



USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
FPO NEW YORK 09549

LHA2/32:dn
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2), Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: Command History, 1982 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (A) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History 1982, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
(2) Exercise National Week Narrative
(3) Equipment Washdown/Turnover in Rota, Spain
(4) Homecoming February 1982
(5) Establishment of Combat Systems Department
(6) Ocean Venture 1982
(7) Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Qualification
(8) Harborfest 1982
(9) Dependents Cruise
(10) SAIPAN Battle "E" Awards
(11) SAIPAN Sports
(12) Complex Overhaul Norfolk Naval Shipyard
(13) Tours and Visits
(14) Working Visits and Conferences

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (14) are forwarded.

J. W. RENARD

Copy to:
Director Naval History (OP-09BH)
COMPHIBGRU TWO (w/o enclosures)

COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
1JAN82 - 31DEC82

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. Commanding Officer

Captain John. W. Renard, USN

b. Mission

To embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine Amphibious Landing Force in an assault by helicopters, landing craft, amphibious vehicles, or in a combination of all three methods. Evacuation and disaster relief is a secondary mission of SAIPAN and other LHA's.

c. Composition of Command

SAIPAN's enlisted Navy crew strength is 837 men. In addition, there are 60 officers. Carrying components of several different Marine Corps Commands, SAIPAN carries 1,730 troops and 172 embarked officers.

d. Units Embarked

(1) MARG 3-81 (3 SEP 81 - 24 FEB 82)

- a. Commander Amphibious Squadron Two
- b. Commander 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit
- c. Commander Battalion Landing Team 2/6
- d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264
- e. Assault Craft Unit Two
- f. Tactical Air Control Squadron 22 DET MIKE

(2) OCEAN VENTURE 82 (1-28 May 82)

- a. Commander Amphibious Group Two
- b. Commanding General 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade
- c. Commander Battalion Landing Team 1/8
- d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264
- e. Assault Craft Unit Two
- f. Tactical Air Control Squadron 22 DET KILO

(3) HARBOR FESTIVAL 82 (2-5 JUL 82)

- a. Commander Amphibious Group Two
- b. Assault Craft Unit Two Detachment
- c. Beachmaster Group Two Detachment

e. Homeport: Naval Station Norfolk, Va

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

- a. 1-3 Jan Inport Barcelona, Spain
- b. 4-5 Jan Enroute Toulon, France
- c. 6-17 Jan Restricted Availability, Toulon, France
- d. 18 Jan Depart Toulon, France
- e. 19-29 Jan Exercise "National Week"
 - (1) 23-27 Jan Commence Participation in Exercise PHIBLEX 1-82 in conjunction with Exercise "National Week" (Enclosure 2)
 - (2) 28 Jan Conclusion of Exercise "National Week"
 - (3) 29 Jan "National Week" PXD
 - (4) 29 Jan - 3 Feb Command Inspection by COMPHIBRON TWO
- f. 30-31 Jan Enroute Palma De Mallorca, Spain
- g. 1-4 Feb Inport Palma, Spain Portvisit
 - (1) 1 Feb Personnel Inspection
 - (2) 3 Feb Concluded Command Inspection
- h. 5-6 Feb Enroute Rota, Spain
- i. 7-10 Feb Inport Rota, Spain for Equipment Washdown and Turnover with MARG 1-82 (Enclosure 3)
- j. 11 Feb Depart Rota, Spain Enroute CONUS
- k. 12-21 Feb Enroute Morehead City, NC
- l. 22-23 Feb Offload 32 MAU, BLT 2/6, HMM-264 Morehead City, NC
- m. 23 Feb Embark Civilian Guests/Dependents for return trip to Norfolk Virginia
- n. 24 Feb Arrive Naval Station, Norfolk, VA after forward deployment (3 Sep81-24Feb82) to Mediterranean and Indian Ocean (Enclosure 4)

- o. 25 Feb - 25 Apr Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA
portside to south side pier 7
 - (1) 2 Mar COMPHIBRON TWO Debark
 - (2) 5 Mar COMPHIBGRU TWO and 4 MAB
Staffs Embark
 - (3) 9-31 Mar IMAV USS PIEDMONT (AD-17)
 - (4) 15 Mar COMPHIBGRU TWO Breaks Flag
 - (5) 19 Mar 4 MAB Breaks Flag
 - (6) 1 Apr Combat Systems Department
Established (Enclosure 5)
 - (7) 21 Apr Marine Embark for Exercise OCEAN
VENTURE 82
- p. 26 Apr Anchored in WHISKEY Anchorage
for Ammunition Onload
- q. 27 Apr Inport Naval Station, Norfolk,
VA
- r. 28 Apr Underway for Morehead City, NC
- s. 29-30 Apr Anchored off Morehead City, NC
to Onload Elements of 4 MAB
- t. 1 May Underway, "OCEAN VENTURE 82" Re-
hersal Landing at Onslow Beach,
NC
- u. 2-6 May Underway, Enroute to Caribbean
Operations area for Exercise
"OCEAN VENTURE 82" (Enclosure 8)
- v. 7 May D-DAY at Vieques Island, Marine
Landing Force ashore
- w. 8-11 May At anchor/underway off shore
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico in
support of Exercise "OCEAN
VENTURE 82"
 - (1) 9 May Underway, conducted Naval Gun-
fire Support Exercise Quali-
fications (Enclosure 7)
 - (2) 11 May At anchor, Tactical Withdrawl of
Troops from Vieques Island
- x. 12 May Underway enroute to Roosevelt
Roads, Puerto Rico

y.	13-15 May	Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for Equipment Washdown
z.	16-18 May	Underway, enroute to Nassau, Bahamas
aa.	19-22 May	Inport Nassau, Bahamas Portvisit
bb.	23 May	Depart Nassau, Bahamas
cc.	24-25 May	Enroute Morehead City, NC
dd.	26 May	At anchor off Morehead City, NC to offload 4 MAB Landing Force and Embarked Squadron Personnel
ee.	27 May	Underway, enroute to Norfolk, VA
ff.	28 May	Arrive Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
gg.	29 May - 28 June	Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
	(1) 26-27 Jun	Open House Ship for Naval Station
	(2) 28 Jun	4 MAB departs, shifts to USS MT WHITNEY (LCC-20)
hh.	29 Jun	Underway for WHISKEY Anchorage Ammunition Offload
ii.	30 Jun	Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
jj.	1 Jul	Underway for New York City and participation in "HARBORFEST 82" (Enclosure 8)
kk.	2-5 Jul	Inport New York City, NY
ll.	6 Jul	Underway for Norfolk, VA SECNAV Guest Cruise
mm.	7-21 Jul	Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
	(1) 12 Jul	COMPHIBGRU TWO departs, shifts flag to USS NASSAU (LHA-4)

nn.	22-24 Jul	Underway in Virginia Capes OPAREA for Amphibious Type Training/Reserve Helo CQ
	(1) 23 Jul	Dependents Day Cruise (Enclosure 9)
oo.	25-28 Jul	WHISKEY Anchorage for Ammunition Offload
pp.	29 Jul - 20 Aug	Inport Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
qq.	2-3 Aug	INSURV Inspection
rr.	20 Aug	Underway for Norfolk Naval Ship- yard, Portsmouth, VA for scheduled eleven month complex overhaul, moored starboard side - Berth 42/43
ss.	20 Aug - 31 Dec	Inport Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA undergoing com- plex overhaul (Enclosure 12)
	(1) 11 Oct	Shifted from Berth 42/43 to Dry- dock 8
	(2) 15 Oct	SAIPAN Birthday

3. SPECIAL TOPICS

Major Command Problems -

SAIPAN early on identified manning problems peculiar to LHA class ships and offered recommended solutions. LHA's were originally conceived under the reduced manning concept whereby manpower requirements were reduced thru the use of automated systems. However, automatic systems do not perform maintenance and during overhaul the increased demand for ship's manpower makes even routine maintenance of SAIPAN's 1400 spaces difficult.

4. SIGNIFICANT STATISTICAL DATA

Miles Steamed:	12,842		
Aircraft landings day:	1979	helicopter	0 AV-8
night:	620	helicopter	0 AV-8

Aircraft Embarked:

MAR 3-81

4 - CH-53D
12 - CH-46E
4 - AH-1T
3 - UH-1N
980 day landings
211 night landings

NYC Port Visit

1 UH-1N
1 AH-1T
1 CH-46E
1 CH-53D

OCEAN VENTURE 82

12 CH-46E
2 CH-46A
2 CH-53D
888 day landings
323 night landings

Underway Replenishment:

Refueled USS OBANNON (DD-987), USS BLAKELY (FF-1072),
USS PREBLE (DDG-46) and USS BARNEY (DDG-6). Transferred a total
of 418,619 gallons DFM.

Exercise "NATIONAL WEEK"

Commencing on 19 January 1982, Sixth Fleet commenced exercise "NATIONAL WEEK", in which SAIPAN was a major participant. Conducted in the western Mediterranean, NATIONAL WEEK assessed the efficiency of Sixth Fleet units and their ability to sustain an advanced but selective state of readiness posture. Also tested was the Sixth Fleet war fighting capability in a multi-threat (air-land-sea) environment. Assigned to Commander Task Force 61 (COMPHIBRON TWO), SAIPAN was tasked to prepare for the evacuation of non-combatants and to conduct amphibious operations of NATO's southern flank.

With the Marines of Comander Task Force 62 (32nd Marine Amphibious Unit) embarked, SAIPAN departed Toulon, France, on 18 January 1982 and proceeded to a position south of Sardinia. Escorting CTF 61 units were USS EISENHOWER, USS BELKNAP, USS COMTE GRASSE, USS PETERSON and USS PATTERSON. During the 18 January - 23 January transit time from Toulon to the amphibious operating area off Cape Serrat, Tunisia, SAIPAN and units in company were subjected to simulated air, surface and sub-surface attacks by designated Sixth Fleet aggressor units simulating Soviet Naval combatants. Arriving off the Coast of Cape Serrat on the evening of 23 January 1982, SAIPAN along with USS RALEIGH and USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY conducted a rehearsal (turn away) landing on 24 January 1982 prior to actually landing the Marines of 32 MAU on the morning of 25 January 1982 at Cape Serrat.

Additional exercise training included the embarkation of Tunisian Marines for a helicopter-lifted assault exercise; close air support from USS EISENHOWER embarked aircraft; and UDT/SEAL beach and underwater demolition exercises. Troops were backloaded on 27-28 January and exercise "NATIONAL WEEK" officially concluded on 29 January 1982.

COMBAT SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED

On April 1, 1982 a new department came to life onboard SAIPAN. Combat Systems Department, pulled ratings from the ship's Operations and Deck Departments to form a department expressly for maintenance and operation of all weapons systems, sensors and maintenance of communications equipment onboard the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Flagship.

Rates which included Data Processing Technicians, Data Systems Technicians, Electronic Technicians, Electronic Warfare Technicians, Fire Control Technicians and Gunners Mates, were all combined, giving the department the expertise and closeness needed to tend to the many complex electronic systems aboard SAIPAN.

Combat Systems has the responsibility of overall weapon systems coordinations, providing the communicators with the equipment they need to support both the ship and embarked staffs in the most demanding of communications environments.

While deployed on Exercise "OCEAN VENTURE 82" in the Caribbean, the Combat Systems Team got their chance to function as a unit in a weapons related function for the first time. SAIPAN, using a joint Combat Systems Department effort, punched out a range score of 89% in qualifying on the Naval Gunfire Support Range at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. The time involved was a significant factor, as the teamwork of the new department reduced a normally two day exercise into a one afternoon affair.

NGFS QUALIFICATIONS

SAIPAN did more than simply qualify in Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) during OCEAN VENTURE 82 with an average score of 89%. The ship achieved the highest score ever by an East Coast LHA, and possibly the highest ever by an LHA. Furthermore, the manner of qualification, compared even to ships for which NGFS is a primary mission, was remarkable.

Paraphrasing the Range Officer at Vieques, Puerto Rico, "SAIPAN was the first ship in several years to qualify in one afternoon firing each required exercise only once." The qualification and the accolades are a credit to the NGFS Team of OS's, FTG's, and QM's who practiced long hours to make it all possible, and to the superb maintenance efforts of the FTG's and Gunner's Mates, whose fire control equipment and gunmounts worked flawlessly throughout the qualification.

COMPLEX OVERHAUL NORFOLK NAVAL SHIPYARD

SAIPAN hosted a Work Definition Conference 18 Jan 82 in Toulon, France to begin final preparations for a Complex Overhaul (COH) scheduled from 6 Jul 82 to 14 June 83. Established manday rates for overhaul were:

a. TYCOM (items funded by Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic Fleet) repairs and alternations \$315.76 per manday.

b. NAVSEA (Ship Alts funded by Naval Sea Systems Command) \$310.78 per manday.

SAIPAN SARP (Ship Alterations and Repair Package) was promulgated in Feb 82 and a review conference was held with TYCOM and Readiness Support Group Representatives to assign final responsibilities for work during SAIPAN's overhaul period, i.e., jobs were screened for accomplishment by either Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Intermediate Maintenance Activity or Ship's Force. These decisions were based on capability, cost and manning.

An Advance Planning Progress Brief was held for SAIPAN and Norfolk Naval Shipyard on 27 Apr 82. This brief addressed status of material, planning jobs of a critical nature, manpower distribution, ship's force maintenance interface, and action problems. The total cost of the COH was estimated to be \$61,800,000 or 192,044 mandays.

SAIPAN early on identified manning problems peculiar to LHA class ships and offered recommended solutions. LHA's were originally conceived under the reduced manning concept whereby manpower requirements were reduced through the use of automated systems. However, automatic systems do not perform maintenance and during overhaul the increased demand for ship's manpower makes even routine maintenance of SAIPAN's 1400 spaces difficult.

Although SAIPAN was scheduled to begin overhaul on 6 Jul 82, operational requirements and Norfolk Naval Shipyard work load necessitated a 6 week slip in COH until 20 Aug 82. The scheduled completion date was revised to 27 Jul 83.

SAIPAN entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard on 20 Aug 82 to commence the forty-eight week industrial period. Thirty-six ship alterations were scheduled of which the most significant was Ship Alt 165, removal of the Automated Propulsion Control systems, at a cost of 24,920 mandays or \$7.7 million.

TOURS AND VISITS

3 Jan	General Visiting Barcelona, Spain; 2150 visitors
11-18 Jan	Restricted visiting Toulon, France; 350 French Naval Officers and enlisted men
13 Jan	Wardroom Overseas Duty Support luncheon for 30 French civilian and military leaders in Toulon, France
4 Feb	Restricted visiting Palma de Mallorca; 150 visitors
18 Mar	LHD Planning Conference tour and lunch; 33 NAVSEA employees
19 Mar	USMC Retired Generals tour and lunch hosted by 4 MAB; 6 visitors
24 Mar	Spanish Senate Delegates tour; 10 visitors
30-31 Mar	USMC Amphibious Warfare Students tour and lunch; 200 visitors total
1 Apr	Canadian Forces Command and Staff College tour; 80 visitors led by Commodore COTARAS, Commandant Canadian Forces College
5 Apr	Armed Forces Staff College tour; 35 visitors
7 Apr	Naval Command College visit; 42 Senior Officers - visit cancelled due to weather
9 Apr	OS "A" School tour and discussions; 30 visitors
16 Apr	OS "A" School tour and discussion; 30 visitors
16-17 Apr	Chinfo RED COM Region 6 PAO officers visit; 4 reserve officers
6 May	Media embark for exercise OCEAN VENTURE 82; 12 media representatives brief visit and overview tour of ship before transfers to USS SHREVEPORT due to change in landing schedule
20-22 May	General visiting Nassau, Bahamas; 6300 visitors
3 Jun	Congressional Staff members tour and lunch; 15 visitors

4 Jun National Photographic Interpretation Center tour and ship orientation; 12 visitors

5-6 Jun COMPHIBGRU TWO Reserve training tours; 4 officer, 4 enlisted reservists

21 Jun Congressional Delegation; House Agricultural Committee; 9 visitors
Cancelled due to Congressional business

26-27 Jun General visiting for NOB Operation Home Port; 1075 visitors

27 Jun Belvidere, NJ Boy Scout visit and tour; 25 visitors

27 Jun -
11 Jul Chinfo Reserv Unit 206 embark for Active Duty Training

30 Jun -
9 JUL Uniformed Service University of Health Science Student Orientation Embark; 1 Female, 3 Males

2-6 Jul General visiting New York City Harborfest 82; 25,650 visitors

5-6 Jul Congressional Staff embark for return transit from NYC to Norfolk; 3 staff members -

Mr. Timothy Kernan, Staff, Rep Clarence Long (D-MD)
Mr. Steven Merrill, Staff, Rep Clarence Long (D-MD)
Mr. William A. Cook, Staff, Rep Floyd Spence (R-SC)

9 Jul OS "A" School tour and discussion; 30 visitors

21 Jul Midshipman Orientation tour; 80 Naval Academy
20 ROTC

22-26 Jul Female Surface Warfare Officer training embarked; 6 officers

14 Aug RTC Great Lakes "Triple Threat" Team visit and overnight berthing; 100 recruits

ONBOARD WORKING VISITS/CONFERENCE

MARCH

Electromagnetic Interference/Waterfront Corrective Action Program
NAVSEACENLANT Main Condenser Inspection (1-2)
4 MAB TACMEMO Conference (1)
BPDSMS MK128 Visit (9-11)
SARP Conference (16)
LHD Design Team Visit (18)
Shipboard Safety Review (22-23)
Asbestos Survey (25)
3M Assist Visit (25-26)
Antenna EMI Survey Assist Visit (29 Mar-9Apr)
NGFS MTT (29Mar-2Apr)

APRIL

LHD Design Visit (1)
NODAC Journalist Interview (5)
Chemical Holding Tank Shipcheck (5)
TACENVSUPSYS Visit (5)
J.O. Detailer Visit (5)
Medical Assist Team Visit (7)
Laundry Assist Team Visit (12-13)
Nutrition Training for MS's (14)
Shipboard Safety Standdown (16)
Classic Ascot Conference (16)
BPDMS RFI Investigation (21-22)
Postal Visit (22)
Aviation Safety Standdown (26)

MAY

Deployed for Exercise OCEAN VENTURE 82

JUNE

Engineering Operating Cycle Program Visit (1-4)
Physical Security Visit (2-3)
Sewage Treatment Visit (3-4)
CDC Visit (10)
Chinfo Reserve Embark (17 Jun - 11 July)
NAVMMACLANT Visit (21-25)
Navy Food Management Assist Team (21-25)
EPIC Visit (21-23)
NAVSTA New York Representatives Visit (22)
AIMD PMRM Verification (23-24)
COMNAVSURFLANT Safety Training Seminar (28)
FOSAT Visit (28)

JULY

Cargo Fuel System Check (1-2)
Engineering Visit (Main Feed Pump/Vacuum Pump) (1-9)

Medical Student Visit (1-9)
Flight Deck Scrubber Demonstration Visit (9)
GAO Visit (12)
CCTV Visit (13)
Main Feed Pump Visit (13-17)
Sewage Treatment Plant Inspection (14-15)
3M Inspection (14-16)
Diesel Engine Inspection (19-21)
AIMD Visit (21)

AUGUST

INSURV (2-4)
Engineering Student Visit (10)
Laundry Assist Team (16)
PMS Documentation Visit (16)

SEPTEMBER

Nutrition Briefing (7)
CATCC DAIR MTG (8-10)
Pollution Control Visit (10)
NAVELEX Fleet Support MTG (14-15)
Mercury Survey (20)
Energy Conservation Meeting (22)

OCTOBER

Acoustic Alarm Meeting (1)
Frozen Blood Bank Visit (19-20)
SOSMRC Visit (28)

NOVEMBER

Safety Standdown (8)
SMD Review (8)
Career Counselor Training (15-19)
Safety Officer Workshop (18-19)

DECEMBER

No Visits/Conferences