



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TARAWA (LHA-1)
FPO AP 96622-1600

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5750
Ser D11/301
17 Dec 99

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)


Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photograph
(2) Ship's Photograph
(3) News Releases
(4) Change of Command Pamphlet

1. Per reference (a), the calendar year 1998 Command History for USS TARAWA (LHA 1) is submitted. Enclosures (1) through (4) provide further amplification.

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 and LSD class ships. TARAWA, the lead ship of the LHA class of general purpose, amphibious assault ships, combines the functional capabilities of the 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 and combination of these methods."

b. Commanding Officer: James D. Bray, Captain
U.S. Navy, 
Lineal Number: 002784-30, DOR: 1 Oct 94

c. Command Structure:

Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC)

Commander, Amphibious Group THREE (COMPHIBGRU THREE)

Commander, Amphibious Squadron THREE (COMPHIBRON THREE)

Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA 1)

d. Homeport: Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

e. Command Composition: The command was composed of 68 officers and 994 enlisted.

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3. Chronology:

01-12 Jan	IPT San Diego (Holiday Upkeep)
13-16 Jan	TYT Training SOCAL
14 Jan	FAS with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK
17 Jan-06 Feb	IPT SAN DIEGO (POM)
07 Feb-21 Feb	Enroute to North Arabian Gulf FAS with USS CIMARRON VERTREP with USS PELELIU
17 Feb	CHOPPED to SEVENTH FLEET
22 Feb	Anchored APRA HARBOR GUAM
23 Feb-11 Mar	Enroute to North Arabian Gulf via Surigao Straights
23 Feb	FAS with USNS YUKON
05 Mar	CHOPPED to FIFTH FLEET
09 Mar	FAS with USS SEATTLE
12 Mar-20 Mar	IPT BAHRAIN
20 Mar	INREP with USNS SPICA
21 Mar-22 Mar	Enroute to Kuwait
22 Mar	Anchored off Kuwait City Anchorage Area C Exercise EPIC MANTLE
22 Mar	Major General visit MEF
26 Mar	FAS with USNS GUADALUPE
30 Mar	COMPHIBGRU THREE visit
06 Apr	FAS with USNS GUADALUPE VERTREP with USNS KILAUEA VERTREP with USNS SATURN
08 Apr	USSOCCOM visit
12 Apr	Easter Services - Flightdeck
16 Apr	Enroute Qatar
17 Apr-24 Apr	Anchored off Qatar Exercise EASTERN MAVERICK (Qatar)
25 Apr-29 Apr	Inport Jebel Ali, UAE
30 Apr-05 May	Enroute to Massawa, Eritrea
01 May	FAS with USNS GUADALUPE
06 May-09 May	Anchored off Massawa, Eritrea
10 May-12 May	Enroute Aqaba, Jordan
11 May	FAS/VERTREP with USNS GUADALUPE
13 May-06 Jun	Inport Aqaba, Jordan Exercise INFINITE MOONLIGHT
26 May	US Ambassador to Jordan visit
27 May	USCINCCENT visit
27 May	VIP reception
06 Jun	VERTREP with USNS SATURN
06 Jun-08 Jun	Enroute to Massawa, Eritrea
09 Jun	RAS with USNS PATUXENT
09 Jun-15 Jun	Ops Red Sea MODLOC
16 Jun-17 Jun	Anchored off Djibouti
18 Jun-27 Jun	Enroute to Phuket, Thailand
21 Jun	VERTREP with USNS WALTER S DIEHL

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22 Jun VERTREP with USNS WALTER S DIEHL
23 Jun CHOPPED to SEVENTH FLEET
FAS with USNS WALTER S DIEHL
26 Jun FAS with USNS WALTER S DIEHL
28 Jun-01 Jul Anchored at Makham Bay, Phuket Thailand
02 Jul Enroute to Singapore
03 Jul-05 Jul Anchored at Man-of-War Anchorage, Singapore
06 Jul-09 Jul Enroute to Hong Kong
10 Jul-13 Jul Moored starboard side to Inner Berth Ocean Terminal,
Kowloon, Hong Kong
14 Jul-16 Jul Enroute to Okinawa, Japan
16 Jul Anchored at WB7 Anchorage Buckner Bay
Okinawa, Japan (LCAC/LCU Swap Out)
17 Jul FAS with USNS TIPPECANOE
16 Jul-26 Jul Enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
19 Jul VERTREP with USNS SAN JOSE
24 Jul Burial at Sea
25 Jul CHOPPED to THIRD FLEET
26 Jul FAS with USS WILLAMETTE
27 Jul-29 Jul Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - Moored portside to BRAVO Pier
30 Jul-06 Aug Enroute to San Diego, California
01 Aug Rendesvous with USS PELELIU
01 Aug-02 Aug Ammo Offload
05 Aug Anchored off Camp Pendleton
07 Aug Enroute to San Diego
Moored portside to Pier 1B, NAVSTA San Diego, California



G. E. Hall

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Navigator