



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS OGDEN (LPD 5)
FPO AP 96674-1708

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IN REPLY REFER TO

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15 MAR 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

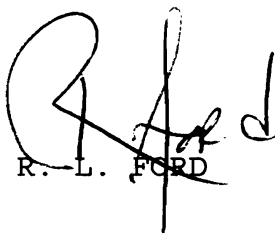
(2) Chronology

(3) Narrative

(4) Commanding Officer's Biography

(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.


R. L. FORD

Copy to:

COMPHIBGRU THREE

Command Composition and Organization

Mission: This "Austin-class" amphibious transport dock is an "all-purpose" ship which employs the "balanced load" concept. OGDEN is capable of carrying troops, cargo and tanks. In addition it operates troop and cargo-carrying helicopters to project assault forces inland in support of the beachhead from the helicopter landing platform. It has the capability to simultaneously launch amphibious assaults by sea and air. The LPD combines the functions of four different classes of ships; the dock landing ship (LSD), the tank landing ship (LST), the attack transport (LPA), and the attack cargo ship (LKA).

Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Amphibious Group THREE

Homeport: San Diego, California

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Commanding Officer:	CAPT D. A. Rauch, USN	(1 Jan - 17 May 96)
	CDR R. L. Ford, USN	(17 May - present)
Executive Officer:	LCDR M. A. Garza, USN	(1 Jan - 11 Dec 96)
	LCDR T. L. Hart, USN	(11 Oct - present)
Chief Engineer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 1 Jun 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jun - present)
Operations Officer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 18 Oct 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USNR	(19 Oct - present)
First Lieutenant:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 24 May 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(25 May - 16 Aug 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(17 Aug - present)
Aviation Officer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 1 Feb 96)
	LCDR [REDACTED], USN	(2 Feb - 31 Dec 96)
Supply Officer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 28 Jun 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(29 Jun - present)
Navigator:	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Jan - 1 Feb 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Feb - 1 Sep 96)
	LT [REDACTED], USN	(1 Sep 96 - present)

Enclosure (1)

Chronology for 1996

January - April 1996:	Yard Period
May 1996:	CART
3 - 7 June 1996:	TSTA-1
29 - 31 July 1996:	AOT-1
12 - 18 August 1996:	AOT-II
26-30 August 1996:	TSTA-II
3-6 September 1996:	TSTA-II
9-13 September 1996:	TSTA-II
19 September 1996:	Broadway Pier Visit
21 - 25 October 1996:	LMA
28-31 October 1996:	ECERT
1 November 1996:	TSTA-III
6-15 November 1996:	COMPUTEX
14-15 November 1996:	FEP
18-22 November 1996:	CSRR/SESI
16-18 December 1996:	Ammo Onload

NARRATIVE

1 January found USS OGDEN in the South West Maritime shipyard undergoing an overhaul that would last until April. Once out of the shipyard, OGDEN began the training cycle with the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training I and II in May. Afloat Training Group visited OGDEN from June 3 to 7 for Tailored Ship Training Availability I. OGDEN got back to what it does best, amphibious landings, in July with Amphibious Orientation Training I. From the 29th to the 31st, OGDEN invaded the Southern California coastline off Camp Pendleton. The ship once again landed amphibious craft in AOT II from 12 to 18 August.

USS OGDEN started the evaluated training phase with TSTA II on the 26th of August. By the 13th of September, the ship had demonstrated many of it's warfare skills were at the Final Evaluation Period level, which made that inspection go by much faster. On September 19th, the crew was able to show off the finest LPD in the fleet at the Broadway Pier in San Diego, when it was open to the public. The ship closed out the TSTA cycle with TSTA III from 28 October to 01 November.

OGDEN's Engineering Certification was a hard fought victory. The shipyard period was shorter than planned, so many large repairs were put off. The crews determination and persistence paid off as OGDEN achieved one of the highest scores in Amphibious Group Three history. OGDEN was awarded the Engineering E for it's efforts. OGDEN also won the Supply E for it's outstanding Logistics Management Assessment in October.

Out of the training cycle, OGDEN started her fleet work-ups with COMPTUEX from 06 to 15 November. During this exercise she worked with the USS BOXER, USS FORT FISHER, USS CHANDLER, 15th MEU(SOC) and Navy SEALs to conduct amphibious landings and small boat raids off the coast of Southern California and San Clemente Island. The Amphibious Ready Group also had to avoid opposing force surface, air, and sub-surface threats. At the end of that underway, OGDEN also successfully completed her Final Evaluation Period scenario which combined with the successful ECERT in October, made OGDEN fully deployable. The ship on loaded ammunition at Seal Beach, California from 16 to 18 December to prepare for the upcoming adventure.

The Crew went on it's holiday stand down after returning from Seal Beach. The rest was much deserved, the ship ended up adding to the Engineering and Supply Excellence Awards with the Command and Control and Warfare Excellence Awards. OGDEN won every Excellence Award except the Battle E for calendar year 1996. The ship's outstanding performance and the much needed CHT work completed in the yards greatly increased morale and re-enlistment. OGDEN was awarded the Silver Anchor for retention.