

Rec'd 8/7/95



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757
Ser LSD41/112
12 July 1995

From: Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)
To: Director, Naval History (NO9BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1994 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 1995 to 31 December 1995.

T. E. MCKEIGHT

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 shops, 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

Enclosure (1)

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.

JANUARY

1 - 13 JAN POST-DEPLOYMENT LEAVE PERIOD TWO

4 - 7 JAN IMAV/ELECTRICAL CABLEWAY INSPECTION

7 JAN DERAT INSPECTION/CO'S MEETING (CPR 10)

8 - 9 JAN IMAV

10 JAN SIMA CO'S MEETING

10 - 14 JAN ABC/PMT VISIT

11 JAN DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE SIMA

19 - 20 JAN COMMAND INDOCTRINATION

20 JAN SURFACE NAVY ASSESSMENT LUNCHEON

21 JAN CPR 10 ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT TEAM VISIT/CPG-2 SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

24 JAN DUTY SECTION 3 OF 3 MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL/DAO AUDIT BRIEF/EXECUTIVE OFFICER DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING/SN & FN MILITARY LEADERSHIP EXAMS/SIMA'S COMMANDING OFFICERS MEETING

25 - 26 JAN AUDIOGRAM TESTING

26 JAN ATM INSTALLATION/DETAILER VISIT/AMPHIBIOUS SCHOOL STUDENT VISIT

27 JAN POSTAL ADVISORY MEETING (LFTCLANT)/SHIP OF THE WEEK (CPR-10 CONFERENCE ROOM)

27 - 28 JAN CAREER COUNSELOR SEMINAR

28 JAN AWARDS CEREMONY/CAPTAIN'S CALL

20 - 30 JAN VISIT SHIP

31 JAN - 4 FEB ETG VISIT (PRE-INDUSTRIAL)/ETG IN-BRIEF

Enclosure (2)

FEBRUARY

1 FEB SEAL SWIMMER ATTACKS/VISUAL SIGNAL DRILLS (OCE) /
ENG EQUIP CHECKS/ADETA/PUB REVIEW/EPCP ORAL
BOARDS/CO/DH MEETING/DCTT ORG REVIEW/INPORT
MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL (SEC 2 OF 3)/PAT TEAM
MEETING (OPS LOUNGE)/MSFD DE-BRIEF/ETG DE-BRIEF

3 FEB ENOW ORAL BOARDS/ECCTT ORGANIZATION/CPR 10
VISIT

4 FEB ETG DE-BRIEF

8 FEB NTCS-A TRAINING/PRT SCREENING WEIGH-INS/USS
ASHLAND CHANGE OF COMMAND

9 FEB FAST CRUISE/NAVAL ENGINEER LUNCHEON (NOB)/FAST
CRUISE DEBRIEF

10 FEB ICC(SW) [REDACTED]'S REENLISTMENT

11 FEB LAGGING LISTS/ASF LISTS DUE/COMMANDER/CO CONF
CPG-2 HQ BLDG 2001 N3 CONF RM/SOSMRC TOUR/
ENGINEERING PQS REVIEW/SN, FN MIL LEADERSHIP EXAM

15 FEB SAFETY STANDDOWN/PMA JOB MONITOR ASSIGNMENTS DUE
TO OPS/CO,DH MEETING/SINGLE SAILOR FOCUS GROUP MTG
(BLDG. 3560)/CNSL ROAD SHOW (SWDG)/SEAL SWIMMER
ATTACK

17 FEB NATO SECRET INSPECTION/AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
MEAL/PAO TRAINING (NAS)/COMPHIBRON TEN VISIT

19 FEB GATOR BALL

22 FEB MEDICINAL INVENTORY/DEFUEL (BARGE ALONGSIDE)

23 FEB FOTC CONFERENCE/PMA TRANSIT MTG

24 FEB BMC(SW) [REDACTED]'S REENLISTMENT

25 FEB ILO TEAM TRANSFER BLDG CEP86-NOB

28 FEB BERTH SWIFT TO QW/W/NAVIGATION BRIEF

MARCH

1 MAR BERTH SHIFT TO METRO MACHINE/MOOR METRO MACHINE/
BUS TRANSPORTATION TO NAB

3 MAR PMA COORDINATION MEETING

6 MAR CHT CERTIFICATION/SUPSHIP SUPERVISOR MEETING

11 MAR ENG PROGRAM REVIEW/PMA COORDINATION MEETING/METRO
PRESIDENT'S MEETING/SSDG SLIP RING MTG

15 MAR SUPSHIP SUPERVISOR MEETING

16 MAR FOREMAN'S MEETING/BM1 SEIFERT'S RE-ENLISTMENT

17 MAR SURF NAVY ASSOC LUNCHEON (CPO CLUB)/SUPSHIP CO'S
MEETING

18 MAR ORAL BOARD REHEARSAL (MONITORS/ENOW/EOOW/EPCO)/
BILGE INSPECTION

22 MAR SINGLE SAILOR FOCUS GROUP MEETING. SUPSHIP
SUPERVISOR MEETING

23 MAR COMMAND INDOC/FOREMAN'S MEETING/CPG2 MEDICAL
OFFICER (CPG2 DETACHMENT)

24 MAR COMMAND INDOC/MD01 PMS REVIEW/CPR10 CO'S
MEETING

25 MAR METRO PRESIDENT'S MEETING

28 MAR SHAFT ALIGNMENT VISIT/DC ORAL BOARD REHEARSALS

29 MAR SEAOPS CONFERENCE (CNBG2)/SUPSHIP SUPERVISOR
MEETING (METRO)

30 MAR BERTH SHIFT TO STBD SIDE TO BOW OUT/TRAINING TEAM
TRAINING (ECCTT/DCTT/CSTT/STT)

APRIL

1 APR COMMENCE SAVINGS BOND CAMPAIGN\ESC MEETING

5 APR SUPSHIP SUPERVISOR MEETING (METRO)

6 APR FROCKING CEREMONY

12 APR COMMAND INDOCTRINATION

13 APR BONE MARROW DRIVE (NOB NEX)/LOE MEETING/PMA 50
PCT CONFERENCE (SUPSHIP)

19 APR SISCAL ASSIST VISIT/DC INDOC/RIGGING SAFETY
SEMINAR/SINGLE SAILOR MEETING

20 APR ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR'S SEMINAR (NAB)

25 APR SDS INSTALLATION/CPR10 VISIT/SHIFT TO SUMMER
UNIFORMS/MSFD ON STATION ORAL BOARDS (SECT 1 OF 3)

26 APR MSFD ON STATION ORAL BOARD (SECT 2 OF 3)

27 APR MSFD ON STATION ORAL BOARD (SECT 3 OF 3)

28 APR OMBUDSMAN LUNCHEON/CPG2 MEDICAL TRAINING

29 APR LUNCHEON, QMCS [REDACTED]/RETIREMENT CEREMONY,
OS1 [REDACTED]

MAY

3 MAY ENGINEERING TRAINING-SOUNDING/SECURITY AND AC&R
4 MAY FOREMAN'S MEETING
5 MAY LOE MEETING
9 MAY CMS USER TRAINING
10 MAY NN/NX DIV OFF NOTEBOOK REVIEW
11 MAY OMBUDSMAN AND CO/XO WIVES MTG
12 MAY HABITABILITY BOARD MEETING
13 MAY ET3 [REDACTED]'S REENLISTMENT
17 MAY SAMS USERS CONFERENCE/ETG VISIT/HUREX 94
18 MAY REENLISTMENT CEREMONY, ENI [REDACTED]
19 MAY REENLISTMENT CEREMONY, QM3 (SW) [REDACTED]
20 MAY REENLISTMENT CEREMONY, BM1 [REDACTED]/POSTAL ASSIST
25 MAY 25/50 CAL GUN CREW TRAINING
31 MAY SUPSHIP SUPERVISOR MEETING

JUNE

4 JUN HARBORFEST PICNIC (FLIGHT DECK)
7 JUN LOE (LIGHT OFF EXAMINATION) IN-BRIEF
9 JUN LOE
10 JUN DOCK TRIALS/FAST CRUISE
13 JUN WELLDECK CERTIFICATION/AMMO ONLOAD BRIEF/
NAVIGATION BRIEF
14 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS
15 JUN UNDERWAY TO PANAMA CITY
16 JUN CIWS PREFIRE BRIEF/ENG EVOLUTIONS/WATCH TEAM
PROFICIENCY TRAINING
20 JUN ARRIVE PANAMA CITY, FL
22 JUN UNDERWAY ENROUTE TO LITTLE CREEK, VA/EMBARK 5
LCAC'S
25 JUN LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS/LCAC DEBARK TRAINING
26 JUN UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL/BURIAL AT SEA
27 JUN IMAV SIMA LCRK/DEBARK LCAC'S/ARRIVE LCRK
28 JUN YN2 (SW) ██████'S REENLISTMENT/IMAV ARRIVAL
CONFERENCE
29 JUN USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY DECOMMISSIONING
30 JUN PHYSICAL READINESS TEST

JULY

1 JUL ESC MEETING

2 JUL IMAV SIMA LCRK/COMPHIBRON TEN FLAGSHIP

6 JUL SPS-49 FIELD CHANGE/COMPHIBRON TEN VISIT

7 JUL SPS-49 FIELD CHANGE/GUAGE CAL REVIEW VISIT

8 JUL SPS-49 FIELD CHANGE

9 JUL UNDERWATER HULL CLEANING

11 JUL CPR-10 VISIT

12 JUL EOD TEU 2 DIVE TRAINING SUPPORT

13 JUL SEAL TEAM 8/4 DIVE OPS SUPPORT/MEDICAL OFFICER'S
INDOC ORIENTATION (XO)/NJROTC TOUR

14 JUL ESC MEETING/HABITABILITY BOARD MEETING

15 JUL RETIREMENT CEREMONY, RM1 [REDACTED]/SHIP'S PICNIC

16 - 17 JUL VISIT SHIP

19 JUL CART II/INTEL BRIEF/DCPO LECTURE

20 JUL CSTT SCENARIO/DAVIT/SMALL BOAT OP TEST

22 JUL 2ND CLASS SWIMMER QUAL

24 JUL BOY SCOUTS ARRIVE/MIDSHIPMEN ARRIVE

25 JUL UNDERWAY/DEGAUSSING RUN/UNDERWAY FOR VCOA

26 JUL EMBARK 4 LCM-8'S/HELO OPS/CWO-LDO BOARDS

27 JUL LAUNCH LCM-8'S/MOOR LCRK

29 JUL AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATOR FOR BOY SCOUT TROOPS/
MIDN/CREW PARTICIPANTS/GTMO OP-LIFT

AUGUST

1 AUG UNDERWAY/HOT CHECKS

2 AUG ETG/CSTG

3 AUG RDVU WITH USS MONONGAHELIA/BURIAL AT SEA

4 AUG MOOR LCRK/COMMENCE OPLIFT/UNDERWAY FOR GITMO

5 AUG EEED, OBA, EGRESS TRAINING/MED TRAINING

6 AUG TSTA/LANTRAMID III/CIWS PAC FIRE/25MM/50 CAL
FAM FIRE

8 AUG 1A WET WELL OPS/MOOR GTMO BAY, CUBA/WET TRAINER

10 AUG ESWS 101 SAFETY FUND, ELECTRIC/ELECTRONIC/HELO
CRASH/SMASH DRILL

11 AUG ESWS 101 SAFETY FUND, MEDICAL

12 AUG ESWS 101 SAFETY FUND, COMMUNICATIONS

13 AUG ESWS 102 SHIPBOARD ORG. AND ADMIN

14 AUG ESWS 103 SURFACE SHIP CHARACTERISTICS/SHIP'S
PICNIC

17 AUG DEBARK MIDSHIPMEN

19 AUG ON LOAD MARINE FORCES GRAND TURK

21 AUG LAUNCH LCU'S/RETURN TO GITMO/UNDERWAY FOR
FLORIDA STRAITS

23 AUG 1ST CUBAN MIGRANTS ARRIVE

25 AUG ARRIVE AT PILOT PICKUP

27 AUG ARRIVE IN WEST HAVANA OPAREA

29 AUG CPO INDOC

30 AUG CPO INDOC CONT.

31 AUG CPO INDOC CONT./RECEIVE MIGRANTS FROM USS CARON

SEPTEMBER

1 SEP LAUNCH 50' U-BOAT/ALONGSIDE USCGC BEAR
4 SEP 1A FOR WET WELL OPS/EMBARK LCU
5 SEP I-DIV
8 SEP PO3 ADVANCEMENT EXAM/EMBARK MIGRANTS
10 SEP ARRIVE FISHERMAN'S POINT/MOOR GTMO/MIGRANTS
OFFLOAD
13 SEP CO/DH MEETING
14 SEP BERTH SHIFT TO PIER BRAVO/UNDERWAY WITH
ANCHORAGE
15 SEP PAY DAY/MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL
17 SEP GTMO WOUND TRAINING/RECEIVE BOATS
18 SEP SMALL ARMS PAC FIRE FOR EMBARKED PERSONNEL
24 SEP AMMP P/U FM USS AMERICA (HS-3)/FAMFIRE/FLT OPS
25 SEP HIV TRAINING
26 SEP DEPT EM TRAINING-ALL DEPT 3M COORDINATOR (LSC)
27 SEP UNREP WITH US SAVANNAH/CDO BOARD
28 SEP RPPD TRAINING/EOOW BORAD
29 SEP MOOR PIER 17
30 SEP METRO/COLT/PORT ENGINEER MEETING

OCTOBER

4 OCT BM1 (SW) [REDACTED] REENLISTMENT/PHYSICAL
SECURITY MEETING

5 OCT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

6 OCT 25MM/50CAL GUN CREW TRAINING

7 OCT ESC MEETING

11 OCT NC1 DETAILER VISIT (WASHINGTON D.C.)

14 OCT BASIC FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TRAINING

25 - 28 OCT SINGARS INSTALLATION

25 - 30 OCT OPPE PREPS

NOVEMBER

1 - 30 NOV OPPE PREPS
8 NOV UNDERWAY/BECCES
9 NOV ETG/MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL
10 NOV ARRIVE LITTLE CREEK
15 NOV I-DIVISION/ERAT VISIT/UNDERWAY ENROUTE VCOA
16 NOV I-DIVISION/BURIAL AT SEA
17 NOV SMOKEOUT DAY
18 NOV ARRIVE LCRK
19 NOV STRONG RESOLVE EMBARK CONFERENCE/PEB EXAMS/
REENLISTMENT OF BM1 [REDACTED]
24 NOV THANKSGIVING DINNER
30 NOV UNDERWAY

DECEMBER

1 DEC ENG EVOLUTIONS/DELIVER ERAT TEAM TO LCRK
2 DEC BURIAL AT SEA
4 DEC UNDERWAY/SHIFT ANCHORAGE TO LYNNHAVEN 'C'
5 DEC COMMENCE OPPE/UPFRONT PROGRAM REVIEW
7 DEC MOOR LCRK/COMPLETE OPPE (SAT)
8 DEC PHYSICAL READINESS TEST
9 DEC WBI SCRAMBLE (OCEANA GOLF COURSE)
10 DEC SHIP'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
12 DEC UNDERWAY FOR ONSLOW BAY/EMBARK FTG/PHIBREFTRA
13 DEC AAV SHORE TO SHIP MOVEMENT/STATIC LAUNCH/
 TURNAWAY/RECOVER
14 DEC MINI-MASS CONFLAG/BATTLE MESSING
15 DEC UNREP WITH USS SAVANNAH/MOOR LCRK
16 - 27 DEC STANDDOWN LEAVE PERIOD NUMBER 1
28 DEC - 8 JAN STANDDOWN LEAVE PERIOD NUMBER 2

JANUARY

In the beginning of 1994, USS Whidbey Island found herself in port. She was in stand-down, just recently completing a Unitas cruise. The second half of the month however, proved to be busy. There were many tasks the Whidbey Island must complete while in port. Fire drills, indoctrinations, and visits from ERAT and ETG were commonplace. An extensive IMAV period was also just beginning.

Enclosure (3)

FEBRUARY

The month of February started out with intense drills and oral boards in preparation for LOE. The crew was trained on general fire fighting as well as general quarters. Drills and refresher training lasted until the end of the month. Still, there was time for the crew of the Whidbey Island to enjoy themselves. Naval Amphibious Base hosted the 1994 Gator Ball on the 19th. After the ball, there were conferences and inventories to be done. USS Whidbey Island's next stop would be in the yards at Metro Machine.

MARCH

After mooring at Metro Machine, the crew was given bus transportation to and from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek. Over the next few days, the ship conducted the E-5 and E-6 exams. The ship also conducted an engineering program review, to find out the ship's weaknesses in order to correct them. The month ended with the Metro President's Meeting and finally a SEAOPS Conference.

APRIL

The month of April started out with meetings, a frocking ceremony, and training of every kind. There was a bonemarrow drive, a savings bond campaign, and a retirement ceremony for Petty Officer 1st Class [REDACTED], an Operation Specialist onboard. Many of the meetings were with Metro Machine and Supship, who were trying to get the Whidbey Island into top operational shape.

MAY

The month commenced with engineering sound and security training, air conditioning and refrigeration training. Next, the crew had an LOE meeting to help prepare for the ship's upcoming test. There were four reenlistments as well. Toward the end of the month, the ship conducted 25 and 50 cal. gun training.

JUNE

In the first part of June, crew members of the Whidbey Island participated in the Harborfest Picnic. On June 7, the ship underwent the Light off Examination. Included in the LOE were dock trials, a fast cruise and welldeck certification. On June 14, the Whidbey Island was underway for Sea Trials and then Panama City, Florida. The crew participated in general quarters, engineering, flight quarters, helicopter crash, and mass casualty drills. After arriving, and staying in Panama City for two days, the ship was underway for Little Creek, VA. LCAC's were embarked for various forms of amphibious assault training. Soon after the LCAC training was over, the ship had an underway replenishment with USNS John Lenthall. The Whidbey Island had a burial at sea before arriving at NAB Little Creek. In the last few days of June, USS Barnstable County had a decommissioning ceremony and the Whidbey Island conducted a physical readiness test.

JULY

Upon return to Little Creek, there was an ESC meeting and a COMPHIBRON TEN visit. From July 6 to July 8, the SPS-49 underwent a field change. Later in the month, Radioman Petty Officer 1st Class [REDACTED] had a retirement ceremony, which was followed by a ship's picnic. The ship was designated 'visit ship' for the 16th and 17th of July. On July 24, the midshipmen and boy scouts arrived. On July 25th, the Whidbey Island was underway for a degaussing run. The ship had amphibious demonstrations for the boy scout troops and midshipmen who were visiting onboard. At the end of the month, the boy scouts were debarked in Little Creek and the ship began to onload supplies for her trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

AUGUST

The month of August was the start of intense operations varying from evacuating Grand Turk Island to Operation Democracy in Haiti. The Whidbey Island started the month with a burial at sea and a rendezvous with USS Monongahelia. The ship next headed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for refresher training. On the way to Cuba, the ship conducted EEED, OBA, EGRESS, and medical training. On August 8, the Whidbey Island arrived at Gitmo. From August 10 to August 14, the ship conducted ESWS training for interested crew members. The ship also hosted a picnic on August 14. Shortly after, the Whidbey Island went to the call of Joint Task Force 160 on Grand Turk Island. The mission was to evacuate the island for fear of a tropical storm which was rapidly approaching. Upon successfully loading on over 150 multi-service personnel and their supplies, the ship returned to Gitmo. The Whidbey Island quickly unloaded their supplies and were underway for the Florida Straits. This time, the mission was to onload Cuban migrants who were making the trip from Cuba to Florida in various boats and rafts. On August 23, the first Cuban migrants arrived. Additional migrants were acquired from USCGC Caron. By the end of the first run through the Florida Straits, the Whidbey Island had over 2,700 migrants onboard.

SEPTEMBER

USS Whidbey Island continued to onload migrants and finally head backed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on September 10. Once there, the migrants were unloaded and prepared for processing. During the time of the first onload of the cuban migrant, the ship still managed time for Indoctrination and the Petty Officer 3rd exam. The ship was underway for the Florida Straits again and underwent training along the way. The ship made three trip to the area and picked up over 8,100 migrants. After the last trip, the ship headed for Haiti to assist in Operation Democracy. On the 29th, the crew of the Whidbey Island manned the rails as she pulled into her home port.

OCTOBER

After almost two months in the Caribbean Sea, USS Whidbey Island began to prepare for its bi-annual OPPE. At the onset of the month, the ship conducted CSTT drills and had SSDF training. Before she left port however, the ship had a detailer visit to Washington D.C., command indoctrination, and a reenlistment ceremony. At the end of the month, the SINGARS system was installed.

NOVEMBER

From the 1st of November until OPPE on December 4, the ship engaged in extensive drills. On November 8 the ship was underway, running BECCE drills and main space fire drills. After returning to port, there was a Strong Resolve embark conference and a reenlistment. Later in the month, after some damage control and officer training the ship was underway and ready for OPPE.

DECEMBER

Up until December 4, the ship continuously prepared for OPPE. By December 7, OPPE was completed and USS Whidbey Island passed with a satisfactory rating. The last major test for the ship was the mass-mini conflag drill. After hosting the Whidbey Island Scramble golf tournament and the ship's Christmas party, the Whidbey Island was underway for Onslow bay. The ship experienced general quarters and battle messing along with the mass-mini conflag drill. On December 15, she moored in Little Creek and prepared for the first standdown period.