

From: Commanding Officer, USS ANCHORAGE (LSD 36)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH) Washington  
Navy Yard, Washington D.C.

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS ANCHORAGE  
(LSD 36) CY 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVISNT 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization/Command  
History  
(2) Chronological Sequence of Events  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Letter from the CO  
(5) May Awards Ceremony Listing

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures 1 through 5 are forwarded as the history for the USS ANCHORAGE (LSD 36) for 2002.

M. E. CEDRUN

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

**Command:** USS ANCHORAGE (LSD 36)

**Unit Identification Code (UIC):** 07203

**Mission:** To embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in an assault by helos, landing craft, amphibious vehicles or by a combination of these methods.

**Immediate Senior Command:** COMPHIBGRU THREE (CPG3)

**Name of Commander:** CDR Mark E. Cedrun, USN

**Permanent Duty Station:** Naval Station, San Diego, 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

**Aircraft Assigned:** None

1. USS ANCHORAGE is the first ship to be named after the largest city of Alaska. USS ANCHORAGE (LSD 36) was launched at Pascagoula, Mississippi, on 5 May 1968 and commissioned on 15 March 1969 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. ANCHORAGE's primary mission is to embark, deploy and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in an assault by helicopters, land craft, and amphibious vehicles or by a combination of these methods.

2. ANCHORAGE insignia portrays both the origin and meaning of her name, including the reason for her existence, and depicts that she is the first of her type in a new class of Dock Landing Ships. Symbolized in the anchor and cube are stability and security, which this ship will provide for the United States Navy on the high seas.

3. ANCHORAGE's Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) is Commander, Amphibious Group THREE (CPG3).

4. Personnel Chart:

Commanding Officer	CDR K.V. Flowers/CDR M. E. CEDRUN
Executive Officer	CDR N. Rangel
Command Master Chief	
Operations Officer	
Engineering Officer	
First Lieutenant	
Supply Officer	
Navigator	
Training Officer	

## CHRONOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
<u>JANUARY</u>	
1-10	Holiday Leave Period
11	Second Holiday Leave Period Completed
14-18	Assessment of Equipment Condition/Industrial Hygiene Survey
22-25	TSTA Engineering Underway
28-31	AST Underway
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
5-13	AST/UD Rehearsal/UD Final Underway
6-8	Force Protection Exercise
24	Assigned to CDS-23
25-28	Force Protection Exercise Phase IV
<u>MARCH</u>	
1-15	First Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Stand down
15-29	Second Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Stand down
<u>APRIL</u>	
1-3 Apr	Command PRT
4 Apr	Shake down underway
5	Pre Deployment Family Day Cruise underway
8	Underway for CARAT 02 Deployment
14-16	PVST Pearl Harbor, Load MDSU 5
27-29	PVST Okinawa, Load LF CARAT
<u>MAY</u>	
5-10	PVST Maura, Brunei (CARAT)
5	Offload LF, MDSU
6	CARAT Opening Ceremony
9	Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's)
11	COMREL Project at Pulaie Disability Center Backload LF
11-14	PVST Maura, Brunei
12	Sports Day and BBQ Cookout, Closing Ceremony Backload MDSU
13	Closing Ceremony
15	Offload LF, Indonesia
16	King Neptune Visits ANCHORAGE
18-25	PVST Bali
26-29	PVST Surabaya, Indonesia (CARAT)

27 Opening Ceremony  
31 Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's)

**JUNE**

1 PVST Surabaya, Indonesia  
8-13 PVST Sattahip, Thailand (CARAT)  
11 COMREL Project at Mabfagthong School  
12 Sports Day and BBQ Cookout Sattahip, Thailand  
14 Anti-Terrorism Scenario I and II  
16 Amphibious Assault Rehearsal  
17 Amphibious Assault  
18-19 PVST Sattahip, Thailand  
19 Closing Ceremony  
21-25 PVST Kuantan, Malaysia (CARAT)  
22 Opening Ceremony  
22 Sports Day and BBQ Cookout with Malaysian Navy  
27 AAV Operations  
28 Embark LF Equipment  
29 Aviation Amphibious Raid Rehearsal  
30-1 July PVST Kuantan, Malaysia  
30 Amphibious Raid

**JULY**

1 Closing Ceremony  
2-9 PVST Changi Naval Base, Singapore, PRC (CARAT)  
  
2 Opening Ceremony/Offload EODMU, LF, MDSU  
4 Sports Day and BBQ Cookout with Singapore Navy  
5 Base Defense Scenario I and II with RSAF  
9 Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's)  
EOD Response at Sea Fastrope Scenario  
  
11 Closing Ceremony  
11-12 PVST Changi Naval Base, Singapore, PRC  
10 Backload LF, EODMU, MDSU  
Closing Ceremony  
17 Offload LF, EODMU, MDSU  
20 Anti-Terrorism Scenario I and II  
COMREL Project, JIREH Home Orphanage  
21 COMREL Project, TO GOD BE THE GLORY Orphanage  
23 Embark LF  
24 Amphibious Raid Rehearsal  
Backload LF, MDSU, EODMU

25 Amphibious Raid  
26 CARAT Closing Ceremonies  
27 Underway to San Diego, CA

**AUGUST**

29 ANCHORAGE returns to homeport, San Diego  
29-31 INPT SDGO Upkeep

**SEPTEMBER**

1-30 INPT SDGO Upkeep

**OCTOBER**

1-7 INPT SDGO Upkeep  
8-11 Underway DLQ's (Deck Landing Qualifications)  
15-17 Underway OPTEST AAV's (Advanced Amphibious  
Assault Vehicles)  
17 Underway  
Burial At Sea Ceremony  
18-31 INPT SDGO, Availability

**NOVEMBER**

1-30 INPT SDGO, Availability

**DECEMBER**

5 Deadstick Move to Pier 12  
9-10 Force Protection Drills  
11 Deadstick Move to Pier 9  
17-27 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday Leave Period  
27-31 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Leave Period

## NARRATIVE

USS ANCHORAGE opened 2002 completing its holiday leave period, ending in mid-January, and starting an assessment of Equipment Condition and Industrial Hygiene Survey. ANCHORAGE stood ready to meet all commitments and excelled in all respects of the survey, getting the year off to a great start. During the last week of January, ANCHORAGE completed a highly successful TSTA Engineering Underway, followed by a AST Underway.

On February 5, ANCHORAGE began its final preparations for Underway Demonstration. Then came a Force Protection Exercise. The end of the month brought on assignment to CDS-23 and Phase IV of the Force Protection Exercise.

The beginning of March began ANCHORAGE's Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) Stand down, the first leave period from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> and the second from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, when the crew said good-bye to loved ones and made final preparations for CARAT 2002.

The semi-annual Command Physical Fitness Test started off April. One last Shake Down underway on the 4<sup>th</sup> ended the pre-deployment preparations, followed by a Family Day Cruise the next day. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, ANCHORAGE, began its 2002 CARAT Deployment, heading first to Hawaii. ANCHORAGE made its first port visit in Pearl Harbor from 14-16 April, embarking MDSU 5 and headed further West, ending the month with the onload of CARAT Landing Force in Okinawa, Japan from 27-29 April.

The beginning of May brought two working port visits to Maura, Brunei and Ketapang, Indonesia, the first from 5-10 May, and the second from 12-14 May. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, King Neptune visited the ANCHORAGE and with him, brought the Crossing of the Line Ceremony for 470 Sailors and Marines, as the ANCHORAGE crossed the equator. The old Navy tradition of Crossing the Line turned those uninitiated crewmembers from slimy Wogs to Shellbacks. Two days after the ceremony, ANCHORAGE stopped in Bali, ending the month with a four day stop in Surabaya, Indonesia. During the month, ANCHORAGE also participated in its first of many Community Relations (COMREL) projects.

June brought on more port visits for ANCHORAGE, as the crew reached the middle of the deployment, with stops in Sattahip, Thailand and Kuantan, Malaysia. The crew had two weeks in each port, getting underway on the last of the month to head to Singapore. The month was highlighted by an Amphibious Raid, aiming to hone the amphibious skills of the participating countries.

The first two weeks of July were spent with a port visit to Changi Naval Base, Singapore, including opening ceremonies, sports day and a BBQ cookout with the Singapore Navy personnel. The ANCHORAGE crew spent the last of July working on another two COMREL projects and participating in two anti-terrorism exercises and another amphibious raid.

After five long months out to sea, ANCHORAGE returned to its homeport of San Diego, CA on 29 August, and remained there for the next two weeks, enjoying a well earned post deployment stand down.

October eighth found ANCHORAGE underway again, this time for four days of DLQ's, after which she returned to homeport. Four days later, she left again, acting as the test platform for the Marine Corps prototype Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV). Before heading back, ANCHORAGE performed a Burial at Sea Ceremony. After returning, ANCHORAGE began a short availability, lasting to the end of November. The end of November and the beginning of December brought on possibilities of another deployment, this time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Force Protection drills and excelled engineering work remained the focus for majority of December, before ANCHORAGE began its holiday leave periods, starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and ending on the 31<sup>st</sup>. After barely being able to wind down from a mid-year deployment, ANCHORAGE again faced the chance of another deployment, unsure of when or for how long. ANCHORAGE also prepared for Northern Edge and INSURV, both to begin early the next year.

2002 was an outstanding year in all respects for ANCHORAGE. The ship was able to deploy for five months overseas for CARAT 2002, OPTEST the new AAAV, and then undergo a vast array of maintenance in preparation for an unexpected deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. "FIRST IN CLASS! SECOND TO NONE!"