



**USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)**

**FLEET POST OFFICE**

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From: Commanding Officer, USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)

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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 May 1971

Encl: (1) USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) Command History, 1976

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

*H. B. Dowse*  
H. B. DOWSE

1. Command History

a. USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13) was flagship for Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX, commanded by Commodore William Guthrie, USN, from the beginning of the year until 13 JUL 76

b. The Commanding Officer of USS NASHVILLE from 1 JAN 76 was Captain George E. Mueller, USN.

c. On 4 JUN 76 Captain Mueller was relieved as commanding officer by Captain Herbert B. Dowse Jr., USN.

d. On 13 JUL 76 Amphibious Squadron SIX moved off NASHVILLE; the ship, however, remained administratively attached to PhiBron SIX until 1 SEP 76 when it was changed to Amphibious Squadron TWO, commanded by Captain George E. Mueller, and served as flagship.

2. Summary of Operations

a. Chronology

1-8	January	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
8-9	January	Ammo Anchorage
9-21	January	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
21-22	January	Morehead City, North Carolina
22-27	January	Underway Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
27 January - 2 February		Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
2-4	February	Curacao, New Amsterdam
4-15	February	Anchored Vieques Island
15-21	February	Morehead City, North Carolina
21 February-29 March		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
29-31	March	Virginia Capes
31 March - 11 May		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
11-13	May	Morehead City, North Carolina

13-21	May	Anchored Onslow Beach, North Carolina
21-23	May	Underway Norfolk, Virginia
23 May - 4 June		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
4-6	June	Ammo Anchorage
6-9	June	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
9-15	June	Underway San Juan Area
15-19	June	Anchored Vieques Island
19-21	June	Pierside Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
21-25	June	Pierside Vieques Island
25-28	June	Anchored Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
28 June - 3 July		Underway New York Harbor
3-4	July	International Naval Review
4-7	July	Moored Bayonne, New Jersey
7-12	July	Underway Norfolk, Virginia
12-19	July	Inport Norfolk, Virginia
19-24	July	Anchored Onslow Beach, North Carolina
24 July - 31 August		Inport Norfolk, Virginia
31 August - 15 September		Underway North Atlantic
15	September	Anchored Scapa Flow, United Kingdom
		Underway Same Day
15-17	September	Underway
17-19	September	Anchored Orlandsbutke, Norway
19-20	September	Underway
20-24	September	Anchored Namsenfjorden, Norway
24-26	September	Anchored Lyngsfjord, Norway
26-29	September	Underway Oslo, Norway

29 September - 4 October	Inport Oslo, Norway
4-5	October Underway Copenhagen, Denmark
5-9	October Inport Copenhagen, Denmark
9-12	October Anchored Nymiddegab Bevel, Denmark
12-14	October Underway
14-19	October Anchored Esbjerg, Denmark
19-21	October Inport Rotterdam, Netherlands
21-22	October Underway Kiel, Germany
22-27	October Inport Kiel, Germany
27 October-10 November	Underway Norfolk, Virginia
10-29	November Inport Norfolk, Virginia
29 November - 4 December	Virginia Capes
4-31	December Inport Norfolk, Virginia

b. Narrative.

NASHVILLE's 1976 year started off pierside in Norfolk from 1-8 January. On the morning of the eighth, NASHVILLE got underway for Hampton Roads Ammo Anchorage. After a short trip, and once anchored, we began the slow, cautious process of unloading ammunition. After staying overnight and completing the load the following day, the ship returned to Norfolk. The following days were spent preparing for the upcoming Caribbean cruise. The week of 12 January was a busy one with the pre-sail conference held at the Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center at the Destroyer and Submarine Base in Norfolk. This week gave the ships of Amphibious Squadron SIX a chance to simulate operating together, and a general schedule of operations to be conducted in the Caribbean. NASHVILLE entered Morehead City, N. C. the morning of 22 January (picking up Marines and their equipment) and sailed the same day to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Various types of training were conducted during the five-day transit. After a few days of operations in the Guantanamo Bay area, the ship headed south for liberty in Curacao, New Amsterdam. The crew enjoyed two days' liberty at this beautiful Dutch port. It was then underway on 4 February for Vieques Island and amphibious training. Invaluable operations were conducted between 4 - 14 February, including

operation "Rum Punch". A few short trips to the Naval Base, Roosevelt Roads, were also included in this time period. After close to one month of training operations, NASHVILLE left Roosevelt Roads on the evening of 15 February for Morehead City. The ship pulled into Onslow Beach on 20 February to conduct an amphibious off load of embarked Marines, and later entered Morehead City to finish the equipment off load. The same day NASHVILLE left for Norfolk.

NASHVILLE remained pierside Norfolk from 21 February until 29 March. The ship got underway on 31 March for operations in the Virginia Capes Area. Then it was back to Norfolk on 1 April. From 1 April to 11 May, NASHVILLE remained in Norfolk. NASHVILLE got underway for exercise "Solid Shield"--a joint service exercise conducted annually off the coast of North Carolina and a good opportunity to practice our amphibious skills with the embarked Marines in a working situation. NASHVILLE returned to Norfolk on 29 May.

On 4 June Captain George E. Mueller was relieved by Captain Herbert B. Dowse Jr., USN, as Commanding Officer. Captain Mueller's new assignment was as Commander Amphibious Squadron TWO. On 9 June NASHVILLE steamed from Chesapeake Bay to Morehead City to onload Marines. The ship left the evening of 14 June for Vieques Island and arrived the following day. While in the Vieques area the ship conducted amphibious operations with visits to Roosevelt Roads until 28 June.

NASHVILLE headed for New York Harbor and the International Naval Review. The ship reached the harbor on 3 July along with the ships from many nations to help celebrate America's 200th birthday. President Gerald Ford visited the ship on the afternoon of the Fourth to review the Tall Ships. NASHVILLE remained in New York until 7 July when it left for Norfolk, via Morehead City. NASHVILLE remained in Norfolk from 12-19 July, then back to Onslow Beach for one week of amphibious training. Upon returning to Norfolk, the crew welcomed the upcoming one month inport period commencing 24 July. The ship sponsored a dependent's cruise in mid-July.

On 31 August NASHVILLE was underway for the North Atlantic Ocean, stopping at Morehead City to load Marines and BLT 1/8. After two weeks of training, enroute, the ship anchored at Scapa Flow, U.K., on 15 September. The pre-sail conference was held the same day. It was then underway for exercise "Teamwork '76"--a large-scale NATO exercise conducted in the North Sea, climaxed by an amphibious landing in Namsos Fjord, Norway. The beginning of October brought liberty at Oslo, Norway. The ship spent five days at the Norwegian capital.

ON 4 October NASHVILLE steamed for another liberty port, Copenhagen, Denmark. The ship arrived at this Danish port on 5 October and despite some rainy and cold weather, the stay was most enjoyable. On 9 October the ship got underway for exercise "Bonded Item". Once again, the ship had the opportunity to conduct amphibious operations. From 19-21 October the ship made a port call to Rotterdam.

NASHVILLE arrived at the German port of Kiel on 22 October to pick up embarked Marines who travelled overland from Denmark during "Bonded Item" at Esperjg, Denmark. After five days of liberty, NASHVILLE began its transit back to the United States. On 9 November embarked Marines were off loaded and NASHVILLE arrived in Norfolk.

NASHVILLE remained inport from 11-19 November. From the 19-24th the ship was underway for local operations in the Virginia Capes area to conduct airborne mine countermeasures training. (NASHVILLE was the first Atlantic Fleet LPD to be certified for Airborne Mine Countermeasures Operations with RH 53D helicopters). The ship returned to Norfolk for the holiday season after a long and rewarding year.