



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

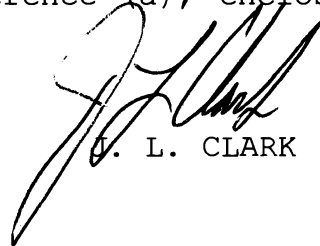
USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44)  
FPO AE 09573-1732

5750  
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*News*  
*5/6/96*  
*W/O*  
*Clark*

From: Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)  
  
Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D  
  
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology for 1995  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Welcome Aboard booklet  
(5) Change of Command booklet

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.



J. L. CLARK

## 1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) is the fourth ship of the Whidbey Island class Landing Ship Dock Amphibious ships. The ship's mission is to provide functional support in three areas; amphibious warfare, mobility, and command and control. This mission is accomplished through the transportation of elements of a landing force, landing craft, and support equipment to an amphibious objective area and to launch preloaded assault craft in support of an amphibious assault operation.

2. USS GUNSTON HALL is permanently assigned to Commander, Amphibious Group TWO. The ship's type commander is Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic Fleet. From January 1 to April 17, 1995, GUNSTON HALL was assigned to Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX under Commander Sixth Fleet while deployed to Mediterranean Sea with Marine Amphibious Readiness Group 1-95. While deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, GUNSTON HALL had elements of Beachmaster Unit TWO, Assault Craft Unit FOUR and elements of MEU Service Support Group TWO TWO.

3. From 01 January to 26 October 1995, Commander Ronald W. Brinkley was Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL.

4. From 26 October to 31 December 1995, Commander James L. Clark was Commanding Officer, USS GUNSTON HALL.

5. USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) is homeported at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia.

## 2. CHRONOLOGY FOR 1995

01-02-95 Underway enroute Venice, Italy  
01-05-95 Anchored at Venice, Italy  
01-06-95 Underway to pull into Venice, Italy  
Arrived in Venice, Italy/ port visit  
01-09-95 Underway enroute to Spanish Phiblex  
01-10-95 VERTREP  
01-11-95 Underway with USS NASSAU (LHA-4), USS PONCE (LPD-15),  
and USS KLAKRING (FFG-42)  
SOPA is USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
01-11-95 Major lube oil leak in 2B MPDE reported and secured  
01-16-95 Anchored at Strait of Gibraltar  
Underway  
LCAC Operations  
01-17-95 LCAC Operations  
01-18-95 LCAC Operations  
Anchored at Sierra de Retir  
Conducting Spanish Phiblex  
01-19-95 Underway at Sierra de Retir  
01-20-95 UNREP with USNS KANAWA, refueling  
Anchored at Sierra de Retir  
LCAC Operations  
01-21-95 LCAC Operations  
Underway enroute to Palma De Mallorca, steaming  
independently  
01-23-95 Moored to Pier Dique del Oeste, Palma de Mallorca,  
Spain  
01-24-95 Visited by Naval Sector Ballerics and British Council  
01-27-95 Underway enroute to Italian Phiblex  
SOPA is Commanding Officer of USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44)  
01-29-95 Underway enroute to Adriatic  
SOPA is CTF-61 embarked USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
02-02-95 UNREP with USNS KANAWA  
02-03-95 Major Lube Oil Leak MRG#2  
Visited by 22 MEU  
02-06-95 Visited by CTF-61  
02-08-95 UNREP with USNS KANAWA  
02-09-95 Detached by CTF-61 proceeding to Italian PHIBLEX  
02-11-95 Participate in Italian PHIBLEX  
SOPA is CTF-61 embarked USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
02-12-95 Anchored Capo Teulada, Isalotto Rosa  
Underway

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02-13-95 Anchored Capo Spartivento  
 02-14-95 Underway  
 02-15-95 Detached by CTF-61 proceeding to Genoa, Italy  
 02-17-95 Moored, Genoa, Italy for port visit  
 02-20-95 Visited by Italian Geographic Institute and General  
 Italian Army  
 02-22-95 Visited by Carabinieri, Liguria, Customs Police, Liguria,  
 Genoa Questor, Brigadier General Italian Army, Port of  
 Genoa, Genoa Port Authority, Ligurian Regional  
 Government  
 02-23-95 Underway to Adriatic, steaming independently  
 02-27-95 SOPA is CTF-61 embarked on USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
 03-01-95 Underway in Gulf of Maneredon  
 SOPA is USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
 03-02-95 Underway, independently steaming  
 03-03-95 Underway off the coast of Kithera, Greece  
 SOPA is CTF-61 embarked on USS NASSAU  
 LCAC Operations  
 03-04-95 Underway enroute to Haifa, Israel  
 SOPA is CTF-61 embarked on USS NASSAU  
 UNREP with USS DETROIT  
 03-06-95 Underway enroute to Haifa, Italy, steaming independently  
 03-07-95 SOPA is USS NASSAU  
 Moored in Haifa, Israel  
 Visited by 22 MEU  
 LCAC Operations  
 Class B fire reported on the pier  
 03-21-95 LCAC Operations  
 03-22-95 Visited by 22 MEU  
 03-23-95 Underway enroute to Rota, Spain  
 SOPA is CTF-61 onboard USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
 03-26-95 Visited by CINCUSNAVEUR  
 UNREP with USS BIGHORN  
 03-27-95 Moored, Rota, Spain  
 SOPA is CTF-61 onboard USS NASSAU  
 03-29-95 LCAC Operations  
 Visited by General Consul Navy  
 04-03-95 Underway enroute Moorehead City, NC  
 SOPA and OTC is CTU 24.6.3 embarked on USS NASSAU  
 04-12-95 UNREP with USS SAVANNAH  
 04-13-95 Moored, Moorehead City, NC for offload  
 04-14-95 Offload MSSG element of 22nd MEU  
 Underway enroute Little Creek, Virginia

04-15-95 Detached by CTU 24.6.3 to proceed independently  
 Offloaded ACU-4  
 Moored, Little Creek, VA  
 05-16-95 Underway enroute New River, NC  
 05-17-95 Anchored, off New River, NC for LCU ops  
 Underway enroute Norfolk, VA  
 05-18-95 Anchored, Golf anchorage, Norfolk, VA for LCU ops  
 Underway enroute Little Creek, VA  
 Moored at Little Creek, VA  
 05-19-95 Visited by COMPHIBGRU 2  
 05-22-95 Underway enroute New York, NY for Fleet Week 95  
 Personnel casualty in vertical package conveyor (face  
 and neck trauma)  
 05-24-95 Anchored, Hudson River, NY for Fleet Week 95  
 05-31-95 Underway enroute Little Creek, VA  
 Burial at sea for EN1 J. E. Upright, USN, Ret.  
 06-01-95 Moored, Little Creek, VA  
 06-12-95 Underway enroute to NORSHIPCO  
 Moored at Pier 3 NORSHIPCO, Norfolk, Virginia  
 06-26-95 Visited by COMPHIBGRU 2  
 08-03-95 Visited by COMPHIBGRU 2  
 08-21-95 LCDR Sierra relieves LCDR Hendrickson as  
 Executive Officer  
 09-11-95 Conducted fast cruise  
 09-13-95 Underway enroute to Vacapes Oparea  
 09-14-95 Anchored at Lynnhaven Anchorage  
 LCU Operations  
 Underway enroute to Vacapes Oparea  
 09-15-95 Moored, Little Creek, Virginia  
 09-18-95 Visited by Admiral Bill  
 10-03-95 Underway enroute VACAPES OPAREA  
 CPR-6 embarked  
 10-04-95 Assisted in Search & Rescue for USS GUAM helicopter  
 10-06-95 Moored, Little Creek, VA  
 10-12-95 Visited by NAVPHIBASE and LANTFLT  
 10-13-95 Visited by AFLOAT TRAINING GROUP ATLANTIC and DESRON 32  
 10-16-95 Debarked CPR-6  
 Underway enroute VACAPES OPAREA  
 10-19-95 Moored, Little Creek, VA  
 10-26-95 Change of Command CDR Clark relieved CDR Brinkley  
 10-28-95 Underway enroute Mayport, FL  
 10-29-95 Burial at sea for ETCM F. Trousdale and SN1 A.J. Gregus  
 10-30-95 Moored, Mayport, FL  
 10-31-95 Underway enroute JAX OPAREA for REFTRA

11-03-95 Visited by FTG Mayport  
Moored, Mayport, FL  
11-06-95 Underway  
11-07-95 Towing exercises with USS DOYLE  
11-09-95 Moored, Mayport, FL  
11-13-95 Underway  
Acoustic Trials  
11-15-95 UNREP with USNS PATUXENT  
11-16-95 Towing exercises with USS DOYLE  
11-18-95 Moored, Little Creek, Virginia  
11-30-95 Visited by CPR-8  
12-01-95 Visited by Joint Service Defense College, UK  
12-05-95 Navigational Check Ride  
Underway  
12-08-95 Moored, Little Creek

### 3. NARRATIVE

#### FIRST QUARTER

During this period, GUNSTON HALL continued its deployment that commenced in October 1995. The ship deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with the NASSAU ARG. In January, the portcalls included Venice, Italy and Palma De Mallorca, Spain. The ship was an outstanding ambassador of the United States during these port visits. The Spanish Phiblex was conducted in the Straits of Gibraltar and at the Sierra de Retir. Later that month, the Italian Phiblex occurred in the Adriatic Sea. There was a lube oil leak from the #2 MRG. There were no personnel or equipment casualties. Repairs were made by ship's force.

The Italian Phiblex continued in February with a visit from 22 MEU 22 and CTF-61. After a port visit in Genoa, Italy, the ship was off to the Adriatic. In March, the ship went through the Gulf of Maneredon before making a portcall in Haifa, Israel. There was a Class B Fire on the pier in Haifa due to the strike of the shipyard workers. Enroute to Rota, Spain, CINCUSNAVEUR made a visit.

The ship returned to Little Creek after dropping off the MSSG in Moorehead City, North Carolina.

This quarter saw one of the biggest shifts in emphasis GUNSTON HALL underwent throughout the year. From the highest state of readiness a ship can get to (deployed) to preparing for a major four month shipyard availability, GUNSTON HALL became a ship in transition during this period. Coming home in April, and entering the yard in May, the crew was forced to adjust quickly. The daily grind of the shipyard hit GUNSTON HALL hard and it was a difficult time for the crew. Concurrently, a tremendous crew turnover was in place with many new people replacing the veterans who had carried GUNSTON HALL through the deployment. With the turnover much experience was lost.

The primary emphasis was to maximize the opportunity to repair the ship - and ensure GUNSTON HALL would leave the yard on time in September.

Throughout June, the ship stayed in port in Virginia. The high point of the month was the visit from COMPHIBGRU 2. In August, LCDR Sierra relieves LCDR Hendrickson.

Encl (3)

In September, the ship experienced a fast cruise. There were LCU operations in the area. ADM Ball visited the ship.

In October, CPR-6 came aboard for a ride. The ship participated in search and rescue with a helicopter from the USS GUAM. The ship received NAVPHIBASE, LANTFLT, ATG Atlantic, DESRON 32. There was a Change of Chain of Command ceremony where CDR Clark relieved CDR Brinkley. While enroute to Mayport, Florida, there was an at sea burial for ETCM Trousdale and SN1 A. J. Gregus. The ship underwent REFTRA in Mayport.

In November, REFTRA continues. FTG Mayport visits the ship. The ship goes through towing exercises with the USS DOYLE. There are acoustic trials. The ship did an UNREP with the USNS PATUXENT. When moored in Little Creek, CPR-8 visited the ship.

In December, Joint Service Defense College, UK visits. The ship went underway for a short period then returned to Little, Creek.