



rec'd 7/6/90

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS OGDEN (LPD-5)**

**FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96674-1708**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

**5750**

**Ser 00/056**

**4 Jun 90**

**From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD-5)**

**To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)**

**Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1988**

**Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D**

**(b) Commander, Amphibious Squadron NINE, ltr dtd 13 Apr 90**

**Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization**

**(2) Chronology**

**(3) Narrative**

**1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.**

**2. In response to reference (b), regret inconvenience.**

  
**B. J. PHILLIPS**

**Copy to:**

**COMNAVSURFPAC (Code 021)**

**COMPHIBGRU THREE**

**COMPHIBRON NINE**

**CHINFO WASH DC**

# COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

HOME PORT: LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

ASSIGNED TO:	9th AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET	01 JAN-16 JUN
	3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET	17 JUN-01 JUL
	3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 1st GROUP, 7th FLEET	02 JUL-03 DEC
	3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET	04 DEC-16 DEC
	9th AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET	17 DEC-31 DEC

MISSION: THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE USS UGDEN (LPD-5) IS TO TRANSPORT AND LAND MARINE UNITS ALONG WITH THEIR ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES BY MEANS OF LANDING CRAFT, BOATS, AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS.

COMMANDED BY: D. F. SANTAMARIA, U. S. Navy, 1 JANUARY-29 APRIL 1988

COMMANDED BY: R. T. MYERS, U. S. Navy, 29 APRIL-31 DECEMBER

Encl (1)

## CHRONOLOGY

### JANUARY

01 Dry docked; South West Marine, Long Beach, CA.  
01-22 DPMA

### FEBRUARY

01 Dry docked; South West Marine.  
02-05 CRAT  
08-12 Diesel Inspection  
09 CHT Inspection  
09-11 NWAT  
12 Underway; Sea Trials  
13 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.  
16 Boat Inspection  
17 TRE  
18 CAT/PTRI  
29 Underway; Enroute San Diego, CA.

### MARCH

01 Moored; Naval Station, San Diego, CA.  
01-10 CSRT/SESI/Command Inspection  
11-16 Underway; AMPHIBREFTRA  
15 Aviation Weapons Inspection  
16 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.  
29-31 Underway; OPPE  
31 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.

APRIL

01 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.  
15 Commence Marine onload for KERNEL USHER 88-2  
18-29 Underway; KERNEL USHER 88-2 Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO (LST-1182)  
28 Anchored; Del Mar Boat Basin, Camp Pendleton, CA. Marine offload  
29 Change of Command (1200); CAPT R. T. MYERS relieved CAPT D. F. SANTAMARIA in onboard ceremonies. Underway; enroute Naval Station, Long Beach, CA. Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.

MAY

01 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.  
02-13 Underway; REFTRA  
09 UNREP with USNS KAWISHIWI (AO-146)  
13 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA. Commence POM

JUNE

01 Moored, Naval Station Long Beach, CA. (POM)  
02 CMS Inspection  
11 Underway (0700); Sea Trials Moored (1630); Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.  
12 Commence Marine onload  
16 Underway (0830); commenced WESTPAC Deployment Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO (LST-1182) Assigned to 3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET

JULY

01 Underway; enroute Okinawa, Japan.

JULY (continued)

- 02 UNREP with USNS NAVASOTO (AO-106)  
Assigned to 3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 1st GROUP, 7th FLEET
- 05 Moored; Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.
- 06 Underway; enroute Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 10 Moored; Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 16 Underway; enroute Pattaya Beach, Thailand.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 21 Commence COBRA GOLD-88, Thailand.

AUGUST

- 01 Underway; COBRA GOLD-88, Thailand.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 04 Anchored; Pattaya Beach, Thailand
- 08 Underway; enroute Australia.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 12 UNREP with USNS NAVASOTO (AO-106)
- 14 Transit Sunda Straits
- 18 Moored; Freemantle, Australia.
- 25 Underway; VALIANT USHER 88-6, Australia.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 25-31 VALIANT USHER 88-6, Australia

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Underway; enroute Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 07 Transit Lombok Straits  
Diverted to Burma
- 08 Transit Malacca Straits
- 09 Detached from ARG ALFA  
UNREP with USS PRAIRIE (AD-15)
- 11 Rejoin ARG ALFA
- 13 Enroute Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 18 Transit Malacca Straits
- 21 Moored; Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 22 Class Charlie Fire, 0357, shore power cables.  
Class Charlie Fire Out, 0359, shore power breaker tripped
- 26 Man Overboard, 2000

OCTOBER

- 01 Moored; Naval Station, Subic Bay, Philippines.
- 11 Underway; commenced VALIANT USHER 89-1, Philippines.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 11-19 VALIANT USHER 89-1, Philippines
- 20 Transit Formosa Straits; Typhoon evasion, enroute  
Okinawa, Japan.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)
- 24 Anchored; Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.  
Moored; Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.  
Onload Marines for VALIANT BLITZ 89-1 (KS)

OCTOBER (continued)

- 26 Underway; enroute Pohang, South Korea.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
- 29 Anchored; Pohang, South Korea.
- 30 PHIBRON THREE arrives, 1000, shifting his flag to OGDEN
- 31 Underway; enroute Pusan, South Korea.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS  
SCHENECTADY (LST-1185)

NOVEMBER

- 01 Underway; commenced VALIANT BLITZ 89-1 South Korea.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS  
SCHENECTADY (LST-1185)
- 01-11 VALIANT BLITZ 89-1 South Korea
- 12 Enroute Pusan, South Korea.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43).  
PHIBRON THREE departs, 0800, shifting his flag to USS NEW ORLEANS  
(LPH-11)
- 13 Moored; Pusan, South Korea.
- 16 Underway; enroute Okinawa, Japan.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
- 20 Moored; Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.  
Offload Marines from VALIANT BLITZ 89-1
- 21 Underway; enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
Formation Steaming, in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
- 25 Moored; Naval Station, Yokosuka, Japan.

DECEMBER

- 01 Underway; enroute Pearl Harbor, HI.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43)
- 04 Assigned to 3rd AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET
- 06 Moored; Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, HI.

DECEMBER (continued)

06-12 IERA

09 Underway; enroute Del Mar Boat Basin, Camp Pendelton, CA.  
Formation Steaming; in company with USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11),  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115), USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), USS FRESNO  
(LST-1182)

15 Offload; Del Mar Boat Basin.

16 Moored; Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.

16-31 Post deployment/holiday stand down

17 Assigned to 9th AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON, 3rd GROUP, 3rd FLEET



## NARRATIVE (Significant Exercises/Events)

### COBRA GOLD (21 July-03 August)

COBRA GOLD was a joint U. S./Thai Amphibious Exercise. It was designed to train and challenge the combined force in flexibility to respond to a rapidly changing threat. In this case the scenario was an invasion force penetrating into the heart of Thailand.

Throughout the exercise, the threat area shifted dramatically forcing the Amphibious Task Force to conduct assaults at different beaches. This provided an excellent challenge to be able to plan and execute an amphibious landing almost anywhere on Thailand's coast on short notice.

Throughout the exercise, SEALs from both the United States and Royal Thai navies were given the task of directing close air support to cover friendly forces. This tactic worked well and greatly enhanced inland operations.

One key lesson learned was that the backload plan requires as much attention to detail and briefing as the assault. Backload planning was instituted so that equipment/supplies could be loaded in the proper sequence for future exercises.

Problems encountered with communications were in the areas compatibility and the relative importance of circuits.

### VALIANT USHER (25-31 August)

VALIANT USHER was a joint U. S./Australian Amphibious Exercise. It was designed to promote new techniques in Over The Horizon (OTH) amphibious landings while concurrently conducting Anti-Surface Warfare operations in defense of the Amphibious Task Force. This required the joint efforts and coordination of United States and Australian amphibious and destroyer units.

Weather became a primary factor in this exercise. Both Combat Rubber Raider Craft (CRRRC's) and LCAC's were restricted in their use by the high sea state.

Sea Echelon Areas were 2000 yards wide which resulted in little flexibility for maneuvering.

### NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO) (07-12 September)

Shortly after having transited the Lombok Straits and while proceeding north toward Subic Bay, Philippines, ARG ALFA was diverted toward Burma. ARG ALFA headed west making 18 knots, best possible speed, with orders to stand off the coast and be prepared to conduct a real world NEO operation.

During the transit, OGDEN was required to conduct an UNREP of opportunity with the USS PRAIRIE (AD-15) on 09 September.

During preparations for this operation, rehearsals were conducted along with intelligence briefs and planning conferences. Although no NEO operations took place, the ARG was well prepared.

#### VALIANT BLITZ (01-11 November)

VALIANT BLITZ was a joint U. S./South Korea amphibious exercise. The primary purpose of this exercise was to conduct a combined amphibious operation which could be carried out anywhere along the coast of South Korea. All amphibious assets were brought to bear in a highly successful operation, which clearly demonstrated the flexibility of amphibious assaults.

During this exercise, PHIBRON THREE shifted his flag to OGDEN and remained embarked throughout the exercise.