



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS NASSAU (LHA-4)
FPO NEW YORK 09557-1615

1986

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5700

Ser PAO:4/1040

23 JUL 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS NASSAU (LHA 4)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command History for USS NASSAU (LHA 4) for period 1 Jan - 31 Dec
1986

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. P. Lucas".

R. P. LUCAS

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lacy".

Command History for USS NASSAU for period 1 Jan-31 Dec 1986

1. Command composition and organization: The mission of the ship is to embark, deploy and land elements of a USMC landing force by helicopters, landing craft and amphibious vehicles. The next senior in the ship's chain of command is Commander, Amphibious Squadron Twelve, the Commander, Amphibious Group Two. Administratively, USS NASSAU is a unit of Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic. The Commanding Officer is Captain Robert P. Lucas, who relieved Captain Franklin D. Julian on January 6, 1987. The USS NASSAU is homeported at Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia. One UH-1N helicopter is permanently assigned, with tail number 838.
2. Chronology of significant events for 1986: (see attachment 1)
3. Narrative: USS NASSAU entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia in February for her first Complex Overhaul. The ship completed her yard period by mid-January 1987 and returned to homeport. Major alterations to the ship's exterior appearance included removal of the forward Sparrow BPMDS launcher and the addition of a Phalanx Close-in-Weapon System on the portside aft. The ship also had AV-8 Harrier landing lighting system modifications installed as well as additional aviation ordnance storage spaces in preparation for a regularly deployed AV-8 squadron.
4. Enclosed are copies of the ship's pictures, Familygram for 1986, a Welcome Aboard brochure in use in 1986, and relevant statistical data as listed on attachment 2.

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
USS NASSAU JAN-DEC 1986

JANUARY

- 21 Commander, Second Fleet, VADM H. C. Mustin, shifted his flag from USS NASSAU to USS MT WHITNEY (LCC-20).
- 28 Ship got underway from Norfolk for ammo anchorage.
- 30 Moved to Craney Island for fuel offload.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth for Complex Overhaul.

MARCH

- 27 Ship entered drydock.

APRIL

- 10 USS NASSAU received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for "service while conducting operations in the North Atlantic Ocean and Norwegian Sea in support of United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization objectives during Exercise Ocean Safari from 29 August 1985 to 20 September 1985" as part of a "battle force (that) established new standards for the forward offensive employment of maritime forces in deterring and defeating threats to the alliance."
- 11 Under Secretary of Defense visited NASSAU.

MAY

- 14 Commander, United Kingdom/Netherlands Amphibious Group, Commodore Larkin, RN, visited NASSAU.

JULY

- 14 Ship moved from drydock to Pier 3, NNSY.

AUGUST

- 29 RADM H. K. Fiske of Naval Sea Systems Command conducted an inspection tour on board NASSAU.

SEPTEMBER

- 23 VADM W. F. McCauley, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic, visited NASSAU.

OCTOBER

- 9 RADM Bennett, Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic, visited NASSAU.
- 14 CAPT H. L. Phillips, Commander, Amphibious Squadron Twelve, broke his pennant on USS NASSAU.
- 17 RADM W. L. Fogarty, Commander, Amphibious Group Two, visited NASSAU.
- 20 Light-off exam of ship's boilers conducted.

DECEMBER

- 10-12 Underway for Post Repair Trials in Virginia Capes.
- 30 Ship's UH-1N Helicopter completed it's 3,500th accident-free flying hour.

SIGNIFICANT STATISTICAL DATA

Ammunition expended

5"/54 Cal: 20 rds
25MM: 450 rds
CIWS 20MM: 1,000 rds

Ship's helo flight hours: 487.4

Aircraft launches/recoveries: 142

Days at sea: 10