



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)

FPO AP 96617-1656

5750

PAO/182

19 NOV 2002

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

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N098)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.22F

- Encl:
- (1) CO/XO Biographies
 - (2) Key Operational/Departmental Milestones
 - (3) Ship's Photo
 - (4) Welcome Aboard Brochure
 - (5) Change of Command Brochure
 - (6) Almanac Example
 - (7) Battle Efficiency and Command Excellence Awards Nomination
 - (8) Ogden Award (Afloat Crash and Salvage) 2001 Submission
 - (9) Ogden Award (Afloat Damage Control) 2001 Submission
 - (10) Green 'H' Award 2001 Submission
 - (11) Arleigh Burke Trophy Nomination 2001 Submission
 - (12) Admiral Flatley Memorial Award 2001 Submission
 - (13) Nomination for the CY-2001 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award
 - (14) Nomination for the 2001 Energy Conservation Program Award
 - (15) Nomination for the 2001 Environmental Award
 - (16) Surface Ship Safety Award 2001 Submission

1. Command Composition and Organization. Captain Stanley V. De Geus, United States Navy, commands USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6). The ship's Unit Identification Code is 22202. The ship is assigned to Commander, Amphibious Group THREE and is homeported in San Diego, California. USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) is the sixth ship in the WASP (LHD 1) class of large-deck multipurpose amphibious assault ships built for the U.S. Navy by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries. The primary mission of LHD 6 is to embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine landing force in amphibious assault operations by either helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicle or any combination of these methods.

2. Chronology. The following significant events occurred during CY-2001:

JANUARY 2001

Underway: 6 days

01 - 15	POM Leave period
16 - 19	Type Training Underway
18	NIXIE Streaming Exercise
19	9mm Pistol Gun Shoot
22 - 26	TSTA Inport
30 - 31	TSTA A Underway

- Participated in CART I - II
- Awarded FY-00 Battle Efficiency Award, CPF Retention Superstar, CNO Safety Award and DOE/SECNAV Energy Efficiency Award.
- AKCD AN/SSQ 122 Tactical Switching System Installation

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- 252 flight evolutions, 10 flight deck aircraft moves, two hangar bay aircraft moves and 10 aircraft elevator runs.
- Conducted 13 refueling evolutions and 5,321 gallons of fuel issued.
- One underway replenishment with the USNS Guadalupe totaling 206,040 gallons of JP-5.
- Four JP-5 tanks opened, cleaned and the tank level indicators replaced with upgraded cables.

FEBRUARY 2001

Underway: 16 days

01 - 06 TSTA A Underway
10 - 19 KB X Install Period
20 - 23 FST-3 Underway
26 - 31 ENR, Cabo St. Lucas, Mexico

- Postal Inspection/Audit
- 1,844 flight evolutions, 207 flight deck aircraft moves, 12 hangar bay aircraft moves and 63 aircraft elevator runs.
- 102 refueling evolutions and 63,618 gallons of fuel issued.
- One underway replenishment with USNS Tippecanoe totaling 102,234 gallons of JP-5. Three compound gages were calibrated by ship's force.

MARCH 2001

Underway: 9 days

02 - 05 Port Visit, Cabo St. Lucas, Mexico
10 - 19 Kernel Blitz Preparations Inport
12 - 14 Engineering Certification Underway
19 - 23 1st MEB embarks 748 Marines. 6 USMC CH-46s, 2 USN CH-46s, 5 UH-1 Hueys and 9 AH-1 Cobras embark. 84 USMC vehicles and 3 LCACs embarked.
26 - 31 Exercise Kernel Blitz
27 CIWS PACFIRE (500 rounds expended)

- 2,315 flight evolutions, 209 flight deck aircraft moves

APRIL 2001

Underway: 9 days

01 - 06 Exercise Kernel Blitz
10 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot
16 - 20 TSTA Inport
24 - 26 TSTA Underway
26 M60 Machine Gun Shoot
27 - 30 Port Visit San Francisco

MAY 2001

Underway: 10 days

01 - 03 TSTA Underway
03 CIWS PACFIRE (1203 rounds expended)
08 - 11 TSTA Underway
15 - 17 Final Evaluation Problem Underway

- Supply Management Assessment/Inspection
- Received Tyson Foods Food Service Excellence Award
- Received NEXCOM Sales and Services Excellence Award

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JUNE 2001 Underway: 11 days

04 Ful Hull Inspection/Interim Cleaning
04 M14 Rifle Gun Shoot
08 M14 Rifle Gun Shoot
08 Completed 18 month Boiler Inspection
01 - 17 Exercise Kernel Blitz Preparations
11 9MM and 12 GA Shotgun Shoots
18 - 28 Exercise Kernel Blitz
22 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot

- C4I Installation 22MAY - 03AUG

JULY 2001 Underway: 0 days

- NCTSS Installation
- Integrated Shipboard Network System (INSN) upgrade resulting in 134 additional drops for SIPRNET and NIPRNET LANs.
- Gigabit Ethernet (1000MB) LAN switches installed replacing Asynchronies Transfer Mode (ATM-155MB)
- Local Area Network servers upgraded
- Flight Deck Resurfaced
- Halon Strainer alteration to stern tube cooling
- Firemain System pressure reducer alteration
- BHR ARG stood up 16JUL01. CPR-3, 13th MEU, USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6), USS OGDEN (LPD 7), and USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52)

AUGUST 2001 Underway: 13 days

01 - 06 Flight Deck Resurfacing Completed
07 - 10 Southern California Area Underway
08 M60 Machine Gun Shoot
13 - 17 Southern California Area Underway AST
15 9MM Pistol and M14 Rifle Gun Shoots
23 9MM Pistol and 12 GA Shotgun Shoots
27 - 30 Southern California Area IART Underway
29 12 GA Shotgun and M60 Machine Gun Shoots

- RADM McCarthy, NAVSUP Chief of the Supply Corps Ship Visit
- Advanced Technical Information System upgraded
- Hosted Information Assurance Assist Visit (IAAV Phase I)

SEPTEMBER 2001 Underway: 0 days

11 Force Protection Condition Delta
20 Change of Command Ceremony. Capt. S. V. De Geus relieved Capt. R. J. Connelly.
25 M14 Rifle and M60 Gun Shoots

- Electrical Switchboard Cleaning
- Activation of NAVSEA-Caredock Division Developmental Graywater Treatment Unit

OCTOBER 2001 Underway: 22 days

02 - 19 FLEETEX/ARGCERT Underway
04 M14 Rifle Gun Shoot
05 CIWS PACFIRE (317 rounds expended)

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06 NIXIE Streaming Exercise
06 Force Protection Exercise
08 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot
16 Ammunition Onload
25 - 26 Force Protection Exercise
28 - 31 ARGCERT/SOC Underway
28 CIWS PACFIRE (983 rounds expended)
31 RAM and NATO Missile Firing Exercise

- Operation Noble Eagle
- Navy Cash Prototype
- NEY Food Service Excellence Inspection
- Hosted Information Assurance Visit (IAAV Phase II)

NOVEMBER 2001

Underway: 9 days

01 - 09 ARGCERT/SOC
02 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot
03 9MM Pistol and M14 Rifle Gun Shoots
05 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot
17 CAPT Jon F. Berg-Johnsen reports aboard as Executive Officer
10 - 15 Inport Upload for WESTPAC

- Hosted Information Assurance Visit (IAAV Phase III)
- EKMS Inspection
- Chemical Flush of CHT Zones 3, 4 and 5
- Full Hull Inspection/Interim Cleaning

DECEMBER 2001

Underway: 28 days

01 Depart for WESTPAC
04 CIWS PACFIRE (500 rounds expended)
08 - 11 Sustainment Training (Hawaii OPAREA)
09 Fuel UNREP with USNS YUKON
12 9MM Pistol and M14 Rifle Gun Shoot
12 CIWS PACFIRE (500 rounds expended)
15 9MM Pistol and M60 Machine Gun Shoot
15 RBOC Firing Exercise
18 Fuel UNREP with USNS YUKON
21 NIXIE Streaming Exercise
24 Cargo CONREP/VERTREP with USNS SAN JOSE
27 9MM Pistol Gun Shoot
29 Fuel UNREP with USNS W.S. DIEHL
29 - 31 Port Visit Singapore

- Received CY2001 Supply Excellence Blue 'E' Award

3. Narrative. USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) has been awarded the Battle 'E', CNO Safety, NEY, and OGDEN Awards for CY-2001. LHD 6 deployed 132 days during CY-01 including the beginning of WESTPAC 01-02 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

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OPERATIONAL PRIMACY

USS BONHOMME RICHARD established an extraordinary and well-deserved reputation for operational primacy in Pacific Fleet during CY-2001. The "Revolutionary Gator" crew qualified for every Command Excellence Award and displayed exemplary performance throughout the Inter Deployment Training Cycle.

BHR was selected to serve as Flagship for two Flagstaffs in the world's largest amphibious exercise, Kernel Blitz 01, prior to completing the Basic Training Phase. BHR excelled in the fast-paced Joint Brigade level exercise, completing numerous flight deck and well deck operations safely and successfully.

In addition, BHR served as test platform for numerous Command and Control systems and was the ISIC's ship of choice and "go-to" crew for public media and civic relations. LHD 6 consistently embarked local and national press with superior results and demonstrated America's best example of military excellence and professionalism.

The BONHOMME RICHARD crew completed FEP two weeks early and scored at the highest level in all 16 evaluated areas, the first time ever accomplished by a large deck amphib. TSTA and FEP performance was hailed by ATGPAC as, "an impressive performance that went above and beyond what is expected."

LHD 6 completed an abbreviated Intermediate Phase with a consolidated COMPTUEX and FLEETEX. The ship performed superlatively in support of the MEU and ACE in meeting the Intermediate training objectives. BHR displayed exceptional professionalism as Sea Combatant Commander, Air Defense Commander, and Screen Commander during ARG work-ups.

BONHOMME RICHARD commenced the ARG/SOC Certification process thirty-one days early and performed superbly. LHD 6 responded to the President's call to "Be ready" and deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM sixty days early - fully ready in every respect.

In addition, BONHOMME RICHARD set the West Coast standard for excellence during Force Protection exercise. The COMPHIBGRU THREE and Senior Observation Training Team both commended "Fort BONHOMME RICHARD" for exceeding all their expectations and conquering the difficult FP problem with enthusiasm and innovative combat system integration with Marine LAAD and other weapons systems.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

BONHOMME RICHARD was also recognized for outstanding Engineering acumen, Environmental Awareness, and Material Stewardship during 2001. BHR transferred more than 6,742,000 gallons of fuel, to and from another ship, or internally without a single spill; completed an 18-month boiler inspection on both boilers with no repair before operate discrepancies and was nominated by COMPHIBGRU THREE twice for the CNSP Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter. BHR saved the Navy \$2,500,000 in valuable maintenance funding by effecting its own repairs on board, manufacturing parts on board, and modifying own spaces and equipment.

LHD 6 was selected as the COMNAVSURFPAC nominee for the Secretary of Defense's Maintenance Award; awarded the Department of Energy and Secretary of the Navy Conservation Awards for optimum fuel efficiency and selected as the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Protection Award runner-up for large decks.

BONHOMME RICHARD's crew also demonstrated superior skill and management in making boiler plants ready for lighting off in 12 hours during a major availability with significant Engineering work in progress after the

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September 11 attacks. During certification of the magazines, COMNAVSURFPAC inspectors stated the magazines were "the best they had ever seen."

SAFE AIR OPERATIONS

The year was also a safe one for flight operations on BONHOMME RICHARD. The Air Department conducted more than 2090 mishap free hours including 16,800 aircraft launch and recovery evolutions, 1,565 aircraft moves, 576 elevator evolutions and 461,900 gallons of fuel transferred to aircraft.

LOGISTICAL EXCELLENCE

BHR upgraded the 2001 cycle's Supply Management Assessment to a Supply Management Inspection in all ten functional areas of supply support and garnered record setting scores. All accountability pulse points were rated at 100 percent.

The Food Service Division scored 99.21% in SMA, the highest Food Service score on ATGPAC record. With 100 percent inventory validity, 100 percent points in crew support survey, BHR became a finalist for the Ney Award for Food Service Excellence.

BONHOMME RICHARD received Food Service Excellence Award from Tyson Foods, a highly coveted Hotel and Restaurant Industry award, first time ever given to a US Naval vessel. The Sales and Services Division scored an outstanding 95.67% and earned a NAVSUP and NEXCOM's Sales and Services Excellence Award and was selected First runner up in Best Ship's Store Award. They also opened the Ship's Store Annex at no cost to the fleet and significantly improved sales and services in preparation for deployment.

The BHR Supply Department excelled in a surprise Disbursing Audit that included those conducted by DFAS and COMNAVREGSOUTHWEST. BHR consistently maintained absolute disbursing accountability. In addition, the Postal Division garnered 142 out of 143 possible points in Post Office management. A final pre-deployment assist was conducted and the ship's Post Office was immediately rated ready for sea.

The Supply Department also successfully implemented the Navy/Marine Cash Program, a prototype program for cashless shipboard purchases and disbursements. BONHOMME RICHARD is now operating cashless within the skin of the ship. All points of sales transactions (ship's store, wardroom, vending, post office, MWR) are flawlessly conducted and recorded with automated financial reporting. This quantum leap in customer service also increased cash security for the crew. Savings to the government being realized by removal of over \$350K from circulation on board.

COMMAND AND CONTROL EXECUTION

Talented flagship. Always exceeds the mission requirement by providing superior operational support to embarked staffs. The Joint Intelligence Center was evaluated as "the best in the Fleet" through Basic and Intermediate Training Phases.

Seamless integration of embarked staffs with ship's crew makes the BONHOMME RICHARD ARG the most prepared ARG sailing into Fifth Fleet.

Successfully completed the bi-annual Electronic Key Management System (EKMS) Inspection with an overall grade of satisfactory.

In every warfare area, in every phase of the IDTC, BONHOMME RICHARD has exceeded the highest established standards of excellence. BONHOMME RICHARD has done this, while at the same time maintaining the highest levels of morale and crew satisfaction. The ship has re-enlisted 119 personnel over the year for over \$686,000 in SRB, and advanced over 300 sailors in rank,

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including 18 Chief Petty Officers - all during an Inter Deployment Training Cycle. A remarkable indicator of crew satisfaction is that 61.5% of those eligible (106 personnel) to transfer during Deployment opted instead to extend through Deployment and will re-enlist in the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion area.

4. Supporting Documents. Enclosures (1) through (16) are submitted.


J. F. BERG-JOHNSEN
By direction