

rec'd 5/2/90



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAIPAN LHA-2
FPO NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09549-1605

5750
Ser LHA2:118
01 MAR 90

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

Subj: Command History 1989

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl:
- (1) Command History, 1989
 - (2) Copy of Captain L.H. Turner's Biography
 - (3) SAIPAN's 40,000th Landing
 - (4) Navy Journalist Articles
 - (5) Navy Photos
 - (6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet -- USS SAIPAN
 - (7) Change of Command Pamphlet
 - (8) SAIPAN Yardbook
 - (9) Officer Billet Listings

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (9) are forwarded.

L. H. TURNER, JR.

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMPHIBRON TWELVE
COMPHIBRON FOUR
CAPT A.A. GRANUZZO, USN

COMMAND HISTORY
USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
01 JAN 89 - 31 DEC 89

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

- a. Commanding Officer
Captain Andrew A. Granuzzo, USN, (until 08 JUN 89)
Captain Lawrence H. Turner, Jr., USN (from 08 JUN 89 to present)
- b. Executive Officer
Commander Andrew M. Petruska III, USN
- c. Operations Officer
Commander D. Douglas Henry, USN (until 10 AUG 89)
Commander Robert Boe James, USN (from 10 AUG 89 to present)

2. MISSION: To embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine amphibious landing force in an assault by Harriers, helicopters, landing craft, amphibious vehicles, or by a combination of all three methods, onto a hostile shore from the sea. Evacuation and disaster relief are secondary missions of USS SAIPAN.

3. COMPOSITION OF COMMAND: SAIPAN's crew is composed of 66 officers and 833 enlisted. The administrative chain of command is via COMPHIBRON TWELVE, COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMNAVSURFLANT.

4. CHRONOLOGY

01-10 JAN 89	Preparations for Phase II sea trials as final phase of 15-month overhaul period at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.
11-15 JAN	Underway for Phase II sea trials.
30 JAN - 02 FEB	Underway training/amphibious training Virginia Capes Operating Area (VACAPES).
20-21 FEB	Depart Philadelphia Naval Shipyard following completion of complex overhaul for return to home port, Norfolk, VA.
25 FEB - 04 APR	Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
25 MARP	Navy Rights and Responsibilities Stand down.
10-13 APR	SAIPAN passes Operational Propulsion Plant Examination enroute Norfolk.
17-25 APR	PHIBREFTRA conducted off Onslow Bay, NC.
27 APR	RADM G.E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU TWO, embarks for SOLID SHIELD '89.

01 MAY Leukodystrophy Child Day and Ombudsman Recognition Ceremony.

02 MAY BGEN J.J. Sheehan, USMC, CG FOURTH MEB, embarks for SOLID SHIELD.

04-18 MAY Joint Exercise SOLID SHIELD 89 conducted off Onslow Bay, NC. Visiting dignitaries included SECNAV-designate H. Lawrence Garrett III, ADM Carter, CINCLANTFLT, VADM Donnell, COMNAVSURFLANT, GEN Gray, CMC, LGEN Kempf, 12th Air Force, VADM Thorsen, COMUSMARDEZLANT AND VADM Johnson, COM2NDFLT. SAIPAN logs its 40,000th aircraft landing.

20-24 MAY Port call New York City.

21 MAY US Navy reservists visit SAIPAN. SAIPAN holds crew party aboard USS INTREPID. Sunset Parade for dignitaries in SAIPAN hangar bay.

22 MAY SAIPAN softball tournament on Governor's Island. CO calls on Mayor Koch. CO dinner at 21 Club. Reception aboard Spanish ship DE ELCANO.

26 MAY - 11 JUN COMPHIBRON FOUR, CAPT Jack W. Lovell, USN, embarked.

06 JUN Navy League visits SAIPAN. PCO, CAPT L.H. Turner, Jr., reports for duty.

1400, 08 JUN CAPT A.A. Granuzzo relieved by CAPT L.H. Turner, Jr. Guest speaker is RADM G.E. Whisler, Jr. COMPHIBGRU TWO.

21-24 JUN Guests of the Navy/Navy Junior ROTC cruise. AV-8B DLQ's in VACAPES.

29 JUN - 22 JUL Caribbean Operations, including Law Enforcement Operations, in cooperation with US Coast Guard (detachment onboard.)

03 JUL Arrive Kingston, Jamaica. SAIPAN officers attend Jamaican-American Society dinner and ball.

04 JUL SAIPAN celebrates Independence Day with reception and sunset parade in hangar bay. Guests included US Ambassador Hon. Michael Sotirhos, Governor- General Sir Florizel Glasspole, Kingston Mayor Marie Atkins, Commander JDF Coast Guard, Chief of Staff, Jamaican Defense Force MGEN Neish, and the Deputy Prime Minister.

05 JUL SAIPAN civic action program made repairs at the hurricane-damaged Lady Musgrave School for Girls.

06 JUL Underway for Montego Bay with distinguished guests. Anchored Montego Bay for port visit.

10 JUL Underway for Puerto Rican OPAREA.

16-17 JUL NGFS Qualifications vicinity Vieques.

25 JUL AFRTS medical filming taped in SAIPAN's Medical Triage.

31 JUL - 11 AUG USNR DET and Sea Cadets embarked aboard SAIPAN. Combat Systems Assessment. COMPHIBRON TWELVE INSURV assessment.

07-10 AUG Type training in VACAPES.

16-23 AUG4 Phase II for AV-8's with COMPHIBRON FOUR embarked. Exercise Ellipse Alfa '89. Virginia Senator Charles Robb arrives aboard SAIPAN for VIP tour and lunch on the messdecks.

05 SEP Initial MARG Embarkation Conference, in preparation for deployment as MARG 2-90.

11-15 SEP INSURV (12 SEP for Underway Material Inspection).

26-28 SEP Command Inspection. CNAL Performance Assessment Team visits SAIPAN. CINTEX.

10-19 OCT SAIPAN celebrates US Navy's 213th birth day and her own 12th birthday during AV-8B Stage II/III qualifications off the coast of North Carolina.

23-26 OCT Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase I. Aviation assist visit. Aviation Readiness evaluation. Norwegian Air Force General tours SAIPAN. Supply Corps officers tour SAIPAN.

06-09 NOV Underway VACAPES for Stage III training with AV-8B's. Scientists to sea. CNAL DLQ's. LCAC services for wet well training.

13-22 NOV Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase II.

14-16 NOV MARG 2-90 Main Planning Conference held at Little Creek Amphibious Base. GEN Gray, CMC, is keynote speaker. Aviation Readiness Review Conference.

27 NOV COMCRUDESGRU TWELVE, RADM Lynch, and COMDESRON TWENTY, Commodore Wright, visit SAIPAN as introduction to amphibious side of deployment MED 2-90. Supply Material Inspection.

29 NOV VADM Nyquist (OP-03) visits SAIPAN.

04-13 DEC Underway for AV-8 Day/Night Stage IV training, DLQ's, Type Commander Amphibious Training (TCAT).

14-15 DEC Aviation Ordnance Assistance Visit and Safety Survey.

19-20 DEC MARG 2-90 Main Embarkation Conference.

17-31 DEC Holiday leave/upkeep Norfolk.