



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)

FPO AP 96617-1656

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12 MAR 01

From: Commanding Officer, USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)

To: Director of Naval History

Subj: USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) COMMAND HISTORY 2000

Ref: (a) OPVAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) Command History 2000

1. Per reference (a) find enclosure (1) as subject matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. YNGVE".

R. A. YNGVE
By direction

From: USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) COMMAND HISTORY 2000

Encl: (1) Change of Command Ceremony Bulletin
(2) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(3) BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Ready Group Pamphlet

1. Command Composition and Organization

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)

“Revolutionary Gator”

UIC: 22202

FPO AP 96617-1656

Commanding Officer: CAPT R. J. Connelly, USN, date of command 24 APRIL 2000

CAPT D. W. Keith, USN, 01JAN-24APR00

BONHOMME RICHARD AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP:

USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52)

USS OGDEN (LPD 5)

(USS DENVER (LPD 9) 01JAN-01AUG00)

2. Chronology

1-24 JAN	Pre-overseas movement Period
24 JAN	Deploy
31JAN-3 FEB	PVST Pearl Harbor, HI
7 FEB	INCHOP to 7 th Fleet
21-24 FEB	ANCHORED, Dili, East Timor
26-28 FEB	PVST Darwin, Australia
5-9 MAR	PVST Singapore
12-15 MAR	ANCHORED for PVST Phuket, Thailand
22 MAR	INCHOP 5 th Fleet
1-24 APR	ANCHORED Kuwait/ Exercise EAGER MACE
24 APR	Change of Command Ceremony onboard
26-28 APR	PVST Bahrain
30APR-19MAY	ANCHORED Qatar/ Exercise EASTERN MAVERICK
21-24 MAY	PVST Jebel Ali
28MAY-4JUN	OPERATION SEA SOLDIER
8 JUN	INCHOP 7 th Fleet
14JUN-18JUN	ANCHOR/PVST Phuket, Thailand
25-29 JUN	ANCHOR/PVST Hong Kong
11 JUL	INCHOP 3 rd Fleet
14-15 JUL	PVST Pearl Harbor
16-24 JUL	Tiger Cruise enroute NAVSTA SAN DIEGO
14 JUL	Return from WESTPAC Deployment
25JUL-27AUG	Post Deployment Upkeep

28AUG-1SEP	Ammo Crossdeck
6 SEP-27 NOV	PMA-Upkeep Period, Inpt San Diego
15-16 NOV	Sea Trials, U/W SOCAL Oparea
4-8 DEC	CART II, U/W SOCAL
15DEC- 31JAN	Holiday Leave/Upkeep

3. Narrative

BONHOMME RICHARD is the Pacific Fleet's Number One Amphibious Ship. Through an operationally intense maiden Western Pacific Deployment and beyond, the "Revolutionary Gator" crew consistently displayed their superior operational excellence, exceptional training and commitment to excellence through unparalleled mission accomplishment, operational performance and professional achievement throughout the year 2000.

- ✓ Qualified for every Command Excellence Award. Sustained the highest level of combat readiness achievable throughout deployment to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Gulf and the initial phases of basic tactical training.
- ✓ Front-running C² Performance. BONHOMME RICHARD set the pace in Amphibious Flagship performance. The Revolutionary Gator took the latest technology to sea and made it work for the warfighter, by providing the highest quality support to the staffs of Commander, Amphibious Squadron THREE and the FIFTEENTH Marine Expeditionary Unit. This success was fueled by BONHOMME RICHARD's thorough system test and evaluation program, commitment to comprehensive system operation and maintenance training and the innovative employment of these systems based on operational and tactical mission requirements.
- ✓ The deployment of the JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group and the BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Readiness Group marked the first fully IT-21 capable CVBG and ARG. The "seamless integration" of the CVBG/ARG team was directly the result of meticulous planning. As the tactical leader of the ARG for all warfare mission areas, BONHOMME RICHARD employed its tremendous operational skill and experience base to drive the success of the entire ARG during complex and challenging operations in the Arabian Gulf. BONHOMME RICHARD magnificently executed ARG duties as Air Defense Commander, Sea Combat Commander, Force Track Coordinator and Screen Coordinator. This directly resulted in an unprecedented level of ARG/CVBG integration during deployment despite a mere 6 days of integrated training at sea during the work-ups.
- ✓ Major accomplishments during deployment:
- ✓ ARG/MEU SUSTAINMENT TRAINING IN HAWAII. BONHOMME RICHARD assisted in the planning and provided full spectrum tactical and technical support to the 15th MEU during a fast paced training period in the Hawaiian OPAREAS. BONHOMME RICHARD played a key role in the Special Operations Capable Certification (SOCCERT) of the 15th MEU.
- ✓ OPERATION STABILISE. BONHOMME RICHARD executed real world Humanitarian Assistance operations in the Multi-national operation in East Timor. BONHOMME RICHARD provided vital tactical and technical resources to

operational commanders during the transition of operational command from an Australian led INTERFET command to a UNITED NATIONS Mission USGET. Additionally, BONHOMME RICHARD hosted Noble Peace Prize winner and East Timorese icon Bishop Belo onboard for a tour and reception in support of the region's diplomatic mission.

- ✓ EXERCISE EAGER MACE 99. In the largest FIFTHFLT bi-lateral exercise of the deployment, BONHOMME RICHARD superbly demonstrated the capability to operate in the littoral and execute the ARG/MEU's ability to project power ashore and thereby achieve FIFTH cooperative engagement objectives with Kuwait and demonstrate United States commitment to the regional stability. Utilizing the ship's significant C4I capability, BONHOMME RICHARD contributed greatly to OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, FIFTHFLT Maritime Interception Operations(MIO), and OPERATION TOTAL VENTURE, a joint and combined signal intelligence operation.
- ✓ EXERCISE EASTERN MAVERICK 99. During this bi-lateral exercise with military forces from Qatar, BONHOMME RICHARD executed a combined air and surface amphibious landing in restricted waters off the southeastern coast of Qatar. The exercise achieved all ARG/MEU and interoperability training requirements including BONHOMME RICHARD's superb execution of sea based logistics to a near battalion sized force ashore.
- ✓ EXERCISE SEA SOLDIER. This bi-lateral exercise with Oman was highlighted by an amphibious assault via air and surface craft from the sea followed by sustainment operations of exercise forces ashore. BONHOMME RICHARD deftly planned and executed air operations, long range LCAC missions, as well as supported sea based command and control and logistics by the 15th MEU.
- ✓ United Arab Emirates NATO Sea Sparrow Training Support. BONHOMME RICHARD received short notice high tasking from COMFIFTHFLT to plan, coordinate, and execute the technical and training support required to repair and load the NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System launchers on two UAE frigates. BONHOMME RICHARD's technical support team conducted repairs, training and loading safely and in time to meet the operational commitments of the frigates and thus achieved FIFTHFLT military to military engagement objectives.
- ✓ Recognized as COMNAVSURFPAC Self Sufficient Ship of the Quarter for Q3FY2000. BONHOMME RICHARD steamed continuously throughout a six month deployment. The ship maintained the highest level of material condition and system performance despite only 34 days inport and a mere 5 day maintenance and upkeep period in Singapore. This was testament to the extraordinary talent, experience, and professional dedication of the ship's engineers and technicians.
- ✓ BONHOMME RICHARD was awarded the 2000 Secretary of Defense Energy Conservation Award for efficient fuel usage.
- ✓ Exceptional ability to conduct safe, sustained hi-tempo operations. Zero incidents while safely and professionally delivering 1.1M gallons of fuel and conducting over 2000 aircraft moves, 10,000-plus aircraft takeoffs and landings, 1800 VERTREP evolutions, 2000-plus aircraft refuelings with a junior flight deck team—the majority of whom had no prior at-sea experience.

The many accomplishments and achievements of BONHOMME RICHARD over the course of the last twelve months highlight the extraordinary commitment to operational and command excellence by each crewmember. In every warfare area, during every operation, or exercise, the Revolutionary Gator exceeded the highest established standards of excellence. She has sustained her level of performance throughout a challenging and extremely successful and safe deployment. Throughout deployment and in training events in the Eastern pacific, BONHOMME RICHARD'S crew has done it all.