



**USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)**

**FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501**

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**From:** Commanding Officer, USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)  
**To:** Chief of Naval Operations, Director of Naval  
History (OP-09BH), Department of the Navy,  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374

**Subj:** USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) Command History 1977

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 MAY 1971

**Encl:** (1) Command History 1977

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is  
forwarded for calendar year 1977.

*H. B. Dowse Jr.*  
H. B. DOWSE, Jr.

## 1. Command Organization

a. USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) remained in Amphibious Squadron TWO, commanded by Captain George E. Mueller, USN, (relieved by Captain Alden B. Anderson, USN, 6 August 1977) and served as flagship from 1 January through 11 March; 29 April through 21 May; and 10 August through 31 December 1977. In addition, USS NASHVILLE served as flagship for Commander Combined Amphibious Task Force (Commander Task Force 401), Commander Combined Landing Force, and Commander Task Force 61 (Commander Amphibious Squadron TWO) during DAWN PATROL '77.

b. The Commanding Officer of USS NASHVILLE from 1 January 1977 through 31 December 1977 was Captain Herbert B. Dowse Jr., USN.

## 2. Summary of Operations

### a. Chronology

1-18	January	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
18-21	January	Virginia Capes
21 January - 17 February		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
17-18	February	Local Operations
18-23	February	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
23-24	February	Ammo Anchorage
25-28	February	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
28 February - 4 March		Local Operations
4-7	March	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
7-12	March	Local Operations
12 March - 18 April		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
18-19	April	Morehead City, N.C.
19-29	April	Underway Mediterranean
29 April - 3 May		Inport Rota, Spain
3-7	May	Underway Toulon, France
7	May	Inport Toulon, France; under- way same day
7-10	May	Underway Augusta Bay, Sicily

10-11	May	Anchored Augusta Bay, Sicily
11-21	May	Underway Toulon, France; DAWN PATROL '77
21-24	May	Inport Toulon, France
24	May	Underway Villefranche, France; arrive same day
24-31	May	Inport Villefranche, France
31 May - 3 June		Underway Brindisi, Italy
3-9	June	Anchored Brindisi, Italy
9-10	June	Underway Augusta Bay, Sicily
10-13	June	Moored Augusta Bay, Sicily
13	June	Underway Palermo, Sicily; arrive same day
13-27	June	Inport Palermo, Sicily
27-28	June	Underway Livorno, Italy
28 June - 5 July		Inport Livorno, Italy
5-8	July	Underway Capo Teulada, Sardinia
8-12	July	Anchored Capo Teulada, Sardinia
12-16	July	Underway Venice, Italy
16-22	July	Inport Venice, Italy
22-25	July	Underway Vatika, Greece
25-31	July	Anchored Vatika, Greece
31 July - 3 August		Underway Naples, Italy
3-20	August	Inport Naples, Italy
20-23	August	Underway Pian di Spille, Italy
23-27	August	Anchored Pian di Spille, Italy
27-31	August	Underway Barcelona, Spain
31 August - 6 September		Inport Barcelona, Spain
6-7	September	Anchored Pollensa Bay, Mallorca

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7-10	September	Underway Carboneras, Spain
10-18	September	Anchored Carboneras, Spain
18-19	September	Underway Rota, Spain
19-20	September	Inport Rota, Spain
20-28	September	Underway Doganbey, Turkey
28	September	Anchored Doganbey, Turkey; underway same day
28-30	September	Underway Saros Bay, Turkey
30 September - 4 October		Anchored Saros Bay, Turkey; DISPLAY DETERMINATION
4-9	October	Underway Rota, Spain
9-13	October	Inport Rota, Spain
13-25	October	Underway Morehead City, N.C.
25	October	Morehead City, N.C.; underway same day
26 October - 29 November		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
29 November - 2 December		Local Operations
2-5	December	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
5-9	December	Local Operations
9-31	December	Inport Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia

b. Narrative

The new year began pierside, Norfolk. On 18 January the ship got underway (with the Mobile Training Team (MIT)) for final preparations for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

After nearly one month inport, NASHVILLE commenced the OPPE on 17 February. The ship did well, with the exception of some minor problems in fire room casualty control procedures. (A subsequent examination, inport, on 25 February deemed the ship "qualified for unrestricted operations.") The ship was underway 23-24 February for an ammo anchorage and a refueling operation.

On 28 February, NASHVILLE joined other ships of the relieving Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) for two weeks of amphibious operations. After a brief inport period the MARG steamed for Onslow Beach, North Carolina, for a week of surface/airborne workup operations.

NASHVILLE remained inport 12 March through 18 April preparing for the upcoming Mediterranean deployment.

On the morning of 18 April the ship steamed for Morehead City, North Carolina, arriving the following day to load Marines and equipment of BLT 2/6. Beachmaster Unit TWO Detachment BRAVO (BMU-2 DET B), Fleet Composite Operational Readiness Group TWO Detachment EIGHT (FLTCORGRU 2 DET 8) and Amphibious Construction Unit TWO (ACU-2 (LCU 1658)) had joined the ship prior to sailing.

On 29 April NASHVILLE arrived at Rota, Spain, meeting the outgoing MARG and assuming duties with SIXTH Fleet. Crewmembers enjoyed four days liberty in Rota before getting underway for Toulon, France, to pick up 136 Royal Netherlands Marines and begin the annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise DAWN PATROL. Arriving at Toulon on 7 May and departing later that same day, NASHVILLE sailed for Augusta Bay, Sicily, for the pre-exercise conference and rendezvous. The rehearsal landing was held at Pachino, Sicily; the actual landing was held at Capo Teulada, Sardinia. With DAWN PATROL '77 a success, the ship headed back to Toulon to disembark the Dutch troops, arriving 21 May. Four days were spent inport before getting underway for Villefranche, France. During the one week NASHVILLE was at anchor in the bay of Villefranche, crewmembers had the opportunity to visit France's famous Côte d'Azur. On 31 May the ship was underway for a training anchorage at Brindisi, Italy.

NASHVILLE anchored at Brindisi from 3 to 9 June and at Augusta Bay from 10-13 June. On 5 June, while anchored at Brindisi, NASHVILLE assisted in the recovery of a CH-46 Marine helicopter which sank during routine flight operations. On 13 June the ship arrived at Palermo, Sicily, to make minor repairs and enjoy liberty. On 27 June NASHVILLE left Palermo and steamed for the northern Italian port of Livorno, arriving 28 June. Departing Livorno on 5 July, the ship joined the MARG for amphibious operations at Capo Teulada, arriving 8 July and departing 12 July for Venice, Italy.

The ship spent one week in Venice, departing 22 July and arriving at Vatika, Greece, three days later for more amphibious operations before getting underway for Naples, Italy, on 31 July. On 3 August NASHVILLE arrived at Naples for a 17-day maintenance period. The ship departed Naples on 20 August and steamed for Pian di Spille, Italy, for participation in a joint Army/Marine Corps exercise from 23-27 August.

On 27 August the ship was underway for Barcelona, Spain, arriving 31 August and departing 6 September. The morning of 6 September NASHVILLE steamed for Pollensa Bay on the Island of Mallorca, Spain, and later to Carboneras, Spain, for another training anchorage.

On 18 September the ship headed for Rota, staying inport one day in preparation for another NATO exercise: DISPLAY DETERMINATION '77. (with forces from Portugal, Great Britain, Italy, Turkey and Greece).

From 21 September to 4 October NASHVILLE participated in this exercise which involved a convoy transit of the Mediterranean under simulated hostile conditions, a rehearsal amphibious assault at Doganbey, Turkey, and a D-Day and post D-Day assault operation at Saros Bay, Turkey. At midnight 5 October NASHVILLE's commitments with DISPLAY DETERMINATION and SIXTH Fleet ceased, and the transit to Rota began.

Arriving at Rota on 9 October for de-snailing evolutions, the ship got underway on 13 October for Morehead City, arriving on 25 October. After unloading Marine Corps troops and equipment, the ship sponsored a father/son cruise to Norfolk. The ship arrived pierside Norfolk the morning of 26 October, staying inport until 29 November. Two of NASHVILLE's four gunmounts were removed while the ship was inport.

On 29 November the ship got underway for local operations, returning to port for the weekend and departing 5 December for another week of operations. Arriving at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, on 9 December, NASHVILLE remained inport for the remainder of 1977.