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USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
FPO NEW YORK 09501

1979
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

LHA2/01Q:ara
5750
Ser C-5
March 11, 1980

~~██████████~~ AL - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (2)

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History, 1979 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History, 1979, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
(2) Citations, Commendations, Awards and Congratulatory Messages Received

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

R. G. Murphy
R. G. MURPHY

Copy to: (w/o enclosures)
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMPHIBRON EIGHT

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
1 JAN 79 - 31 DEC 79

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

- (1) Captain F. W. Johnston
15 October 1977 - 13 January 1979
- (2) Captain J. R. Allingham
13 January 1979 - 2 June 1979
- (3) Captain R. G. Murphy
2 June 1979 - 31 December 1979

b. Mission

- (1) 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 all three.
- (2) Evacuation and disaster relief.

c. Composition of Command

(1) The crew of USS SAIPAN consists of 54 officers and 827 enlisted men. Additional units embarked when fully loaded include a Marine Amphibious Unit consisting of a Battalion Landing Team and a composite helicopter squadron.

d. Homeport

- (1) U. S. Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

2. Summary of Operations

- a. 1 JAN 79 - 25 APR 79 - Post Shakedown Availability, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Drydock.
- b. 25 APR 79 - 27 APR 79 - Underway for sea trials in Virginia Capes Operating Area.
- c. 27 APR 79 - 21 MAY 79 - Upkeep, NAVSTA Norfolk.
- d. 21 MAY - 23 MAY 79 - Ammunition Onload at Hampton Roads Anchorage.
- e. 23 MAY 79 - 26 MAY 79 - Independent Steaming Exercise (ISE) Virginia Capes.

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Enclosure (1)

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- f. 26 MAY 79 - 11 JUN 79 Inport NAVSTA, Norfolk Upkeep.
- g. 11 JUN 79 - 14 JUN 79 Independent Steaming Exercise Virginia Capes Operating Area.
- h. 14 JUN 79 - 19 JUN 79 Underway; Enroute to Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Fleet Refresher Training.
- i. 19 JUN 79 - 10 JUL 79 Assigned to Task Unit 43.2.3 for Fleet Refresher Training, Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- j. 11 JUL 79 - 12 JUL 79 Underway; Enroute to Special Operations off the Coast of Nicaragua in support of possible evacuation of American Embassy personnel. Four United States Air Force HH-53 Aircraft of the 41st and the 55th Airborne Rescue and Recovery Squadrons (ARRS) onboard under the command of USAF COL B. Kamhoot.
- k. 12 JUL 79 - 15 JUL 79 on station off the Coast of Nicaragua. Thirty man modified Infantry Platoon of 193RD Infantry Brigade, Fory Amador, Canal Zone arrived onboard in support of special contingency operations.
- l. 15 JUL 79 - 29 JUL 79 on station off the Coast of Nicaragua
- m. 29 JUL 79 - 31 JUL 79 Special Contingency Operations complete. 193 Infantry Brigade personnel off-loaded to Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone. USS SAIPAN underway, enroute to Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for resumption of Fleet Refresher Training. Off-load four USAF HH-53 Aircraft.
- n. 1 AUG 79 - 6 AUG 79 Fleet Refresher Training resumed with final Battle Problem completed 6 August 1979.
- o. 6 AUG 79 - 9 AUG 79 Underway, enroute NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- p. 9 AUG 79 - 24 AUG 79 Restricted Availability, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- q. 24 AUG 79 - 4 SEP 79 Upkeep, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- r. 27 AUG 79 - 1 SEP 79 Amphibious Refresher Training Readiness Evaluation.
- s. 4 SEP 79 - 7 SEP 79 Amphibious Refresher Training, Virginia Capes Operating Area.
- t. 8 SEP 79 - 9 SEP 79 Inport, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA
- u. 10 SEP 79 - 21 SEP 79 Amphibious Refresher Training Virginia Capes Operating Area with Amphibious Landing at Onslow Beach, North Carolina.

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- v. 21 SEP 79 - 26 SEP 79 Upkeep, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- w. 27 SEP 79 - 28 SEP 79 September-Operational Propulsion Plant Evaluation (OPPE).
- x. 29 SEP 79 - 1 OCT 79 Inport NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- y. 1 OCT 79 - 7 OCT 79 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area Conducting CNO Project to Evaluate Flight Parameters of AH-1T and AV-8 B and C Aircraft.
- z. 8 OCT 79 - 9 OCT 79 Underway, enroute NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- aa. 9 OCT 79 - 10 OCT 79 Inport NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- bb. 10 OCT 79 - 11 OCT 79 Underway for Onslow Beach, NC for Amphibious Operations with 36th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU).
- cc. 11 OCT 79 - 15 OCT 79 Anchored off Onslow Bay, NC for Amphibious Operations.
- dd. 15 OCT 79 - 16 OCT 79 Underway, enroute NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- ee. 16 OCT 79 - 23 OCT 79 Upkeep, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- ff. 24 OCT 79 - 25 OCT 79 Ammunition Off-load, Craney Island, VA.
- gg. 25 OCT 79 - 26 OCT 79 Fuel Off-load, Chesapeake Bay Whiskey Anchorage.
- hh. 26 OCT 79 - 27 OCT 79 Inport Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.
- ii. 28 OCT 79 - 31 DEC 79 Repair Availability Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, VA.

3. Special Topics

a. Major command problems encountered during calendar 1979 include those problems with personnel, material and supply typically associated with new weapons systems of infinite complexity.

b. Significant Statistics

- (1) Hours Flown 454 (Ship's Utility Aircraft)
- (2) Landings 1521

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c. Weapons

- (1) Three 5 Inch/54 Caliber Guns Mark 45 MOD 0
- (2) Six 20MM Machine Guns Mark 16 MOD 5
- (3) Two Basic Point Defense Missile Launchers Mark
25 MOD 0
- (4) Mark 15 MOD 0 Fire Control System
- (5) Mark 86 MOD 4 Fire Control System

d. N/A

e. N/A

f. N/A

g. N/A

h. N/A

i. N/A

4. Documentary Annexes

a. N/A

b. N/A

c. N/A

d. N/A

e. N/A

f. Refer to enclosure (2). Congratulatory messages received in conjunction with Special Contingency Operations in support of the possible evacuation of American Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua during July 1979.

g. N/A

h. N/A

i. N/A