



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS NASSAU (LHA-4)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS NASSAU (LHA 4)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57,
Washington, D.C. 20374-5060

Subj: 2001 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) 2001 Command History
(2) Organizational Chart
(3) Information Pamphlet
(4) 22MEU Information Pamphlet
(5) Commanding Officer Biography
(6) Unit Photo

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.

R. P. Tjepkema
R. P. TJEPKEMA

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Ship's Mission: The mission of USS NASSAU (LHA 4) 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 and LPD class ships. 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.

NASSAU carries a complete Marine Battalion Landing Team (approximately 1,800 personnel), supplies and equipment required for an assault and vehicles to land the team ashore either by helicopter and/or small amphibious craft.

A secondary mission of 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 hours of the ship's arrival on the scene. Additionally, NASSAU is capable of providing fresh water and electricity from the ship's engineering plant until restoration of domestic services. NASSAU's medical facilities provide hospitalization for up to 300 patients (including intensive care) and outpatient treatment.

22 Marine Expeditionary Unit, including the battalion's supporting elements, Battalion Landing Team 1/8, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 and MEU Service Support Group 22, were embarked on board USS NASSAU for the ship's 2000-2001 deployment. Aircraft flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 included 12 CH-46E Sea Knights (Tailcodes 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 11, 12, 13), six AH-1W Sea Cobras (Tailcodes 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45), three UH-1B Huey Iroquois (Tailcodes 30, 31, 32) and four CH-53E Sea Stallions (Tailcodes 22, 23, 24, and 25). Also embarked was Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX, Detachment SIX with two HH 46D helicopters (Tailcodes 00 and 01) to primarily provide Search and Rescue operations, and Beach Master Unit TWO to provide Landing Craft Unit support.

NASSAU is attached to Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO, which in January 2001 was commanded by Commodore William J. Luti. Commodore Terry O'Brien relieved him on March 3, 2001. In January 2001, NASSAU was commanded by CAPT Gerard M. Mauer, Jr. CAPT Russell P. Tjepkema took command on August 3, 2001. CAPT Edward C. Zurey, Jr. served as the Executive Officer until November 16, 2001, when CAPT John L. Green assumed the duties of Executive Officer. An organizational chart is attached as enclosure (2).

Enclosure (1)

2. CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JANUARY - DECEMBER 2001

01 JAN - 04 JAN: PORT VISIT, BRINDISI, ITALY
04 JAN - 07 JAN: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE VALLETTA, MALTA
08 JAN - 11 JAN: PORT VISIT, VALLETTA, MALTA
12 JAN - 15 JAN: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE PALMA, SPAIN
16 JAN - 21 JAN: PORT VISIT, PALMA, SPAIN
22 JAN - 24 JAN: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE CARTEGENA, SPAIN
25 JAN - 29 JAN: PORT VISIT, CARTEGENA, SPAIN
30 JAN - 01 FEB: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE TOULON, FRANCE
02 FEB - 15 FEB: IMAV, TOULON, FRANCE
16 FEB - 27 FEB: UNDERWAY, CAPO TEULADO EXERCISE
28 FEB - 05 MAR: PORT VISIT, TARANTO, ITALY
06 MAR - 12 MAR: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE VALLETTA, MALTA
13 MAR - 16 MAR: PORT VISIT, VALLETTA MALTA
17 MAR - 09 APR: UNDERWAY, ATLAS HINGE EXERCISE
10 APR - 25 APR: PORT VISIT, RIJEKA, CROATIA
26 APR - 02 MAY: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE ROTA, SPAIN
03 MAY - 08 MAY: AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP TURNOVER, ROTA, SPAIN
09 MAY
OUTCHOP FROM COMSIXTHFLT
09 MAY
INCHOP TO COMSECONDFLT
09 MAY - 20 MAY: UNDERWAY, ENROUTE ONSLOW BAY, N.C.
21 MAY - 22 MAY: AT ANCHOR, ONSLOW BAY, OFFLOAD 22 MEU
23 MAY
UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA, TIGER CRUISE
24 MAY
ARRIVE NORFOLK, VA
24 MAY - 22 JUN
LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD, NORFOLK
08 JUN
AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON TWO DISEMBARKS
23 JUN
UNDERWAY, ENROUTE EARLE NWS
24 JUN - 27 JUN
WEAPONS OFFLOAD, EARLE NWS
28 JUN
UNDERWAY, ENROUTE NORFOLK, VA.
28 JUN - 29 JUL
INPORT, NORFOLK, VA.
11 JUL
ANNUAL MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS) IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM INSPECTION (AIR DEPARTMENT)
30 JUL
UNDERWAY, MOVE TO METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD,
NORFOLK, VA.
30 JUL - 14 NOV
INPORT, METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD, NORFOLK, VA.
03 AUG
CHANGE OF COMMAND
24 OCT - 29 OCT
LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT COMPLETED
15 NOV
UNDERWAY, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA, INITIAL ENGINEERING
ASSESSMENT COMPLETED
16 NOV - 27 NOV
INPORT, NORFOLK, VA.
28 NOV - 30 NOV
UNDERWAY, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
30 NOV - 11 DEC
INPORT, NORFOLK, VA.
03 DEC
AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON TWO EMBARKS
10 DEC - 12 DEC
AVIATION CERTIFICATION (AVCERT)
11 DEC
AVIATION READINESS QUALIFICATION (ARQ)
12 DEC - 14 DEC
UNDERWAY, VIRGINIA CAPES OPAREA
14 DEC - 31 DEC
INPORT, NORFOLK, VA.

3. NARRATIVE. USS NASSAU rang in the New Year 2001 in Brindisi, Italy, with a two-day New Year's Party featuring a variety of sports events including a bench press competition, three-on-three basketball competition and ping-pong tournament, as well as viewing of the football College Bowl games on a big screen in the Hangar Bay. Also while in Brindisi, 13 NASSAU crewmembers, ranging in rank from Seaman to Master Chief, began the New Year by renewing their commitment to the United States Navy by re-enlisting in a group ceremony on 3 January 2001.

NASSAU's next port of call was Valletta, Malta from 8-11 January. The highlight of the visit was the reception for the American Ambassador to Malta, Kathryn Proffitt, hosted by NASSAU's crew.

NASSAU's next port visit was to Palma, Spain from 16-21 January, followed by Cartagena, Spain from 25-29 January. NASSAU next visited Toulon, France, from 2-5 February, where the ship completed its mid-deployment maintenance period.

Leaving Toulon, France, the crew of USS NASSAU and the Marines of 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in the Capo Teulando Training Exercise off the coast of Sardinia. While underway during the exercise, NASSAU celebrated completing the first half of their deployment with a weekend of tournaments and special events. Billed as Halfway Day, the event featured dominoes, chess, three-on-three basketball and spades tournaments, as well as Bingo, which was broadcast of the ship's television system.

Following the busy work schedule in Toulon and during the training exercise, NASSAU enjoyed a port visit in Taranto, Italy, from 28 February to 5 March. This was followed by a second visit to Valletta, Malta, from 13-16 March.

Leaving Malta, NASSAU participated in the Atlas Hinge Training Exercise, off the coast of North Africa from 17 March until 9 April.

Completing the exercise, NASSAU returned to the Adriatic Sea. While the Marines of 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) participated in Slunj 2001, a training exercise in Croatia. NASSAU enjoyed visiting the port of Rijeka, Croatia. One of the highlights of the visit was on 20 April when NASSAU hosted a reception for the American Ambassador to Croatia, Ambassador Lawrence Rossin.

After the Marines returned, NASSAU sailed west, leaving the Mediterranean. The ship's last port visit was a return to Rota, Spain from 3 to 8 May, where the NASSAU Amphibious Ready Group completed its turnover with USS KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group.

NASSAU then out-chopped from the SIXTH FLEET and began the voyage back across the Atlantic toward home. The ship arrived at Onslow Bay on 21 May, where the Marines of 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) were off-loaded. After off-loading the Marines, NASSAU crewmembers were met by family members and friends on 23 May for an overnight Tiger Cruise, as the ship sailed from Onslow Bay to Norfolk, Virginia, where the ship arrived on 24 May.

After a much needed standdown period, NASSAU transited to Earle Naval Weapons Station, N.J., on 23 June to offload ordnance in preparation for entering Metro Machine Shipyard on 30 July for a four-month planned maintenance availability period.

On Friday, 3 August, CAPT Gerard M. Mauer, Jr., was relieved by CAPT Russell P. Tjepkema as Commanding Officer of USS NASSAU.

While at Metro Machine Shipyard, NASSAU's engineering plants were overhauled and ship's berthing and workspaces received renovations such as new PRC decks. NASSAU completed a successful Light Off Assessment on 29 October and an Initial Assessment on 16 November.

NASSAU's Air Department completed its Aviation Certification (AVCERT) on 12 December and its Aviation Readiness Qualification (ARQ) on 11 December.

Among USS NASSAU's awards were the Supply Department Blue "E" and the Medical Department Green "H" Awards. USS NASSAU also was awarded the CINCLANTFLT Retention Honor Roll Pennant for the second and third quarter of 2001, as well as the Retention Honor Roll Pennant for Fiscal Year 2001.

BM1 (SW/AW) [REDACTED] has been named USS NASSAU's Sailor of the Year for the year 2001.

USS NASSAU (LHA-4) ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

