

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) FPO AE 09591-1729

Rep 10/1/02 W/Odink

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5750 Ser LSD41/067 27 JUN 02

- From: Commanding Officer, USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) To: Director, Naval History (NO9BH), Naval Historical Center, Washington Naval Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC 20374-5060
- Subj: 2001 COMMAND HISTORY
- Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F
- 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 2001 to 31 December 2001.

M. R. HOYLE

Copy to: COMPHIBGRU TWO

## **COMPOSITION & ORGANIZATION**

The mission of USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) is conducting prompt, sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy.

Designated, built and manned to carry maneuver warfare vehicles as well as "over-thehorizon" amphibious assault vehicles, WHIDBEY ISLAND – homeported at Little Creek, Virginia, and under the command of Commander, Amphibious Group TWO – can carry four Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) or thirty-six Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) in its flood-able well.

During assaults WHIDBEY ISLAND serves as the Primary Control Ship and provides a boat haven with docking, repair and refueling services to 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, complete medical and dental facilities, automated computerbased logistics support and an impressive engineering plant; giving WHIDBEY ISLAND an excellent capability for self-sufficient operations. Equally as effective in peacetime 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 be, and are multi-talented. Representing almost every state in the Union, Puerto Rico, U. S. Virgin Islands, and the Philippines, everyone aboard is privileged and proud to serve in USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41).

## JANUARY 2001

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28 DEC – 08 JAN	HOLIDAY STANDDOWN (SECOND PERIOD)
04 JAN	CREW GAS MASK FITTINGS PLAN OF ACTIONS & MILESTONES MEETING
09 JAN	50 CAL WEAPONS TRAINING FLIGHT DECK CREW TRAINING STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING STT TRAINING FLIGHT DECK CRASH DRILL CSTT DRILL PRT WEIGH-IN (MAKE-UP) STT/ETT/ITT/CSTT/MTT/DCTT BRIEFS MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS
10 JAN	COMMAND PT FUEL ONLOAD CDO/SECTION LEADER MEETING PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS LAY LEADER MEETING STT/ETT/ITT/CSTT/MTT/DCTT BRIEFS MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS
11 JAN	50 CAL TRAINING CART II EXAMINATIONS DCTT TRAINING FLIGHT DECK CREW TRAINING FLIGHT DECK CRASH DRILL MASS CASUALTY DRILL LUBE OIL ONLOAD EHF INSTALL STATUS MEETING STT/ETT/ITT/CSTT/MTT/DCTT BRIEFS SESSEF
12 JAN	COMMAND PT CART II EXAMINATIONS ALL HANDS FIELD DAY
16 JAN	CART II INBRIEF CART II CHECKS
17 JAN	CART II CHECKS MTT/ATT/DCTT BRIEFS

- 17 JAN SIMULATE FLIGHT QUARTERS HELO CRASH & MASS CASUALTY DRILL INPORT FIRE DRILL SCENARIOS
- 18 JAN CART CHECKS STT/ETT/ITT/DCTT/CSTT BRIEFS MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS ITT DRILL
- 19 JAN CART II DCPO TRAINING DCTT/DCPO YOKE CHECKS CART II OUTBRIEF
- 22 JAN COMMAND PT I DIVISION
- 23 JAN SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS TRAINING WELLDECK OPERATIONS TRAINING I DIVISION DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (M)
- 24 JAN MAKE-UP PRT COMMAND PT I DIVISION NTCSS OUTBRIEF DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (M) PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
- 25 JAN 50 CAL TRAINING FLIGHT DECK TRAINING DCPO TRAINING I DIVISION PRE-AVCERT TECH ASSIST INBRIEF DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (M) CO'S PMS SPOT CHECK (EA04) XO'S PMS SPOT CHECK (OC01)
- 26 JAN MAKE-UP PRT COMMAND PT I DIVISION
- 28 JAN BOY SCOUT TROOP VISIT & TOUR
- 29 JAN FAST CRUISE

- 29 JAN NAVIGATION BRIEF WELLDECK OPERATIONS BRIEF SCHEDULE OF EVENS BRIEF
- 30 JAN WELLDECK TRAINING STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING 50 CAL TRAINING NAVIGATION BRIEF
- 31 JAN STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY ANCHORED – LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE CONDITION "A" FOR LCU OPERATIONS PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS SET NAVIGAION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY MAIN PROPULSION DIESEL ENGINE GROOM

# FEBRUARY 2001

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01 FEB	UNDERWAY NAVIGATION DETAIL CONDITION "1A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL MAIN SPACE DRILL
02 FEB	STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL ANCHORED ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA CONDITION "A" FOR LCU/AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS SHIP FAMILIARIZATION BRIEF SAR PROFIENCY DRILL MAN OVERBOARD DRILL TTY DRILL DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILL
03 FEB	ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS CONDITION "1A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS FLIGHT QUARTERS STATIC AAV LAUNCH & RECOVERY HOLY HELO (CATHOLIC) TTY DRILL EMCON DRILL (WBI – OCE)
04 FEB	STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY EN ROUTE VCOA CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS
05 FEB	MAN DIVTACS TEAM LEAP FROGS FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "1A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL
06 FEB	MAN DIVTACS TEAM GMT (EEBD: CARE OF & DONNING PROCEDURES) STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING LEAP FROGS ALL HANDS FIELD DAY FLIGHT QUARTERS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL

- 06 FEB ECC DRILL MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL
- 7 FEB STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL Q-ROUTE TRANSIT CONDITION "1A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS "H" & "L" HOUR REHEARSALS ECC DRILLS ICE CREAM SOCIAL
- 8 FEB STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL CONDITION "1A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS GMT: EEBD – CARE OF & DONNING PROCEEDURES) CONDITION "1A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS DETACH EN ROUTE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA ALL HANDS FIELD DAY ECC DRILLS
- 9 FEB WHIDBEY ISLAND'S 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CEREMONY FRESH WATER WASHDOWN ULM-4/TACAN RANGE OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
- 12 FEB PROMOTION: ENS TO LTJG ENGINEERING EVOLUTIONS ETT/DCTT BRIEF SAFETY WALK THROUGH MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL (UNDERWAY SCENARIO)
- 13 FEB 50 CAL TRAINING LOOKOUT TRAINING STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING DCTT BRIEF MAN UNDERWAY WATCHSTATIONS
- 14 FEB MAN UNDERWAY WATCHSTATIONS DCTT BRIEF ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 15 FEB GMT: EEBD CARE OF & DONNING PROCEDURES) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT TRAINING LOOKOUT TRAINING

- 15 FEB DCPO TRAINING DCTT BRIEF NJROTC TOUR MAN UNDERWAY WATCHSTATIONS ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS CO'S PMS SPOTCHECK XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
- 16 FEB COMMAND PT AWARDS CEREMONY CAPTAIN'S CALL
- 20 FEB ENGINEERING INITIAL ASSESSMENT INBRIEF COMMENCE MATERIAL CHECKS ETT BRIEF
- 21 FEB ENGINEERING INITIAL ASSESSEMENT CHECKS ETT/DCTT BRIEF ECC DRILL SET #1
- 22 FEB SSDG HOT CHECKS ETT BRIEF MAN UNDERWAY WATCHSTATIONS IA DRILL SET #1 IA DRILL SET #2
- 23 FEB FAREWELL DINNER: LTJG
- 26 FEB COMMAND PT CSOSS INBRIEF
- 27 FEB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS REVIEW DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (NAV-ADMIN)
- 28 FEB HULL CLEANING DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (NAV-ADMIN) SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

### **MARCH 2001**

- 01 MAR STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (NAV-ADMIN) SMA OUTBRIEF
- 02 MAR COMMAND PT GMT: ANTI-TERRORISM & FORCE PROTECTION CSOSS OUTBRIEF COMPHIBGRU EIGHT VISIT
- 05 MAR COMMAND PT ETT/DCTT BRIEF ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 06 MAR E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS LTT INBRIEF RIG UNREP STATION ADVANCEMENT: SN TO RP3 MAN CONDITION II WATCHSTATIONS AW SCENARIO ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
- 07 MAR MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS DCTT BRIEF ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS RIG UNREP STATION SAR SWIMMER TRAINING
- 08 MAR DCTT/ETT/CSTT BRIEFS ECC DRILLS AND EVOLUTIONS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS CSTT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT
- 09 MAR RETIREMENT: LCDR AMMO ONLOAD BRIEF
- 11 MAR NROTC CADET TOURS
- 12 MAR COMMAND PT ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 13 MAR E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS LOOKOUT TRAINING

- 13 MAR 50 CAL TRAINING ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 14 MAR COMMAND PT TROOP HABITABILITY INSPECTION FSG SANDWICH & BAKE SALE SEMAT INBRIEF
- 15 MAR ENGINEERING INITIAL ASSESSMENT INBRIEF IA CHECKS ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 16 MAR CPG2 TEAM ARRIVAL MATERIAL CHECKS SAFETY WALK-THROUGH IA DRILL SET #1 IA DRILL SET #2
- 19 MAR FAST CRUISE STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MAN CONDITION IV WATCHSTATIONS FUEL ONLOAD PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS NAVIGATION BRIEF OPERATIONS BRIEF
- 20 MAR E-4 EXAMINATIONS GMT: ANTI-TERRORISM & FORCE PROTECTION 50 CAL TRAINING OFFICER'S TRAINING PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (1<sup>ST</sup>)
- 21 MAR COMMAND PT NAVIGATION BRIEF OPERATIONS BRIEF DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (1<sup>ST</sup>)
- 22 MAR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY EN ROUTE VACAPES & PROA MAN OVERBOARD DRILL ITT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT TRACKEX (AV-8B) ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 23 MAR ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS

- 23 MAR TRACKEX (AV-8B) EMCON DRILLS
- 24 MAR JUNIOR OFFICER SHIPHANDLING CIWS PACFIRE TRACKEX (AV-8B) EMCON DRILLS ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS PUBEX
- 25 MAR TRACKEX (AV-8B) STEEL BEACH PICNIC ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS PUBEX
- 26 MAR ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (+4Q) UNREP APPROACHES TRACKEX (AV-8B) STT/CSTT/DCTT/ETT/MTT BRIEFS FLIGHT QUARTERS ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS EMCON DRILLS PUBEX
- 27 MAR STATION NAVIGATION DETAIL DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (A) TRACKEX (AV-8B)
- 28 MAR TRACKEX STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, PR RANGE BRIEF
- 29 MAR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY
- 30 MAR SURFACE TO AIR MISSILEX BACK-UP MISSILEX PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS
- 31 MAR ANCHORED ST. MAARTEN, NETHERLAND ANTILLES

### **APRIL 2001**

- 01 APR ANCHORED ST. MAARTEN, NETHERLAND ANTILLES
- 02 APR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY EN ROUTE HOMEPORT
- 03 APR LEAP FROGS FLIGHT QUARTERS NEO EXERCISE MWR MEETING PLANE GUARD ECC DRILL & EVOLUTIONS PUBEX
- 04 APR LEAP FROGS AFFF SHOOT FULL POWER RUN SAILOR & JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER BOARDS SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS SMALL BOAT ATTACK SCENARIO FLIGHT QUARTERS DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILLS PUBEX
- 05 APR DIVTACS FULL POWER TRIAL DEMONSTRATION DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (A) ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS FLASHING LIGHT DRILLS PUBEX
- 06 APR FLIGHT QUARTERS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAILS MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGININA
- 09 APR COMMAND PT SEMAT II INBRIEF
- 13 APR 20 APR COMPUTER NETWORK VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS PRC DECK WORK
- 17 APR SWIM PRT DCTT BRIEF CBR DRILL

- 18 APR ITT FEP PACKAGE REVIEW COLOR GUARD TRAINING COMMAND PT
- 19 APR FMAV WPIC TRAINING TEAM BRIEFS MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS ITT DRILL
- 20 APR FEP DAY 1 REHEARSALS AWARDS CEREMONY CAPTAIN'S CALL PRT
- 23 APR FEP INBRIEF TRAINING TEAM BRIEFS NEO DRILL PMINT PRE-SAIL CONFERENCE COMMAND PT
- 24 APR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY ISO FEP
- 25 APR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL ANCHORED CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS NEO DRILL UNDERWAY
- 26 APR UNREP WITH PATUXENT CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS
- 27 APR CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS PRE-INSURV CHECKS EN ROUTE ONSLOW BAY
- 28 APR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL ANCHORED – ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC/AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS UNDERWAY EN ROUTE FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FLIGHT QUARTERS ANTI-TERRORISM/FORCE PROTECTION BRIEF NAVIGATION & OPERATIONS BRIEFS
- 29 APR FLAG HOIST DRILL

#### 29 APR PHOTOEX

30 APR STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA CLOSE-IN REFUELING TRAINING OFFICIAL SHIP GREETING ALL HANDS RECEPTION AT RIVERFRONT

## <u>MAY 2001</u>

01 MAY	MOORED – PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA WWII VETERAN'S GRADUATION CEREMONY SAILOR & JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON OPEN TOURS OF WBI CARDINALS VS. MARLINS BASEBALL GAME
02 MAY	STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS FLIGHT QUARTERS DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILLS
03 MAY	FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS UNREP W/ PATUXENT CO'S PMS SPOTCHECK XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK
04 MAY	CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL ANCHORED – ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS FLIGHT QUARTERS 26 MEU(SOC) ONLOAD
05 MAY	CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONTINUE 26 MEU(SOC) ONLOAD CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS FLIGHT QUARTERS
06 MAY	USMC SHIP ORIENTATION MAN OVERBOARD DRILL STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY FLIGHT QUARTERS FAST ROPE EXERCISES
07 MAY	PUBEX TRACKEX CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS

- 07 MAY STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL
- 08 MAY CLOSE-IN REFUELING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERTIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL FLIGHT QUARTERS H-HOUR REHEARSAL PRE-ASSAULT BRIEF PUBEX
- 09 MAY CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL LAUNCH SMALL BOATS COMMENCE H-HOUR ASSAULT TRACKS ANCHORED 26 MEU(SOC) OFFLOAD FLIGHT QUARTERS
- 10 MAY SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY ENGINEERING DRILLS COUNTERMEASURE WASHDOWN CHECK FRESHWATER WASHDOWN SATVUL EXERCISE
- 11 MAY CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
- 14 MAY RAM OFFLOAD SMI & INSURV BRIEFS COMMAND PT CSOSS INBRIEF PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS
- 15 MAY CSOSS TRAINING DCPO TRAINING COMMAND PT GMT: ANNUAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY
- 17 MAY SMI OUTBRIEF COMMAND PT

- 17 MAY PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING CO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (EA05) XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (OW02)
- 18 MAY MCJROTC VISIT & TOUR RE-ENLISTMENT: IT2 & EN3
- 21 MAY COMMAND PT NAVIGATION BRIEF SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS TRAINING ETT BRIEF
- 22 MAY STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY GMT: HEAT STRESS PREVENTION BECCES OFFICER'S TRAINING JUNIOR OFFICER SHIPHANDLING STT BRIEF
- 23 MAY JUNIOR OFFICER SHIPHANDLING DECK TRAINING STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING BECCES ITT DRILLS FLIGHT DECK WASHDOWN
- 24 MAY JUNIOR OFFICER SHIPHANDLING DECK TRAINING ETT BRIEF BECCES PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS MWR MEETING NAVIGATION BRIEF
- 25 MAY STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
- 29 MAY TRAINING TEAM BRIEFS PRT WEIGH-INS INTEL BRIEF
- 30 MAY FUEL OIL ONLOAD CRANE OPERATIONS PRT WEIGH-INS (MAKE-UP)

- 30 MAY DCTT/DCPO MODIFIED ZEBRA CHECKS CIC WATCHSTANDERS TRAINING GUN CREW TRAINING SPRING PRT (MAKE-UP) MAN OVERBOARD TRAINING STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING
- 31 MAY MAN CONDITION III WATCHSTATIONS GUN CREW TRAINING SPRING PRT (MAKE-UP) GMT: SIGHT CONSERVATION OFFICER'S TRAINING PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING CO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (EM01) XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (ER03)

#### **JUNE 2001**

- 04 JUN NAVIGATION BRIEF COMMAND PT
- 05 JUN STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY EMCON DRILL BILGE PRESSURE WASH ETT BRIEF TACAN/SLQ 32 CALIBRATION
- 06 JUN ETT DRILLS ESWS BOARD: ITSN STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ICE CREAM SOCIAL EMCON DRILLS
- 07 JUN CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPS UNDERWAY DEMO INBRIEF ENGINEERING UNDERWAY DEMONSTRATION
- 08 JUN STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
- 09 JUN MSI SHIPHANDLING TRAINER PETTY OFFICER INDOC CHRIMP INBRIEF COMMAND PT
- 12 JUN PETTY OFFICER INDOC MSI SHIPHANDLING TRAINER CARGO ELEVATOR OPERATIONS COMMAND PT GMT: NAVAL HISTORY FMAV INBRIEF
- 13 JUN PETTY OFFICER INDOC MSI SHIPHANDLING TRAINER CRANE OPERATIONS COMMAND PT FSG PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEF (SINGLE SAILORS) FSG PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEF (MARRIED SAILORS)

14 JUN **DCPO TRAINING R DIVISION AWARDS CEREMONY RE-ENSLITMENT: DC2** DC2 & MS3 **COMMAND PT** PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS 15 JUN **RETIREMENT: ET1 COMMAND PT 18 JUN AWARDS & FROCKING CEREMONY COMMAND PT I DIVISION** 19 JUN SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY PACE COURSE SCREENING **COMMAND PT** 20 JUN PACE COURSE SCREENING **CPG-2 VISIT COMMAND PT** PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING CHRIMPS OUTBRIEF STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS 21 JUN CINCLANTFLT DISBURSING AUDIT DCPO TRAINING XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (NN01) **COMMAND PT** 22 JUN **RETIREMENT: MSCS** PCO ARRIVAL 25 JUN **EXECUTIVE OFFIER'S MEETING W/ PCO DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (S1) 26 JUN MED-DEN OFFICER'S MEETING W/ PCO DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (S1)** PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS **COMMAND PT GMT: FRATERNIZATION** SUPPLY OFFICER'S MEETING W/ PCO NAVAL SEA CADET TOUR

27 JUN CHIEF ENGINEER'S MEETING W/ PCO DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (S1) AMMO BRIEF COMMAND PT FAST CRUISE

29 JUN COMMAND PT COMMISSIONING: MIDN TO ENS CO'S HAIL & FAREWELL DINNER

## **JULY 2000**

02 JUL	RIG UP & OVERS OPERATIONS OFFICER'S MEETING W/ PCO BATTE FORCE E-MAIL/SINGCARS/EHF SOVT OUTBRIEFS COMMAND PT FIRST LIEUTENANT'S MEETING W/ PCO
03 JUL	ONLOAD CHANGE OF COMMAND EQUIPMENT NAVIGATOR'S MEETING W/ PCO CHANGE OF COMMAND WALK THROUGH COMMAND PT GMT: LEVEL ONE FORCE PROTECTION STRETCHER BEARER TRAINING
05 JUL	CAPTAIN'S CALL CSOSS IMPLEMENTATION CHANGE OF COMMAND REHEARSAL COMMAND PT
06 JUL	CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY
09 JUL	MEUEX PRE-SAIL CONFERENCE (BATAAN)
10 JUL	STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY ANCHORED – LYNNHAVEN ANCHORAGE CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS UNDERWAY USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT
11 JUL	STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA UNDERWAY ANCHORED – ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS
12 JUL	UNREP WITH KANAWHA DIVTACS PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS CAPTAIN'S CALL FOR E-5 & E-6 MAN OVERBOARD DRILLS

- 13 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (R) MWR OFFICER'S MEETING WITH CO SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING NACHO NIGHT
- 14 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS
- 15 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS FLIGHT QUARTERS NEO DRILL USN/USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT
- 16 JUL USN/USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS MENU REVIEW BOARD MWR MEETING
- 17 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS GMT: ESWS PROGRAM DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (S2)
- 18 JUL CAPTAIN'S CALL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS DITS: OUTBRIEFS (S1 & R) SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
- 19 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (2<sup>ND</sup>) PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS OFFICER'S TRAINING CAT TEAM MEETING UNREP WITH KANAHWA
- 20 JUL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL

20 JUL **DEBARK LCACS** SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY MOORED - NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA 24 JUL **CRANE OPERATIONS** COMMAND PT **GMT: FORCE PROTECTION** NAVIGATION BRIEF STATION NAVIGATON/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL 25 JUL BERTH SHIFT AMMO ONLOAD DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (OC) PLANNING BOARD FOR READINESS 26 JUL **DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (OC)** NAVIGATION BRIEF CO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (MH01) XO'S PMS SPOTCHECK (EA04) COMNAVSURFLANT VISIT STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL BERTH SHIFT SNOOPY TEAM TRAINING 27 JUL MATRESS ONLOAD SEMAT III INBRIEF **NAVIGATION BRIEF COMMAND PT STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL** 30 JUL UNDERWAY **CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS EMBARK LCACS** ANCHOR DROP TEST MACHINE GUN FAMILIARIZATION FIRE 31 JUL **CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS** LAUNCH SMALL BOATS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 26 MEU(SOC)(SOC) ONLOAD **NAVIGATION BRIEF** UNDERWAY CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS ANCHORED - ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA PUBEX

### **AUGUST 2000**

**01 AUG UNDERWAY EN ROUTE JTFX 03 AUG USN/USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT CSTT DRILL** DCTT MEETING **50 CAL TRAINING** PUBEX STATION NAVIGATION DETAIL TRANSIT VIRGIN PASSAGE **04 AUG CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS** CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS H-HOUR REHEARSAL FOR ASSAULT ON VIEOUES, PR PUBEX **05 AUG** PACFIRE **EW TRACKEX TDU SHOOT UNREP WITH PATUXENT** 06 AUG **CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS** LAUNCH SMALL BOATS H-HOUR ASSAULT ON VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO **RECOVER LCACS & AAVS** STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL LAUNCH LCACS & AAVS FOR AGRICULTURAL INSP MOORED - NSRR, PUERTO RICO OFFLOAD USMC VEHICLES FOR WASHDOWN **08 AUG** ANTI-TERRORISM/FORCE PROTECTION SCENARIOS **09 AUG USMC VEHICLE BACKLOAD** PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING **CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS** LAUNCH SMALL BOATS STORES ONLOAD **10 AUG** NAVIGATION BRIEF **STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL** UNDERWAY FOR SOCEX

- 10 AUG FLIGHT QUARTERS ARG RENDEZVOUS DEVIL DOGS SOCIAL NIGHT PUBEX (WBI OCE)
- 13 AUG ANCHORED ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA
- 15 AUG CPO INDOC CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERTIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS FLIGHT QUARTERS ADM NATTER VISIT ADMIRAL'S CALL PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 16 AUG STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY MOORED – MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA CONTINUE OFFLOAD 26 MEU(SOC) UNDERWAY
- 19 AUG STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS DEBARK LCACS MOORED – NAB LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA
- 20 AUG 01 SEP PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT STANDDOWN PERIOD I
- 23 AUG PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING IN PORT OOD TRAINING
- 24 AUG PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS IN PORT OOD TRAINING
- 27 AUG SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS
- 30 AUG SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS

#### **SEPTEMBER 2000**

- 20 AUG 01 SEP PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT STANDDOWN PERIOD I
- 01 SEP TURNOVER DAY AWARD'S CEREMONY CAPTAIN'S CALL
- 01 SEP 11 SEP PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT STANDDOWN PERIOD II
- 04 SEP AMMO ONLOAD BRIEF
- 06 SEP E-6 EXAMINATIONS PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS
- 07 SEP STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY BERTH SHIFT PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS
- 10 SEP AMMO ONLOAD STORES ONLOAD VADM DAWSON VISIT ADMIRAL'S CALL
- 11 SEP TERRORIST ATTACKS ON WTC & PENTAGON SHIP'S COMPANY RECALLED OFF POM PERIOD II
- 12 SEP RE-ENLISTMENT: YN3
- 13 SEP E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAMAINATIONS (POSTPONED) RE-ENLISTMENT: EN2
- 14 SEP PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS
- 17 SEP FAST CRUISE STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MAN CONDITION IV WATCHSTATIONS MAN OVERBOARD DRILL
- 18 SEP NAVIGATION BRIEF CIWS & TDU FIRE BRIEF LCAC BRIEF

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19 SEP	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS VISITORS DEPART STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY ISO DEPLOYMENT 01/02 CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CIWS PACFIRE TDU SHOOT
20 SEP	CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS STATION NAVIGATION/SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL MOORED – MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA COMMENCE ONLOAD 26 MEU(SOC) NAVIGATION BRIEF UNDERWAY EN ROUTE ONSLOW BAY ANCHORED – ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS UNDERWAY RENDEZVOUS WITH BATAANARG PUBEX (BAT OCE)
21 SEP	USN/USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING EOOW BOARD: ENC COX FLIGHT QUARTERS PUBEX (BAT OCE)
22 SEP	DCTT BRIEF PACE COURSE REGISTRATION ITT DRILL FLIGHT QUARTERS ENCOUNTEREX NACHO NIGHT
23 SEP	ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS WINDOW OPSECON DRILL PUBEX (BAT OCE)
24 SEP	MINE WARFARE FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING LEAP FROGS CSTT DRILL ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS WINDOW
25 SEP	DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILL ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (+3P) USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT

25 SEP DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (S2) FLIGHT QUARTERS ITT DRILL PUBEX (CPR OCE)

26 SEP STREAM NIXIE EVASIVE STEERING EXERCISE USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (S2) DIVTACS CSTT/DCTT TRAINING ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (+20)

- 27 SEP EW EXERCISES EMCON DRILL USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (S2) SUPPLY DEPARTMENT AWARDS CEREMONY PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
- 28 SEP AIR DEFENSE TRAINING USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT HISPANIC HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (+4N)
- 29 SEP ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (+1N) FLIGHT QUARTERS UNREP WITH DETROIT RADM FITZGERALD ARRIVES RULES OF ENGAGEMENT BRIEF ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (Z)
- 30 SEP STEEL BEACH PICNIC NAVIGATION BRIEF NACHO NIGHT

# **OCTOBER 2001**

01 OCT	IN PORT: NAS ROTA, SPAIN CORPORAL'S COURSE GRADUATION STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL ARRIVE: NAS ROTA, SPAIN STORES ONLOAD OFFICER VS. ENLISTED SOFTBALL GAME
02 OCT	IN PORT: NAS ROTA, SPAIN DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (MEDICAL/DENTAL) NAVIGATION BRIEF STATION SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL DEPART: NAS ROTA, SPAIN BRIGHT STAR BRIEF BURIAL AT SEA MEETING CSTT TRAINING TRANSIT STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR
03 OCT	CONT. TRANSIT STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR USMC/USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT FLIGHT QUARTERS DITS ZONE INSPECTION (MEDICAL/DENTAL) USMC FAST ROPE TRAINING CSTT TRAINING
04 OCT	E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (MEDICAL/DENTAL) SSDS DOCTRINE REVIEW LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS OFFICER'S TRAINING CSTT TRAINING
<b>05 OCT</b>	LAUNCH PL2 VBSS TRAINING EXERCISE CORPORAL'S COURSE GRADUATION FLIGHT QUARTERS RULES OF ENGAGEMENT TRAINING CSTT TRAINING
06 OCT	DIVISIONAL CAREER COUNSELOR MEETING FLIGHT QUARTERS PUBEX
07 OCT	CAPTAIN'S CALL (SITE-TV) SAFETY STANDDOWN

- 07 OCT SHIP-WIDE SAFETY INSPECTION OFFICER'S TRAINING
- 08 OCT USMC M-198 TRINING SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY CPR 8 STAFF VISIT MILITARY CONDITION LEVEL EXERCISE
- 09 OCT DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (OE) BURIAL AT SEA FLIGHT QUARTERS CICWO BOARD: ENS & ENS MENU REVIEW BOARD BRIGHT STAR BRIEF
- 10 OCT MNATF COMM CHECKS E-4 ADVANCEMENT EXAMS USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION COORDINATION BRIEF LAUNCH PL1 ICE CREAM SOCIAL EW EXERCISES
- 11 OCT DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (OE) SSDS DOCTRINE REVIEW AMPHIBIOUS PLANNING CONFERENCE CONDITION 1 "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION 1 "A" FOR AAV OPERATION LAUNCH PL1 SSDS DOCTRINE REVIEW
- 12 OCT STT BRIEF FLIGHT QUARTERS PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING REPAIR LOCKER OFFICER/CHIEF TRAINING
- 13 OCT NAVY'S 228<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CONDITION "A" FOR WET WELL OPERATIONS WELLDECK CROSS-TRAINING W/ SPS GALICIA GENERAL QUARTERS CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY
- 14 OCT CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS SHIP-TO-SHORE MOVEMENT EXERCISE OOD BOARD: LTJG

- 14 OCT DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILLS EMISSION CONTROL DRILLS
- 15 OCT LEAP FROGS FLIGHT QUARTERS FLASHING LIGHT DRILLS COMM CHECKS
- 16 OCT CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS SHIP-TO-SHORE MOVEMENT DITS PROGRAM REVIEW (S-3/S-4) AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS PLANNING CONFERENCE SAILOR & JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER BOARDS DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILLS EMISSION CONTROL DRILLS
- 17 OCT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (S-3/S-4) CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS FLIGHT QUARTERS ETT TRAINING
- 18 OCT CONDITION "A" FO R LCAC OPERATIONS UNREP W/ GRUMMAN VERTREP W/ SIRIUS EOD MINE POUNCE CSTT DRILL
- 19 OCT PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS COMMENCE BACKLOAD MARINE EQUIPMENT SHIPBOARD INDOCTRINATION - EGYPTIAN EMBARKEES
- 20 OCT FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS H-HOUR REHEARSAL
- 21 OCT STATION SEA & ANCHOR/NAVIGATION DETAIL ANCHORED CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS AMPHIBIOUS REHEARSAL DEBRIEF (BATAAN)

- 21 OCT MNATF DIVTACS DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILL
- 22 OCT AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION CONFIRMATION BRIEF MNATF DIVTACS RENDEVZOUS EN ROUTE AHMOS, CAIRO, EGYPT ENCOUNTER EXERCISE EMISSION CONTROL DRILL
- 23 OCT FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS DEPARTMENT 3M COORDINATOR MEETING AMPHIBIOUS DEMONSTRATION COMMENCE BACKLOAD USMC EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES CSTT DRILLS DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILLS EMISSION CONTROL DRILLS
- 24 OCT STATION SEA & ANCHOR/NAVIGATION DETAIL ANCHORED BACKLOAD ALL FORCES CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAVS OPERATIONS DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (OI) UNDERWAY EN ROUTE AZ ETT EVOLUTIONS
- 25 OCT UNREP W/ GRUMMAN DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (OI) HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEETING RPPO TRAINING ETT EVOLUTIONS CSTT DRILLS
- 26 OCT STATION SEA & ANCHOR/NAVIGATION DETAIL PILOT PICK-UP MOORED – AKSAZ, TURKEY
- 31 OCT INPORT AKSAZ, TURKEY NAVIGTION BRIEF STATION SEA & ANCHOR/NAVIGATION DETAIL UNDERWAY

## **NOVEMBER 2001**

01 NOV	NATIONAL TRAINING CONTINUUM LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING GENERAL QUARTERS TRAINING SSDS SENSOR ALIGNMENT CSTT DRILL
02 NOV	RPPO TRAINING SPEED LIGHTINING GUN SHOOT REPAIR LOCKER LEADER/OFFICER TRAINING
04 NOV	OOD BOARD: LTJG CICWO BOARD: LT DECEPTIVE LIGHTING DRILL PUBEX (WBI OCE)
05 NOV	REPAIR LOCKER LEADER/OFFICER TRAINING RENDEZVOUS W/ SHREVERPORT EMCON DRILLS ETT TRAINING TRANSIT – STRAIT OF ONTRANTO
06 NOV	I DIVISION' LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (M) NAVY OPERATIONS BRIEF (BATAAN) CSTT TRAINING
07 NOV	I DIVISION USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (M) MWR MEETING GENERAL QUARTERS TRAINING ETT TRAINING
08 NOV	I DIVISION DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (M) FLIGHT QUARTERS RPPO TRAINING CSTT TRAINING
09 NOV	I DIVISION DIVTACS & PHOTOEX

- 09 NOV UNREP & VERTREP W/ LENTHAL CSTT TRAINING
- 10 NOV R2P2 ISO MEU(SOC) MISSIONS LCAC/AAV OPERATIONS ISO MEU(SOC) MISSIONS KILO COMPANY FORMATION ON FLT DECK C6F VISIT (VADM FRY) ESWS BOARD: HM1
- 11 NOV CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR AAV OPERATIONS LAUNCH SMALL BOATS
- 12 NOV FLIGHT QUARTERS VERTREP W/ SIRIUS ALL HANDS WORKING PARTY FOR STORES ONLOAD ESWS BOARD: EN1
- 13 NOV ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (-2B) UNREP W/ GRUMMAN
- 14 NOV TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL ANCHORED – GREAT BITTER LAKE CONTINUE TRANSIT – SUEZ CANAL
- 16 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY 9MM TRAINING PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 17 NOV USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT (9MM) ETT EVOLUTIONS OOD BOARD: LTJG FLIGHT QUARTERS FORCE PROTECTION BRIEF
- 18 NOV ADVANCE CLOCKS 1 HOUR (-4D) SWO BOARD: LTJG & LTJG LTJG LTJG FLIGHT QUARTERS STATION NAVIGATION & FORCE PROTECTION DETAIL TRANSIT – STRAIT OF BAB EL MANDEB PUBEX (WBI OCE)
- 19 NOV FLIGHT QUARTERS USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT (MK19)

- 19 NOV DITS: OUTBRIEF (S2, S3/4, OE, MED & DEN) LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS EOOW BOARD: LTJG USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT ETT TRAINING PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 20 NOV DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (M) USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE PRESENTATION THANKSGIVING DINNER USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT CSTT TRAINING BINGO PUBEX (SHR OCE)
- 21 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (M) CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEETING USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT RPPO TRAINING ETT TRAINING PUBEX (WBI OCE)
- 22 NOV THANKSGIVING USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT RPPO TRAINING PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 23 DEC FLIGHT QUARTERS VERTREP W/ SIRIUS 100 HAND WORKING PARTY FOR STORES ONLOAD REPAIR LOCKER 5 TRAINING USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT
- 24 NOV FLIGHT QUARTERS PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING
- 25 NOV DCTT BRIEF DECK OFFICE RE-OPENING CEREMONY CICWO BOARD: ENS & EWC PUBEX

- 26 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DCPO TRAINING ESWS BOARD: IT2 & EN2 RE-ENLISTMENT CEREMONY: ET2 LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS REPAIR LOCKER 2 TRAINING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CONDITION "A" FOR LCU OPERATIONS ETT TRAINING PUBEX (DBQ OCE)
- 27 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT FLIGHT QUARTERS DCPO TRAINING DITS: PROGRAM REVIEW (OW) ETT TRAINING PUBEX (PEL OCE)
- 28 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (OW) ESWS BOARD: YN1 FLIGHT QUARTERS REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS PUBEX (PEL OCE)
- 29 NOV FLIGHT QUARTERS UNREP W/ GRUMMAN DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (OW) LCAC MAINTENANCE TURNS
- 30 NOV USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT PACE COURSE SIGN-UPS FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS REPAIR LOCKER 5 TRAINING

# **DECEMBER 2001**

01 DEC	DCTT DRILL OPERATIONS BRIEF CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS ARMY VS. NAVY FOOTBALL GAME NIGHT
02 DEC	FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS
03 DEC	FLIGHT QUARTERS I DIVISION PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING REPAIR LOCKER 2 TRAINING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS
04 DEC	I DIVISION ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (NAV-ADMIN) FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS
05 DEC	I DIVISION DCTT BRIEF DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (NAV-ADMIN) MWR MEETING FLIGHT QUARTERS REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS
06 DEC	I DIVISION DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (NAV-ADMIN) PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT RPPO TRAINING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CSTT TRAINING
07 DEC	PEARL HARBOR DAY 60 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY I DIVISION MOMENT OF SILENCE MEDICAL TRAINING USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT FLIGHT QUARTERS REPAIR LOCKER 5 TRAINING

- 08 DEC FLIGHT QUARTERS VERTREP WITHSACRAMENTO & NIAGRA FALLS EOOW BOARD: LT USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS PUBEX
- 10 DEC I DIVISION CPR TRAINING DITS: OUTBRIEF (M & OI) DCPO TRAINING FLIGHT QUARTERS DCTT BRIEF REPAIR LOCKER 2 TRAINING USMC NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS EW EXERCISE
- 11 DEC USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT ITT DRILL DITS: PROGRAM REVIEWS (1<sup>ST</sup>) CPR TRAINING REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING FIRST AID TRAINING CSTT TRAINING PUBEX (SHR OCE)
- 13 DEC DCTT BRIEF CPR TRAINING USMC SMALL ARMS SHOOT DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (1<sup>ST</sup>) RPPO TRAINING CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS CSTT TRAINING PUBEX (BAT OCE)

14 DEC DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (1<sup>ST</sup>) CPR TRAINING 26 MEU(SOC)(SOC) OFFLOAD ISO OPERATION ENDURING & SWIFT FREEDOM ESWS BOARD: OS2 & ET3 CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERATIONS FLIGHT QUARTERS REPAIR LOCKER 5 TRAINING PUBEX (WBI OCE) EW EXERCISES (FIWC OCE)

- 15 DEC USN M14 GUN SHOOT PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING FLIGHT QUARTERS NIGHT DLQ PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 16 DEC SHIP-WIDE FIELD DAY PLANE GUARD PUBEX (SHR OCE)
- 17 DEC UNREP WITH ERICCSON & ETNA PETTY OFFICER INDOC USN M14 GUN SHOOT
- 19 DEC PETTY OFFICER INDOC OFFICER'S TRAINING DITS: ZONE INSPECTION (A) FLIGHT QUARTERS ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS PUBEX (WBI OCE)
- 20 DEC PETTY OFFICER INDOC DITS: PERSONNEL INSPECTION (A) FLIGHT QUARTERS COMMANDANT OF USMC ARRIVES PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING CSTT MEETING DECK INSURV MEETING WITH CO PUBEX (TBD OCE)
- 21 DEC PETTY OFFICER INDOC FLIGHT QUARTERS FROCKING & AWARDS CEREMONY SUPPLY INSURV MEETING WITH CO ESWS BOARD: OS3 & OS3 PUBEX (TBD OCE) EW EXERCISE (FIWC OCE)
- 22 DEC FLIGHT QUARTERS UNREP & VERTREP WITH CONCORD & SIRIUS NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT
- 23 DEC PLANNING BOARD FOR TRAINING FLIGHT QUARTERS PUBEX (TBD OCE)

- 24 DEC STEEL BEACH PICNIC SWIM CALL NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT CANDLE LIGHT SERVICES
- 25 DEC MAIL DELIVERY
- 26 DEC NIXIE STREAM REPAIR LOCKER 2 TRAINING MWR MEETING HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEETING USN SMALL ARMS SHOOT REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING CSTT MEETING ECC DRILLS & EVOLUTIONS PUBEX
- 27 DEC USN M14 GUN SHOOT REPAIR LOCKER 3 TRAINING PUBEX EW EXERCISE (FIWC OCE)
- 28 DEC UNREP & VERTREP WITH ERICCSON PLANE GUARD REPAIR LOCKER 5 TRAINING PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 29 DEC SAILOR OF THE YEAR BOARDS FLIGHT QUARTERS USN M14 GUN SHOOT NIGHT TIME GUN SHOOT PUBEX (WBI OCE)
- 30 DEC CIWS PACFIRE GROUND ZERO FLAG RAISING CEREMONY SMALL BOAT TRANSFER PUBEX (BAT OCE)
- 31 DEC FLIGHT QUARTERS CONDITION "A" FOR LCAC OPERAIONS REPAIR LOCKER 2 TRAINING ESWS BOARD: OS3 & OS3 SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING PUBEX (BAT OCE)

## JANUARY 2001

The year started off with New Year's Festivities and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)'s crew enjoying the holidays with family and friends during the holiday stand down period. January 4<sup>th</sup> gas mask fittings began and a Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) meeting was held to prepare for upcoming well deck inspections and certifications.

January 8<sup>th</sup> marked the end of holiday stand down. With the entire crew returned to work, an in-depth training cycle began January 9<sup>th</sup> to refresh ship company's fire fighting, flight deck crash, mass casualty and condition III watch standing skills.

CART II examinations were administered on the mess decks January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> covering Rules-of-the-Road, Deck Seamanship and Amphibious Boat Control, Lookout Knowledge, Combat Information Center Operations and Navigation Team Knowledge.

January 15th WHIDBEY ISLAND observed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Yet another in a series of evaluations during WHIDBEY ISLAND's Inter-deployment Training Cycle, Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase Two (CART II) reviews were conducted January 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. For the duration of CART II, assessors evaluated the ability of the ship's various training teams (including Medical, Damage Control, Combat Systems, Seamanship, Intelligence and Engineering) to properly and effectively train the crew.

Ending the month, WHIDBEY ISLAND conducted a Fast Cruise on the 29<sup>th</sup> and departed NAB Little Creek January 31<sup>st</sup> en route Lynnhaven Anchorage and Onslow Bay, North Carolina, in support of Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) and WHIDBEY ISLAND's well deck certification.

#### FEBRUARY 2001

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored at Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina while onloading the Marines and equipment of 2<sup>nd</sup> AAV Battalion in support of their pre-deployment Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT). That evening embarked Marines attended a familiarization brief on the turntable to acquaint them with the shipboard environment and procedures. During TCAT, with assistance from the ships of the BATAANARG, 2<sup>nd</sup> AAV Battalion successfully launched three amphibious assaults on Blue Beach at Onslow Bay, North Carolina.

The final H-Hour assault on February 7<sup>th</sup> required the first wave of AAVs, and every wave sequentially thereafter, launch from WHIDBEY ISLAND and arrive at Blue Beach precisely at the designated time. In order to accomplish this feat, WHIDBEY ISLAND's Combat Information Center (CIC) took the pre-designated arrival time and calculated backwards to determine launch times for the waves taking into account predicted weather conditions, sea state, navigation time of the ship and each AAV. During the assault, CIC directed and controlled the waves using radar and radio communications to guide the AAVs to touchdown.

2<sup>nd</sup> AAV Battalion's mission and training took priority during the 10-day underway period, yet during the demanding schedule WHIDBEY ISLAND's crew found time to complete several vital re-qualifications for the ship as well. The ship conducted a precision anchorage, 31 helicopter launches and recoveries certifying the flight deck for day and night aircraft operations, along with 4 LCAC, 10 LCU and 108 AAV launches and recoveries certifying the well deck for day and night operations as well.

February 8<sup>th</sup>, after the successful completion of the H-Hour assault on Blue Beach, Marines and their equipment offloaded and WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor en route NAB Little Creek, Virginia.

In honor of WHIDBEY ISLAND's sixteenth birthday the crew enjoyed a cake-cutting ceremony on the messdecks. As tradition dictates, SKC(SW)

of cake. Later that afternoon, the ship moored at homeport, NAB Little Creek.

ENS **EXAMPLE** received his promotion to Lieutenant, Junior Grade (LTJG) in a ceremony held in the ship's wardroom February 12<sup>th</sup>.

February 16<sup>th</sup> WHIDBEY ISLAND's top performers were recognized during an awards ceremony on the turntable. Unexpectedly, IT2(SW) **Sector** was called forward and advanced to Petty Officer First Class by Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, via the Command Advancement Program. Afterwards, Supply Department's S-3 Division presented the ship's MWR Fund with a check for \$14,000.00 from proceeds generated in the ship's store.

The Supply Management Assist team arrived February 26<sup>th</sup> to help the ship's Supply Department prepare for their upcoming Supply Management Inspection scheduled for May.

#### **MARCH 2001**

March 1<sup>st</sup> CAPT John A. Reed, Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT, toured WHIDBEY ISLAND's spaces with CDR Barrington.

Focusing on ship-wide preservation, the crew spent an entire day painting the skin and spaces of WHIDBEY ISLAND during Command Paint Day March 5<sup>th</sup>.

All eligible Second Class Petty Officers participated in the Navy-wide E-6 advancement exams March 6<sup>th</sup>. That afternoon SN **Constitution** received her first crow when she was frocked to Religious Programs Specialist, Third Class.

LCDR **Matter Matter**, COMPHIBGRU TWO's Supply Officer, retired after 26 years of naval service during a special ceremony held on WHIDBEY ISLAND's turntable March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Advancement exams for E-5 took place on the messdecks March 13<sup>th</sup>.

March 14<sup>th</sup> the Habitability Team inspected the ship's troop spaces to ensure embarked Marines would be provided with adequate berthing and lounge spaces during the fall deployment. The same afternoon WHIDBEY ISLAND's Family Support Group (FSG) sold handmade sandwiches and desserts on the messdecks.

The Initial Assessment (IA) inspectors commenced material checks on the ship's Engineering Department on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Inspectors assessed the engineering team's ability to correctly start the ship's Main Propulsion Diesel Engines as well as their ability to put out a main space fire in the event of an actual casualty. On March 16<sup>th</sup> material checks concluded and the ship ran through two drill sets, successfully completing IA.

March 20th E-4 advancement exams were administered on the messdecks.

WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor March 22<sup>nd</sup> en route a Surface-to-Air Missile Exercise off the coast of Vieques, Puerto Rico, and a port visit to St. Maarten, Netherland Antilles.

During the transit to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, WHIDBEY ISLAND's CIC ran tracking exercises with the assistance of the Harriers (AV-8B) aboard BATAAN. The Harriers flew over the ship's airspace a total of 45 times throughout the underway period and the combat team, using the Ship's Self Defense Systems (SSDS), acquired the targets successfully on every pass.

March 25<sup>th</sup> the crew enjoyed a day of relaxation with a Steel Beach Picnic held on the flight deck.

The ship arrived at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, on March 28<sup>th</sup> and onloaded four Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) for the Surface-to-Air Missile exercise. Underway the following afternoon, the OW Division loaded the four missiles into their RAM Launchers.

Surface-to-Air Missile exercises commenced March 30<sup>th</sup> just south of Vieques. As the two drone flyers approached the ship's port side, the SSDS immediately engaged and flawlessly launched a missile from the aft RAM mount and a second from the forward RAM mount successfully striking both targets. WHIDBEY ISLAND was the first LSD to successfully engage both drones in a single firing run. Later that day, the Vieques range confirmed CDR Barrington's "Boula, Boula!" prediction of skin-to-skin missile engagements.

With the missile exercise successfully completed, the ship departed Puerto Rico en route a brief port visit on the island of St. Maarten.

After WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored off the coast of St. Maarten, the crew ended the month of March by taking advantage of the many tours and activities offered on the island, to include sunbathing, snorkeling tours, horseback riding, biking tours, shopping and dining.

## **APRIL 2001**

After a memorable port visit in St. Maarten, WHIDBEY ISLAND began her transit to NAB Little Creek on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

While en route, crewmembers utilized their time conducting in-depth training, drills and exercises. April 3<sup>rd</sup>, junior officers practiced shiphandling skills during 'Leap Frogs' with USS BATAAN (LHD 5) and USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12) to improve their maneuvering techniques for underway replenishments. Later that afternoon, the crew brushed up on procedures for evacuating civilian personnel from a hostile environment during a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) Exercise. While NEO Exercises ran, CIC simultaneously conducted Emergency Defense Amphibious Task Force Drills providing protection to the evacuating civilians, crew and ship from retaliation attempts. In the evening, Engineering Casualty Control (ECC) Drills were conducted in preparation for the approaching Underway Demonstration, the final evaluation of the Engineering Department's abilities prior to deployment.

April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter board interviewed nominees from various departments in the Chiefs' Mess; selecting BM2(SW)

to represent WHIDBEY ISLAND in the second quarter.

WHIDBEY ISLAND ran a Full-Power Demonstration on April 5<sup>th</sup> successfully exhibiting the ship's ability to achieve and sustain a top speed of 24 knots.

The following afternoon, WHIDBEY ISLAND returned to NAB Little Creek, Virginia.

The Computer Network Vulnerability Assessment Team arrived April 9<sup>th</sup> conducting the first phase of their inspection. Primarily, their team assessed security weaknesses by attempting to hack into the ship's Local Area Network (LAN) system through crewmember's passwords. Working with the ship's Electronics' Technicians (ET) and Information Systems Technicians (IT), the team also inspected every piece of equipment on the bridge, topside, CIC and Radio Central to ensure all systems operated properly.

As the inspectors began their systems reviews, deck work also began on the mess decks, chiefs' mess, troop spaces and ship's office. While the decks received PRC

upgrades, the crew ate meals on the turntable and the ship's Administration Office relocated to the ship's library.

April 18<sup>th</sup> the crew participated in the Command Physical Readiness Test (PRT).

CDR Barrington addressed ship's company at an awards ceremony and Captain's Call on the Flight deck April 20<sup>th</sup>. Afterwards, PRT make-ups were held at the Pierside Gym.

Prior to the ARG's departure, BATAAN hosted a PHIBRON/MEU Integration (PMINT) Pre-Sail Conference on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. With PRC deck work complete, the mess decks re-opened for meals and the Administration Office returned to its location on the second deck.

The ship weighed anchor en route and began its Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) April 24<sup>th</sup>. FEP inspectors again evaluated the crew's abilities to overcome casualties such as CBR attack, missile impacts, flooding and fires. April 26<sup>th</sup>, after the successful conclusion of FEP, inspectors departed via LCACs and WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with USNS PATUXENT (T-AO 201) for fuel.

April 28<sup>th</sup>, a small detachment of 26 MEU(SOC) and their equipment embarked via LCAC before WHIDBEY ISLAND departed Onslow Bay en route Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in support of the Broward County Navy Days and Fleet Week events.

WHIDBEY ISLAND moored at Port Everglades in Hollywood/Ft Lauderdale, Florida, March 30<sup>th</sup>. After mooring, CDR Barrington, along with the captains of other naval ships in attendance, received a special reception for the ships hosted by the local Navy League Chapter. The Broward County Navy Days and Fleet Week Celebration kicked off in Downtown Hollywood with an All-Hands Reception and Banquet.

Although WHIDBEY ISLAND attended only two days of the weeklong celebration, the crew participated in some fabulous events, and ended another month enjoying a port visit.

#### <u>MAY 2001</u>

May 1<sup>st</sup> the crew of WHIDBEY ISLAND continued to enjoy their brief stay in Florida for the Broward County Navy Days events. The second day of the celebration boasted just as many events as the previous, including a graduation ceremony for World War II Veterans, public tours of the naval vessels in attendance, a luncheon in honor of command Sailors and Junior Sailors of the Year as well as a pro-baseball game between the Miami Marlins and St Louis Cardinals.

After a short, but memorable, stay in Ft Lauderdale-Hollywood, Florida, WHIDBEY ISLAND departed Florida May 2<sup>nd</sup> en route Onslow Bay, North Carolina, rendezvousing with PATUXENT the following day to take on fuel.

Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored off Onslow Bay, North Carolina, and commenced to onload the 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable MEU(SOC) in support PHIBRON-MEU Integration (PMINT) exercises.

The ship was underway again May 6<sup>th</sup> en route Cherry Point Operations Area (CPOA). That afternoon a USMC Orientation was held on the turntable to welcome aboard the embarked Marines and familiarize them with shipboard life.

May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup> the BATAANARG and 26 MEU(SOC) maximized underway time conducting numerous training exercises such as LCAC and AAV operations, flight quarters, electronic warfare tracking using the ship's Close-In Weapons Systems (CIWS), small boat operations, and close-in refueling techniques. PMINT exercises finished after a final H-Hour assault on Blue Beach May 9<sup>th</sup>. Following H Hour, 26 MEU(SOC) commenced their offload of personnel, vehicles and equipment.

Upon completion of the offload on May 10<sup>th</sup>, WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor en route homeport, NAB Little Creek, Virginia. During the transit, checks of the ship's countermeasure washdown system were conducted; ensuring each sprinkler in the system effectively rinse the outer hull of hazardous substances in the event of Chemical, Biological or Radiation (CBR) assault.

May 11<sup>th</sup> equipment checks continued with when the ship passed through the Hampton Roads degaussing range testing the ship's degaussing cables ability to diminish

or "erase" the ship's magnetic signature from sonar detection. Early that afternoon, WHIDBEY ISLAND moored at NAB Little Creek.

Implementation training of the ship's new Combat Systems Operational Sequencing System (CSOSS) began May 15<sup>th</sup> along with Supply Department's annual Supply Management Inspection (SMI) and Operations Department's Computer Network Vulnerability Assessment Phase II.

May 17<sup>th</sup> SMI concluded favorably for WHIDBEY ISLAND's Supply Department with excellent ratings across the board earning the department its fifth Blue "E" award for excellence.

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> IT2 **Control of the EN3 Control of the End** and EN3 **Control of the End** re-enlisted on the mess decks and forty cadets from Snow Hill Marine Corps JROTC arrived for a tour of ship's spaces.

WHIDBEY ISLAND departed Little Creek on May 22<sup>nd</sup> for three days of underway training time in the Virginia Capes Operation Area (VCOA). During the short time underway the Junior Officers and Bridge Watch Teams honed their navigational and ship handling skills and the crew geared up for the upcoming Intermediate Training Team (ITT) Drills and Underway Demonstration. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, WHIDBEY ISLAND concluded its underway-training period and returned to homeport.

NROTC Midshipmen arrived May 29<sup>th</sup> for four weeks of hands-on training. During their time aboard first-class cadets teamed up with Department Heads and Division Officers to learned about management techniques and the naval officer's role, while second-class cadets experienced shipboard operations as enlisted personnel.

ITT Drills were conducted May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup> assessing the crew's ability to react and respond to various underway situation such as Main Space Fires, General Quarters, Flight Quarters and Chemical, Biological and Radiation Attack. WHIDBEY ISLAND's crew received outstanding scores across the board for quick response times and effectiveness.

#### **JUNE 2001**

As June began, and with Intermediate Training Cycle drills successfully complete, the crew's attention and training were directed to the pending Underway Demonstration, the final evaluation of the Engineering Department prior to the ship's deployment.

To support Underway Demonstration, WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor June 5<sup>th</sup> en route the Virginia Capes Operational Area (VCOA).

During the week underway, the ship's Tactical Air and Navigation (TACAN) and SLQ 32 antennas, necessary for flight operations and electronic warfare, received their annual re-calibration on the Shipboard Electronic Systems Evaluation Facility (SESEF) range.

The Underway Demonstration Assessment Team arrived June 7<sup>th</sup> via Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC). The inspector reviewed the Engineering Department's capabilities through numerous engineering casualty drills and scenarios. At the conclusion of the trials, assessors certified them 'ready to answer all bells' and departed WHIDBEY ISLAND later that evening. Ending a busy day for the ship, CDR Barrington announced the ship now had 24 new third class petty officers, twelve second class and three first class petty officers as a result of the March 2001 Navy-wide Advancement Exam Cycle.

Underway Demonstration was successfully completed on June 8<sup>th</sup> and WHIDBEY ISLAND returned to NAB Little Creek, Virginia. Upon mooring, ten additional NROTC Midshipmen embarked for shipboard familiarization training

June 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> WHIDBEY ISLAND's junior officers, along with members of the ship's combat, navigation and deck teams, attended ship-handling training at Naval Station Norfolk's Shiphandling Simulator Complex. Using a mock pilothouse and bridge wings, the 360-degree simulator allowed junior officers and enlisted Sailors to hone their ship handling techniques and skills without fear of damage to ship, aircraft or personnel.

An expansion of the ship's physical fitness facilities began June 12<sup>th</sup>. With \$11,000.00 from the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds and \$24,000.00 in grants from Fleet Recreation in Norfolk. The long-unused Hydraulic Test Shop was converted into a separate weight room, while the original fitness center became an

aerobics room stocked with three treadmills, three cross-trainers, two cycling machines and two stair steppers. The newly re-modeled workout rooms significantly enhanced the crew and embarked Marines ability to conform to the Navy's Physical Fitness Standards while underway. Battle Force E-Mail installation, an inter-ship user-to-user data transfer capability designed to improve communications between ships of the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), Battle Group (BATGRU) and Allied/NATO Forces Afloat, also began June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The ship's Dental Department received outstanding reviews from their assessors at the conclusion of the Dental Readiness Assist Visit June 13<sup>th</sup>. During the visit inspectors reviewed dental records command-wide, finding 98% of the crew maintained at the highest state of dental readiness. In addition to overall crew readiness, WHIDBEY ISLAND's dental team also received compliments on implemented dental health awareness and disease prevention programs.

The Family Service Center began a series of pre-deployment briefs on June 13<sup>th</sup>. These informative briefs, specifically designed for deploying Sailors and their families, covered topics such as financial responsibility, automotive storage, home maintenance, emergency notification procedures, obtaining a power-of-attorney and helping children deal with a parent's absence.

June 14<sup>th</sup> DC2(SW) **Constraints**, DC2(SW) **Constraints** and MS2 **Constraints** re-enlisted during a combined ceremony on the mess decks. Just as these three Sailors renewed their enlistment oaths, two other shipmates said good-bye to Navy life after twenty years of service. ET1(SW) **Constraints** was piped ashore concluding her retirement ceremony June 15<sup>th</sup>, and the crew bid farewell to MSCS(SW)

a few days later on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

June 18<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer, CDR Brian E. Barrington, frocked the Navy's newest First, Second and Third Class Petty Officers during an awards ceremony held on the Flight Deck. Additionally, BM3(SW)

The Disbursing and Personnel Office received their annual CINCLANTFLT Audit June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup>. For the duration of audit, inspectors searched for possible bookkeeping discrepancies and procedural errors of crew travel claims, check-ins, advancements, security, pay and entitlements. The command received satisfactory grades across the board. Auditors were particularly impressed with the Disbursing Office's document tracking record of 96%; well above the Navy-wide average.

June 19<sup>th</sup> screening, testing and registration began for the Program Afloat College Education (PACE) courses that would be offered during deployment.

During a brief visit, RADM J. Kevin Moran, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, addressed ship's company on the turntable June 20<sup>th</sup>. Alluding to the bombing of USS COLE (DDG 67), RADM Moran urged Sailors to be continually on the alert and to take all training, force protection procedures and personal safety seriously at all times, especially during the upcoming deployment.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> NROTC Midshipmen concluded their time aboard the ship. The following afternoon, 80 Boy Scouts arrived for a tour of WHIDBEY ISLAND's spaces.

Modification of the ship's galley began on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The new 'buffet-style' serving line considerably cut-down man-hours by eliminating the need for three or four food servers and replacing them with a single observer/stocker.

Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO), CDR Mark R. Hoyle, arrived aboard WHIDBEY ISLAND June 26<sup>th</sup> beginning his turnover with CDR Barrington.

At the end of the month, ENS **Construction**, one of the NROTC midshipmen embarked just weeks earlier, returned following his commission aboard the historic USS WISCONSIN (BB 64), to assume the duties as the Administration Department's new division officer on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **JULY 2001**

July 1<sup>st</sup> Department Heads continued their turnover briefs and space walkthroughs with CDR Hoyle. Meanwhile, the crew continued to concentrated on deep cleaning, deck resurfacing and exterior painting projects for the Change of Command Ceremony scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup>.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> WHIDBEY ISLAND received official notification that crewmembers aboard during the 1999-2000 Mediterranean deployment from 19 January 2000 until 18 February 2000 had been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for their support of Operation Southern Watch.

In observance of Independence Day, a picnic was held on the flight deck for duty section personnel and their families July 4<sup>th</sup>.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> ship's company gathered on the flight deck along with friends, family, former crewmembers and guests as CDR Hoyle assumed command of WHIDBEY ISLAND from CDR Barrington. Distinguished guests for the ceremony included Commodore Kenneth M. Rome, Commander Amphibious Squadron EIGHT, and guest speaker, CAPT Leon F. Mahoney, USN, Retired.

In his farewell address, CDR Barrington noted the ship's many accomplishments under his leadership and thanked the crew for their continuous hard work, diligence and loyalty. Following CDR Barrington, CDR Hoyle expressed his enthusiasm and excitement over assuming command of WHIDBEY ISLAND, thanked everyone for welcoming him aboard. He continued by stressing how much he looked forward to meeting and working with every member of the crew during approaching deployment.

July 9<sup>th</sup> CDR Hoyle and the Operations Officer, LT **Sector 100**, attended a Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise (MEUEX) Pre-Sail Conference aboard BATAAN.

WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor July 10<sup>th</sup> for MEUEX. That afternoon, crewmembers qualified with 9mm pistols on a flight deck firing range.

The ship moored pier side at Morehead City, North Carolina July 11<sup>th</sup> and began the onload of 26 MEU(SOC)'s personnel, vehicles and equipment. Upon completion, the ship transited to its Onslow Bay anchorage for Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) loading.

For the duration of MEUEX, July 11<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>, WHIDBEY ISLAND and 26 MEU(SOC) conducted daily AAV and LCAC operations. The crew used the underway time to conduct small arms qualifications, Flight Quarters, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations training and Electronic Warfare scenarios.

The ship rendezvoused for underway replenishment with USNS KANAWHA (WLR 75407) July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. The UNREPs allowed Junior Officers an opportunity to practice the ship handling skills needed for alongside replenishment.

WHIDBEY ISLAND returned to NAB Little Creek July 20<sup>th</sup>. Over the weekend, the ship welcomed visiting Boy Scouts Troops for a tour of the ship.

Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Alan B. Gorski, began his turnover process with Executive Officer, LCDR G. Sheppard Matthesen on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

To onload ammunition for approaching September deployment, the ship berth shifted to Quay Wall West July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic Fleet (COMNAVSURFLANT), RADM J. B. Foley, visited the ship July 26<sup>th</sup>. After lunch with the wardroom, RADM J. B. Foley addressed the assembled ship's company and answered questions from crewmembers.

In support of Joint Task Force Exercises (JTFX), WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway at 06:00 on July 30<sup>th</sup> en route Morehead City and Onslow Bay, North Carolina, to onload 26 MEU(SOC). While transiting, weapons qualifications continued for the crew with .50 cal, 25 mm and M-60 machine gun shoots.

July 31<sup>st</sup>, after completing 26 MEU(SOC)'s onload, WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor en route Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to participate in JTFX scenarios.

#### AUGUST 2001

As August began WHIDBEY ISLAND continued its transit to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for Force Protection training and to take part in Joint Task Forces Exercises (JTFEX) 01-3. Including WHIDBEY ISLAND, over 23,000 joint service and allied personnel and a total of 34 ships participated in JTFX. The exercise, conducted off the East coast, was designed to prepare forces for future forward deployed operations and also served as a final certification opportunity for the ships of the BATAAN Amphibious Ready Group (BATAANARG) and Marines of 26 MEU(SOC) prior to September's deployment.

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 26 MEU(SOC) conducted a practiced an H-Hour assault on the island of Vieques, afterwards ship's company and troops attended Force Protection Training on the turntable. Throughout the amphibious assault exercises being conducted on Vieques, WHIDBEY ISLAND and 26 MEU(SOC) received national media attention. Journalists from major news affiliates arrived on-scene to cover the protests of local Puerto Rican residents, who were calling for the immediate termination of military training exercises on and withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from the island. Despite extraneous distractions, protestors and journalists were kept at considerable distance from all evolutions and in no way inhibited WHIDBEY ISLAND or 26 MEU(SOC) from attaining mission accomplishment.

The Operational Warfare Division tested the ship's Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) during Pre-action Aimed Calibration Fire (PACFIRE), Electronic Warfare Tracking Exercises (EW TRACEX) and a Towed Drone Unit (TDU) shoot on August 5<sup>th</sup>. That evening WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with PATUXENT for fuel UNREP.

August 6<sup>th</sup> 26 MEU(SOC) launched its final H-Hour assault exercise on Vieques. During the "assault", troops of 26 MEU(SOC) landed at the designated time on a small beach, preceded through the terrain via AAVs to acquire and control a strategically advantageous hilltop area. Upon mission completion, 26 MEU(SOC) retuned to WHIDBEY ISLAND only to debark again shortly after for further training and agricultural inspection of all vehicles at Roosevelt Roads.

Prior to pulling into Roosevelt Roads, Force Protection and Anti-Terrorism (FP/AT) training continued for the entire crew to familiarize them with techniques and measure they could employ to prevent and, if necessary, contain covert hostile attacks.

August 8<sup>th</sup> Air Craft Unit FOUR (ACU 4) launched their LCACs from the well deck to join the AAVs in Agricultural Inspections. Once the LCACs departed well deck, WHIDBEY ISLAND continued into port and pre-deployment anti-terrorism exercises began. For the duration of the ship's two-day stay in Roosevelt Roads, Special Forces units attempted to compromise ship security using a variety of methods. Calling on the FP/AT training they had received, the crew was able to detect every effort to violate security.

AAVs and LCACs loaded back into WHIDBEY ISLAND's well deck following their agricultural inspection August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The final exercise on the morning of August 10<sup>th</sup> called for the ship to depart the port on short notice and as swiftly as possible with out the assistance of local tugboats, as if the simulated "host country" had suddenly turned aggressive against the presence of U. S. Forces.

After making its departure from the naval station, WHIDBEY ISLAND began her return transit up the East coat towards Onlsow Bay arriving off North Carolina's coast August 13<sup>th</sup> in support of continuing JTF and Special Operations Capable Exercises.

However, due to warnings of approaching severe weather, the planned SOCEX amphibious assault on Blue Beach was cancelled. Instead, AAVs returned to Camp Legune August 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid the predicted rough seas. That evening, Commander in Charge, United States Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT), ADM Leonard Natter, embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND for a quick tour of ship's spaces and to address all hands. Before answering questions from the assembly, ADM Natter commended the crew and remaining troops for their performance throughout JTFX. He also urged Sailor and Marines, just as RADM Moran had during his June visit, to take every training exercise with the utmost seriousness and be the first line of defense against potential threats and dangers.

WHIDBEY ISLAND and crew returned to homeport a day earlier than expected on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

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August 20<sup>th</sup>, after an awards ceremony and Captain's Call on the flight deck, the firsthalf of Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) leave stand down period began. The 11-day leave period reduced ship's company to duty section personnel only.

As the month of August drew to its close, those members of the crew who did not take first leave period continued to prepare WHIDBEY ISLAND for the approaching deployment.

#### **SEPTEMBER 2001**

September 1<sup>st</sup> the entire crew returned to WHIDBEY ISLAND for a day of turnover before the second POM period began. After each division and department passdown pertinent information and uncompleted tasks with their respective reliefs, the second half of the crew was free to begin their leave period.

Returning crewmembers continued deployment preparations and repairs. Terrazzo and Preservation Re-sealant Compound (PRC) deck upgrades continued in spaces throughout the ship, along with countless working parties to onload necessary stores and equipment.

Advancement exams for first class petty officer were administered on the mess decks September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Interested crewmembers registered for college course through the Program Afloat College Education (PACE) program on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The same afternoon measurements and weigh-ins for the Physical Readiness Test were taken in Medical.

September 11<sup>th</sup>, following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, WHIDBEY ISLAND went to THREATCON DELTA and immediately recalled ship's company. As the recall for those on leave went out, some members of the crew found themselves stranded cross-country with family and friends as airline flights were cancelled nationwide and the supply of rental cars quickly exhausted. Those who were able to return to the ship prepared to get underway as expeditiously as possible should the ship be ordered to join BATAAN and SHREVEPORT; already en route Morehead City to embark troops and proceed on to New York City for assistance in medical and rescue efforts.

The following morning WHIDBEY ISLAND received word to remain in port while repairs and weight testing of the anchor windlass continued. For the next few days WHIDBEY ISLAND and her crew remained at a heightened security alert level while completing last minute preparations prior to deploying.

Advancement exams for E-5 originally scheduled on September 13<sup>th</sup> and the E-4 exam scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> were postponed Navy-wide to October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, crewmembers bid farewell to family and friends as WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor and began the first day of its Mediterranean 2001 deployment. During the transit to embark troops, the Operations Department programmed CIWS to fire several practice rounds while calibrating the system.

WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Morehead City early September 20<sup>th</sup> and commenced the onload of 26 MEU(SOC). The onload was complete in record time, and as the ship weighed anchor for transit to Onslow Bay, local residents and children arrived at the marina with signs and banners in tow wishing departing Sailors and Marines a safe voyage and thanking them for their service.

At the Onslow Bay anchorage, once 26 MEU(SOC)'s onload was complete, WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor and rendezvoused with the BATAANARG before beginning her transit across the Atlantic en route Rota, Spain.

Throughout the transatlantic voyage, WHIDBEY ISLAND took part in a number of exercises, drills and weapons qualifications.

September 21<sup>st</sup>, WHIDBEY ISLAND simulated being a hostile force within the battle group for Surface Warfare Encounter Exercises. The exercise provided hostile targeting information and practice to destroyers in the battle group and, at the same time, allowed WHIDBEY ISLAND (as the hostile) to simulate tracking and firing missile systems.

Training continued with Operational Security Condition drills and Commander SIXTH Fleet Publication Exercises (C6F PUBEX) on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. PUBEX training familiarized ships with operational techniques and requirements for the battle group while deployed in the SIXTH Fleet area.

To familiarize the crew with the danger mines present to a ship as well as mine spotting techniques and countermeasures, mine warfare training was conducted September 24<sup>th</sup>. Later in the day, the bridge and combat teams practiced their close proximity ship handling skills during Leap Frogs maneuvers with BATAAN and SHREVEPORT.

Rosetta Stone PUBEXs performed September 25<sup>th</sup> acquainted the crew with proper procedures for sending message traffic in the SIXTH Fleet operational area.

The ship conducted torpedo countermeasure procedures by streaming Nixie and using evasive steering on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

September 27<sup>th</sup> training concentrated on electronic warfare defense. Throughout the afternoon various Emission Control levels were limiting the transmissions hostile forces might use to detect and track the ship's movement.

The following day defense training shifted to air defense techniques. Using the Ship's Self-Defense System, the Combat team was able to pick-up and track air and surface contacts at considerable distances from the ship.

Commander Carrier Group EIGHT, RADM Mark Fitzgerald, embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND for a brief visit with the wardroom.

September ended with WHIDBEY ISLAND continuing her transit en route Naval Station Rota, Spain, and all hands enjoying a Sunday afternoon steel beach picnic on the flight deck.

#### OCTOBER 2001

After twelve days of transiting and advancing clocks a total of six hours, WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at its first port of the deployment, Naval Station Rota, Spain. Upon completion of stores onload, ship's company and troops enjoyed an evening of on-base liberty. The highlight of the evening was the ship's softball game where the enlisted prevailed 5 to 3 over the officers.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> WHIDBEY ISLAND departed Rota en route Exercise Bright Star off the coast of Egypt. Shortly after departure the ship rendezvoused with BATAAN and SHREVEPORT in order to transit the Straits of Gibraltar together later in the evening. While in transit to the Strait of Gibraltar, KILO Battery and Company Marines received a brief on the proper and safe methods to exit a hovering helicopter via ropes. After the safety brief, troops and interested sailors practiced such a descent using a rope anchored at the 0-5 level "back porch" area down to the boat deck for Fast Rope training.

The E-5 advancement exams postponed in September were held for eligible candidates on the mess decks October 4<sup>th</sup>.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND was "invaded" by Marine Special Purpose Force (MSPF) troops during Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training. As the exercise began, several helicopters approached and began to circle the ship. One by one helicopters took turns hovering over the ship as MSPF teams (complete with weapons and tactical gear) descended to the flight deck via ropes. Once aboard, the MSPF troops raided spaces around the ship, such as the bridge, berthings and engineering spaces to seize control of the vessel. Meanwhile, the helicopters continued to circle WHIDBEY ISLAND providing additional coverage to the MSPF teams by keeping their weapons trained on the ship for the duration of the evolution.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. KILO Company Marines assembled on the flight deck for the Corporal's Course graduation ceremony. In his address to the graduates, First Sergeant of Troops, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt **Set Continue**, challenged the new leaders to continue in their quest to be better Marines and set the example for those they purport to have charge over.

During a two-day Safety Standdown conducted October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> the crew participated in a ship-wide safety inspection to locate, identify, document and take

corrective action on potential hazards. Additionally, refresher courses and training were conducted on Operational Risk Management, Rules of the Road, International Association of Lighthouse Authorities and the Cardinal Buoy System.

As the ship continued its transit to the coast of Egypt the crew had the honor of laying to rest a former plankowner of WHIDBEY ISLAND, Quartermaster and Petty Officer First Class, Ret., Robert Taylor House. As part of the commissioning crew, House was the Leading Petty Officer of the Navigation Division. He died August 11, 2001 at the age of 60 and his remains were committed to the waters of the Mediterranean during a Burial at Sea Ceremony on the morning of October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The fall advancement exam cycle, rescheduled from September, began on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the E-4 exams. Later in the day, an Amphibious Coordination Brief was held aboard BATAAN in preparation for the upcoming Exercise BRIGHT STAR. Ending the day, crew and embarked troops gathered on the messdecks for an ice cream social.

Coordination planning concerning troop and vehicle movement for BRIGHT STAR continued the following day aboard the Spanish warship, SPS GALICIA.

October 13<sup>th</sup> marked the 227<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Navy. In honor of the occasion, the ship's oldest and youngest crewmembers, SKC(SW)

messdecks. Throughout the morning and afternoon, Deck department conducted welldeck cross-training with the crew of GALICIA.

In preparation of troop movement ashore, ship-to-shore movement exercises were conducted October 14<sup>th</sup>. After sunset the Operations Department conducted deceptive lighting and emission control drills.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The bridge and navigation team practiced close-in maneuvering techniques with BATAAN and SHREVEPORT during Leap Frog exercises.

The following morning embarked Marines, as well as their equipment and vehicles, began offload to the coast of Egypt via LCACs for participation in Exercise BRIGHT STAR. After lunch, the Sailor and Junior Sailor of the Quarter boards convened. When the results were announced, the Dental Department came out shining with DT2(SW)

of the Quarter.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN (T-AO 195) for underway replenishment of fuel and USNS SIRIUS (T-AFS 5) for vertical replenishment for stores. Later in the evening, the boat crew assisted Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams in conducting Mine Pounce Exercises using the ship's safety boat.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. AAVs backloaded into the WHIDBEY ISLAND's welldeck. After the backload was complete, visiting members of the Egyptian military attended a shipboard indoctrination to acclimate and familiarize the embarked guests to life aboard a naval vessel during their brief stay.

While tanks and artillery troops conducted field training and prepared for the upcoming amphibious warfare demonstration, LCACs and AAVs again launched from WHIDBEY ISLAND's welldeck in an H-Hour rehearsal assault October 20<sup>th</sup> remaining overnight on the beach before returning to the welldeck the following afternoon.

With the BRIGHT STAR demonstration just days away, ship's company and troops conducted last minute inspections of vehicles and equipment while at the same time rehearsal debriefs and demonstration confirmation briefs were held aboard BATAAN in efforts to ensure full operational readiness and anticipate any last minute obstacles prior to the actual 'assault.'

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND's junior officers, bridge, combat and navigation teams (along with the Spanish, Canadian and English ships participating in BRIGHT STAR) conducted additional training in close-in ship maneuvering procedures during Multinational Amphibious Task Force Divisional Tactics (MNATF DIVTACS). Later in the evening the ship's rendezvoused en route the coast of Cairo, Egypt, to conduct encounter exercises and emission control drills.

After the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, global interest in the multinational amphibious exercise and final demonstration was apparent with the multitude of foreign military and media representatives on hand for the 'assault.' Waves of AAVs from WHIDBEY ISLAND's welldeck along with LCACs hit the beach on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for an H-Hour assault, joining with tanks and artillery already in position for the event. Various aquatic assault vehicles arrived on station, the troops set-up static displays of their weaponry and answered questions from the assembled guests. Commandant and Sergeant Major of the

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U. S. Marine Corps, Gen Jones and Sgt Maj McMichael respectively, as well as Egyptian Military leaders, took the opportunity to address the troops at the conclusion of the demonstration, acknowledging and thanking them for their sustained hard work and outstanding performance throughout the exercise. With the demonstration complete, the backload of all vehicles and equipment commenced, continuing well into the night and following afternoon.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND again rendezvoused with GRUMMAN for an underway replenishment.

October 26<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND's Sailors and Marines enjoyed their first liberty port of the deployment, Marmaris, Turkey. While in port, ship's company and embarked Marines enjoyed local cuisine, shopping and MWR-sponsored tours to destinations such as the Temple of Ephesus and world-famous Turkish Bath Houses. Many Sailors and Marines took advantage of the opportunity to bargain with local vendors on the purchase of detailed area rugs, jewelry or leather coats.

WHIDBEY ISLAND weighed anchor again October 31<sup>st</sup> en route the National Training Continuum.

#### November 2001

November 2<sup>ND</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND aligned the Ship's Self-Defense Systems sensors for accuracy and swifter response to any potential threats. That afternoon a Speed-Lightening Gun Shoot judged the gun crew response and reaction times to possible small boat attack.

WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with fellow ARG ship, SHREVEPORT, to conduct EMCON drills November 5<sup>th</sup>. During the drills, each ship took turns becoming 'silent' of all emissions, while the combat teams of the searching ship tried to locate the silent ship. At the conclusion of the drills, WHIDBEY ISLAND began its transit of the Strait of Ontranto.

The navigation and bridge teams practiced shiphandling skills November 9<sup>th</sup>. With the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group (TRBATGRU) together for DIVTACS, Combat Camera took the opportunity to shoot panoramic aerial photographs of the ships from helicopters circling overhead.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. Commander, SIXTH Fleet, VADM Scott Fry, embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND to address the crew on pending schedule changes for the BATAANARG. The National Training Continuum in Albania as well as Operation NOBLE SHIRLEY was cancelled due to operational commitments in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. KILO Company and Battery troops, ashore when the exercises were announced postponed, used the time ashore in Albania to conduct short Special Operations Capable exercises in preparation for their pending movement into Pakistan and Afghanistan.

After backloading troops November 11<sup>th</sup>, the ship met with SIRIUS for a vertical replenishment of stores the following day.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND took on fuel from GRUMMAN via underway replenishment prior.

The ship transited of the Suez Canal en route the North Arabian Sea November 15<sup>th</sup> and the Strait of Bab el Mandel November 18<sup>th</sup>. Throughout both transits, the crew remained on heightened alert with additional watches and gun crews posted for anti-terrorism/force protection measures.

DKC(SW/AW) between hosted an American-Indian Heritage presentation in the Deck Lounge. For the event, static displays of American-Indian arts and crafts decorated the room and Chief between, an Apache of the Jicarilla tribe, entertained guests with traditional dances, songs and instrumentals. Guest speaker at the ceremony was the Commander of Troops, Capt between between between the conclusion, Sailors and Marines joined on the messdecks for Thanksgiving Dinner (albeit two days early).

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ship took on additional stores in another vertical replenishment with SIRIUS.

The Deck Department held a re-opening ceremony to celebrate the renovation of their new deck office. The ceremony began with a ribbon-cutting (clipped by CDR Hoyle, SA

reception November 25<sup>th</sup>.

ET2(SW) re-enlisted on the messdecks November 26<sup>th</sup>.

As November drew to a close, WHIDBEY ISLAND continued its transit towards the North Arabia Sea. Weapon shoots continued on the flight deck along with Quick Draw drills to speed the gun crew's reaction time to possible threats. The Combat Information Center teams conducted nightly publications exercises designed to increase the teams proficiency in naval warfare tactics. Meanwhile down in the engineering spaces, evening maintenance windows allowed the enginemen to combat the constant wear and tear on the ship's main propulsion diesel engines and ship's service diesel generators from the continuous demands placed upon the parts.

## December 2001

As December began the ship took its position on station in the North Arabian Sea, Task Force WHIDBEY ISLAND's Sailors and Marines kept their focus on training, qualifications and the preservation of Marine vehicles and ship's spaces.

December 1<sup>st</sup>. After a long workday, the crew enjoyed some rivalry between the Armed Forces during the Army vs. Navy football game broadcast over the ship's Direct-to-Sailor Satellite programming system.

Advance elements of KILO Company and Battery were sent ashore to the support operations in progress at Pasni, Pakistan.

Ship's company paused for a moment of silence December 7<sup>th</sup> to remember those who lost their lives in terrorist attack 60 years ago at Pearl Harbor. Later in the morning, the crew learned and practiced first aid techniques during medical stations training.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. In order to give the troops ashore a pleasant break from the issued Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE), WHIDBEY ISLAND's galley crew cooked up a special batch of pizzas for the men ashore in Pasni. The pies were delivered to the Marines via LCACs along with their mail and supplies.

Additional ammunition, combat stores and supplies came in via helicopter during vertical replenishments with USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1) and USNS NIAGRA FALLS (T-AFS 3).

December 14<sup>th</sup>. The remaining Marines of KILO Company and Battery (save a few equipment watchstanders) cross-decked to BATAAN by LCACs before continuing onto locations inside Pakistan and Afghanistan via helicopters.

With a majority of the troops ashore, ship's company continued the push on ship-wide preservation and qualifications training.

WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with USNS JOHN ERICSSON (T-AO 194) and the Italian refueling ship ITS ETNA for underway replenishment.

An awards and frocking ceremony was held on the flight deck December 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a brief Captain's Call.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The ship conducted underway and vertical replenishments with CONCORD and SIRIUS.

Christmas Eve ship's company relaxed and enjoyed the warm, sunny weather during a steel beach picnic on the flight deck and swim call off the stern gate. A candle light service was held that evening in the Deck Lounge.

December 25<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND crew played Santa Claus by delivering mail to the other ship's of the BATAANARG using LCACs. The following day, torpedo countermeasures were practiced during NIXIE STREAM.

WHIDBEY ISLAND rendezvoused with ERICSSON for a second underway replenishment from the ship December 28<sup>th</sup>.

WHIDBEY ISLAND's Sailor of the Year 2001, SK1(SW/SS) sector (SW/SS) selected December 29<sup>th</sup>. Later that evening, a special package was delivered to WHIDBEY ISLAND's deck, the Ground Zero Flag. The same flag that fire fighters raised at the scene of the Twin Towers attack was delivered to the ships of the TRBATGRU to be flown over each of the ship's forward deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Accordingly, ship's company assembled for a flag raising ceremony on December 30<sup>th</sup>. WHIDBEY ISLAND's Executive Officer, LCDR Alan B. Gorski, gave the opening remarks for the solemn occasion. As the Ensign was passed from hand to hand of the color guard, QMCM(SW)

played a rendition of Taps on the trumpet while the Colors flew at half-mast for those who lost their lives in the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

As 2001 came to a close, KILO Company and Battery troops remained on the frontlines in Afghanistan at Kabul and Kandahar or at support posts throughout Pakistan. While the troops remained on the front, WHIDBEY ISLAND continued to provide support while remaining on station off the Pakistan coastline.