

Subj: USS Nassau
From: Jim Pease
Date: 9-11-08
To: Andy Hoyt

Hi,

Came across your web site regarding the Nassau. I read an article that the Tarawa is going to be decommissioned and that she was the last of the LHA class ships to be active. So I decided to see if it was true and did a search for the LHA that I had been on.

I remember, and have some pictures of embarkation at Swansboro, or maybe Cherry Point, NC. If you're a Plank owner you were there as well. As a member of India CO 3rd Bat. 6th Marines I was told we were going to set sail on a brand new ship, in fact, her maiden voyage. Not sure about the maiden voyage, but she was new. I think we were the first contingent of Marines that boarded her. I felt sorry for the poor guys who had drawn the short straw and had to endure the passage to Cuba in the LST's.

I had armory watch during a gunnery drill and was right below the gun, I think it was an ottomallera.

I remember as we assembled for an abandon ship drill that a two-engine commercial prop job flew low over us as we neared our destination. I don't remember whom exactly, might have been my staff Sgt., or first shirt, who said it was a Cuban spy plane.

After I got out of the Corps I nearly re-upped for the airwing after several months as a civvie. But then I remembered what I had discovered while onboard the Nassau. That compared with the life of a grunt, shipboard life was pretty cushie. Hot meals instead of cold C-rats, a warm bunk instead of a muddy hole and the ship humped all the gear needed to get the job done. So with that revelation I joined the Coast Guard instead of returning to the Corps. I enjoyed being underway while aboard the Nassau and that didn't change later when I was part of a ship's company myself.

Jim