



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U.S.S. TARAWA LHA 1  
F.P.O. SAN FRANCISCO 96622-1600

1985

5750  
Ser LHA 1-16/ 399  
28 APR 1986

From: Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA (LHA 1)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-O5D2)  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV Report 5750-1)  
Encl: (1) USS TARAWA Officer Precedence List

1. The Calendar Year 1985 Command History for USS TARAWA (LHA 1) is submitted in accordance with guidance contained in reference (a).

a. Basic History

(1) Command Organization

(a) Commanding Officer

85JAN01-85MAY24: Philip F. Duffy, Captain, U. S. Navy,  
1310 Lineal # 001720-60  
DOR 81OCT01

85MAY24-85DEC31: Roger L. Newman, Captain, U. S. Navy  
1310 Lineal # 001754-00  
DOR 82JUL01

(b) Mission and Function of Command:

The Amphibious Task Force, which executes its tasks in support of the Navy's force projection mission, is composed of LHA, LPH, LPD, LSD, LKA, and LST class ships. USS TARAWA, the lead ship of the LHA class of General Purpose Amphibious Assault ships, combines the functional capabilities of the LPH, LPD/LSD, and LKA to deliver a balanced payload, by air or surface operations, in an amphibious assault. Explicitly, a former Chief of Naval Operations defined the LHA's mission: "To embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in an assault by helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicles, and by any combination of these methods".

(c) Composition of Command:

The command was composed of USS TARAWA (LHA 1) and organic assets which included one UH-1N (BUNO 160830), two LCM-6 and four LCPL assault boats. Ship's compliment: 62 commissioned officers and 814 enlisted personnel as of 31 December 1985.

(d) TARAWA was homeported at Naval Station, San Diego, CA during calendar year 1985.

(2) Summary of Operations and Special Events for Calendar Year 1985.

01 JAN - 04 JAN: At sea, South China Sea; transit from Hong Kong to Pattaya Beach, Thailand

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**04 JAN - 09 JAN: Anchored, Pattaya Beach, Thailand**  
**09 JAN - 14 JAN: At sea, South China Sea; transit to Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines**  
**14 JAN - 27 JAN: Inport, Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines**  
**27 JAN - 29 JAN: At sea, Philippines OP Area; ISE**  
**30 JAN - 02 FEB: At sea, transit to Buckner Bay, Okinawa**  
**31 JAN: Sighted Soviet submarine at; Lat. 24 deg 08 min N, Long 125 deg 47.5 min E**  
**02 FEB - 04 FEB: Inport, White Beach, Okinawa**  
**04 FEB - 09 FEB: At sea, Okinawa OP Area; Valiant Usher 85-2**  
**09 FEB - 10 FEB: Inport, White Beach, Okinawa**  
**10 FEB - 14 FEB: At sea, transit to Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines**  
**14 FEB - 06 MAR: Inport, Subic Bay, Alava Pier**  
**06 MAR - 10 MAR: At sea, transit to Buckner Bay, Okinawa**  
**10 MAR - 13 MAR: Inport, White Beach, Okinawa**  
**13 MAR - 31 MAR: At Sea, Pusan, Korea OP Area; Team Spirit 85**  
**31 MAR - 03 APR: Inport, Pusan, Korea**  
**03 APR - 05 APR: At sea, transit to Buckner Bay, Okinawa**  
**05 APR - 06 APR: Inport, White Beach, Okinawa**  
**06 APR - 17 APR: At sea, Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI**  
**17 APR - 19 APR: Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI, Pier K**  
**19 APR - 26 APR: At sea, transit to Naval Station, San Diego, CA**  
**26 APR - 28 MAY: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; upkeep**  
**24 MAY: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; USS TARAWA Change of Command**  
**29 APR: Inport, Naval Station, CA; Deactivation of 31st MAU**  
**29 MAY - 31 MAY At sea, SOCAL OP Area; ISE**  
**01 JUN - 02 JUN: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; upkeep**  
**03 JUN - 09 JUN: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; PRE INSURV**  
**10 JUN - 11 JUN: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; INSURV**  
**11 JUN: At sea; transit to Silver Strand, Coronado, CA; underway material inspection**  
**11 JUN - 14 JUN: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; INSURV**  
**15 JUN - 16 JUN: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA**  
**17 JUN - 07 JUL: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA;**  
**08 JUL - 10 JUL: Inport, Seal Beach, CA; ammunition off-load**  
**11 JUL - 15 JUL: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA**  
**13 JUL: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; COMPHIBGRU THREE Change of Command**  
**16 JUL - 19 JUL: Inport, Naval Air Station, North Island, CA**  
**19 JUL: Inport, Naval Air Station, North Island, CA; COMNAVSURFPAC Change of Command**  
**19 JUL - 21 JUL: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA**  
**22 JUL - 04 SEP: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; upkeep**  
**05 SEP - 19 NOV: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; SRA**  
**07 OCT - 11 OCT: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; COMPHIBRON ONE Command Inspection**  
**26 OCT: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; COMPHIBRON ONE Change of Command**  
**19 NOV: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; FAST Cruise**  
**19 NOV - 24 NOV: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; SRA**  
**25 NOV - 26 NOV: At sea, SOCAL OP Area; Sea Trials**  
**27 NOV - 20 DEC: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; SRA**  
**21 DEC - 31 DEC: Inport, Naval Station, San Diego, CA; upkeep**

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(b) Narrative History

(1) TARAWA began the year 1985 as part of ARG ALPHA, consisting of COMPHIBRON ONE, USS DULUTH, and USS TUSCALOOSA. Steaming in company with USS DULUTH in the South China Sea, TARAWA transited from Hong Kong to Pattaya Beach, Thailand, 1 - 4 January. After a five day port visit TARAWA proceeded to Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines, for a two week upkeep period in preparation for the Subic PHIBLEX and Exercise Valiant Usher 85-2.

(2) The Subic PHIBLEX, 27-29 January, was a fast-paced period during which TARAWA conducted amphibious operations, NGFS requalification as well as gunnery and BPDMS missile shoots. Following PHIBLEX, TARAWA transited to White Beach, Okinawa, and on 31 January sighted a Soviet submarine at 24 deg 08 min N lat, 125 deg 47.5 min E long.

(3) Following a short port visit to White Beach, Okinawa, 2 - 4 February, TARAWA commenced exercise Valiant Usher. The exercise was conducted in the Okinawa operations area 4-9 February, further sharpening TARAWA's amphibious skills with frequent wet well and flight operations. Upon completion of the exercise TARAWA transited back to Subic Bay for a three week working port visit from 14 February to 6 March.

(4) TARAWA was back at sea 6-10 March transiting to Buckner Bay, Okinawa. After four days inport TARAWA set sail for the Pusan, Korea operations area and exercise Team Spirit 85. Team Spirit 85 was a joint USN/ROK exercise involving approximately 50 surface ships from the two countries. Three amphibious assaults and subsequent support of the Marines ashore resulted in a very high tempo of operations during the 17 day exercise conducted 13 - 31 March. Following Team Spirit 85 the ship enjoyed a four day port visit to Pusan, Korea.

(5) 3 April found TARAWA in transit to Okinawa and after a two day port visit to White Beach, 5-6 April, the ship began her transit to Pearl Harbor, HI. At Pearl Harbor, HI (17-19 April) TARAWA offloaded BLT 2/3, HMM(C)-262, and EODMU-1 (Det-33), and embarked her dependent tigers for the final leg of her 1984-85 deployment. On 26 April, TARAWA berthed at Pier 8, Naval Station, San Diego, CA.

(6) Following her return to port, TARAWA began a leave and upkeep period which was concluded on 28 May. During this period two ceremonies were conducted on TARAWA's flight deck. The first ceremony was the deactivation of the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit. In marking the retirement of the colors on 29 April, the 31st MAU concluded 18 years of continuous active service. In the second ceremony held on 24 May, Captain R. L. Newman relieved Captain P. F. Duffy as Commanding Officer, USS TARAWA.

(7) TARAWA spent two days steaming independently in the Southern California operations area 29 May through 31 May. Following this underway period the ship began preparations for INSURV as the Board of Inspection and Survey came onboard 3-9 June to conduct an underway material inspection. INSURV was successfully completed on 14 June.

(8) Type training was conducted 17 June through 7 July and on 8 July TARAWA transited to Seal Beach, California, for an ammunition off-load. Upon returning to San Diego TARAWA conducted the Commander, Amphibious Group Three Change of

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Command on 13 July. During this ceremony Rear Admiral J. J. Higginson relieved Rear Admiral B. R. Boland. Three days after the COMPHIBGRU Three Change of Command, TARAWA transited to Naval Air Station, North Island, and while there conducted another change of command ceremony. On 19 July it was Rear Admiral G. W. Davis relieving Vice Admiral H. C. Schrader as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet on TARAWA's flight deck. Following this ceremony the ship returned to Naval Station, San Diego.

(9) The period from 22 July to 4 September was an upkeep period during which TARAWA made repairs in preparation for the up-coming Selective Restricted Availability (SRA). On October 7-11 the ship completed the Commander, Amphibious Squadron One Command Inspection. On 26 October TARAWA hosted the COMPHIBRON One Change of Command. The ceremony conducted on the flight deck saw Captain E. D. Dewese relieved by Captain R. B. McManis.

(10) The ship entered a three month SRA period at Naval Station, San Diego on 5 September. During this period, extensive repairs were effected throughout the ship. Major modifications and repairs to TARAWA included the following Ship Alterations:

- Aircraft Elevator Stanchions Modifications
- Aircraft Elevator Hydraulic Modification
- LCL/LCPL Cradle Modification
- Oil Free HPAC Installation
- Monorail Modifications
- Upgraded Fire and Smoke Alarm Installation
- Line Handling System Modification
- Deck Edge Elevator Structural Modification
- Installation of AFFF Flight Deck Nozzles
- AFFF Hydraulic Valve Improvement
- Panama Canal Modification

(11) During the SRA TARAWA conducted a FAST Cruise on 19 November. TARAWA completed SRA on 20 December, and finished the year 1985 in a holiday upkeep period.

c. Statistical and Mission Highlights

(1) Supply Department supported TARAWA with services in the following manner:

Meals served:	657,169
Provisions Consumed (\$)	1,001,608
Eggs (dz)	38,651
Bread (lbs)	47,371
Milk (gal)	37,949

Fund Distribution

Checks issued	\$11,646,428.29
Gross Disbursements	\$6,794,155.68
Collections Accomplished	\$982,665.28
Travel Claims Processed	711

Total Material Issues 9,474

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**Total Ships Store Sales           \$869,848.37**  
**Aircraft Readiness**

**Full Mission Capable Rate   95%**  
**Total Aircraft Days       180**  
**Full System Aircraft Days   171**  
**Passengers Flown           14,077**

(2) The Supply Department maintained its high level of efficiency, logging a 97% (gross), 99% (net) Supply effectiveness (issue rate) in 1985. Issue time for non-mission and partial-mission capable requirements was only 21 minutes. In addition, the Aviation Repairable Component Pool Issue maintained 100% effectiveness.

(3) The Automated Data Processing Division's around the clock operations supported TARAWA's major departments: Supply (SUADPS), Disbursing (SJUMPS), AIMD/Embarked Squadrons (Aviation 3-M) and Surface 3-M. Processing an average of 10,000 monthly documents, ADP produced over 100,000 transactions.

(4) In June the Supply Department received SUADPS real-time software. The implementation of SUADPS-RT permits the inputting of Supply requisitions and stock availability from anywhere on the ship. The Implementation Team from NAVMASSO DET PAC provided the necessary lectures and hands-on training to all S-1, S-6 and S-7 personnel.

(5) The Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) processed a total of 2770 items in 1985 and repaired and made ready for issue 2174 items. AIMD was able to repair and return to service 79 percent of all items inducted for work in 1985.

(6) AIMD received an overall grade of excellent on its Mid and Post Deployment inspections in 1985. COMNAVAIRPAC made note of AIMD's Precision Measuring Equipment Calibration Lab for having the lowest overdue rate for forces afloat in AIRPAC. And, in June they successfully completed INSURV inspection.

(7) TARAWA's helicopter, EAGLE ONE, a UH-1N, flew 1,123.3 flight hours with a mission capable rate of 97 percent and a fully mission capable rate of 94 percent. EAGLE ONE required only 4.7 documented man hours per flight hour. In March the UH-1N flew 177.8 hours, the highest monthly total for TARAWA to date and on October 21, 1985 flew its 5,000th accident-free flight hour.

(8) TARAWA completed its deployment to the western Pacific with 29 aircraft embarked, five in excess of normal loadout for LHA deck loading. Specifically, these aircraft were, 4 AH-1T, 6 AV-8B, 12 CH-46F, and 3 UH-1N. Selected statistics for the calendar year are:

**Landings completed (Day)       4799**  
**Landings completed (Night)   1436**  
**AV-8B Landings Completed      591**

(9) Air Department completed INSURV inspection and received an Outstanding rating during Aviation Certification. In addition, all ship's company pilots received a grade of satisfactory, or higher, on their annual NATOPS examination.

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(10) The propulsion plant compiled the following statistics in 1985:

Hours Steamed:	#1 Boiler	1,758
	#2 Boiler	1,995
Gallons of Fuel (DFM) Consumed		3,117,739
Gallons of Lube Oil Consumed		2,356
Gallons of Potable Water Produced		2,100,000
Gallons of Feedwater Consumed		1, 805,636
Shaft Revolutions		17,486,009
Ballast/Deballast Operations		37

(11) The Engineering Department began an extensive SRA period in San Diego which lasted from 5 September until 19 December. During this period, major Engineering Department jobs were completed including; replacing stanchions on the deck edge and aft elevators; improved the AFFF firefighting equipment on the hangar deck, flight deck and throughout the ship; and completed the Panama Canal modifications which enable the ship to pass through the Panama Canal.

(12) In 1985, TARAWA's Medical Department was faced with many exciting challenges. The Department played a vital role in the successful completion for exercises TEAM SPIRIT '85 and VALIANT USHER '85, demonstrating its ability to treat mass casualties and provide definitive patient care.

(13) Throughout 1985 the Medical Department treated 2,933 outpatients and admitted 47 inpatients on the LHA 1 Ward. In support of this definitive care, the Pharmacy filled 7,398 prescriptions, the laboratory performed 10,938 tests, 1,248 x-rays were processed, 2,240 immunizations were given, 576 physical examinations were performed, 382 audiograms were conducted, and 65 EKG's were done.

(14) Several equipment acquisitions were achieved in 1985, adding to the high state of readiness within the Medical Department. Two anesthesia machines were added to the Intensive Care Unit, a state-of-the-art audiometer was received for physical exams, and the Bio-Medical Repair workcenter began its operation.

(15) Several valuable lessons were learned in 1985, and TARAWA's Medical Department continues to demonstrate its ability to deliver quality patient care to its shipmates.

(16) In 1985 the Dental Department provided a variety of high quality services to TARAWA crewmembers and to other ships without dental capabilities. During the year the department provided treatment and diagnostics to 2,349 patients. In addition, over 200 TARAWA dependents were scheduled and treated as part of the ship's Dependent Dental Care Program. In 1985 the TARAWA Dental Department maintained its reputation as an effective and efficient health care delivery team.

(17) In 1985 Deck Department featured prominently in the five underway refueling operations during which the ship received 2,580,000 gallons of fuel. The ship's boats, consisting of four LCPL's and two LCM-6's were used during amphibious exercises VALIANT USHER and TEAM SPIRIT. For the western Pacific deployment, TARAWA was augmented by ACU-1 Boat Group One, Team One, consisting of one LCU and five LCM-8's.

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**(18) The Communications Department played an active role in TARAHA's highly successful WESTPAC deployment. As Task Group Relay ship for Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) A, the Communications Department handled 67,000 messages. In support of exercises VALIANT USHER '85 and TEAM SPIRIT '85, radiomen and signalmen embarked on landing craft, provided essential communications with TARAHA and other ships of the ARG.**

**(19) Signals Division received the Amphibious Squadron One Signal Bridge of the Quarter Award for the First Quarter 1985. During the Award Quarter the Signal Bridge sent and received 2,000 visual messages. In addition the Signal Bridge received a Letter of Appreciation for superior support from the Commanding Officer, Battalion Landing Team 2/3.**

**(20) Upon returning from WESTPAC the department prepared for Ship's Restricted Availability SRA) and accomplishment of designated SRA jobs. The Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) installation was completed in November. The total number of messages processed by the Telecommunications Center in 1985 was 103,312.**

**(21) In April 1985 the Navigation Department successfully guided TARAHA back to San Diego via Thailand, Philippines, Okinawa, Korea and Hawaii. The department participated in several anchorings and six underway replenishments along the way. After returning to San Diego the Navigation Department completed an extensive work package, and took part in four change of command ceremonies.**

**(22) Throughout the western Pacific deployment, the Operations Department received extensive battle force training. Operations personnel took part in numerous wet well and flight operations as well as NGFS requalification and gunnery and BPDMS missile shoots. Participatiuon in exercise Team Spirit '85 again demonstrated the professionalism of the Operations Department. Team Spirit 85 was a joint exercise combining 50 surface ships from the United States and ROK.**

**(23) Upon return to San Diego, Operations Department personnel attended numerous schools and team trainers to maintain the high level of proficiency attained during the Western Pacific deployment. The SRA afforded the department an excellent opportunity to further improve the material condition of the departmental spaces.**

**(24) While deployed, the Combat Systems Department participated in numerous exercises conducted in conjunction with VALIANT USHER 85-2, and ARG ALPHA group sailings. These were designed to improve gun and missile systems tracking and firing readiness. Of note was a score of 91% during naval gunfire support (NFGS) qualification at Leon Creek, Philippines, and a successful missile firing exercise in which a "direct hit" was awarded. The department was augmented, for the deployment, by a four man Explosives Ordnance Disposal Detachment (EODMU-1, DET 33).**

**(25) Upon return to San Diego, the Combat Systems Department continued training, completing Electronic Warfare Naval Tactical Data Systems Supervisor course, Electronic Warfare Intermediate Team Trainer and two Advanced Multi-Threat Team Trainers. In addition, the department completed a successful MLA/LFORM and Shipfill ammunition offload at Weapons Station Seal Beach, and in June completed INSURV.**

**(26) The department completed many equipment modifications during 1985, including the removal of Mount 53, installation of a second LN-66 Navigation Radar in the**

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Boat Group Commander's LCPL, and modification of the bridge LN-66 to accept a True Bearing Unit. In addition, numerous ORDALTS were completed on the gun mounts, GMLS and GFCS. During the year ending 31 December 1985, Combat Systems Department fired 363 rounds of 5" 54 cal. ammunition from gun mounts 51, 52, and 53, and one AIM-7/BPDMS missile.

(27) During SRA the department installed a satellite TV antenna on the Mount 53 platform; installed a second Bridge to Bridge radio; completed the Panama Canal modification to the Super RBOC platforms; removed the aft target transmitter; completed SHIPALT 180K, installed the Designation Multiple Access system; and completely rebuilt the magazine sprinkler systems in cargo holds 5-89-0-M and 6-89-0-M.

(28) The Executive Department provided services to the following personnel in 1985:

Ship's Company	62 Officers	814 Enlisted
Embarked Staff (COMPHIBRON 1)	6 Officers	18 Enlisted
		01JAN85-28MAY85
		31MAY85-05JUL85
		15JUL85-31DEC85
Embarked Marines	123 Officers	1163 Enlisted
Nucleus Landing Force Staff		01JAN85-29APR85
31st MAU		01JAN85-29APR85
HMA 169 Det Alpha		01JAN85-26APR85
HMM (C) 262		01JAN85-17APR85
VMA 513 Det Bravo		01JAN85-26APR85
BLT 2/3		01JAN85-17APR85
2ND SEC, 2ND PLT, TOW CO, 1ST TANK BN, 1ST		01JAN85-25APR85
MARDIV		
2ND PLT, CO A, 1ST TANK BN, 1ST MARDIV		01JAN85-25APR85
HOSVC, CO 2ND BN, 3RD MAR		01JAN85-17APR85
WPS CO, 2ND BN, 3RD MAR		01JAN85-17APR85
CO G, 2ND BN, 3RD MAR		01JAN85-17APR85
CO A, 3RD CBT ENGR BN		01JAN85-17APR85
Embarked Assault Craft Unit, ACU:		
ONE BOAT GROUP ONE TEAM ONE	0 Officers	25 Enlisted
		01JAN85-26APR85
Embarked Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit	1 Officer	2 Enlisted
		01JAN85-17APR85
Embarked TACRON:		
TACRON 12 DET DELTA	2 Officers	4 Enlisted
		01JAN85-26APR85

Administrative actions completed were as follows:

Reenlistments	127
Reenlistment rate for those eligible	62.25%



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Personnel Awards:


Navy Achievement Medals (command awarded)	13
Navy Achievement Medals (command initiated and presented)	2
Letters of Commendation (command awarded)	77
Letters of Commendation (command initiated and presented)	14

Legal:

Court-martials completed	35
NJP's awarded	129
Administrative Discharges	36

Security:

UCMJ Violation	1362
Military Working Dogs, Searches Conducted	57
Military Working Dogs, Alerts	146 (2 civilians)
Urine Samples Collected	5280
Incident Complaint Reports Investigated	170

  
R. L. NEWMAN