



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SAIPAN LHA-2

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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, 1986 (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

- Encl:
- (1) Command History, 1986 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)
 - (2) Copy of Captain C. V. Lind's Biography
 - (3) Guantanamo Bay D.C. Olympics
 - (4) Amphibious Refresher Training
 - (5) Dependent's Day Cruise
 - (6) SAIPAN Family Picnic
 - (7) Nov 1986 Issue of Seafarer
 - (8) Navy Relief
 - (9) 30,000 Landings
 - (10) Northern Wedding
 - (11) Battle "E"
 - (12) Navy Birthday
 - (13) Thanksgiving Day Menu
 - (14) Chrismon Service
 - (15) Christmas Menu
 - (16) Medical Mission at Guantanamo Bay
 - (17) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
 - (18) Ships Information
 - (19) Blue-Green Workups
 - (20) USS SAIPAN 1986 Photographs
 - (21) SAIPAN Wins DC Olympics
 - (22) Baltimore Sun Helicopter Crash Story
 - (23) USS SAIPAN in Palma, Spain
 - (24) USS SAIPAN 1986 Advancements
 - (25) USS SAIPAN 1986 Reenlistments

1. As per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (25) are forwarded.

C. V. LIND, JR.

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

COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)
1 JAN 86 - 31 DEC 86

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer.

Captain Carl V. Lind, Jr., USN, (13 DEC 85 - 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 1-87 (17 AUG 86 - 18 FEB 87)

- (a) Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight
- (b) 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit
- (c) Battalion Landing Team 1/6
- (d) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162
- (e) Assault Craft Unit TWO
- (f) Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-ONE DET ONE
- (g) Medical Regulating Team 2 embarked 17 AUG 86 for the deployment. Surgical Team 6 and Surgical Support Team 13 embarked 17 AUG 86 to 1 DEC 86. Surgical Team 4 and Surgical Support Team 12 embarked 1 DEC 86 for the remainder of the deployment.

2. Summary of Operations

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 01-23 January | Moored Slip #3, NNSY Portsmouth, VA. |
| 23 January | Commenced dock trials. |
| 23-04 February | Moored Slip #3, NNSY Portsmouth, VA. |
| 04-05 February | Fast Cruise Slip #3, NNSY Portsmouth, VA. |
| 05-12 February | Moored Slip #3, NNSY Portsmouth, VA. |
| 11 February | Completed Ship's Restricted Availability. |
| 12 February | Enroute Whiskey anchorage, AMMO onload. |
| 12-15 February | Anchored Whiskey anchorage. |

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

15 Feb-17 March Moored portside to pier 7, Norfolk, VA.

20-21 February Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) conducted.

 24 February RADM Fogarty, prospective COMPHIBGRU TWO aboard for tour and lunch.

 25 February Commander Amphibious Group Two Change of Command held on board. RADM Fogarty relieved RADM Rogers.

 27 February RADM Powell, CO, NSC, Norfolk aboard for lunch.

04-05 March AMPHIB REFTRA Training Readiness Evaluation conducted.

17-22 March Local OPS in VACAPES for Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT)

 18 March Conducted test firing 5"/54 Mounts.

 19 March Conducted successful firing of BPDMS and CIWS.

 22 March Enroute to Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

22-27 March Moored, pier #7, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

 24 March DMSR conducted.

 26 March SAIPAN presented Flatley award for Aviation Safety. VIPs in attendance: RADM Flatley, RADM Fogarty, Mr. Landel Hodge-Rockwell.

27-30 March Enroute GITMO, Cuba - REFTRA

30-04 April Anchored, GITMO Bay, Cuba

 -04 April Underway, GITMO OP Areas

 -04 April Moored WHARF "B" GITMO Bay, Cuba

 -05 April SAIPAN places first in GTMO DC Olympics.

 -07 April Underway, GITMO OP Area

 -07 April Anchorage Echo, GITMO Bay

 -08 April Underway, GTMO OP Areas

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

| | |
|-------------|--|
| -10 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| -10 April | Underway, GITMO OP Areas |
| 10-11 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| 11 April | Underway, GITMO OP Areas |
| 11-12 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| 12 April | Underway, WHARF "B" GITMO |
| 12-14 April | Moored, WHARF "B" GITMO |
| 14 April | Underway, GTMO OP Areas |
| 14-15 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| -15 April | Underway, GTMO OP Areas |
| 15-17 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| -17 April | Underway, GTMO OP Areas |
| -17 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| -18 April | Underway, GTMO OP Area |
| 18-21 April | Anchorage Echo |
| -21 April | Underway, GTMO OP Areas |
| 21-22 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| 22 April | Underway, GTMO OP Areas |
| 22-23 April | Anchorage Echo, GITMO |
| 23 April | Underway, GITMO OP Areas |
| 23-30 April | Anchorage Echo |
| 30-02 May | Enroute Vieques Puerto Rico to conduct Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications (NGFS) |
| -02 May | Conducted NGFS Vieques P.R. SAIPAN qualified in only six hours with a overall score of 80.5. |
| 02-04 May | Enroute GITMO Bay, Cuba |

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

-05 May Underway, GITMO OP Area

05-06 May Anchorage "X" GITMO Bay

-07 May Anchorage "E", GITMO Bay, Cuba

08 May Conducted final Battle Problem.

-09 May Underway, GITMO OP Areas

09-11 May Anchorage "E", GITMO Bay, Cuba

11-14 May Underway, enroute to Norfolk, VA. Conducted successful OPPE enroute.

14-19 May Moored pier 12, starboard side to Norfolk, VA

19-20 May Underway, enroute to Onslow Bay, NC, Amphibious Refresher Training.

20-24 May Anchored, Onslow Beach, NC conducting AMPHIB REFTRA.

23 May Final Battle Problem AMPHIB REFTRA

24-25 May Underway, enroute to Norfolk, VA.

25 May-17 June Moored pier 5, port side to Norfolk, VA.

28-29 May Safety Survey conducted by Safety Center.

30 May RADM Fogarty on board to accept SAIPAN Navy Relief check for \$37,150.

02 June Combat Systems Readiness Review commences.

10-12 June Command Inspection conducted by COMPHIBRON TWELVE.

12 June Captain Briggs aboard for personnel inspection.

13 June Admiral Marulli, Italian Navy Chief of Staff aboard for tour. Accompanied by RADM Pappas, USN, COMSERVGRU TWO. CSRR Debrief. VADM McCauley, COMNAVSURFLANT, in attendance.

-17 June Underway, for berth shift to pier 7, port side to.

17-23 June Moored pier 7, port side to.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

18 June SAIPAN Night at Tidewater Tides Ball-Park

-23 June Anchored Whiskey anchorage, AMMO onload.

-24 June Underway, enroute, pier 7, Norfolk, VA.

-24 June Moored, pier 7, portside to, Naval Base, Norfolk, VA.

-25 June Underway for Dependents Day Cruise

25-30 June Moored pier 7, Naval Base, Norfolk, VA

-30 June Underway, enroute VACAPES OP Areas for Blue Water Workups for MARG 1-87.

01-03 July Underway, VACAPES OP Areas; formation steaming with USS SUMTER, and USS RALEIGH.

03-07 July Moored pier 7, Norfolk.

07-08 July Underway, enroute Morehead City, NC. Formation steaming with USS SUMTER, and USS RALEIGH for Green Water Work-ups for MARG 1-87.

08-09 July 1A Operations Morehead City and Onslow to load HMM 162, BLT 1/6.

10-14 July Anchored, Onslow Beach, NC; AMPHIB Exercises in preparation for MARG 1-87.

-13 July LT General Gray, USMC, and BRIG General Looney, USMC, on board.

14-16 July Major General Smith, USMC on board. Underway, enroute OP Areas; AMPHIB Exercises.

-15 July Under Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Cropsey, and LT General Gray, USMC on board.

16 July Conducted Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) Exercise

-17 July Offloaded HMM 162, BLT 1/6 enroute Norfolk.

18 July-17 August Moored pier 7, Naval Base, Norfolk, VA. Conducting POM.

17-18 August Underway, enroute to anchorage X-Ray to avoid hurricane Charlie. Anchored.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

18-19 August Underway in accordance with Northern Wedding/
Northern Engagement schedule 4-86; enroute to
Morehead City, NC.

19-20 August Anchored, Morehead City, NC; Marine
embarkation - 22 MAU, HMM 162, BLT 1/6.

20 Aug-05 September Underway for Malangen Fjord, Norway; Northern
Wedding Exercise.

-28 August Fueling at sea with USS PLATTE.

-29 August COMPHIBSTRIKEFOR, RADM Fogarty and
COMMARSTRIKEFOR, BGEN Caulfield
embarked. CH 46 from HMM 162 crashed while
taking off from Flight Deck with members
of BLT 1/6 "C" Company on board. Thirteen
survivors, two found dead and six missing,
presumed dead.

30 August MGEN Danielson, COMLANDNON (Norway), and MGEN
Rasmussen, COMAIRNON (Norway) on board.

-31 August Norwegian media on board for press conference
with RADM Fogarty and Brigadier General
Caulfield. LT General Amled, Danish Air Force,
Mr. Sullivan - Congressional Staff, LGEN
Gray, USMC, BGEN Steele, BGEN Lynch on board.

01 September U.S. Amphibious Force conducts amphibious
demonstration landing in Malangen Fjord.
LGEN Gray, USMC, on board. Conducted Memorial
Service in Hangar Bay for departed shipmates
from HMM 162 and BLT 1/6.

02-05 September Enroute Moray Firth, Scotland in company with
Amphibious Striking Force.

05 September Anchored Moray Firth, Scotland. Commanders
conference held on board. RADM Fogarty,
COMPHIBSTRIKFOR, RADM Arrens Burger, German
Destroyer Flotilla, Commodore Larken, UKNL
PHIBGRU, Commodore Harwood, CANCOMFLT,
Commodore Havendrowse, STANAVFORLANT, BGEN
Ross, UKNL Landing Force, BGEN Caulfield,
COMMARINESTRIKFOR, CAPT Triplett, COMPHIBRON
FOUR, in attendance.

05-06 September Anchored Moray Firth, Scotland.

07-09 September Transit to Larvik, Norway.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

07 September Fueled at sea from USS PLATTE.

08 September VADM Larson, Commander Second Fleet; RADM Fogarty and BGEN Caulfield, Commodore Larken, UKNL PHIBGRU, BGEN Ross, UKNL, Marines on board for press conference.

09 September Combined U.S., United Kingdom, Netherlands amphibious forces conducted amphibious assault in Southern Norway. RADM Tolme, USNR on board. SAIPAN off-loaded Marines by helo assault and boat assault.

09-16 September Anchored Larvik, Norway.

10 September General Sir Edward Burgess, Deputy SACEUR, on board, RADM Maughlin, COMNAVAIREASTLANT on board.

13 September Major Gen Tideman, Director of Joint Norwegian Medical Service, Norwegian Navy, on board.

15-16 September Combined U.S., United Kingdom, Netherlands amphibious forces conducted amphibious withdrawal from Southern Norway.

16-17 September Participated in inter-regional Amphibious Air Defense Exercises.

16-18 September Transit to Esbjerg, Denmark, to off-load Marines.

18 September Amphibious U.S. Forces conducted assault on West Coast of Jutland.

19 September End of Northern Wedding.

18-19 September Anchored Esbjerg, Denmark, for Marine off-load.

19-21 September Transit to Copenhagen, Denmark for port visit.

21-26 September Moored portside to pier Lange Linjekaj, Copenhagen, Denmark.

26-27 September Transit to Putlos, West Germany for Marine on-load.

27-28 September Anchored Putlos, West Germany. Marine on-load.

28 September Transit to Kiel, West Germany to transfer CH-53A to USS INCHON.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

28-29 September Anchored Kiel, West Germany.

29 Sep-01 October Transit to Rotterdam, Netherlands, for port visit.

01-06 October Moored Pier Wilhelmskade, Rotterdam, Netherlands, for port visit.

02 October Major General T. Rudolphie, Commandant, Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, arrived for an official visit and luncheon hosted by CO, USS SAIPAN.

07 October Underway to Portsmouth, England, United Kingdom.

08-12 October Moored at middle slip jetty, Portsmouth, United Kingdom, for port visit.

13 October Navy Birthday Ceremony on Hangar Deck with Captain C.V. Lind, Jr. officiating

13-16 October Underway enroute Portuguese Phiblex.

16-17 October Underway in MedronHiera operating area for Portuguese Phiblex.

18 October Conclusion of MedronHiera Phiblex and transit to Rota, Spain.

19 October Inchopt to SIXTH FLT (0001L).

19 October Moor Pier 1, Rota, Spain.

20-22 October Inport Rota, Spain, for MARG turnover with USS GUAM and USS PORTLAND.

23 October Underway enroute Sierra de Retin PHIBLEX. CONREP with USNS SIRIUS.

24-26 October Anchored Sierra de Retin and conducting PHIBLEX.

24 October Major General Franklin, USA, CHJUSMG MAAG, Madrid, on board for tour and luncheon.

26 October Underway Eastern Atlantic.

27-29 October Anchored Sierra de Retin for backload.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

29 October Completion of Sierra de Retin exercise. Underway through the Straits of Gibraltar enroute Malaga, Spain.

30 October Underway enroute Malaga, Spain. FAS with USNS NEOSHO.

31 October Anchored Malaga, Spain. Underway to shift anchorage briefly in the afternoon.

31 Oct-05 November Anchored Malaga, Spain for port visit.

01 November Remain anchored Malaga, Spain. Man overboard starboard side (1800L recovered by CO's gig).

02 November NEY competition and inspection by CDR [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED] and MSC [REDACTED] of COMNAVSURFLANT Food Management Team.

06 November Underway western Mediterranean, transit straits of Gibraltar enroute Rota, Spain.

07 November Arrive Rota, Spain. Commanding Officer, USS RALEIGH and Commanding Officer, USS SUMTER, aboard for visit with COMPHIBRON EIGHT and USS SAIPAN. USMC formation for Marine Corps Birthday on pier in Rota. Commander Service Force Sixth Fleet logistics brief.

08 November Depart Rota. Enroute eastern Atlantic enroute TanTan, Morocco. AV-8 fly-on. POT & I Team for Philadelphia Yard period embarks.

09 Nov-11 November Underway eastern Atlantic enroute TanTan, Morocco.

11 November AV-8 Launch. Anchored, TanTan, Morocco (1701L). Moroccan Liaison Officers embark. Marine Corps birthday dinner in the Wardroom.

12 November Attempted 1A for Wet Well Operations but weather prevented waterborne assault. AV-8 firepower demonstration abeam SAIPAN.

12 Nov-18 November Underway (0616). Due to heavy rolls at anchor, remaining underway for TanTan amphibious operation.

13 November Visit by Governor of TanTan (Gov. Ahmed M'Jahd'), U.S. Consul General, Casablanca (Mr. Richard Jackson). Overnight visit by Lieutenant General Gray, USMC, FMFLANT. Helo assault at TanTan, Morocco.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

14 November Lieutenant General Gray departs.

17 November AV-8 fly off.

18 November Underway enroute Tiznit, Morocco.

19 November Completion of fly-off at Tiznit, Morocco, including remaining Moroccan personnel. Enroute Palma, Spain.

20 Nov-24 November Transit enroute Palma, Spain.

22 November Transit straits of Gibraltar, leave eastern Atlantic for western Mediterranean.

23 November Steel beach picnic on the flight deck.

24 November CONREP and VERTREP with USNS SATURN and UNREP with USNS PAWCATUCK.

25 November Moor Palma, Spain. Fired 21 gun salute.

26 Nov-05 December Inport Palma, Spain.

27 November Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service in Medical Triage. Thanksgiving dinner celebration in all messes.

28 November Official visit by Almirante Lopez-Ceron (Admiral, Baleric Islands Sector, Spain), Molins Saenz-Diez (Commandant of Gonzalo Marina) and Commandant of Palma Naval Base.

29 November Visit by Mr. Bustard, member of American Consulate, Palma.

01Dec-04 December Inport Palma, Spain.

05 December Departed Palma, Spain, for Pian de Spille. Emergency transfer of feed water to USS DAHLGREN (15,800 gallons). Unrep with USNS PAWCATUCK.

06 December Phase I Crisis Response Exercise '87 (CRIEX 87). Transfer of Special Boat Group personnel (provided by USS RALEIGH). Nuclear detonation drill (Z-52-D) and Pacfire.

07 December Vertrep with USS SANTA BARBARA. SAREX (CCC-19-B) for Selex (grade 99). Profile exercise (Z-4-CM). SS Lykes detached.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

08 December Transit Strait of Bonifacio in company with USS SUMTER and USS RALEIGH. Amphibious/Air Raid exercise conducted. Anchored at Pian de Spille training anchorage, including Z-5-N precision anchorage. Conducted Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises through the night (MOB-E-3-R, MOD-E-5-R, MOD-E-12-R, MOB-E-16-R and MOB-E-12-R).

09 December Helicopter assault and boat assault. Underway for small arms fire and 5"54" gunfire on balloon target launched from well deck. Gunex (ASU-8-B) with target from USS OPPORTUNE. Reanchored Pian de Spille.

10 December Underway in evening to pump and dump.

11 December Reanchored Pian de Spille. Channel 13 news crew (Mr. Wessling, Mr. Flanagan and cameraman) arrive. General Quarters for a Z-54-D chemical attack for Selex (satisfactory grade).

12 December Channel 13 news crew departs. NEO evacuee exercise 2100.

13 December Finex Crisis Response Exercise 1-87. Underway enroute Marseille, France. Gunex with air towed target (Z-10-AA).

14 December Transit Strait of Bonifacio. Unrep with USNS SATURN. Vertrep/Conrep with USS SYLVANIA. Maneuvering exercise with USS RALEIGH and USS SUMTER. Refuel from USNS PAWCATUCK.

15 December Anchor at Marseille harbor.

16 December Underway for Toulon, France.

17 December Anchor Toulon harbor. Shifted pierside in Toulon for Restricted Availability and port visit.

18 Dec-05 January Inport, Toulon, France.

24 December Christmas visit to Hospital Rene Sabran in Gien, France including visit by Santa Claus to children's ward of hospital. Joint Christmas Eve worship service held aboard.

Summary of Operations (cont'd)

25 December Christmas Day and Christmas Dinner celebrated in all messes.

29 December 134 volunteers planted trees and acorns in forest area ravaged by arson. 2,500 trees and acorns planted in Borrels area northeast of Hyeres.

3. Significant Statistical Data

Miles Steamed: 15,589.73
Aircraft Landings: (Day) 7,042 (Night) 1,024
Aircraft Embarked:
4 - CH-53D
12 - CH-46E
4 - AH-1T
4 - UH-IN
24 - TOTAL

Note: 4 AV-8B also embarked during Exercise "African Eagle" and 2 OV-10 embarked during Exercise "Northern Engagement" 17-29 AUG 86.

Vehicles Embarked: 218

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| M353 | 1 | Tank M60 | 5 | ANIMRC 110 | 2 | M149 | 2 |
| TEREX 12-31 | 1 | MIL VAN | 5 | ANIMRC 138 | 7 | M105 TRLR | 6 |
| GMC TOW | 4 | M151 | 72 | ANIMRC 135 | 1 | M561 | 3 |
| GME TOW | 8 | M416 | 53 | M101A1 | 4 | M1008CUCV | 5 |
| MRC 109 | 7 | M813 | 20 | M198 | 6 | MC4000 | 2 |
| M718 | 1 | M929 | 1 | M930 | 1 | AIRCOMPRSR | 1 |
| TOTAL: | 22 | | 156 | | 21 | | 19 |

4. Significant Events

a. On February 25, 1986, SAIPAN hosted Amphibious Group TWO's change of command. RADM Fogarty relieved RADM Rogers. The following Navy and Marine Corps flag officers were in attendance: LTGEN Gray, VADM McCauley, RADM Tuttle, RADM J. T. Parker, RADM J. K. Parker, MAJGEN Petersen, MAJGEN Murphy, RADM Toole, RADM Dunleavy, RADM Riendeau, RADM Emery, RADM Kelly, RADM Reimann, RADM Bennett, RADM Palmer, MAJGEN Smith, MAJGEN Cassidy, and BGEN Mundy.

b. On April 5, 1986 SAIPAN participated and captured first place in the first Guantanamo Bay, D.C. Olympics, coordinated by Fleet Training Group.

c. SAIPAN was awarded the "Admiral Flatley Aviation Safety Award" for the LHA/LPH category and the "Villard C. Sledge Award" for excellence in aircraft engine maintenance. The late Admiral Flatley's son, RADM James Flatley II, presented the Flatley award to the ship. RADM Fogarty presented the Sledge Award.

d. On September 1986, at 1843, a Marine CH46E with 21 marine passengers and crew crashed while taking off from the Flight Deck of SAIPAN. Thirteen survived, six were missing and two were found dead. Two of the Marines were from HMM-162, the rest were from Battalion Landing Team 1/6 "C" Company. The accident occurred approximately four miles south of the Loftan Island Chain - the entrance to Edjberg Fjord, Norway - at 67° 17.5' North and 011° 46.3' East.