



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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M Street, SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS SAIPAN (LHA 2) FOR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History 1995  
(2) Welcome Aboard pamphlet with Commanding Officer's  
Biography  
(3) Officer Billet Listing - 1995  
(4) Navy Journalists' Articles  
(5) USS SAIPAN Familygrams

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

  
R. K. ZIA

Copy to: (w/o Encls (2) through (5))  
COMNAVSURFLANT Norfolk VA  
COMPHIBGRU TWO

**USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)**  
**Command History - 1995**

1. Command Organization.

- a. Commanding Officer  
Captain Ralph K. Zia, USN
- b. Executive Officer  
Captain Ronald L. Chapman, USN  
Captain Joseph S. Gershon, USN
- c. Command Master Chief  
AVCM(AW) Wayne W. Wood, USN  
MMCM(SS) Thomas M. Barnhart, USN

2. Mission. To embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine amphibious landing force able to conduct opposed assault operations from the sea. Elements of the landing force may include AV-8 Harrier attack jets, CH-46, CH-53, and UH-1 helicopters, conventional landing craft, air cushion or tracked amphibious vehicles or a combination of these elements. 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 64 officers and 1,043 enlisted personnel. The administrative chain of command is via COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMNAVSURFLANT Norfolk VA.

4. Chronology

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 01 JAN - 23 MAR | Complex Overhaul (COH), Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Portsmouth, VA.                         |
| 01 - 09 JAN     | Holiday Leave and Upkeep, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.  |
| 4 JAN           | Safety Stand-down: Returning to shipyard environment after the Holidays, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA. |
| 15 - 17 FEB     | COMPHIBGRU 2 Mock Light-Off Exam (LOE), NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.                                  |
| 21 - 23 FEB     | Light-Off Examination, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.   |
| 16 MAR          | Safety Stand-down: Upcoming at-sea period, NNSY, Portsmouth, VA.                               |
| 23 MAR          | Depart NNSY, Portsmouth, VA. enroute Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA).                     |
| 23 - 27 MAR     | Conduct Post-COH Sea Trials, VCOA.   |

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| 27 MAR          | Return Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 27 MAR - 19 APR | Post-COH Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV), Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 17 APR - 19 APR | United States Marine Corps (USMC) Basic School Exercise (BASCOLEX), embarked 250 USMC 2nd LT's, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 24 APR          | Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA enroute VCOA.   |
| 24 - 28 APR     | Post-IMAV Sea Trials, VCOA.   |
| 28 APR          | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 01 - 05 MAY     | Aviation Certification/Aviation Readiness Examination (AVCERT/ARE), Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 07 MAY          | Dependents Open House and Flight Deck Picnic, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 10 MAY - 11 MAY | Family Preparations for Sea Briefs, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 16 - 19 MAY     | Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II Assessment, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 22 MAY          | Safety Stand-down: Ammunition onload/Memorial Day weekend, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.<br><br>Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA enroute "G" Anchorage, Hampton Roads, VA. |
| 22 - 25 MAY     | Ammo Onload, "G" Anchorage, Hampton Roads, VA.  |
| 25 MAY          | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 29 MAY          | Depart Norfolk, VA enroute Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, CU (GTMO).  |
| 05 JUN - 20 JUN | Refresher Training (REFTRA), GTMO.  |
| 21 JUN          | Depart GTMO, enroute Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 25 JUN          | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |

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| 05 - 07 JUL     | Logistics Material Assessment (LMA) Assist Visit, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 10 JUL - 14 JUL | Ordnance Safety Assist Team (OHSAT), Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 13 JUL          | Visit by Business Executives for National Security, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 17 JUL          | Visit by Armed Forces Staff College Students, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 17 JUL - 21 JUL | Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA) I (Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG)), Naval Station, Norfolk VA.<br><br>Industrial Hygiene Survey, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. |
| 19 JUL          | Visit by MGEN Ryan, United States Marine Corps, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 24 JUL          | Depart Norfolk, VA. enroute Puerto Rico Operating Area (PROA).   |
| 25 JUL - 1 SEP  | Placed on Alert Status to Embark Adriatic Special Marine Air to Ground Task Force.   |
| 26-30 JUL       | Aviation Training Team, enroute PROA.  |
| 30-31 JUL       | Naval Surface Gunfire Support, PROA.   |
| 1 AUG - 7 AUG   | Combat Systems Qualification Training Team (CSQTT), PROA.  |
| 4 AUG           | Rolling Air Frame Missile (RAM) certification, PROA.   |
| 7 AUG           | Arrive Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, PR.  |
| 9 AUG           | Depart Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, PR. enroute Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 17 AUG - 20 AUG | Hurricane "FELIX" Storm Evasion. COMMANDING OFFICER USS SAIPAN assumed Tactical Command as COMMANDER TASK UNIT 183.1.8. Units assigned: USS SAIPAN, USS GUAM, USS BRISCOE.     |
| 21 AUG          | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |

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29 AUG Visit by Expeditionary Warfare Training Group (EWTG) Air Space Control Class, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

30 AUG Visit by SHAPE Partnership for Peace Foreign Military Officers, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

31 AUG Safety Stand-down: Labor Day weekend/NAVOSH Program familiarization, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

6 SEP Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. enroute VCOA.

6 SEP - 8 SEP Engineering Readiness Assist Team (ERAT), VCOA.

8 SEP Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

11 SEP Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. enroute VCOA.

11 SEP - 16 SEP TSTA II Engineering Training Group (ETG), VCOA.

16 SEP Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

25 SEP - 29 SEP Shipboard Explosives Safety Inspection (SESI), Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

24 SEP - 28 SEP Hosted 450 Army personnel aboard for Army Sealift Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (SEDRE) Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

27 SEP Visit by RADM Tim Jenkins, United States Navy Retired, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

28 SEP Visit by CAPT Foffi, Italian Navy Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

29 SEP Aviation Readiness Review Conference, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

2 OCT Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. enroute VCOA.

2 OCT - 6 OCT TSTA III ETG/Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) Preparation, VCOA.

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| 4 OCT           | Visit by RADM David Bill, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve, Markwart Graf von Steffenberg and Sir George Meyrick, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 7 OCT - 9 OCT   | OPPE Preparation, ERAT, VCOA.   |
| 10 OCT - 13 OCT | OPPE Preparation, ETG, VCOA.  |
| 13 OCT          | Visit by the King and Queen of Norway, VCOA. Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 16 OCT - 17 OCT | Engineering Hot Checks, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 19 OCT          | Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA enroute VCOA.   |
| 19 OCT - 22 OCT | OPPE Preparation, ERAT, VCOA.   |
| 23 OCT          | OPPE Preparations, VCOA.  |
| 24 OCT - 26 OCT | OPPE, VCOA.   |
| 26 OCT          | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 30 OCT          | Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. enroute Lynnhaven Anchorage, Hampton Roads, VA.  |
| 30 OCT - 3 NOV  | TSTA IV Amphibious Refresher Training (PHIBREFTRA), Lynnhaven Anchorage, Hampton Roads, VA.   |
| 1 NOV           | Ship-wide Suicide Prevention Training, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 4 NOV           | Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |
| 8 NOV           | Visit by Armed Forces Staff College Students, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 9 NOV - 4 DEC   | IMAV, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.   |
| 16 NOV          | Command Amphibious Group Two Quality of Life Inspection, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.<br><br>Visit by United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College Students, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. |
| 27 NOV - 28 NOV | Safety Center Safety Survey, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.  |

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1 DEC Safety Stand-down: Holiday Driving Safety, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

5 DEC Depart Naval Station, Norfolk, VA. enroute VCOA.

5 DEC - 7 DEC Post IMAV Sea-Trials/Deck Launch Qualifications, VCOA.

7 DEC Arrive Homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

11 DEC - 12 DEC Ammunition on load, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

11 DEC - 14 DEC LMA Inspection, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

14 DEC Visit by United States Atlantic Command Officers, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

15 DEC Annual NATO Inspection, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

Bi-Annual Intelligence Oversight Inspection, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.

15 DEC - 31 DEC Holiday Leave and Upkeep, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.