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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS PONCE (LPD-15)
FPO NEW YORK 09501

IN REPLY REFER TO

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PONCE (LPD-15)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History (Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS PONCE (LPD-15) Command History 1974

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

D. L. Glunt
D. L. GLUNT

USS PONCE (LPD-15)

COMMAND HISTORY

1974

I. Command Organization.

A. Commanding Officers

1. Captain George W. Farris, USN - 10 July 1971 to 9 May 1973
2. Captain William B. Warwick, USN - 9 May 1973 to 16 May 1974
3. Captain David L. Glunt, USN - 16 May 1974 to present

B. Amphibious Squadron Assignments

1. Amphibious Squadron TWO - 1 January 1973 to 30 September 1973
2. Amphibious Squadron FOUR - 1 October 1973 to 31 December 1974

II. Chronological Summary of Operations for 1974.

USS PONCE (LPD-15) started off 1974 in her homeport of Norfolk, Virginia following the completion of a six-week Caribbean deployment as part of the CARIB 2-73 Amphibious Ready Group. PONCE remained in-port until 29 January when she proceeded to the VACAPES OPAREAS for two days of gunnery exercises. Most of February was also spent in-port. On 19 February, PONCE was getting underway for a four-day operation with Commander Mobile Mine Countermeasures Command. This exercise involved the operational testing and evaluation of PONCE as an operating platform for the MK 105 helicopter-towed minesweeping sled. 4 March saw PONCE once more underway - this time for participation in MINEX 1-74, another evaluation of PONCE integrated into an AMCM (Airborne Mine Countermeasures) operational environment. PONCE was visited during this exercise by RADM B. McCauley, COMINWARFOR, and Captain Vechione, COMOMCOM. PONCE returned to Norfolk on 13 March remaining until 16 April when she proceeded to the VACAPES OPAREAS for ISE. On 17 April, while making an approach on USS MISSISSINAWA during an underway replenishment exercise, PONCE collided with the oiler. After returning to port, PONCE was again underway on 29 April to participate in SMART SALUTE, an amphibious exercise off the coast of Onslow, North Carolina. On 15 May, PONCE hosted a change of command ceremony for Amphibious Squadron FOUR. On 16 May, Captain D. L. Glunt, Jr., relieved Captain W. B. Warwick as Commanding Officer. USS PONCE was once more underway on 25 May, this time to participate in exercise SOLID SHIELD, a two-week amphibious operation at Onslow, North Carolina. During this exercise, PONCE also assisted the Air Force in an evaluation of the effectiveness of a drone reconnaissance aircraft while being controlled from an at-sea platform. VADM Vannoy, COMPHIBANT, and VADM HOUSER, Deputy CNO for Air Warfare visited PONCE during SOLID SHIELD. PONCE returned to Norfolk on 6 June. On 25 June, PONCE sailed for Northern Europe with 400 Midshipmen from the U. S. Naval Academy on summer training (NATRONLANT 74). Ports visited during NATRONLANT-74 by USS PONCE included Rotterdam, Netherlands from 6 - 9 July and Portsmouth, England from 12 - 17 July. PONCE returned to her homeport from NATRONLANT-74 on 28 July 1974. PONCE remained in Norfolk until 19 August when she sailed for a week of type-training with Amphibious Squadron FOUR followed by a TACTEST at Onslow Bay, North Carolina. PONCE returned to Norfolk on 29 August. The month of September was mostly spent in-port preparing for an upcoming

six month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. On 25 September, PONCE was underway for the Mediterranean with Second Battalion Eighth Marines embarked. Prior to reporting to Commander Sixth Fleet for duty, PONCE (with Amphibious Squadron FOUR) participated in exercise ALIEN GOLD off the coast of Ireland from 4 through 10 October. This exercise was an evaluation of the effectiveness of the AV-8 Harrier jet aircraft in an ASMD (Anti Ship Missile Defense) environment and as a primary means of defense for an amphibious convoy against surface and air threats. U. S. P-3A, U. K. VULCAN and U. S. A-6 and A-7 aircraft off USS AMERICA comprised the attacking aircraft. Following exercise ALIEN GOLD, PONCE visited Southampton, England from 12 through 15 October. PONCE arrived in Rota, Spain on 20 October and reported for duty to Commander Sixth Fleet. On 23 October, PONCE sailed from Rota as part of Task Force 61 enroute to Lovo Santo, Corsica, while BLT 2/8 operated ashore with the French Foreign Legion. PONCE arrived Lovo Santo on 26 October with TF 61, participated in PHIBLEX 4B-75 and sailed independently for Monaco on 30 October, arriving on 31 October. PONCE departed Monaco on 6 November enroute to Brindisi, Italy for another port visit from 9 through 16 November. On 16 November PONCE anchored off the coast of Brindisi to participate in a Training Anchorage with TF 61, while BLT 2/8 operated ashore with the San Marco Battalion. On 23 November, PONCE sailed with TF 61 for Salerno, Italy for another Training Anchorage from 25 through 29 November. PONCE arrived in Naples, Italy on 30 November for a two-week Tender Availability period and routine port visit. On 17 December, PONCE departed Naples enroute to Capo Teulada, Sardinia to join with TF 61 in the conduct of PHIBLEX 6-75, from 18 through 21 December. During this PHIBLEX, PONCE was visited by Vice Admiral Turner, Commander Sixth Fleet. PONCE sailed from Sardinia on 21 December enroute to Barcelona, Spain where she finished out the year while on a routine port visit/holiday leave period and dependent's charter.