



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6)

FPO AP 96617-1656

5750

PAO

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) Almanac Example
 - (6) Battle Efficiency and Command Excellence Awards Nomination
 - (7) Ogden Award (Afloat Damage Control) 2002 Submission
 - (8) Green 'H' Award 2002 Submission
 - (9) Arleigh Burke Trophy Nomination 2002 Submission
 - (10) Admiral Flatley Memorial Award 2002 Submission
 - (11) Nomination for the CY-2002 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award
 - (12) Nomination for the 2002 Energy Conservation Program Award
 - (13) Surface Ship Safety Award 2002 Submission
 - (14) Nomination for the Captain Charles J. "Chuck" NECHVATAL Award
 - (15) Nomination for the Vice Admiral Robert B. Pirie Naval Air Traffic Controller Award
 - (16) Nomination for the Captain Virgil J. "VIRG" Lemmon Award for Naval Aviation Excellence
 - (17) Nomination for CPG-3 Junior Sailor of the Quarter
 - (18) Nomination for the CPG-3 Senior Sailor of the Quarter
 - (19) Nomination for the Admiral Claude V. Ricketts Award
 - (20) Nomination for CPG-3 Sailor of the Quarter
 - (21) CNO and Surface Ship Safety Award
 - (22) Type Commander's Surface Ship Safety Award
 - (23) Crash and Salvage Team Submission for 2002 Allen G. Ogden Award Competitive Program
 - (24) Supply Department Welcome Aboard Package

1. Command Composition and Organization. Captain Jon F. Berg-Johnsen, 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-2002:

JANUARY 2002

Underway: 24 Days

01-07 JAN Inport Singapore

07 JAN At sea in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
 11 JAN UNREP w/ USNS WALTER S. DIEHL
 12 JAN BHR awarded the TYCOM Ships Safety Award for CY-2001
 12 JAN CIWS PAC Fire
 14 JAN UNREP w/ USS OGDEN
 15 JAN BHR inchops to the 5th Fleet
 17 JAN UNREP w/ USNS JOHN J. LENTHALL
 18 JAN First combat launch from USS BONHOMME RICHARD
 22 JAN UNREP w/ USNS SATURN
 29 JAN BHR conducted small arms firing exercise

- BHR awarded the Allen G. Ogden Award
- BHR awarded CY01 Battle Efficiency and Engineering Excellence
- Deployed for Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, ANACONDA, EDGED MALLET
- BHR was awarded its fourth Green "H" Award for Health Promotions
- Combat Information Center's Operation Specialists ran the largest link configuration since the Gulf War in support of operations EASTERN MAVERICK and ENDURING FREEDOM
- Operations Department provided enroute weather forecasts and environmental support for various shipboard evolutions during transit to C5F
- Conducted 222 Instrument Approaches in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM
- Major reload of Combat Direction Finding due to faulty segments
- Established working relationship with 2nd Radio Battalion increasing operational capabilities
- C5F OPAREA/NAS

FEBRUARY 2002

Underway: 28 Days

01 FEB BHR conducted the "Crossing the Line" Ceremony
 01 FEB Well deck NVG compatibility tests with concurrent flight operations testing begins
 01-26 FEB Exercise EDGED MALLET
 02 FEB UNREP w/ USNS BRIDGE
 02 FEB Qualified 1,100 ships crew members on the 9mm pistol, 12GA shotgun, M-14 and M-60 machine gun when enhanced the ships force protection posture capability by 100%.
 05 FEB BHR conducted Troop Debarkation
 06 FEB Chief Of General Staff, Kenya Military, General Kibwana, visit
 12 FEB BHR conducted "OPERATION HAND CLASP" in Lamu, Kenya; distributed 4 pallets of toys, school, and hospital supplies
 12 FEB U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Hon. Johnnie Carson visit
 13 FEB UNREP w/ USNS DETROIT
 26 FEB UNREP w/ USS PEARL HARBOR (dry hookup for proficiency training)
 28 FEB Conducted ORM Standdown

- Participated in the following: Operation ANACONDA, Operation NOBLE EAGLE
- Supported large link configuration in exercise EDGED MALLET
- Operations Department provided specialized weather forecasts and environmental data in support of Exercise EDGED MALLET

- Conducted 69 Instrument Approaches in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
- Collection efforts enable ship to maneuver around missile firing area
- SSES controlled positioning of 4 US and various NATO assets
- Acted as Cryptologic Resource Coordinator, tasking all units assigned with specific National Level collection plans
- SSES monitored National Security Agency tasking, info relayed to the Joint Chiefs of State and President
- Supported RADBN in ISR collection operations
- General Medical Officer, the Dental Officer, and one Preventive Medicine Technician went to the towns of Lamu, Fazi, and Hindi in the country of Kenya in support of Exercise EDGED MALLETT

MARCH 2002

Underway: 31 Days

01 MAR BHR conducted RAS operations
 08 MAR BHR conducted RAS operations
 08 MAR Expended 38 precision guided weapons (the ships first), (210) 2.75 in rockets and over 75,000 rounds of small arms ammunitions.
 18 MAR BHR conducted RAS operations
 26 MAR UNREP w/ USNS CONCORD
 28 MAR UNREP w/ USNS PECOS

- Continued participation in Operation NOBLE EAGLE
- Implemented Fleet SIPRNET Messaging (FSM)
- Set up, configured and installed Defense Message Dissemination System (DMDS)
- Combat Information Center forwards link picture to Washington D.C.
- Operations Department provided aviation weather forecasts and strike briefs in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM/ANACONDA
- Operations Department conducted tailored weather briefs to PHIBRON in support of MIO/LIO Operations
- Conducted 272 Instrument Approaches in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM

APRIL 2002

Underway: 26 Days

01 APR Anchored Qatar
 05-07 APR Inport Bahrain
 11 APR BHR conducted RAS operations
 13 APR CIWS PAC Fire
 15 APR USS BONHOMME RICHARD Crash and Salvage Team win the Allen G. Ogden Award
 15 APR Night UNREP w/ USNS PECOS
 20 APR Small Arms Firing exercise
 23 APR LCAC evolutions
 25 APR BHR conducted RAS operations
 29 APR UNREP w/ JDS TOKIWA

- Link operations supporting Operation HARPOON
- Operations Department provided aviation weather forecasts and strike briefs in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM/ANACONDA
- Conducted 483 Instrument Approaches in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

MAY 2002

Underway: 21 Days

01 MAY Outchop 5th Fleet
 06 MAY BHR conducted RAS operations
 07 MAY Ran Force Protection Rhib in Thailand
 07-11 MAY Inport Phuket, Thailand
 14 MAY UNREP w/ USNS NIAGARA FALLS
 23-24 MAY Anchored off Townsville, Australia
 25-27 MAY Inport Townsville, Australia
 27 MAY BHR awarded the CNO Ships Safety Award for CY-2001

- CCC-19-SF (Comprehensive Communications Assessment) completed with a grade of 98.2. COMPHIBRON THREE, ISIC at the time, observed and graded the drill.
- Operations Department provided enroute and inport weather forecasts for transit to San Diego
- Operations Department monitored development of 3 tropical cyclones, assessed threat to ARG and provided required recommendations to PHIBRON and CO
- Conducted 177 Instrument Approaches in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
- Praised by ONI for outstanding cryptologic operations while working off the coast of Somalia and Operation ANACONDA
- Operations Department provided OFM and Indications and Warnings to ARG during OPERATION ANACONDA

JUNE 2002

Underway: 15 Days

01 JUN BHR conducted RAS operations
 02 JUN Down load of 9,600 rounds of CIWS ammunition
 02 JUN 144 rounds of CHAFF were down loaded and stored in the ships Ammo Magazines
 03 JUN One down load of 16 RIM 7P missiles (NATO)
 03 JUN Down load 42 RIM 116 missiles (RAM)
 03 JUN BHR conduct a second "Crossing the Line" Ceremony
 03 JUN BHR conducted "Returning to Homeport/Tiger Cruise" safety stand down
 06 JUN UNREP w/ USNS YUKON
 07-09 JUN Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
 10 JUN Underway Tiger Cruise
 13 JUN CIWS PAC Fire
 15 JUN BHR conducted night Gun Shoot exercise
 15 JUN LCAC evolutions
 17 JUN Marine Offload Camp Pendleton/LCAC evolutions
 18 JUN Returned from deployment, moored San Diego

- Operations Department provided enroute and inport weather forecasts for transit to San Diego and Tiger Cruise events
- Conducted 91 Instrument Approaches in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
- Deployment concluded
- Post Deployment Stand down
- Completed 5th Fleet After Action Report, SSES received outstanding comments in regards to abilities to complete assigned tasking

JULY 2002

Underway: 3 Days

17 JUL BHR offloads AIMD GSE equipment

29-31 JUL Underway, Anchored Camp Pendelton for AMMO Offload/LCAC evolutions

- Continued POM
- Underway for Ammo Offload
- Fleet Surgical Team One disembarked
- Medical Department trained and mentored three Nurse Corps option midshipmen
- Conducted navigation and aviation briefs and forecasts in support of ammo offload
- Post Deployment Stand down

AUGUST 2002

Underway: 9 Days

01-09 AUG Underway
01 AUG Ammo Offload
02-05 AUG AV-8 DLQ's
04 AUG Anchored 3 times off Coronado, CA for training
07 AUG TDU shoot for the CIWS
08 AUG SLQ-25 (Nixie) one time streamed
09 AUG LCAC evolutions
10 AUG CIWS PAC Fire
13 AUG CO, BONHOMME RICHARD award presentation at Disneyland
20 AUG Serapis Flag dedication ceremony with UCSD Burn Center
25 AUG Disney employees, visit to BONHOMME RICHARD
27 AUG Secretary of Defense visited BONHOMME RICHARD
28 AUG Conducted the Enlisted Safety Committee Meeting

- CMS A&A Team User Training held
- Ammo offload Aug 2002
- BHR Air Traffic Control attended Amphibious Air Traffic Control Team Training at NATTC Pensacola
- Obtained an unprecedented 99 percent score during the Mobility Case III Departure and Recovery Exercise
- Achieved an overall team score of 96% on the closed book NATOP's exam
- Conducted 34 Instrument Approaches
- Preps for PMA
- Phase I and II JSIP-N completed

SEPTEMBER 2002

Underway: 0 Days

01 SEP Well Deck and upper and lower vehicle stowage preserved, Captain's Gig refurbished, force protection alterations on rhib, 142 liferafts replaced with the installation of MK7s, forecastle deck preserved
02 SEP BHR conducts PMA Safety Standown in preparation of PMA 2002
05 SEP Movietone film project shoot aboard BONHOMME RICHARD

- Set up Gate guard computer for up/downloading message traffic while in port during PMA-02
- Sep-Nov 2002 5 year Boiler Inspection conducted
- Sep-Nov 2002 Planned Maintenance Availability
- Sep-Nov 2002 Diesel Inspection conducted
- Sep-Nov 2002 Elevator Inspections Preps for PMA

- Conducted two Intelligence exercises that were graded as outstanding by Afloat Training Group

OCTOBER 2002

Underway: 0 Days

- 02 OCT PMA 2002 commences
- 03 OCT Anchors removed for refurbishment (returned 15 NOV 02)
- 08 OCT CO, XO, CMC, and 12 Sailors attend Gerald R. Ford Elementary School 10th Anniversary
- 13 OCT Orange County Cub Scouts visit to BONHOMME RICHARD
- 17 OCT Performed a major on load of 989 and 886.602 tons of ammunition ISO of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

- Cooling systems for NATO and CIWS up graded from salt water a Type I cooling system to a Type III distilled water system. (Oct-Nov 02 PMA)
- CIWS gun tear down was also completed during PMA via SIMA. (Oct-Nov 02 PMA)
- MK-36 CHAFF launchers were refurbished at SIMA during PMA. (Oct-Nov 02 PMA)
- Commenced PMA
- Removal of all Communication antennas on both masts, and the AVK antennas off the Port and Starboard catwalks completed
- Secure Telephone (STE) upgrade completed
- Rear Admiral Johnson, Commander Naval Medical Center San Diego visited the USS BONHOMME RICHARD
- Medical Department completed the Radiation Health Survey
- Began removal of TESS NC 2.0 for installation of NITES 2002, NAVMACS II, and JPIDS
- PMA

NOVEMBER 2002

Underway: 3 Days

- 04 NOV AHAT
- 13 NOV AAV
- 21 NOV Fast Cruise
- 18-22 NOV 3-M Baseline Assessment
- 23 NOV Antwone Fisher public service announcement shoot aboard BONHOMME RICHARD
- 25 NOV BHR at sea for PMA Shakedown Cruise
- 25 NOV PMA 2002 concludes. Performed joint safety housekeeping inspections.
- 25-27 NOV Underway, Sea Trials
- 26 NOV CIWS PAC Fire

- PMA continues
- Refurbishment and installation of previously removed antennas completed
- The following installations/upgrades were completed:
 - NSIPS
 - INM Pro
 - SINGARS (ASIP)
 - DWTS
 - VIXS Picturatel
 - NAVMACS II SMS
- Shakedown cruise completed
- CART II
- Installation of Fiber Optic Cable Tramline lights

- 3M assessment
- Safe to Steam Assessment (STS)
- Combat Information Center installs two large display plasma screens during PMA
- Completed NITES 2002 install
- During 3M assessment OC division was hailed by inspectors as having the best cycle/quarterly reports on board, with 100% RAR
- CDF field changes 21-22
- ADNS full rebuild and upgrade
- GCCS-M rework
- OT Repainted all divisional spaces, new deck matting was installed within SSES 1 and SSES
- Hardware and Software JCA install
- Phase III JSIP-N conducted onboard USS Boxer

DECEMBER 2002

Underway: 9 Days

02	DEC	Achieved Aviation Facilities Certification
02	DEC	BHR submits CY 2002 CNO/TYCOM Ships Safety Award input
03	DEC	Achieved Aviation Readiness Qualification (ARQ)
04	DEC	Congressional visit to BONHOMME RICHARD. California Congresswomen Taucher and Davis visit.
06	DEC	Underway, BHR for TSTA I and II
09-16	DEC	Underway, CART II/TSTA
11	DEC	CHAFF launch
11	DEC	One REWS range run for the SLQ-32
13	DEC	Completed one telemetry shoot for the RAM system
14	DEC	CIWS PAC Fire
15	DEC	TDU shoot for the CIWS
15	DEC	BHR conducts a Holiday Safety Standown in preparation for the Christmas holiday period

- Completed CART II. 1 of 2 watch teams evaluated at "A", other was evaluated at "C" (due to not enough time to observe).
- TSTA started. 2 of 2 Watch Teams, and CSTT evaluated at "A" level.
- Initial Assessment (IA)
- 6-16 Dec completed accelerated Cart I & II, TSTA I-III
- CBR, CMWD, and MSFD Certification
- 60 Automatic Bus Transfer Machinery Alterations (MACHALT 505)
- Medical Department underwent the Medical Readiness Assessment completed with a C-1 status
- Laboratory Technician attended Biological Defense Warfare Training in Bethesda, Maryland
- Medical Department underwent CART II and TSTA accomplishing all objectives and leading to Medical Certification
- Conducted navigation and specialized forecasts and briefs in support of sea trials
- AC1(AW) [REDACTED] is USS Bonhomme Richard Air Traffic Controller of the Year.
- PMA, IT21 Reload and op test
- ONI CDF accreditation completed with outstanding results
- Completed all CARTII requirements
- FEPed out during CARTII
- Completed BCAT (Basic Cryptologic Assessment Training) COI

- Completed Sound Masking Cover system installation and accredited by ships SSO
- Christmas POM period
- Completed accelerated CART II training with outstanding results
- FPEX conducted
- Nominated IS2 [REDACTED] for Intelligence Specialist of the Year.
- Nominated LTJG [REDACTED] for Intelligence Officer of the Year.
- BONHOMME RICHARD nominated for Intelligence Excellence Award

3. Narrative. USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) in 2002 was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award, the COMNAVSUFPAC Intelligence Excellence Award, the Green "H" Force Wellness Award, the COMPACFLT Retention Excellence Award, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award, the 2003 NEY Award, and the TYCOM Safety Award. BHR was nominated for the Admiral Flatley Memorial Award and the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award. BONHOMME RICHARD was underway 169 days during CY-02.

OPERATIONAL PRIMACY

USS BONHOMME RICHARD established an extraordinary and well-deserved reputation for operational primacy in Pacific Fleet during CY-2002. The "Revolutionary Gator" crew qualified for every Command Excellence Award and displayed exemplary performance throughout Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and the CY-2002.

TESS NC 2.0 was a tempalt installation as a result of September 11th, 2001 and accelerated deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The system provided much needed and improved METOC capabilities and included Government off the shelf and Commercial off the shelf hardware and software as well as various upgraded METOC programs and applications. The system consisted of two secret servers, an unclassified server, three secret and three unclassified workstations, and a secret laptop and unclassified laptop. TESS NC 2.0 provided connectivity to the shipboard satellite receiver (SMQ-11), the Shipboard Meteorological and Oceanographic Observing System (SMOOS), and (GCCMS), and the Integrated Shipboard Network System (ISNS).

NITES 2002 provides a customized METOC system that includes Government off the shelf and Commercial off the shelf hardware and software as well as various METOC programs and applications. The system consists of two secret servers, an unclassified server, four secret and four unclassified workstations, and a secret laptop and unclassified laptop. NITES 2002 provides connectivity to the shipboard satellite receiver (SMQ-11), the Shipboard Meteorological and Oceanographic Observing System (SMOOS), and (GCCMS), and the Integrated Shipboard Network System (ISNS).

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

The Engineering Department, onboard BONHOMME RICHARD, has performed throughout calendar year 2002 in a manner consistent with the time honored traditions of US Naval service. Ready to answer all bells and respond to the call of her nation, no matter what the mission, the BONHOMME RICHARD was ready to defend the time-honored values of the USA through strength and determination.

Due to the stellar efforts of the previous year, BONHOMME RICHARD was awarded the Engineering Excellence Award for achieving and maintaining a high degree

of material and operational readiness, the Battle Efficiency Award for the overall contribution, which the Engineering department provided to Combat Readiness, and the Allen G Ogden Award for unprecedented Damage Control Readiness.

Within one year, CY-2002, the BONHOMME RICHARD's Engineering Department has accomplished an entire ship's 2-3 year cycle, to include:

- A deployment consisting of intense real world operations ISO Operation Enduring Freedom to counter terrorism
- An extensive maintenance period (PMA-02, Boiler, diesel, and elevator Inspections) to repair the ship from the extended deployment
- Post maintenance training and assessments of the standard Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (MCA, STS, IA, CART II, 3M, and TSTA I-III) to prepare the ship for future operations

SAFE AIR OPERATIONS

Calendar year 2002 opened with BONHOMME RICHARD deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The year was also a safe one for flight operations on BONHOMME RICHARD. Air Department conducted more than 13,200 mishap free hours including 13,205 aircraft launch and recovery evolutions, 639 aircraft moves, 483 elevator evolutions and 1,537, 544 gallons of fuel transferred to aircraft. In addition, the Air Department conducted 67 Combat Launches, 47 drills, and 1,639 Aircraft Moves.

ASIR was completed and BONHOMME RICHARD's aviation facilities were certified and The Aviation Readiness Qualification (ARQ) message was released in December 02. Air Department was fully certified to conduct flight operations. Underway for CART II and TSTA, training continued. Flight operations, however, were not conducted. BONHOMME RICHARD ended the year with a holiday stand down period.

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.

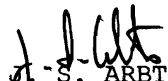
The Supply Department also successfully implemented the Navy/Marine Cash Program, a prototype program for cashless shipboard purchases and disbursements. BONHOMME RICHARD is now operating cashless within the skin of the ship. All points of sales transactions (ship's store, wardroom, vending, post office, 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 and throughout the 2002 combat deployment, BONHOMME RICHARD has exceeded the highest 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 186 personnel over the year, accounting for a combined total of 159 years (1,908 months) of obligation to active duty, over \$736,000 in SRB, qualified 247 ESWS personnel and 285 EAWS personnel, and advanced over 357 sailors in rank, including 14 Chief Petty Officers.

4. Supporting Documents. Enclosures (1) through (26) are submitted.


J. S. ARBTER
By direction