



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S.S. TARAWA LHA 1

F.P.O. SAN FRANCISCO 96622-1600

5750
Ser LHA-1 283

07 APR 1989

From: Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA-1)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) USS TARAWA Officer Precedence List dtd 23 November 1988

1. The calendar year 1988 Command History for the USS TARAWA (LHA-1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

a. BASIC HISTORY

(1) Command Organization

(a) Command Officer

88 JAN 01 - 88 DEC 31: Thomas L. Blackmon, Captain
U.S. Navy, [REDACTED]
Lineal Number 001758-20
DOR 01 July 1982

(b) 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) Composition of Command

The command was composed of USS TARAWA (LHA-1) and organic assets which included one UH-1N helicopter (BUND 160830), two LCM-6's and four LCPL assault boats. Ship's company included 62 commissioned officers and 821 enlisted men as of 31 December 1988.

(d) Homeport Information

TARAWA was homeported at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California, during 01 Jan 88 - 27 May 88. TARAWA got underway on May 27 and was homeported at Naval Station San Diego for the remainder of 1988.

(e) Summary of operations and special events for 1988

01 Jan - 21 Jan Moored Pier 2, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
21 Jan Undocking
26 Jan Crew moves aboard
26 Jan - 07 Mar Ship continued to wrap-up yard period projects and fill projected billets for work-up after overhaul
07 Mar - 11 Mar EOSS Ship Checks
14 Mar Aviation TA
16 Mar JP-5 Onload
21 Mar - 25 Mar MTT II
11 Apr - 15 Apr LOE/ASIR Assist
21 Apr CERT CERT Phase I
22 Apr Underway for Pier 1, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
25 Apr Underway for Pier 2, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
02 May - 06 May ASIR, Certified
09 May - 14 May Sea Trials
17 May Commence Fast Cruise
18 May Commence Dock Trials
19 May Underway from Pier 2, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
23 May Moored at Pier 2, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
27 May Underway from Pier 2, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
Moored at Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
06 Jun - 11 Jun AAV/3M Assist
17 Jun Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
Anchored, Silver Strand
Underway from Silver Strand
20 Jun Anchored, Seal Beach--Onload
Underway from Seal Beach
22 Jun Anchored, Silver Strand
23 Jun - 24 Jun PHIB Ops
24 Jun Underway from Silver Strand
Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
22 Jun - 01 Jul MTT Phase I, San Diego
07 Jul JP-5 Refueling
11 Jul Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
ECC Drills/AHAT SOCAL Oparea
14 Jul Anchored Silver Strand
15 Jul Underway from Silver Strand
Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
18 Jul Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
18 Jul - 22 Jul ISE SOCAL Oparea
19 Jul Anchored, Silver Strand
Underway from Silver Strand
22 Jul Moored Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
26 Jul Underway from Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
UMI-CSRT
Moored Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
28 Jul DUS Trainer, Underway replenishment simulate
01 Aug MTT Phase II, Inport Naval Station San Diego
02 Aug Underway form Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
02 Aug - 05 Aug MTT, SOCAL Oparea
05 Aug Moored Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
22 Aug - 26 Aug CSSQT, Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego

29 Aug Underway from Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
 29 Aug - 02 Sep CSSQT, SOCAL Oparea
 02 Sep Moored Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
 09 Sep COMPHIBRON ONE EMBARKATION
 10 Sep COMPHIBGRU THREE CHANGE OF COMMAND
 23 Sep COMPHIBRON ONE Shifts flag to USS TUSCALOOSA (LST-1187)

 26 Sep Underway from Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
 26 Sep - 29 Sep DLQ's 3rd MEW
 26 Sep - 30 Sep SPEC Operations, fiber optics
 30 Sep Moored Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
 03 Oct Underway from Pier 2, Naval Station San Diego
 04 Oct Anchored, Seal Beach -- Onload
 06 Oct Underway from Seal Beach
 07 Oct Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 11 Oct Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 11 Oct - 13 Oct Group sail to Monterey, California
 11 Oct Anchor, Oceanside, California
 11 Oct Underway from Oceanside, California
 12 Oct Lie-to, Port Hueneme, California
 12 Oct Underway from Port Hueneme, California
 13 Oct Anchored, Monterey Bay, California
 13 Oct - 17 Oct Fleet Week Monterey -- TARAWA serves as flagship
 17 Oct Underway from Monterey Bay, California
 17 Oct - 18 Oct Group sail to San Diego, California
 18 Oct Anchor, Camp Pendleton -- Offload
 18 Oct Underway from Camp Pendleton, California
 18 Oct Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 20 Oct COMPHIBRON ONE Change of Command
 19 Oct - 21 Oct NWAT
 24 Oct MTT Phase III, Inport San Diego
 24 Oct Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 24 Oct MTT Phase III, SOCAL Oparea
 28 Oct Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 01 Nov - 02 Nov TRE, Inport San Diego
 02 Nov Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 03 Nov Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 08 Nov Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 08 Nov - 10 Nov OPPE, SOCAL Oparea
 10 Nov Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 16 Nov Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 16 Nov - 18 Nov Nuclear Weapons Demonstration, SOCAL Oparea
 16 Nov Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
 17 Nov Underway from Coronado Roads, California
 18 Nov Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
 18 Nov Underway from Coronado Roads, California
 18 Nov Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 21 Nov - 23 Nov SWTW
 22 Nov PTRI
 28 Nov Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
 29 Nov Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
 29 Nov Underway, from Coronado Roads, California
 28 Nov - 02 Dec First Week of REFTRA
 02 Dec Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego



05 Dec Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
05 Dec - 09 Dec Second Week of REFTRA
08 Dec Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
08 Dec Underway from Coronado Roads, California
09 Dec Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
09 Dec Underway from Coronado Roads, California
09 Dec Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
12 Dec Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
12 Dec - 15 Dec Third Week of REFTRA
14 Dec Anchored, Coronado Roads, California
14 Dec Underway from Coronado Roads, California
15 Dec Moored Pier 7, Naval Station San Diego
16 Dec - 31 Dec Christmas Holiday Standdown

(f) Narrative History

TARAWA completed a successful overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard in May 1988. Among the ship's accomplishments during the overhaul was a record size habitability project that saw the rehabilitization of 44 spaces, amounting to a total area of 71,232 square feet.

In May, 1988, TARAWA changed homeports, from Long Beach, California to San Diego, California. The move included the PCS transfer of crew, families and household goods.

Prior to changing homeports, TARAWA successfully completed ASIR, Dock Trials, Fast Cruise and Sea Trials. In preparation for Refresher Training, TARAWA underwent a series of drills and training exercises, including three phases of MTT, ECC drills, AHAT, ISE, UMI/CSRT, CSSQT, DLQs 3RD MEW, SPEC OPS (fiber optics), NWAT, TRE, OPPE, and SWTW/PTRI.

TARAWA underwent a COMNAVSURFPAC 3M Inspection from 19 - 23 September, 1988. The ship received a PMS Recorded Accomplishment Rate of 90.5 percent, a PMS Accomplishment Confidence Factor of 87.3 percent and an overall PMS Performance Rate of 79 percent. TARAWA's overall grade for the inspection was Satisfactory.

In October, 1988, TARAWA was flagship for a group sail to Monterey, California, for FLEET WEEK 1988. Over 4000 civilian and military visitors toured the ship during the four days that TARAWA was anchored in Monterey Bay. TARAWA also conducted Tiger Cruises both enroute to Monterey and during its return trip to San Diego.

TARAWA completed Nuclear Weapons Demonstrations during the month of November, 1988.

Three weeks of REFRESHER TRAINING were satisfactorily completed during the period of 28 November - 15 December, 1988. Following REFTRA, TARAWA held a standdown for leave and liberty over the Christmas holidays.

(g) Statistical and Mission Highlights

(1) Supply Department

The Supply Department supported the concluding months of the 12-month, 60 million dollar overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, backloading 59 tons of repair parts to the ship in April and reactivating all supply support facilities on TARAWA in May. Thereafter the department supported numerous operations in EASTPAC, a port visit and Tiger cruise to Monterey, two Change of Commands, various major inspections and REFTRA.

S-1 (Stock Control)

Implemented SUADPS-RT in September, the first west coast ship to receive this significant financial upgrade. In addition, S-1 administrated the following funds:

	Supplies and Equipage		TOTAL
	NR	OTH	
GRANTED	\$1,028,300.00	\$1,745,900.00	\$2,774,200.00
OBLIGATED	<u>\$1,028,279.24</u>	<u>\$1,745,895.34</u>	<u>\$2,774,174.58</u>
BALANCE	21.00	4.66	25.42
	Flight Operations		
	7F	7B	TOTAL
GRANTED	\$17,800.00	\$41,300.00	\$59,100.00
OBLIGATED	<u>\$17,826.07</u>	<u>\$41,235.92</u>	<u>\$59,061.99</u>
BALANCE	26.07cr	64.08	38.01
	Aviation Flight Maintenance		
	7L	9S	TOTAL
GRANTED	\$73,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$113,000.00
OBLIGATED	<u>\$72,991.97</u>	<u>\$39,946.60</u>	<u>\$112,938.57</u>
BALANCE	8.03	53.40	61.43

S-2 (Food Service)

- Renovated and reactivated the galleys in the Enlisted Dining Facility, Wardroom, CPO Mess, CO Mess and Flag Mess.
- Completed major habitability upgrades in the Wardroom, CPO Lounge and all Flag staterooms.
- Supported receptions for COMPHIBGRU THREE and COMPHIBRON ONE Change of Commands.
- Renovated and reactivated over 100 staterooms for ship's company, staff and embarked troops.
- Competed in first round competition for the COMNAVSURFPAC 1988 Ney Memorial Food Service Award.
- Supported embarkation and food service support for Tiger Cruise to and from Monterey during port visit in October.

S-3 (Sales)

- Activated the computerized Retail Operations Management (ROM)

system and transferred all record keeping functions to the system.

- Contracted for the complete refurbishment of the ship's walk-in retail store. The store was christened "Eagle Emporium" after a ship-wide competition to select a name.
- Completed renovations and reactivations in all S-3 division spaces, including the laundry, dry cleaning plant, ice cream bar, 3 barber shops and all storerooms.
- Initiated re-stocking policy for new retail store. A total of 1000 line items were selected for stocking.
- Generated sales as follows:

Ship's Store:	\$336,588.00
Vending Machines	\$134,538.00
Total:	<u>\$471,126.00</u>
- Transferred \$144,190 in profits to the ship's Welfare and Recreation fund.

S-4 (Disbursing)

- Total value of pay disbursed: \$8,570,600.00

S-6 (Stores)

- Completed the renovation of nearly 120 spaces, including over 35 storerooms, in preparation for backload at the conclusion of ILO.
- Requisitioned, received and stowed over 20,000 line items.
- Completed the backload of over 52,000 line items and 59 tons of material at the completion of ILO.
- Implemented revised accounting and record keeping procedures under SUADPS-RT.

S-7 (ADP)

- Completed the turn-over of the temporary SNAP Van to COMNAVSURFPAC in March and reactivated onboard ADP facilities and support.
- Completed the renovation of the computer room and all other S-7 spaces.
- Implemented OMMS 2.4 (Organizational Maintenance and Management System), the first fleet activity to receive the system.
- Installed new PERTEC Streamer tape drives and HW-250 disc drives.
- Installed the 9x/release 3 hardware upgrade with the support of NAVMASSO DET PAC. Implemented SUADPS Release 3, consisting of OMMS 2.5 and SUADPS 3.1 under a combined "GEN", the first PACFLT ship to operate under this configuration.

(2) AIMD

AIMD observed the following accomplishments during the calendar year 1988:

- 430 items of equipment processed
- 79.3% RFI
- Eagle One statistics were:
 - 778.4 flight hours
 - 89.3% mission capable
 - 86.9% fully mission capable

(3) Air Department

TARAWA Air Department further continued its excellent tradition of "Can Do" attitude to meet and exceed all challenges. In January, the Air Department participated in Operation Greendeck at Camp Pendleton and completed many TF Star exercises to get a jump on our training cycle. Shortly after COH completion in June, TARAWA completed the COMNAVSURFPAC ARE inspection and NAEC ASIR certification with outstanding grades.

In August, with the cooperation of VMA-513, TARAWA completed AV-8B Phase I, II, and III certification by logging over 117 harrier landings. By September, HMM-163, the ship's Air Combat Element (ACE), had qualified all pilots for day carrier qualifications and the majority for night carrier qualifications.

In November/December, TARAWA underwent refresher training and completed all required duties with grades of outstanding. Along with NAEC, NATC, HMX-1, TARAWA conducted the first full-scale tests after compatibility of blue filters for flight lighting to be used in conjunction with PVS-5 and ANVIS-6 night vision goggles (NVG's). Exercising extreme safety and coordination, these formal tests were a complete success. The tests also provided the basis for a COMNAVSURFPAC NVG training and operating procedures instruction for all users. With these tests TARAWA provided invaluable training to increase the overall capability of Navy/Marine Corps aviation amphibious team for all weather, day and night operation.

Selected statistics for the calendar year 1988 were:

	DAY	NIGHT	TOTAL
- Helo takeoff/landing	1692	727	2419
- AV-8B Harrier takeoff/landing: 117			
- Gallons of JP-5 issued: 93,074			
- Gallons of JP-5 received: 509,577			

(4) Combat Systems

Tons of Aviation Ordnance expended	0
Number of 5"/54 Rounds expended	87
Number of 50 mm Machine Gun Rounds expended	200

Number of 20 mm Machine Gun Rounds expended	0
Number of Training Evolutions	0
Number of Exercises	8
Number of CIWS Bursts/Rounds expended	1705

Exercises:

CSSQT

ASU-9-SF (Excellent)
 ASU-8-SF (Unaccomplished)
 ASU-12-SF (Great)

CSRT

ASU-8-SF (Unaccomplished due to weather)
 AAW-12-SF (Excellent)

REFTRA

AAW-12-SF (Great)
 ASU-8-SF (Excellent)
 ASU-18-SF (Excellent)
 AAW-21-SF (Excellent)
 MIN-11-SF (Excellent)

(5) Communications

Messages sent:	10,078
Messages received:	<u>22,164</u>
Total Out and In:	<u>32,242</u>

(6) Engineering

Hours steamed:	NRI Boiler	1681
	NR2 Boiler	<u>1979</u>
Total:		<u>3660</u>
Revolutions of shafts:	Starboard	4,686,790
	Port	4,798,100
Number of ballast/deballast operations		10
Gallons of fuel consumed		2,135,952
Gallons of lube oil consumed		289 gal. (LO)
Manufactured 6,470,850 gallons of fresh water		

(7) Deck Department

In 1988, Deck Department featured prominently in the three underway refueling operations. During these operations the ship received in excess of 1,350,000 gallons of fuel. The ship's boats, consisting of four LCPL's were used during REFTRA, Amphibious REFTRA and in preparation for Kernel Blitz 89-1. The ship anchored a total of 17 times during 1988.

(8) Executive Department

Admin

Originated 4,121 serialized pieces of correspondence
Received 296 personnel onboard
Transferred 222 personnel from the command
Discharged/released 104 personnel from active duty
Number of reenlistments: 70
TARAWA 1988 reenlistment rate: 32%
Navy Achievement Medals: 18
Letters of Commendation: 31

Post Office

Volume of Mail sent during 1988:

First Class:	273 items/6,825 pounds
A.P.P.:	175 items/7,311 pounds
PAL, SAM, PARCEL POST:	71 items/2,619 pounds

Volume of Mail received during 1988:

Letter trays:	356 items/1,424 pounds
First Class:	444 items/13,367 pounds
A.P.P.	759 items/33,742 pounds
2nd Class, SAM & PARCEL POST:	1,505 items/65,165 pounds

Money Order and Stamp sales: \$559,192.00

Master-At-Arms

UCMJ Violations--CO's NJP Mast:	718
Urine Samples collected:	2471

(9) Medical Department

Number of patients treated:	4,111
Number of ward patients admitted:	4
Number of surgical procedures:	20
Details of emergency surgeries:	0
Number of prescriptions filled:	4,123
Number of tests for AIDS virus:	1,371
Number of X-RAYS taken:	1,399
Number of immunizations given:	2,147
Number of physical exams administered:	385
Number of audiograms administered:	848
Number of EKG's administered:	105
Number of glasses/contacts/eye exams:	378

(10) Dental Department

Installation of new equipment: during Complex Overhaul 1988, the Dental Department replaced the three Dental Systems Packages that were

near their life expectancy. The replacing packages are considered state-of-the-art. Packages include:

Dental Unit: Model 2040
Dental Chair: Model Priority 1005
Dental Light: Model 6300
Two Dental Stools
Handpiece packages

(The items above are manufactured by ADEC of Newberg, Oregon)

Dental equipment received contained deficiencies, i.e., the handpiece package included handpieces that were not able to be autoclaved (the ideal sterilization method). Corrective action was taken and handpieces that could be autoclaved were ordered.

Additionally, the Dental Department installed the following equipment during COH, 1988:

Central Vacuum Pump as mandated by Naval Medical Command.
Manufactured by DEN-TAL-EZ: Model MC-202.
Vacuum pump is in outstanding working order and provides more effective means of mercury and medical waste control.
Z-248 Computer System, which greatly enhanced the efficiency of department administration, particularly the ability to produce training materials.

The Force Dental Officer conducted a Technical Assist Visit of the Dental Department on 6 January 1989 and assigned a grade of C-1 (fully ready).

(11) Operations Department

The Operations Department performed excellently in all graded exercises of the workup cycle:

CIC provided excellent AAW/ASUW support for all the exercises leading up to and including REFTRA, and served as control center for all amphibious boat operations.

HDC maintained safe approaches for both helicopters and harriers during the many long and strenuous flight operations.

Metro received two valuable upgrades soon after TARAWA's return to San Diego - the Tactical Environmental Support System (TESS) and the Mini-Rawinsonde System (MRS). These new systems greatly increased Metro's ability to provide near real-time support for amphibious and flight operations.

ECM-1/EW's spent most of the year bringing the SLQ-32 system on-line. A variety of software and mechanical prevented its use in some events.

JIC received a major face-lift during the overhaul in Long Beach. With the upgrade they can provide intelligence information whenever it is necessary.

Public Affairs/CCTV moved to OPS from EXEC in August and almost immediately began working on preparations for a TIGER Cruise and FLEET WEEK celebration in Monterey, Ca in October. The video filming that was accomplished during the port visit resulted in the first locally produced piece on TARAWA to be aired by Navy News This Week.

The Photo Lab served the TARAWA crew and mission throughout the year, providing many high-quality photos of various important events and occasions.

(12) Safety Office

The office completed a twelve month COH with only eleven lost man days due to work-related mishaps. TARAWA set the Long Beach Naval Shipyard record for no reportable fires.


G.E. KAUFFMAN
By direction