



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S.S. TARAWA LHA 1

F.P.O. SAN FRANCISCO 96622-1600

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DECLASSIFIED BY: **CNC** (Nelson) 5750 015/C001
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES 16 March 1988
DATE: 28 Nov 2005

From: Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA 1)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1) (U)
Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS TARAWA Officer Precedence List dtd 31 Dec 87

1. (U) The calendar year 1987 Command History for USS TARAWA (LHA 1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

a. (U) BASIC HISTORY

(1) (U) Command Organization

(a) (U) Commanding Officer

87JAN01-87FEB28: Roger L. Newman, Captain
U.S. Navy, [REDACTED]
Lineal Number 001754-00
DOR 82JUL01

87FEB28-87DEC31: Thomas L. Blackmon, Captain
U.S. Navy, [REDACTED]
Lineal Number 001758-20
DOR 82JUL01

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

The Amphibious Task Force, which executes its tasks in support 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 OH-1N helicopter (BUNG 160830), two LCM-

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6's and four LCPL assault boats. Ships company included 59 commissioned officers and 842 enlisted men as of 31 December 1987.

(1) (U) USS TARAWA was homeported at Naval Station, San Diego, CA, until 29 May 1987 when she changed homeports to Naval Ship Yard, Long Beach, CA, to undergo a Complex Overhaul (COH).

(2) (U) Summary of operations and special events for 1987.

01 Jan-19 Jan	Inport Naval Station, San Diego, CA
20 Jan	Underway from Naval Station, San Diego, CA
23 Jan	Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA
27 Jan	Underway from Naval Station, San Diego, CA
27 Jan	Anchor off Silver Strand, Coronado, CA
28 Jan	Underway from anchorage
28 Jan	Anchor Del Mar, CA
28 Jan	Underway from Del Mar, CA
02 Feb	Anchor Del Mar, CA
04 Feb	Underway from Del Mar, CA
05 Feb	Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA
04 Mar	Underway from Naval Station, San Diego, CA
05 Mar	Anchor Del Mar, CA
06 Mar	Underway from anchorage
06 Mar	Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA
24 Mar	Underway from Naval Station, San Diego, CA
25 Mar	Anchor off Silver Strand, Coronado, CA
25 Mar	Underway from anchorage
27 Mar	Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA
13 May	Underway to NAS North Island, CA
13 May	Arrive NAS North Island, CA
14 May	Underway to NAS Alameda, CA
15 May	Arrive NAS Alameda, CA
18 May	Underway from NAS Alameda, CA
18 MAY	Anchor San Francisco Bay
20 May	Underway from San Francisco Bay
22 May	Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA
28 May	Underway to Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA
28 May	Arrive Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA (Pier E)
29 May	Underway to Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA (Pier 2)
29 May	Arrive Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA (Pier 2)
10 Sep	Underway to Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA (Drydock #1)
10 Sep	Arrive Naval Shipyard Long Beach, CA (Drydock #1)
10 Sep-31 Dec	Naval Shipyard Long Beach (Drydock #2)

TOTAL MILES TRAVELED BY USS TARAWA (LHA 1) IN 1987 = 2,555.5 NAUTICAL MILES.

b. (U) Narrative History

(1) (U) TARAWA participated in "Kernel Blitz" B7-1 from

27 Jan - 5 Feb 87. TARAWA conducted amphibious training with the Oregon National Guard from 4-6 Mar 87, in which TARAWA was the primary control ship. An Amphibious Landing Orientation Exercise was conducted with LFTCPAC students from 24 - 27 Mar 87.

(2) (U) TARAWA was assigned to Task Group 36.5 from 1 - 26 Jan 87; Task Force 336 from 27 Jan - 5 Feb 87; Task Group 36.5 from 5 Feb - 20 May 87; and Task Unit 15.7.2 from 20 May - 31 Dec 87.

(3) (U) TARAWA was assigned as flagship for COMPHIBGRU THREE from 28 Jan - 5 Feb 87.

c. (U) Statistical and Mission Highlights

(1) (U) Supply Department

S-1: STORES

Value of OPTAR funds obligated:

Consumables (NC)	\$998,137.57
Repair (NR)	\$810,087.26
Overhaul (SFOMS)	\$1,186,949.34
TOTAL	\$2,995,174.17

S-2: FOOD SERVICE

Equipment installed:

<u>SPACE</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>QTY</u>	
Crew galley	Steam kettle	9	
	Oven	14	
	Pot & Pan washer	1	
	Garbage grinder	1	
	Meat slicer	2	
	Food warmer	16	
	Refrigerator	2	
	Counter Freezer	2	
	Steam cooker	2	
	Deep fat fryer	2	
	Bake shop	Oven	6
		Refrigerator	1
	Garbage room	Garbage grinder w/spray assembly	1
Mess decks	Ice machine	8	
	Milk dispenser	4	
	Juice dispenser	4	
	Toaster (rotary)	2	
	Milk cabinets	4	
	Coffee urn	1	
Scullery (mess decks)	Dishwashers	2	
	Garbage grinder	2	
WR Serving line	Ice machine	1	
	Soda machine	1	



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	Milk dispenser	1
	Juice dispenser	1
	Coffee urn	1
WR Scullery	Dishwasher	1
	Garbage grinder	1
CPO Galley	Oven	2
	Steam kettle	4
	Meat slicer	1
	Refrigerator	1
	Freezer (counter)	1
CPO Scullery	Dishwasher	1
	Garbage grinder	1
CPO Dinning	Salad Bar	1
	Ice machine	1
	Soda machine	1
	Juice dispenser	1
	Coffee urn	1
	Milk dispenser	1
Flag galley	Range/oven	1
	Dishwasher	1
CO's galley	Range/oven	1
	Dishwasher	1
	Total Equipment:	227

TOTAL OF SPACE REHABED: 170

S-3: SALES

Ship's store & Ice Cream Bar	\$221,742.00
Vending Machines	<u>111,884.10</u>
TOTAL	\$333,626.10

Profits transferred to Welfare/Rec Fund: \$50,000.00

Laundry processed dry linen (lbs)	99,840
Dry clean CPO & Officer (pieces)	8,451

Haircuts	Enlisted	3,311
	Officer	<u>1,023</u>
TOTAL		4,334

Equipment: All laundry and dry cleaning machines were replaced during COH.

Washers	5	Laundry presses	9
Dryers	5	Dry clean presses	4
Flat iron	1	Dry clean machines	2

S-4: DISBURSING

Total value of pay disbursed: \$8,923,497.24

S-6: AVIATION STORES

SPACE	<u># to be rehabbed</u>	<u># Accomplished (painted)</u>
Storeroom	31	23
Office	3	2



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Vestibule	27	21
Fan room	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	67	50

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<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>OFFLOAD INVENTORY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PALLETS</u>
Bell		991
55		113
A		196
MOLE		7(Rotor heads) 9(Rotor blades)
B		<u>9(MS Gear)</u>
TOTAL		1325

BELL PROCESSING

Inventoried: 70,000 line items
80,000 consolidations

Processed: 26,000 excesses for offload

Processed: 6,000 NSC, DRMO turn-ins

Processed: 600 pallets of DTD materials for ship

S-7 AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING

Feb 87 - COMNAVSURFPAC onboard to commence SNAP I phase 2 "B" installation and "B" block upgrade

Feb 87 - SNAP I phase 2 "B" installation and "B" block upgrade completed

Mar 87 - Acceptance trials completed for SNAP I phase 2 "B" installation and "B" block upgrade

Jun 87 - COMNAVSURFPAC delivered "SNAP VAN" for offsite processing during COH. NAVMASSO onboard installing software.

Jun 87 - "SNAP VAN" operational. Operations moved off TARAWA to van.

Jul 87 - Commenced rehab work on all 10 S-7 assigned spaces. Rehab work consisted of: Redoing decks in 9 of 10 spaces; Repainting all 10 spaces

Sep 87 - ILO processing over 84,000 line items

(2) (U) AIMD

(a) (U) There were no inductions into AIMD during 1987.

(b) (U) TARAWA's organic helo made 268 sorties accumulating 586.5 flight hours. Overall mission capable rate was 86.7 percent with 85.5 percent full mission capable rate. Aircraft was in SDLM between 11 June and 7 October 1987.

(c) (U) AIMD was awarded the second consecutive Measure Outstanding Activity Award for the period July-December 1986. This award, by the Measure Operational Control Center West,

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is for maintaining test equipment calibration accounting documentation within a 2 percent accuracy factor.

(d) (U) All GSE/MHE was offloaded to NAS North Island and refurbished by the GSE division with the exception of forklifts. Forklifts were inducted into PWC, NAVSTA San Diego, for rework.

(3) (U) Air Department

TARAWA's Air Department continued its fine tradition of excellence in maintaining the standard to which all LHA's strive. During 1987, TARAWA was awarded the Admiral Flatley Memorial Award for operational excellence. During "Kernel Blitz" the 3rd MAW conducted over 3500 mishap free landings. The CNO Project to test Dynamic interface of CH-53D/E Wind Envelopes and night lighting configurations was conducted flawlessly. Commander, Naval Air Test Center, cited TARAWA for unparalleled professionalism in this highly demanding and safety challenging environment.

Joint operations with the Oregon National Guard and 3rd MAW included three assaults during Amphibious Operational Training exercises (AOT's).

In June, TARAWA entered a COH at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. Extensive repairs were undertaken to remodel and update the Hangar Bay, Flight Deck, and Prifly. All of this being done to enable TARAWA to press-on into the 1990's, able to meet all challenges and to accommodate the latest in Navy and Marine Corps aircraft during all weather, day and night operations.

Selected statistics for the calendar year 1987 were:

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Total</u>
Helo takeoffs/landings	3422	1297	4719
Gallons of JP-5 issued:	174,271		
Gallons of JP-5 received:	131,271		

(4) (U) Communications

Approximately 34,575 messages passed through radio for the year with almost 10,000 during the "Kernel Blitz" exercise. During the year, we started complete overhaul of spaces, communications antennas, TTY's and the installation of Single Audio System.

(5) (U) Engineering Department

The propulsion plant compiled the following statistics in 1987:

Hours Steamed:	#1 Boiler	632.7
	#2 Boiler	606.6

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Gallons of fuel consumed (DFM) 1,063,676
Gallons of water produced:
 Fresh water distilled - 710,460
 Feed water distilled - 549,540
Shaft Revolutions: stbd - 1,708,960
 port - 1,656,610
Number of Ballast operations: 22

(6) (U) Deck Department

In 1987 Deck Department conducted underway refueling operation during which the ship received in excess of 540,000 gallons of F76 and 131,850 gallons of F44. The ship's boats consisting of four MK12 LCPL's and two LGM-6's were used during amphibious exercises Kernel Blitz, LFTC PAC TRAEX 2, and H&S company TRAEX 87-1.

(7) (U) Executive Department

Reenlistments	100
Reenlistment rate for those eligible	59%
Personnel awards:	
Navy Achievement Medals	18
Letters of Commendation	23
Legal:	
Courts-martial completed	14
NJP's awarded	144
Administrative Discharges	22
Security:	
UCMJ Violations	260
Military Working Dog Searches	37
Military Working Dog Alerts	143
Urine Samples Collected	3302
Incident/Complaint Reports Completed	67

(8) (U) Medical Department

In 1987 TARAWA's Medical Department performed in an outstanding manner during "Kernel Blitz" 87-1 and a mini-exercise with National Guard troops. During the course of the year the Medical Department treated 2,829 outpatients. Ancillary support included 4,901 prescriptions filled, 5,118 laboratory tests, 722 X-rays, 2,888 immunizations, 233 physical exams, 305 audiograms, 44 EKG's and 221 pairs of spectacles ordered.

Major overhaul work within the Medical Department was begun in June when TARAWA entered COH. An extremely ambitious Ship's Force Overhaul Management System (SFOMS) work package resulted in the rehabilitation of 34 spaces by the Hospital Corpsmen with superb results. Shipyard workers made substantial

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progress on several SHIPALTS including the installation of seamless decking in spaces and upgrading of alarm systems. The largest Medical SHIPALT is the installation of a frozen blood facility which will allow storage of frozen red blood cells for 10 years.

New equipment delivered included four D.R. tables, two sterilizers, a blood gas analyzer and two field anesthesia units. Additionally, OPTAR funds were utilized to purchase over \$37,000 worth of non-OPN equipment including four portable sterilizers, chairs, desks, two SPARK kits, three typewriters, two IVAC infusion pumps and two Chris Clean resuscitation training devices. Approximately \$32,000 worth of excess medical equipment in good condition was received from Naval Hospitals and recently decommissioned ships. This included an EKG machine and an X-ray processor.

During the first half of 1987 numerous VIP's and groups were given tours of TARAWA's impressive medical facilities. These included the Greek CNO, COMNAVSURFPAC, 170 potential Medical Program Officer applicants and sixty MMART personnel from NAVHOSP Camp Pendleton.

An intensive inservice training program consisting of three lectures per week for the Hospital Corpsmen was instituted. This contributed greatly to four HM's being selected for advancement. Also each Hospital Corpsman attended off-ship training courses to further their development.

1987 was primarily a "building" year for TARAWA Medical. Upon completion of overhaul in 1988 TARAWA will have one of the most capable and attractive medical facilities in the Fleet staffed by extremely well trained personnel.

(9) (U) Dental

The Dental Department made history by maintaining dental services onboard during TARAWA's Complex Overhaul. This was made possible by the design and production of portable dental units by the Dental Officer.

The immediate benefits of maintaining onboard dental services were (1), a savings of at least four man-hours per dental treatment, and (2) maintenance of a much higher dental readiness than would have been otherwise possible. The highly portable units that were made onboard TARAWA are being studied for general operational application.

Dental readiness was maintained between 83% and 89% while accomplishing 594 scheduled man-hours of ship's force work by dental department personnel.

New dental equipment is currently being installed in all treatment spaces.

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(10) (U) Combat Systems

No weapons were fired during CY-87. Major changes include: removal of both BPDSMS systems, removal of AN/SPS-52B radar, installation in progress of two CIWS systems, installation in progress of AN/SPS-52C radar, installation in progress of Single Audio System for communications, installation in progress of AN/SLQ-25 NIXIE system, installation in progress of aviation bomb build-up area, and upgrade in progress of Joint Intelligence Center.

(11) (U) Operations Department

The Divisions of Operations Department provided a comprehensive tactical and strategic picture to the ship, embarked staffs and accompanying units during one major amphibious exercise. TARAWA's CIC performed superbly when she was assigned the role of Primary Control Ship during two Amphibious Landing Orientation Training exercises with the Oregon National Guard and LFTCPAC students.

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