



Rec'd 4/20/95  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS TARAWA (LHA 1)  
FPO AP 96622-1600

5750  
Ser D3/365  
6 Apr 95

From: Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA-1)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
Encl: (1) Commanding Officer Biography and Photograph  
(2) USS TARAWA Officer Precedence List  
(3) 1994 Ship's Deck Log  
(4) Ship's Photo  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), the calendar year 1994 Command History for USS TARAWA (LHA-1) is submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization:

a. 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, LHD, 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."

b. Commanding Officer:

Raymond M. Wikstrom, Captain  
U.S. Navy,  
Lineal Number: 002325-10, DOR: 01 June 1989

c. Command Structure:

Commander Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Amphibious Squadron Nine  
USS TARAWA (LHA-1)

d. Homeport: TARAWA was homeported in Long Beach, CA, for a Complex Overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard until December 12th, 1994, when TARAWA changed homeport to the 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

e. Command Composition: The command was composed of USS TARAWA (LHA-1). Ship's company included 63 officers and 984 enlisted.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

### 3. Chronology

01 Jan	Inport Long Beach, CA, for complex overhaul.
03 Jun	Underway from Dry Dock #1 for berth shift. Moored Pier "E," NAVSTA Long Beach CA.
25-27 OCT	Successfully completed Light-Off Exam (LOE) at Pier "E," NAVSTA Long Beach, CA.
21 Nov	First female assigned to TARAWA, LCDR Karen M. Ruppe, reports onboard, as Ship's Oceanographer.
12 Dec	Underway for sea trials from NAVSTA Long Beach, CA.
13 Dec	Anchored in Kilo Anchorage, Long Beach Harbor. Underway for SOCAL operations.
14 Dec	Conducted flight operations.
15 Dec	Conducted flight operations.
16 Dec	Conducted flight operations. Moored Pier 2, NAVSTA San Diego, CA.
22 Dec	Received LCAC 14 in well-deck and landed four AV-8B Harrier aircraft on the flight deck.
27 Dec	Holiday Bowl luncheon and tours onboard.
28 Dec	Launched four AV-8B Harrier aircraft. LCAC 14 departed the well-deck.

3. Narrative: January 1994 found TARAWA dry-docked at Long Beach Naval Shipyard continuing complex overhaul. While in dry dock, TARAWA survived the great Los Angeles earthquake of 1994, sustaining no damage and moving only a few inches on the blocks. TARAWA remained in dry dock until 3 June, when it made a dead-stick move to Pier "E," NAVSTA Long Beach, CA.

While in the shipyard, TARAWA received the SPS-48E radar system, along with a new Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) System and a MK23 TAS weapons system to coordinate them (enclosure 4 shows both systems).

TARAWA received the first female onboard 21 November 1994, Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], Ship's Oceanographer.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

After passing a Light-Off Exam given by PACFLT PEB on 25-27 October, TARAWA left Long Beach for sea trials on 12 December. After thoroughly testing all systems with shipyard riders onboard, TARAWA moored at Pier 2, NAVSTA San Diego on 16 December.

Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) 14 and four Harrier jets were taken onboard on 22 December to prepare for Holiday Bowl celebrations. On 27 December TARAWA hosted the Holiday Bowl luncheon and gave tours to the University of Michigan and Colorado State University football teams, their families, and other VIPs.

On 28 December LCAC 14 and the Harrier jets departed the ship.

From 29-31 December, TARAWA continued its holiday leave and upkeep period.



J. A. HAYES

From: QMCS (SW) Maki

Date: 03 Mar 95

To: Public Affairs Officer

Subj: 1994's Ship's Deck Log

1. Entries of interest from 1994's Deck Logs for command history:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Summary</u>
03 Jun	0941 1000	Underway from drydock #1 for berth shift. Moored Pier "E", NAVSTA Long Beach, Ca.
12 Dec	0900	Underway for sea trials.
13 Dec	1022 1633	Anchored in Kilo anchorage, Long Beach Harbor. Underway for Socal Opareas.
14 Dec	0758 1419	Conducted flight operations. Conducted flight operations.
15 Dec	1129 1408	Conducted flight operations. Conducted flight operations.
16 Dec	0858 1447	Conducted flight operations. Moored Pier 2, NAVSTA San Diego, Ca.
22 Dec	0900 1420	Received LCAC 14 in the well deck. Landed four aircraft on the flight deck.
27 Dec		Holiday Bowl luncheon and tours onboard.
28 Dec	0851 0902	Launched four aircraft. LCAC 14 departed the well deck.

Very Respectfully,  
*QMCS/SW Maki*  
C.G. Maki

Enclosure (3)