



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SAIPAN LHA-2

FPO NEW YORK 09549-1605

1987

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

5750

Ser LHA2:03/-

01 MAR 1988



- (UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE (9))

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1987

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl:
- (1) Command History, 1987
 - (2) Copy of Captain A.A. Granuzzo's Biography
 - (3) SAIPAN's 35,000th Landing
 - (4) Battle "E" Award
 - (5) SAIPAN NAVTAG
 - (6) Boston Visit
 - (7) Durbin/Gratt Award Ceremony
 - (8) SOLID SHIELD '87
 - (9) Final Report Joint Exercise SOLID SHIELD '87
 - (10) Scientists at Sea
 - (11) SAIPAN's 10th Anniversary
 - (12) SEAFARER VOL.(13) ISSUE (1) April 85-SEPT. 86
 - (13) SAIPAN photograph
 - (14) SAIPAN's Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
 - (15) Change of Command pamphlet
 - (16) MARG 1-87 Cruisebook
 - (17) Officer Billet Listing
 - (18) Statistical Data Sheet

1. As per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (18) are forwarded.

A. A. Granuzzo
A. A. GRANUZZO

UNCLASSIFIED

AvH Recd 8 Oct 91
w/o Encl(9)

Classified by: USCINCLANT

Declassify on: OADR

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COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
1 JAN 87 - 31 DEC 87

1. Command Organization.

a. Commanding Officer

Captain Andrew A. Granuzzo, USN, 21 AUG 87 - Present
Captain Carl V. Lind, Jr. USN, 13 DEC 85 - 21 AUG 87

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. SAIPAN is attached to Amphibious Squadron TWELVE (Readiness PHIBRON) as part of Amphibious Group TWO.

d. Units Embarked

(1) MARG 1-87 (to 24 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 Detachment
- (f) Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-ONE,
Det ONE
- (g) Medical Regulating Team 2. Surgical
Team 4 and Surgical Support Team 12.

2. Summary of Operations

01-05 January	Moored, Toulon, France.
02 January	4,000 trees and acorns plants in Borrels area northeast of Hyers seeded by Navy and Marine volunteers. Mayor of Toulon, Commandant Mediterranean Squadron (French Navy) on board.
05-09 January	Underway enroute Venice, Italy.
06 January	Unrep (fuel and JP-5) with USNS NEOSHO.
07 January	Transit Straits of Messina.
09 January	Anchored, training anchorage, Venice, Italy.

13 January Underway enroute Trieste, Italy.

15 January Department of Defense entertainment group, "Atlanta and Stephanie Prentiss", arrive.

16 January DoD entertainment show ashore in Trieste, Italy.

17 January Underway enroute Augusta Bay, Sicily.

19 January Participated in NATO National Week Exercises in Augusta Bay, Sicily remaining underway.

20 January Unrep with USS SYLVANIA (AFS-2) and USNS MISSISSINEWA (AO-144).

21 January Anchored Augusta Bay, Sicily.

23 January Underway enroute Pian de Spille, Italy. Transit Straits of Messina.

January 25 Underway enroute Augusta Bay.

27 January Transit Straits of Messina enroute Augusta Bay.

30 January Arrived Mod Loc Ionean Sea.

31 January Enroute Mod Loc Cyprus.

03 February Arrived Mod Loc Cyprus.

04 February COMSIXTHFLT (VADM Moranville) arrives and addresses crew. Enroute Rota, Spain.

09 February Transit Straits of Gibraltar. Unrep with USNS PAWKATUCK. Moored Rota, Spain, for equipment washdown.

12 February MARG washdown complete. Underway to anchorage. Anchored, Rota, Spain. Underway enroute Morehead City, North Carolina.

13-21 February Underway enroute Morehead City, North Carolina.

22 February Anchored, Morehead City, North Carolina, for offload.

23 February Offload complete. Underway enroute Norfolk, Virginia.

24 February COMPHIBGRU TWO and Deputy COMNAVSURFLANT arrive for visit. Return to port, Norfolk, Virginia. MARG 1-87 completed.

24 February - 06 Apr Moored, Norfolk, Virginia.

06 April Embark guests of the Navy. Embark Scientists to Sea. Commanding Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY onboard to observe wet well operations. Underway enroute North Carolina.

07 April Anchored North Carolina. Underway off North Carolina coast conducting AV-8B and helicopter deck landing qualifications.

08-09 April Underway off North Carolina coast.

09 April Underway enroute Norfolk, Virginia.

10 April Ammo anchorage, Elizabeth River. Guests of the Navy and scientists at Sea depart. Moored, Norfolk, Virginia.

11-26 April Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

13 April French and British midshipmen aboard for tour.

25 April U.S. Army War College aboard for breakfast, tour of berthing areas.

27 April Underway enroute Morehead City, North Carolina, for Exercise Solid Shield 87.

29 April Moored pierside, Morehead City, North Carolina. 4TH MAB and 22MAU visit SAIPAN. Commence pierside onload.

30 April Onload complete. MAG-29 aboard for visit. Underway.

03 May Media visit (37 civilian personnel) with regional media (8) remaining overnight.

04 May Amphibious assault with regional media departing by boat.

06 May 4th MAB embarks. Backload from amphibious assault.

08 May Unrep with USS MONONGAHELA. Chop to CTF 145.

09 May 22MAU arrives. COMPHIBRON 2 arrives. CTF 140 visits SAIPAN.

10 May Unrep with USS MONONGAHELA (AO-178). US FORCES CARIBBEAN embarks.

12 May Pre-assault conference, including USS SHREVEPORT, COMDESRON 22, CNO Honduran Navy, COMPHIBRON 2. Anchor coast of Honduras. Honduran media embark.

13 May Solid Shield Honduran assault demonstration. Honduran media depart. Visit by U.S. Ambassador to Honduras.

14 May Backload from assault. Underway to unrep with USS MONONGAHELA (AO-178).

15 May Anchor, coast of Honduras. Shift anchorages. Complete backload. Exercise summary conference.

16 May Underway enroute Morehead City, North Carolina.

21 May Moor pierside Morehead City, North Carolina. Offload. Underway enroute Norfolk, Virginia.

22 May Arrive Norfolk, Virginia.

22 May-08 July Moored pierside, Norfolk, Virginia.

05 June 81 West German War College students visit SAIPAN.

06-07 June SAIPAN is visit ship for weekend. 273 visitors tour the ship.

08 June COMPHIBGRU TWO visits SAIPAN to present Navy/Marine Corps Medal to BM3 Durbin and ENFN Gratt.

08 July Underway enroute Nassau, Bahamas.

10 July Anchor, Nassau, Bahamas. U.S. Ambassador to Bahamas aboard for visit.

10-13 July Anchored, Nassau, Bahamas.

13 July Underway for Caribbean Sea.

15 July Transit Straits of Florida.

19 July Retransit Straits of Florida enroute Norfolk, Virginia.

21 July Moor, pierside, Norfolk, Virginia.

22 July Underway for Virginia Capes Operating Area for Dependent's Day cruise. Moor, pierside, Norfolk (600 aboard for dependent's day cruise).

22 July-3 August Inport, Norfolk, Virginia.

01 August	Ammo onload
18 August	Prospective Commanding Officer arrives.
21 August	Capt. Andrew A. Granuzzo relieves Capt. Carl V. Lind, Jr., as Commanding Officer.
23 August	Underway for FLTEX 4-87 MODLOC.
26 August	CIWS and 5"/54 cal. gunshoot.
27 August	Moored Norfolk, VA.
31 August	Underway Norfolk to Cherry point Op area, Onslow Bay N.C. for DLQs.
04 September	Moored Norfolk, Va.
11 September	Underway Norfolk, Va. to Boston, Mass.
17 September	Moored pierside Boston, Mass.
19-20 September	SAIPAN is visit ship for weekend, 1157 visitors.
22 September	Underway to Norfolk, Va., Lynnhaven Anchorage
24 September	Anchored Lynnhaven anchorage to conduct training with ACU-2.
25 September	Moored pierside Norfolk, Va.
30 September	Underway to "W" anchorage for ammo offload. COH commences.
03 October	Moored Pier 12 Norfolk, VA.
29 October	Underway Norfolk to Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for COH. PBS film crew aboard.
30 October	Moored Pier 5, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, PA.
31 October	Saipan enters Drydock 4, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.
16 December	Singer Marie Osmond onboard to tour ship.
PRESENT	COH PNSY.