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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44)  
FPO NEW YORK, NY 09573-1732

5750  
Ser LSD-44/ 205  
21 APRIL 1992

From: Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)  
To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: Revision of ship's history; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D CH-1 of 17 November 1987

Encl: (1) Complete 1990 history of USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

*WJM*  
W. J. MARSHALL

USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) SHIP'S HISTORY 1991:  
COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. SHIP'S MISSION:

GUNSTON HALL'S MISSION IS TO TRANSPORT UNITED STATES MARINES WITH THEIR COMBAT EQUIPMENT TO DESIGNATED AREAS AROUND THE WORLD, AND THEN TO LAUNCH AND SUPPORT ASSAULT LANDING CRAFT AND HELICOPTERS DURING AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS AGAINST HOSTILE SHORES. GUNSTON HALL CARRIES THE NEW LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION (LCAC). THE LCAC IS AN ASSAULT HOVERCRAFT WITH THE ABILITY TO EXCEED 40 KNOTS WHILE CARRYING A 60 TON PAYLOAD. USING THIS NEW CRAFT, GUNSTON HALL FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST A WIDE RANGE OF BEACHES.

GUNSTON HALL ACCOMPLISHES HER MISSION THROUGH THE USE OF A WELL DECK WHICH IS FLOODED TO EMBARK AND LAUNCH ASSAULT CRAFT. AFTER LEAVING THE SHIP, THE ASSAULT CRAFT ARE DIRECTED TOWARD THE SHORE BY THE SHIP'S COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER.

TO PROVIDE CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE ASSAULT FORCE, GUNSTON HALL IS EQUIPPED WITH THE NAVY'S LATEST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING UPDATED COMMUNICATION AND COMBAT SYSTEMS, 20 TON AND 60 TON CRANES, EXPANDED REPAIR FACILITIES, TWO HELICOPTER LANDING AREAS, COMPLETE MEDICAL AND DENTAL FACILITIES, AND AN AUTOMATED COMPUTER BASED SUPPLY SYSTEM.

2. IMMEDIATE SENIOR COMMAND

GUNSTON HALL'S SENIOR IMMEDIATE COMMAND IS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. CINCLANTFLT
- B. COMNAVSURFLANT
- C. COMPHIBGRU TWO
- D. COMPHIBRON TEN
- E. USS GUNSTON HALL

USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) COMMAND HISTORY 1990: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

12-20-89 ARRIVED METRO MACHINE/COMMENCE POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY (PSA).

04-24-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES/SEA TRIALS.

04-25-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK.

04-30-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA/POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY SEA TRIALS.

05-04-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK.

05-14-90 UNDERWAY EARLE, NEW JERSEY/AMMUNITION ONLOAD.

05-15-90 ARRIVED NEW YORK CITY/PORT VISIT.

05-18-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA/PREPARATIONS FOR TRAINING READINESS EVALUATION.

05-21-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK.

06-05-90 UNDERWAY GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA/REFRESHER TRAINING.

06-10-90 ARRIVED GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

06-19-90 LCDR WELROSE E. BARTLEY II RELIEVES LCDR JERRY C. COLLIS AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF USS GUNSTON HALL.

07-03-90 UNDERWAY ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO.

07-05-90 ANCHORED ROOSEVELT ROADS/EMBARKED 3RD BATTALION 10TH MARINES.

07-05-90 UNDERWAY NASSAU, BAHAMAS.

07-07-90 ARRIVED NASSAU/PORT VISIT.

07-10-90 UNDERWAY MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA.

07-12-90 ARRIVED MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA. DISEMBARKED 3RD BATTALION, 10TH MARINES. UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.

07-13-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.

07-16-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA/SMALL BOAT TRAINING.

07-18-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.

07-23-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA/ENGINEERING SEA TRIALS.

07-26-90 ANCHORED LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE.

07-30-90 UNDERWAY VACAPES/PROPULSION EXAMINING BOARD EMBARKED FOR OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION.

07-31-90 ANCHORED, DISEMBARKED PROPULSION EXAMINING BOARD.

07-31-90 UNDERWAY ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA/TYPE COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING.

08-09-90 ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK.

08-13-90 UNDERWAY OPERATION DESERT SHIELD (FIRST SURFLANT SHIP TO DEPLOY). EMBARKED ASSAULT CRAFT UNIT FOUR AND BEACH MASTERS UNIT TWO DETACHMENTS.

08-14-90 ARRIVED MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA. EMBARKED 348 USMC PERSONNEL OF 2ND BATALLION LIGHT ARMORED INFANTRY A/1-10, LT COL K. T. HOLCOMB, USMC, COMMANDING OFFICER.

08-17-90 UNDERWAY FROM MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA. JOINED TASK GROUP 62. FORMATION UNDER TACTICAL COMMAND OF COMPHIBRON SIX ONBOARD USS SHEREVEPORT (LPD-12). OTHER SHIPS IN FORMATION: USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY (LST-1192), USS TRENTON (LPD-14), USS PORTLAND (LSD-37).

08-27-90 INCHOP MEDITERRANEAN ATTACHED TO SIXTH FLEET FOR TRANSIT TO SUEZ CANAL.

08-30-90 UNREP WITH USS CONCORD.

09-02-90 UNREP USS TRUCKEE.

09-05-90 TRANSITED SUEZ CANAL.

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09-07-90 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FIRST U.S. NAVY LCAC OPERATION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE GULF OF ADEN.

09-10-90 COMMENCED TRANSIT OF ARABIAN SEA.

09-14-90 VISITED BY MAJ GEN HARRY JENKINS JR., USMC, COMMANDING GENERAL OF FOURTH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE.  
MADE CONTACT WITH ISTANBUL SHIP 'NURI CERRAHOGLU' IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. BLOCKADE OF IRAQ. CARGO: CRUDE OIL.

09-24-90 MADE CONTACT WITH BRITISH SHIP 'CHEVRON SOUTH AMERICA' IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. BLOCKADE OF IRAQ. CARGO: CRUDE OIL.

09-27-90 MARKED 45 CONSECUTIVE DAYS UNDERWAY.

09-29 to 10-05-90 PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION CAMEL SAND.

09-30-90 SERVED AS PRIMARY CONTROL SHIP IN FIRST OPEN-OCEAN EXERCISE COMPRISED OF NINE LCACS FROM ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC FLEET. RECORD FOR NUMBER OF LCACS CONTROLLED AT ONCE.

10-02-90 ANCHORED IN MASIRAH, OMAN.

10-03-90 UNDERWAY IN NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

10-05-90 SERVED AS PRIMARY CONTROL SHIP IN FIRST COMBINED ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC FLEET LCAC BEACH ASSAULT EXERCISE, GHUBBAT SAWQIRAH, OMAN.

10-09-90 VISITED BY RADM J. B. LAPLANTE COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO.

10-13-90 VISITED BY COMUSNAVCENT, ADM. MAUZ.

10-17-90 ARRIVED IN MUSCAT, OMAN/PORT VISIT.

10-20-90 VISITED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO OMAN.

10-21-90 UNDERWAY IN NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

10-23-90 COMMANDER WILLIAM J. MARSHALL RELIEVED COMMANDER JOHN P. JEFFCOAT AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF USS GUNSTON HALL.

10-29-90 VISITED BY GEN AL GRAY, USMC, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.

10-31 to 11-8-90 SERVED AS PRIMARY CONTROL SHIP FOR LCACS IN OPERATION SEA SOLDIER II.

11-04-90 VISITED BY COL T. A. HOBBS, USMC, COMMANDING OFFICER, REGIMENTAL LANDING TEAM TWO.

11-5-90 CONDUCTED FIRST LCAC NIGHT OPERATIONS.

11-13-90 UNDERWAY TO PERSIAN GULF.

11-15-90 TRANSITED STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

11-15 to 21-90 SERVED AS PRIMARY CONTROL SHIP IN OPERATION IMMINENT THUNDER.

11-16-90 ARRIVED IN PERSIAN GULF.

11-23-90 UNDERWAY TO MUSCAT, OMAN.

11-23-90 TRANSITED STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

11-24-90 ARRIVED IN MUSCAT, OMAN/PORT VISIT.

11-28-90 UNDERWAY IN GULF OF OMAN.

11-29-90 UNDERWAY IN NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

11-29-90 TRANSITED STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

11-30-90 UNDERWAY IN PERSIAN GULF.

12-01-90 ANCHORED SIR BANI YAR, UAE.

12-05-90 UNDERWAY TO NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

12-06-90 TRANSITED STRAITS OF HORMUZ.

12-07-90 ARRIVED NORTH ARABIAN SEA.

12-08-90 ANCHORED NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
CONDUCTED NIGHT LCAC OPS.

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12-08-90 UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-09-90 UNREP/USS SAN JOSE  
UNREP/USNS ANDREW J. HIGGINS.  
12-10-90 CONTACTED BY SULTAN OF OMAN INSHORE PATROL  
CRAFT 'KHASSAB'.  
12-11-90 ANCHORED AL MASIRAH, OMAN  
UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-12-90 ANCHORED NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-14-90 CLASS BRAVO FIRE - LCAC #7 - OVERHAULED.  
12-16-90 UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
ANCHORED NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-18-90 UNDERWAY TO AL MASIRAH, OMAN.  
12-19-90 ARRIVED/ANCHORED AL MASIRAH, OMAN.  
12-20-90 UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
ANCHORED NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-20-90 VISITED BY CAPT. DON L. KRABBE, USN, CHAPLAIN  
OF THE MARINE CORPS.  
12-22-90 UNDERWAY NORTH ARABIAN SEA.  
12-26-90 UNDERWAY TO ABU DHABI, UAE.  
12-27-90 TRANSITED STRAITS OF HORMUZ.  
12-28-90 CLASS 'C' FIRE IN AFFF STATION #3 - OVERHAULED.  
12-29-90 ARRIVED IN ABU DHABI, UAE/PORT VISIT. MOORED AT BERTH 4.

**Narrative:**

From January 1, 1990 to April 24, 1990 USS GUNSTON HALL was in Metro Machine Shipyard, Norfolk, VA for Post Shakedown Availability. Significant alterations included: CIWS mounts were enclosed, SRBOC chaff launchers were moved from 04 level, forward to 06 level, midships, 60-ton hook stowage platform was removed, synthetic batterboards were installed in well deck.

Refresher Training (RefTra) successfully conducted at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba from June 10 to July 3, 1990. Extensive damage control and CBR training proved invaluable in subsequent deployment to Persian Gulf/North Arabian Sea.

Conducted GUNSTON HALL's first embarkation of USMC assets, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines on July 5, 1990 for transport from Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to Morehead City, NC. Debarkation completed on July 12, 1990. GUNSTON HALL cited for excellent service to USMC.

Successfully completed Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) between July 30-31, 1990. Engineering Plant evaluated as safe to operate and department capable of conducting training.

Participated in Type Commander Amphibious Training (TCAT) in Onslow Bay, NC from July 31 to August 8, 1990. Command's first opportunity to conduct multiple ship amphibious operations and formation steaming. Conducted extensive LCAC operations.

Departed Little Creek, VA on August 13, 1990 for unscheduled deployment in support of Operation Desert Shield. Embarked various elements of 2nd Light Armored Infantry Battalion and Battery A, 1st Battalion. GUNSTON HALL conducted her longest, continuous underway period from August 13 - October 17, 1990 in transit to North Arabian Sea.

Commissioning Commanding Officer, Commander John P. Jeffcoat, relieved by Commander William J. Marshall on October 23, 1990 in Gulf of Masirah, Oman.