



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MONTICELLO (LSD-35) ✓
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From: Commanding Officer, USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH). Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FISCAL YEAR 1984

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35) Command History 1984

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is herewith submitted.


G. W. ERIEL

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COMNAVSURFPAC (Code 021)

USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35)
COMMAND HISTORY
1984

As 1984 commenced, USS MONTICELLO (LSD 35) was inport making final preparations for her eighteenth deployment to the Western Pacific. On January 17, 1984, she sailed west with Amphibious Squadron FIVE.

After a week of convoy operation exercises, MONTICELLO pulled into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 23 January 1984 and commenced final preparations for the first Amphibious Exercise of the deployment. Code named Kernel Blitz 84-1, the exercise, involving all units of Amphibious Squadron FIVE, took place on the southeast coast of the islands of Oahu and Kauai.

After a brief inport period in Pearl Harbor, MONTICELLO and her squadron mates sailed, from Hawaii, on 31 January to continue the deployment. After inchooping into the Seventh Fleet on 6 February, MONTICELLO and USS THOMASTON sailed north to join USS ST LOUIS and Task Group 76.7.

Following a series of brief stops in White Beach, Okinawa and Pohang, South Korea for onloading and offloading various USMC elements, MONTICELLO pulled into Sasebo, Japan on 20 February for a one week upkeep.

March 1984 began with MONTICELLO once again heading for White Beach, Okinawa. While inport White Beach, MONTICELLO developed main engine bearing problems and had to return to Sasebo for emergent repairs. MONTICELLO left Sasebo on 8 March for White Beach and the onload of USMC elements for Exercise Team Spirit 84.

Enroute, MONTICELLO experienced a casualty to one of her main reduction gear and had to divert to Yokosuka, Japan for emergent repairs. With repairs completed and elements of BLT 3/2 loaded, MONTICELLO sailed on 14 March 1984 for Pohang, South Korea. Arriving in Pohang on 16 March 1984, MONTICELLO began transferring some of her Marine elements to other Amphibious Squadron FIVE units in final preparation for Team Spirit 84, which lasted from 18-27 March.

After the completion of Team Spirit, MONTICELLO headed for Pusan and a five day port visit from 28 March - 1 April 1984. From there it was two weeks of transporting various USMC elements between Pohang and White Beach.

MONTICELLO left White Beach on 17 April for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Arriving during the pre-dawn hours of 20 April, MONTICELLO and USS THOMASTON along with embarked elements of BLT 1/1 conducted LANDEX ZAMBALES in the entrance to Subic Bay, RP. With the landing completed by mid-morning, MONTICELLO commenced a 3 week upkeep with SRF, Subic Bay.

MONTICELLO left Subic Bay on 6 May for a 5 day port visit to Hong Kong, BCC from 8-12 May 84. During the visit, MONTICELLO hosted the Royal Navy in a luncheon onboard 10 May 84.

MONTICELLO returned to Subic on 15 May 84 for upkeep and final planning for Balikatan 84, a joint US-Republic of the Philippines Amphibious Exercise.

Scheduled from 21-31 May 84, the exercise took place on the west coast of Luzon Island.

During the exercise, MONTICELLO developed problems with her feed tanks and returned to Subic Bay for two weeks of repairs.

MONTICELLO left Subic Bay on 15 June and started her trip home via White Beach to offload BLT 1/1; then proceeded to Yokohama, Japan to onload marine elements for operation "Quickjab" on Tinian Island; then to Tinian to offload the marine elements; and then on to Guam for one last upkeep in Seventh Fleet.

MONTICELLO arrived in Guam on 1 July and departed on 7 July heading east. After a brief stop in Pearl Harbor on 18-19 July, to embark "Tigers", MONTICELLO sailed into San Diego on 27 July, completing her 18th and supposedly last deployment.

Immediately after deployment, MONTICELLO began a number of availabilities and upkeeps in preparation for an uncertain future.

The future began to take shape in late September when MONTICELLO was informed that she would be steaming with Amphibious Squadron ONE, enroute to Hawaii for a Naval Beach Group Exercise.

Sailing on 18 October, MONTICELLO departed San Diego enroute to Pearl Harbor. Arriving 25 October, MONTICELLO commenced final loading of Marine elements for her part in the exercise which was being conducted in support of Fleet-Ex 85-1. The exercise lasted from 27-31 October 84.

After the exercise, MONTICELLO sailed to Lahania, Maui for a four day port visit, and then to Port Allen, Kauai to onload the USMC 2nd LAABN, a light anti-air missile battalion.

MONTICELLO arrived back in San Diego on 16 November, but not before successfully completing NGFS qualification at San Clemente Island.

Upon arrival on 16 November, MONTICELLO was informed that she would again deploy in March 85 to support Seventh Fleet Amphibious Operations. MONTICELLO closed out 1984 by making preparations to go through a fast paced beginning cycle starting in January 1985, in order to be ready once again for perhaps her final overseas deployment.