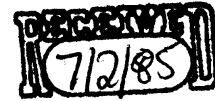




USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
FPO NEW YORK 09549



1984

5750  
Ser LHA2:01Q/ 275  
18 JUN 1985

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, 1984 (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History 1984, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
(2) April 1984 issue of Seafarer (Ship's Familygram)  
(3) Summary of Resmabex Phalanx Sound II  
(4) Change of Command Brochure  
(5) Change of Command Story  
(6) Last Plank Owner Story  
(7) Workup's Story of NEO OPS

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded.

W. L. WEST

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

*Logan*

COMMAND HISTORY  
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)  
1 JAN 84 - 31 DEC 84

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

Captain David M. Bennett, USN, 1 JAN 84 - 14 SEP 84  
Captain Ward L. West, USN, 1 SEP 84 - 31 DEC 84

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. 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) TEAMWORK 84

- (a) Commander Amphibious Group Two
- (b) RLT 2
- (c) Battalion Landing Team 2/8
- (d) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362
- (e) Assault Craft Unit TWO
- (f) VMO1

(2) Resmabex Phalanx Sound II

- (a) HQ 2ND MAB
- (b) 2/24 Marines
- (c) 4TH Construction Engineering Battalion
- (d) 4TH RECON
- (e) Marine Air Group (MAG) 20
- (f) Assault Craft Unit TWO

(3) MARG 1-85 Workups

- (a) Commander Amphibious Squadron EIGHT
- (b) 24 MAU
- (c) Battalion Landing Team 2/8
- (d) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162
- (e) Tactical Air Control Squadron TWO ONE
- (f) Assault Craft Unit TWO

e. Homeport: Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia

2. Summary of Operations

JANUARY 1984

JAN 01 - JAN 05 Upkeep inport Norfolk, VA

JAN 05 - JAN 09 (1430) Underway for OPPE Steaming IAW  
C2F OPSKED 2-84

JAN 09 - JAN 16 Upkeep Norfolk, VA, Berth 1, Pier 12

JAN 16 - JAN 22 Underway VACAPES OP Area 14-42

JAN 22 - JAN 23 Anchored Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1. Boat  
onload for Amphibious Refresher Training

JAN 23 - JAN 24 Underway enroute to Onslow bay for Amphibious  
Refresher Training

JAN 24 - JAN 28 Anchored, Onslow Bay, North Carolina for  
Amphibious Refresher Training

JAN 28 - JAN 31 Underway in VACAPES OP Areas 14 through 42  
for Z30-G Gunndery Exercise and Battle  
Readiness Training

JAN 31 - FEB 13 Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Naval Station, Norfolk,  
VA

FEBRUARY 1984

FEB 13 - FEB 13 Underway enroute Whiskey Anchorage

FEB 13 - FEB 14 Anchored in Whiskey Anchorage, Elizabeth River  
for ammunition onload

FEB 14 - FEB 14 Underway enroute Anchorage Lynnhaven, Anchorage  
LA-1 for boat onload

FEB 14 - FEB 15 Underway with USS CHARLESTON enroute to  
Moorehead City, North Carolina

FEB 15 - FEB 16 Anchored in Anchorage E-1, Moorehead City, NC.  
Troop and cargo onload of Marine elements for  
exercise "TEAMWORK 84"

FEB 16 - FEB 28 Underway, enroute to Tromso, Norway to participate  
in Exercise "TEAMWORK 84". Steaming in company  
with USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113) and  
USS RALEIGH (LPD-1)

FEB 28 - MAR 01 Moored South Railway Jetty, Royal Navy Dockyard,  
Portsmouth, England for refueling

MARCH 1984

01 MAR - 05 MAR Underway enroute Tromso, Norway for initial offload and setup for assault in Exercise "TEAMWORK 84", via the English Channel and the Straits of Norway in company with USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113) and USS RALEIGH (LPD-1)

05 MAR - 07 MAR Anchored Mallangen Fjord, Norway for pre-staging

07 MAR - 07 MAR Underway enroute Tromso, Norway

07 MAR - 08 MAR Anchored, Tromso Bay, Norway

08 MAR - 13 MAR Underway enroute Trondhiem, Norway for assault rehearsal, "TEAMWORK 84"

11 MAR 84 (a) UNREP/USNS TRUCKEE/VERTREP

(b) Took Tactical Command of USS CHARLESTON, USS SPARTANBERG COUNTY, USS SUMTER, USS LAMOURE COUNTY, USS SPIEGEL GROVE

13 MAR - 15 MAR Underway enroute Tromso for Exercise "TEAMWORK 84" with various member ships, SAIPAN and allied units

14 MAR UNREP with USNS TRUCKEE

15 MAR - 22 MAR Anchored Malangen Fjord, Norway for Assault Phase of Exercise "TEAMWORK 84"

23 MAR Underway enroute Tromso, Norway for backload

22 MAR - 23 MAR Anchored Tromso, Norway

23 MAR - 23 MAR Underway enroute Malangen Fjord, Norway

23 MAR - 25 MAR Anchored Malangen Fjord, Norway

25 MAR - 30 MAR Underway enroute Portsmouth, England

25 MAR (1) UNREP with USNS TRUCKEE

30 MAR - 04 APR Anchored in Spithead Anchorage #10, Portsmouth, England for vehicle washdown and Port Call Visit.

(1) Commander Amphibious Group TWO embarks

APRIL 1984

04 APR - 05 APR Underway, enroute Zeebrugge, Belgium

05 APR - 08 APR Moored, starboard side, Tanker berth, Ocean Container and RD-RD Terminal, Zeebrugge, Belgium for Port Call Visit

08 APR - 09 APR Underway, enroute Portsmouth, England

09 APR - 14 APR Moored South Railway Jetty, Royal Dockyard, Portsmouth, England

14 APR (1) Spithead Anchorage Charlie, Portsmouth, England

14 APR - 26 APR Underway enroute from Portsmouth UK to Moorehead City, North Carolina, USA for offload of Air Squadron and embarked Marines. In company with USS SPARTANBERG CTY, USS SPIEGEL GROVE and other U.S. Naval Units

26 APR - 27 APR Anchored in Anchorage Area A-E1 Moorehead City, North Carolina for offload

(1) OV-10 Fixed Wing Aircraft dropped into water abeam of Spot 8 by CH-53E Helicopter #03.

27 APR - 28 APR Underway enroute from Moorehead City, North Carolina to Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia

28 APR Anchored Lynhaven Anchorage for offload of embarked landing craft

28 APR - 10 JUL Moored Berth 2, Pier 7, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA for Upkeep

10 JUL - 13 JUL Underway for Operational Tests in Virginia VACAPES OPAREAS

- 10 JUL (1) Anchored - Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1

13 JUL - 24 JUL Moored Berth 2, Pier 7, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

24 JUL - 27 JUL Underway enroute Cape Henry OP Area

- 24 JUL (1) Anchored in Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1 for Mine Countermeasures Certification

27 JUL - 08 AUG Moored Pier 7, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

06 AUG Onload of vehicles and troops for Reserve Marine Amphibious Battalion Exercise (Resmabex) Phalanx Sound II

08 AUG - 10 AUG Underway enroute to Resmabex Phalanx Sound II, Onslow Bay, North Carolina. In company with USS HARLAN COUNTY, SPARTANBERG COUNTY, USS RALEIGH and USS PORTLAND.

10 AUG - 11 AUG Anchored Moorehead City, North Carolina

11 AUG - 11 AUG Underway, enroute Cherry Point OPAREA

11 AUG - 13 AUG Anchored, Onslow Bay, North Carolina for Resmabex Phalanx Sound II

13 AUG - 16 AUG Underway enroute to Naval Station, Norfolk

(1) VACAPES OPAREA  
(2) Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1  
(3) Ammo Anchorage W-1 Elizabeth River

16 AUG - 10 SEP Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Naval Station, Norfolk

SEPTEMBER 1984

10 SEP - 14 SEP (Underway) SORTIE to Hurricane Anchorage to await the passing of Hurricane Diana

(1) Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1  
(2) Chesapeake Bay Hurricane Anchorage Charlie

14 SEP - 25 SEP Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

14 SEP (1) 1400 Captain David M. Bennett relieved by Captain Ward L. West as Commanding Officer

(2) During this inport period the forward Basic Point Defense Missile System (BPDMS) was removed and replaced with a Close in Weapons System (CIWS)

25 SEP - 25 SEP Underway enroute VACAPES OPAREA

(1) Steering and Engineering Tests

OCTOBER 1984

25 SEP - OCT Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

NOVEMBER 1984

15 NOV - 16 NOV Underway, enroute VACAPES OPAREAS 14-15

(1) Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1  
(2) Test Close in Weapons System

16 NOV - 19 NOV Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

19 NOV - 20 NOV Anchored in Elizabeth River Ammunition Anchorage "Whiskey" for Ammunition onload

20 NOV - 26 NOV Inport Upkeep, Pier 7, Berth 1, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

26 NOV - 29 NOV Underway, enroute to the Puerto Rican OPAREA to qualify in Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS)

29 NOV - 01 DEC Anchored Vieques Island in the Puerto Rican OPAREA for qualification in Naval Gunfire Support

(1) Earned satisfactory grade in NGFS Qualification Fire.

Note: During this time the Ship was periodically underway in order to maneuver for firing runs

#### DECEMBER 1984

01 DEC - 04 DEC Underway, enroute from Vieques to Moorehead City, North Carolina for MARG 1-85 Work-ups with elements of 24 MAU

04 DEC - 07 DEC Anchored Moorehead City, North Carolina

07 DEC - 07 DEC Underway, enroute to Underway Replenishment off the coast of North Carolina with USS KALAMAZOO (AO-5)

07 DEC - 08 DEC Anchored, Onslow Bay, North Carolina to complete MARG Work-ups

08 DEC - 08 DEC Underway enroute UNREP with USS DEWEY (DDG-45)

08 DEC - 12 DEC Anchored, Onslow Bay, North Carolina

12 DEC - 14 DEC Underway enroute Naval Station, Norfolk, VA

(1) Anchored Lynnhaven Anchorage LA-1 for boat off load

14 DEC - 31 DEC Inport Pier 11, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA for Christmas Standdown.

### 3. Special Topics

a. USS SAIPAN participated in two major exercises: TEAMWORK 84 and Resmabex; Phalanx Sound II, the latter of which tested our ability to land a Battalion of Marine Reservists.

#### b. Statistical Information

(1) Aircraft Embarked

(a) TEAMWORK 84

- 40V -10B  
- 12 CH53D  
- 2 UH-IN

(b) Resmabex

- 4 CH53A
- 4 CH53D
- UH-IN

(c) MARG 1-85 Work-ups

- 4 CH53D
- 12 CH46
- 4 AHIT
- 3 UH-IN

(2) Vehicles Embarked

- (a) TEAMWORK 84 - 249
- (b) Resmabex - 163
- (c) MARG 1-85 Work-ups - 197