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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Ship
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Encl: (1) USS NASHVILLE Command History for 1992

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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


D. F. BEACH

Copy to:
COMPHIBGRU TWO

USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) COMMAND HISTORY

1992

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COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Commanding Officer: (from 24 APR 92) CAPT Don F. Beach, USN
(to 24 APR 92) CAPT John M. Lyle, USN

Executive Officer: (from 12 JUN 92) CDR William P. Ramsey, USNR
(to 12 JUN 92) CDR William D. Daniels, USN

Operations Officer: (from 12 DEC 92) LCDR [REDACTED], USN
(to 12 DEC 92) LCDR [REDACTED], USN

Engineer Officer: (from 21 APR 92) LT [REDACTED], USN
(to 21 APR 92) LT [REDACTED], USN

First Lieutenant: LT [REDACTED], USN

Supply Officer: LT [REDACTED], USN

Chaplain: LT [REDACTED], CHC, USNR

Air Officer: (from 21 DEC 92) LT [REDACTED], USN
(to 21 DEC 92) LT [REDACTED], USN

Medical Officer: (from 22 OCT 92) LT [REDACTED], MC,
USN
(to 12 JUN 92) LT [REDACTED], MC, USNR

Dental Officer: (from 30 AUG 92) LT [REDACTED], DC, USNR
(to 30 AUG 92) LT [REDACTED], DC, USNR

Nav/Admin Officer: (from 19 JUN 92) LT [REDACTED], USNR
(to 19 JUN 92) LT [REDACTED], USN

Command Master Chief: (from 07 AUG 92) AVCM(AW/SW/NAC/NP) William
S. Kaufman
(to 07 AUG 92) YNCM(AW/SW) Tom C.
Fitzsimmons

WARDROOM:

LT [REDACTED], USN	LT [REDACTED], USN
LT [REDACTED], USN	LT [REDACTED], USN
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR	LTJG [REDACTED], USN
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	LTJG [REDACTED], USN
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	LTJG [REDACTED], USN
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	LTJG [REDACTED], USN
LTJG [REDACTED], USN	LTJG [REDACTED], USNR
ENS [REDACTED], USN	ENS [REDACTED], USN
CWO2 [REDACTED], USMC	CWO2 [REDACTED], USN
CWO2 [REDACTED], USN	

SENIOR COMMANDS:

COMPHIBGRU TWO: RADM Leonard F. Picotte, USN

COMPHIBRON TWELVE: CAPT Harold T. Tickle, USN

COMPHIBRON TWO: CAPT Kenneth L. Pyle, USN

USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) Homeport: Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, VA

SHIP'S MISSION

USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13), an Amphibious Transport Dock, is the thirteenth ship of her class. It combines the capabilities of the Amphibious Dock Landing Ship (LSD) and the Helicopter Assault Ship (LPH) into one unit. NASHVILLE's primary mission is to transport a landing force, utilizing helicopter and amphibious craft for the initial assault and provide support for an extended period of time. NASHVILLE can embark up to 850 Navy and Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel and all the equipment required for sustained Marine Amphibious Assault at the objective area. As a Flag Configured ship, NASHVILLE has the capabilities to act as primary command and control ship and an embarked Amphibious Squadron or Group Commander can coordinate and control all air, sea and ground force assets whose support is necessary to ensure the success of an amphibious operation.

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR 1992

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT EVENTS</u>
01 JAN	INPORT - JABEL ALI, SAUDI ARABIA. USS NASHVILLE IS COMPLETING A 2 WEEK HOLIDAY PORT VISIT 10K "DASH INTO THE NEW YEAR" MWR SPONSORED RUN RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY (RAV) ENDS
02 JAN	UNDERWAY - ARABIAN GULF OPERATIONAL AREA
04 JAN	REFUELING AT SEA (RAS) WITH USNS W.S. DIEHL
05 JAN	ANCHORED - BAHRAIN BELL OPERATIONAL AREA
08 JAN	UNDERWAY - RAS WITH USS MAHAN
09 JAN	ANCHORED - BAHRAIN BELL OPERATIONAL AREA
11 JAN	UNDERWAY - BAHRAIN BELL 4W GRID AREA
13 JAN	INPORT - MINA SULMAN BAHRAIN 3-M ASSIST VISIT
15 JAN	END 3-M ASSIST VISIT
16 JAN	UNDERWAY - TRANSIT/DEPART THE ARABIAN GULF RAF WITH USNS W.S. DIEHL
17 JAN	TRANSIT STRAIT OF HORMUZ
22 JAN	NEO EXERCISES
23 JAN	SEA SOLDIER VI PHIBEX
26 JAN	END SEA SOLDIER VI PHIBEX
27 JAN	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT (UNREP) WITH USNS W.S. DIEHL COMPHIBRON TWO VISIT
28 JAN	ANCHORED - BACKLOAD
30 JAN	UNDERWAY - END BACKLOAD *****
06 FEB	RAS WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
07 FEB	ARG 3-91 PHOTOEX
13 FEB	INPORT - KING FAHD INDUSTRIAL PORT, YANBU YANPET BARBECUE
14 FEB	USS NASHVILLE 22 nd BIRTHDAY
15 FEB	SAUDI VIP AND CHILDREN'S TOUR OF THE SHIP ROYAL COMMISSION DINNER
16 FEB	UNDERWAY - DEPART THE RED SEA
17 FEB	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
18 FEB	ANCHORED - PORT SUEZ
19 FEB	UNDERWAY - TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL "RUNNING THE DITCH" RUN ON THE FLIGHT DECK
20 FEB	INPORT - HAIFA ISRAEL
26 FEB	UNDERWAY - DESTINATION: USA, TRANSIT MEDITERRANEAN SEA
27 FEB	COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT (CSA)
29 FEB	ENGINEERING MATERIAL TRAINING TEAM (EMTT) *****
04 MAR	END EMTT TRANSIT STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, TRANSIT ATLANTIC OCEAN
13 MAR	AWARDS CEREMONY
15 MAR	INPORT - MOREHEAD CITY, NC

15 MAR OFF LOAD MARINES AND EQUIPMENT
16 MAR UNDERWAY - TIGER CRUISE ENROUTE NAVAL STATION
(NAVSTA) NORFOLK VA
AWARDS CEREMONY
17 MAR INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
LEAVE AND STAND DOWN PERIOD
30 MAR IMAV ARRIVAL CONFERENCE, IMAV
UNDERWATER HULL INSPECTION

09 APR COMPHIBRON TWELVE MOTOR VEHICLE GAS (MOGAS)
INSPECTION
14 APR LANDING FORCE MATERIAL (LFORM) OFFLOAD
16 APR AMMO OFF LOAD
17 APR AWARDS CEREMONY
20 APR DIESEL INSPECTION
22 APR END IMAV
END DIESEL INSPECTION
24 APR CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY - CAPT DON F. BEACH
RELIEVES CAPT JOHN M. LYLE AS COMMANDING OFFICER,
USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)
27 APR UNDERWAY - ANCHORED - "G" ANCHORAGE FOR AMMO OFF
LOAD
28 APR UNDERWAY - VIRGINIA CAPES (VACAPES) OPERATIONAL
AREA
MOGAS FLUSH
30 APR INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA

05 MAY UNDERWAY - "DEAD STICK" MOVE TO METRO MACHINE
SHIPYARD
INPORT - DRY DOCKED AT METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD,
PORTSMOUTH, VA
06 MAY DRY DOCKED, FY 92 DRY DOCKING, PHASED MAINTENANCE
AVAILABILITY (DPMA)
IMAV CONCURRENT (IMAV-C) WITH SIMA NORFOLK VA
21 MAY PHYSICAL READINESS TEST (PRT)

05 JUN CO'S PERSONNEL INSPECTION
13 JUN UNDOCKING - PIERSIDE METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD
16 JUN BOATSWAIN MATE'S OLYMPICS - USS MT WHITNEY HOSTS
29 JUN EXPLOSIVE SAFETY ASSIST

04 JUL OPEN HOUSE AND FIRE WORKS VIEWING ON FLIGHT DECK
15 JUL COMPHIBRON TWELVE SHIP TOUR
17 JUL AWARDS CEREMONY
21 JUL ENGINEERING PLANT LIGHT OFF
23 JUL DOCK TRIALS
29 JUL END DOCK TRIALS
30 JUL COMPHIBGRU TWO CHANGE OF COMMAND - RADM LEONARD F.
PICOTTE RELIEVES RADM ANDREW A. GRANUZZO AS
COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO

04 AUG FAST CRUISE

06 AUG UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
06 AUG DEPART METRO MACHINE SHIPYARD
 END FY 92 DPMA
 SEA TRIALS
07 AUG INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
11 AUG SEXUAL HARASSMENT STAND DOWN
12 AUG NASHVILLE FAMILY PICNIC
14 AUG COMPHIBRON SIX COMBAT CARGO OFFICER'S TROOP SPACE
 INSPECTION
17 AUG UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 FULL POWER TRIAL
 TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION (TACAN) RECERTIFICATION
21 AUG INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
24 AUG IMAV SIMA NORFOLK VA
 END IMAV-C
28 AUG VADM DONOVAN RETIREMENT CEREMONY
31 AUG SHIPBOARD ELEVATOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SEIP)
 DAMAGE CONTROL/PRT OLYMPICS

03 SEP SAFETY SURVEY
04 SEP END SEIP
08 SEP SHIPBOARD CRANE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SCIP)
11 SEP END SCIP
14 SEP CO, CMC, CHAPLAIN AND 1992 SOY NAMESAKE CITY VISIT
 TO NASHVILLE, TN
 AVTECH
 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEY
16 SEP END NAMESAKE CITY VISIT
17 SEP POSTAL ASSIST VISIT
18 SEP END AVTECH
19 SEP VISIT SHIP
20 SEP END VISIT SHIP
21 SEP UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
25 SEP INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
28 SEP ENGINEERING TRAINING GROUP VISIT (ETG)
30 SEP UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA

02 OCT INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 END ETG
05 OCT SEWAGE ASSIST VISIT
 INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INSPECTION
 AVIATION CERTIFICATION
09 OCT AVIATION READINESS EVALUATION
 AWARDS CEREMONY
13 OCT UNDERWAY - YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION VA FOR
 AMMO ONLOAD
 DEPENDENTS CRUISE
 INPORT - YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION VA
16 OCT UNDERWAY - ENROUTE NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 AWARDS CEREMONY
17 OCT VISIT SHIP

18 OCT END VISIT SHIP
 19 OCT UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE (JSOC) BOAT
 OPERATIONS
 22 OCT INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 23 OCT AWARDS CEREMONY
 26 OCT UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 28 OCT INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 29 OCT PRT
 30 OCT COMMUNICATIONS ASSIST VISIT
 AWARDS CEREMONY

 03 NOV UNDERWAY - TRANSIT TO LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE FOR OPPE
 PREPARATIONS
 ANCHORED
 04 NOV UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 OPPE
 06 NOV INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 END OPPE
 09 NOV DIESEL GENERATOR INSPECTION
 3-M ASSIST VISIT
 TECRR/TEMPEST VISIT
 12 NOV SLAMEX 4-92 COMBAT SYSTEMS/COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE
 13 NOV ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT TEAM VISIT
 END 3-M ASSIST VISIT
 MEDICAL ASSIST DEBRIEF
 END DIESEL INSPECTION
 25 NOV COMPHIBGRU TWO/COMPHIBRON TWELVE TROOP SPACE
 INSPECTION
 COMPHIBRON TWELVE COMMAND ADMIN INSPECTION
 30 NOV UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA

 01 DEC OPPE
 03 DEC END OPPE
 INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 05 DEC COMMAND CHRISTMAS PARTY
 06 DEC COMMAND CHRISTMAS PARTY
 08 DEC UNDERWAY - TRANSIT TO "G" ANCHORAGE
 ANCHORED - "G" ANCHORAGE
 UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 10 DEC INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 11 DEC AWARDS CEREMONY
 14 DEC INSURV
 UNDERWAY - VACAPES OPERATIONAL AREA
 15 DEC INPORT - NAVSTA NORFOLK VA
 17 DEC END INSURV
 18 DEC AWARDS CEREMONY
 LEAVE AND STAND DOWN PERIOD
 22 DEC RIFLE RACK ASSIST

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

1. The year began on station in the Arabian Gulf Operational Area, in company with USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) and USS HARLAN COUNTY (LST 1196) (completing the latter portion of the ARG 3-91 deployment in support of Operation DESERT STORM).

2. 1 January 1992 found NASHVILLE inport Jabel Ali, Saudi Arabia finishing a two week restricted maintenance availability (RAV) and Holiday "stand down" period. Although not an official stand down, the brisk operational tempo was slackened slightly to allow the crew to relax and enjoy the "Gator Aid Cantina", which was set up pierside next to the ship. Having completed all contingency tasking and mission oriented objectives, NASHVILLE departed the Arabian Gulf with one final port call in Bahrain from 13-16 January 1992.

The transit through the Strait of Hormuz went smoothly and as the operational tempo was again raised, NASHVILLE prepared for operation SEA SOLDIER VI which commenced on 23 January 1992. The exercise proved highly successful and paid testimony to the intense training which NASHVILLE and the other ships in ARG 3-91 had accomplished while in the Gulf. The last stop prior to transit of the Suez Canal and subsequent outchop from COMCENTCOM was King Fahd Industrial Port, Yanbu Saudi Arabia on 3 February 1992.

3. Yanbu proved to be the toughest and most profitable port-of-call as far as American Sailor/Saudi interaction and foreign relations were concerned. An industrial city observing strict Saudi customs, the large expatriate community welcomed NASHVILLE sailors into their homes with generous hospitality. Busses ran constantly to and from the Yanpet Visitor Center, where expatriates matched up with their guests and transported them to their homes for a home cooked meal and entertainment. Politically, the opportunity was seized and foreign nationals were invited to tour the ship, interview crew members, and enhance their knowledge of the U.S. Military.

16 February 1992, NASHVILLE departed Yanbu, completed transit of the Suez Canal, outchopped COMCENTCOM/inchopped COMUSNAVCENT and on 20 February 1992, moored in Haifa Israel. Haifa was the only foreign "liberty port" NASHVILLE visited in 1992. The schedule consisted of a detailed tours package to various historic and cultural attractions. Additionally, the shipyard at Haifa offered its assistance repairing the stern gate, which had suffered a casualty while conducting operations off the coast of Israel in heavy seas. Without their assistance, NASHVILLE could not have effectively made the transit back to the states with its embarked LCU. Repairs were effected on time and the entire crew had the opportunity to enjoy Haifa and its many attractions. On 26 February 1992, NASHVILLE sailed for Morehead City, NC, U.S.A.

4. NASHVILLE offloaded her Marines and conducted a "Tiger Cruise" on 16 March 1992 enroute Norfolk VA. The cruise was short but the lessons learned were plentiful. High seas caused several equipment casualties and one potential personal casualty. Two 30° rolls broke loose boat racks, copiers, desks and anything else not secured for sea. Quick response and an all hands clean-up effort limited damage, but the importance of properly securing for sea was again made evident the hard way and can never be underestimated. On 17 March 1992, a one month leave and stand down period commenced while moored at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk VA.

5. On 5 May 1992, NASHVILLE was towed "dead stick" to Metro Machine Shipyard, Portsmouth VA and dry docked. The following day, she commenced a four month Dry Docking, Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA). NASHVILLE had gone three years since her last dry hull cleaning and major work was completed on her rudders, screws and sea chests. The entire hull was sandblasted and painted, rudders stocks as well as rudders were unshipped, and the screws were cleaned and polished. Other major jobs accomplished included: installation of three new titanium fire pumps, overhaul of Nr. 2 LPAC, installation of new washers and dryers, JOTS II installation, CIWS change out, refrigeration plant overhaul, cargo and weapons elevator modifications and upkeep of the main mast structure and equipment. Extensive improvements were also effected to troop berthing spaces, galley and other areas that were undertaken by ship's force personnel. The scope of work accomplished during this availability was tremendous and an entire shipwide evolution.

6. NASHVILLE departed Metro Machine Shipyard on 6 August 1992, completing all major planned jobs and ready for sea trials. After a brief underway trial period, the ship returned to Norfolk Naval Base and resumed preparations for the upcoming OPPE and INSURV. Almost immediately upon leaving Metro, NASHVILLE was full swing into the inspection and certification phase of operations, ensuring all requirements would be met for these major inspections.

CAPT Don Beach, LT [REDACTED], Command Master Chief AVCM(AW/SW) William Kaufman and USS NASHVILLE Sailor of the Year BT1(SW) [REDACTED] visited the ship's namesake city of Nashville, TN from 14-16 September 1992. The visit was highlighted by a meeting with Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter, Mayor Phil Bredesen, the Nashville City Council and country music show host Ralph Emery on "Nashville Now", broadcast nationally on the "Nashville Network". The visit helped reestablish relations with NASHVILLE's namesake city and promote good public relations with the general public.

On 4 November 1992, the OPPE team arrived onboard and commenced the inspection. NASHVILLE did not successfully complete the OPPE as the main space fire drill portion of the

exam was graded unsatisfactory, thereby unsatting the entire exam. NASHVILLE received help from the Engineering Training Group (ETG) and other outside sources and on 1 December 1992, she successfully completed the OPPE, earning an overall grade of satisfactory and two year certification safe to steam.

7. With OPPE successfully completed, preparation for the Naval Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) once again became NASHVILLE's first order of business. On 14 December 1992, 60+ inspectors arrived onboard the ship to commence the INSURV inspection. Overall assessment by the inspection team pronounced NASHVILLE fit for further duty and ready for further tasking. NASHVILLE commenced a modified stand down period on 18 December 1992 which lasted into the New Year.