



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS SAIPAN LHA-2  
FPO AE 09549-1605

*Rec'd 2/10/95*  
5750  
Ser 32/ **054**  
0171 FEB 1995

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 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History 1994  
(2) Change of Command Program  
(3) Officer Billet Listing - 1994  
(4) Navy Journalists' Articles  
(5) USS SAIPAN Familygrams

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

*R. K. ZIA*  
R. K. ZIA

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

**USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)**  
**Command History - 1994**

1. Command Organization.

- a. Commanding Officer  
Captain George S. Rhodes, USN  
Captain Ralph K. Zia, USN
- b. Executive Officer  
Captain William J. Marshall, USN  
Captain Ronald L. Chapman, USN
- c. Command Master Chief  
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 58 officers and 1009 enlisted personnel. The administrative chain of command is via COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMNAVSURFLANT.

4. Chronology.

01 - 09 JAN	Holiday Leave and Upkeep, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.
10 JAN - 20 APR	Flagship, CJTF-120 ISO Operation SUPPORT DEMOCRACY.
11 JAN	Depart Norfolk, VA enroute Onslow Bay, NC with COMMARFORCARIB Embarked.
15 - 18 JAN	Amphibious Exercises ISO CJTF-120 and COMMARFORCARIB, Camp Leujeune, NC.
19 JAN	Arrive Homeport, Norfolk, VA.
07 MAR	Depart Norfolk, VA; Arrive Onslow Bay, NC and Onload COMMARFORCARIB Forces.
09 MAR	Depart Onslow Bay, NC enroute Andros Island, BF.
12 - 14 MAR	Amphibious Exercises ISO CJTF-120 and COMMARFORCARIB, Andros Island, BF.
14 - 18 MAR	Port Visit, Nassau, BF.

21 - 22 MAR            Offload MARFORCARIB, Onslow Bay, NC.

23 MAR                Arrive Homeport, Norfolk, VA.

29 APR -              Complex Overhaul (COH), Norfolk Naval  
31 DEC 95              Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

29 APR                Entered Drydock #8, Norfolk Naval Shipyard,  
                         Portsmouth, VA.

27 JUL                USS SAIPAN Change-of-Command; CAPT George S.  
                         Rhodes Relieved by CAPT Ralph K. Zia.

21 OCT                Undocking from Drydock #8, Norfolk Naval  
                         Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA.

19 DEC                Start of Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period