



USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09579

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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 1982

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C of January 1980

Encl: (1) Command History 1982

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forward
for calendar year 1982.


F. R. DONOVAN

USS NASHVILLE COMMAND HISTORY 1982

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) remained in Amphibious Squadron Four throughout 1982.

b. The Commanding Officer of USS NASHVILLE from 1 January 1982 until 13 February was Captain James D. Laurance, USN. Captain Laurance was relieved by Captain Francis R. Donovan on 13 February 1982. Captain Donovan remained the Commanding Officer through 31 December 1982.

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

1 January - 17 January	Inport NAB Little Creek, VA
18 January - 20 January	Underway for Vacapes operations
21 January - 15 February	Inport NAB Little Creek, VA
16 February - 17 February	Underway for Vacapes operations
18 February - 28 February	Inport Naval Station Norfolk
1 March - 6 March	Underway for Onslow Bay, N.C. for AV-8A flt. deck quals
7 March	Underway for Naval Station Norfolk
7 March - 1 April	Inport Naval Station Norfolk
2 April-11 April	Underway for Presidential Support mission to Barbados
12 April	Underway to Naval Station Roose- velt Roads Puerto Rico
12 April	Inport NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico
13 April-15 April	Underway to NAVSTA Norfolk
16 April-18 April	Inport NAVSTA Norfolk
19 April-25 April	Underway for Marine Amphibious Ready Group 2-82 workup
26 April-27 April	Underway for NAVSTA Norfolk
28 April-23 May	Inport NAVSTA Norfolk

24 May	Underway MARG 2-82 to Morehead City, N.C.
25 May	Inport Morehead City, N.C. Underway the same day
26 May-5 June	Underway to Rota, Spain
6 June	Inport Rota, Spain
7 June-23 June	Underway for eastern Mediterranean
24 June	Lay to Juniyeh, Lebanon for evacuation of civilians Underway the same day
25 June	Anchored Larnaca, Cyprus
25 June-21 July	Underway for eastern Mediterranean Underway to Naples, Italy
22 July-15 August	Inport Naples, Italy
16 August-23 August	Underway to Beirut, Lebanon
24 August-9 September	Anchored Beirut, Lebanon
10 September-13 September	Underway to Naples, Italy
14 September-21 September	Inport Naples, Italy
22 September-29 September	Underway to Beirut, Lebanon
30 September-17 October	Anchored Beirut, Lebanon
18 October	Underway for refueling
19 October-20 October	Anchored Beirut, Lebanon
21 October	Underway for night steam
22 October-31 October	Anchored Beirut, Lebanon
1 November-6 November	Underway to Betoya, Morocco
7 November-9 November	Anchored Betoya, Morocco
10 November	Underway to Rota, Spain
11 November-12 November	Inport Rota, Spain
13 November-23 November	Underway to Morehead City, N.C.
24 November	Inport Morehead City, N.C. Underway the same day

25 November-16 December	Inport NAVSTA Norfolk
17 December	Underway to NAB Little Creek, VA
17 December-31 December	Inport NAB Little Creek, VA

b. narrative

NASHVILLE began the New Year moored pierside at the Naval Amphibious Base at Little Creek, Va. On 18 January the ship was underway for three days of training operations in the Vacapes. Following the return to NAB, Little Creek, intensive preparations began for the change of command ceremony on 13 February. On that day Captain Francis R. Donovan relieved Captain James D. Laurance as Commanding Officer. On 16 February, NASHVILLE was again underway for training operations in the Vacapes, returning to Norfolk at the Naval Station. From 1-7 March, Nashville participated in AV-8A Harrier flight deck qualifications at Onslow Bay, N.C., again returning to NAVSTA Norfolk.

Preparations for the upcoming Marine Amphibious Ready Group deployment were interrupted in late March when Nashville was called upon to serve in a medical and communications support role for President Ronald Reagan's Easter visit to the island of Barbados. The ship departed NAVSTA Norfolk 2 April and patrolled 21 miles off the coast of the island of Barbados on 8 April. Completing the mission without incident, Nashville arrived at the U.S. Naval Base at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, 12 April for refueling. Nashville returned to NAVSTA Norfolk on 16 April. The work-up for the Marine Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) 2-82 deployment began 19 April. Participating with Nashville in the workup were the following ships: the USS GUAM (LPH-9), the USS SAGINAW (LST 1180), the USS HERMITAGE (LSD-34), and the USS MANITOWOC (LST 1188).

Following the completion of the MARG 2-82 workup in the Cherry Point operations area of Onslow Bay, Nashville returned to NAVSTA Norfolk, 28 April. A leave and upkeep period followed. Nashville was underway for Morehead City, N.C., on 24 May and arrived on 25 May to embark elements of Battalion Landing Team 2/8, commanded by Col. Robert Johnston, and Marine Service Support Group 32, commanded by Maj. William Barnetson. Nashville and the remainder of the task force transited the Atlantic Ocean and arrived at the U.S. Naval Base at Rota Spain, on 6 June. Nashville's stay in Rota, however, was shortened, and the deployment schedule altered, because of events occurring in Lebanon. On the evening of 6 June, following Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the task force made preparations to get underway the following day. On 7 June, the task force was underway for the eastern Mediterranean.

After arriving in the eastern Mediterranean, Nashville remained in a "modified location" pattern (MODLOC) until conducting the evacuation of American, Lebanese and various national civilians from Beirut. On 24 June 380 civilians, cleared by U.S. officials, were brought aboard the ship for transfer to Larnaca, Cyprus. The ship lay near the port of Juniyeh, approximately 10 miles north of Beirut, for the evacuation.

As the civilians stepped aboard Nashville from the landing craft boat, shells could be seen and heard exploding on the not too distant horizon. The ship was underway on the evening of 24 June and arrived at Larnaca, Cyprus, the following day. There her guests were disembarked after processing by U.S. and Cypriot government officials. Nashville then returned to the eastern Mediterranean as hostilities continued in Lebanon.

Three weeks later, permission was granted for a liberty port visit. Nashville moored in the city of Naples, Italy, on 22 July. In addition to doing necessary upkeep on the ship, the crew enjoyed the opportunity to tour Rome and other sites in Italy. On 16 August, the ship was again underway for the eastern Mediterranean. Nashville anchored in Beirut harbor 24 August to land U.S. Marines in the port area as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force assigned to oversee the evacuation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization from Beirut. Both France and Italy also contributed units. Nashville remained anchored, performing a vital logistics role in support of the Marines ashore, conducting daily flight and boat operations and sending food, laundry, fuel and other supplies ashore, until completion of the mission. The ship also hosted Lebanese and multi-national force officials during this period.

On 10 September, Nashville left Beirut to return to Naples for a liberty port visit. She moored there 14 September. On 22 September, following the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut, and the assassination of the Lebanese president-elect, the task force was again ordered to return to Lebanon. On 30 September, the ship anchored off the coast of Beirut, and Marines were sent to occupy the Beirut airport as part of the peacekeeping force. Nashville resumed her support role to the Marines ashore. On 30 October, the Marines ashore and support equipment were backloaded aboard Nashville and the squadron relieved on station in Beirut by the MARG 3-82 task force. The ship was underway for the Bay of Betya, Morocco, on 1 November, where she participated in the three-day amphibious exercise 7-10 November. This marked the first time U.S. forces had conducted such an operation in that nation. On 10 November, the ship was underway for Rota, Spain, and moored there 11 November.

Nashville completed washdown operations in Rota, before departing for the United States on 14 November. Nashville offloaded the embarked Marine units in Morehead City, N.C., on 24 November. She arrived at NAVSTA Norfolk on Thanksgiving Day, 25 November. A port period followed until 17 December when the ship moved to the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base where Commander, Amphibious Group Two, RADM William A. Kearns, and staff embarked. Nashville remained at NAB through the close of 1982.