



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S.S. SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32)

FLEET POST OFFICE

NEW YORK 09587

5750  
LSD32:00 Ser/088  
21 March 1986

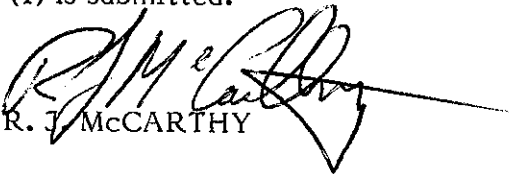
From: Commanding Officer, USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.  
20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF CALENDAR YEAR 1985

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) USS Spiegel Grove (LSD-32) Command History for Calendar Year 1985

1. As required by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
R. J. McCARTHY

USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32)  
COMMAND HISTORY  
FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 1985

On January 19, 1985, CDR Richard J. McCarthy relieved CDR Thomas W. Summerlin as Commanding Officer of USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32).

During the months of January and February the ship made preparations for a scheduled deployment in June to the Mediterranean. Both in-port and at-sea drills in all operational areas were conducted. The ship successfully completed an Inspection and Survey (INSURV) during the period of 25-27 February. A major repair period was scheduled for March in preparation for the deployment.

In mid-March the SPIEGEL GROVE began its Restricted Availability repairs (RAV). During this three-month time frame the ship received extensive repairs to the engineering spaces, mainly the main feed pumps and forced draft blowers, as well as major habitability restoration. Due to problems with the repairs to the forced draft blowers and main feed pumps, the RAV was extended for an indefinite period of time.

In early May SPIEGEL GROVE acted as host ship for the arrival of the newest landing ship dock (LSD) to Little Creek -- The USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41).

From March to December, many personnel attended schools in the Norfolk-Little Creek area to enhance their rating knowledge and to keep the shipboard training level at a maximum. Training included all areas of the ship -- damage control, engineering, operations and deck. Daily on board Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist training during this time resulted in 15 crew members being awarded the ESWS badge. This was a seven-fold increase from the previous year.

In June, amphibious operations involving Army troop units were conducted pierside. These operations contributed to the PQS training of inexperienced deck personnel.

A visit by Naval Academy Midshipmen in July to the SPIEGEL GROVE involved full operational demonstrations by the crew. Flight operations, boat operations, General Quarters drills and amphibious static displays were also held for the midshipmen during a two-day visit.

In late summer the ship's repairs were hampered due to a shipyard strike. The strike lasted approximately two weeks. Shipboard training, however, continued with special emphasis placed on enlisted Personal Qualification Standards (PQS).

At the end of December, the ship began training for a Light Off Exam (LOE) in February 1986. Training for LOE was conducted in the areas of engineering and damage control.



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U.S.S. SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) ✓

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Ser LSD32-00:wcb/ 109

1 April 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC.  
20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF CALENDER YEAR 1986

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer  
(2) Photograph of Commanding Officer  
(3) Photograph of Ship  
(4) Organizational Chart  
(5) December 1986 Roster of Personnel  
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(7) Familygrams

1. As required by reference (a), the 1986 USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) Command History is submitted.

a. Command Composition and Organization:

(1) Mission: Primary mission is to transport troops, Combat Loaded Landing Craft and Amphibious Vehicles to the amphibious objective area, and to launch them as part of Amphibious Assault Waves.

(2) Organizational Structure:

- (a) Immediate Senior in Command: Captain A. J. CONKLIN, Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN
- (b) Commanding Officer: Captain R. J. McCARTHY
- (c) Homeport: Little Creek, VA

(3) Chronology:

- (a) Departmental Excellence Awards, January 1986 (Deck, Communications, Damage Control)
- (b) Light Off Exam, April 1986
- (c) Sea Trials, April 1986
- (d) COMNAVSURFLANT Visit, April 1986
- (e) 3"/50 Caliber Gun Mount replacement (Mount 31 - both guns), April 1986
- (f) Boston, Mass port visit May 1986
- (g) Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada) port visit June 1986
- (h) 30th Birthday (Commissioning), June 1986
- (i) NEY Award finalist for Afloat Units, July 1986
- (j) Golden Anchor nominee for Amphibious Group TWO, October 1986
- (k) Shipboard Quality of Life, Honorable Mention Award Winner, October 1986

- (l) Commanding Officer promoted to Captain, November 1986
- (m) Winner of NAVPHIBASE Captain's Cup 1986, December 1986
- (n) Installation of Vulcan Phalanx Close in Weapons System, December 1986
- (o) Installation of four (4) new Coffin Main Feed Pumps, December 1986

2. Narrative. The ship was in an Restricted Availability (RAV) for the entire year except the months of May and June. The major equipment overhauled/replaced in this RAV were 3"/50 Mount 31 (replaced), all four main feed pumps (replaced), and all four forced draft blowers (overhauled).

3. The supporting documents required by reference (a) are included as enclosures (1) through (7).

  
R. J. MCCARTHY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S.S. SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) ✓

FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09587-1720

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Ser LSD32:LMW:dwb/ 206

1 April 1988

From: Commanding Officer, USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington  
D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY OF CALENDAR YEAR 1987

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer (revised)  
(2) Familygrams / 1987 Calendar year

1. As required by reference (a), the 1987 USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD-32) Command History is hereby submitted.

a. Command Composition and Organization

(1) Ship's Primary Mission: Primary mission is to carry various types of boats, vehicles and construction equipment used in amphibious warfare. Ship also has the capabilities of launching and landing helicopters.

(2) Organizational Structure:

(a) Immediate Senior in Command: CAPT L.L. Lubbs, Commander Amphibious Squadron Ten.

(b) Commanding Officer: CAPT Richard J. McCarthy

(c) Homeport: Little Creek, VA

(3) Chronology:

(a) JANUARY/FEBRUARY Restricted Availability (RAV)  
Installation of four new Coffin Main Feed Pumps

(b) FEBRUARY Light Off Exam (LOE)  
Sea Trials  
Training Readiness Exam (TRE)  
Departure Materials Status Review (DMSR)

(c) MARCH Interim Refresher Training  
(Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)

(d) APRIL Completed Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE)  
Amphibious Training Readiness Exam  
Amphibious Refresher Training

(e) MAY Amphibious Work-ups (Onslow Bay, NC)  
Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM)  
DAMA Installation  
Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR)  
Phases I and II

(f) JUNE	Aviation Readiness Exam (ARE) Departure for Mediterranean Deployment as part of Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 3-87 Embarked Units: ACU-2, BMU-2, ACB-2, Seal Team Two, ANGLICO, TANKS 1/2 (24TH MAU)
(g) NOVEMBER	Return from MARG 3-87 Standdown period
(h) DECEMBER	Standdown period/ Holiday leave period
(i) DEPLOYMENT	MARG 3-87 Depart June 18 from Little Creek, VA  June 19 Embarkation of Marines from 24TH MAU, Onslow Bay/Morehead City, North Carolina  June 20 Depart Morehead City for Rota, Spain  July 1 Arrive Rota, Spain for inchoop/outchop  July 5 Depart Rota for Spanish Amphibious Exercise 2-87  July 5-8 Spanish Amphibious Exercise 2-87 Sierra de Retin  July 15 Transit of Suez Canal (South)  July 23 Cross equator to southern hemisphere  July 25 Arrive Mombasa, Kenya (port visit)  July 28 Depart Mombasa for Somalia  Aug 2-9 Exercise Eastern Wind 1987 Geesaley, Somalia  Aug 15 Transit of Suez Canal(North)  Aug 16-21 Exercise Bright Star 1987 El Alamein , Egypt  Aug 25 Arrive Athens, Greece  Aug 26 Arrive pierside Hellenic Shipyards, Skarmangas For RAV  Aug 26 - Sep 15 RAV

Sept 19 Arrive Capo Teulada, Sardinia for  
Phase I of Exercise Display  
Determination 1987

Sept 21-26 Phase I Exercise D.D. 87

Oct 4 Arrive Saros Bay, Turkey for Phase II  
Exercise D.D. 87

Oct 5-10 Phase II Exercise D.D. 87

Oct 14-15 Turnover to MARG 4-87 at  
Augusta Bay, Sicily

Oct 19 Arrive Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
for IMAV w/ USS ORION & 3M Inspection

Oct 29 Arrive Rota, Spain for Desnailing  
washdown

Nov 1 Underway for U.S.A.

Nov 11 Arrive Onslow Bay, NC for debarkation  
of Marines

Nov 12 Debarkation of Marines at Morehead  
City

Nov 13 Arrive Little Creek , VA/ Pier 15

## 2. Narrative/Commanding Officer's comments:

Deployed to the Mediterranean for Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 3-87 Casrep free. The MARG consisted of USS Guadalcanal LPH-7 (Flagship of COMPHIBRON SIX, CAPT J.T. Murphy), the USS Lamoure County LST-1194, USS Saginaw LST-1188, USS Austin LPD-4 and USS Spiegel Grove LSD-32. The Spiegel Grove was configured for advanced force operations, with components of BLT 1/2, Force Recon, ANGLICO, Tanks, Seal Team Two, Sea Fox and crew, BMU-2, ACB-2, LCU's 1644 and 1645, two LCM-8's, two causeway pusher boats and rubber raiding craft aboard.

The Spanish Phiblex off Sierra de Retin went smoothly in early July. By 11 July, the USS Austin, suffering from engineering casualties, cruised independently to Naples, Italy for material repairs, leaving a four- ship MARG bound for the Suez Canal.

In July 1987, mining of the Persian Gulf (by IRAN) abruptly reconfigured the MARG once again. Seals and Force Recon personnel were sent to the Guadalcanal, while Marines and Marine air assests were distributed among the remaining force. The Guadalcanal would become an air platform for a Norfolk-based helicopter mine-sweeping detachment and detach from the MARG to the Persian Gulf.

Commanding Officer (R.J. McCarthy) Spiegel Grove LSD-32 assumed control of "the mini-MARG that could" and the CO became CTU 76.8.2, better known as COMPHIBRON 32. Spiegel Grove was now CATF and in tactical control of the remaining two LST's, Saginaw and Lamoure County.

The three ship MARG conducted a very successful exercise "Eastern Wind 1987" off Geesaley, Somalia, where daytime temperatures averaged 120 degrees fahrenheit. At

the close of the exercise, casualties to the ship's number two, solo shell evaporator, and extreme sea water injection temperatures reduced feed and fresh water production of the remaining evaporator to zero, forcing the ship to secure her two boilers due to lack of feed water. The Spiegel Grove conducted a "dead stick" move alongside the anchored USS Ponchatoula (TAO 148) using the embarked LCU's, 2 LCM-8's and pusher boats to effect a feed water transfer.

The following message was sent from RADM Smith, CTF 76:

"In the short period of your excursion into the Indian Ocean you have been tested under extreme conditions and have successfully met your mission. Operating in extreme heat of over 120 degrees and with a ship overcrowded with troops from another ship who was unable to sail with you, you successfully completed a highly visible joint/combined amphibious operation. This feat is more noteworthy in that you had this responsibility assigned at the last minute, without staff to assist,.... During the height of the exercise you were further called upon to exhibit the finest sense of seamanship in accomplishing a dead plant move to come alongside an anchored oiler 1500 yards away using organic boating assets under adverse wind conditions. You should be proud of your accomplishments and the performance of your crew under the most arduous circumstances. Well done. RADM Smith"

Exiting the Suez the three ship MARG rejoined the USS Austin and CTF 61 in mid August. Spiegel Grove completed the rest of the deployment without incident. Spiegel Grove had completed all assigned tasks and amphibious exercises during MARG 3-87.

The following message was sent from Commander Amphibious Squadron Six to Commander Amphibious Group Two:

"USS SPIEGEL GROVE is hereby designated as the top operator for the MARG 3-87 deployment. Throughout the deployment she routinely met every operational commitment and her performance in every evolution/exercise was superb. The uniqueness of MARG 3-87 required all units to respond to constantly changing situations and task. This they did, and it all resulted in an outstanding reputation for the Gators of MARG 3-87. Through it all, however, USS SPIEGEL GROVE responded every time, sometimes under the most arduous of circumstances. She was always ready and stood out in her accomplishments."

The following message was received from VADM McCauley, Commander Naval Surface Force, Atlantic:

"SPIEGEL GROVE being designated as Top Operator of MARG 3-87 is noted with extreme pleasure. Superb performance denotes hard work. I'm proud of you. Well done, McCauley."

3. The updated supporting documents are enclosed.

  
R.J. McCARTHY