



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SAIPAN LHA-2

FPO NEW YORK 09549-1605

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25 APR 1989

From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)


Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1988

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Copy of Captain A.A. Granuzzo's Biography
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(3) Weekly COH Situation Reports for USS SAIPAN
(4) Press Releases
(5) SAIPAN photograph
(6) Copy of USS SAIPAN "YARDBOOK" (to be forwarded when available)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are forwarded.


A. A. GRANUZZO


OGI 8 1989

COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
1 JAN 88 - 31 DEC 88

1. Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer
Captain Andrew A. Granuzzo

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, onto a hostile shore from the sea. 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. SAIPAN embarks 1,7309 troops and 172 officers when combat loaded. SAIPAN is attached to Amphibious Squadron TWELVE (Readiness PHIBRON) as part of Amphibious Group TWO.

2. Chronology

1 January Undergoing Complex Overhaul in Drydock #4 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, PA

17 February SAIPAN's Crash and Salvage crew was named the Allen G. Ogden Amphibious Afloat Crash and Salvage Team of the Year by the U.S. Navy Fire Protection Association.

25 April SAIPAN won Naval Military Personnel Command-sponsored Fleet Recreation Best Inport Event and Honorable Mention in the Quality of Life category.

Communications Department earned the "Green C" Award in the command, control and communications competition.

28 April RADM David M. Bennett, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, toured SAIPAN while attending the 50% complex overhaul completion conference.

29 April QMCM Lawrence L. Crawford, Command Master Chief, retired after over 43 years of Naval service. ACCM (AW) K. D. Savary relieved QMCM Crawford as Command Master Chief.

9 May A delegation of Finnish Naval Officers from FHS POHJANMAA visited SAIPAN while making a port call at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, PA. Captain Aarno Koivisto, Commandant, Finnish Naval Academy, was the senior Finnish Naval officer present.

11 May Welfare and Recreation Committee sponsored an "Over the Hump" tailgater picnic at Naval Base Philadelphia with a "SAIPAN Night" at the Phillies vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.

21 - 22 May Participated in the Armed Forces Weekend at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. Sponsored a command audiovisual presentation and a ship's mementos booth. "Sharkfin", SAIPAN's organic helicopter, performed a search and rescue demonstration.

11 June Shifted berth at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard from drydock #4 to pier #6, a major overhaul milestone.

16 June RADM Robert W. Koch, DC, USN, visited and, on his tour, reenlisted DTG1 (SW) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for four years.

21 June VADM Joseph S. Donnell III, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and CAPT S.J. Gagliano, ACOS for Engineering, visited.

22 June Ship's company contributed \$25,550 to the Navy Relief Society Fund, exceeding the ship's goal of \$21,550.

SAIPAN won Surface Warfare Week competition.

4 July Hosted a "Steel Beach Picnic" on the flight deck to celebrate Independence Day.

14 July RADM David M. Bennett, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, presented the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Excellence Award ("Top Gator") for Amphibious Warfare for the competitive cycle ending 31 March 1988. In addition, RADM Bennett presented USS SAIPAN its third consecutive Battle "E" award.

14 July RADM Harold J. Bernsen, Deputy Chief of Staff for Readiness and Resources, CINCLANTFLT, toured SAIPAN while visiting COMNAVBASE Philadelphia, PA

27 July CINCLANTFLT Master Chief Petty Officer, ACCM (AW) William C. Smith, visited SAIPAN.

23 August CDR A.M. Petruska III relieved CAPT O.K. Evans as Executive Officer

1 September Hosted a command pool party at the Riverside Pool at Naval Base Philadelphia.

17 September Ship's company donated \$51,807 to the Combined Federal Campaign Fund drive. surpassing the ship's goal of \$31,920.

27-28 October CAPT R.M. Hydinger. Officer-in-Charge. LANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board (PEB). examined SAIPAN during LOE Phase I. PEB graded SAIPAN "satisfactory" in 13 of 13 administrative areas. An "above average" was given in three of four specific categories: firefighting. level of knowledge and administrative programs.

5 November Lit off number 1 boiler for the first time since start of COH.

10 November Completed LOE Phase II satisfactorily. RADM Albert Reider. Commander, Naval Base Philadelphia. and Brigadier General Rocco. Deputy Commander. FT. Dix, New Jersey. were flag guests at an official breakfast for the PENJERDEL Society.

18 November Performed dock trials. steering tests and anchor testing.

20-21 November Underway for phase I sea trials.

31 December Continued Complex Overhaul.