



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS NASSAU (LHA-4)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS NASSAU (LHA 4)
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Encl: (1) USS NASSAU Command History for period 01JAN94-31DEC94

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded per reference (a).


M. T. VANDERBERG

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Ship's Mission: The mission of the LHA is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine landing force in an assault by helicopters, landing craft, amphibious vehicles or by a combination of these methods; thus possessing the capabilities of the LPH, LSD, LPD and LKA class ships. The USS NASSAU can operate independently or in conjunction with other units conducting heliborne and surface amphibious operations. The TARAWA class multipurpose, amphibious assault ship was designed to maintain "Tactical Integrity" or to get a balanced force to the same point at the same time.

USS NASSAU can carry a complete Marine Battalion Landing Team (approximately 1,800 personnel), supplies and equipment needed in an assault, and vehicles to land the team ashore either by helicopter and/or small amphibious craft. Furthermore, USS NASSAU is capable of operating the Marine Corps AV-8B vertical take-off and landing jet for close air support of an amphibious assault.

USS NASSAU's ability to do this was clearly demonstrated during GTMO REINFORCEX '79 when the President of the United States ordered the Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be reinforced by a Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU). This evolution was the first test of this class ship in full scale landing operation.

The ship's capabilities were further demonstrated during OPERATION DESERT STORM when USS NASSAU deployed with only eight days notice. As Flagship for the Commander of the Amphibious Task Force and the Commanding General of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade, USS NASSAU flew the first combat sorties from an LHA platform. More than 250 combat missions were flown with a record 56 flown in one day.

A secondary mission of USS NASSAU is that of evacuation and civilian disaster relief. Hundreds of tons of relief materials can be carried aboard and delivered to disaster victims within minutes of the ship's arrival on the scene. Additionally, fresh water and electricity could be provided from the ship's engineering plant until restoration of domestic services. USS NASSAU's full medical facilities can provide hospitalization for up to 300 patients (including intensive care) and provide out-patient treatment for hundreds of additional sick or injured.

Thus, the USS NASSAU is not only a ship of war, but also a ship of peace. USS NASSAU is "THE SHIP THAT DOES IT ALL".

2. The Ship's Namesake: USS NASSAU is named for the target of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps' first-ever amphibious landing.

Late in 1775, Captain Esek Hopkins set out to intercept British storeships. Heavy ice, foul weather and smallpox kept the American squadron from getting to sea until February 1776. Finding no worthwhile prizes at sea, Hopkins decided to sail for the Bahamas

to capture a "large quantity of powder" reported to be on the Island of New Providence.

Hopkins' squadron arrived off the Bahamas on 1 March 1776. Two days later, Hopkins ordered a landing designed to outflank the English defenses. Two-hundred-thirty Marines and fifty seaman landed on the beach and captured nearby Fort Montague.

Next, the force advanced on Fort Nassau, which surrendered the following morning. Although most of the powder supply was no longer there, Hopkins and his men captured 103 cannon and mortars--enough to make the operation worthwhile. For the first time American Sailors and Marines responded to the equivalent modern command of "Land the Landing Force".

3. The Ship's History: USS NASSAU is the fourth of five General Purpose Assault Ships. USS NASSAU fuses complex weapons systems, automated cargo handling and state-of-the-art propulsion into a huge hull, forming a ship with a wide range of mission capabilities including amphibious warfare, anti-air warfare and power projection ashore utilizing helicopters and VSTOL aircraft. USS NASSAU was commissioned in Pascagoula, MS on 28 July 1979.

In October 1979, USS NASSAU deployed to reinforce the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and earned the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation just 70 days after commissioning.

In April 1981, USS NASSAU departed for a short-notice Mediterranean deployment and was underway for 68 consecutive days, standing ready to effect the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Lebanon. In January 1982, USS NASSAU deployed to the Mediterranean Sea/Indian Ocean and participated in four amphibious operations. Returning to Norfolk in June, USS NASSAU departed in August to take part in NATO exercises BOLD GUARD and NORTHERN WEDDING in Northern Europe.

In 1983, USS NASSAU participated in the annual amphibious exercise SOLID SHIELD. Marine Corps OV-10 "Bronco" aircraft landed - for the first time- on the flight deck of a ship from the Atlantic Fleet. In August of that same year, USS NASSAU embarked 180 vehicles, 36 helicopters and over 1,000 Army personnel for transport to Central America for exercise "AHUAS TARA II" (the "BIG PINE"). The transit marked the first time the ship had transported Army units for military exercises.

In January of 1984, NASSAU deployed to Northern Europe for TEAMWORK '84 before steaming to the Med for duties off the coast of Lebanon. USS NASSAU returned to Norfolk in August and completed an extensive Selected Restricted Availability.

Spring of 1985 found the USS NASSAU serving as Flagship for a nine-ship Navy Task Force in exercise UNIVERSAL TREK, highlighted

by an amphibious assault landing near Puerto Castillo, Honduras. USS NASSAU participated in a second SOLID SHIELD amphibious exercise that same year. USS NASSAU closed a busy year with participation in NATO exercise OCEAN SAFARI '85 in the North Atlantic.

In February 1986, USS NASSAU entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA, for a 10-month complex overhaul. During the spring and summer, the ship and crew began a series of intensive post-overhaul training periods. This included flight deck qualifications for the AV-8B "Harrier" VSTOL jet aircraft. NASSAU then finished Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, three days ahead of schedule. Work-ups followed in preparation for deployment as lead ship of MARG 4-87.

On 29 September 1987, USS NASSAU departed Norfolk as flagship of MARG 4-87. In the ensuing six months, NASSAU participated in five amphibious assaults, including exercise AFRICAN EAGLE with U.S. Air Force and Royal Moroccan Forces.

USS NASSAU crewmembers also participated in numerous goodwill projects, including the repainting of nursing homes in Israel and France, replanting 7,000 trees on a fire-ravaged hillside France, blood donations in Spain and hosting orphan visits throughout the Mediterranean. USS NASSAU returned to homeport after this highly successful deployment on 29 March 1988.

USS NASSAU passed a vigorous INSURV in June and then prepared to deploy for TEAMWORK '88. In August, USS NASSAU departed for the North Atlantic, acting as flagship for Commander, Amphibious Strike Force/Commander, Amphibious Group Two and Commander, Marine Striking Force Atlantic/4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

After the grounding of a tank landing ship on 13 September USS NASSAU unloaded the men and equipment of the stricken ship and participated in a highly successful amphibious landing in Northern Norway two days later. After a well deserved port visit in Hamburg, West Germany, the ship and crew returned to homeport.

In early November, USS NASSAU again departed Norfolk enroute to Kingston, Jamaica, with 81,000 pounds of relief supplies. During the transit, NASSAU rescued 172 Haitian nationals from an unseaworthy craft and handed them over to the Coast Guard for medical treatment.

Inport at Kingston, USS NASSAU crewmembers, embarked Marines and Seabees assisted in re-roofing three primary schools and distributed tons of disaster relief supplies. The Jamaicans were still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Gilbert, which had passed over the island two months earlier. USS NASSAU returned to Norfolk on 19 November 1988.

As the flagship of Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 2-89, USS NASSAU departed Norfolk on 30 May 1989, and, in company with the amphibious transport dock ship USS SHREVEPORT and tank landing ship USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY, arrived at Naval Base Rota, Spain, on June 12 for turnover and three days later "assumed the watch" for the amphibious forces of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

First up on what turned out to be an event-packed schedule was an amphibious assault at Sierra de Retin, Spain, where the men of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Battalion Landing Team 2/8 were delivered ashore in a smoothly professional evolution. During this exercise, Sailors from all three ships were invited ashore to get a close-up look at Marine operations at the beachhead, followed by a cook out on the beach.

The ships of MARG 2-89 then steamed through the Straits of Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean Sea. Next, it was on to a port call at Monte Carlo, Monaco, where Sailors and Marines of NASSAU enjoyed six days in the world of the "rich and famous".

USS NASSAU then made a transit to the other end of the Sixth Fleet responsibility area to Haifa, Israel, for a Restricted Availability and 21-day port visit. While in Israel, crewmembers were available to explore a country which encompasses both the ancient and modern, taking organized tours to such biblical wonders as Jerusalem and Massada while also enjoying some of the comforts offered by the modern city of Haifa.

Crewmembers and embarked Marines also extended the hand of friendship as volunteers painting orphanages and homes for the elderly or mingled with local citizens at beach parties organized by the local USO.

With the successful Selected Restricted Availability and port visit behind them, USS NASSAU departed Haifa on 30 July, only days after the Israeli abduction of Sheik Abdul Obeid from Lebanon. This incident proved to be a catalyst for USS NASSAU and it's crew as elements of the U.S. Sixth Fleet began to gather in the Eastern Mediterranean.

For the next 35 days, USS NASSAU and most of the U.S. Sixth Fleet stood ready for any contingency. Early on, NASSAU became a focal point as Vice Admiral James D. Williams, Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, frequently chose the amphibious assault ship as a meeting place for all his afloat commanders in the battle force.

USS NASSAU was also a clearinghouse for passengers, mail and cargo making transit to and from ships in the eastern Mediterranean, at times tripling her normal workload in this vital support role.

As tensions in the Middle East gradually resumed their previous status quo, USS NASSAU took the opportunity to make a brief seven-day port call at Naples, Italy, for some well deserved rest and recreation. Organized tours were offered to Rome (where 200 uniformed Sailors and Marines enjoyed a Papal audience), Pompeii, Vesuvius and other Italian sights. USS NASSAU also hosted Admiral J.T. Howe, Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and officiated a spectacular "sunset parade" ceremony by USS NASSAU Sailors and Marines for over 80 local and NATO dignitaries while the ship was moored to two buoys outside the Naples harbor seawall.

Refreshed, USS NASSAU's crew, staff and embarked Marines put to sea again, this time in support of DISPLAY DETERMINATION '89, one of the Sixth Fleet's most complex and prestigious exercises. During this exercise, USS NASSAU was selected by Carrier Task Force Commander as best ship of the exercise.

After conducting amphibious training operations in Turkey, not far from the disastrous British amphibious operation at Gallipoli during World War I, USS NASSAU headed west and out of the Mediterranean Sea. They arrived at Lisbon, Portugal, for a brief repair period before taking part in the portuguese Marine and Naval exercise "GALERA '89".

Embarking Portuguese "Fuzileros" and landing them by helicopter ashore, NASSAU headed for Naval Base Rota, Spain again for a three-day stay and, more importantly, to turnover with the helicopter assault ship USS IWO JIMA and the ships of Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 1-90.

The final hurdle of the deployment came as USS NASSAU successfully completed an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination during the transit across the Atlantic Ocean. NASSAU returned to homeport in Norfolk, VA on 10 November 1989.

After a well deserved leave and upkeep period, USS NASSAU was notified it had been selected by Commander, U.S. Surface Force, Atlantic Fleet, as the top LHA/LPH for the battle efficiency competitive cycle ending in September 1989, earning the ship it's second Battle "E" in ten years of commissioned service.

With a brief underway period at the end of January, USS NASSAU left in early February for operations in the Caribbean Sea--operations that ultimately resulted in supporting a summit meeting between President Bush and the leaders of three South American countries to discuss the worldwide peril. In a brief radio address to the men of the USS NASSAU, President Bush thanked USS 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 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 eight Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU (LHA 4) on 7 April 1990, and the general 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 23 April, USS 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 in qualification at the Vieques Naval Gunfire Range in Puerto Rico during this exercise. USS 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 of Nassau in the Bahamas.

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

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August, the USS NASSAU mobilized and onloaded -- the fastest in U.S. Naval history -- in preparation of what would become OPERATION DESERT STORM. The NASSAU departed 18 August 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.

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

After 99 consecutive days at sea, Captain Dow pulled USS 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. USS 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.

USS 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 USS NASSAU's highly tasked engineering spaces accomplished repairs assuring the ship would be ready for all tasking.

As the 15 January 1991 deadline for the pullout of Iraqi forces from Kuwait approached, USS NASSAU moved into the Persian Gulf and remained poised for the largest amphibious assault since World War II. When OPERATION DESERT STORM began and intensified, USS NASSAU played a major role in deception operations and maneuvers intended to confuse Iraqi forces, which led to be a key element in the successful liberation of Kuwait. During OPERATION DESERT STORM more than 250 combat missions were flown by Marine AV-8B Harrier aircraft from USS NASSAU's flight deck, marking the first time in history that combat sorties were flown from an LHA-1 class ship.

As the Gulf War ended, USS NASSAU sailed to Haifa, Israel, for a short visit after completion of it's mission in OPERATION DESERT STORM. The Israeli people opened their arms and hearts to USS NASSAU's Sailors and Marines. While in Haifa, the ship was treated to tours, a children's parade, folklore dancers, a fashion show and a host of other services sponsored by the local USO. The eight month deployment ended on April 20, 1991 when the ship returned to Norfolk, VA, to an enthusiastic "Heroes" reception.

After a month of standdown, which allowed USS NASSAU Sailors to take leave and to be with their families, the amphibious assault ship steamed to New York City's Fleet Week Celebration in early June. Free professional baseball games, Broadway shows and a massive fireworks display were just a few of the many events Sailors enjoyed. During the "Parade of Heroes", USS NASSAU Sailors marched with pride down Broadway in a cascade of tickertape and confetti as thousands of patriotic Americans cheered and waved flags in support of our nation's armed forces. USS NASSAU departed New York City on 16 June to prepare for the ship's maintenance and repair period in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

During the Selected Restricted Availability (SRA), USS NASSAU underwent more than 95 major jobs that cost approximately 23 million dollars. The USS NASSAU Engineering Department contained the bulk of the work package which included work done on the boilers, damage control panels, aircraft elevators and the sterngate. Combat Systems Department required work on the Close-In-Weapons System (CIWS), MK 45 gun mounts and numerous ammunition holding areas were overhauled. New Planking in the well deck was one of the various jobs that kept Deck Department busy. AIMD, Communications and Air Departments were also involved with major work being done in their areas by shipyard workers.

Toward the end of USS NASSAU's shipyard period, the ship completed several major inspections, most notably the Command Inspection, Supply Management Inspection, Engineering Material Assessment and Light-Off Exam. The USS NASSAU passed every evolution with flying colors due to the dedicated efforts of USS NASSAU Sailors who worked many extra hours and weekends. On 5 December, upon completion of the SRA, USS NASSAU left the yards for nine days of Sea Trials, Ammunition Onloads and Virginia Capes Operations.

On 11 January 1992, less than a week after the crew's return from a holiday leave and standdown period, Captain Dow relinquished command of the USS NASSAU to Captain Richard J. McCarthy during a traditional change of command ceremony held in the ship's hangar bay.

In March 1992, USS NASSAU again demonstrated the ability to work as a team during the NATO Exercise "TEAM WORK". USS NASSAU embarked more than 1000 staff Sailors and Marines and again acted as the flagship for both COMPHIBGRU TWO and the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The TEAM WORK '92 exercise consisted of more than 14 U.S. Navy ships and 18,000 Atlantic Fleet Sailors and Marines participating in multi-national exercise operating in the Norwegian Fjords. Joining U.S. forces were those of eight NATO nations-- Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom. They returned to their homeport in Norfolk, VA, and remained there until August. USS NASSAU got underway, up the Elizabeth River, to begin a twelve month, \$115 million Complex Overhaul at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA in September. The overhaul included the installation of the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) system and major communications improvements.

USS NASSAU departed the shipyard for sea-trials on September 23rd 1993 for three days. Just four days after arriving at Norfolk Naval Base on the 26th, they found themselves again getting underway to evade Hurricane Fredrick. USS NASSAU remained at sea for three more days and returned to port unscathed. On October 1, they departed for GTMO

for refresher training. While operating in the Caribbean, USS NASSAU proved it's ability to perform it's secondary mission in providing logistics support for the United Nations forces who were enforcing the embargo against Haiti. During OPERATION SUPPORT DEMOCRACY, USS NASSAU performed it's readiness capabilities as it was called upon to serve as flagship for Commander Joint Task Force-120. Within hours Marine troops, helicopters and landing craft units from Marine Forces Caribbean embarked. USS NASSAU combined practiced contingency operations for possible evacuations of U.S. citizens and shipboard drills with the Fleet Training Group.

They returned to Norfolk, VA on 20 December on a 96-hour alert to afford the crew a holiday time period with families and friends. USS NASSAU remained on the alert until the end of the year.

**THE FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS ABOARD USS NASSAU
(LHA 4) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1994**

Days Underway	185
# of Vertical Replenishments (Lifts)	903
# of Connected Replenishments	19
# of Well Deck operations (Evolutions)	81
# of Amphibious Assault landings	8

ENGINEERING STATISTICS

Hours steamed	No. 1 Boiler - 4070.7 Hours
	No. 2 Boiler - 3710.9 Hours
Fuel consumed	8,390,553 Gallons
Potable water distilled	510,000 Gallons
Feed water distilled	637,500 Gallons

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Sickcall visits	2026
Physical exams	340
Immunizations	3036
Pharmacy prescriptions	5102
Audiograms	1006
Radiology series conducted	973
Laboratory procedures	6323
Ward admissions	125
Surgeries	73
Medevacs	65

Total value of major medical equipment items: \$ 760,000.00
(approximate)

EQUIPMENT ITEMS INCLUDE:

(1) X-ray rooms	104,000.00
(2) Anesthesia machines	60,000.00
(3) Blood Cell Counter	14,000.00
(4) EKG machine	10,000.00
(5) ProPak monittors(20)	7,000.00 ea.

Additionally, there were 22 lateral transfers of patients from other ships and units to NASSAU for inpatient care. Frozen Bllod Program, during "AGILE PROVIDER" exercise, produced 102 units of degylcerized units of blood. This notable achievement surpasses USACOM's goal of 72 processed units by 45%. Conducted a successful Mass Casualty Drill handling 50 patients during SOCEX.

AIR DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Embarked Flight Hours Day/Night	1404/600
Fixed Wing Landings Day/Night	224/Zero
Helo Landings Day/Night	9364/4490
Evolutions using NVG's	896
Aviation Fuel consumed	1,161,455 Gallons

**CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
USS NASSAU JANUARY-DECEMBER 1994**

JANUARY	1-7	Inport Norfolk as Ready ARG for OPERATION SUPPORT DEMOCRACY (HAITI)
	8	Relieved as Ready ARG; CTF-120 disembarks
FEBRUARY	1-9	Underway enroute New Orleans
	9-17	Inport New Orleans
	17	Underway from New Orleans enroute GTMO
	21	Arrived GTMO; offload LCU for USS KEARSARGE
	22	Underway from GTMO; enroute Norfolk
	26	Arrived Norfolk
MARCH	11	Underway
	15-17	OPPE
	18	Return to Port (OPPE Incomplete)
	22	Underway (To Complete OPPE)
	24	OPPE
	25	Return to Port
	28	Underway for Phibltt
	28-30	Phibltt; 30th Antenna Radiation Patterns
	31	AV-8B Operations
APRIL	1	Return to Port
	4	Underway
	4-7	CSTG Training
	8	Return to Port
	15	CHANGE OF COMMAND
	18	Underway
	19	Anchored Vicinity Morehead City, NC; onload 22nd MEU equipment and personnel via LCU
	19-25	TCAT (Type Commander's Amphibious Training)
	25	Commence "AGILE PROVIDER" Exercise Flight Evolutions - Day: 1,444 Night: 310 AV-8B: 244
	29	RAS with USNS Kanawah; received 336,000 gallons of JP-5
MAY	5	RAS with USNS KANAWAH
	6	Return to Port
	6 May-1 June	Inport Norfolk; IMAV SIMA Norfolk
	11	Quality of Life Inspection
	16-20	CSTG Visit (TSTA II) and LMA Inspection
	24	Hosted Aviation Readiness Review Conference
	Assist Visits:	Explosive Safety; Dental Readiness Magazine Sprinkler Review; Laundry Assist Shipboard Crane Improvement; CNSL PQS Assist
JUNE	1	Underway for CSA
	3	Return to Port
	6	Underway ACE Workups

7 BASCOLEX (Helo/AAV Ops) 250 USMC Officers
8 RAS ISO Joint Logistics CDR's Conference
(USS SAVANNAH)
21 Arrived Onslow Bay, NC; Offload 22 MEU;
Underway for Lynnhaven Anchorage
22 Arrived Lynnhaven Anchorage; Received 600
guests for Dependents Cruise; Returned to
Norfolk (Late P.M.)
24 Hosted TCAT Mid Planning Conference
Hosted WWII Reunion Group (USS Warhoop LST
356)
28 Hosted German Flag Officer tour (A.M.);
Underway for Boston (Embarked LCU and CH-46
enroute)
30 Arrived Boston, Ma. for Harborfest '94
participation

JULY

5 Underway from Boston
6 Debarked LCU/Fly off CH-46; Returned to Port
(Unsuccessful attempt to go pierside due to
high winds in P.M., anchored)
7 Returned to Port
8 NATO Secret Control Point Inspection
Visit by CPG4 RADM (S) Cole
11-15 ASRR, CSRR (Phase 1), Industrial Hygiene
Survey
13 Main Embark Conference (13 - 15)
Initial Habitability Inspection (Non-
Reportable); Dental Readiness Exam
14 COMPHIBGRU TWO visit ship
19 Brig Certification
21 Single Sailor Pre-Deployment Brief(1230)
Pre-Deployment Brief for couples (P.M.)
25 Embark LANTRAMID III Midshipmen;
Embark Reserve Intelligence Officers for 14)
days training
26 JTG 95 Phase I/II Pre Sail Conference;
TCAT Pre Sail Conference
27 Embark COMPHIBGRU 4; TCAT advance party
arrives
28 Underway for TCAT; Conducted small boat
attacks on transit to anchorage; Embark 4
LCU's; Ordered to return to Norfolk to effect
repairs to ship's #2 Main Engine
29 Anchored G-3 anchorage(A.M.); returned
pierside (Early P.M.) for repairs

AUGUST

1 Pierside Fast Cruise (A.M.); Underway (P.M.)
to continue TCAT
3 FAS with USS Savannah
4 Embark CPG 4 staff; PHIBGRU TWO visits

5 22 MEU Advance arrives
 7 Underway: TCAT complete; COMEX JTF 95
 Integration Exercise
 8 Embark RADM Cole (CPG 4); JTG - 95 Phase I
 Work ups
 10 Amphibious Assault
 11 Amphibious Assault; Received visit from
 COMIKEBATGRU (RADM Murphy)
 18 FAS with USNS John Lenthall
 19 Anchored/debarked 4 LCU's at Lynnhaven
 Anchorage (Early P.M.); Returned to Norfolk
 22 Commenced CSRR Phase II
 23 CPG 2 breaks flag on NASSAU;
 Underway for ammo anchorage
 25 Ammo onload complete; Returned to Port
 29 Underway for CSRR Phase II; BGIT
 (TACTRAGRULANT)

SEPTEMBER 1 CSRR Phase II complete; Returned to Port
 6 Underway JTG - 95 Phase III Workups
 7 Load 22nd MEU at Onslow Bay
 13-16 SOCEX
 17-22 JTG 95 - 1 FLEETEX
 23 Offload 22nd MEU at Onslow Bay
 24 Returned to Port, Norfolk
 25 Begin POM Period (Ready Duty ARG: 24-30SEP)
 26 Begin Pre Deploy IMAV

OCTOBER 11 Pre Deploy IMAV complete
 18 POM Period ends
 20 Underway Mediterranean Deployment (MARG 1-95)

NOVEMBER 2 RAS/FAS/CONREP with USS Detroit
 3 Anchor Rota, Spain; COMSIXTHFLT conducts
 inchop brief; USS GUAM ARG turnover brief
 4 IMAV arrival brief on board USS PUGET SOUND;
 shift pierside from anchorage
 7 Underway (Ops East LANT); CAPEX (USMC
 Training ashore - Helo Raid)
 8 Arrive Lisbon, Portugal; IMAV with USS PUGET
 SOUND (8-10 Nov)
 11-14 Underway from Lisbon (Ops West Med)
 15 Arrive Toulon, France; Run Degaussing; USMC
 Training ashore (MAYFLOWER 95)
 23 Begin backload of USMC (Unscheduled recall)
 24 THANKSGIVING; Backload continues
 26 Backload complete
 27 Underway enroute to Adriatic Sea
 30 Arrived Adriatic Sea for OPERATION DENY
 FLIGHT, SHARP GUARD and SAR/CSAR mission

DECEMBER

16 Arrived Malaga, Spain
19 Underway from Malaga, Spain (West Med Ops)
23 Arrived Barcelona, Spain
25 CHRISTMAS
27 Underway (Late P.M.) enroute Adriatic Sea
31 Arrive Adriatic Sea for operations

USS NASSAU (LHA-4) NARRATIVE 1 JAN - 31 DEC 1994

As the new year began, NASSAU, moored at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia, remained under the command of COMSECONDFLT for Haitian contingency operations. Enjoying a safe and restful Christmas and New Year's holiday period, the ship was on a 96 hour alert as the ready duty amphibious flagship for Operation Support Democracy. USS NASSAU served as flagship for Commander, Task Force 120, commanded by RADM Hal W. Gehman. On 8 January, USS NASSAU was notified by COMSECONDFLT that their services were no longer required. Commander Task Force 120 then departed and broke his flag aboard the USS EISENHOWER for the remainder of Operation Support Democracy.

USS NASSAU remained inport until 1 February. The ship got underway for New Orleans, Louisiana. USS NASSAU served as a floating barracks for nearly 1,700 Midshipmen, ROTC and JROTC cadets participating in many of the Mardi Gras parades. It also proved to be an excellent opportunity for the crew of USS NASSAU to enjoy some well deserved liberty. Arriving on the 9th, USS NASSAU opened up for general visiting and received nearly 10,000 during the week long port call. The ship provided a wide array of displays showcasing USS NASSAU's many capabilities. Departing on 17 February, USS NASSAU headed down the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. On the 21st, they anchored and dropped off a Landing Craft Unit (LCU) for the USS KEARSARGE, and was underway the following day for Norfolk, Virginia. USS NASSAU arrived at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia the evening of the 26th to family and friends.

On 11 March, USS NASSAU was underway to the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). As the examination began, it was discovered that the number one boiler had a major discrepancy. It had a leaking safety that had to be fixed. With the OPPE incomplete USS NASSAU, returned to port on the 18th to undergo repairs. USS NASSAU got underway on the 22nd to be reinspected. After the successful completion of OPPE USS NASSAU returned to port on the 24th. On the 25th, USS NASSAU was underway for amphibious training and some AV-8B flight operations and returned to port on 1 April.

USS NASSAU got underway again for Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) training on 4 April. Completing this successful mission, USS NASSAU returned to port the morning of the 8th. On 15 April, CAPT M. T. Vanderberg relieved CAPT R. J. McCarthy as the tenth Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU in a ceremony in the hangar bay. RADM Leonard F. Picotte served as the guest speaker. The 18th found USS NASSAU underway for Morehead City, North Carolina where 22nd MEU personnel and equipment were onloaded for TYPE COMMANDER'S AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING (TCAT) AND OPERATION "AGILE PROVIDER". The Air Combat Element (ACE) flew a total of 1,754 sorties, with the AV-8B Harrier jets flying 224 of them. Following a refueling-at-sea(RAS), on 29 April, USS NASSAU completed it's training and returned to port on 5 May.

The month of May was a pretty busy one for USS NASSAU. Some of the highlights included an IMAV with SIMA Norfolk, Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) and Aviation Readiness Review Conference Assist Visit. The USS NASSAU passed it's LMA with flying colors. Particularly, the Supply Department. They finished this inspection with an overall grade of EXCELLENT. The ship's Combat Systems Department displayed their skills with a successful completion of the Explosive Safety Inspection and Magazine Sprinkler Review. Combat Systems received accolades such as "Best magazines on the waterfront" from the FTSLANT inspectors. While the ship was moored at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia from 6-31 May, a myriad of tours was hosted. Visitors included Defense Fuel Supply Center, Dental Officer VIPs and Keystone State Young Presidents Organization.

June brought another chance for training. USS NASSAU went underway on the afternoon of 1 June for Combat Systems Assessment (CSA). With another milestone completed in their pre-deployment training track, NASSAU returned to port the evening of 3 June. On 6 June, they were again underway for ACE Workups and BASCOLEX. This involved flight and AAV training for 250 Marine Corps officers. On 8 June, USS NASSAU received 443,000 gallons of DFM from the USS SAVANNAH during a replenishment at sea. Following the completion of the replenishment, USS NASSAU continued training with the Marine ACE, Close-in-Weapons-Support (CIWS) gun quarters, ship maneuvering drills and other shipboard exercises. On 19 June, USS NASSAU anchored at Onslow Bay, NC for the off-load of the Marine Expeditionary Unit. Upon completion, the course was set for Lynnhaven Anchorage to embark USS NASSAU family members and friends for a "Dependents Day Cruise" on the 22nd of June. The well deck operations were flawless as the USS NASSAU received over 600 guests for the event. Safely aboard, it was "Anchors Aweigh"! NASSAU sailed out to the VACAPES area and returned to port early in the evening of the same day. The first-hand view of what their Sailor does aboard ship at sea left many family members tired, happy, and appreciative of what their Sailor does.

On 24 June, USS NASSAU sailors took the opportunity to share their "modern day" equipment with some WWII veterans. Retired Sailors and their wives from the USS WARHOOP (LST 356) toured the ship. They told many stories about the times during the war that left the younger Sailors, of USS NASSAU, with a genuine feeling of appreciation for the sacrifices of these veterans of foreign war. The USS WARHOOP vets held a brief ceremony commemorating their fallen comrades in the ship's well deck and concluded it with the laying of a wreath. After the upkeep period inport, USS NASSAU got underway on the 28th for Boston, Massachusetts. A Landing Craft Unit (LCU) from Little Creek Naval Station and a SAR helicopter from HC-8 were embarked while at Lynnhaven Anchorage. Then, it was "set course for Boston Harbor". USS NASSAU arrived in Boston on the 30th.

During the Boston visit, USS NASSAU participated in several of the parades and events in celebration of "INDEPENDENCE DAY".

On 3 July, USS NASSAU opened ship for general visiting and received 1,204 people. The crew was well received and reciprocated by hosting a "Sunset Parade" of their own on the flight deck. In attendance were local military and civilian officials, including the mayor of Boston. The parade itself was very impressive, and the highlight was CAPT Heisig, Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX, presenting the Legion of Merit Medal to CAPT Vanderberg, Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU. The "Sunset Parade" was followed by a reception, on the flight deck, where many Sailors and Marines made acquaintances with their guests. USS NASSAU crewmembers spent the rest of the inport time attending and participating in the Fourth of July celebrations throughout the city; including taking in a Boston Red Sox baseball game. The morning of 5 July, USS NASSAU departed Boston with a lot of memories and many new friends. Arriving early evening on the 6th, at Chesapeake Bay, the LCU and CH-46 SAR helicopter departed. USS NASSAU returned to port on the 7th, but was unsuccessful in going pierside due to heavy winds. Anchoring at G-3 anchorage, USS NASSAU waited for the winds to subside and returned pierside later that evening.

The remainder of the month of July found the USS NASSAU inport until the 28th. USS NASSAU then got underway for TCAT/ACE stages 4 and 5. During this period, USS NASSAU conducted flight operations welcoming the return of AV-8B Harriers for the first time since the CARQUALS in early June. Most of the flight operations were Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) to reacquaint flightdeck crews and qualify new AV-8B pilots. USS NASSAU's well deck crew was also busy as they embarked four LCU's during the period. On the night of the 28th, USS NASSAU was ordered to return to Norfolk to effect repairs to it's number two main engine. NASSAU returned pierside the following afternoon. After repairs were completed USS NASSAU got underway again the afternoon of 1 August to complete TCAT.

USS NASSAU rendezvoused with the USS SAVANNAH for refueling on the 3rd of August. The following day, well deck operations were performed to embark COMPHIBGRU 4 staff via LCU near Mile Hammock Bay. RADM L. F. Picotte (COMPHIBGRU TWO) made a visit on the 4th. The 5th, USS NASSAU welcomed the arrival of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) advance party. TCAT ended on the 7th and Joint Task Force 95 Training (JTF 59) began. On August 8, USS NASSAU embarked RADM Cole, Commander, COMPHIBGRU FOUR. USS NASSAU conducted amphibious assaults on Onslow Bay, North Carolina the mornings of 10th and 11th August. They received RADM Murphy, COMIKEBATGRU, for a short visit the afternoon of the 11th.

USS NASSAU continued training with various drills. The drills included general quarters, man overboard, training packages for Communications and Combat Information Center. A refueling at sea with the USNS JOHN LENTHALL on August 18 was followed with USS NASSAU anchoring at Lynnhaven Anchorage. Four LCU's departed and USS NASSAU was again underway for the return trip to Norfolk Naval Station. The crew enjoyed the weekend of a little relaxation. On August 22, it was back to work with the beginning of Phase II of

the Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR). On the 23rd, COMPHIBGRU TWO broke his flag on board as USS NASSAU departed from the piers heading for "G" anchorage for an ammo top off. After completion of the onload, USS NASSAU returned to port on 25 August. The USS NASSAU went underway again on 29 August for a three day period to complete the final portion of the Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase II. On 1 September, USS NASSAU returned to port after a successful review and spent the Labor Day weekend with families and friends.

On 6 September, USS NASSAU was underway for Phase III of Joint Task Group 95 (JTG-95), JTG-95 FLEETEX and Special Operations Capable Exercise (SOCEX). USS NASSAU steamed to Morehead City, North Carolina and arrived on the morning of 7 September. There, USS NASSAU onloaded LCU's packed with the 22nd MEU Marines and their equipment to begin the exercises. While the well deck crews were busy, the flight deck received helicopters and Harriers from the Air Combat Element. Deck Landing Qualifications and ship's drills continued while leading up to those events. On 13 September began with the Special Operations Capable Exercise (SOCEX) and through September 16. This exercise involved amphibious assault landings by the Marines from the well decks and the flight deck as well. Upon completion of the exercise the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit was certified as Special Operations Capable.

Scenarios were the focus during JTG-95 FLEETEX which began on 17 September. This evolution required the coordination between a multitude of commands. The simulations of warring factions were portrayed by tens of thousands of Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from various bases along the east coast. JTG-95 FLEETEX was completed on 22 September. USS NASSAU arrived at Onslow Bay, North Carolina on 23 September and off loaded the 22nd MEU. They returned to port at Norfolk Naval Station on 24 September. Moored, on 24 September, USS NASSAU commenced a preparation for Operational Movement (POM) period. The time spent with families and friends was well deserved, but the ship was still designated as the Ready Amphibious Ready Group from 24-30 September. This allowed many of the crew to go on leave, but all hands were on a 96 hour alert.

The POM period also was an opportunity for the USS NASSAU to get some additional maintenance done prior to deployment with an IMAV and underwater hull cleaning. With the leave period ending on the 18th, the ship had it's crew back, well rested. On 20 October, the USS NASSAU got underway for MARG 1-95 Mediterranean deployment. Anchoring at Lynnhaven Anchorage in Virginia Beach, VA, they onloaded LCU craft, as well as flew on two SAR H-46 helicopters of HC-8. The completion of the onload found NASSAU weighing anchor and heading for Morehead City, NC to bring the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard. USS NASSAU embarked over 1000 MARINES and their equipment, including Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 261, Marine Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/6 and Marine Service Support Group (MSSG). The evening of 21 October the ships of USS NASSAU's Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), consisting of NASSAU (LHA 4), USS PONCE (LPD 15) and USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44)

rendezvoused for their transit across the Atlantic. After thirteen days of drills, various training exercises and steaming, the MARG units inchooped to the Sixth Fleet. Arriving in Rota, Spain on the morning of 3 November the turnover with the GUAM ARG/26 MEU was completed the next day and the USS NASSAU assumed the watch as part of Commander, Sixth Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group in theater.

Following the turnover, USS NASSAU was underway for one day enroute to Lisbon, Portugal, the first port visit. During the port visit, USS NASSAU hosted a reception for local Portuguese dignitaries in the hangar bay. On 10 November they also held a Marine Corps celebration on the flight deck in honor of the Corps' 218th birthday. On 11 November, USS NASSAU departed Lisbon for operations in the western Mediterranean. A port call to Toulon, France was next as USS NASSAU offloaded the MEU's personnel and equipment ashore for Marine Corps training in exercise MAYFLOWER 95. This exercise was terminated early by an order from Sixth Fleet. USS NASSAU was to backload it's Marine units and make ready for getting underway 72 hours after notification. USS NASSAU made a recall of all Sailors on liberty to standby and receive the Marines from the training sites. The backload ensued and was completed in a remarkable 33 hours. The Mess Management Specialists of S-2 Division were not deterred by this sudden change in plans as they still provided a Thanksgiving meal for the entire crew, along with keeping the mess line open continuously for 2 days.

USS NASSAU was underway on 1 December, heading for the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia-Herzegovina. USS NASSAU arrived on station and remained there from 3-12 December in support of OPERATION SHARP GUARD, DENY FLIGHT and PROVIDE PROMISE as the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) element. The other mission was to provide assistance if an evacuation evolution was necessary. Following this line period, without incident, USS NASSAU departed the Adriatic Sea. An assault training mission was performed with the Italian ship Garibaldi. Approximately 100 of the Italian Marines joined the USS NASSAU's Marine element in a raid to the southern coast of Italy at Capoteulada.

With a brief port visit from 16-18 January in Malaga, Spain, USS NASSAU steamed again to the port of Barcelona, Spain. During this stay, crewmembers observed Christmas with fellow shipmates, and made phone calls to loved ones and friends back home. On 27 December, USS NASSAU was underway from Barcelona, Spain, enroute to the Adriatic Sea for another line period. As this year came to a close, USS NASSAU saw it go out in style. Although thousands of miles away from home, Sailors and Marines could not be discouraged from bringing in the new year with a joyful spirit. While on station, in the Adriatic Sea, crewmembers put their talents to good use and held a New Year's Eve party and talent show in the ship's hangar bay. A stage was set up with Sailors and Marines took advantage of the opportunity to show each other that the "ship that does it all" couldn't be complete without individuals rising to the call; even if it is just a "curtain call."

The song and comedy acts adequately softened the trauma of being away from home for the individuals who were on their first deployment. The food and refreshments also helped a bit. As the ball came down in the hangar bay, USS NASSAU crewmembers could look back at a safe and successful year. USS NASSAU greeted the new year; eager to outperform the accomplishments of 1994.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Food service:

Wardroom meals served
Wardroom food cost
EDF meals served 422,681
Food consumed 1,836,460 lbs.

EDF food cost \$2,022,560

Disbursing:

of disbursing vouchers 2901
Amount of disbursements \$6,237,344.00
of collection vouchers 167
Amount of collections \$2,926,684.00
Total checks issued \$8,853,338.00

Retail operations:

Ship's store sales (gross)
Gross profits
Laundry washed
Cans of soda sold

Stock:

of receipts 27,932
of issues 9,252
Line items carried 43,325
Inventory cost \$44,889,417
Funds expended \$7,423,117.91

Post Office

Mail totals by months in 1994 -

January	30,000
February	2,500
March	2,100
April	2,200
May	2,200
June	2,300
July	2,200
August	2,500
September	5,000
October	30,000
November	45,000
December	58,000

Total wt. 1,840,000

Money orders -

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT STATISTICS (cont...)

First Quarter	Sold	1330	at	\$126,282.00
	Cashed	52	at	\$3,340.00
Second Quarter	Sold	459	at	\$57,020.00
	Cashed	7	at	\$827.00
Third Quarter	Sold	395	at	\$37,115.00
	Cashed	2	at	\$150.00
Fourth Quarter	Sold	375	at	\$41,520.00
	Cashed	5	at	\$4,284.00
Totals	Sold	2559	at	\$261,938.00
	Cashed	66	at	\$8,601.00

Stamps Sold -

First Quarter	\$2,078.00
Second Quarter	\$5,909.00
Third Quarter	\$1,519.00
Fourth Quarter	\$347.00
Total	\$9,853.00

LEGAL STATISTICS

Admin Discharges	37
Summary Court Martials	22
Special Court Martials	16
General Court Martials	1
Wills	130
Power of Attorneys (General)	866
(Special)	451
Non-Judicial Punishments	170

SECURITY STATISTICS

of Incident/Complaint Reports(ICR) processed 50

WEAPONS STATISTICS

Received	507,305 lbs.
Issued	170,877 lbs.

COMBAT CARGO STATISTICS

Passengers	8282
Cargo (Pounds)	469,423