



1983

**USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
FPO NEW YORK 09549**

5750  
Ser LHA2:03/397  
27 AUG 1984

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
**To:** Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2), Navy Department,  
Washington, D.C. 20350

**Subj:** COMMAND HISTORY, 1983 (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

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

**Encl:** (1) Command History 1983, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
(2) Navy Achievement Medal Presented to Crewman  
(3) SAIPAN Wins Admiral's Cup  
(4) SAIPAN Officer is Folkdancer  
(5) Photo Coverage of Grenada  
(6) Joint Navy-Army Operations-Grenada  
(7) Combat Cargo's Role at Grenada  
(8) Crewmen Entertain at VA Beach Hospital  
(9) One Copy of "SEAFARER" Familygram

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) thru (9) are forwarded.

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

  
D. M. BENNETT



COMMAND HISTORY  
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
1 JAN 83 - 31 DEC 83

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

Capt. John W. Renard, USN, 1 JAN 83 - 13 MAY 83  
Capt. David M. Bennett, USN, 14 MAY 83 - 31 DEC 83

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. Evaluation and disaster relief is a secondary mission of SAIPAN and other LHA's.

c. 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. Operation "URGENT FURY"-Grenada (30 OCT 83 - 7 NOV 83)

- a. Commander Second Fleet
- b. Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-FOUR

e. Homeport: Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

2. Summary of Operations

- a. 1 JAN - 21 JULY Inport, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA undergoing complex overhaul
- b. 13 MAY Change of Command
- c. 21 JULY Communications suite modernization completed
- d. 21-31 JULY Inport, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, VA, North Side, Pier 7
- e. 1-4 AUG WHISKEY ANCHORAGE for ammunition onload
- f. 5-7 AUG Inport, NOB, Norfolk, VA
- g. 8-11 AUG Deperming at Magnetic Silencing Facility, Norfolk, VA
- h. 12-28 AUG Inport, NOB, Norfolk, VA

- i. 29-30 AUG Underway in Virginia Capes OPAREA
- j. 1-20 SEP Inport, NOB, Norfolk, VA
  - (1) 13 SEP Frozen blood lab installed for feasibility study. Only ship in fleet to have such a system.
  - (2) 13 SEP Flight Deck Certified
  - (3) 13 SEP Mogas System Certified (first time)
- k. 21 SEP Underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for REFRESHER TRAINING
- l. 22-25 SEP Underway, Enroute to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- m. 26 SEP - 29 OCT REFRESHER TRAINING, in/vicinity of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- n. 15 OCT SAIPAN Birthday
- o. 30-31 OCT Underway, Enroute Operation "URGENT FURY" (Grenada)
- p. 1-7 NOV "URGENT FURY" Ops in support of CJTF in vicinity of Grenada
- q. 8-10 NOV Underway, Enroute Norfolk, VA
- r. 11 NOV Return to homeport, NOB
- s. 12 NOV - 31 DEC Inport, NOB, Norfolk, VA

3. Significant Statistical Data

Miles Steamed: 7,116

Aircraft Landings: day: 190  
 night: 2

Aircraft Embarked:

URGENT FURY

1 UH-1N  
 121 day landings  
 2 night landings