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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)
FPO AE 09591-1729

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser LSD41/069
27 Apr 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)
To: Director, Naval History (NO9BH), Naval Historical Center,
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57,
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 2000 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with requirements set forth in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted for the period 01 January 2000 to 31 December 2001.


B. E. BARRINGTON

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU TWO

COMMAND COMPOSITION & ORGANIZATION

The mission of USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) is conducting prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy.

Designated, built and manned to carry maneuver warfare vehicles as well as “over-the-horizon” amphibious assault vehicles, WHIDBEY ISLAND – homeported at Little Creek, Virginia, and under the command of Commander, Amphibious Group TWO – can carry four Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) or thirty-six Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) in its flood-able well.

During assaults WHIDBEY ISLAND serves as the Primary Control Ship and provides a boat haven with docking, repair and refueling services to landing craft and boats. In short, WHIDBEY ISLAND is ideally suited to support our Navy’s foremost strike asset...the U. S. Marine!

The WHIDBEY ISLAND class introduces to the fleet significant improvements with updated communications, combat systems, 20 and 60 ton cranes, expanded repair shops, two helicopter landing spots, complete medical and dental facilities, automated computer-based logistics support and an impressive engineering plant; giving WHIDBEY ISLAND an excellent capability for self-sufficient operations. Equally as effective in peacetime as in wartime, WHIDBEY ISLAND is well suited to carry out a variety of humanitarian missions such as evacuations and disaster relief.

With primary missions of Amphibious Warfare, Mobility, Command and Control, and Anti-Air Warfare, WHIDBEY ISLAND is designed to support special warfare, fleet support operations (refueling other ships), non-combatant operations, ocean surveillance and electronic warfare. Clearly a multi-mission capable ship, WHIDBEY ISLAND’s crew, embarked Marines and detachments must be, and are, multi-talented. Representing almost every state in the Union, Puerto Rico, U. S. Virgin Islands, and the Philippines, everyone aboard is privileged and proud to serve in USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41).

JANUARY 2000

01 JAN MOORED – GENOVA, ITALY

03 JAN – 05 JAN S3 & S4 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

03 JAN UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE SOUDA BAY, GREECE
FUEL UNREP - USNS JOHN LENTHAL (TAO 189)

04 JAN SAFETY STANDDOWN
USMC 9MM SHOOT

05 JAN FLIGHT QUARTERS
BATAANARG RENDEZOUS
STORES UNREP – USNS CONCORD (AFS 5)
CIWS PACFIRE

06 JAN ADVANCE CLOCKS TO –2B
TAG-OUT AUDIT
BECCES
SMALL ARMS FIRE
ITT DRILL
FLIGHT QUARTERS

07 JAN – 14 JAN TENDER MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (TMAV)
WITH USS EMORY S. LAND (AS 39)

07 JAN CONDITION A FOR CRANE & SMALL BOAT OPS
MOORED – SOUDA BAY, CRETE
OFFLOAD USMC VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT
TMAV CONFERENCE

08 JAN UNDERWAY – ANCHORAGE
ANCHORED – SOUDA BAY, CRETE.
CONDITION A FOR LCAC OPS

10 JAN – 14 JAN MEDICAL & DENTAL DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

10 JAN CONDITION A FOR CRANE & SMALL BOAT OPS
TIGER CRUISE COORDINATOR MEETINGG (BATAAN)

11 JAN CONDITION A FOR CRANE & SMALL BOAT OPS

12 JAN BACKLOAD MEETING (BATAAN)

14 JAN CONDITION A FOR LCAC OPS
 BACKLOAD USMC VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT
 TMAV OUTBRIEF (EMORY S. LAND)

15 JAN UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE AQABA, JORDAN
 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

17 JAN – 21 JAN OI DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

17 JAN FUEL UNREP – USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201)
 100 MAN WORKING PARTY
 STORES VERTREP – PATUXENT

18 JAN ANCHORED – PORT SAID
 BLUE JACKET OF THE YEAR BOARD
 CMC'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OI DIV)
 SCA HUSBANDING AGENT ARRIVAL
 UNDERWAY – SUEZ CANAL

19 JAN ENTERED SUEZ CANAL
 ANCHORED – GREAT BITTER LAKE
 UNDERWAY – SUEZ CANAL
 EXIT SUEZ CANAL, ENTER GULF OF SUEZ

20 JAN C2W PUBEX
 EXIT GULF OF SUEZ
 TRANSIT STRAIT OF TIRAN
 E-7 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
 JORDANIAN LIASION OFFICER ARRIVAL
 MOORED – AQABA, JORDAN

21 JAN CONDITION A FOR CRANE, LCU, AAV & LCAC OPS
 USMC OFFLOAD

22 JAN OFFLOAD USMC AMMO

24 JAN – 28 JAN R DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

24 JAN COMMODORE'S CUP OPENING CEREMONY

26 JAN AWARDS CEREMONY
 CAPTAIN'S CALL

27 JAN C4I MTG (BATAAN)
 SEMAT III REVIEWS

28 JAN	SEMAT III REVIEWS COMMODORE'S CUP TALENT SHOW (SHREVEPORT)
29 JAN	SEMAT III REVIEWS
30 JAN	PICNIC ON THE PIER

FEBRUARY 2000

01 FEB INPORT – AQABA, JORDAN
SEMAT III VISIT
PROMOTION CEREMONY – LT DWYER (DCA)

02 FEB UNDERWATER HULL SWEEP

03 FEB BACKLOAD RECEPTION BRIEF (BATAAN)

04 FEB CONDITION A FOR SMALL BOAT OPS
CTF 51 LUNCHEON

06 FEB USMC RETURN

7 FEB – 11 FEB M DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

8 FEB USMC VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASHDOWN

9 FEB WHIDBEY ISLAND’S 15TH BIRTHDAY CEREMONY
CENSUS
CONDITION A FOR LCAC OPS

10 FEB SSDG DEAD BUS LOGIC CHECKS

11 FEB FAST CRUISE

12 FEB MAIN PROPULSION OPTTEST
CONDITION A FOR CRANE, LCAC & AAV OPS
BACKLOAD USMC VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

14 FEB – 18 FEB NAV – ADMIN DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

14 FEB UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE PALMA, SPAIN
TRANSIT – STRAIT OF TIRAN

15 FEB ENTER – GULF OF SUEZ
ANCHOR – PORT SUEZ

16 FEB UNDERWAY – SUEZ CANAL

17 FEB FUEL UNREP – PATUXENT
STORES VERTREP - USNS SIRIUS (AFS 8) & PATUXENT
PHOTOEX BRIEF

17 FEB EMCON EXERCISES
CHT HYDROBLASTING

18 FEB CAPTAIN'S CALL (E-5 AND BELOW)
RETARD CLOCKS

19 FEB 9MM FAM FIRE
BECCES

21 FEB MOORED – PALMA, SPAIN
CAPTAIN'S MAST

22 FEB U. S. NAVY LEAGUE SOCIAL FOR WBI OFFICERS

23 FEB COMMAND PINIC IN THE PARK

24 FEB RECEPTION FOR U. S. NAVY LEAGUE
25 FEB UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE ROTA, SPAIN
CONDITION A FOR LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS

26 FEB TRANSIT – STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR
STEERING CHECKS
BINGO TOURNAMENT

27 FEB MOORED – ROTA, SPAIN
CONDITION A FOR LCAC, AAV & SMALL BOAT OPS
OFFLOAD USMC VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT
WASHDOWN

28 FEB – 03 MAR A DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

28 FEB AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION
WASHDOWN

29 FEB CONDITION A FOR LCAC OPS
BACKLOAD USMC VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT
END OF DEPLOYMENT PAO INTERVIEWS

MARCH 2000

01 MAR INPORT – ROTA, SPAIN
 BERTH SHIFT TO PIER 1
 CAPTAIN'S CALL (E-5 & BELOW)
 PROMOTION CEREMONY – LCDR WIRTH (1ST LT)

02 MAR ARG TURNOVER
 UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, NC
 FAMILY SERVICE CENTER (FSC) SEMINARS
 PC REFUELING
 RETARD CLOCKS TO Z

03 MAR PUBEX
 FSC SEMINARS
 CAPTAIN'S CALL (E5 & BELOW)
 CO'S CART/CSMP REVIEWS - OPS
 PC REFUELING

04 MAR C2W PUBEX
 FSC SEMINARS
 CO'S CART/CSMP REVIEWS (DECK & MED-DEN)
 FLIGHT QUARTERS

05 MAR FSC SEMINARS
 PC REFUELING
 RETARD CLOCKS TO +20

06 MAR – 10 MAR 1ST DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

06 MAR CO'S CART/CSMP REVIEWS (NAV-ADMIN & SUPPLY)
 MEDICAL REGULTING EXERCISE
 PC REFUELING
 FLIGHT QUARTERS
 DIESEL ENGING TREND ANALYSIS

07 MAR E-4 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
 CONDITION A FOR LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS
 CIWS PACFIRE
 FLIGHT QUARTERS
 NIGHT DLQ
 RETARD CLOCKS TO +3P

08 MAR 25MM & .50CAL FAM FIRE
 BECCES
 PIZZA DELIVERY NIGHT

09 MAR E-5 EXAMS
 PC REFUELING
 9MM & 12 GAUGE QUALIFICATION SHOOT (FLT DECK)
 NIXIE STREAM
 RETARD CLOCKS TO +4Q
 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

11 MAR PC REFUELING
 FLIGHT QUARTERS
 CPR 6 VISIT
 AWARDS CEREMONY
 RETARD CLOCKS TO +5R
 BINGO TOURNAMENT

12 MAR FRESH WATER WASHDOWN

13 MAR ANCHOR – ONSLOW BAY, NC
 CONDITION A FOR LCAC, AAV AND SMALL BOAT OPS
 FLIGHT QUARTERS
 OFFLOAD USMC VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT
 COMPHIBGRU TWO & DEPUTY II MEF VISIT
 UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE MOOREHEAD CITY, NC
 MOORED – MOOREHEAD CITY, NC
 COMPLETE OFFLOAD USMC

14 MAR UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA
 E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
 EMBARK TIGERS FOR TIGER CRUISE
 ARG RENDEZVOUS
 AWARDS CEREMONY

15 MAR MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA
 OFFICIAL PARTY EMBARKS
 CREW DEPARTS

16 MAR – 30 MAR POST-DEPLOYMENT STANDDOWN (FIRST PERIOD)

17 MAR SSDS CONTRACTOR TOUR
 COMMANDERS CONFERENCE
 SAILOR OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

30 MAR STANDDOWN TURNOVER DAY
 RETIREMENT CEREMONY – BM1 COLEMAN

31 MAR – 14 APR POST-DEPLOYMENT STANDDOWN (SECOND PERIOD)

APRIL 2000

31 MAR- 14 APR POST DEPLOYMENT STANDDOWN (SECOND PERIOD)

01 APR – 14 APR WEATHERDECK DOOR UPGRADES

06 APR CPG-2 SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

07 APR WORK PACKAGE INTEGRATION CONFERENCE

10 APR UNIFORM SHIFT – SUMMER WHITES
NAVY RELIEF MTG
JSOC MISSION BRIEF

11 APR – 13 APR AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT SYSTEMS GROUP CONFERENCE

11 APR JSOC MISSION BRIEF

12 APR PROPUSION PLANT LIGHT-OFF
EWTGLANT VISIT

13 APR RETIREMENT CEREMONY – BMC DARDEN

14 APR GENERATOR TESTING
FAST CRUISE

17 APR – 21 APR OC DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

17 APR UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE VCOA
MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
FLIGHT QUARTERS
HELO CRASH DRILL

18 APR AFFF SYSTEMS PMS
ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS
FLIGHT QUARTERS
HELO CRASH DRILL

20 APR AMMO MOVEMENT
ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS
NIXIE STREAM
HELO CRASH DRILL

21 APR SWEPT CHANNEL EXERCISE
MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA
AWARDS CEREMONY

Enclosure (2)

21 APR	CAPTAIN'S CALL
24 APR – 28 APR	S2 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
24APR – 10 MAY	IT-21 AND EHF UPGRADES PRE-AVAIL DIESEL INSPECTION
25 APR	BARGE VISIT – NORSHIPCO BERTH SHIFT – QUAY WALL WEST
26 APR	AMMO OFFLOAD PRE-ILO BRIEF
27 APR	BERTH SHIFT – QUAY WALL EAST
28 APR	NAVAL SAFETY CENTER SURVEY USS DONNER (LSD 20) REUNION VISIT

MAY 2000

01 MAY NAVAL SAFETY CENTER ORM TRAINING (ALL HANDS)

02 MAY – 09 MAY LADDER TREAD REPLACEMENTS

02 MAY – 05 MAY E DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
 PETTY OFFICER INDOCTRINATION CLASS
 LP AIR RECEIVER RECERTIFICATION
 APTS REMOVAL

02 MAY PHYSICAL READINESS TEST (PRT) – DUTY SECT 1 & 4
 IBFT INBRIEF

03 MAY PRT – DUTY SECTIONS 2 & 5
 CAPTAIN’S MAST
 HABITABILITY MEETING

04 MAY PRT – DUTY SECTIONS 3 & 6
 COMMAND SOFTBALL TEAM MEETING

06 MAY – 07 MAY VISIT SHIP WEEKEND

08 MAY REENLISTMENT – MS2 THOMPSON

08 MAY – 12 MAY OW DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

09 MAY PRT MAKE-UP

11 MAY SAILOR & JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER BOARDS
 CPG-2 VISIT

12 MAY BARGE INSPECTION – NORSHIPCO
 ACU-4 CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

15 MAY – 19 MAY OE3 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

15 MAY LIFEBOAT OFFLOAD
 9MM QUAILIFICATION SHOOT (RANGE)
 JO SHIPHANDLING TRAINER – MSI
 CHAFF OFFLOAD
 FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP BAKE SALE

16 MAY DEFUELING
 9MM QUALIFICATIONS SHOOT (RANCE)
 PRT MAKE-UP

16 MAY	JO SHIPHANDLING TRAINER – MSI UKRANIAN OFFICERS' TOUR
17 MAY	DEFUELING JO SHIPHANDLING TRAINER – MSI CMS ADVICE & ASSISTANCE TEAM VISIT
18 MAY	DEFUELING PRT MAKE-UP (FINAL) SIMA PRE-ARRIVAL CONFERENCE PMA PRE-ARRIVAL CONFERENCE
22 MAY	PXO ARRIVES PXO TURNOVER (CMC & DECK) MAIN PROPULSION OPTTEST SSDS INSTALL PRESENTATION PROMOTION CEREMONY – LTJG CRAFT, LTJG GOLDEN AND LTJG MCDERMOTT)
23 MAY	FAST CRUISE TELEVISION TURN-IN
24 MAY	UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE NORSHIPCO MOORED – NORSHIPCO SOQ & JSOQ BOARD
25 MAY – 29 SEP	PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)
25 MAY	PMA ARRIVAL CONFERENCE SSDG DIESEL ENGINE INSPECTION (3 & 4) BEQ CHECK-IN PXO TURNOVER (ENGINEERING)
26 MAY	PXO TURNOVER (ENGINEERING & SUPPLY) SHIPYARD MEETING CAPTAIN'S MAST
30 MAY – 2 JUN	2 ND DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
30 MAY	SIMA ARRIVAL CONFERENCE
31 MAY	SSDS SPLINTER MEETING SUPSHIP NEGOTIATION MEETING GAS MASK COLLECTION

Enclosure (2)

JUNE 2000

25 MAY – 29 SEP PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)

01 JUN ILSMT MEETING
CO & SHIPYARD CONFERENCE
PROMOTION CEREMONY – LT BRINN

05 JUN – 09 JUN R DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

05 JUN ENGINEERING ASSIST VISIT INBRIEF
ENGINEERING PROGRAM REVIEWS
BATTLE FORCE TEAM TRAINER INBRIEF

06 JUN FIRE DEPARTMENT WALKTHROUGH
REPAIR LOCKER INVENTORY
CAPTAIN'S MAST

07 JUN DCTT & ETT SEMINAR
CO & SHIPYARD CONFERENCE
SIMA MEETING

09 JUN FROCKING CEREMONY
CAPTAIN'S CALL

12 JUN – 16 JUN M DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
PACE SURVEYS AND TESTING

19 JUN – 23 JUN OI DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

19 JUN FLIGHT DECK NET FRAME CHANGE BRIEF

22 JUN DCTT SEMINAR
SIMA MEETING
PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS

23 JUN PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS

26 JUN – 30 JUN S3 & S4 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
AFFF STATION INSTALLS (MACHALT)
MAIN DISTRIBUTION BREAKER GROOM
SHIPBOARD TRAINING TEAM COURSE

29 JUN SIMA MEETING
CAPTAIN'S CALL
REENLISTMENT CEREMONY – EM3 SIMMONS

Enclosure (2)

JULY 2000

25 MAY – 29 SEP PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)

04 JUL INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC FOR DUTY SECT GUESTS

06 JUL SOQ & JSOQ BOARDS
SIMA MEETING

07 JUL FIRE FIGHTING TEAM EVALUATION TRAINER (1 & 3)
FROCKING CEREMONY (MAKE-UP) – EN3 MCMANUS

10 JUL – 14 JUL M DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

10 JUL FIRE FIGHTING TEAM EVALUATION TRAINER (2 & 5)

11 JUL FIRE FIGHTING TEAM EVALUATION TRAINER (3 & 6)

13 JUL SIMA MEETING
CAPTAIN’S CALL

14 JUL TAG-OUT AUDIT
EDO SEMINAR

17 JUL – 21 JUL NAV - ADMIN DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

18 JUL CAPTAIN’S CALL
REENLISTMENT – SMC GUGLIELMO

20 JUL SIMA MEETING
TANK PROGRESS MEETING
COMPHIBGRU TWO VISIT
CAPTAIN’S MAST
CPG-2 VISIT

21 JUL TAG-OUT AUDIT
TURBOPREP MESSAGE DRAFTING TRAINING
REENLISTMENT – QM3 PARKS

24 JUL – 28 JUL A DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

24 JUL TURBOPREP MESSAGE DRAFTING TRAINING (MAKE-UP)
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

31 JUL BLOOD DRIVE

AUGUST 2000

25 MAY – 29 AUG PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)

01 AUG – 04 AUG OC DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
EOSS SHIP VISIT
ENGINEERING LTT (CPG 2)

01 AUG ENGINEERING LTT INBRIEF
ETT SEMINAR
ETT DRILL PACKAGE REVIEW

02 AUG PMA 50% CONFERENCE

03 AUG SIMA MEETING
MENU REVIEW BOARD

04 AUG CREW APPRECIATION DAY
TAG-OUT AUDIT
EOSS VISIT OUTBRIEF
FROCKING & AWARDS CEREMONY
EDO SEMINAR

07 AUG – 11 AUG S2 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

08 AUG SIMA 50% CONFERENCE
CRAC TRAINING

09 AUG PROMOTION CEREMONY – LTJG ESPARZA (CICO)
CRAC TRAINING
CAPTAIN’S MAST

10 AUG ILSMT MEETING
CHAPLAIN VISIT
SNA GOLF TOURNAMENT
CRAC TRAINING
RETIREMENT CEREMONY – EN1 BIAS

11 AUG HURRICANE PLANNING REVIEW
EDO SEMINAR
RETIREMENT CEREMONY – EN1 BIAS
CPO LUNCHEON

14 AUG – 18 AUG OE DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

14 AUG FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

16 AUG COMMAND PICNIC – SCOTT ANNEX

17 AUG SIMA MEETING
CAPTAIN'S MAST

18 AUG TAG OUT AUDIT

21 AUG – 25 AUG 1ST DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

21 AUG AVIATION ASSIST VISIT INBRIEF

22 AUG AVIATION ASSIST VISIT
LUBE OIL ONLOAD
COMBAT SYSTEMS TEST

24 AUG FUEL OIL ONLOAD
SIMA MEETING

25 AUG REENLISTMENT CEREMONY – BM2 STANFILL

28 AUG – 01 SEP OW DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

29 AUG ETG MENTOR SHIP VISIT
ETG MENTOR SHIP INBRIEF
ETT SEMINAR

30 AUG ETG MENTOR SHIP OUTBRIEF
CAPTAIN'S CALL
CNSL NR VISIT TO DISCUSS FSA-TO-MS TRANSITION

SEPTEMBER 2000

25 MAY – 29 SEP PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)

01 SEP TAG-OUT AUDIT

04 SEP LABOR DAY COOKOUT FOR DUTY SECT. GUESTS

05 SEP - 08 SEP CRANE GROOM

05 SEP JO SHIPHANDLING TRAINER – MSI

07 SEP E-4 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
CPG-2 VISIT
LAN SECURED FOR TRANSFER
SIMA MEETING

08 SEP - 13 SEP CREW MOVES ABOARD WHIDBEY ISLAND

08 SEP TAG-OUT AUDIT

14 SEP E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
OMBUDSMEN APPRECIATION DAY LUNCHEON
FMAV 121

15 SEP TAG-OUT AUDIT
CPO PINNING CEREMONY – EMC MCKEE, EWC LUMSDON
& HMC BALUYOT
CAPTAIN’S CALL (ALL E-6)
EDO SEMINAR

19 SEP STEERING GROOM
SSDS TRAINING

20 SEP ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGE SEMINAR
CAPTAIN’S CALL (ALL CPOS)
SSDS TRAINING

21 SEP E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS
BARGE TURNOVER
SIMA MEETING
ILO OUTBRIEF
SAFETY STANDDOWN

22 SEP TAG-OUT AUDIT

26 SEP FMAV 121 PRE-ARRIVAL CONFERENCE

27 SEP LUBE OIL ONLOAD
CAPTAIN'S CALL

28 SEP SIMA MEETING
FAST CRUISE
CAPTAIN'S MAST

29 SEP TAG-OUT AUDIT
TRANSIT – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA

OCTOBER 2000

25 MAY – 29 SEP PLANNED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA)

02 OCT – 06 OCT TROOP SPACES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

02 OCT YELLOW GEAR DELIVERY
COMSEC TRAINING

03 OCT AMMO ONLOAD
DE-RAT CERTIFICATION

04 OCT C4I INSTALL BRIEF

05 OCT – 16 NOV FMAV 121

05 OCT – 27 OCT FLIGHT DECK RESURFACING

06 OCT TAG-OUT AUDIT
CPG-2 QI TRAINING

09 OCT COLUMBUS DAY
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

10 OCT 2ND DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT (LOA) REHEARSAL
FMAV-050/121 CONFERENCE
PACKAGE CONVEYOR & DUMBWAITER TRAINING

11 OCT U. S. NAVY’S 225TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
BOOST PROGRAM BRIEF

12 OCT ADVANCEMENT EXAM MAKE-UPS

13 OCT TAG-OUT AUDIT

16 OCT LOA REHEARSAL
HOT & COLD CHECKS

17 OCT LOA REHEARSAL

18 OCT 60 TON CRANE WEIGHT TEST

20 OCT TAG-OUT AUDIT

23 OCT FOC’SLE RESURFACING

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23 OCT LOA INBRIEF
 LOA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVIEW
 LOA MATERIAL CHECKS

24 OCT LOA COMPLETE MATERIAL CHECKS
 FMAV 121 MID-TERM CONFERENCE

25 OCT LOA CLEAR OUTSTANDING ITEMS
 LOA DEBRIEF
 JO SHIPHANDLING TRAINER – MSI
 INDOOR RANGE RIFLE SHOOT

27 OCT – 17 NOV CSSQT PHASE I

27 OCT – 30 OCT BOAT DECK RESURFACING

27 OCT LOA HOT & COLD CHECKS
 TAG-OUT AUDIT

30 OCT UNIFORM SHIFT – WINTER BLUES
 DOCK TRIALS

31 OCT BERTH SHIFT
 FAST CRUISE
 REENLISTMENT CEREMONY – IC2 DAVIS

NOVEMBER 2000

27 OCT – 17 NOV CSSQT PHASE I

01 NOV AMMO ONLOAD
NEXCOM VISIT

02 NOV UNDERWAY
SEA TRIALS
NEXCOM VISIT
TRACKEX
ENGINEERING EVOLUTION
SWING SHIP

03 NOV SEA TRIALS
TAG-OUT AUDITS
ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS
BALLAST OPERATIONS
GENERAL QUARTERS
CIWS PACFIRE
TACAN CALIBRATION
MOORED – QUAY WALL EAST

06 NOV – 10 NOV R DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

06 NOV – 22 NOV SISCAL (IPT LITTLE CREEK)

06 NOV SISCAL INBRIEF
OUTDOOR GUNNERY RANGE AVAILABILITY
REENLISTMENT – IC2 CANIPE

07 NOV SEA TRIAL DEBRIEF
CAPTAIN’S MAST

08 NOV TCAT INITIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE
OUTDOOR GUNNERY RANGE AVAILABILITY
SOQ BOARD

09 NOV COMMAND PERSONNEL INSPECTION – DRESS BLUES
C4I MEETING
AWARDS CEREMONY
CAPTAIN’S CALL

13 NOV – 17 NOV MEDICAL & DENTAL DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT
CMC CONFERENCE

Enclosure (2)

14 NOV 60 TON CRANE PMS
CPG-2 CART II BRIEF
CAPTAIN'S CALL (CPOS)

15 NOV FUEL OIL ONLOAD
CO SPARWAR VISIT
MCPON VISIT

17 NOV NATO SECRET INSPECTION
NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT

21 NOV HICS INSTALL BRIEF
AWS STUDENT TOUR
CRANE OPS
SMALL BOAT OPS

22 NOV TBS STUDENT VISIT

23 NOV THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR DUTY SECTION GUESTS

27 NOV UNDERWAY – EN ROUTE VCOA
SHIP RIDER INBRIEF
SWEPT CHANNEL TRANSIT
TACAN CERTIFICATION
MPDE GROOM

28 NOV MPDE GROOM
FLIGHT QUARTERS
CIWS PACFIRE & MOUNT OPTEST
25MM FAM FIRE
LOSS OF STEERING DRILL
AMERICAN-INDIAN HERITAGE DINNER
ENGINEERING EVOLUTION

29 NOV GENERAL QUARTERS
MPDE GROOM
ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS
CAPTAIN'S MAST
DTE-AIC TRAINING

30 NOV PRECISION ANCHORAGE
CIWS PACFIRE
25MM FAM FIRE
FRESH WATER WASHDOWN
AMERICAN-INDIAN HERITAGE PRESENTATION

DECEMBER 2000

01 DEC TITIVATE SHIP
 FRESH WATER WASHDOWN
 SSDS OUTBRIEF
 MPDE OUTBRIEF
 MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VA

04 DEC – 12 DEC SWITCHBOARD CLEANING

04 DEC – 07 DEC OHMS-NG BASIC USER TRAINING
 SKIN CANCER SCREENING

04 DEC – 06 DEC HICS INSTALL
 IC SWITCHBOARD RE-WIRING

05 DEC – 08 DEC OI DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

07 DEC – 12 DEC IPIDS INSTALL

07 DEC PEARL HARBOR DAY
 REENLISTMENT CEREMONY ABOARD USS WISCONSIN
 (BB 64) – EMC SHULL & EM2 JONES

11 DEC AVCERT TECH ASSIST INBRIEF
 NAVSESS INBRIEF

12 DEC – 15 DEC AVIATION TECH ASSIST
 SERFMER
 S3 & S4 DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

12 DEC NCTSS INSTALL BRIEF

13 DEC NAVY DERMATOLOGIST VISIT
 COMMAND PRT

14 DEC NAVSESS OUTBRIEF
 ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS & DRILLS

15 DEC – 27 DEC HOLIDAY STANDDOWN (FIRST PERIOD)

15 DEC FROCKING & AWARDS CEREMONY
 CAPTAIN’S CALL

18 DEC – 19 DEC TCAT MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE
 SHIPBOARD GAUGE CALIBRATIONS

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22 DEC	TAG-OUT AUDIT CAPTAIN'S MAST
26 DEC	SNAP & COMPASS CLOSEOUT
27 DEC	HOLIDAY LEAVE TURNOVER SNAP & COMPASS DATABASE CONVERSION CART II POA & M REVIEW
28 DEC - 8 JAN	HOLIDAY STANDDOWN (SECOND PERIOD)

JANUARY 2000

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) and crew began the first day of 2000 moored in Genoa, Italy. On January 2nd the crew enjoyed their last day in the holiday liberty port and prepared to depart the following morning. After getting underway early on the 3rd, WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with USNS JOHN LENTHAL (TAO 189) for an underway replenishment (UNREP) for fuel.

En route Souda Bay, Greece January 4th, WHIDBEY ISLAND transited the Strait of Messina for its final time of the deployment. Also on the 4th, a Safety Stan down was conducted. As an incentive to finding safety discrepancies, the Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, arranged for the Sailor who found the most discrepancies to travel home one day early from Morehead City, North Carolina. BM3 Christopher Hernandez earned the early trip home by finding 17 safety hazards.

January 5th the ship took on additional stores from the USNS CONCORD (AFS 5) during a replenishment at sea (RAS) and rendezvoused with the two other ships of the BATAAN Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), USS BATAAN (LHD 5) and USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12).

WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Souda Bay, Greece on January 7th to begin a Tender Maintenance Availability (TMAV) with USS EMORY S. LAND (AS 39). After mooring to the NATO fuel pier, Sailors and Marines commenced offloading Marine vehicles and equipment for inspection, cleaning, and repairs. Underway the following morning, the ship anchored just outside Souda Bay to make room for EMORY S. LAND pierside. Weather and winds forced WHIDBEY ISLAND to shift anchorage to inside the bay to facilitate boating operations to EMORY S. LAND in support of the TMAV. During the TMAV, maintenance personnel, tools, and equipment from the EMORY S. LAND were brought aboard for repairs such as weight testing UNREP fittings, welding handrails and vertical ladders, installing new lighting, refitting doors, and diesel engine repairs.

The Tiger Cruise Coordinator, DKC (SW/AW) Joseph Ruybe, attended a meeting aboard BATAAN January 10th to begin preparations for the Tiger Cruise, a one night

stay. on board for the crew's family and friends while the ship transits from Morehead City, North Carolina to NAB Little Creek, Virginia.

On January 14th, all Marine equipment was backloaded via Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC). The following morning WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway its next port, Aqaba, Jordan.

Fuel and stores were loaded during an UNREP with the USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201) on January 17th.

On January 18th WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored at Port Said waiting entrance to the Suez Canal for transit to Aqaba, Jordan. While anchored, the weather subjected the ship to forty-knot winds, six-foot seas, and heavy rolls. To accommodate the extreme conditions the ship altered its track from the Eastern Branch to the Western Branch. Just after midnight, the ship began its transit through the Suez Canal. Once in the canal, the conditions were considerably more favorable. The ship anchored at 0930 in the Great Bitter Lake on January 19th to allow northbound ships to pass before completing the trip to Port Suez. Later that afternoon, WHIDBEY ISLAND exited the Suez Canal and entered the Gulf of Suez. Early on the morning of January 20th, the ship exited the Gulf of Suez and transited the Strait of Tiran. At 1500 that day, WHIDBEY ISLAND was the first of the BATAAN ARG to moor in Aqaba, Jordan.

Offload of Marine equipment in support of Infinite Moonlight commenced January 21st. On January 24th, after troops had departed for exercises, the crew of WHIDBEY ISLAND began a variety of projects to prepare the ship for its return to homeport. Throughout the ship, Sailors stripped away layers of old paint, primed the underlying metal and applied primer and fresh "haze gray" paint. Although exterior preservation was the primary goal, other work consisted of stripping and resurfacing the decks, welding, brazing, replacing insulation on bulkheads, and repairing electrical equipment. In Engineering, Main Propulsion Diesel Engines seals and exhaust valves were repaired or replaced and a lube oil pump was repaired.

An awards ceremony was held on the turntable January 26th. Award recipients were EM1(SW) Michael McKee, Sailor of the Year; PC1 Tammie Perry, Sailor of the Quarter; PN3 Julius Ogunnaya, Junior Sailor of the Quarter; and SN Shannon Huey, Blue Jacket

of the Year. A Captain's Call followed and crew members voiced questions and concerns to CDR Barrington and the Executive Officer, LCDR Thomas J. Lafferty.

Although Aqaba was a working port, there were opportunities for recreation. Since the three ARG ships were inport together, a BATAAN Commodore's Cup sponsored competitions including cake decorating contests, basketball, volleyball, 10K runs, and a talent show.

Through Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR), crew members took tours to Wadi Rum, the picturesque desert where "Lawrence of Arabia" was filmed and Petra, an ancient city of detailed buildings carved into the sandstone cliffs. Those who took the Petra tour recognized the main treasury building from another movie, "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

FEBRUARY 2000

As the month of February began, WHIDBEY ISLAND was moored in Aqaba, Jordan with BATAAN and SHREVEPORT. While in port, ship-wide maintenance and preservation projects continued.

February 1st, LTJG David Dwyer, Damage Control Assistant (DCA), was promoted to Lieutenant.

Commander Task Force FIVE ONE (CTF-51), CAPT Stephen C. Jasper, embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND on Friday, February 4th. The wardroom hosted a luncheon for the Commodore that afternoon.

February 9th, WHIDBEY ISLAND celebrated its 15th birthday. Crew members gathered on the mess decks as the Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, cut and served the birthday cake with the assistance of the Command Master Chief, MMCM(SW) Mark Butler.

A Fast Cruise and administrative General quarters were conducted February 11th.

Backloading of Marine equipment and vehicles commenced utilizing the ship's crane and LCACs Saturday, February 12th.

Sailors and Marines enjoyed their last evening in Jordan visiting the various shops and restaurants in downtown Aqaba on February 13th.

February 14th, WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway en route Palma, Spain and transited the Strait of Tiran that afternoon. Early the next morning, the ship entered the Gulf of Suez and anchored at Port Suez on the afternoon of February 15th.

The ship began transit of the Suez Canal at 0500 February 16th, exiting the canal that evening at 1730. The following morning, the ship took on stores and fuel during a RAS with PATUXENT and USNS SIRIUS (AFS 8).

WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Palma, Spain February 21st. Palma was the final liberty port of the deployment providing the crew ample opportunities to enjoy the local tourist attractions, cuisine, shopping, resort areas, and nightlife.

On February 22nd the wardroom attended a social sponsored by the U. S. Navy League. The wardroom reciprocated with ship tours and refreshments aboard February 24th. John Graham, U. S. Navy League Vice-President and former lead singer of the

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Moody Blues, entertained CDR Barrington in his cabin with an impromptu rendition of “Nights in White Satin.”

In addition to offering sightseeing and shopping tours, MWR sponsored a Navy and Marine picnic near the port facility on Wednesday, February 23rd. The many Sailors and Marines in attendance enjoyed excellent food, music, and weather and participated in athletic activities such as volleyball, basketball, and horseshoes.

WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway on February 25th en route its agricultural inspection and final stop of the deployment, Rota, Spain.

The ship transited the Strait of Gibraltar February 26th and arrived in Rota early the next morning. Upon arrival, offload and washdown of Marine equipment and vehicles commenced. After offload was complete, ship’s company continued preparing WHIDBEY ISLAND for the mandatory agricultural inspection. Adhering to guidelines set by inspectors, crew members thoroughly cleaned the ship, in particular the well deck, boat deck, and flight deck, to remove all foreign debris prior to returning to the United States.

As the month of February concluded, ship’s company and embarked Marines prepared the ship for its transit of the Atlantic Ocean, and enjoyed the final days in port Rota, Spain before heading home.

MARCH 2000

March began with WHIDBEY ISLAND in Rota, Spain, berth shifting from its position at Pier 3 to Pier 1 and continuing preparations for departure the next morning. Also March 1st, LT David G. Wirth, WHIDBEY ISLAND's 1st Lieutenant, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

The ship departed Rota March 2nd beginning a 12-day transit of the Atlantic Ocean en route Morehead City, North Carolina.

During transit representatives from the Family Service Center and Officer Ken Blank of the Virginia State Police began a series of seminars designed to help Sailors and Marines prepare for return to the states. Topics of discussion included local and state traffic laws, money management, car buying strategies, and new parent workshops.

Advancement exams for E-4 were held on the mess decks March 7th and E-5 exams followed March 9th.

March 11th Commodore Stephen C. Jasper, Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX, visited WHIDBEY ISLAND. During his visit Commodore Jasper addressed assembled ship's company on the flight deck and presented awards to select Sailors.

WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored at Onslow Bay, North Carolina, March 13th and commenced offload of Marine vehicles and equipment via LCACs. After anchoring RADM "Woody" Sutton, Commander Amphibious Group TWO (CPG-2), and BGen Robert M. Flanagan, Deputy II Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF), embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND. While aboard RADM Sutton and BGen Flanagan toured ship's spaces, met members of the crew, and addressed Sailors and Marines over the 1MC. After the visitors' departures, the ship weighed anchor en route Morehead City, N. C. By 1400 that afternoon, WHIDBEY ISLAND was moored and remaining Marines and equipment completed offloading.

Advancement exams for E-6 were administered on the mess decks the morning of March 14th. By noontime, the family and friends of crew members taking the one-day Tiger Cruise back to Naval Amphibious Base Little (NAB) Creek, Virginia had arrived. During their stay Tigers toured designated ship spaces, attended an awards ceremony, and observed their sponsors at work around WHIDBEY ISLAND.

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After six months of deployment, WHIDBEY ISLAND returned to NAB Little Creek on March 15th. As crew members moored WHIDBEY ISLAND at Quaywall East, family and friends greeted the ship with “Welcome Home” signs and banners. With mooring complete, the ship began post-deployment stand down and leave period for the crew.

March ended with WHIDBEY ISLAND mid-way through stand down. Crew members who took first leave returned March 30th for a day of turnover before the remainder of the crew began second leave period.

APRIL 2000

April 1st WHIDBEY ISLAND continued its post-deployment stand down period as the second half of ship's company took leave.

The entire crew returned to the ship April 14th and a Fast Cruise was conducted in preparation for getting underway the following week.

April 17th, WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway en route Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA) for the week in support of small boat operations and deck landing qualifications. Extremely dense fog along the coast caused exercises to be cancelled and the low visibility detail to remain set throughout the day. For a majority of the week inclement weather conditions and high seas cancelled many scheduled exercises.

Returning to NAB Little Creek, Virginia on April 21st the ship conducted a Swept Channel and Loss of Gyrocompass Exercise which required the ship to navigate by magnetic compass through a simulated mine field. After finishing the exercise and mooring at Quaywall East, ship's company was gathered on the turntable for an awards ceremony and Captain's Call.

April 25th WHIDBEY ISLAND berth shifted from Quaywall East to Quaywall West to offload ammunition. Offload was completed the following day and the ship returned to Quaywall East on April 27th.

The Safety Survey Team came aboard for an Assist Visit April 28th. Later that afternoon, Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, welcomed 63 members from the USS DONNER (LSD 20) Reunion for a tour of the ship.

As April ended, WHIDBEY ISLAND was presented the Mission Area Excellence Award from VADM Henry C. Giffin III, Commander Naval Surface Force U. S. Atlantic Fleet, for outstanding professional achievement during the competitive cycle ending December 31, 1999.

MAY 2000

May 1st WHIDBEY ISLAND continued preparations for the Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) period beginning May 24th at Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation (NORSHIPCO) in Norfolk, Virginia.

WHIDBEY ISLAND participated in NAB Little Creek's Visit Ship Program May 6th and 7th by offering tours of the ship to the public.

MS2(SW) Rico Thompson reenlisted in a ceremony held on the Mess Decks May 8th.

On the afternoon of May 11th, RADM "Woody" Sutton made his last official visit to WHIDBEY ISLAND as CPG-2.

May 15th, OW Division offloaded chaff and the Family Support Group hosted a bake sale on the messdecks.

Five officers from the Ukrainian Navy toured WHIDBEY ISLAND May 16th. On the bridge, the visiting officers met the Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, and presented the Ukrainian Naval pennant to him.

The Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR G. S. Matthesen reported aboard WHIDBEY ISLAND on May 22nd to begin his turnover with LCDR Thomas J. Lafferty. In the wardroom that afternoon, CDR Barrington promoted ENS Bethany A. Craft, ENS Ruth A. Golden, and ENS Kathleen A. McDermott to Lieutenant, Junior Grade (LTJG).

WHIDBEY ISLAND conducted a fast cruise May 23rd to prepare for the transit to NORSHIPCO the following day.

WHIDBEY ISLAND transited to and moored at NORSHIPCO May 24th. Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) and Junior Sailor of the Quarter (JSOQ) boards selected IT2(SW) Patrick Kirkland as Sailor of the Quarter and GMSN Daniel Drotleff as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

During the last week of May the crew relocated berthing areas and many of the ship's workspaces to the adjacent barge to accommodate upgrades and renovations.

LCDR Matthesen relieved WHIDBEY ISLAND's Executive Officer on May 26th. LCDR Lafferty transferred to CPG-2 as N31, Future Operations Officer.

May ended with WHIDBEY ISLAND cloaked in scaffolding with temporary offices and storage facilities set-up on the flight deck to support the PMA.

JUNE 2000

Yard work around the ship was in full swing as June began. NORSHIPCO contractors invaded nearly every level and space of WHIDBEY ISLAND. The contractors' work included replacing berthing areas and heads with new facilities, adding water-tight doors, installing additional weapon systems, refinishing the well deck, and repairing the Main Propulsion Diesel Engines (MPDE).

Lieutenant, Junior Grade (LTJG) Neal H. Brinn was promoted to Lieutenant (LT) on June 1st.

CDR Brian E. Barrington frocked 54 of WHIDBEY ISLAND's Sailors advanced from the March exams during a ceremony held on the barge lido deck. Following the ceremony, CDR Barrington addressed ship's company at Captain's Call.

In preparation for the upcoming Light-Off Assessment (LOA), the Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) commenced main space fire drill training for the crew starting June 27th. Drills were conducted early in the morning to avoid interfering with the yard work.

On June 29th EM3 Randall Simmons reenlisted for four years.

At a second Captain's Call held June 29th, CDR Barrington informed ship's company, that the ship's stay at NORSHIPCO would likely be past the original September date to facilitate additional engine repairs. He also urged Sailors to exercise extreme caution over the July 4th holiday weekend.

As June concluded maintenance and upgrades continued throughout WHIDBEY ISLAND.

JULY 2000

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) celebrated July 4th while moored at NORSHIPCO for Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA). NORSHIPCO's location on the Elizabeth River provided an excellent view of the evenings fireworks display. For the occasion WHIDBEY ISLAND's Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, made arrangements allowing crew members' family and friends aboard the barge for a picnic on the Lido Deck and to view fireworks.

Duty sections continued training on the Main Space Fire Doctrine and conducting early morning main space fire drills in preparation for the upcoming LOA.

Selection boards for Sailor and Junior Sailor of the Quarter were held in the Chief's Mess July 6th. Results of the boards were announced the following day. BM2(SW) Thomas Milam received the Sailor of the Quarter award and was capped to Boatswain's Mate, First Class. Junior Sailor of the Quarter went to BM3 Christopher Hernandez.

CPG-2, RADM(SEL) Nowakowski visited WHIDBEY ISLAND July 20th. With CDR Barrington as his guide, RADM(SEL) Nowakowski toured ship's spaces, met members of the crew, and surveyed various maintenance and upgrades in progress.

Reenlistments during the month included SMC(SW) John P. Guglielmo July 18th and QM3 Nikojovia Parks July 21st.

Ending the month, a blood drive was held July 31st.

AUGUST 2000

As August began WHIDBEY ISLAND was still moored at NORSHIPCO continuing the ship's PMA. Primary focus was on the four Ship's Service Diesel Engines (SSDG), which required extensive maintenance and repairs.

Another important issue for the ship's crew was Main Space Fire Drill training to prepare for the upcoming LOA at the end of September. Besides the early morning drills, selected crew members attended the Firefighting School at Fleet Training Center Norfolk.

EM1(SW) Michael McKee, EW1(SW) Harold Lumsdon, HM1(SW) Jose Baluyot and QM1(SW) Michael Young were named as the newest Chief Selectees when the results of the Chief Petty Officer Board were announced August 3rd.

Following an awards ceremony, the Food Service Department prepared a special meal on August 4th for Crew Appreciation Day. Also on the 4th, the ship received it's first honor roll nomination for retention in seven years. WHIDBEY ISLAND was the only LSD-type ship in CINCLANFLT to receive this award.

The eight members of the 'ISLAND STRIDERS' placed 6th and 9th in the team category at the 5th Annual Open 8K Run held at Naval Station Norfolk August 5th. The STRIDERS included Executive Officer, LCDR G. Shep Matthesen; Ship's Boatswain, CWO2 Robert Sears; Command Master Chief, MMCM(SW) Mark Butler; HM1(SW) Jose Baluyot; PN3(SW) Julius Ogunnaya; EM3 Patrick McManus; EN3 Rogelio Agno and DC3 Nicholas Bloomquist

ENS Michael Esparza received his promotion to Lieutenant, Junior Grade August 9th. August 10th EN1(SW) David Bias ended his naval career after 20 years of service with a retirement ceremony on the barge lido deck.

MWR hosted the ship's annual command picnic at Scott's Annex in Portsmouth August 16th which included a catered buffet, face-painting clowns, bowling, swimming, miniature golf, air-bounce rooms, softball tournament and a dunk tank. The officers triumphed over the enlisted in the softball tournament, but the dunk tank was the biggest attraction at the event raising over \$150.00 for MWR.

August 25th BM2(SW) Greg Stanfill reenlisted on the Mess Decks.

Ending the month, Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, addressed ship's company at Captain's Call August 30th. During his address, CDR Barrington applauded the crew for their hard work and efforts during the ship's PMA at NORSHIPCO. He also discussed the upcoming LOA, WHIDBEY ISLAND's return transit to NAB Little Creek and the ship's schedule through February 2001.

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SEPTEMBER 2000

WHIDBEY ISLAND's Junior Officers, along with the enlisted members of the navigation and combat information and piloting teams, participated in a two-day shiphandling trainer September 5th and 6th at Naval Station Norfolk's Shiphandling Simulator Complex. The simulated transit exercises allowed the junior officers and enlisted to hone their shiphandling skills and techniques without damage to ship, aircraft or personnel.

September 7th all eligible personnel participated in the E-4 advancement exam conducted on the barge mess decks. Later that afternoon the CPG-2, RDML J. Kevin Moran, toured WHIDBEY ISLAND to survey the on-going PMA throughout the ship.

Anticipating the end of WHIDBEY ISLAND's stay at NORSHIPCO, ship's company began moving their offices, equipment and personal belongings back aboard the ship September 8th. By September 13th the entire crew had relocated back to the ship and a majority of workspaces were fully operational, including the ship's galley.

September 14th E-5 advancement exams were held on the mess decks. Also on the 14th WHIDBEY ISLAND's OMBUDSMEN, Jessica Kirland and Christi Thomas, along with their husbands, IT2 Patrick Kirkland and MAC(SW) Randy Thomas, were special guests at a luncheon to commemorate Navy Family OMBUDSMAN Appreciation Day. Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, and Command Master Chief, MMCM(SW) Mark Butler, attended the luncheon to personally thank Mrs. Kirland and Mrs. Thomas for all their hard work and efforts on behalf of crew members and their families.

In a ceremony conducted on the turntable, three of WHIDBEY ISLAND's Sailors were promoted to Chief Petty Officer: EMC(SW) Michael McKee, EWC(SW) Harold Lumsdon and HMC(SW) Jose Baluyot. During the ceremony, hosted by MMCM(SW) Butler, the selectees received their chief's anchors, covers and a plaque engraved with the Chief Petty Officer's Creed. At the conclusion of the ceremony WHIDBEY ISLAND's newest chiefs took their place in formation along with their fellow chiefs.

September 21st advancement exams to E-6 were held on the mess decks.

CDR Barrington addressed ship's company at a Captain's Call on the turntable September 27th to discuss the ship's return to NAB Little Creek on the 29th.

The crew simulated getting WHIDBEY ISLAND underway during a Fast Cruise on September 28th. Procedures for rescuing personnel were practiced as well as Man Overboard and Abandon Ship drills the same afternoon.

September 29th WHIDBEY ISLAND departed NORSHIPCO en route NAB Little Creek. As the MPDEs and SSDGs were still under repair, the ship's was towed for the transit with the aid of three tugs: Town Point, Drum Point and Cape Charles. Although the short transit took a few additional hours, the crew's morale was markedly improved when WHIDBEY ISLAND was moored at homeport NAB Little Creek late that afternoon.

OCTOBER 2000

Although WHIDBEY ISLAND's stay at NORSHIPCO came to an end September 29th, contract work around the ship was far from complete.

In the engineering spaces hot and cold checks continued on MPDEs and SSDGs. Training began for newly installed weapon systems and combat equipment even as contractors continued installations. All the while, ship's company prepared for the upcoming LOA with daily main space fire drills.

October 6th, in an effort to cut down on the amount of man-hours spent stripping and waxing the ship's decks, workers were contracted to apply PRC decks on the 06, 05 and 04 levels. While the entire process took two weeks and isolated some workspaces, the overall reduction in maintenance on these new deck surfaces will provide was worth the small inconveniences.

WHIDBEY ISLAND celebrated the U. S. Navy's 225th Birthday October 11th with a cake cutting ceremony on the turntable. The ceremony was unusually somber and melancholy as the loss of seventeen shipmates aboard USS COLE (DDG 67) the morning before still weighed fresh on everyone's mind. Executive Officer, LCDR G. Shep Matthesen, began the ceremony by reading a birthday message to the fleet from the Chief of Naval Operations and Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, reminded the crew of the oaths each Sailor made to the Constitution of the United States. Afterward, ship's company observed a moment of silence to reflect on lost shipmates and their families. The ship's Mess Specialists then presented a special birthday cake to the crew and as tradition dictates, the youngest and oldest members of the crew, ENFA Joseph Bolyard and SKC(SW) Oscar Gabor, together cut the first slice of cake.

October 19th, with LOA just around the corner, ship's company began a ship-wide field day (with particular emphasis on engineering spaces) to assist the Engineering Department, which had been working virtually non-stop on the MPDEs and SSDGs since returning from NORSHIPCO September 29th.

After month of hard work and preparation the ship's LOA, a carefully scrutinized evaluation by WHIDBEY ISLAND's direct superiors began October 23rd. Despite minor equipment glitches, the engineers successfully demonstrated their ability to safely light

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off the main engines and diesel generators. Additionally, the Damage Control Training Team proved their ability to train the crew with a successful Main Space Fire Drill. The entire event culminated on October 25th in a “Clear Path to Light Off” from COMNAVSURFLANT’s inspectors, taking into account remaining material discrepancies that were to be corrected.

But, even with LOA satisfactorily concluded and October coming to an end, the crew had little time to relax with dock trials October 30th, a fast cruise and berth shift on the 31st, an ammunition onload scheduled for November 1st followed by Sea Trials November 2nd and 3rd.

NOVEMBER 2000

November began with preparations for WHIDBEY ISLAND's approaching Sea Trials. After an ammunition on-load the previous morning, the ship was underway early on November 2nd.

The first day of trials included training for crew members on helicopter 'crash and smash', navigation and operations procedures, tracking exercises from Combat Information Center (CIC) to test and align the newly installed components of the Ship's Self-Defense System (SSDS), engineering evolutions and a late evening 'swing ship' exercise for the navigation team.

Training continued throughout the afternoon on November 3rd with engineering evolutions, ballast control operations, a General quarters drill, Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) PACFIRE and calibrations of the ship's Tactical Air and Navigation (TACAN) equipment. WHIDBEY ISLAND moored later that afternoon in homeport NAB Little Creek, Virginia.

November 6th IC2 Donald Canipe reenlisted in a ceremony held on the messdecks.

WHIDBEY ISLAND's Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, and Executive Officer, LCDR G. Sheppard Matthesen, inspected ship's company (assembled in dress blues) during a command personnel inspection on November 9th.

During the month of November WHIDBEY ISLAND had several visitors starting with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), MMCM(SW/AW) Jim Herdt, on the 15th. MCPON toured WHIDBEY ISLAND's spaces along with the Fleet Master Chief, Atlantic Fleet, MMCM(SS) Tom Hefty, and the Royal Australian Navy's MCPON counterpart, Warrant Officer David Wilson. Although their time aboard the ship was limited, the MCPON and his guests still found opportunities to talk and take pictures with members of the crew.

On the 17th, sixty-five members of the National War College arrived for an afternoon tour of the ship, and 266 Marines officers from the Amphibious Warfare School came aboard for a tour and one-night stay November 21st.

After enjoying a long weekend in observance of Thanksgiving, WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway en route the Virginia Capes Operating Area (VCOA) November 27th.

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