



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

Rec'd 5/24/00  
W. O. Clark  
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser 00/069  
19 May 00

From: Commanding Officer, USS OGDEN (LPD 5)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) CNO (N09BH) ltr 5757 Ser 09BH/SH/0U505832 of  
14 Mar 00  
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In response to reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted in accordance with reference (b).

M. C. HIPP  
By direction

Copy to:  
COMPHIBGRU THREE

### COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Mission: OGDEN is an AUSTIN-class amphibious transport dock (LPD) which employs a "balanced load" concept. Capable of carrying troops, cargo, tanks, and helicopters, OGDEN can simultaneously launch amphibious assaults by sea and air. OGDEN 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:	CDR R. L. Ford, USN	01JAN98 - 31JAN98
	CDR K. K. McNees, USN	31JAN98 - 31DEC98
Executive Officer:	LCDR T. L. Hart, USN	01JAN98 - 10MAR98
	LCDR P. C. Grgas, USN	10MAR98 - 31DEC98
Chief Engineer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 10AUG98
	LT [REDACTED], USN	10AUG98 - 31DEC98
Operations Officer:	LCDR [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 23OCT98
	LT [REDACTED], USNR	23OCT98 - 31DEC98
First Lieutenant:	LCDR [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 25JAN98
	LT [REDACTED], USN	25JAN98 - 31DEC98
Aviation Officer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 31DEC98
Supply Officer:	LT [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 31OCT98
	LT [REDACTED], USN	31OCT98 - 31DEC98
Navigator:	LT [REDACTED], USN	01JAN98 - 27FEB98
	LTJG [REDACTED], USN	27FEB98 - 31DEC98

### CHRONOLOGY

1 January	-	23 March	DPMA
31 January			Change of Command
23 March	-	27 March	ASIR
6 April	-	8 April	Sea Trials
14 April	-	16 April	Type Training
20 April	-	23 April	LATR Inspection
11 May	-	15 May	CART II
18 May	-	5 June	PBAT
26 May	-	15 August	PACTRAMID
8 June	-	3 July	TSTA I
13 July	-	6 August	TSTA II
10 August	-	21 August	AST
24 August	-	29 August	AOT (SUMMER STORM 98)
2 September	-	3 September	ECERT
28 September	-	2 October	TSTA III
6 October	-	16 October	Fleet Week (San Francisco)
27 October	-	29 October	FEP
9 November	-	13 November	LMA
16 November	-	20 November	Type Training
1 December	-	4 December	Type Training
12 December	-	31 December	Holiday Leave and Upkeep

## NARRATIVE

New Year's Day 1998 found USS OGDEN in the South West Marine dry-dock undergoing an extensive overhaul that would last until March. During the overhaul, much needed maintenance to the engineering plant was completed, as well as the first phase in a habitability project which would last the entire year and result in the upgrade of all crew, troop, and officer living spaces. During the shipyard period, all original crew berthing spaces and heads were gutted and replaced with new, modern furnishings. This much needed overhaul resulted in increased morale for all hands.

While still in dry-dock, Commander Kevin K. McNees relieved Commander Robert L. Ford in a traditional Change of Command ceremony.

Following the shipyard period, OGDEN began its training cycle. Concurrent with the training cycle, the second phase of the habitability project was completed. This included the gutting and refurbishment of all troop berthing spaces and heads. Old canvas racks were replaced with the more modern racks commonly found in crew berthing areas. This quality of life upgrade will undoubtedly increase morale and extend the ship's serviceable life.

The training cycle began with a Logistics Administration Training Review (LATR) the week of 20 April. LATR was an assist visit which identified areas in which OGDEN needed to work to prepare for the Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) later in the year.

OGDEN's next challenge was CART II during the week of 11 May. OGDEN excelled during CART II with the Combat Systems Training Team (CSTT) and the Navigation portion of the Seamanship Training Team (STT) being evaluated at the TSTA II level. The rest of the training teams also did well during CART II and were evaluated at the TSTA I level.

During Tailored Ship's Training Availability Phase One (TSTA I), held from 8 June to 3 July, the CSTT and Navigation portion of STT were evaluated as ready for training at the TSTA III level. All other teams were evaluated as ready for training at the TSTA II level. With only one week's rest, OGDEN underwent the challenge of TSTA II from 13 July to 6 August. During TSTA II, all remaining training teams were evaluated as ready for training at the TSTA III level.

Next, OGDEN took a break from the TSTA cycle to conduct amphibious training. This began on 10 August with two weeks of Amphibious Specialty Training (AST). OGDEN had the opportunity

to train with Landing Crafts Air Cushion (LCACs), Landing Crafts Utility (LCUs), Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs), and LARCs, as well as many different Marine units. During AST, OGDEN expertly executed more than forty successful amphibious landings and recoveries, earning high praise from evaluators from the Navy Boat Unit. OGDEN was the first ship to participate in the newly created AST program and the results were extremely positive, providing valuable experience to the crew and setting the standards for all amphibs.

AST was followed by Amphibious Operational Training (AOT), also known as SUMMER STORM 98. During AOT, held during the week of 24 August, OGDEN operated as part of an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with USS PELELIU and USS JUNEAU. The ARG was tasked with conducting a coordinated amphibious attack, which included LCACs, LCUs, AAVs, helicopters, and fixed-wing aerial support. OGDEN performed superbly during this challenging exercise, again earning praise from evaluators. By embarking a reporter from the Chicago Sun Times, OGDEN helped tell the Navy/Marine Corps story, resulting in a front-page feature in the Sunday edition.

Following AOT, OGDEN successfully completed Engineering Certification (ECERT) with no major discrepancies.

OGDEN returned to the TSTA cycle by conducting a self-evaluated TSTA III during the week of 28 September. The Integrated Training Team (ITT) developed a set of comprehensive and challenging drills. The crew rose to the challenge, proving itself ready for the Final Evaluation Period (FEP).

On 6 October, OGDEN departed San Diego for five days of liberty in San Francisco during Fleet Week '98. OGDEN joined USS BENFOLD (DDG 65), USS BRIDGE (AOE 10), HMCS SASKATOON, and USCGC CHASE. All five ships steamed under the Golden Gate Bridge in a parade led by San Francisco fire and police boats. The liberty was outstanding and OGDEN hosted a number of visitors and tour groups.

FEP was held the week of 27 October. Once again, the crew excelled through multiple drill scenarios as well as a Total Ship Survivability Exercise (TSSE). OGDEN succeeded in every aspect of FEP, earning the opportunity to move beyond the basic phase of training and begin conducting work-ups for the upcoming deployment.

OGDEN conducted a Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) from 9-12 November, during which the Food Service division earned a score of "Excellent."

OGDEN put to sea twice more in 1998 for Type Training, once during the week of 16 November and once during the week of 1 December.

On 23 December, 180 days before the scheduled Arabian Gulf/Western Pacific deployment, OGDEN began reporting to Amphibious Squadron ONE, Commanded by Captain William Hopper, for operational matters.

OGDEN ended the year as it began with a holiday leave and upkeep period.