

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) FPO NEW YORK, NY 09591-1729

IN REPLY REFER TO:

15 JUN 92 Recel 4/25/93

Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (ISD-41) From: To: Director, Naval History (OP-09BH)

- Subj: 1992 COMMAND HISTORY
- Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12E
- Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
 - (2) Chronology
 - (3) Narrative
 - (4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with requirements set forth in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted for the period 01 January 1992 to 31 December 1992.

R. C. CALLAS LCDR USN by Direction

SHIP'S MISSION

The mission of USS WHIDBEY ISLAND is to conduct prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy. Designed, built and manned to carry MANEUVER WARFARE and the "over the horizon" amphibious assault, as part of an Amphibious Task Group, WHIDBEY ISLAND can carry four (4) Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC's) in its flood-able well, serve as the Primary Control Ship during an assault and provide a boat haven with docking, repair and fueling services for landing craft and boats. In short, WHIDBEY ISLAND is ideally suited to support our Navy's foremost strike asset...the U.S. Marine!

The WHIDBEY ISLAND class introduces to the fleet significant improvements with updated communications, combat systems, 20 and 60 ton cranes, expanded repair ships, two helicopter landing spots, completed medical and dental facilities, automated computer-based logistic support and an impressive engineering plant that gives WHIDBEY ISLAND an excellent capability for self sufficient operations. Equally effective in peace time as in wartime, WHIDBEY ISLAND is well suited to carry out a variety of humanitarian missions such as evacuations and disaster relief.

With primary missions of Amphibious Warfare, Mobility, Command and Control, and Anti-Air Warfare, WHIDBEY ISLAND is designed to support Special Warfare, Fleet Support Operations (refueling other ships), non-combatant operations, Ocean

Surveillance and Electronic Warfare. Clearly a multi-mission capable ship, WHIDBEY ISLAND'S crew, embarked Marines and detachments must also be, and are multi-talented. Representing almost every state in the union, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Philippines, we all are privileged and proud to serve in WHIDBEY ISLAND.



- 1-2 JAN INPORT CARTAGENA, SPAIN
- 3-6 JAN PORT VISIT TOULON, FRANCE
- 6-8 JAN TRANSIT WEST MED
- 6 JAN REPLENISHMENT AT SEA
- 9-16 JAN PORT VISIT TOULON, FRANCE
- 17-24 JAN FORMATION STEAMING/TRANSIT TO EAST MEDITERRANEAN
- 24 JAN FUEL AT SEA, USNS KAISER
- 25-27 JAN PORT VISIT IRAKLION, CRETE
- 28-30 JAN UNDERWAY/TRANSIT TO HAIFA, ISRAEL
- 28 JAN REPLENISHMENT AT SEA, USS CONCORD
- 31 JAN-13 FEB PORT VISIT HAIFA, ISRAEL

FEBRUARY

- 31 JAN-13 FEB PORT VISIT HAIFA, ISRAEL
- 3-6 FEB 3M ASSIST VISIT
- 14-23 FEB UNDERWAY/TRANSIT TO WEST MEDITERRANEAN
- 17 FEB CIWS SHOOT
- 18 FEB REPLENISHMENT AT SEA, USNS LEROY GRUMAN
- 24 FEB-3 MAR PORT VISIT ROTA, SPAIN
- 27-28 FEB SEMI-ANNUAL PRT

APRIL

31 MAR-4 APR BECCES

- 8 APR REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (SUPPLIES), USS SYLVNIA
- 9 APR REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (FUEL), USNS JOHN LENTHALL
- 11-12 APR PORT VISIT SOUDA BAY, CRETE
- 13 APR TRANSIT TURKISH STRAITS
- 14-15 APR UNDERWAY BLACK SEA
- 16-20 APR PORT VISIT SAMSUN, TURKEY
- 20 APR TRANSIT TO ROMANIA
- 21-25 APR PORT VISIT CONSTANTA, ROMANIA
- 26-30 APR PORT VISIT BURGAS, BULGARIA

MARCH

4

- 24 FEB-3 MAR PORT VISIT ROTA, SPAIN
- 3-7 MAR DMAT
- 4-5 MAR UNDERWAY WEST MEDITERRANEAN
- 4 MAR REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (S), USS CONCORD
- 6-12 MAR PORT VISIT LISBON, PORTUGAL
- 13 MAR UNDERWAY
- 14 MAR OPERATION GALERA MEDONHEIRA, PORTUGAL
- 15-22 MAR UNDERWAY/TRANSIT TO WEST MEDITERRANEAN
- 31 MAR-10 APR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN SEA

MAY

- 1 MAY TRANSIT TO MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- 2-20 MAY OPERATION DRAGON HAMMER
- 3 MAY REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (F), USNS JOHN LENTHALL
- 4 MAY EMBARK BOILERWATER FEEDWATER INSTRUCTOR
- 5 MAY REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (S), USS SYLVANIA
- 6 MAY EMBARK MIDSHIPMEN
- 14 MAY REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (F), USNS KAISER
- 15-17 MAY TYPE COMMANDER EXERCISE (TYCOMMEX)
- 16 MAY EMBARK MEDIA PERSONNEL
- 18 MAY BECCES/MSFD/GQ
- 19 MAY ASSAULT CRAFT UNIT FOUR FAMFIRE
- 20 MAY BECCES/MSFD/GQ
- 21 MAY-27 JUN ASSESSMENT OF EQUIPMENT CONDITIONS
- 21-23 MAY INPORT ROTA, SPAIN
- 21-22 MAY WASHDOWN
- 21 MAY AUDIOMETRIC TESTING
- 22 MAY EMBARK RESERVES
- 23 MAY DEBARK MIDSHIPMEN
- 23 MAY-4 JUN TRANSIT ATLANTIC OCEAN
- 26-28 MAY EMBARK REUNION TEAM
- 31 MAY BLUEWATER TURNOVER

<u>JOLX</u>

29 JUN-3 JUL SEIP

4 JUL	FULL DRESS/STEEL BEACH PICNIC
6 JUL	FAST CRUISE
7 JUL	WELLDECK TRAINING LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE
8-9 JUL	AMMO OFFLOAD AT LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE
10-12 JUL	INPORT LITTLE CREEK
13 JUL	ENTER METRO-MACHINE SHIPYARDS
13-19 JUL	HOST SHIP FOR CORTRAMID 92
13 JUL-9 OCT	PMA/IMAVC SIMA LITTLE CREEK
18-19 JUL	RESERVE TRAINING
27 JUL	PROCESS ACTION TEAM MEETING
31 JUL	YN1 RETIREMENT CEREMONY

JUNE

- 21 MAY-27 JUN ASSESSMENT OF EQUIPMENT CONDITIONS
- 23 MAY-4 JUN TRANSIT ATLANTIC OCEAN
- 1-3 JUN OPPE
- 4 JUN OFFLOAD MOOREHEAD CITY, NC
- 4-5 JUN TIGER CRUISE
- 5 JUN RETURN TO HOMEPORT
- 5 JUN-6 JUL INPORT LITTLE CREEK, VA
- 5 JUN-6 JUL IMAV LITTLE CREEK
- 8 JUN SPECIAL WARFARE EQUIPMENT OFFLOAD
- 15-19 JUN SURFACE WARFARE TRAINING WEEK
- 15-19 JUN MATERIAL INSPECTION, HULL CLEANING LITTLE CREEK
- 15-20 JUN STABILIZED GLIDE SLOPE INDICATOR ASSIST
- 29 JUN-3 JUL SEIP
- 29 JUN-3 JUL STABILIZED GLIDE SLOPE INDICATOR INSPECTION

SEPTEMBER

- 13 JUL-9 OCT PMA/IMAVC SIMA LITTLE CREEK
- 14-18 SEP NAVY FOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM ASSIST VISIT
- 14-18 SEP LCAC SEAOPS REVIEW (ACU-4)
- 15 SEP CNSL TOUR (ACQUISITION TEAM)
- 15 SEP OMBUDSMAN APPRECIATION DAY
- 17 SEP SHIP OF THE WEEK
- 18-20 SEP RESERVE UNIT TRAINING
- 19-20 SEP REDCOM SEVEN (RESERVE TRAINING)
- 22 SEP LIGHT OFF ASSESSMENT
- 23-25 SEP EOSS VERIFICATION

AUGUST

- 13 JUL-9 OCT PMA/IMAVC SIMA LITTLE CREEK
- 10 AUG RADM PICOTTE, COMPHIBGRU TWO, VISIT
- 11 AUG AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE TRAINING FEEDBACK MEETING
- 21 AUG WHIDBEY ISLAND SUPPORT GROUP VISIT
- 27 AUG VADM DONOVAN, COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND, VISIT
- 31 AUG MAC RETIREMENT CEREMONY

OCTOBER

- 13 JUL-9 OCT PMA/IMAVC SIMA LITTLE CREEK
- 6-7 OCT UNDERWAY/SEA TRIALS
- 6 OCT IMA SHIPCHECKS/PRE-AVAILIBILITY VISIT
- 7-9 OCT EOSS VERIFICATION
- 7 OCT RETURN TO NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE, LITTLE CREEK
- 9 OCT SHIP'S PICNIC
- 9 OCT-1 NOV IMAVC
- 13 OCT NAVY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
- 13 OCT-4 NOV VERTICAL PACKAGE CONVEYOR SHIP ALT
- 13-21 OCT PRT
- 22-23 OCT AMMO ONLOAD YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION
- 23 OCT DEPENDENTS CRUISE
- 24-25 OCT RESERVE TRAINING
- 25 OCT HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR CHILDREN
- 26 OCT TEMPEST INSPECTION
- 26 OCT-6 NOV INSTALL MK4 MOD2 PROTECTIVE VOICE SYSTEM
- 30 OCT SUPPORT GROUP VISIT

NOVEMBER

- 10 OCT-1 NOV IMAVC
- 5-6 NOV INSURV REHEARSAL
- 7-8 NOV RESERVE TRAINING
- 9-13 NOV HULL CLEANING
- 10-11 NOV ELECTRONIC CAL CAPABILITY EVALUATION
- 12 NOV SLAMEX JOT II/LINK-14 EXERCISE
- 16-20 NOV INSURV
- 21 NOV SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 21-22 NOV RESERVE TRAINING
- 23 NOV ONLOAD EOD BOAT FOR LIFT TO PANAMA CITY, FL
- 23-24 NOV PHYSICAL SECURITY ASSIST VISIT
- 23-29 NOV TEST PLATFORM FOR NEW TYPE WATERTIGHT DOOR
- 24 NOV NATO SECRET CONTROL INSPECTION
- 24 NOV POSTAL ASSIST VISIT
- 29 NOV EMBARK SOSMRC
- 30 NOV-10 DEC TRANSIT TO PANAMA CITY, FL TO PICK UP NEW LCACS
- 30 NOV-4 DEC SOSMRC (DEBARK PANAMA CITY, FL)

DECEMBER

30 NOV-10 DEC TRANSIT TO PANAMA CITY, FL TO PICK	UP	P NEW	LCACS
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- 2 DEC BRIEF STOP FOR CARGO MAYPORT, FL
- 4 DEC SOSMRC (DEBARK PANAMA CITY, FL)
- 5 DEC BRIEF STOP FOR CARGO PANAMA CITY, FL/PICK UP LCACS
- 7-9 DEC DLQS WITH US ARMY H-60 HELICOPTERS
- 10 DEC ARRIVE LITTLE CREEK
- 10 DEC COMMENCE 3 SECTION DUTY ROTATION
- 10 DEC CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING/SHIP'S HOLIDAY LIGHTING
- 11 DEC CMS ASSIST VISIT
- 11-31 DEC UPKEEP INPORT LITTLE CREEK
- 13 DEC CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN
- 14 DEC INTEL OFFICER/PERSONNEL TRAINING CPG-2
- 14-18 DEC SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT SURVEY
- 14-18 DEC AN/VCC-2A RADIO MOD
- 15-28 DEC FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD
- 17 DEC CPG-2 COMMANDERS CONFERENCE
- 21 DEC ENCM RETIRMENT CEREMONY
- 29 DEC-11 JAN SECOND HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD

JANUARY

The Whidbey Island began the new year inport Cartagena, Spain, and soon after transited to Toulon, France. The ship stayed in Toulon for three days, during which time crewmembers volunteered to repaint the United Services Organization (USO) building. Some liberty attractions included skiing and mountain climbing in the French Alps. Whidbey Island transited the western Mediterranean Sea, completing an underway replenishment in the process, before returning to Toulon for a week of liberty. On 17 January, the ship got underway in company with other amphibious units of 1-92. Enroute the ship refueled at sea with USNS Henry J. Kaiser prior to entering port at Iraklion, Crete. Pulling into Iraklion, control of the ship was given to Assault Craft Unit Four Command Master Chief BMCM (SW) Hamilton, who brought the ship into the pier. During the stay in Iraklion, the Superbowl was played at the Air Force Base, and Whidbey Island sailors were bused over to watch. After three days in Crete, Whidbey Island was replenished at sea by USS Concord while transiting to Haifa, Israel, for a port visit.

FEBRUARY

Whidbey Island stayed in Haifa for two weeks, during which time she received a 3M assist visit, designed to improve the ship's maintenance capabilities. The ship also conducted an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). Despite the heavy work schedule, Whidbey Island sailors still managed to find time to adopt a local orphanage, and refurbish the building. Children from the orphanage came aboard the ship for a party, and had a chance to meet the ship's mascot, Whidbey the Gator. Some liberty attractions in Israel included tours to Jerusalem and other sights of the Holy Land. One sailor even went so far as to visit Egypt. On the 14th, the ship departed Haifa for another transit to the western Mediterranean, conducting a Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Towed Drone Unit (TDU) shoot en route. Whidbey Island was the last of four ships to fire at the target, and the only one to hit it. The ship also conducted an underway replenishment with USNS Leroy Grumman during the transit. On the 24th, Whidbey Island pulled into Rota, Spain, for an eight-day port visit. While there, ship's company took their semi-annual Physical Readiness Test (PRT), and also received in-town liberty, a rarity for that port, and got to join in a carnival celebrating a Spanish holiday. During the stay in Rota, Whidbey also participated in a MARG-wide sports competition, and took home first place in football, basketball, and the overall competition.

Enclsoure (3)

MARCH

After departing Rota, Spain on the 3rd of March, Whidbey Island underwent a Diesel Mobile Training Team (DMTT) during a transit back into the western Mediterranean. She also performed an underway replenishment with USS Concord during the return trip to the Atlantic before pulling in for a week's liberty in Lisbon, Portugal. In Lisbon, 'Team Gator' ran a 5K race against four other ships, with Whidbey Island's EM3 taking first place. The ship also competed in the 'Conquistador Cup,' a MARG-wide competition hosted by local North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials, involving softball, soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Whidbey Island again took home the trophy. Upon completion of the port visit, the ship then proceeded south to Medonheira, Portugal, to participate in a combined U.S.-Portugese amphibious assault exercise, called Operation Galera 92. Portugese and U.S. Naval forces trained together along with U.S. Navy SEALS, U.S.M.C. Force Recon and Portugese Fuzilieros (Special Forces). Upon completion of amphibious operations, the ship proceeded to Cannes, France. During the transit, Whidbey Island was tasked with U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) in support of drug interdictions. The ship stopped briefly in Rota to embark a U.S.C.G. LEO detachment and a CH-46 Helo Det from the USS Inchon.

Enclosure (3)

After steaming southwest for three days at full speed, the tasking was then cancelled, and the ship returned to Rota.

APRIL

After receiving 217 pallets of stores from USS Sylvania, and 170,000 gallons of fuel from USNS John Lenthall, Whidbey Island detached from the Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) and proceeded independently enroute to the Black Sea. On the 13th of April, the ship passed through the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, and the Bosporus Straits, becoming the first U.S. amphibious ship to transit to the Black Sea. On this history-making expedition, Whidbey Island made port first in Samsun, Turkey. While inport, the crew received Hazardous Duty pay for the month of April, because an American building had been destroyed by terrorists ten miles from Samsun. Here the Inchon Band, embarked on Whidbey Island for the Black Sea Operations, played an outdoor concert for Turkish citizens and Whidbey Island sailors played a soccer match against a Turkish team. From Samsun the ship sailed to Constanta, Romania, where they delivered medical supplies to the American Embassy. Sailors also adopted a school in Constanta, and Whidbey Island HAM Radio Operators met with Romanian Operators. Many sailors took the opportunity to visit Dracula's Castle on a bus tour to Transylvania. With just five days in each city, Whidbey Island hosted thousands of visitors both in Constanta and their next port, Burgas, Bulgaria. Here, the Inchon Band again played for the local citizens, and the Whidbey

Enclosure (3)

Island soccer team squared off against a Bulgarian team. In leaving Burgas, a Bulgarian tug lost one of the ship's lines, which wrapped around one of her screws, which was later removed during a brief stop in Rota. The Whidbey Island became the first amphibious vessel to enter the Black Sea, the first vessel to operate Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC), the first U.S. Navy ship ever to visit Burgas, and the first U.S. Navy ship to visit Samsun in 70 years.

MAY

Whidbey Island spent the first half of May preparing for and participating in Operation "Dragon Hammer." Prior to the exercise's commencement, members of all ships involved gathered on the British HMS Fearless for a reception, featuring the Inchon Band and Royal Navy band. Dragon Hammer is a major NATO exercise in support of maritime, amphibious, and land based air and ground forces from over sixty ships from the U.S., U.K., Spain, Turkey and During this time the ship replenished at sea with USNS Greece. John Lenthall, USS Sylvania, and USNS Kaiser; embarked a Boilerwater/Feedwater Instructor, four Midshipmen First Class and engaged in a Communications Type Commander Exercise (TYCOMMEX). Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCEs) and Main Space Fire Drills were conducted as well as a famfire by Assault Craft Unit (ACU) Four. Whidbey Island returned to Rota, Spain for three days in preparation for outchop. During this time the ship conducted a wash down of U.S. Marine Corps equipment. Reserves were embarked as Midshipmen debarked for the return to the United States. Whidbey Island then transited the Atlantic Ocean from May 23 to June 4, embarking the reunion team in preparation for the ship's return home. During the transit a turnover was conducted with the inchopping MARG. On June 1 the ship turned out a highly successful Operational Propulsion Plant

Enclosure (3)

Examination. Throughout Whidbey Island's transit home, members of the crew participated in a "Run Across the Atlantic," jogging around the flight deck, well deck, or weather decks in 15-minute 'watches' all the way across the Atlantic.

JUNE

On the 4th of June, embarked Marines were offloaded at Morehead City, North Carolina, and family members were embarked for a Tiger Cruise for the return to homeport. Whidbey Island pulled into Little Creek June 5, and immediately went into Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) and a four-week stand-down period. Special Warfare Equipment was off-loaded June 8. During the period of June 15-20, Whidbey Island underwent Material Inspection and Hull Cleaning, honored Surface Warfare Training Week, and received a Stabilized Glide Slope Indicator assist.

JULY

Whidbey Island was dressed out on the Fourth of July, and a steel beach picnic was held on the flight deck for crew and family. On July 6, a fast cruise was conducted in preparation for an ammunition offload at Lynnhaven Anchorage. Whidbey Island entered Metro-Machine shipyards July 13 for a three-month Planned Maintenance Availability. The first week she was there, she also hosted Cortramid 92, a week-long Midshipman summer training evolution whereby future officers learn about shiphandling. Whidbey Island held reserve training July 18 and 19, and a Process Action Team meeting was held the 27th. On July 31, Whidbey Island said goodbye to YN1 (SW)

AUGUST

August of 1992 was a busy month for the crew of Whidbey Island, engaged in the day-to-day tasks of a shipyard PMA. Commander, Amphibious Group Two, Rear Admiral Leonard Picotte, and Commander, Military Sea Lift Command Vice Admiral Francis R. Donovan visited the ship during this period. The Whidbey Island also said goodbye to another retired shipmate - MAC (SW)

SEPTEMBER

Still in Metro Machine Shipyard, the Whidbey Island received a Navy Food Management Team (NFMT) assist, designed to evaluate the ship's food service capabilities and suggest ways to improve, an LCAC Sea Operations Review, and CNSL tour. The ship celebrated Ombudsman Day September 15, honoring **Constitution**, and was Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN Ship of the Week. The last half of September, the ship hosted Reserve Unit Training, and completed a light-off assessment and an EOSS verification.

OCTOBER

October was a very busy month for the Whidbey Island. The ship conducted sea trials and Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) shipchecks/pre-availability visit on October 6 and 7, returning to Little Creek on the 7th. The ship underwent an EOSS verification October 7-9. A ship's picnic was held on the 9th just after returning to Little Creek. Whidbey Island celebrated the Navy's Birthday on the 13th, spending the day with students from her "adopt-a-school," Bayside Middle School. Fall PRTs were held this month, as well as a Vertical Package Conveyor Ship Alteration. Whidbey Island conducted an Ammunition Onload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station on October 22 and 23, and a Dependents Cruise was held on the return from Yorktown. The ship hosted reserve training October 24 and 25, with a Halloween Party for children the 25th. The last week of October, Whidbey Island underwent a TEMPEST inspection, which examines the ship's electrical safety, an MK4 MOD2 Protective Voice System was installed, and the Whidbey Island Support Group visited.

Enclosure (3)

NOVEMBER

Whidbey Island rehearsed for the Inspection and Survey (INSURV) Team visit November 5 and 6, and hosted reserve training the 7th and 8th. Hull cleaning, an electronic calibration capability evaluation which ensures portable electronic test equipment is accurate, and a SLAMEX JOT II/LINK-14 exercise, with units from Charleston, Mayport, Norfolk, and Little Creek establishing a data link, took place during the period of November 9 to 13. November 16-20, the ship conducted INSURV. The ship's Christmas party was held on the 21st, and reserve training was conducted November 21-Whidbey Island onloaded an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) 22. boat for a lift to Panama City, Florida, and underwent a physical security assist visit, NATO Secret Control inspection, and postal assist. Whidbey Island also became a test platform for a new type watertight door. On November 29, the ship embarked Senior Officer of Ships Material Readiness Course personnel, and departed November 30 for a transit to Panama City, Florida, to pick up four LCACs for transfer to Little Creek, Virginia.

Enclosure (3)

DECEMBER

Whidbey Island made brief stops in Mayport, Florida, for cargo, and Panama City, Florida, to debark SOSMRC Prospective Commanding Officers, and pick up LCACs. December 7-9 the ship performed DLQS with U.S. Army HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, and returned to Little Creek December 10. Also in the month of December, the ship received a ComSec Material System assist visit (provides CMS inspectors to assist CMS custodians in auditing accounts for discrepancies, thereby improving the ship's CMS program and training incoming CMS custodians), solid waste equipment survey and AN/VCC-2A Radio modification (an update to VHF circuits used primarily to communicate with Marines); hosted a Christmas party Island children; and, held Intelligence for Whidbey Officer/Personnel training with COMPHIBGRU 2. December 21, Whidbey Island's former Command Master Chief EMCM returned for his retirement ceremony held on the turntable.