

5750  
Ser LHD 5/119  
4 Jun 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS BATAAN (LHD 5)  
To: Naval Historical Center (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 2003 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) USS BATAAN (LHD 5) Command History 2003  
(2) Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Timeline  
(3) Official Biography of the Commanding Officer  
(4) Official Biography of the Executive Officers  
(5) Official Biography of the Command Master Chief

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

/s/  
N. W. TYSON

**USS BATAAN (LHD 5)  
COMMAND HISTORY 2003**

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP TWO, Little Creek, Virginia

COMMANDER: Rear Admiral Reubin B. Bookert

Ship's Mailing Address: USS BATAAN (LHD 5), FPO AE 09554-1657  
UIC: 21879

Commanding Officer:	Captain Earle S. Yerger
Executive Officer:	Captain Nora W. Tyson (January 12 to December 12) Commander Troy L. Hart (December 12 - December 31)
Command Master Chief:	CMDCM(SW/DV) Scott Kingsley

Department Heads & Key Positions

Administrative Department:	Lieutenant Commander Betty Hill
AIMD Department:	Commander David Peacott
Air Department	Captain Michael Zamesnik
C5I Department	Commander David Flick
Deck Department	Lieutenant Commander Homer Denius
Engineering Department	Lieutenant Commander Paul Evans
Medical Department	Captain Thomas Tandy
Operations Officer	Commander Jon Dachos
Supply Department	Commander David Pry
Training Department	Warrant Officer Phillip Terrazas
Chaplain	Commander Kieran Mandato
Safety Officer	Lieutenant Commander Randy Dossey
Security Officer	Lieutenant Junior Grade Douglas Jackson
Security Manager	Lieutenant Commander Michael Wallace
Public Affairs Officer	JOC(SW/AW) Michael Viola
CMEO	Ensign Clifton Williams
DAPA	ATCS Jim Dickinson
Command Fitness Leader	ITC(SW/AW) Reggie Woodley
BATAAN's Ombudsmen	Ms. Debbie Moore Ms. Sandy Baxter

## MISSION AND CAPABILITIES

In her role as flagship of an Amphibious Ready Group, USS BATAAN (LHD 5) is designed specifically for positioning off the shore of an international trouble spot. When necessary, BATAAN will insert Marine forces and their cargo and equipment ashore with helicopters and Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) hovercraft. BATAAN is capable of an amphibious assault, aerial strike, advance force and special purpose operations as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions.

Commissioned September 20, 1997, USS BATAAN is 844 feet from bow to stern and 106 feet across the beam. Two steam propulsion plants combine to produce 70,000 shaft horsepower, which can propel the ship to speeds in excess of 25 knots. It is equipped with command, control, communications, computer and intelligence (C5I) systems, which provide connectivity to support Warfare Commanders' tactical objectives. BATAAN also houses an extensive medical facility, which includes a 600-bed hospital, second in capacity only to the Navy's hospital ships.

As the first Navy ship designed and built from the keel up with accommodations for female Sailors, BATAAN provides living space for nearly 450 female officers, chiefs, enlisted personnel and embarked Marines. BATAAN is outfitted to accommodate a combined total of approximately 3,200 Sailors and Marines.

BATAAN's assault support system coordinates horizontal and vertical movement of troops, cargo and vehicles. The monorail trains move at speeds up to 600-feet-per-minute and transport cargo and supplies from storage and staging areas throughout the ship to a 13,600 square-foot well deck. There, troops, vehicles and cargo can be loaded aboard landing craft for transit ashore. The LCAC can "fly" in and out of the well deck, or the well deck can ballast down for conventional craft, such as the Landing Craft Unit. Simultaneously, helicopters and Harrier "jump" jets can be brought from the hangar bay to the flight deck by the ship's two deck-edge elevators, and loaded with supplies and weapons from three cargo elevators.

The ship's armament system includes the NATO Sea Sparrow Surface Missile System for anti-air warfare protection, two Rolling Airframe Missile Systems and two Phalanx Close-in-Weapons System mounts to counter threats from low-flying aircraft and incoming missiles. Six missile-decoy launchers augment BATAAN's anti-ship missile defenses.

## CHRONOLOGY

### Command Employment:

DATE	
12 JAN 03 - 25 JUN 03	OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OPERATION ENDURING FORCE OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
13 AUG 03 - 21 AUG 03	PVST Staten Island, New York
16 SEP 03 - 20 SEP 03	Hurricane Isabel Sortie
24 OCT 03 - 26 OCT 03	JAX Airshow
17 NOV 03 - 24 NOV 03	V-22 Testing
08 DEC 03 - 13 DEC 03	TCAT

### Significant Exercises and Operations

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM - BATAAN supported COMFIFTHFLEET and Commander Task Force FIVE ONE in the destruction of elite Republican Guard Units deep inside Iraq. After being detached on 22 May, BATAAN transited the Red Sea, entered the Mediterranean Sea and returned to Norfolk, VA. 25 June 2003.

### Operational Command Shifts

On 3 February 2003, BATAAN chopped from SECOND Fleet to FIFTH Fleet. BATAAN returned to SECOND Fleet on 03 June 2003 and assumed duties and responsibilities as SECOND Fleet Flagship 15 September 2003.

### Command Elements onboard BATAAN during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM:

Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-ONE, Detachment TWO  
Naval Beach Group TWO, Detachment  
Assault Craft Unit FOUR, Detachment  
Helicopter Support Squadron SIX, Detachment  
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, Mobile Unit TWO

Retention Status: BATAAN had 141 re-enlistments in CY-03 of which 39 provided more than \$475,000 in Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses.

Zone	CNSL Goals	BATAAN	BATAAN
		Last 12 Months	Last Qtr
A	56%	54%	58%
B	73%	100%	100%
C	86%	100%	100%

ESWS Qualifications:

E-1 through E-9 225

EAWS Qualifications:

E-1 through E-9 325

Troop Embarkation

USS BATAAN (LHD 5) had elements of TASK FORCE TARAWA embarked from 12 January through 25 June 2003 when they disembarked in Onslow Bay, N.C.

Departmental Inputs

AIMD

Prepared for around the clock aircraft combat readiness support, AIMD ensured 166 Navy and Marine Corps personnel in 22 production work centers performed scheduled/unscheduled maintenance support for 26 AV-8B Harriers making it the largest operational "Harrier Carrier" LHD, including the first deployment of the MH-60S onboard BATAAN. Completed over 6,400 repair actions, resulting in a Ready-For-Issue rate of 96 percent, a production efficiency rate of 99 percent, supporting a combat mission sortie completion rate of 95 percent during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

Focused on team work and combined CNO readiness goals for embarked type/model/series aircraft, AIMD held 88 percent Mission Capable (MC) and 82 percent Full Mission Capable (FMC) rates. Team BATAAN surpassed both goals during deployment, achieving a monthly MC/FMC rate of 88/79 percent and Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Activity turn-around time (TAT) for the average repair was 22 days less than the CNO limit established for new stock allowance determination.

AIMD was directly responsible for coordinating with multiple TYCOMs and 2nd MAW to obtain a portable nitrogen generator, an LHD first, resulting in the capability to produce nitrogen onboard, eliminating the need for ship-to-ship transfer of 3,000 PSI nitrogen cylinders, saving over \$24,000 and countless man-hours in support of embarked units and ships of Task Force FIVE ONE.

Instituted and managed the repair and return program with MALS-14 embarked in SS WRIGHT. Planned, coordinated, and tracked the repair cycle ensuring full accountability and expeditious turnaround of components exploiting a local repair activity and directly contributing to aircraft combat availability. Ensured maximum availability of Defensive Electronic Countermeasures (DECM) Pods and stores management computers to support combat sorties during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

AIMD's Aviation Hydraulic Shop completed 2,572 repair actions and manufactured 50 hose assemblies in support of Task Force FIVE ONE ships, resulting in a 95 percent ready for issue rate and savings of \$153,100 in Depot Level repair costs.

## AIR

BATAAN's Air Department continued its tradition of excellence in 2003 by surpassing numerous aviation related records for an L-class ship she had set in 2002. The first half of the year was marked by an unexpected wartime deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. BATAAN embarked 24 AV-8B aircraft from VMA-223 and VMA-542 plus two additional AV-8Bs from USS BOXER for a total of 26 aircraft, bringing them to America's War on Terrorism as part of Commander Task Force FIVE ONE.

Upon completion of its six-month deployment as the Navy's first "Harrier Carrier" on 25 June, the Air Department continued operating the best deck in the fleet in support of numerous, short duration underway periods. The month of September brought an emergency sortie for Hurricane Isabel. In October, she supported the Jacksonville Air Show. In November, the Air Department ensured the V-22 Osprey Program experienced one of its most successful shipboard testing periods to date, significantly expanding the aircraft's wind-over-the-deck operational envelopes. Finally, in December 2003, BATAAN Air Department supported mixed rotary and fixed-wing Marine aircraft operations in support of TCAT-03.

Not only did the BATAAN Air Department establish new benchmarks for an L-Class ship during 2003, but did so safely. Not one reportable aircraft/equipment mishap or personnel injury occurred in over eight months of extremely high tempo, fast-paced at-sea operations. Air Department's Crash and Salvage Crew responded to several aircraft emergencies, including two CH-53E hung nose gears, six AV-8B engine fires, and nine chip indications from various aircraft. All emergencies were handled with the utmost professionalism and without any further aircraft damage or personnel injuries.

From deployment flight-time records, to the total number of take-offs and landings, fuel transferred/received and an enviable safety record, the Air Department firmly maintained its position as the finest on the waterfront in 2003.

### **CY-03 Flight Hours**

PLATFORM	DAY	NIGHT	TOTAL
Rotary	769.4	471.6	1241.0
Fixed	601.6	1546.8	2148.4

### **CY-03 Landings**

PLATFORM	DAY	NVD	UNAIDED	TOTAL
Rotary	2,162	571	535	3,459
Fixed	965	370	182	1,517

### **Other record setting evolutions:**

Total aircraft moves: 7,051  
Elevator Evolutions: 1,257  
JP-5 transferred: 2,363,055 gallons

### C5I Department

This year, C5I Department faced an enormous challenge when the order came for a last-minute deployment. The department had to face many obstacles to ensure a safe and successful deployment. In spite of these hurdles, C5I Department accomplished much.

Throughout the year, Combat Ordnance Division was a major contributor to BATAAN's operational success and mission readiness. A large part of their contribution pertained to the onload and offload of ammunition. In January, the Aviation Ordnancemen loaded over 1,500 pallets of ammunition at NWS Earle, New Jersey. Once in theater, BATAAN offloaded over 1,000 pallets of ground force ammunition and unloaded over 900 pallets of additional aviation ammunition at Kuwait Naval Base. While transiting the Atlantic, heading west and home, BATAAN conducted a major underway ammunition transfer with USNS MOUNT BAKER (TAE 34). During this evolution, over 400 pallets were transferred to MOUNT BAKER and 375 pallets were received. These momentous movements of ammunition were time consuming and difficult, but the Aviation Ordnancemen pulled it off without incident.

The unexpected deployment forced CR division to put together no less than six different COMPLAN shifts throughout the transit which they did, seemingly effortlessly.

The Gunner's Mates continued training the ship's force in the use of small arms and crew-served weapons and ensured USS BATAAN was ready with the increased security requirements after September 11th terrorist attacks. They held numerous gun shoots, training every possible crewmember for full participation in the ship's defense. This extensive training enabled CG division to man 21 gunnery stations under the "Alamo" watchbill, through various choke points throughout the transit, which required heightened security.

With the ship requiring an enormous number of parts, there was (as always) difficulty procuring the financial backing necessary to keep USS BATAAN operating at her highest level. Through extensive financial wrangling, 2M saved the ship \$309,000 in repair money.

Capping C5I's accomplishments last year, the department had 40 personnel qualified as Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and 56 personnel qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. This was approximately 45 percent of the total number of command qualifications.

### Operations Department

BATAAN successfully steamed 11 out of 12 months in 2003. From Operation IRAQI FREEDOM I to preps for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II (December 2003), the Operations Department planned and executed flawless operations. After BATAAN's designation as SECOND Fleet Flagship in September 2003, Operations Department coordinated the transfer of SECOND Fleet Staff from USS MOUNT WHITNEY to USS BATAAN.

## COMBAT CARGO

On 3 January, within 10 days of receiving word that the ship was to deploy, Combat Cargo began loading cargo and advance party personnel of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Operation ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM. BATAAN unloaded 1,000 Marines in order to expedite the amphibious onload off the coast of Camp Lejeune, N.C. the morning of 13 January and commenced the amphibious onload using the three embarked Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) hovercrafts. It was a safe and expeditious onload and was completed by the evening of 14 January.

The following dates are the major movements of personnel and equipment in support of Operations ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM, in country offload, re-deployment, and CONUS offload.

**- 12-14 Jan (Onload Norfolk/Onslow)**

1900 Personnel  
175 Vehicles  
74 pallets of LFORM Class I, III, and IV  
270 tons of Cargo  
16 AV-8B Harriers  
6 CH-53 Super Sea Stallions

**- 15-18 Feb (Offload Kuwait Naval Base (KNB))**

1500 Personnel  
175 Vehicles  
140 tons of Cargo  
6 CH-53's

**- 15-18 Feb (Received via cross deck)**

10 Harriers/150 Personnel/30 tons of Cargo

**- 20 Feb-5 May**

Executed almost daily movement of passengers, mail, and cargo via LCAC between USS BATAAN (LHD-5) and USS Pearl Harbor (LSD-52) in order to prevent flight deck from being fouled IOT support continuous Harrier flight operations. Moved over 680 passengers, 150,000 lbs of mail, and 450,000 lbs of cargo.

**- 6-18 May (Onload KNB)**

1300 Personnel  
144 Vehicles  
50 tons of Cargo  
6 CH-53's

**- 10-12 May (Offload KNB)**

16 Harriers/200 Personnel/40 tons of Cargo

**- 22-23 Jun (Offload Onslow, N.C.)**

1650 Personnel  
144 Vehicles  
170 tons of Cargo  
10 AV-8B Harriers  
6 CH-53's

15-31 October

Embarked, conducted amphibious assaults, and an Onslow offload of JAX SPMAGTF personnel and equipment in support of the Jacksonville, Florida Sea and Sky Spectacular. Embarking over 100 personnel, 7 AAVs, and 2 HMMWVs in support of amphibious capability demonstration.



### 7-11 December

Coordinated planning, tours, and underway demonstration for LHA Replacement (LHA-R) Team. Specifically addressing troop and equipment embarkation and debarkation flow. As well as identified LHA TARAWA class and LHD WASP class amphibious strengths and weaknesses to the LHA-R Team members. Conducted Type Commander Amphibious Training (TCAT) 1-04 with 10<sup>th</sup> Marines (MAGTF-10). Embarked over 600 personnel and 70 vehicles in support of amphibious assault.

### Jan-Dec 03

Conducted tours for Basic Logistics and Embarkation Specialist Course Marine students, Unified Combatant Commanders, Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare Course, National Defense University, Argentine Naval College, Deputy Chief of the Netherlands Defense Staff, and National War College students focusing on amphibious operations and capabilities of USS BATAAN.

### DECK

Significant evolutions conducted:

Conducted 41 underway replenishments.

Received more than seven million gallons of DFM.

Received more than four million gallons of JP-5.

Received more than 600 pallets of stores, mail and supplies via CONREP.

Completed more than 370 sill crossings during LCAC operations.

Completed 12 wet-well operations with LCUs.

Completed more than 20 precision anchorages.

Painted and preserved the entire port and starboard side of the ship while inport Norfolk.

Conducted over 26 mooring evolutions with great emphasis on training and professionalism.

Safely transited the Suez Canal with Master Helmsmen driving the ship.

Overhauled and preserved several prominent departmental spaces during a vigorous PMA, including upper and lower vehicle stowage areas non-skid replacement, ship's forecastle making it the ship's ceremonial area used for re-enlistments and awards ceremonies major portions of the well deck, the ship's refueling stations, departmental berthing spaces, and the ship's small boats.

Achieved 100 percent combat readiness within two weeks of receiving deployment orders in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II.

Received TAD Sailors from various commands, to train and mentor during underway operations and amphibious operations.

### MEDICAL

The Medical Department was the 2003 recipient of the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet Unit Wellness Green "H" Award. This marks the ship's 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive Green "H" Award.

In December, the Medical Department was given short notice of a possible deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II. Even upon such short notice, the Medical Department received a C-1 readiness status on their Medical Readiness Inspection, a score indicative of the highest state of shipboard medical readiness. In late December, Fleet Surgical Team TWO embarked for the OIF II deployment and participated in departmental training and ship's drills.

The Medical Department treated over 2,800 patients during the past year, filling over 3,000 prescriptions and dispensed in excess of 10,000 over the counter medications. During OIF I, the department administered over 6,500 immunizations, including screening and administration of over 5,000 Smallpox and Anthrax vaccinations to ship's company and embarked Marine elements. Upon completion of the ship's deployment in support of OIF I, over 3,500 Sailors and Marines had received the DOD mandated Post Deployment Health Screening, which included face-to-face interviews with the ship's Senior Medical Officer.

Seven medical officers completed PQS requirements, earning designation as Surface Warfare Medical Department Officers.

### SUPPLY

In January 2003, BATAAN was underway on an unscheduled deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM I. The Supply Department ordered 9,000 critical items valued at \$5 million, deployed with zero CASREPs and attained 100 percent on hand/on order stock items. Received and stowed provisions to support 45 days of operations, loaded 200 pallets of on ship's store items and sodas, 25 pallets of hazardous material and received over 100 pallets of storeroom items in a two week period.

While deployed in support of OIF I, BATAAN ordered over 11,000 Fleet Issue Load List (FILL) items and processed 6,800 Logistics Requirements (LOGREP) materials. BATAAN did five major Replenishment-At-Sea (RAS)/VERTREP and took over 1,200 pallets of FFV, sodas, and storeroom items, while offloading over 100 pallets of hazardous material retrograde and trash. Also during the war, Supply maintained BATAAN's aircraft with an 88 percent Full Mission Capable and 82 percent Full Mission Capable rate, while completing over 6,600 flight hours. BATAAN completed the deployment with 50 percent fewer off-ship requisitions than the L-Class average. Throughout the deployment, Food Service supported the morale of the crew by hosting numerous Heritage Committee events such as Martin Luther King's Birthday, Black History Month, Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Fat Tuesday, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Cinco de Mayo, monthly birthday meals and numerous other events. In March, BATAAN's Supply Department was awarded the COMNAVSURFLANT "Blue E" for logistics excellence. This was the fourth consecutive year BATAAN won this coveted award.

In June, BATAAN returned from deployment after 195 days underway with a multiple of successes. Upon return, the HAZMAT division offloaded another 50 pallets of retrograde, clearing much of the expired or useless material from BATAAN's storerooms in preparation for INSURV.

In late summer, the Wardroom Division hosted the JAX Airshow with 200 Jacksonville residents and veterans in attendance. The Wardroom Division also played host to Commander, Second Fleet when the ship got underway for Hurricane Isabel. BATAAN's Food Service also opened the first Starbucks on an Atlantic Fleet Ship. In August, the Post Office received an "Outstanding" grade for their Postal Inspection from the Fleet Postal Office.

On November 7th, the Food Service Division took part in BATAAN Appreciation Day. The event brought over 150 survivors from WWII to USS BATAAN for an afternoon and evening of socializing and fine dining. It was a "black tie" affair for over 300 people in the hangar bay which was transformed into a magnificent ballroom.

In December, BATAAN was notified of an upcoming short fused deployment for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II. Supply Department used the holiday standdown to load over 250 pallets of food, over 50 pallets of HAZMAT and over 50 pallets of ship's store material.

During the course of 2003, the Supply Department conducted over 20 Replenishments At Sea (RAS). The Sales Division loaded over 300 pallets of stores, had over \$2,300,000 in sales and contributed over \$300,000 in profits to MWR. The Ship's Laundry process over 200,000 lbs of bulk laundry for the year and pressed over 10,000 pieces of Officer and CPO work uniforms. The enlisted barbershop provided over 3,000 haircuts while the Officer and CPO barbershop provided over 2,000 haircuts for the year.

#### TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Held PACE courses for 268 personnel, resulting in 32 bachelor degrees being obtained. Obtained over 300 in-rate and NEC driven courses in order to keep BATAAN at her highest state of readiness. Administered 95 CLEP, 99 SAT, and 45 Academic Skills for English and Math to shipboard personnel during an intense deployment period.

Coordinated an inaugural VTC of the Afloat Safety course, which graduated 37 students.

Conducted Video Teleconference College courses with Old Dominion University for 16 personnel, thereby allowing them to obtain their Masters degrees.

Held School of the Ship indoctrination courses for 368 newly checked in personnel, qualifying them in basic DC, 3-M and QA 301, allowing respective departments to better employ them upon their return.

Maintained M1 and M2 mission ratings throughout the deployment to OIF keeping BATAAN at the top of CPG-2's readiness capability.

Integrated seven shipboard training teams which, consequently, kept BATAAN one of the most well trained and flexed battle ready ships on the East Coast. Direct results were the nomination for the Battle "E", and the winning of all 5 required excellence awards.

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM TIMELINE & HIGHLIGHTS:

30 Dec 02	96 Hour Tether
30 Dec 02	Second Leave Period Cancelled
07 Jan -11 Jan 03	Ammo Onload NWS Earle, New Jersey
11 Jan 03	Receive Deployment Order
12 Jan 03	Norfolk Onload (1,000 Marines)
12 Jan-16 Jan 03	Onslow Bay Onload
17 Jan 03	Begin Atlantic Transit
29 Jan 03	Strait of Gibraltar (STROG) Transit
03 Feb-10 Mar 03	Operation ENDURING FREEDOM
04 Feb 03	Suez Canal Transit
16 Feb-20 Feb 03	Offload Kuwait Naval Base
10 Mar-19 Mar 03	Operation ENDURING FORCE
20 Mar-31 May 03	Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
01 Jun 03	Suez Canal Transit
06 Jun 03	Port Visit, Lisbon, Portugal
12 Jun-21 Jun 03	Atlantic Ocean Transit
21 Jun-24 Jun 03	Offload
25 Jun 03	Return to Homeport

### Highlights:

- Crossdecked VMA 223(-) to BATAAN and HMH 464 to KEARSARGE bringing AV-8 complement to 24
- Flew 1,400+ combat hours/797 combat sorties
- Pumped over 1.5M gallons of JP-5
- 122 tons of ordnance expended
- Strike Cell supported 797 combat sortie, with 146 targets, analyzing over 820 images in 42 killboxes.
- AIMD processed 3,592 items/3,394 made RF1/94.5% ready for issue /99.7% production effectiveness rate.
- Engineering kept BATAAN steaming for 116 days/over 9,000 NM without a port call.
- Burned over 7,992,555 gallons of F-76 (DFM).
- LCACs hauled 681 pax/150,000 lbs of mail, 450,000 lbs of cargo since 15 Feb (vice Vertrep in order to keep flight deck clear for flight ops).
- 147 days at sea (one of the longest periods for an Amphib).
- 26 Harriers on one deck at sea (Most in Amphib History).



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS BATAAN (LHD 5)**

**FPO AE 09554-1657**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

3460

LHD5 Ser/

**MAY 24 2004**

From: Commanding Officer, USS BATAAN (LHD 5)  
To: Director, Navy Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breese ST  
SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Subj: OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM HISTORICAL ARTIFACT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3460.7A  
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.13  
(c) NAVSEAINST 8370.2

Encl: (1) Photograph and Description of prospective artifact

1. During deployment to the North Arabian Gulf, our Navy and Marine Corps Team performed a variety of amphibious and sea control missions to search for and interdict enemy forces. Elements of Task Force Tarawa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines, engaged the enemy in Iraq and encountered a number of training and operational sites.

2. A second machine gun, which we believe to be a historical artifact, was recovered and is described in enclosure (1). In accordance with references (a) through (c), we request your assistance with the classification of this recovered item. Our intention is to:

a. Register the item with your office, providing you with descriptive data for cataloging.

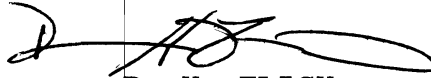
b. Permanently place the item in a secure display case as a thematic historical display to remind the crew of the command's contribution to the war effort.

c. Advise NAVSEASYSKOM of the acquisition of the weapon for addition to the Navy's small arms database.

Subj: OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM HISTORICAL ARTIFACT

3. My point of contact is Lieutenant Junior Grade Jennifer Moore, Gunnery Officer. The following contact information is provided:

C5I Dept/CG Division  
USS BATAAN (LHD 5)  
FPO AE 09557-1657  
DSN: 564-4203  
Email: moorej@bataan.navy.mil



D. K. FLICK  
By direction

Description of weapon

Artifact: AK-47  
Total Length: 34.5"  
Barrel Length: 16.25"  
Bore Diameter: .25"



Encl (1)