From: Commanding Officer, USS SAIPAN (LHA 2)
To: Director of Naval History (H09BH), Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese Street SE, Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF USS SAIPAN (LHA 2) FOR CY 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Floppy Disk
(2) Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded.

N. L. HACKNEY

Copy:
Command Files
1. **Command Composition and Organization.**
   
a. 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, AH-1W and UH-1 helicopters, conventional landing craft, air cushion or tracked amphibious vehicles or a combination of these elements. USS SAIPAN has served in roles as the flagship for the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) operations, with secondary missions of evacuation, disaster relief, and as hospital ship.

   b. Organizational Structure.
      
      (1) Immediate Senior in Command:
         
         Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT, Norfolk, Virginia
      
      (2) Units under operational/administrative control: None
      
      (3) Command Organization:
         
         **Commanding Officer**
         Captain Norma L. Hackney, USN
         (1 January – 31 December 2002)

         **Executive Officer**
         Captain Christopher A. Hase, USN
         (1 January – 31 December 2002)

         **Command Master Chief**
         CMDMC(SW/SS) Abraham Jackson, USN
         (1 January – 31 December 2002)

      (4) Composition. USS SAIPAN's crew is composed of 68 officers and 1058 enlisted personnel.

2. **Chronology (CY 2002)**

   01 - 21 January
   Inport Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Continuation of Holiday Leave standdown period.

   01 January
   - Continuation of Complex Overhaul (COH) USS SAIPAN and Crew Berthing/Messing Barge both moored at Pier 6 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), Portsmouth, VA.
   
   - Continuation of Holiday leave standdown period through 14 January.

   17 January
   Visit by RADM Antinitus, Director, Installations/Logistics Directorate (SPAWAR Code 04).
30 January
Visit by Ms. Maren Leed, Professional Staff Member (PSM), Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Readiness Subcommittee.

20 February
Command awarded COMNAVSURFLANT 2001 "Green H" Unit Wellness Award.

21 February
Command conducted Spouse Orientation Briefing for spouses of newly arrived crewmembers at Fleet and Family Support Center, Norfolk, VA.

28 February
Command formally established pen pal partnership with Augusta (Georgia) U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Division.

08 March
Commanding Officer, Captain Hackney, visited by Augusta Sea Cadet Division Instructor Linda Hastings, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

11 March
Grand Opening of the Mariana’s Buffet (ship’s Enlisted Mess).

12 - 14 March
Conducted Light Off Assessment (LOA) in Forward Main Machinery Room (FWD MMR). SAIPAN did not light off at this time.

15 March
SAIPAN crewmember IS3 Joshua P. Jane selected as COMPHIBGRU TWO 2001 Intelligence Specialist of the Year.

20 - 22 March
Completed Light Off Assessment (LOA) in FWD MMR. SAIPAN ready to light off.

27 - 28 March
Conducted Fast Cruise.

04 April
Visit by Adroit Systems Inc. (2 contractors) for fact-finding project to discuss Amphibious Warfare capabilities for incorporation in future shipbuilding.

05 April
Conducted Fast Cruise. Grand Opening of Ship’s Store and Ship’s Library.

10 April
Departed underway from NNSY Portsmouth, VA. Commenced Sea Trials in VACAPES.

12 April
Arrived homeport Naval Station Norfolk, berthed Pier 10.

16 April
Tour visit by 30 members of the Konrad Adenaur Foundation. Tour visit by 254 U.S. Marines with The Basic School (TBS) Expeditionary Warfare Orientation (EWO) School who stayed overnight.
17 April
Tour visit by 38 U.S. Marines with the Logistics Embarkation Career Course. Command visit by Rear Admiral Kevin Moran, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO.

18 April
Command hosted ship tours and held banquet in Hangar Bay for 192 guests during the Boy Scouts of America (Tidewater Council) Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner.

22 April
Tour visit by 100 international officers with the NATO Defense College.

23 April
Command’s Medical Department visited by 7 members of the University of Rio Grande (Partners in Education) to conduct Navy accreditation of the Hospital Corpsmen rating. Command’s Security Department visited by 4 members of the House Armed Services Committee conducting overview of Anti-terrorism/Force Protection.

24 April
Commanding Officer Captain Hackney presents certificates to 18 Honor Roll students at command’s Adopt-a-School Tallwood Elementary, Virginia Beach, VA.

25 April
Tour visit by 3 guests with SACLANT’s Executive Assistant. Tour visit by 180 officers with the (U.K.) Royal Navy Staff College.

29 April
SAIPAN’s community relations activities earns the command the "Daily Points of Light" Award from the Points of Light Foundation (an organization which oversees the President’s Community Service Award).

29 April - 03 May
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute to Naval Station Mayport.

03 - 06 May
Arrived Naval Station Mayport for port visit.

06 - 10 May
Departed underway from Naval Station Mayport enroute to Naval Station Norfolk.

14 May
Tour visit by 270 U.S. Marines with The Basic School (TBS) Expeditionary Warfare Orientation School.

15 May
Tour visit by 23 members of the National Defense Industry Association.

16 May

20 May
Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT (COMPHIBRON EIGHT) staff commenced its move aboard SAIPAN. Tour visit by 25 Joint Forces Staff College students.
22 May
Commanding Officer, Captain Hackney is recognized as being one of the "Outstanding Professional Women of Hampton Roads" during the 21st annual Hampton Roads Outstanding Professional Women awards ceremony held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, VA.

28 - 31 May
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Embarked 24 Midshipmen for Phase II training, 6 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets (Flying Midshipmen Training Air Wing, Alexandria, VA), and over 40 contractors with the Joint Strike Fighter Program.

31 May
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

4 June
Tour visit by 14 U.S. Naval Academy faculty members.

6 June
Tour visit by 17 Officers with the German Naval Academy.

7 June
Command Adopt-a-School volunteers visit Tallwood Elementary School in Virginia Beach to participate in annual "Field Day" sports and interaction event.

10 - 12 June
Commenced CART II.

13 June
Tour visit by 20 members from the NMITC Ground Intelligence Officer Course (GIOC).

15 June
Tour visit by 50 Boy Scouts. Visit of Commanding Officer's guests.

17 - 21 June
Conducted practice In-Service (INSURV) Inspection.

19 June
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

21 June
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

22 June
Tour visit by 31 Navy Recruiters from Virginia Beach Recruiting area.

24 - 28 June
Conducted Career Oriented Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID).

2 July
Tour visit by Brigadier General John R. Wallace, United Kingdom Army, Commander, 104 Logistics Brigade, and five other officers.

8 - 12 July
Conducted Supply Management Assessment (SMA).
8 - 22 July
Conducted Ship's Navigation and Aircraft Inertial Alignment (SNAIDS) Ship check.

11 July
Command participated in BUPERS "Project Sail" Video-teleconference Detailing. Event covered by Navy/Marine Corps News team.

12 July
Tour visit by 41 Hampton Roads U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and escorts.

15 - 17 July
Conducted Initial Assessment (IA).

18 July
Tour visit by 30 civilian government employees with the Center for Naval Analysis. Tour visit by 3 VIP guests of the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

19 July
Tour visit by 7 guests of the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

21 - 26 July
12 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets (Flying Midshipmen Training Air Wing, Alexandria, VA) embarked aboard.

22 - 26 July
38 U.S. Navy Midshipmen embarked aboard for Phase III training.

22 July
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Conducted ATG Engineering Training Team In-brief. Conducted OPTEVFOR CH-53 Project Testing.

24 July
Conducted High Power Steering Testing/ Crash Back/Astern Steering Checks.

25 July
Commenced Well Deck Certification Phase II comprising of daytime LCAC operations and LCU day/night operations.

26 July
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

29 July
Supply Department visited by 6 Coca-Cola Executives.

1 August
Tour visit by 35 members of the Catholic Alumni Club Pittsburgh, PA.

2 August
Tour visit by 20 imagery analysts from the National Imagery Mapping Agency (NIMA).

8 August
Tour visit by 20 officers with the Uruguay War College
12 - 15 August
Conducted Battle Group Inport Exercise (BGIE).

12 August
Photo shoot by Commander, Naval Recruiting Command advertising contractors.

13 August
Tour visit by 45 members of the Hampton Roads Sea Cadets.

14 August
Tour visit by 60 N.C. State students with the Piedmont Consortium NROTC Unit.

16 August
Command hosted Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Change of Command Ceremony in ship's hangar bay.

19 - 27 August
Conducted Tailored Ship’s Training Assessment (TSTA II).

19 August
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

27 August
Conducted Underway Demonstration. Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

28 August
Command Picnic observed at Naval Base Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, VA.

29 August
Tour visit by 50 senior military (0-6/0-7) and civilians with the National Defense University International Fellows Class of 2003.

4 September
Tour visit by 10 representatives with the U.S. General Services Administration.

5 September
Passed CRC (Communications Readiness Certificate).

5 September
Tour visit by 27 members with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and 17 U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis) Midshipmen.

11 September
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk. Observed “9/11 Remembrance/Patriot Day” ceremony.

13 September
Participated in Exercise “ARMOURED KNIGHT” involving embarked units with HC6, ACU2, and LCU’s 1650 and 1658.

16 September
Conducted Chief Petty Officer pinning/frocking ceremony.

21 September
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.
23 September
Conducted Incline Experiment.

24 September
Tour visit by 14 students and escorts with the Presidential Management Intern (PMI) program.

28 September
Command hosted tours and lunch in the hangar bay for 198 guests attending the USS ALSTEDE (AAF-48) Reunion.

01 - 04 October
Conducted Supply Management Inspection (SMI).

01 October
Tour visit by 12 guests of the Commanding Officer.

08 - 10 October
Conducted Final Evaluation Problem (FEP).

08 October
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute Naval Station Mayport for port visit.

10 October
Arrived Naval Station Mayport.

13 October
Command observed Navy Birthday with all hands awards ceremony.

15 October
Departed underway from Naval Station Mayport enroute Naval Station Norfolk. Observed official date of command's commissioning (25th Anniversary).

23 October
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk

23 October
Passed ISIC Navigation Checkride inspection.

30 October
Hosted tour and reception in celebration of command's 25th Anniversary attended by approximately 100 SAIPAN Island government representatives, USS SAIPAN (CVL 48) crewmembers, former LHA 2 Commanding Officers and crewmembers, and command partnership organization representatives.

04 - 08 November
Conducted In-Service Inspection (INSURV).

06 November
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk.

07 November
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.
13 November
Tour visit by 45 Naval Attaches. Command celebrated holiday party at Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA.

18 November
Conducted Spouse Orientation training.

02 December
Departed underway enroute to Staten Island, NY for port visit. Commenced Operation TIGER CRUISE for 33 participants.

05 December
Arrived Staten Island, NY, moored at "The Sullivan's" Pier at the former Homeport Naval Base.

06 December
Command participated in "Caps for Kids" community relations project at the Staten Island University Hospital. Hosted reception on board in the hangar bay for over 150 VIPs and invited guests.

07 December
Commanding Officer and Chief Petty Officers participated in Staten Island observance of Pearl Harbor Anniversary. Conducted general ship visiting for over 150 guests. 170 crewmembers attend Army/Navy football game.

08 December
Conducted general ship's visiting for over 150 guests.

09 December
Departed underway from Staten Island, NY enroute to Naval Station Norfolk. Commenced Operation Tiger Cruise with 77 Tigers, 29 Staten Island NJROTC students, and 14 Arlington U.S. Naval Sea Cadets.

10 December
Arrived Naval Station Norfolk.

13 December - 27 December
Commenced Holiday Leave Standdown.

31 December
Departed underway from Naval Station Norfolk enroute to Naval Weapons Station, Earle, Colts Neck, NJ for Ammunition Onload.

3. **Basic Historic Narrative.**

Upon completion of Complex overhaul, new flight deck non-skid was laid. This surface provides the safety factor needed to move and operate aircraft and equipment at sea.

Aviation Certification (AVCERT) was completed 22 April 2002, less than 10 days out of overhaul. The ship was operating aircraft on 19 April 2002, less than 14 days out of overhaul.

At the end of CY 2002, the ship had accumulated over 3,000 flight deck evolutions, over 300 aircraft moves and over 100 elevator runs. V-4 division on-loaded over 440,000 gallons of JP-5 without incident upon leaving NNSY.
By the end of CY 2002 they had pumped over 300,000 gallons of JP-5, servicing over 500 aircraft all without incident.

The following were USS SAIPAN's required inspections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSPECTION</th>
<th>PERIODICITY</th>
<th>COMPLETION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boiler</td>
<td>18-24 months</td>
<td>21 May 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>06-09 Nov 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Readiness</td>
<td>Once per IDTC</td>
<td>Scheduled Feb 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel Engine</td>
<td>12-24 months (after last inspection)</td>
<td>21 Oct 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Readiness</td>
<td>Once per IDTC</td>
<td>Scheduled Mar 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation Check Ride</td>
<td>Two per IDTC</td>
<td>23 Oct 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Management</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>04 Oct 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwater Hull</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>May 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underway Material</td>
<td>Every third IDTC</td>
<td>Scheduled 4-8 Nov 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following were USS SAIPAN's required certifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERTIFICATION</th>
<th>PERIODICITY</th>
<th>COMPLETION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT-FP</td>
<td>Once per IDTC</td>
<td>10 Oct 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVCERT</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>26 Apr 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARQ</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>26 Apr 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMS Readiness</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>09 Nov 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De-Ratting Certification</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>28 May 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Pollution Abatement</td>
<td>5 years (ICW UMI)</td>
<td>29 Mar 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TACAN System</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>10 Apr 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Deck Phase I</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (ICW CART II)</td>
<td>16 Apr 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following were USS SAIPAN's required assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>PERIODICITY</th>
<th>COMPLETION DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aviation Ordnance Safety Cargo and Weapons</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (during JTFX)</td>
<td>Scheduled 03 Feb 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevator</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (SEMAT II)</td>
<td>Scheduled Jun 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5RA</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (90 to 140 prior to deployment)</td>
<td>Scheduled Mar/Apr 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMSEE</td>
<td>Once per IDTC</td>
<td>Scheduled Mar 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Cal Activity</td>
<td>30 days prior to C5RA</td>
<td>Scheduled Mar 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Off</td>
<td>Following PMA/COH</td>
<td>12-14 Mar 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment/Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVOSH and Environmental Protection</td>
<td>ICW UMI</td>
<td>15-19 Jun 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORM Training Team</td>
<td>Once per IDTC</td>
<td>14 Feb 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Once every FMAV/PMA/COH</td>
<td>27 Aug 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR Phase I</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (prior to CART II)</td>
<td>22 May 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR Phase II</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (during CART II)</td>
<td>15 Apr 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMAT I</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (prior to FMAV/PMA/COH)</td>
<td>Jan 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMAT II</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (ICW C5RA)</td>
<td>Scheduled Apr/May 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Equipment Cal Readiness</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (60 days prior to C5RA)</td>
<td>Scheduled Feb 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underway Demo</td>
<td>Once per IDTC (prior to FEP)</td>
<td>27 Aug 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMA</td>
<td>As requested</td>
<td>12 Jul 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>