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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SAIPAN LHA-2
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) FOR 1993

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History 1993
(2) Welcome Aboard pamphlet with Commanding Officer's
Biography
(3) Officer Billet Listing - 1993
(4) Navy Journalists' Articles
(5) USS SAIPAN Familygrams

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5)
are forwarded.


G. S. RHODES

Copy to: (w/o encls 2 through 5)
COMNAVSURFLANT
COMPHIBGRU TWO

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)
Command History - 1993

1. Command Organization.

- a. Commanding Officer
Captain George S. Rhodes, USN
- b. Executive Officer
Captain William J. Marshall, USN
- c. Command Master Chief
RMCM(AW/SW) James D. Reeves, USN
QMCM(SW) Bernard H. Woodard, USN

2. Mission. To embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine amphibious landing force in an assault by CH-46, CH-53, and UH-1 helicopters, LCU, and LCM-8 landing craft onto a hostile shore from the sea. SAIPAN serves as the flagship for Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) operations. Evacuation, disaster relief, and hospital ship duties are secondary missions of USS SAIPAN.

3. Composition. SAIPAN's crew is composed of 63 officers and 904 enlisted personnel. The administrative chain of command is via COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMNAVSURFLANT.

4. Chronology.

01 - 11 JAN	Holiday Upkeep, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.
20 - 26 JAN	Type Training, Virginia Capes Operating Area.
29 JAN - 05 FEB	Type Training, Virginia Capes Operating Area.
02 - 04 FEB	Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).
08 - 24 FEB	Mediterranean Amphibious Readiness Group Work-ups, Western Atlantic.
25 FEB - 16 MAR	Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM), Naval Station, Norfolk.
17 MAR - 30 MAR	Transatlantic Crossing.
31 MAR	Turnover operations with USS GUAM (LPH-9). INCHOP COMSIXTHFLT. Assumed duty as Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) 2-93 Flagship with COMPHIBRON SIX and 26 MEU embarked.
01 - 05 APR	Transit Enroute Naples, Italy.

Enclosure (1)

06 - 09 APR Port Visit, Naples, Italy.

06 APR Visit by ADM BOORDA, Commander in Chief, Naval Forces, Europe

08 APR Visit by VADM LOPEZ, Commander, Sixth Fleet.

10 - 11 APR Transit from Naples, Italy to Adriatic Sea.

12 - 15 APR Adriatic Sea operations.

16 - 20 APR Transit to Rota, Spain.

21 - 26 APR Port Visit, Rota, Spain.

27 - 30 APR Spanish PHIBLEX 1-93, Sierra de Retin, Spain.

01 - 02 MAY Transit to Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

03 - 07 MAY Port Visit, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

08 - 09 MAY Transit to Augusta Bay, Sicily.

10 - 18 MAY Intermediate Maintenance Availability Period (IMAV), Augusta Bay, Sicily.

18 - 19 MAY Transit from Augusta Bay, Sicily to Adriatic Sea.

19 MAY - 10 JUN Adriatic Sea operations.

12 - 13 JUN Transit from Adriatic Sea to Rhodes, Greece.

14 - 17 JUN Port Visit, Rhodes, Greece.

18 - 20 JUN Aegean Sea operations.

21 - 30 JUN Amphibious Exercise, ALEXANDROS-93. Pagasitikos Bay and Strimonikos Bay, Greece.

23 JUN Visit by GEN MUNDY, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps and four European Commandants.

01 - 02 JUL Western Mediterranean Sea operations. Enroute Haifa, Israel.

03 - 05 JUL Anchored Haifa, Israel. Visit by Congressman THOMAS.

06 - 07 JUL Underway for Offload of 26 MEU in support of NOBLE SHIRLEY XIII. Visit by U.S. Ambassador to Israel BROWN and GEN DAYAN, Israeli Defense Force.

08 - 21 JUL Port Visit, Haifa, Israel. Exercises NOBLE SHIRLEY XIII and NOBLE CHRIS-93.

12 JUL Visit by VADM LOPEZ, Commander, Sixth Fleet.

22 - 25 JUL Eastern and Central Mediterranean Sea operations.

26 - 29 JUL Adriatic Sea operations.

30 JUL - 01 AUG Enroute Tunisia.

02 - 08 AUG Tunisian PHIBLEX, vicinity Cap Serrat.

05 AUG Visit by U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia McCARTHY, Tunisian Minister of Defense BEN DHIA and Tunisian Military Chiefs of Staff.

09 - 10 AUG Central Mediterranean Sea operations.

11 - 18 AUG Adriatic Sea operations.

18 - 22 AUG Transit to Rota, Spain.

23 - 26 AUG Inport, Rota, Spain for Agricultural Washdown.

27 AUG Relieved as MARG Flagship by USS GUADALCANAL. INCHOP CINCLANTFLT.

27 AUG - 09 SEP Transatlantic Crossing.

09 SEP Offload 26 MEU(SOC), Morehead City, North Carolina.

09 - 10 SEP Tiger Cruise enroute Norfolk, Virginia.

10 SEP Arrive Homeport Norfolk, Virginia.

10 SEP - 25 OCT Post-Deployment Leave/Upkeep Period.

14 SEP - 15 OCT Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) with SIMA, NORFOLK.

27 SEP - 30 SEP COMPHIBGRU 2 Embarked.

16 OCT MOGAS Offload.

18 OCT Visit by COMPHIBGRU TWO and CNO of the Royal Omani Navy.

19 OCT NAVSEA Matl Supt Improvement Visit

19 OCT DIA International Officers Tour

20 OCT Dutch Veteran Marine Visit
 21 OCT Safety Standdown.
 22 OCT Hosted USS SAIPAN Alumni Reunion Tour.
 25 OCT FAST Cruise.
 28 OCT - 01 NOV Depart Norfolk, VA enroute Gulf of Mexico.
 28 OCT INSURV Underway Material Inspection Rehearsal.
 02 NOV - 07 NOV DLQ's, Pensacola Op Areas.
 08 NOV - 14 NOV Exercise ELLIPSE ECHO-94.
 14 NOV - 18 NOV Enroute Norfolk, VA
 17 NOV INSURV Underway Material Inspection Rehearsal.
 18 NOV Arrive Homeport Norfolk, VA
 18 NOV - 28 NOV Inport Norfolk, VA
 24 NOV Classified Material System Advice and Assist Visit.
 30 NOV - 03 DEC Logistics Management Assessment.
 08 DEC COMPHIBRON 6 Change-of-Command.
 09 DEC - 11 DEC INSURV Underway Material Inspection Rehearsal.
 14 DEC - 17 DEC INSURV Underway Material Inspection.
 17 DEC Start of Holiday Leave Periods.
 17 DEC - 31 DEC Inport Norfolk, Virginia.