USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7)
Mediterranean 2008/2009 Deployment Summary

IWO JIMA's deployment included the following highlights:

- 21Jul – As part of Commander, Task Force 59, USS Iwo Jima and 24 MEU(SOC) Marines arrive on station and provide crucial departure assistance to nearly 15,000 American citizens in Lebanon looking to leave the troubled region.
- 26Aug – Hosted visit by RADM Richard W. Hunt, Commander Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa
- 10Oct – Hosted visit by Commander, U.S. Central Command Gen. John Abizaid
- 18Oct -Hosted approximately 60 DVs as part of DoD-sponsored Joint Civilian Orientation Conference.
- 195 Sailors enrolled in various college courses during this deployment.
- Qualified 4 Surface Warfare Officers
- SWSCO – 1 qualified
- SWMDO -- 5 qualified
- 300 Sailors and Marines participated in 5 community relations projects organized by the ship's Chaplain's Office.
- (MWR TOURS) 845 Sailors took advantage of tours offered in 6 ports

OPTEMPO

- Second Fleet: 163 of 212 days underway
- Fifth Fleet: 30 of 35 days underway
- Sixth Fleet: 121 of 157 days underway
- Second Fleet: 12 of 20 days underway

Exercises/Events

- Exercise Red Reef
- Exercise Iron Magic/FOTK/FO Trident Knight
- Exercise Shamal

Liberty Ports

- Manama, Bahrain
- Haifa, Israel
- Augusta Bay, Sicily
- Jebel Ali, UAE
- Kuwait
- Rota, Spain

Nautical Miles Traveled

- 33,012.6

PERSONNEL

Qualifications

- ESWS Qualified/Requalified: 181
- EAWS Qualified/Requalified: 139

Reenlistments and Retention

- Zone A: 63.5%
- Zone B: 81.5%
- Zone C: 88.9%
- Zone D: 100%

SUPPLY

Food

- Meals served during deployment: 1, 624,977
- Meals served per day: 11,629
- Food Cost per day: avg $5,091,594.60
- Food Provisions Loaded: 1,303 pallets
- Eggs Served: Fresh 27,000 Frozen 33,600 DZ
- Burgers: 7,915 LB

Postal Services

- Mail received 207,613 lbs
- Outgoing Mail 49,725 lbs
- Stamp Sales $46,485.05

Services

- Ship's Store sales- $ 1,045,544.29
- Soda Sales- $ 182,043.45
- Laundry: 140K lbs
- Hair Cuts: 6K

Dental

For the cruise the dental department consisted of one ship's company dental officer, one MEU dental officer, one ship's company registered dental hygienist, 3 ship's company dental technicians, and 2 MEU dental technicians.

- Annual and Emergency dental exams: 1,315
- Fillings placed: 1023
- Cleanings performed: 705
- Root canals completed: 13
- Extractions performed: 88
- Total patients seen: 3,144
- Teeth transplanted: 0
- Trauma with teeth repositioned, re-implanted and splinted: 2
- Emergency fillings replaced: Not tracked. These fillings treated as regular fillings and tracked by #2 above.

COMMAND HISTORY

LHD-7 is the second ship to bear the name "IWO JIMA." The first, LPH-2, was designed from the keel up as an amphibious assault ship, was launched September 17, 1960 at Bremerton, Washington and commissioned August 26, 1961.
In September 1963, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made her first deployment to the Western Pacific, one of six deployments the ship would make to the region. In April 1970, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made history while serving as the Primary Recovery Ship for Apollo 13, the crippled lunar landing mission.

In June 1976, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) commenced her fourth deployment to the Mediterranean and participated in the evacuation of civilians from Beirut, Lebanon. In August 1990, two weeks after the initial deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) became the first amphibious assault ship to deploy to that area, and served as part of the coalition which ultimately drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2) was decommissioned in 1993.

Fabrication work for the new USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) began at Ingalls shipyard on September 3, 1996, and the ship's keel was laid on December 12, 1997. She was launched on February 4th, 2000. USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) was christened by her sponsor, Mrs. Zandra Krulak, in Pascagoula, Mississippi on March 25th, 2000.

The commissioning crew moved aboard in April of 2001, and made the ship's maiden voyage (accompanied by more than 2,000 World War II veterans-many of them survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima) on June 23, 2001. She was commissioned a week later in Pensacola, Florida, on June 30th, 2001. Shortly thereafter, the ship and crew began an accelerated Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, which tested virtually every system onboard in realistic combat conditions.

Together with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) completed her maiden, eight-month deployment in October 2003.

Completing essentially four deployments in one, Iwo Jima's operational capabilities were put to the test as the ship inserted marines from 26MEU (SOC) into Northern Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, patrolled the Persian Gulf in stifling summer heat, conducted

operations in and around Djibouti as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and spearheaded a peacekeeping mission off the coast of the war-torn nation of Liberia.

The ship transited the Straits of Gibraltar, Suez Canal, Bab El Mandeb, and the Straits of Hormuz twice each on its 45,000 nautical mile maiden deployment.

In August 2005, IWO JIMA (LHD 7) emerged as the center of Joint Task Force Katrina and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) –led recovery and assistance efforts in the battered cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina's landfall that year. For more than a month, the ship provided crucial hospital, flight deck and a myriad of other relief capabilities to the devastated region.

February 19, 2006 Five ships, one submarine and nearly 3,500 Sailors and Marines from the USS Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) successfully completed their ESG Integrated Training (ESGINT) exercises, Feb. 14, while operating in Onslow Bay, N.C.

June 6, 2006 USS Iwo Jima, commanded by Capt. Michael A. Walley, departed Naval Station Norfolk for six months to conduct maritime security operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

July 4, 2006 USS Iwo Jima Expeditonary Strike Group transited the Suez Canal to relieve USS Peleliu on her duty in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations. The ESG will conduct maritime security operations (MSO) throughout the region and support further tasking from the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

July 18, 2006 U.S. Sailors and Marines from the LHD 7 Expeditionary Strike Group and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit were directed to assist in the authorized departure of American citizens from Lebanon. The U.S. Embassy in Lebanon has requested military assistance to help American citizens who wish to depart Lebanon to leave in a secure and orderly manner.

October 2, AV-8B Harriers, as part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit Air Combat Element (ACE) that were attached to USS Iwo Jima, completed combat missions Sept. 21 in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, against Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan. To date, the Harriers have completed approximately 136 sorties to include 17 precision-guided munitions in support of OEF and coalition efforts.

December 6, 2006 USS Iwo Jima returned to Norfolk after a six-month deployment.

June 11, 2007 The amphibious assault ship departed for sea trials after spending nearly four months at BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair.

September 27, 2007 LHD 7 is currently underway in the Atlantic Ocean for sea trials. This is the first time that the Iwo Jima is conducting flight deck operations with the V-22 Osprey in more than two years.

April 28, 2008 USS Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group pulled to Port Everglades, Fla., for Fleet Week.

July 21, 2008 USS Iwo Jima ESG and BNS Greenhalgh (F 46) participated in a Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) July 8-18, marking the first time a Brazilian Navy surface unit fully integrated into a U.S. Strike Group. The Iwo Jima and Greenhalgh will now participate in the USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) upcoming Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 08-4 July 21-31.

August 26, 2008 USS Iwo Jima departed Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR).

September 21, 2008 A group of 50 senior civilian officials and 19 staff members from the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) visited Iwo Jima off the coast of Crete, Greece.

September 23, 2008 USS Iwo Jima ESG transited the Suez Canal and entered the 5th Fleet AOR.

March 27, 2009 USS Iwo Jima returned to Norfolk after completing the seven-month underway period.

May 20, 2009 The Iwo Jima arrived in New York City to participate in the 22nd commemoration of Fleet Week New York City 2009.

July 9, 2009 USS Iwo Jima recently arrived in the Gulf of Guinea to support the U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to Ghana July 10-11.

From October to December 2009, Iwo Jima went through a successful CNO Availability at BAE Systems Shipyard. During that time, Iwo Jima scored high marks during the Light Off and Assessment Nov. 23-25, 2009. For the remainder of 2009, Iwo Jima remained in port at Naval Station Norfolk.

Since the start of 2010, Team IWO has been busy preparing for Inspection and Survey that will take place in April before Fleet Week Port Everglades