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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S.S. TARAWA LHA 1 ✓

F.P.O. SAN FRANCISCO 96622-1600

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CLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)

OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES

DATE: 28 Nov 2005

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Ser LHA-1 016/C 003

14 APR 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA-1)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1) (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS TARAWA Officer Precedence List dtd 12 Jan 87

1. (U) The calendar year 1986 Command History for the USS TARAWA (LHA-1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

a. (U) BASIC HISTORY

(1) (U) Command Organization

(a) (U) Commanding Officer

86JAN01-86DEC31: Roger L. Newman, Captain  
U.S. Navy, [REDACTED]  
Lineal Number 001754-00  
DOR 82JUL01

(b) (U) Mission and Function of the Command

The Amphibious Task Force, which executes its tasks in support of the Navy's force projection mission, is composed of LHA, LPH, LPD, LSD, LKA and LST class ships. TARAWA, the lead ship of the LHA class of general purpose amphibious assault ships, combines the functional capabilities of the LPH, LPD/LSD and the LKA to deliver a balanced payload, by air or surface operations, in an amphibious assault. Explicitly, a former Chief of Naval Operations defined the LHA's mission: "To embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in an assault by helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicles and by any combination of these methods."

(c) (U) Composition of Command:

The command was composed of USS TARAWA (LHA-1) and organic assets which included one UH-1N helicopter (BUNO 160830), two LCM-6s and four LCPL assault boats. Ships company included 59 commissioned officers and 842 enlisted men as of 31 December 1986.

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(d) (U) TARAWA was homeported at Naval Station San Diego, CA during 1986.

(2) (C) Summary of operations and special events for 1986.

01 Jan-05	Jan	Inport San Diego, CA
06 Jan		Underway enroute Seal Beach, CA
06 Jan-09	Jan	Seal Beach ammo onload
10 Jan		Underway enroute San Diego, CA, Anchored Coronado Roads
13 Jan-20	Jan	Inport San Diego, CA
21 Jan-24	Jan	Underway Southern California Oparea: Independent Steaming Exercises
25 Jan-03	Feb	Inport San Diego, CA
04 Feb-07	Feb	Underway Southern California Oparea: Independent Steaming Exercises
08 Feb-09	Feb	Inport San Diego, CA
10 Feb-21	Feb	Underway Southern California Oparea: Refresher Training
22 Feb-02	Mar	Underway Southern California Oparea: Amphibious Refresher Training
03 Mar-09	Mar	Inport San Diego, CA
10 Mar		Underway Southern California Oparea: Combat Systems Readiness Test
11 Mar-24	Mar	Inport San Diego, CA
25 Mar-26	Mar	Underway Southern California Oparea: Independent Steaming Exercises
27 Mar-31	Mar	Inport San Diego, CA
01 Apr-03	Apr	Underway Southern California Oparea: OPPE
04 Apr-20	Apr	Inport San Diego, CA
21 Apr		Anchored Coronado Roads
22 Apr-28	Apr	Underway Southern California Oparea: KERNEL BLITZ 86-2
29 Apr-04	May	Inport San Diego, CA
05 May		Anchored Coronado Roads
06 May-15	May	Underway Southern California Oparea: KERNEL USHER 86-1
15 May-29	May	Inport San Diego, CA
30 May		Underway Southern California Oparea: Dependents Day Cruise
31 May-18	Jun	Inport San Diego, CA
18 Jun		13th MAU Embarks (CTG 39.1)
19 Jun		Deploy for Western Pacific, COMPHIBRON ONE is CTG 36.1
30 Jun-03	Jul	Underway Vicinity Adak, AK: KERNEL POTLATCH 86-1
30 Jun		Intercepted Soviet Bear Acft w/ AV-8C's
03 Jul		COMTHIRDFLT Visits USS TARAWA
05 Jul		Depart Adak Area - Commence Transit to Western Pacific
06 Jul		Intercepted Soviet Badgers w/ AV-8C's
07 Jul		Chop to Seventh Fleet

10 Jul Grayhawk 130 (HMM-161, UH-1N USMC) crashed in water, no survivors

17 Jul Conducted FIREX I, Naval Gunfire Support Exercise

17 Jul COMSEVENTHFLT Visit

18 Jul Inport Naval Station Subic Bay, POL Pier

19 Jul Shift to Alava Pier

29 Jul COMPHIBGRU ONE (CTF 76) Embarks

30 Jul Underway: transit from Subic Bay to Thailand

04 Aug-13 Aug Underway: COBRA GOLD 86

12 Aug COMPHIBGRU ONE Departs

14 Aug-17 Aug Visit Phattaya Beach, Thailand

18 Aug-20 Aug Underway: Transit Phattaya Beach to Singapore

21 Aug-30 Aug Upkeep Singapore

31 Aug-08 Sep Underway: Transit to Australia via Malacca Strait

09 Sep Anchor Fremantle

10 Sep-15 Sep Underway: Western Australia: VALIANT USHER 86-5AS

16 Sep-21 Sep Visit Fremantle

22 Sep-01 Oct Underway: Transit to Subic Bay via Lombok Strait

29 Sep First night RPV Ops from a Ship

01 Oct-12 Oct Inport Subic Bay

13 Oct-14 Oct Anchor in Subic Bay (Typhoon Ellen evasion)

15 Oct-20 Oct Inport Subic Bay

21 Oct-23 Oct Underway: Transit to Okinawa

24 Oct-25 Oct Inport Okinawa

25 Oct COMPHIBGRU ONE (CTF 76), and CG 9th MAB (CTG 79.1) Embark

26 Oct-28 Oct Underway: Transit to Subic Bay

26 Oct-03 Nov Underway: Zambales Training area, RP: TRAEX 87-1(RP)

29 Oct VC-5 dropped AV-8 engine in water off Cubi Pt.

04 Nov-07 Nov Inport Subic Bay

08 Nov COMPHIBGRU ONE & CG 9th MAB debark

08 Nov-09 Nov Underway: Transit to Hong Kong

10 Nov-14 Nov Visit Hong Kong

15 Nov-16 Nov Underway: Transit to Subic Bay

17 Nov-25 Nov Inport Subic Bay

26 Nov-08 Dec Underway: Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI

04 Dec Chop to Third Fleet

09 Dec Helo Ops (Deck Landing Quals) for MAG-24 (Hawaii)

10 Dec-11 Dec Inport Pearl Harbor, HI

12 Dec-17 Dec Underway: Transit to Southern California Oparea

18 Dec 13th MAU debarks at Camp Pendleton, CA

19 Dec Arrive Naval Station San Diego, CA

20 Dec-31 Dec Inport San Diego, CA

b. (U) Narrative History

(1) (U) TARAWA earned the Battle Efficiency "E" in Amphibious Squadron ONE for superior performance during the period 1 July 1985 through 30 June 1986.

(2) (C) In preparation for the scheduled Western Pacific deployment, TARAWA participated in two major amphibious exercises in SOCAL; KERNEL BLITZ 86-2 and KERNEL USHER 86-1, Refresher

Training (grade: excellent), Amphibious Refresher Training (grade: outstanding), Combat Systems Readiness Test (grade: outstanding) and FIREX I/Naval Gunfire Support (score: 101.2).

(3) (C) TARAWA deployed from 19 June through 19 December 1986 to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans with Amphibious Squadron ONE and the Thirteenth MAU. During the deployment TARAWA participated in four major amphibious exercises; KERNEL POTLATCH 86, COBRA GOLD 86, VALIANT USHER 86-5AS and TRAEX 87-1(RP).

c. (U) Statistical and Mission Highlights

(1) (U) Supply Department

Stores Division:

Issues	-	13,801
	86.71% effectiveness	
JP5 consumed	-	1,373,732 gal
	@ \$	1,127,412.44
Material recvd		\$22,195,737.11
Material offld		\$ 3,335,565.00
Avg/Monthly Inv on hand		\$25,582,000.00

Food Services:

Meals served		389,395
Provisions consumed		\$ 1,444,502.00
Eggs		47,838 dz
Bread		44,709 lbs
Flour		2,809 lbs
Milk		52,099 gal

Sales and Services:

Total Sales		\$ 789,463.43
Profits transferred to the ship's		
Welfare and Recreation Fund		\$ 101,000.00
Laundry Processed		127,543 lbs
Dry cleaning processed		10,670 lbs
Haircuts provided		6,928

Disbursing:

Checks issued		\$7,772,613.00
Gross disbursements		\$4,723,541.00
Collections accomplished		\$ 923,573.00
Travel claims processed		369

(2) (U) AIMD

(a) (U) A total of 3594 repairables were inducted into AIMD with 2553 returned to RFI status. Overall RFI rate was 71.0 percent. Additionally, 1280 work requests were processed.

(b) (U) Tarawa's organic helo made 630 sorties accumulating 1186.7 flight hours of which 323 sorties and 691.6 were during WESTPAC 86. Overall mission capable rate was 95.3 percent with a 94.8 percent full mission capable rate.

(c) (U) AIMD was awarded the Measure Outstanding Activity Award for period of Jan-June 1986. This award, by the Measure Operational Control Center West is for maintaining test equipment calibration accounting documentation within a 2% accuracy factor.

(3) (U) Air Department

The Air Department maintained the highest levels of combat readiness, establishing a new record for mishap free landings, and contributing substantially to Naval Aviation as the first navy ship in history to deploy with Embarked Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPV's). The department logged 18,095 landings and safely dispensed 1,354,917 gallons of JP-5 fuel. In addition to maintaining the highest operating tempo in Tarawa's history, the department excelled during graded training and inspections, completing Refresher Training, Amphibious Refresher Training, and the type commanders 3-M inspection with respective scores of outstanding, outstanding and 95.5 percent. The Air Department's efforts resulted in the department winning an unprecedented seventh consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" with AV-8C Harriers and H-53E Helicopters. While deployed and throughout six major amphibious exercises TARAWA enhanced her reputation for being the "best operating deck" in the Navy. Selected statistics for calendar year 1986 are:

	<u>DAY</u>	<u>NIGHT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Helo Take Off/Landings	12,832	3,440	16,272
VSTOL Launches/Landings	1,745	0	1,745
RPV Launches/Landings	66	12	78
Gallons of JP-5 Issued:			1,354,917

LHA Class Milestones Reached: 50,000 Landings - 9 May 1986  
 60,000 Landings - 3 Nov 1986

(4) (U) Communications

In Jul 86, The Communications department earned the Communications Green "C" and the Battle "E". During the Western Pacific deployment the Communications Department processed over 85,000 messages.

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(5) (U) Engineering Department

The propulsion plant compiled the following statistics in 1986:

Hours Steamed:	#1 Boiler	4261.8 hrs
	#2 Boiler	4273.0 hrs
Gallons of Fuel Consumed (DFM)		8,119,187 gal
Gallons of Lube Oil Consumed		3,500 gal
Gallons of Water Produced		19,675,000 gal
Shaft Revolutions:	Stbd Shaft	8,307,220 turns
	Port Shaft	8,307,980 turns
Ballast/Deballast Operations		28

(6) (U) Deck Department

In 1986 Deck Department featured prominently in the fourteen underway refueling operations during which the ship received in excess of 6,032,453 gallons of fuel. The ship's boats consisting of four LCPLs and two LCM-6s were used during Amphibious Refresher training and exercises during TARAWA's six month deployment to WESTPAC. Combat Cargo Division handled approximately 1,008 vehicles and 683 pallets of cargo during the year. For the WESTPAC deployment, TARAWA was augmented by ACU-1 Boat Group One, Team One consisting of one LCU and Four LCM-8s.

(7) (U) Executive Department

Reenlistments	104
Reenlistment rate for those eligible	59%
Personnel awards:	
Navy Achievement Medals	18
Letters of Commendation	22
Legal:	
Courts Martial completed	28
NJPs Awarded	118
Administrative Discharges	45
Security:	
UCMJ Violations	297
Military Working Dog Searches	56
Military Working Dog Alerts	164
Urine Samples Collected	4640
Incident/Complaint Reports Completed	108

(8) (U) Medical Department

(a) (U) During the course of the year, the Medical Department treated 6605 outpatients and admitted 222 patients on the LHA-1 ward. Thirty-two surgical procedures were performed including an emergency tracheotomy, three appendectomies, two ankle reconstructions and four hernia repairs. Ancillary support

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included 9798 prescriptions filled, 26,123 laboratory tests, 2362 X-rays, 3364 immunizations, 408 physical examinations, 396 audiograms, 92 EKGs and 138 spectacles.

(b) (U) Numerous major and minor equipment acquisitions were made in 1986. These included six state-of-the-art VSM1 cardiac monitors for the Intensive Care Unit and Operating Rooms, a volume ventilator, an X-ray film processor, an oscilloscope and a photocopier.

(c) (U) A medical quality assurance program was implemented onboard TARAWA. The Medical Department received very high marks on its first report from Commander, Amphibious Squadron One.

(d) (U) For the first time in TARAWA's history, surgical and surgical support teams were embarked for the entire six month deployment. Several lessons were learned and a wealth of experience was gained. Throughout, TARAWA provided the highest quality medical care for all crew men and embarked personnel.

(9) (U) Dental

In March the NAVSURFPAC Force Dental Officer provided an assist visit, the department was given a C-1 rating. Dental readiness stood at 87%. The Dental Department purchased a dental air compressor. This allowed them to continue operating in the event of a loss ships service low pressure air. By 30 June the crew's Dental Readiness increased to 92%. The Dental Department computerized its record filing system, thus allowing them to find and identify a large number of missing records. By using the computerized filing system 220 patients were examined in September and Dental Readiness increased to 96% for Ship's Company and 98% for embarked Marines. By the end of the year the Dental Department was two months ahead of its routine dental examination schedule and Dental Readiness reached 98%.

(10) (U) Combat Systems

Combat Systems expended 250 tons of aviation ordnance, 170 5"/54 rounds, 1 Basic Point Defense Missile System test missile and numerous 20 mm and 50 mm machine gun rounds in various training evolutions and exercises.

(11) (C) Operations Department

The divisions of Operations Department provided a comprehensive tactical and strategic picture to the ship, embarked staffs and accompanying units during the six major amphibious exercises TARAWA participated and five Tropical Storms that effected the Amphibious Ready Group during its Western Pacific deployment. TARAWA's AIC personnel performed superbly on the two occasions Marine Harriers intercepted Soviet

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reconnaissance aircraft in the vicinity of the ARG. CIC maintained continuous data links with Link 11 capable units including linking with HMS INVINCIBLE while transiting the Straits of Malacca.

*T.L. Blackmon*  
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