



1985 ✓

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

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19 MAY 1986

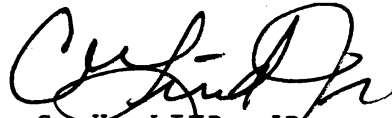
From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2), Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, 1985 (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History, 1985 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)
(2) Copy of Captain C. V. Lind's Biography
(3) Operation Helping Hand
(4) Distant Hammer
(5) DOD Show "Mass Ave"
(6) 25,000th Landing
(7) Change of Command
(8) April 1985 Issue of Seafarer (Ship's Family-gram)
(9) July 1985 Issue of Seafarer (Ship's Family-gram)

1. As per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are forwarded.


C. V. LIND, JR

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

Logged



COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)
1JAN85-31DEC85

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer.

Captain Ward L. West, USN (14SEP84 - 13DEC85)
Captain Carl V. Lind, Jr., USN, (13DEC85 - Present)

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

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 when combat loaded.

d. Units Embarked.

(1) MARG 1-85 (22JAN - 9AUG)

- (a) Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight
- (b) 24th Marine Amphibious Unit
- (c) Battalion Landing Team 2/8
- (d) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162
- (e) Assault Craft Unit Two
- (f) Tactical Air Control Squadron 21
- (g) Surgical Group One and Two

2. Summary of Operations.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1-22 January | Inport Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Starboard side to Berth #1. |
| 22-23 January | Underway enroute Moorehead City, NC with USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY, USS NASHVILLE; OTC: COMPHIBRON EIGHT; anchored LA-1 Lynnhaven for ACU-2 boat onload. |
| 23-25 January | Anchored, Moorehead City, NC onload, 24 MAU and equipment. |
| 25-31 January | Enroute Rota, Spain to assume duties as CTU 61.1.1; MARG 1-85 to relieve USS INCHON and other units of MARG 3-84. |

Summary of Operations (con't).

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1-4 February | Enroute Rota, Spain Conducting tactical drills IAW OP Order 2000 and MARG 1-85 Yellow Pages. |
| 4-5 February | Anchored Rota, Spain. |
| 5 February | Enroute Naval Station Rota, Spain, Berth 2, Pier 3. |
| 5-6 February | Moored starboard side to Berth 2, Pier 3 Naval Station, Rota, Spain. |
| 6 February | Enroute anchorage Rota, Spain. |
| 6 February | Anchored Rota, Spain. |
| 6-7 February | Enroute anchorage Sierra De Retin for a combined forces beach assault. |
| 7-12 February | Anchored off the coast of Sierra De Retin, Spain. Conducting Multi-Phased Amphibious Operations. |
| 13-14 February | Enroute Malaga, Spain; detached USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY and USS NASHVILLE. |
| 14-15 February | Anchored Malaga, Spain. |
| 15 February | Enroute pierside Malaga, Spain. |
| 15-25 February | Moored starboard side to Malaga, Spain. |
| 25 February-1 March | Enroute Valencia, Spain. |
| 1-8 March | Moored Valencia, Spain. |
| 8-11 March | Enroute Augusta Bay, Sicily for first phase of "SARDINIA 85". Regrouped with USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY and USS NASHVILLE. |
| 11-13 March | Anchored Augusta Bay, Sicily preparing for transit of "Straits of Messina" and exercise "SARDINIA 85". |
| 13-16 March | Enroute Capo Teulada, Sardinia; transited "Straits of Messina"; conducted AAW/ASW drills. |
| 16 March | Visit by VADM Kelso, Commander Sixth Fleet. |

Summary of Operations (con't).

16-21 March Anchored Capo Teulada, Sardinia; started water and helo borne offload of Marines and equipment for exercise "SARDINIA 85"; started onload of troops and equipment. Conducted live NGFS.

19 March Underway replenishment with USS SAVANAH.

20 March Conducted NGFS at Capo Teulada.

21-25 March Enroute Marseilles, France.

23 March Vertical replenishment with USS CONCORD.

24 March "Steel Beach" Picnic and Talent Show.

25 March -13 April Moored starboard side to pier, Marseilles, France.

27 March RADM Vion of the French Navy was aboard for an official visit.

14-15 April Enroute Livorno, Italy.

15-20 April Anchored Livorno, Italy.

20-23 April Enroute Naples, Italy; underway replenishment with USNS NEOSHO, USS CONCORD, USNS RIGEL.

23 April-4 May Anchored Naples, Italy.

29 April U.S. Marine Corp presented a marble plaque to town officials from the Italian village, Digioiosa Jonica.

4-5 May Enroute Capo Teulada, Sardinia to participate in exercise "DISTANT HAMMER 85".

5-8 May Anchored Capo Teulada, Sardinia; exercise "DISTANT HAMMER 85" phase one: amphibious assault, conducted live NGFS.

8-16 May Enroute Trieste, Italy; phase two "DISTANT HAMMER 85"; transited "Straits of Messina"; AAW/ASW operational exercises; transited Adriatic Sea; underway replenishment with USS CONCORD.

Summary of Operations (con't).

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 16-24 May | Moored starboard side to Pier 4, Trieste, Italy. |
| 24-27 May | Enroute Torre Veniere; underway replenishment with USNS NEOSHO, USNS TRUCKEE. |
| 26 May | 25,000 Flight Deck landing by LTCOL Karamarkovich, USMC, and Capt Ward L. West, USN. |
| 27 May-3 June | Anchored training anchorage Torre Veniere; DOD Show "Mass Ave". |
| 28 May | Visit by Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, LTGEN GRAY, USMC. |
| 2 June | "Steel Beach" Picnic. |
| 3-7 June | Enroute Pianne De Spille, Italy. |
| 7-10 June | Anchored, training anchorage Pianne Di Spille, Italy. |
| 8 June | VADM Kelso aboard to observe non-combatant evacuation operation drill. |
| 11-13 June | Enroute Benidorm, Spain. Vertrep/Conrep with USS SYLVANIA and fueling at sea USNS NEOSHO. |
| 13-15 June | Anchored, Benidorm, Spain; general recall to get underway due to hijacking of TWA flight 847. |
| 16-18 June | Enroute Algeria; steamed off coast of Algeria; awaiting USS SPARTANBURG, USS NASHVILLE to join up. |
| 18-22 June | Enroute Eastern Mediterranean for contingency operations; enroute Sicily for helo return of personnel left behind in Benidorm. |
| 24 June | Refuel/Vertrep with USS KALAMAZOO. |
| 28 June | Vertrep with USS SYLVANIA. |

Summary of Operations (con't).

22 June-14 July Enroute Beirut coast for contingency operations; conducted flight operations; steamed with USS NIMITZ Battle Group; prepared for non-combatant evacuation (NEO) operations; hostages released and transported via auto to Damascus and flown to Rhein-Main, Frankfurt, Germany; underway replenishment with USS NITRO; underway replenishment with USNS NEOSHO; underway replenishment with USNS SIRIUS.

4 July 21 Gun Salute; "Steel Beach" Picnic.

5 July Conrep USS NITRO, Vertrep with USS SYLVANIA.

7 July Refuel with USNS NEOSHO.

12 July Vertrep with USNS SIRIUS.

14-18 July Enroute Morocco for Moroccan PHIBEX; detached by CTF-60; under tactical control of CTF-61; fired 5"/54, CIWS, SRBOC.

18-19 July Conducted turn over off coast of Sicily with MARG 2-85, USS GUAM flagship.

19-20 July Underway replenishment with USNS TRUCKEE.

20-24 July Anchored Moroccan Coast, anchorage LA-1, Baie Betoya, Morocco; Moroccan PHIBEX.

24-25 July Enroute Rota, Spain; transited "Straits of Gibraltar".

25-29 July Moored Pier 1, Berth 1, Rota, Spain; vehicle offload for washdown.

29 July-7 August Enroute Onslow Beach, NC; vehicle offload.

7-8 August Enroute Morehead City, NC for personnel offload.

Summary of Operations (con't).

8 August Anchored Morehead City, NC; Marine's and equipment offload. Friends and dependents embarked for "Tiger Cruise".

8-9 August Enroute Naval Station Norfolk, VA; anchored LA-1 for LCU/LCM-8 offload. COMNAVSURFLANT, VADM McCauley; Commander Amphibious Group Two, RADM Rogers; Commander Amphibious Squadron Twelve, Capt Briggs flew on board to welcome SAIPAN home.

9 August-24 September Moored Pier 5, Berth 2, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. COMPHIBRON EIGHT departed; COMPHIBRON SIX embarked.

16 August COMPHIBRON EIGHT Change of Command; Captain Charles G. Felkins, USN was relieved by Captain Judson H. Springer, USN.

25-27 September Enroute ModLoc for hurricane Sortie.
Hurricane GLORIA.

27 September Enroute VACAPES.

28 September Anchored Yankee Anchorage.

29 September Enroute Whiskey Anchorage for ammo offload.

29 September-2 October Anchored Whiskey Anchorage; ammo offload.

2 October Enroute Craney Island for fuel offload.

2-3 October Moored starboard side to Pier D, Berth 1, Craney Island; commenced fuel offload.

3 October Enroute Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

3 October Moored Slip 3 Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

3 October-31 December Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA; ship's restricted availability.

Summary of Operations (con't).

13 December

Change of Command Ceremony; Captain Ward L. West, USN, was relieved by Captain Carl V. Lind, Jr., USN.

3. Significant Statistical Data.

Miles Steamed: 32,807.1
Aircraft Landings: (day) 6,805 (night) 1,107
Aircraft Embarked: 4 - CH-530
12 - CH-46E
4 - AH-1T
3 - UH-1N
23 - TOTAL

Vehicles Embarked: 198 TOTAL

4. Significant Events.

a. USS SAIPAN received the Battle Efficiency "E" Award. The award encompasses the competitive cycle 1 Oct 1983 to 31 March 1985 as announced by COMNAVSURFLANT message 242337Z May 1985. The Battle "E" is presented for satisfactory completion of various exercises and operational tasks, as well as outstanding day to day performance. Departmental awards were presented to: CIC, Engineering, Damage Control, Air Department, Amphibious Assault and Electronic Warfare.

b. USS SAIPAN received the first "Bronze Anchor Award" presented by Captain S.R. Briggs, Commander Amphibious Squadron Twelve. This is given to the unit in the squadron with the best record of achieving/surpassing their retention goals.

c. USS SAIPAN captured their third straight "Captain's Cup Award" for Large Units Afloat. The "Captain's Cup" is a trophy awarded to the command which compiles the most points while competing in a wide variety of athletic events.

d. Captain Carl V. Lind, Jr., USN, relieved Captain Ward L. West, USN, as SAIPAN's Commanding Officer on 13 December 1985. Rear Admiral R.B. Rogers, USN, Commander Amphibious Group TWO was the guest speaker.