July - 7 August	Underway MARG 2 - 80
8 August	Anchored Port Suez, Egypt/ Northerly Transit Suez Canal

9 August	Underway MARG 2 - 80
10 August - 12 August	Inport Ashdod, Israel
13 August - 15 August	Underway MARG 2 - 80
16 August - 18 August	Anchored Piraeus, Greece
19 August - 21 August	Underway MARG 2 - 80
22 August - 5 September	Inport Naples, Italy
6 September - 7 September	Underway MARG 2 - 80
8 September - 14 September	Amphibious Operations Pian Di Spille, Italy.
15 September - 16 September	Underway MARG 2 - 80
17 September - 27 September	Inport Toulon, France
28 September - 5 October	Underway Exercise Display Determination - 80
6 October - 8 October	Amphibious Operations Capo Teulada, Sardinia
9 October	Underway MARG 2 - 80
10 October - 11 October	Inport Palma De Mallorca, Spain
12 October - 15 October	Emergency Sortie, Underway for Algerian Earthquake Relief.
16 October - 21 October	Inport Rota, Spain
22 October - 8 November	Underway MARG 2 - 80
8 November	Inport Moorehead City, North Carolina, underway same day
9 November - 31 December	Inport Little Creek, VA.

b. Narrative

The New Year was observed pierside at the Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. On January Nashville was underway for Readiness Exercise (READEX) 1 - 80. Nashville's function during the exercise was to act as the drone recovery ship during the anti-air warfare drills. Nashville pulled into Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico twice during the exercise.

On 1 February Nashville returned to Naval Station, Norfolk for three days prior to getting underway and commencing Amphibious Refresher Training (AMPHIBREFTRA) on the 4th. For two weeks the crew worked long and arduous hours relearning the skills necessary in order to conduct an amphibious assault. Nashville spent the weekend of the 8th in port Norfolk and returned to complete AMPHIBREFTRA in the Chesapeake Bay on the 11th of February. The 15th of February found Nashville in port Norfolk once again and the following week the ship was busy for the upcoming change of command ceremony. On the 22nd of February, Captain Dwight D. TIMM, USN was relieved by Captain James D. LAURANCE, USN.

25 February saw Nashville underway to conduct training with the Amphibious Boat Coxswain School off Little Creek. After returning that same day, Nashville was in port until proceeding to an ammunition anchorage in Hampton Roads from 3 - 6 March.

Nashville returned to Naval Station, Norfolk on 6 March and began a much needed four week in port period. From 11 March to 5 April COMPHIBGRU TWO, RADM W. C. HAMM JR., embarked his flag onboard. During this time Nashville was kept busy carrying out the duties of an amphibious group flagship.

On 10 April Nashville was underway again to conduct helicopter operations in the Virginia Capes Operating Area. She returned that afternoon to Craney Island and spent the evening taking on fuel. The following morning Nashville returned to Naval Station, Norfolk.

The workup for the upcoming Marine Amphibious Ready Group (MARG 2 - 80) deployment began on the 14th of April. During this two week period ships of Amphibious Squadron Two (PHIBRON TWO), USS GUADALCANAL (LPH-7), USS PENSACOLA (LSD-38), USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1197), USS LAMOURE COUNTY (LST-1194), and Nashville conducted intensive training evolutions which would prepare them for deployment. The squadron spent a weekend in Newport, Rhode Island on liberty, and then proceeded to North Carolina for amphibious operations.

The latter part of the workup was spent busily embarking and debarking Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2/6 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William RUSSEL, USMC and Maintenance Service Support Group (MSSG) 32 under the command of Major P. BYRNE, USMC. With the successful completion of these operations off Onslow Beach, North Carolina, PHIBRON TWO returned to Norfolk on 2 May.

On the 4th of June the squadron was underway for Moorehead City, North Carolina to embark all Marine units and their equipment for the MARG 2 - 80 deployment. PHIBRON TWO spent eleven days crossing the Atlantic. The time crossing was spent running continuous drills and exercises in order that upon arrival in Rota, Spain on 17 June the group was at a high level of battle readiness. After the process of relieving the outgoing MARG was completed the squadron departed Rota on 19 June.

Between 20 June and 15 July two successful amphibious training anchorages were conducted. The first operation took place off Carboneras, Spain and the second off the coast of Northern Tunisia. One in port period was spent in Valencia, Spain from 1 - 5 July.

On 16 July, PHIBRON TWO anchored off Port Said, Egypt. The following morning found the squadron transiting the Suez Canal on its way for a tour of duty in the Indian Ocean with the COMIDEASTFORC attached to SEVENTH FLEET. This was an important occasion, as it was the first time since its inception in the post World War Two days that the regular standing U.S. Amphibious Force had been removed from the Mediterranean.

On 25 July the "Jolly Roger" was hoisted and Captain Davy Jones embarked, as Nashville executed its "crossing the line" ceremony. PHIBRON TWO moored in Mombasa, Kenya the following day. MARG 2 - 80 enjoyed a five day liberty there, but was underway again bound to the North on 31 July.

On both transits up and down the East coast of Africa the MARG was shadowed several time by surface and air units of the Soviet Indian Ocean Fleet. On 8 August the squadron arrived at the southern end of the Suez Canal and began the transit North that day.

After transitting the canal, Nashville and LaMoure County separated from the rest of the squadron and made there way to the port of Ashdod, Israel. During the visit which commenced on 10 August, the crew enjoyed several tours to the Holy Land and its many sights. A reception was held onboard Nashville for officers and guests from the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Nashville departed Ashdod on the 13 of August.

From 16 - 19 August a brief inport period was spent in Athens, Greece. On 22 August Nashville moored in Naples, Italy, once again reunited with PHIBRON TWO.

Nashville departed Naples in company with units of PHIBRON TWO on 6 September and arrived at the amphibious operations area off Pian Di Spille, Italy on the 8th. At this anchorage the MARG practiced several types of landings, most notable an underway launch at dawn with the MARG operating in a nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) enviroment, while also in a complete emission control (EMCON) conditions.

On 15 September MARG 2 - 80 left the Pian Di Spille area and proceeded to Toulon, France. Here the squadron exercised their combined ship's self defense forces at a French Army base near Dijon, France. Nashville and units of PHIBRON TWO also underwent a much needed maintenance availability with USS PUGET SOUND (AD-38).

MARG 2 - 80 was undeway for exercise Display Determination 1980 on the 28th of September. This combined NATO regional sea and air exercise involved the MARG in an amphibious landing on Capo Teulada, Sardinia.

Upon completion of the Sardinia landing, Nashville and USS LAMOURE COUNTY were detached to proceed to Palma De Mallorca, Spain where there was to be a four day liberty period. Liberty was cut short on the 12th of October when all PHIBRON TWO ships were ordered to emergency sortie from port. A large earthquake had devastated an area South of Tenes, Algeria and PHIBRON TWO was ordered to standby off the Algerian coast, in case its aid would be needed.

The MARG's help was not required, and the Nashville proceeded to Rota, Spain where it arrived on 16 October. Here the process of de-snailing (cleaning ships) and being relieved by MARG 3 - 80 was accomplished. The Nashville departed Rota on 22 October.

The MARG 2 - 80 deployment ended on 9 November when Nashville moored at Little Creek, Virginia. A short stand down followed as COMPHIBGRU TWO, RADM W. C. HAMM JR. embarked his flag onboard. RADM HAMM departed on the 29th of December. Nashville remained pierside for the completion of the year.