



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS TARAWA (LHA 1)  
FPO AP 96622-1600

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5750  
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29 Feb 96

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) 1995 Ship's Deck Log  
(4) Ship's Photo  
(5) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(6) Talon Familygram

1. Per reference (a), the calendar year 1995 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, LPD, LPH and LSD class ships. TARAWA, the lead ship of the LHA class of general purpose amphibious assault ships, combines the functional capabilities of the LPD, LSD, LPH, and the LST 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 as follows: "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:

James A. Hayes, Captain  
U.S. Navy,  
Lineal Number: 002609-05, DOR: 01 October 1992

c. Command Structure:

Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Commander, Amphibious Group Three  
USS TARAWA (LHA 1)

d. Homeport: TARAWA was homeported at Naval Station, San Diego, California for the year.

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e. Command Composition: The command was composed of USS TARAWA (LHA 1). Ship's company included 67 officers and 1,029 enlisted.

### 3. Chronology

01-17 Jan	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
17-20 Jan	Underway CSSQT, SOCAL OPAREA.
20-23 Jan	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
23-26 Jan	Underway CSSQT, SOCAL OPAREA.
26 Jan-21 Mar	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
21-22 Mar	Underway Sea Trials, SOCAL OPAREA.
22 Mar-03 Apr	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
03-07 Apr	Underway TSTA I, SOCAL OPAREA.
07-10 Apr	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
10-14 Apr	Underway TSTA I, SOCAL OPAREA.
14-17 Apr	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
17-21 Apr	Underway TSTA I, SOCAL OPAREA.
21-24 Apr	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
24-25 Apr	Underway ammo onload, Camp Pendleton.
25-27 Apr	Anchored, Camp Pendleton.
27-28 Apr	Underway TYT, SOCAL OPAREA.
28 Apr-15 May	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
15-19 May	Underway TSTA II, SOCAL OPAREA.
19-22 May	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
22-26 May	Underway TSTA II, SOCAL OPAREA.
26-30 May	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
30 May-02 Jun	Underway TSTA II, SOCAL OPAREA.
02-26 Jun	Moored Naval Station San Diego.

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26-29 Jun	Underway TSTA IV, SOCAL OPAREA.
29 Jun-05 Jul	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
05-11 Jul	Underway en route Pearl Harbor.
11-13 Jul	Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor.
13-19 Jul	Underway Tarpaulin Minnow, MIDPAC OPAREA.
19-26 Jul	Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor.
26-31 Jul	Underway COMPTUEX-95-13M, MIDPAC OPAREA.
31 Jul-02 Aug	Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor.
02-10 Aug	Underway en route San Diego.
10 Aug-06 Sep	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
06-09 Sep	Underway OPPE preps, SOCAL OPAREA.
09-18 Sep	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
18-22 Sep	Underway OPPE preps, SOCAL OPAREA.
22-27 Sep	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
27-29 Sep	Underway OPPE, SOCAL AREA.
29 Sep-02 Oct	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
02-06 Oct	Underway TSTA IV, SOCAL OPAREA.
06-10 Oct	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
10-13 Oct	Underway TSTA III, SOCAL OPAREA.
13-14 Oct	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
14 Oct	Underway Family Day Cruise, SOCAL AREA.
14-16 Oct	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
16-20 Oct	Underway TSTA III, SOCAL OPAREA.
20-24 Oct	Moored Naval Station San Diego.
24-26 Oct	Underway FEP, SOCAL OPAREA.
26 Oct-07 Dec	Moored Naval Station San Diego.

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07-15 Dec Underway COMPTUEX-96-3M, SOCAL OPAREA.

15-31 Dec Moored Naval Station San Diego.

#### 4. Narrative:

January 1995 found TARAWA pierside at Naval Station San Diego completing a holiday leave and upkeep period. Between January 17-26, TARAWA successfully completed Combat Systems Ship's Qualification Testing in the SOCAL OPAREA. TARAWA was next underway from March 21-22, completing sea trials in the SOCAL OPAREA and returning to mooring at Naval Station San Diego.

Most of April 1995 was spent underway for Tailored Ship Training Availability Phase One (or TSTA I). TSTA I was successfully performed from April 3-7, 10-14, and 17-21.

TARAWA was next underway during its April 24-28 period for Type Training in the SOCAL OPAREA, anchoring for two days off Camp Pendleton to onload ammunition by helicopter. Afterwards, TARAWA remained inport until May 15, when the ship commenced TSTA II in three underway periods from May 15-19, 22-26, and May 30 to June 2 in the SOCAL OPAREA. TARAWA did so well on TSTA II that it was permitted to skip TSTA III. TARAWA underwent the first part of TSTA IV from June 26-29.

The inport period from June 29 to July 4 was spent in preparation for the ship's transit to Pearl Harbor for a five-week MIDPAC cruise.

July 5 witnessed TARAWA departing for its first prolonged underway period since its Complex Overhaul. Before departing, TARAWA unloaded 1,300 short tons of various equipment and material, including 140 automobiles and a number of speed boats, in support of "Opportune Lift," a program where service members and retirees can get free shipment of goods from Navy ships en route to their port, saving time and taxpayer money.

TARAWA moored at Pearl Harbor on July 11. From July 13-19, TARAWA embarked Special Operations Command, Pacific, for the joint exercise Tarpaulin Minnow (conducted in the MIDPAC OPAREA) before returning pierside to Pearl Harbor. From July 26-31, TARAWA again operated in the MIDPAC OPAREA, this time to complete COMPTUEX-95-13M, better known as exercise Blue Marlin. After a few days of liberty, TARAWA left on August 2 for homeport, Naval Station San Diego, arriving pierside on August 10.

TARAWA's next challenge was the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE), which was completed in late September. TARAWA spent its September 6-9 and 18-22 periods underway conducting OPPE preps. TARAWA was again underway from September 27-29, passing OPPE on the first try.

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On October 2, TARAWA completed TSTA IV, and from October 10-13, TARAWA accomplished TSTA III (part one), both underway in the SOCAL OPAREA.

The ship sailed on October 14 for a Family Day Cruise in the SOCAL OPAREA. Approximately 1,800 family and friends participated, enjoying displays of ship's systems, tours, an LCAC demonstration, and a "Steel Beach Picnic" held on the flight deck.

TSTA III was successfully completed in the SOCAL OPAREA from October 16-20, and the Final Evaluation Period was successfully completed during the October 24-26 period in the SOCAL OPAREA.

TARAWA remained inport from October 26 until December 7 when the ship got underway for COMPTUEX-96-3M. Having already embarked the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, TARAWA then operated in concert with the other ships of the TARAWA Amphibious Readiness Group (DULUTH and RUSHMORE), successfully completing the first of its pre-deployment workups.

TARAWA moored at Naval Station, San Diego on December 15 and began its holiday stand-down, which lasted until January 8, 1996.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Hayes', is written over a large, stylized, scribbled-out mark.

J. A. HAYES

## Navigation Input for Command History of Calendar Year 1995

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01 Jan to 17 Jan 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
17 Jan to 20 Jan 95 - U/W CSSQT- SOCAL OPAREA  
20 Jan to 23 Jan 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
23 Jan to 26 Jan 95 - U/W CSSQT- SOCAL OPAREA  
26 Jan to 21 Mar 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
21 Mar to 22 Mar 95 - U/W Sea Trials- SOCAL OPAREA  
22 Mar to 03 Apr 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
03 Apr to 07 Apr 95 - U/W TSTA I- SOCAL OPAREA  
07 Apr to 10 Apr 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
10 Apr to 14 Apr 95 - U/W TSTA I- SOCAL OPAREA  
14 Apr to 17 Apr 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
17 Apr to 21 Apr 95 - U/W TSTA I- SOCAL OPAREA  
21 Apr to 24 Apr 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
24 Apr to 25 Apr 95 - U/W Ammo Onload- Camp Pendleton  
25 Apr to 27 Apr 95 - Anchored Camp Pendleton  
27 Apr to 28 Apr 95 - U/W TYT- SOCAL OPAREA  
28 Apr to 15 May 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
15 May to 19 May 95 - U/W TSTA II- SOCAL OPAREA  
19 May to 22 May 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
22 May to 26 May 95 - U/W TSTA II- SOCAL OPAREA  
26 May to 30 May 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
30 May to 02 Jun 95 - U/W TSTA II- SOCAL OPAREA  
02 Jun to 26 Jun 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
26 Jun to 29 Jun 95 - U/W TSTA IV- SOCAL OPAREA  
29 Jun to 05 Jul 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
05 Jul to 11 Jul 95 - U/W Enroute Pearl Harbor  
11 Jul to 13 Jul 95 - Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor  
13 Jul to 19 Jul 95 - U/W Tarpaulin Minnow- MIDPAC OPAREA  
19 Jul to 26 Jul 95 - Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor  
26 Jul to 31 Jul 95 - U/W COMPTUEX-95-13M- MIDPAC OPAREA  
31 Jul to 02 Aug 95 - Moored Naval Station Pearl Harbor  
02 Aug to 10 Aug 95 - U/W Enroute San Diego  
10 Aug to 06 Sep 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
06 Sep to 09 Sep 95 - U/W OPPE Preps- SOCAL OPAREA  
09 Sep to 18 Sep 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
18 Sep to 22 Sep 95 - U/W OPPE Preps- SOCAL OPAREA  
22 Sep to 27 Sep 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
27 Sep to 29 Sep 95 - U/W OPPE- SOCAL OPAREA  
29 Sep to 02 Oct 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
02 Oct to 06 Oct 95 - U/W TSTA IV- SOCAL OPAREA  
06 Oct to 10 Oct 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
10 Oct to 13 Oct 95 - U/W TSTA III- SOCAL OPAREA  
13 Oct to 14 Oct 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
14 Oct to 14 Oct 95 - U/W Family Day Cruise  
14 Oct to 16 Oct 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
16 Oct to 20 Oct 95 - U/W TSTA III- SOCAL OPAREA  
20 Oct to 24 Oct 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
24 Oct to 26 Oct 95 - U/W FEP- SOCAL OPAREA  
26 Oct to 07 Dec 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego  
07 Dec to 15 Dec 95 - U/W COMPTUEX-96-3M- SOCAL OPAREA  
15 Dec to 31 Dec 95 - Moored Naval Station San Diego