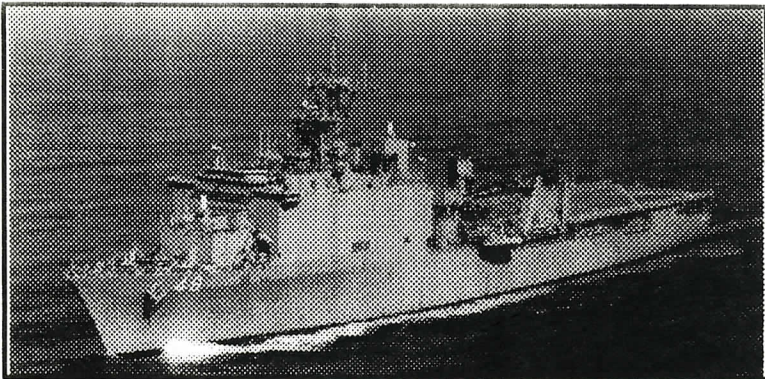


USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)



WELCOME ABOARD!



FIRST IN FREEDOM

Charles P. Salsman

*Commander, United States Navy
Commanding Officer,
USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)*



Commander Charles P. Salsman, a native of Tennessee, graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1977. Upon receiving his commission through the NROTC program at Vanderbilt University, he reported to USS CORONADO (LPD 11), serving first as Electrical Officer and then as Damage Control Assistant.

Cmdr. Salsman then reported to Naval Recruiting District, Nashville, where he was assigned as the Officer Engineering/Nuclear Power programs recruiter. Training at the Surface Warfare Officer School Department Head course in 1984 was followed by duty as Engineering Officer on board USS VOGEL (FF 1047). He then reported to the staff of Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO serving for one year as Material/Logistics Officer and one year as Operations Officer.

Upon completion of his tour at Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO, Cmdr. Salsman attended Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he received a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. He then attended the Prospective Executive Officer course en route to assignment as Executive Officer on board USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) during which the ship deployed to Operations Desert Shield/Storm. From March 1992 to September 1993 he was assigned to the Naval Space Command in Dahlgren, Va., where he served as Head, Space Support Team. After completing Prospective Commanding Officer training in March 1994, he reported to Precommissioning Unit HARPERS FERRY and assumed command of USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49) upon commissioning, 7 January 1995.

In addition to various service and unit awards, Cmdr. Salsman has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars and the Navy Achievement Medal.

USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)

Mission

USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49) is the first of four new Cargo Variants to the LSD 41 class of amphibious assault ships, with a shortened well deck allowing her to carry additional supplies, vehicles and ammunition. Her mission is to project power ashore by transporting and launching amphibious craft and vehicles loaded with embarked Marines and their equipment in an amphibious assault. HARPERS FERRY can also render limited docking and repair service to small ships and craft, as well as act as the primary control ship in an amphibious operation.

HARPERS FERRY is an extremely flexible, capable platform, ready to handle a myriad of tasks within an amphibious maritime assault. She has been fitted with state of the art medical facilities and comfortable berthing for her crew and embarked Marines.

Characteristics

Ship's force	24 officers, 328 enlisted
Landing force	504 Marines (incl. 102 surge troops)
Length	609 ft., 7 in.
Beam	84 ft.
Height	177 ft., 2 in.
Displacement (full load)	16,800 tons
Draft (full load)	20 ft., 4 in.
Compartments/ Spaces	733
Engines	4, 16 cylinder Colt-Pielstick Diesels
Horsepower	33,000 combined shaft HP at 520 rpm
Propellers	2, 13.5 ft. controllable pitch blades
Speed	20+ knots
Weapons	6, .50 caliber guns 2, 25mm gun systems 6, Super Rapid Blooming Outboard Chaff (SRBOC) launchers 2, Close-In Weapons Systems (CIWS)



SHIELD: Dark blue and gold are the colors traditionally associated with the Navy and symbolize the sea and excellence. Red and gold are the traditional Marine Corps colors. The chevron denotes movement symbolizing the delivery ashore of ground troops. The battleaxe, denoting strength and battle-readiness, has two cutting edges to allude to the prowess of both HARPERS FERRY and the Marines she will land.

CREST: The ship's wheel and the fountain, heraldic symbols for the water, refer to world wide capabilities and transportation while highlighting the location and importance of the town of Harpers Ferry, the ship's namesake. The muskets, from the Civil War era, indicate both the past and the present HARPERS FERRY, while alluding to the history and heritage of the town.

SUPPORTERS: The Navy and Marine Corps officers' swords reflect the ship's mission and are crossed to denote cooperation, teamwork and strength.

MOTTO: "First in Freedom."