

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



COMMANDING OFFICER

USS HERMITAGE LSD-34

15 SEPTEMBER 1987

CHANGE OF COMMAND

at which

***COMMANDER
JOHN K. CONDON***

UNITED STATES NAVY

will be relieved by

***COMMANDER
CHARLES H. WILSON
UNITED STATES NAVY***

as

***COMMANDING OFFICER
USS HERMITAGE LSD-34***

The Change of Command Ceremony you witness today is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy Regulations, but rather is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval Tradition. It is a custom wholly naval without an equivalent counterpart in other services. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive—designed to strengthen respect for authority vital to any military organization. This ceremony passing authority and responsibility to yet another fine officer reflects the dedication of free men serving their nation proudly.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Arrival Honors

Official Party Proceeds to Rostrum

National Anthem
U.S. Atlantic Fleet Band

Invocation
Lieutenant Bobitti N. May, CHC, USN

Remarks By
Captain Larry L. Lubbs, USN
Commander Amphibious Squadron TEN

Remarks and Reading of Orders
Commander John K. Condon, USN

Reading of Orders
Commander Charles H. Wilson, USN

Relieving of Command

Presentation of Commissioning Pennant
MMCM David L. Abel, USN

Benediction

Lieutenant Bobitti N. May, CHC, USN

Reception

CAPTAIN LARRY L. LUBBS

UNITED STATES NAVY



COMPHIBRON TEN

Captain Larry L. Lubbs is a native of Manlius, Illinois, and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1961. His first at sea assignment was USS SPINAX (SS 489) homeported in San Diego. After attending Polaris Navigation Training, he served on the precommissioning crew of USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN 665) and made two Polaris deterrent patrols. Captain Lubbs then served at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in the Submarine and FBM Training branch from November 1967 to July 1968. His next assignment was on board USS BLUEBACK (SS 581) homeported in

Pearl Harbor. From August 1973 until May 1974, Captain Lubbs attended Graduate School at the University of Hawaii where he completed study for a Master of Arts in Political Science.

In September 1974, Captain Lubbs assumed command of USS BONEFISH (SS 582). Upon completion of his command tour in June 1976, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel where he served as the Washington Placement Officer for two years. Captain Lubbs then attended the National War College in Washington, D.C. prior to reporting as Executive Officer, USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20).

Following his tour in MOUNT WHITNEY, Captain Lubbs was assigned to Commander Naval Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as Force Plans Officer for 10 months followed by assignment as Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, Manpower, Administration and Facilities for a period of 21 months. Captain Lubbs then commanded USS MOUNT WHITNEY from 01 March 1985 to 20 January 1987.

Captain Lubbs' awards include two Legions of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals and three Navy Commendation Medals as well as numerous service and campaign medals.

Captain Lubbs is married to the former Jeanne Hanson of Thomas, Illinois. They have two daughters, Cheryl and Jill.

CDR JOHN K. CONDON

UNITED STATES NAVY

Commander John K. Condon of Cambridge, Massachusetts enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1964 and subsequently completed a one year tour in South Vietnam, after which he was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) at Bainbridge, Maryland. Upon graduating from NAPS, while earning the USNA Class of 1942 Award for Leadership and Scholastic Achievement, Sergeant Condon was sworn in as a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967.

Commander Condon graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1971 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Analytical Management. Following graduation, he was commissioned as a Ensign in the U.S. Navy and was assigned as Main Propulsion Assistant and Navigator on board USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. (DD 850); and was then assigned as Weapons Officer on board USS GLENNON (DD 840). In March 1976, he was assigned as a student at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs in June 1978. He was then assigned as Engineer Officer on board USS MANITOWOC (LST 1180) and was next assigned as Flag Secretary on the Staff of Commander Amphibious Group TWO. Commander Condon then assumed command of USS WELSH (PG 93) where he remained until that ship's decommissioning. He then served in USS PENSACOLA (LSD 38) as Executive Officer. He was next assigned as Amphibious Readiness Officer on the newly commissioned staff of Commander Amphibious Squadron TEN, where he was later reassigned as Chief Staff Officer. Commander Condon assumed command of USS HERMITAGE (LSD 34) on 16 July 1985. During his present tour as Commanding Officer, USS HERMITAGE was awarded the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy as "the most improved unit in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet".

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (Gold Star in lieu of second award), Navy Commendation Medal (Third Award), Combat Action Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and various other campaign and service ribbons.

Commander Condon is married to the former Mary Ellen Mulvaney of Haverhill, Massachusetts, and they reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia with their three children, Matthew, Mark, and Elizabeth.



CDR CHARLES H. WILSON

UNITED STATES NAVY



Commander Charles H. Wilson, a native of Silver Spring, Maryland, was commissioned at the University of Idaho NROTC Unit in January 1970. His initial duty assignment was to the commissioning crew for USS WHIPPLE (DE-1062) where he served as Electronics Material Officer and completed his initial Surface Warfare qualifications.

Subsequently, CDR Wilson served as Executive Officer of USS IMPERVIOUS (MSO-449), Weapons Officer of USS LAWRENCE (DDG-4), First Lieutenant of USS SAIPAN (LHA-2), and Executive Officer of USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113). His varied assignments have taken him across the

Arctic Circle, the International Date Line, and the Equator, and through both the Suez Canal and Panama Canal.

CDR Wilson received a Master of Science in Engineering Electronics with distinction from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in June 1976. From March 1981 to July 1983, he taught Electrical Engineering at the United States Naval Academy. CDR Wilson is a proven subspecialist in Electrical Engineering and Weapons Systems Engineering. Most recently, he served as a Project Supervisor in the Airborne Tactical Cryptologic Programs Branch of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

CDR Wilson wears the Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Navy Achievement Medal with two gold stars, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

In June 1969, CDR Wilson married the former Miss Trevalyn Maffit of Boise, Idaho. The Wilson's daughter, Jacquelyn Hope, was born 18 November 1986.

SHIP'S HISTORY

USS HERMITAGE was constructed by Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation, Pascagoula, Mississippi. Her keel was laid April 11, 1955 and the ship was launched June 12, 1956. She was commissioned as USS HERMITAGE (LSD 34) on December 14, 1956, the second ship to be named after the estate of President Andrew Jackson. The first USS HERMITAGE (AD-54), was the former Italian Passenger Liner SS Conte Biancamano and served as a troop transport during WWII. After the war she was decommissioned and returned to Italy in 1947.

After reporting for duty in the Atlantic Amphibious Force in January 1957, the intervening years have been filled with numerous deployments and amphibious operations, one which provided helicopter transportation for PRESIDENT EISENHOWER during his visit to Asia in 1959.

In 1964, HERMITAGE participated in Exercise Steel Spike off the Spanish Coast. This was the largest peace-time Navy-Marine exercise ever to take place on foreign shore and involved more than 60 ships and 25,000 men. Further amphibious operations took her to the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Vietnam in 1967. Following a shipyard overhaul in 1973, she participated in two more cruises as part of the Caribbean Amphibious Ready Group.

In July 1975, HERMITAGE sailed to the Mediterranean for numerous amphibious exercises and weeks of intensive training. A few weeks after returning from the cruise, HERMITAGE participated in the emergency earthquake relief mission to Guatemala by transporting clothing and a large quantity of road building equipment. In April 1976, she was part of Exercise Solid Shield, an annual multi-service East Coast training operation. In late August, she departed for Northern Europe to participate in combined NATO air, land and sea force exercises.

In April 1977, HERMITAGE deployed to the Mediterranean and participated in Exercise Dawn Patrol and Display Determination, returning to homeport in October 1977. She again deployed to the Mediterranean in 1979, after a lengthy overhaul and Refresher Training, returning to Little Creek in February 1980. August saw HERMITAGE underway in the North Atlantic to participate in the large NATO exercise Teamwork '80.

HERMITAGE deployed to the Mediterranean in January 1981. Three months into the cruise, Mideast tensions necessitated anchoring off the coast of Lebanon. She returned to homeport in July 1981.

In late January 1982, HERMITAGE set sail for Panama and supported combined U.S. Army and U.S. Navy exercises in defense of the Panama Canal. After blue water workups in April, the ship again set sail for the Mediterranean. Five of six months were spent in support of peace efforts to resolve Middle East tensions. On June 24, HERMITAGE transported 181 U.S. and U.S. sponsored citizens from the Lebanese port of Juniyah to safety in Larnaca, Cyprus. On August 25, HERMITAGE assisted the evacuation of the newly formed Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon. HERMITAGE remained at anchor off Beirut until late October in support of the peace keeping force.

USS HERMITAGE was relieved on station in November 1982 and proceeded to Morocco for a joint training exercise with the Moroccan Navy. HERMITAGE returned to homeport November 25, 1982.

In January 1983, HERMITAGE began regular overhaul at Horne Brothers Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia.

In July 1984, HERMITAGE deployed to the Mediterranean participating in Display Determination '84 and in November 1985, she deployed to the Mediterranean, taking part in Sardinia '86 and returning to homeport in June 1986.

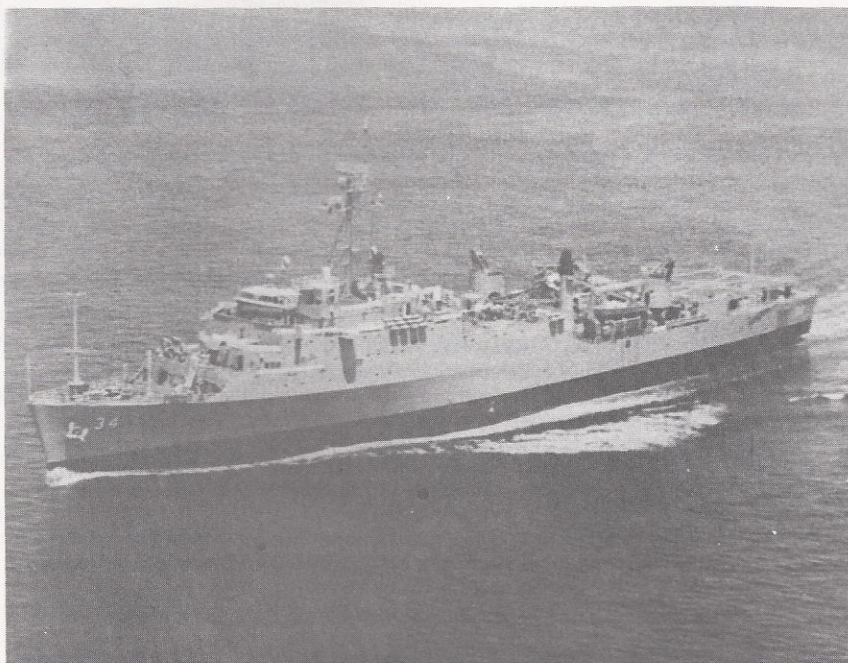
In August 1986, she began a short overhaul period at Sparrows Point Shipyard in Baltimore, Maryland.

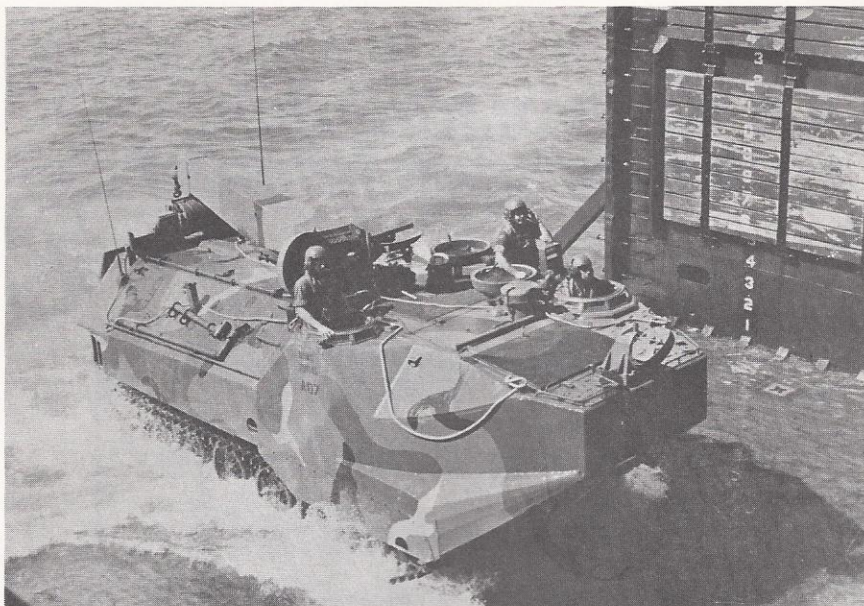
In October 1986, HERMITAGE received the Battle Efficiency "E" and Top Gator awards for outstanding performance and also received the prestigious Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy as the "most improved ship or unit in the Atlantic Fleet." These awards were based on HERMITAGE's performance during an 18-month battle efficiency competitive cycle (1 April 1985 to 30 September 1986).

In January 1987, HERMITAGE underwent Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, returning to homeport in March 1987.

SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS

Length	510 feet
Beam	84 feet
Normal Cruising Speed	16 knots
Maximum Speed	23 knots
Fresh Water Daily Distilling Capacity	40,000 gals
Displacement, Fully Loaded	12,150 tons
Normal Cruising Radius	9,864 Nautical Miles
Normal Underway Draft	18 feet
Normal Ballasted Draft	33 feet
Present Ship's Company	22 Officers, 305 Enlisted





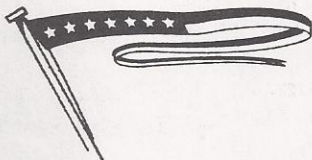
MISSION

The mission of the Landing Ship Dock is to transport and launch loaded Amphibious Craft and Vehicles with their crews and embarked personnel in an Amphibious Assault on enemy shores, to render limited docking and repair service to small ships and craft and to act as a control ship in an Amphibious Assault.

The importance of combined Amphibious Operations in modern war has resulted in the development of many specialized vessels. The Dock Landing Ship is the modern version of the Floating Dry Dock of World War II. Its ballast tanks give HERMITAGE the capability of changing her depth in the water and thus flooding her large well deck. Small amphibious assault craft can then be launched to carry men and equipment to the enemy beachhead. HERMITAGE can also embark 300 combat equipped Marines which can be landed on a beach by amphibious assault craft.

The ability of the LSD to transport, launch and land helicopters further extends her capabilities. HERMITAGE can land helicopters of the Navy/Marine Corps on the aft Flight Deck. The capability enables this ship to land combat troops inland of the beach assault area and strike the enemy from his exposed position. The use of helicopters also enables HERMITAGE to rapidly evacuate casualties and easily resupply troops and bring in more equipment as the beachhead is secured.

COMMISSION PENNANT



The origin of the commission pennant is said to date back to the 17th century, when the Dutch were fighting the English. Admiral Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead, to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. The gesture was soon answered by the English admiral who hoisted a horsewhip, to indicate his intention to chastise the Dutch. The British carried out their boast and ever since, the narrow, or coachwhip, pennant (symbolizing the original horsewhip) has been the distinctive mark of a vessel of war and has been adopted by all nations.

The commission pennant, as it is called today, is blue at the hoist, with a union of seven white stars; it is red and white at the fly, in two horizontal stripes. The number of stars has no special significance but was arbitrarily selected as providing the most suitable display. The pennant is flown at the main by vessels not carrying flag officers. In lieu of the commission pennant, a vessel with an admiral or other officer in command of a division, squadron, etc., or a high ranking civil official aboard, flies the personal flag or command pennant of that person.

USS HERMITAGE

PAST COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain L.A. PARKER, USN
January 1957 - November 1957

Captain D.R. JEX, USN
May 1968 - September 1969

Captain J.M. ALEXANDER, USN
November 1957 - November 1958

Captain W.L. McDONALD, USN
September 1969 - September 1970

Captain V.J. SOBALLE, USN
November 1958 - November 1959

Captain D.E. RYDER, USN
September 1970 - September 1971

Captain R.K. KAUFMAN, USN
November 1959 - August 1960

Commander H.T. WALSH, USN
September 1971 - April 1973

Captain G.H. ROOD
August 1960 - August 1961

Commander J.D. LAURANCE, USN
April 1973 - January 1975

Captain W.R. TYLER, USN
August 1961 - September 1962

Commander R.E. DEEGAN, USN
January 1975 - January 1977

Captain J.R. WIER, USN
September 1962 - September 1963

Commander J.R. THOMAS, USN
January 1977 - January 1979

Captain H.S. WARREN, USN
September 1963 - May 1964

Commander V. DEKSHEN: EKS, USN
January 1979 - March 1981

Captain J.C. DONALDSON, USN
May 1964 - October 1965

Captain D.A. STOUFER, USN
March 1981 - February 1983

Captain J.E. McCAULEY, USN
October 1965 - April 1967

Commander R.S. BECKETT, USN
February 1983 - July 1985

Captain H.S. MATHEWS, Jr., USN
April 1967 - May 1968

Commander J.K. CONDON, USN
July 1985 - September 1987

Commander C.H. WILSON, USN
September 1987 -

TOP GATOR



**BATTLE
"E"**

**ARLEIGH BURKE
FLEET TROPHY**