



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

Rec'd  
07-07-92

5750  
Ser PAO/ 007

JUN 22 1992

From: Commanding Officer, USS NASSAU (LHA 4)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

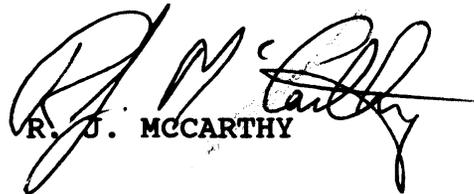
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Statistical Summary of Events  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (CAPT Dirren)  
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (CAPT Dow)  
(7) USS NASSAU Change of Command Program  
(8) COMPHIBGRU 2 Change of Command Program  
(9) USS NASSAU Thanksgiving Service Program  
(10) Applicable Message Traffic/ Schedules etc.  
(11) Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm Cruise Book  
(12) Ocean Venture Times  
(13) February 1990 Familygram  
(14) May 1990 Familygram  
(15) September 1990 Familygram  
(16) October 1990 Familygram  
(17) November 1990 Familygram  
(18) December 1990/January 1991 Familygram  
(19) Photograph of USS NASSAU  
(20) Biography of Commanding Officer (CAPT Dirren)  
(21) Photograph of Commanding Officer (CAPT Dirren)  
(22) Biography of Commanding Officer (CAPT Dow)  
(23) Photograph of Commanding Officer (CAPT Dow)

1. Enclosures (1) through (23) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

2. Parts I through III are reflected in enclosures (1) through (3) respectively and Part IV is reflected in the remaining enclosures.

  
R. J. MCCARTHY

Missing pages 1  
through 4 of  
Command Composition  
and Organization  
Enclosure (i).

### Command Composition and Organization (Cont'd)

international drug trafficking. For almost a month, NASSAU's sailors and Marines coordinated support for elements of the White House staff to ensure the President's mission was accomplished flawlessly. In a brief radio address to the men of the NASSAU, President Bush thanked NASSAU's crew for their untiring efforts and commended them on a job well done.

"Thank you for what you're doing," he said. "Not just for this special mission that brought great comfort to all of us who were a part of it here, but what you do every single day in defense of the greatest country on the face of the earth. God bless you all!" This was fitting testimony to the enduring professionalism of the ship that "does it all."

Captain Jack Dow reported as the eighth Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU (LHA 4) on April 7, 1990, and the general purpose amphibious assault ship's crew immediately demonstrated their abilities to the Naval War College graduate during underway training in the Virginia Capes Operating Area.

On April 23, NASSAU departed for the Caribbean for the ship's first assignment with Captain Dow at the helm. Carrying a full contingent of Marines of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, NASSAU participated in Exercise OCEAN VENTURE.

The ship's Combat Systems Department personnel displayed their skills with qualification at the Vieques Naval Gunfire Range in Puerto Rico during this exercise. NASSAU's qualification score for the two-day gun shoot was 96.2 percent, the highest score ever recorded by an LHA at that facility. With these accomplishments completed, the NASSAU crew enjoyed a brief visit to their ship's namesake, Nassau in the Bahamas.

August 1990 brought another chance for training as NASSAU headed south to Morehead City, N.C., for TYPE COMMANDER'S AVAILABILITY TRAINING (TCAT). This training was designed for upcoming exercises scheduled for TEAMWORK '90. During the 12 days of TCAT, NASSAU'S Deck Department achieved another milestone as the ship received Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) into her well deck for the first time. But as the NASSAU returned to Norfolk, world events unfolded and canceled plans for TEAMWORK '90.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, the NASSAU mobilized and unloaded -- the fastest in U.S. naval history -- in preparation of what would become OPERATION DESERT STORM. The NASSAU departed 18 AUG 90 as flagship for the 17-ship AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO under the command of Rear Admiral J. B. LaPlante. After embarking with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under the command of Major General Harry W. Jenkins Jr., the amphibious group set sail for the Middle East.

NASSAU arrived in the Gulf of Oman in early September and remained on station awaiting further tasking. The ship prepared for all contingencies while the amphibious group conducted amphibious rehearsals for exercise SEA SOLDIERS I-IV.

After 99 consecutive days at sea, Captain Dow pulled the NASSAU into Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for a well deserved liberty port. Although NASSAU's sailors and Marines spent Thanksgiving day thousands of miles away from their homes and families, they had a holiday few would forget.

Command Composition and Organization (Cont'd)

NASSAU hosted President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush for a Thanksgiving day service. The President brought along a contingent of influential members of Congress, including Speaker of the House Tom Foley, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, House Minority Leader Bob Michel and Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole.

NASSAU crew finished out 1990 in Dubai, U.A.E., spending Christmas and New Year's Day in Dubai Shipyard. Sailors and Marines contacted families, searched for presents and relaxed while Captain Dow ensured NASSAU's highly tasked engineering spaces accomplished repairs assuring the ship would be ready for all tasking.

4. Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWELVE.
5. Commander: 1 Jan - 7 Apr - Frank M. Dirren, CAPT, USN  
7 Apr - Present - John I. Dow, CAPT, USN.
6. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Operations Base, Norfolk, Virginia.
7. Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: HH-1N, one, BUNO 160827.

USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

01 - 15 JAN INPORT NORFOLK, VA. TRAINING CONDUCTED TO PREPARE FOR UNDERWAY PERIOD.

16 - 19 JAN UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA. DAY LANDING QUALIFICATIONS WITH CH-46, UH1N, CH-53E AND AV-8B AIRCRAFT.

20 JAN - INPORT NORFOLK, VA.  
04 FEB

21 JAN COMPHIBRON TWO EMBARKED NASSAU.

4 - 5 FEB 750 MARINES AND LARGE CONTINGENT OF CIVILIAN CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL EMBARKED.

05 FEB SORTIED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TOPKICK IN CARRIBEAN OPAREA.

06 FEB PICKED UP STANDARD CONTINGENT OF CH-46, UH-1N, AV-8B, AND AH-1T HELICOPTERS AND ONLOADING REMAINING MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL (BATTALION LANDING TEAM 28, HMM-264) AND EQUIPMENT AT MOREHEAD CITY, NC

09-16 FEB MODLOC OFF COAST OF CARTEGENA, COLUMBIA PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDICAL SUPPORT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF AND A SECURITY FORCE FOR THE PRESIDENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN DRUG SUMMIT WITH SOUTH AMERICAN LEADERS.

17 FEB CONDUCTED FUELING AT SEA (FAS) WITH USS DETROIT.

19 FEB 50,000TH LANDING ONBOARD NASSAU CH-46 PILOTED BY MAJOR MITCHELL, USMC, EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CAPTAIN [REDACTED] OF EMBARKED HMM-264.

21-23 FEB FT. LAUDERDALE PORT VISIT, OVER 5000 VISITORS TOUR NASSAU. UNDERWAY 0800, 23 FEB.

24-25 FEB MARINES OF THE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF) DISEMBARKED.

26 FEB MOORED PORT SIDE TO PIER 5 AT NORFOLK NAVAL BASE.

27 FEB- INPORT NORFOLK, VA.  
1 APRIL

7-9 MARCH COMNAVSURFLANT'S 3M ASSIST. SAT RESULTS

29 MARCH DECK CONDUCTS INPORT REFUELING DRILL WITH USS VULCAN.

2-3 APRIL UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA WITH PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPT. J. I. DOW.

3-8 APRIL INPORT NORFOLK, VA.

7 APRIL VADM DONNELL, COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET WAS DISTINGUISHED GUEST, AS CAPT. J. I. DOW RELIEVED CAPT. F. M. DIRREN AS COMMANDING OFFICER.

Enclosure (2)

USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

9-12 APRIL UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA DAY LANDING QUALIFICATIONS WITH PILOTS OF HMM-263, CHERRY POINT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, TEST OPERATION OF REMOTE PILOTED VEHICLE (RPV), A CAMERA EQUIPPED DRONE USED FOR RECONNAISSANCE AND NGFS SPOTTING.

10 APRIL CAPTAIN [REDACTED], USMC OF THE NAVAL AIR TEST CENTER PILOTED MODIFIED VERSION OF OV-10 "BRONCO" TO SAFE LANDING ON NASSAU. THIS WAS THE FIRST OV-10 LANDING ON A NAVAL VESSEL.

12 APRIL RETURNED PIER FIVE NORFOLK NAVAL BASE.

13-22 APRIL INPORT NORFOLK, VA.

20-22 APRIL NASSAU SOCCER TEAM COMPETED IN NAVY'S INVITATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT. NASSAU DEFEATED USS ROOSEVELT 3-0, USS YELLOWSTONE 1-0, USS MOUNT WHITNEY 6-2, AND USS VULCAN 3-2. THE TEAM FELL JUST SHORT OF THE NAVY'S ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP LOSING TO VRC-40 5-3 IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

23 APRIL-  
18 MAY EXERCISE OCEAN VENTURE, CARIBBEAN OPAREA.

23 APRIL UNDERWAY 0630, ARRIVED MOREHEAD CITY, NC LATE IN DAY. BEGAN EMBARKING 28TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE IN PREPARATION FOR EXERCISE. COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT UNSAT DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURES.

3 MAY GEN STEINER, USA VISITED NASSAU FOR VIEW OF NAVY-MARINE CORPS AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITIES.

5 MAY 110 DUTCH MARINES ACCOMPANIED US MARINES IN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT. SAM DONALDSON, HOST OF ABC'S PRIMETIME LIVE VISITED NASSAU WITH ADMIRAL FRANK KELSO ON 4 APRIL VIEWING THE 2,000 MAN ASSAULT FROM THE BEACH.

7-8 MAY NGFS TEAM COMPLETED GUNNERY CERTIFICATION WITH HIGHEST SCORE BY AMPHIBIOUS VESSEL AT VIEQUES, WITH A SCORE OF 96.2.

9 MAY PORT VISIT ROOSEVELT ROADS.

10-11 MAY TRANSIT TO NASSAU, BAHAMAS. COMPLETED MARCH OF DIMES WALK RUN AMERICA. OVER 100 CREWMEMBERS PARTICIPATED RAISING OVER \$9,500.

12-15 MAY PORT VISIT NASSAU, BAHAMAS.

16-17 MAY TRANSIT TO NORFOLK WITH OFFLOAD OF 28TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE AT MOREHEAD CITY.

18 MAY ARRIVED NORFOLK.

19 MAY -  
24 JUNE INPORT NORFOLK, VA.

21-25 MAY SURFLANT 3M INSPECTION.PASSED WITH 84.4% GRADE.

21 MAY-  
15 JUNE IMAV PERIOD, SIMA AND OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS SUPPORTING THE SHIP IN COMPLETING REPAIRS THROUGHOUT.

USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

22 MAY GATOREX I - EXERCISE INVOLVING SHIP TO SHORE MOVEMENT OF BOATS TO RADIO ISLAND FOR BENEFIT OF COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER AND DECK PERSONNEL.

12-13 JUNE SURFLANT PQS ASSIST VISIT

16-17 JUNE HOSTED VISIT SHIP FOR NAVAL BASE 500 TOURISTS VIEWED THE SHIP.

25-29 JUNE UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA COMBAT SYSTEMS TRAINING

30 JUNE-  
30 JULY INPORT NORFOLK, VA.

10 JULY NASSAU AWARDED ADMIRAL FLATLEY AWARD FOR AVIATION SAFETY BY VICE ADMIRAL DONNEL, COMNAVSURFLANT. AVIATION ASSIST VISIT COMPLETING INSTALLATION OF FOSAMS AMMUNITION ACCOUNTING COMPUTER.

18 JULY SHIFTED BERTH FROM PIER FIVE TO PIER SEVEN.

20 JULY AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO CHANGE OF COMMAND HELD ONBOARD. RADM JOHN B. LAPLANTE RELIEVED RADM GLENN E WHISLER.

31 JULY TCAT (TYPE COMMANDER'S AVAILABILITY TRAINING) OPERATIONS IN MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. IN PREPARATION FOR TEAMWORK 92 EXERCISE IN NORTH ATLANTIC.

7 AUG NASSAU RECEIVED A LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION (LCAC) IN WELL DECK FOR THE FIRST TIME.

8 AUG UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS MILWAUKEE. COMBAT SYSTEMS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT INSPECTION.

12 AUG NASSAU RETURNED TO PORT. CREWMEMBERS AND FAMILIES INFORMED NASSAU SCRATCHED FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC TEAMWORK AND WOULD DEPART FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST WITH THE IRAQ-KUWAIT CRISIS.

13-17 AUG INPORT NORFOLK, VA. ONLOAD OF FOURTH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE AND COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. TACRON 22 AND AN EXTREMELY LARGE GROUP OF RESERVE MEDICAL PERSONNEL EMBARKED. NASSAU COMPLETED LOADOUT OF FULL CAPACITY OF AMMUNITION AND ARMAMENT. LOADING OF STORES FOR FULL LENGTH DEPLOYMENT AND CHANGEOUT OF EQUIPMENT TO DEAL WITH DESERT WEATHER VICE NORTH ATLANTIC WEATHER.

18 AUG-  
31 DEC UNDERWAY, OPERATION DESERT SHIELD

18 AUG TRANSITED MOREHEAD PICK UP THE MARINES OF THE 4TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE. NASSAU SERVED AS FLAGSHIP FOR A SEVENTEEN SHIP GROUP COMPLETING THE FASTEST LOADOUT OF SUCH A LARGE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE IN NAVAL HISTORY.

USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

20 AUG NASSAU BEGAN JOURNEY TO MIDDLE EAST

30 AUG FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS NEOSHO

31 AUG REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USS SYLVANIA.

4 SEP REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USNS TRUCKEE.

6 SEP TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL. 1ST STEEL BEACH PICNIC FOR ALL HANDS INCLUDING SPORTING EVENTS, LIVE BANDS ON THE FLIGHT DECK, GAMES ON THE MESS DECKS.

15 SEP FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS HASSAYAMPA.

16 SEP CHIEF PETTY OFFICER INITIATION.

21 SEP MEDIA VISITS NASSAU INCLUDING KATIE COURIC OF NBC TODAY AND JOHN BURLAGE OF THE NAVY TIMES.

26 SEP VERTREP WITH USS SAN JOSE

27 SEP RAS/FAS WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS

1-5 OCT SEA SOLDIER I EXERCISE. NASSAU AND ACCOMPANYING UNITS CONDUCTED AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT REHEARSAL ON OMANI COASTLINE WITH OVER 2500 MARINES GOING ASHORE.

3 OCT REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USS SAN JOSE

7 OCT REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USS SAN JOSE

11 OCT FLIGHT DECK PICNIC INCLUDING FLIGHT DECK SPORTING EVENTS, LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, AND TWO BEERS PER MAN.

13 OCT VADM MAUZ VISITS NASSAU.

14 OCT FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS

19 OCT VISITED BY MGEN HOPKINS, DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL 1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

21 OCT FUELING AT SEA WITH USS SAN JOSE/ REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

28 OCT FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

28-30 OCT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS/GENERAL GRAY VISITS SHIPS OF AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE WHILE STAYING ONBOARD NASSAU.

30 OCT COMMENCED EXERCISE SEA SOLDIER II.

1- 6 NOV CONTINUE EXERCISE SEA SOLDIER II. LARGEST AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT REHEARSAL EVER CONDUCTED. 5,000 MARINES WENT ASHORE. FIRST USE OF LCAC'S AS INTEGRAL WORKING PART OF ASSAULT.

3 NOV REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USS SAN JOSE AND FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

11 NOV FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS./ UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS SAN JOSE.

15 NOV FLIGHT DECK STEEL BEACH PICNIC #3 - DOGS AND SUDS ON THE FLIGHT DECK WITH SPORTING EVENTS AND GAMES ON THE MESS DECKS.

16-21 NOV NASSAU PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION "IMMINENT THUNDER" ALONG THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF SAUDI ARABIA.

19 NOV USCINCENT, GEN NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF ARRIVES WITH WHITE HOUSE STAFF FOR THANKSGIVING PRE- PLANNING WALK-THRU.

20 NOV FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS WALTER S. DIEHL.

22 NOV PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND FIRST LADY, BARBARA BUSH ARRIVE ON NASSAU FOR THANKSGIVING SERVICES WITH NASSAU CREW AND EMBARKED MARINES. EXECUTIVE OFFICER TURNOVER COMPLETED. COMMANDER ROBERT S. MARTIN RELIEVES CAPT. JOHN E. O'NEIL AS NASSAU'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

24-28 NOV LAND HO! NASSAU PULLS INTO ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB FOR LIBERTY PORT ON 100TH DAY AWAY FROM HOME.

29 NOV- ENGINEERING MOBILE ASSESSMENT TEAM (EMAT) INSPECTION 2 DEC SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

2 DEC UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USS SAN JOSE. FUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

8-13 DEC EXERCISE SEA SOLDIER III HELD IN DESERTS OF OMAN. EXERCISE SHARPENED THE SKILLS OF THE SAILOR-MARINE TEAM AND WAS USED TO EVALUATE THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS ASSAULT EXERCISES.

9 DEC REFUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.

14 DEC REFUELING AT SEA WITH USNS ANDRE J. HIGGINS. UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USS SAN JOSE.

15 DEC VADM ZIMBLE ARRIVES FOR GUEST DINNER IN WARDROOM.

22-31 DEC INPORT DUBAI SHIPYARDS - IMAV PERIOD FOR CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE SHIP.

24 DEC RADM ALVIN B. KOENEMAN, NAVY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, GUEST SPEAKER AT 2000 CHEMLIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE IN HANGAR BAY.

25 DEC DUBAI UNITED SERVICEMEN'S ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR, KATHLEEN HOGAN PROVIDED 200 FREE PHONE CALLS HOME FOR SAILORS AND MARINES ONBOARD USS NASSAU, 150 SAILORS AND MARINES ON USS PENSACOLA AND 150 FREE CALLS TO PERSONNEL ONBOARD USNS COMFORT. USO ALSO GAVE AWAY IN EXCESS OF 600 CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO PERSONNEL ONBOARD THE THREE VESSELS.

26 DEC NASSAU HOSTS EVENING RECEPTION IN THE HANGAR BAY FOR DUBAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BRITISH AND AMERICANS LIVING IN DUBAI AREA.

**USS NASSAU CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990**

(Cont'd)

31 DEC

NASSAU SPONSORS NEW YEARS EVE PARTY IN HANGAR BAY INCLUDING NON-ALCOHOLIC CHAMPAGNE, ASSORTED FOODS AND BEVERAGES, AND ENTERTAINMENT BY SEVERAL OF THE SHIP'S BANDS.

## USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

1990 began with NASSAU and her crewmembers finishing a well-deserved stand-down period after completing MARG 2-89 and being named winner of the prestigious Battle Efficiency "E" for the eighteen month period ending 30 September 1989. This Commander Surface Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet award recognized NASSAU as the top Atlantic Fleet LPH/LHA class ship for the period.

NASSAU got underway on 16 January for four days at sea conducting battle readiness training at General Quarters and working on Day Landing Qualifications (DLQs) with aircraft from Norfolk NAS and New River, NC MCAS. Aircraft included CH-53E, CH-46, UH-1N, and AV-8B. NASSAU used the underway period for completion of exercises involving her weapons and sensors. PACFIRES were held for both CIWS mounts and for both 5"/54 calibre gun mounts. The Electronic Warfare Technicians were also given a chance to exercise their equipment, the SLQ-32 V(3) by running the ULM-4 range. With another successful underway period behind, NASSAU returned home to Norfolk.

On 21 January, the duty section assisted COMPHIBRON Two embarkation. ET1 [REDACTED] was named as NASSAU's 13th Sailor of the Year on 24 January. NASSAU got underway on 05 February 1990 for classified operations in the Caribbean not for originally scheduled LEO OPS. The ship got underway with no real word to the crew as to the mission she was to complete. The ship embarked approximately 750 Marines and a host of civilians. After several days at sea, word was released that NASSAU had been chosen by the White House to provide security for President Bush's summit with South American leaders concerning drug trafficking problems. The host of civilians were all White House Staff and Secret Service.

NASSAU's Sailors and Marines provided White House support for nearly a month in company with USS SAMPSON (DDG-10). NASSAU provided transportation, communication, and medical support while SAMPSON provided plane guard duty and served as a Search and Rescue (SAR) platform.

NASSAU received commendatory citations from nearly all sources concerned in the drug summit in Cartagena, Columbia. Admiral Kelso sent the following message:

"On behalf of General Powell and myself, please pass a well done to the personnel who supported the President's recent counternarcotics summit in Cartagena, Colombia. The super professionalism and can-do attitude displayed in expeditiously planning and skillfully executing this mission directly contributed to the summit's success. Please convey my personal congratulations and thanks to those involved."

Receiving particularly high praise was the Air, Combat Cargo, Deck, Engineering, Combat Systems, and Communications departments who played vital roles in the support of this monumental effort. The air crew was responsible for over 900 passenger lifts and movement of over 16 tons of cargo. The summit took place 11-15 February, with all of the civilians involved being returned back to Andrews Air Force Base by 16 February. As the President flew over NASSAU enroute home he had the following message for the Sailors and Marines onboard:

Enclosure (3)

USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

"Greetings from the American people. It's a great comfort knowing that you guys are around out here somewhere not too far away. I'm grateful to you. I'm grateful to you for your service to your country. As you may know we're down here on a very important drug meeting, a meeting to interdict and go after narcotics growers and pushers in every way we possibly can, and I can tell you that from our standpoint it was a good meeting, a meeting of cooperation and a meeting of all the aspects of the program, and as I head back, I want to thank the officers, the men, Sailors and Marines that are aboard NASSAU. Thank you for what you are doing, not just for this special mission that brought great comfort to all of us who were part of it here, but what you do every single day in defense of the greatest country on the face of the earth. God bless you all!"

As tribute for their efforts NASSAU's crew was granted a liberty port in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. As NASSAU moved toward its liberty port time was set aside for a fueling at sea with the USS DETROIT. As the 19th of February arrived NASSAU passed yet another milestone. Major Mitchell, USMC, the executive officer of HMM-264 along with Captain [REDACTED], touched down in their CH-46 for the 50,000th flight deck landing on board NASSAU. On 21 February, a foggy morning. NASSAU pulled into Ft. Lauderdale. Crewmembers enjoyed tours of the area and miles of beach to work on their winter tans. The bliss in the sun did not last very long, however as NASSAU was enroute for Morehead City on 23 February. After offloading the Marines at Morehead City NASSAU sailed north toward home conducting more training along the way. On 26 February, 1990 NASSAU moored at pier 5, starboard side to reunite crewmembers with their loved ones.

Arrival in Norfolk was no time to become overly relaxed as the crew immediately finished offloading of all remaining gear left over from "Operation TOPKICK," as their mission had become known. NASSAU was visited by the SURFLANT 3M Assist Team from 7-9 March. Officers and senior enlisted used this opportunity to improve upon managerial and record keeping skills in Preventive Maintenance Systems (PMS). On 26 and 27 March, the ship conducted a command PQS standdown in order to review divisional training qualifications. Discrepancies were eliminated and areas of weakness were identified for planning future training.

As March ended, Deck department took advantage of available resources and conducted practice underway replenishment with USS VULCAN while both ships were pierside. The drill proved successful despite gloomy, rainy weather and the crews of both ships gained extremely valuable knowledge and experience. On 28 March, the Commanding Officer recognized HT1 [REDACTED] and YNSN [REDACTED] for their outstanding performance and named them Petty Officer and Sailor of the Quarter respectively. For nearly a month, while completing all of these tasks, the crew also worked on maintenance and upkeep before heading seaward once again to accomplish yet another first.

On 26 March 1990, Captain [REDACTED] of the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxet River, Maryland landed an OV-10D(plus) Bronco on the flight deck. The "Bronco" is a modified version of the OV-10D which could launch, but could not land on a Navy ship. Captain [REDACTED] was the first to land the aircraft on a naval vessel. It was somewhat of a homecoming for Captain [REDACTED] who tested an earlier version of the Bronco on NASSAU in 1983. NASSAU also made use of its short underway time to conduct Air Intercept Controller (AIC) training and to test link 4, 4a, and 11 circuits capabilities with "GIANT KILLER."

USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

On 4 April NASSAU conducted an in-house 3M PMS review. On 7 April 1990, CAPT John I. Dow, USN, relieved CAPT Frank M. Dirren to become NASSAU's eighth Commanding Officer. The ceremony's guest speaker was Vice Admiral Donnell, Commander Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

NASSAU and her crew immediately demonstrated their abilities to her new commanding officer. Working with a Marine Corps team from 9 April - 12 April training in the Virginia Capes Operating area included testing of the Pioneer Mini-Remote Piloted Vehicle (RPV). The 12-foot propeller driven plane serves for reconnaissance and gun control. This particular test was conducted for appraisal of a new tail hook and arresting gear much like that used on conventional aircraft carriers for landing various jet aircraft. NASSAU also hosted HMM-263 pilots based at Cherry Point, Marine Corps Air Station while conducting Day Landing Qualifications (DLQs). Combat Systems personnel also used the short underway training period to as they held PACFIRES of both CIWS and 5"/54 gun mounts. The Electronic Warfare Technicians also used the training time by streaming Nixie, NASSAU's last line of defense in the event of torpedo attack. The joint-service training marked another Navy-Marine Corps team effort in improving combat efficiency.

While NASSAU was underway the Ship's newly selected Gunfire Support team attended school at Little Creek. The team had very few veterans of Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS), however their dedication lead them to a 95% qualification score giving the ship the green light to shoot at Vieques Naval Gunfire Range to certify for live NGFS support.

NASSAU found herself at Pier five once again on 12 April spending the next ten days preparing for upcoming month-long operation in the Caribbean. At the Navy Invitational Soccer Tournament NASSAU's team defeated the USS ROOSEVELT 3-0, USS YELLOWSTONE 1-0, USS MOUNT WHITNEY 6-2, and USS VULCAN 3-2. The team fell just one victory short of the Navy's Atlantic Coast championship and lost to VRC-40 5-3 in the final game.

Following their brief inport period NASSAU departed 23 April for the Caribbean and Exercise OCEAN VENTURE, a multi-national exercise demonstrating the joint force capability of the U.S. Atlantic Command to project power rapidly, and the ability to protect our national interests by providing military support to friendly neighbors in the Caribbean basin. The ship immediately steamed to Morehead City, North Carolina embarking a full contingent of Marines of the 28th Marine Expeditionary Unit. As NASSAU steamed southward the NGFS team conducted daily training, running scenarios designed to be harder than the actual problems at the NGFS certification range in order to expose weaknesses and correct them before arriving at the range.

On 3 May, LTGEN Carl W. Stiner, USA, Commander Joint Task Force 140, visited NASSAU for a firsthand look at the Navy-Marine Corp team and its amphibious capabilities. Arriving at nearly the same time was a group of 110 Dutch Marines who participated in the amphibious rehearsal with U.S. forces. On 5 May 1990 an amphibious assault on the beaches of Vieques, Puerto Rico was spearheaded from NASSAU as 2,000 U.S. Marines and 110 Dutch Marines landed on the beach.

NASSAU's Combat Systems Department displayed how far they had brought its Naval Gunfire Support skills while at Vieques Naval Gunfire Range 6-7 May scoring 96.2%, the highest score on record for an LHA-1 class ship at that facility. This was accomplished with extremely quick and skillful actions by

USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

(Cont'd)

the ship's Gunner's Mates and the NGFS team in the Combat Information Center and Gunfire Control. During the drill the ship lost use of one 5" gun entirely and over half of the firing radius of the second 5" gun, however the teamwork of all involved worked to complete every mission with the lowest score on any mission being 86%. Other highlights of NASSAU's visit to the Caribbean included visits by CNO select, Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, and ABC journalist, Sam Donaldson who took footage for use in a segment of "Prime Time Live."

As operations came to a close the following message was received from Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight, Commodore Kemple:

"There are few superlatives that exist that can define the quality of your performance during these past two weeks. You have performed in a manner that has exceeded my every expectation and provided me with the best possible support. Never have I seen a team form so completely and so quickly as you did. You displayed the utmost determination and the highest standards of professionalism in completing the duties assigned to the amphibious forces of Ocean Venture 90.

Having listened to the comments of General Stiner (CJTF 140) and those of the distinguished staff congressional delegation I know when I say you did a magnificent job I am not just speaking for myself but for all who observed your performance.

Training hard at Onslow and enroute, you proved that an operation such as this could be successful, and on an unrehearsed beachhead. Your perseverance and professionalism have established hallmarks for those who will one day take your place.

As you ready yourselves to return home, may you continue to do your mission as well and as safely as you have these past days. God bless you. I wish you fair winds and following seas. Keep smilin. I certainly am."

NASSAU's execution of all missions on this cruise was nearly flawless. With this success behind, Sailors and Marines set off on another mission near to their hearts.... liberty. A brief one day stop in Roosevelt Roads for a few hours to go to exchange to pick up gifts or just for some fast food. While enroute to Nassau, Bahamas, over 100 Sailors and Marines participated in Teamwalk America raising over \$9,500 for charity. From 12-15 May NASSAU's Sailors and Marines visited the Bahamas. Several crewmembers took advantage of this opportunity to lend a hand in rehabilitating the Persis Rogers Home for the Aged and enjoying fellowship with its patrons. Others participated in numerous Morale, Welfare, and Recreation boat tours, enjoyed the resort city's world class casinos or simply reclined in the tropical sun. Sailors and Marines onboard NASSAU returned the hospitality of the local populace as over 1,500 tours were given. NASSAU returned home to families and loved ones in Norfolk on 18 May.

The SURFLANT 3M inspection team visited NASSAU 21-25 May reporting a grade of 84.4%. Scheduled the same day was the beginning of the ship's IMAV period, which lasted until 21 June with SIMA and outside contractors assisting in completing over 50 repairs beyond the scope or ability of ship's force.

## USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

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22 May marked GATOREX I. This mock amphibious assault on Radio Island served as training for NASSAU and several other amphibious Ship's Combat Information Centers and boat crews.

On 12 and 13 June, the SURFLANT PQS assist team returned to give NASSAU's managers pointers on PQS training and qualification programs.

NASSAU was named as visit ship for the Norfolk Naval Base from 16-17 June. Duty Section personnel stood by as over 500 tourists received guided tours.

From 25-29 June NASSAU got underway in the VaCapes operating area for training. Combat Systems department scheduled a detect to engage drill for the 26th, but were unable to complete it as equipment casualties resulted in the loss of SPS-40 and SPG-60 radars. However, later in the day they successfully completed PACFIRES of both 5" gun mounts and both CIWS mounts while the ship exercised at General Quarters. The drill was preceded by the Engineering department who was completing Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCES). The last scenario of the drill set was a major fuel oil leak, resulting in a Main Space Fire and General Quarters.

On 28 June, NASSAU began preparations for entering port the following morning the commanding officer released his choices for Petty Officer of the Quarter - MA1(SW) [REDACTED] and Sailor of the Quarter - FA [REDACTED]. NASSAU returned to Pier five early in the afternoon of 29 June.

From 30 June to 30 July the crew enjoyed some well-deserved time in port. This does not mean that they did not remain busy. On 10 July the Combat Systems department received an aviation ordinance assist visit for completion of installation of the new FOSAMS ammunition accounting system. This computer system makes use of computerized labels for accounting of ammunition and computerized record keeping. On the same day the ship was visited by Vice Admiral Donnell for presentation of the Admiral Flatley Aviation Safety Award.

On 18 July, NASSAU shifted from pier five to pier seven in preparation for a 20 July COMPHIBGRU 2 Change of Command where RADM John B. LaPlante relieved RADM Glenn E. Whisler.

August brought another chance for training as NASSAU sailed south to Morehead City, N.C. for Type Commander's Availability Training (TCAT). Riding along with the crew was a small detachment of Sea Cadets. These high school age children were on their summer cruise in the Navy League's program for giving young men and women interested in military service a chance to participate before actually enlisting. TCAT was designed as training for the upcoming exercises scheduled for Teamwork '90. While spending 12 days training, Deck Department accomplished another milestone as NASSAU received LCACs (Landing Crafts Air Cushion) into its well deck for the first time. An underway replenishment was held with the USS MILWAUKEE on 8 August as NASSAU began its trek homeward. Transferred via helicopter during the underway replenishment was the Combat Systems Assessment Team who conducted a reinspection. The assessment was satisfactory as all equipment and program failures from their first visit had been corrected.

NASSAU returned to Norfolk on 12 August as world events unfolded, altering the plans for Teamwork '90. The crew was called to Quarters in the Hangar Bay with family members. CAPT Dow informed the crew that the North Atlantic exercise was on hold and that NASSAU would begin unloading equipment, supplies, and personnel to deploy as soon as possible to the Middle East.

## USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

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After the fastest mobilization and onload in Naval history, NASSAU departed on 18 August as Flagship for the 17-ship Amphibious Task Force under RADM J. B. LaPlante. On 20 August, NASSAU departed Morehead City, North Carolina embarked with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under command of Major General H. W. Jenkins, Jr. The amphibious group set sail for the Middle East to support what became Operation DESERT SHIELD forcing Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait.

The transit of the Atlantic was conducted swiftly with ongoing exercises in preparation for any possible contingency. General Quarters involving engineering drills and battle problems were conducted regularly with admin General Quarters becoming a training evolution as chemical, biological, and radioactive doctrines and procedures were thoroughly reviewed. As time passed by it became clear that the major initial concern would be how to sustain a force of this size with supplies and subsistence. The normal cycle of underway replenishment and fueling at sea started early with evolutions being conducted in late August with USNS NEOSHO and USS SYLVANIA.

Early September brought NASSAU to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea enroute for the Suez Canal. One last replenishment and refueling was held on 4 September with USNS TRUCKEE before NASSAU arrived at Suez 6 September. As NASSAU's many conning officers faced the tricky proposition of navigating the canal, the rest of the crew took a chance to take a break and held the first of several steel beach picnics.

As the waters opened out into the Red Sea and navigation became easier NASSAU continued preparing for the future. On 7 September the first Mass Casualty Exercise was held for the ship to prepare for taking on large numbers of casualties.

21 September was the first of many media visits to take place onboard NASSAU. Katie Couric of NBC's *Today Show* came aboard to interview Marines and Sailors. She was joined by John Burlage of the *Navy Times*, CDR John Roach, a naval artist, and a group of Navy journalists from *Navy News This Week*. The visit went extremely well with Sailors and Marines being interviewed enjoying the chance to share their feelings.

As September came to a close NASSAU maintained its "MODLOC" position in the North Arabian Sea off of the coast of Oman's island of Masirah. The crew kept busy with General Quarters drills for PACFIRES, a VERTREP with USS SAN JOSE, and an underway replenishment and refueling with USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. Meanwhile, senior officers planned out the amphibious force's first rehearsal. SEA SOLDIER I was launched on 1 October with over 2500 Marines and their support equipment being put ashore. The rehearsal was held on the coastline of Oman giving the amphibious force a similar beach surface to that they would encounter in an assault of Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. Once the Marines were offloaded and established ashore NASSAU returned to open waters and conducted another refueling and replenishment with USS SAN JOSE. All Marines were back onboard by 6 October and the results of the first assault were discussed by those involved to look for ways to improve upon the methods used.

11 October marked another first for the crew of NASSAU. For the first time the ship was at sea continuously long enough to authorize the Navy's beer rationing. A huge steel beach picnic was held with each man receiving two

USS NASSAU NARRATIVE RECORD OF EVENTS FOR 1990

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tickets for beer. Activities at the picnic included various sporting events, live bands and games on the mess decks. The rest and relaxation proved helpful to everyone on board even if only for a few short hours. The day, however, came to a close and the following morning it was back to business as the ship held General Quarters for a Main Space Fire Drill.

October marched on with various exercises continuing for training purposes and the never ending task of resupplying. Several replenishments were held with USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS and USS SAN JOSE.

Preparations also continued for Exercise SEA SOLDIER II. As the date for the exercise approached NASSAU received a visit from yet one more dignitary. GEN Gray, USMC, visited NASSAU 28-30 October. He offered words of encouragement to embarked Marines on each of the amphibious ships and assured them of his faith in their courage to face any obstacle.

October came to a close with no sign of Saddam Hussein giving up his foothold in Kuwait. This in mind the amphibious battle group started the SEA SOLDIER Two, billed as the largest amphibious assault rehearsal since Iwo Jima. Over 5,000 Marines and their support equipment were moved ashore in 36 hours. NASSAU sent its public affairs staff with augmentees from other amphibious units to record events on the beach. The team of one officer, four Journalists and three Photographer's Mates rode into the amphibious area on the first boat, landing on the beach with the first tank. They took pictures and conducted interviews as the assault unfolded. The main impact of this evolution was its use of LCAC's as an integral factor in the assault. By using these extremely maneuverable and fast craft the area necessary to defend at the beach was greatly increased, adding to the difficulty the defensive force would face. After three days in the desert the public affairs staff returned to the comforts of the NASSAU while the Marines remained onshore conducting training. Marines exercised ashore as NASSAU continued with the work of resupplying for a force of 2900 men. An underway replenishment was held on 3 November with USS SAN JOSE and refueling was conducted with USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS. Sailors of NASSAU continued to train conducting administrative General Quarters for watchstation and repair locker training while also backloading Marines via the well deck and flight deck. By the end of 6 November the backload was completed. The last of the Marines arrived with a group of middle rank Omani officers who visited the NASSAU to observe the backload and see how a United States Navy vessel operates.

With a successful exercise behind, the men of NASSAU turned their minds toward their families at home long enough to tape individual Christmas messages to be played for the wives support group back home. The taping took a week with one half being devoted to individuals and the other half shot throughout the ship in a work atmosphere. As the men attended to the business of easing the worries of family members, the senior officers met once again identifying what problems still existed with the amphibious assault and planning another to be held closer to Kuwait. This assault would better simulate beach contours and clearly send a message to Saddam Hussein that the amphibious group was ready for battle. With this message in mind the rehearsal assault was titled "IMMINENT THUNDER" and was allowed to be heavily covered by the press to let Hussein know what he might be facing.

On 15 November, the crew completed preparations for the upcoming assault and took one last break for relaxation, conducting its second "steel beach" picnic that allowed each man to have two beers. Once again, the day was filled with sporting events, music, beer and fun.

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(Cont'd)

As the ceremony broke, the President and accompanying dignitaries mingled with the thousand of Sailors and Marines giving many of them a once in a lifetime chance of a handshake or autograph from the President of the United States or a high ranking government official. In what seemed like no time at all the President was gone and the Sailors and Marines went below decks where they were treated to a wonderful Thanksgiving meal on the mess decks, CPO mess and Wardroom. The meal was highlighted by all of the traditional holiday favorites and trimmings. As each man drifted off to sleep that evening he had a full stomach and a sense of satisfaction in having heard the encouraging and respectful words of the President of the United States.

As the Thanksgiving Day excitement wore off it was replaced as NASSAU steamed towards its first liberty in over three months. The following message was received from RADM John B. LaPlante, COMPHIBGRU TWO, commending the ship and its Sailors and Marines for their efforts on Thanksgiving Day:

"NASSAU's performance throughout the planning, preparation, and execution of President Bush's visit was absolutely superb. The pride and hard work by every member of the crew enabled the ship to perform magnificently in every detail. From the Air Department preparing the flight deck, staging aircraft for the static display and sequencing numerous and diverse aircraft, to the Supply Department fully supporting the White House Staff, and the Communications Department in their flexibility in meeting the demanding White House communications agency requirements, every evolution went as planned. Although out of the efforts of those deck plate watchstanders who did not have the opportunity to actively participate in the service provided the stability and professionalism required to make things work. NASSAU's performance was flawless in every respect, setting a standard of excellence that will be difficult to equal. Well Done!"

After ninety-nine consecutive days at sea the day finally arrived that everyone had been waiting for. On 24 November NASSAU moored at the city of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The liberty port gave everyone a chance to touch solid ground, relax and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the local populace. The telephone system in Abu Dhabi was excellent and nearly everyone got a chance to talk to loved ones back in the United States. After four short days, NASSAU headed back out to sea once again.

The Engineering department had been preparing for several months and greeted the Engineering Mobile Assessment Team on 29 November. The inspection team remained onboard NASSAU until 2 December. After several days of intense evaluation and many sets of Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises the Engineer's received a satisfactory evaluation. Meanwhile, the Combat Systems and Operations departments wasted no time and conducted PACFIRES of all of the ship's weapons on 30 November.

NASSAU went alongside two separate ships, USNS ANDREW J HIGGINS and USS SAN JOSE for underway replenishment and refueling at sea. The EMAT team was transported to USS SAN JOSE via helicopter during the evolution, moving on for their next inspection. Afterward, NASSAU continued on towards Oman for its next exercise.

From 8-13 December NASSAU and embarked Marines and staff participated in Exercise SEA SOLDIER III along the coast of Oman. The exercise was used to improve upon problem areas identified during the previous three practice

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

Calender Year 1990

<b><u>Days Underway</u></b>	215
# of Vertical Replenishments	109
# of Connected Replenishments	12
# of Well Deck Operations	38
# of Amphibious Assault Landings	17

**ENGINEERING STATISTICS**

Hours steamed: No. 1 Boiler	4493.1 hours (187.2 days)
No. 2 Boiler	4725.9 hours (196.9 days)
Fuel consumed:	9,229,463 Gallons
Potable water distilled:	14,590,000 Gallons
Feed water distilled:	15,750,000 Gallons

**MEDICAL STATISTICS**

Sickcall visits:	8,231
Inpatients:	106
Physical exams:	532
Immunizations:	3,231
Pharmacy units:	8,532
Audiograms:	1,356
X-rays:	2,168
Lab tests:	15,043
Lateral transfers of patients from other units to NASSAU for inpatient care:	62
MEDEVACS conducted to fixed medical treatment facilities:	54

**SUPPLY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

Food Service	
Wardroom meals served:	126,863
Wardroom food costs:	\$203,296
EDF Meals served:	1,128,841
Food consumed:	2,963,375 lbs.
Disbursing	
# of disbursememnt vouchers:	1,462
Amount of disbursements:	\$6,936,239
Total checks issued:	\$10,782,197
Retail Operations	
Ship's store sales (gross):	\$1,326,189
gross profits:	\$209,324
Cans of soda sold:	562,735
Stock:	
Number of receipts:	29,179
Number of issues:	7,123
Line items carried:	45,081
Inventory cost:	\$39,837,246
Funds expended:	\$14,067,851

Enclosure (4)

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS**

Calender Year 1990 (Cont'd)

**SECURITY STATISTICS**

Number of incident/Complaint reports: 113

Number of NJP's: 152

**RETENTION STATISTICS**

Total reenlistments: 116

1st term retention: 31%

2nd term retention: 63%

Career retention: 79%

Overall retention: 50%

**AIR DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

Day Launches: 10,560

Night Launches: 1,924

Total launches: 12,484

Time at Flt Quarters: 1,996 hours

**DAMAGE CONTROL STATISTICS**

Hours spent exercising at General Quarters: 362

# of fire drills conducted: 300

# of actual fires/ floods: 21

**DECK DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

DFM received via underway replenishment: 5,733,417 gallons

JP5 received via underway replenishment: 2,153,596 gallons

Pallets received via underway replenishment: 863

Well deck hours at Condition 1A: 262 hours

Anchoring evolutions: 64