



USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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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.
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Subj: USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) Command History 1979

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of May 1971

Encl: (1) Command History 1979

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded for
calendar year 1979.


J. D. LAURANCE

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USS NASHVILLE COMMAND HISTORY 1979

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) remained in Amphibious Squadron Two from 1 January until 9 January. From 10 January until 18 June, NASHVILLE served in Amphibious Squadron Four. From 19 June until 31 October NASHVILLE served in Amphibious Squadron Six. From 1 November to 10 November NASHVILLE returned again to Amphibious Squadron Two. From 11 November until 10 December, NASHVILLE was under the operational control of Commander Fleet Training Group Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. From 11 December for the remainder of 1979, NASHVILLE returned once again to Amphibious Squadron Two.

b. The Commanding Officer of USS NASHVILLE from 1 January 1979 through 31 December 1979 was Captain Dwight D. TIMM, USN.

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

a. Chronology

1 January - 16 April	Inport Newport News, VA.
16 April	Underway for NOB Norfolk, VA.
16 April	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
16-17 April	Underway for Sea Trials Virginia Capes.
17 April - 18 July	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
19-20 July	Underway for Sea Trials Virginia Capes.
20 July - 24 September	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
24 September	Underway for Lynhaven Anchorage
24-27 September	Anchored Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk, VA.
27-28 September	Underway Virginia Capes.

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28 September - 1 October	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
1-2 October	Underway for Jacksonville, Florida.
2-5 October	Inport Jacksonville, Florida.
5 October	Underway for Mayport, Florida.
5-7 October	Inport Mayport, Florida.
7-8 October	Underway for Port Everglades, Florida.
8-11 October	Inport Port Everglades, Florida.
11-13 October	Underway for NOB Norfolk, VA.
13-15 October	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
15 October	Underway for Ammunition Anchorage
15 October	Ammunition Onload Hampton Roads Anchorage
15-18 October	Underway Virginia Capes.
18 October	Anchored Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk VA.
18 October	Underway for NOB Norfolk, VA.
18-19 October	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
19 October	Underway for Dependent's Cruise Anchored Lynhaven Roads, Norfolk, VA., returned same day.
19-22 October	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.
22-24 October	Underway Virginia Capes.
24 October - 5 November	Inport NOB Norfolk, VA.

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5 November	Underway for Ammunition Anchorage
5 November	Ammunition Onload Hampton Roads Anchorage
5-7 November	Underway for Mayport, Florida.
7-8 November	Inport Mayport, Florida.
8-11 November	Underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
11-21 November	Refresher Training Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
21-22 November	Underway for Port Au Prince, Haiti.
22-25 November	Inport Port Au Prince, Haiti.
25-26 November	Underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
26 November - 10 December	Refresher Training Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
10 December	Underway for Grand Turks Island.
11 December	Ammunition Onload Grand Turks Island.
12-14 December	Underway for NOB Norfolk, VA.

b. Narrative

The coming of the year of 1979 saw NASHVILLE pierside at Horne Brother's Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. She was completing her second major overhaul since commissioning; an overhaul that began on 8 March 1978.

On April 16th, NASHVILLE completed her overhaul at Newport News. There were still a few engineering problems, but for the most part the ship was in excellent condition. Having failed her first sea trial due to engineering problems, NASHVILLE was re-scheduled for sea trials on 19 and 20 July. She remained pier-side at NOB Norfolk, until this time. She acted as host ship during Armed Forces weekend, welcoming over 500 people aboard for tours.

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Having completed her second sea trial, the NASHVILLE remained pier-side Norfolk for the remainder of the summer months, while further adjustments were made on the ship's engineering plant. During this time, damage control discrepancies were repaired and preparation for getting underway was made.

During the month of August, NASHVILLE underwent more sea trials and various drills in preparation for Refresher Training in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On Monday morning, September 24th, NASHVILLE got underway for her first major sea excursion in over 18 months. On that day, NASHVILLE, cruised out to approximately 50 miles off the coast and returned to anchor 3 miles off Little Creek Amphibious Base. The cruise lasted five days.

On October 1st, NASHVILLE departed on a cruise that went as far as south as Port Everglades, Florida. The ship's missions ranged from operational training, to retrieval of a Banshee, a Korean War era jet.

Many drills were conducted the first few days. However, on Thursday, October 4th, one of the more exciting drills took place. For the first time in 19 months, NASHVILLE's flight crew conducted flight operations. The NASHVILLE flight crew landed and launched helicopters from the flight deck for more than 12 hours. At the end of the flight operations, there had been more than 240 landings logged, breaking all previous NASHVILLE records for landings in a given day.

At NASHVILLE's first stop in Mayport, Florida, she unloaded a Banshee jet aircraft, developed during WW II. Banshee is a nearly extinct single passenger twin-engine aircraft from the Korean War era, and was respected for its firepower capabilities. It had previously been on display at Naval Air Station, Orlando, Florida. While onboard the NASHVILLE, the plane received a new paint job from the Air Department.

While in Florida, the ship's company enjoyed their first liberty port outside of Virginia since before overhaul. NASHVILLE moored at Port Everglades, Florida on Columbus Day. Full dress ship was perfectly executed within seconds of being moored.

While at Port Everglades, NASHVILLE participated in National Port Week. The NASHVILLE represented the U.S. Navy, proudly held Open House for four days. NASHVILLE departed Port Everglades on October 11th.

On Friday, 12 October, NASHVILLE crewmembers celebrated the U.S. Navy's 204th Birthday. The galley served steaks to order that evening. After supper, a special ceremony was held on the mess decks honoring the United States Navy on its anniversary. The Commanding Officer, Captain Dwight D. TIMM presided over the ceremony.

The NASHVILLE pulled into Norfolk on Saturday morning, 13 October.

On Friday 19 October, NASHVILLE held her first Dependent's Cruise in over two years. Approximately 200 dependents mingled with the crew as NASHVILLE cruised up Chesapeake Bay for six hours. The weather conditions were perfect for the cruise. In addition to a detailed tour of the ship, visitors had the opportunity to monitor the NASHVILLE's underway performance as she launched Marine amphibious vehicles from her Well Deck and conducted flight operations.

NASHVILLE departed for Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba, on Monday, 5 November.

On November 7th, flight quarters were set and for the first time in NASHVILLE's history, a Harrier (AV-8A) jet landed on her flight deck. The Harrier jet is a rare plane that is engineered to make vertical landings and short take-offs, making NASHVILLE's flight deck a perfect place for this aircraft to land.

On 21 November, as the Thanksgiving holidays were approaching, NASHVILLE was chosen to go on a special cruise. The ship was called upon to transport Guantanamo guests to Port Au Prince, Haiti. This unexpected vacation was just what the crew needed, as NASHVILLE spent three days in-port Port Au Prince.

However, on 26 November, NASHVILLE was back in GTMO, hard at work. During those days of training, many drills were conducted. The ship gradually became a well-honed fighting machine, fending off simulated missile and nuclear attacks. The ship's company worked with positive motivation, accepting criticism and keeping moral high.

NASHVILLE left GTMO on December 10th, with the second highest score of any Naval vessel participating in the Refresher Training course for the year of 1979. NASHVILLE had completed Refresher Training 2 days ahead of schedule.

The crew headed back to Norfolk. One last stop was made at Grand Turks Island on 11 December, for an ammunition onload.

NASHVILLE reached NOB Norfolk on 14 December, and remained pier-side for the remainder of the year.