



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DENVER (LPD-9)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS DENVER (LPD 9)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C.
Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS DENVER (LPD 9) CY 1999
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officer Biography
(5) Photo of Commanding Officer
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet for Visitors
(7) 3-1/2" Disk

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is forwarded as the history of *USS Denver* (LPD 9) for calendar year 1999.

2. *USS Denver* (LPD 9) is the third United States Navy ship to bear the name of American pioneer *James William Denver* and the capital of the state of Colorado. *Denver's* primary mission is to provide an aviation and amphibious launch and recovery platform in support of amphibious assault operations. Secondary missions include providing logistical support for amphibious assault operations; humanitarian relief; and training of helicopter pilots, Marines, special warfare personnel, reservists, and midshipmen.

3. The following major personnel changes occurred over the last year: LCDR M. Bright relieved the Executive Officer, LCDR J. Arleth. LT K. Ransom relieved the Chief Engineer, LT J. Midgett. LT C. Craven relieved the Medical Officer, LT M. Favata. LT R. Winkler relieved the Dental Officer, LT G. Osborn. ENS D. Davis relieved the Main Propulsion Assistant, LTJG Convento. LTJG C. Figueroa relieved the Damage Control Assistant, CWO4 C. Gundelfinger. CWO2 Ortiz relieved the Combat Cargo Officer, CWO2 Storm. LCDR Cammarata relieved the Air Boss, LT P. Lacore and LCDR J. Selkirk relieved LCDR Cammarata. LTJG J. Babb relieved the Navigator, LT W. Rosana. ENS R. Starks relieved the Auxiliaries Division Officer, LTJG A. Forester. ENS S. Richardson relieved the P-1 Division Officer, ENS J. Grant. ENS Tracy relieved the P-2 Division Officer, ENS Tawney. ENS Y. Nelson relieved the E Division Officer, LTJG P. Kim. LT I. Poyer relieved the First Lieutenant, LT K. Mason. ENS A. Overall relieved the First Division Officer, ENS Y. Nelson. ENS N. Butler relieved the Second Division Officer, ENS J. Leonas. LTJG R. Mackey relieved the CIC Officer, LT J. Nigh. LT W. Howell relieved the Communications Officer, CWO2 M. Stephens. ENS D. Morgan relieved the Disbursing Officer, ENS L. Beltz. ENS P. Diana relieved the Food Service Officer, ENS B. Barakat. LT T. Yackle relieved the A/C Fuels Officer, LCDR J. Selkirk.


C. F. WEBBER

Command Composition and Organization

Commanding Officer
Captain Webber

Executive Department

Executive Officer
LCDR Bright

Chaplain
LT Middleton

Navigator / Admin Officer
LTJG Babb

Medical
LT Craven

Dental
LT Winkler

Engineering Department

Chief Engineer
LT Ransom

Main Propulsion Assistant
ENS Davis

Damage Control Assistant
LTJG Figueroa

Aux Division
ENS Starks

P-1 Division
ENS Richardson

P-2 Division
ENS Tracy

E Division
ENS Nelson

R Division
LTJG Drew

Deck Department

First Lieutenant
LT Poyer

Combat Cargo
CWO2 Ortiz

Ship's Bos'n
CWO4 Dougherty

1st Division
ENS Overall

2nd Division
ENS Butler

3rd Division
ENS Clark

Operations Department

Operations Officer

LCDR Deans

CIC Officer
LTJG Mackey

Communications Officer

LT Howell

EMO
ENS Stephens

Supply Department

Supply Officer

LT Van Gorp

Disbursing / Sales Officer
ENS Morgan

Food Service Officer
ENS Diana

Air Department

Air Officer

LCDR Selkirk

A/C Fuels Officer

LT Yackle

Chronology Calendar Year 1999

January

1-10 Inport San Diego. Holiday Leave Period.
12-14 Underway. Type Training.
15-18 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
19-22 Underway. CART II Preps.
23-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, LATR, ASIR, Avail I/FVMF.
29 COMPHIBGRU 3 Change of Command

February

1-2 Underway. FEP Rehearsal
3-7 Inport San Diego. Upkeep. Avail I/FVMF.
8 Inport San Diego. CART II. Avail I/FVMF.
9 Underway. CART II Engineering Assessment
10 Inport San Diego. CART II. Avail I/FVMF.
11-12 Underway. CART II FEP.
13-21 Inport San Diego. Avail I/FVMF.
18 EKMS Install
22-26 Inport San Diego. LTT Engineering/EW
27-28 Inport San Diego.

March

1 Inport San Diego. LTT
2-9 Underway. LTT
10-16 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, Avail I/FVMF.
17-18 Underway. FEP.
19-21 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
22-26 Underway. Amphib Specialty Training.
27-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.

April

1-6 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
7-12 Inport San Diego., Kernal Blitz Onload.
13-18 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
19-29 Underway. Exercise Kernal Blitz.
30 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.

May

1-3 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
4-6 Underway, Enroute Cabo San Lucas.
7-10 Port Visit, Cabo San Lucas.
11-13 Underway, Enroute San Diego.
14-23 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Shipcheck.
24-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.

June

1-4 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, LMA, C4I Install.
5-6 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install.
7-11 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, #1 Boiler Inspection, C4I Install.
12-13 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install.
14-18 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, #2 EDG Inspection, C4I Install.
19-30 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install.

July

1-16 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install.
17 Underway. Family Day Cruise.
18-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install, SIMA "A" Avail.

August

1-8 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C4I Install, SIMA "A" Avail.
9-16 Underway. Y2K Exercise.
17-19 Underway. ISE.
20-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
30-31 IMAV Avail

September

1-6 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, IMAV Avail.
7 Underway enroute Seal Beach.
8-9 Inport Seal Beach. Ammo Onload.
10 Underway enroute San Deigo.
11-19 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, C2X Loadout, IMAV Avail.
20-30 Underway. COMPTUEX.

October

1 Underway. COMPTUEX.
2-31 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, Sailor Phone Install, FMAV, Avail, CSRR/SESI.

November

1-7 Inport San Diego. Upkeep, FLTEX Loadout.
8 Underway to Fuel pier San Diego.
9-19 Inport San Diego. Eng Casualty/Conduct Repairs
20-29 Inport San Diego. Upkeep.
30 Inport San Diego. Force Protection Exercise, ARG Cert Loadout.

December

1-3 Inport San Diego. Force Protection Exercise, ARG Cert Loadout.
4-5 Underway. ISE.
6-17 Underway. ARG Cert/SOC Cert
18-31 Inport San Diego. POM.

1999 Narrative

1-10 January 1999, *Denver* was pier side in San Diego, CA finishing up a holiday leave and upkeep period. The inter-deployment training cycle resumed with *Denver* underway 12-14 January for type training and again from 19-22 January for command assessment of readiness and training (CART) Phase II preparations. The remainder of the month *Denver* was employed with an upkeep period, logistic training review, and an aeronautical shipboard installation representative's visit.

February began with a two day underway period to rehearse for the final evaluation problem (FEP) portion of CART. *Denver* was underway on two more occasions, 9 February and 11-12 February, conducting the underway engineering assessment portion of CART II. For the balance of February, *Denver* was inport conducting the electronic key management system installation, engineering limited team training (LTT), and a maintenance availability.

Denver was underway from 2-9 March completing LTT. Following a week inport, *Denver* successfully completed an intense FEP during the period 17-18 March; the culmination of events required before certification of our training teams. FEP was successful through total command participation and involvement of our crew in all areas, including training, operational checks, casualty control procedures and materiel inspections. After a relaxed weekend break, *Denver* was back underway on 22-26 March conducting amphibious specialty training in preparations for Exercise Kernal Blitz-99.

April began with *Denver* inport conducting upkeep and onload through 19 April when *Denver* participated in the amphibious exercise Exercise Kernal Blitz-99. The exercise concluded on 29 April and *Denver* returned to port for an enjoyable weekend with family and friends in San Diego, California.

Denver headed south on 4 May for a well-deserved port visit in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. We anchored in this wonderful port from 7-10 May and the crew enjoyed the sun, beautiful beaches, fishing and many other recreational activities. Chaplain Middleton led a community relations project at a school for special needs, where a new coat of paint was provided for several buildings. As all service to the community, the benefits were greater than expected. We learned about local history and observed many homes "under construction." This is common in the Baja Peninsula, as the Mexican government owns the land, only allows a family to build on it, and each payday homeowners purchase building materials to continuously improve their living conditions. *Denver* returned to San Diego on 14 May and remained inport for the rest of the month to conduct a period of upkeep and ship-check for the upcoming command, control, communications, computer and intelligence (C4I) installation.

Denver remained inport San Diego for the entire month of June and a good portion of July. A logistics management assessment, boiler inspection, diesel inspection, C4I installation, and everyday upkeep and preservation kept the entire crew engaged. Training teams continued to train and drill, increasing *Denver's* proficiency. The C4I installation included the addition of two separate local area networks throughout the ship, one unclassified and one classified. The classified network is called Navy Internet Protocol Network (NIPRNET) and the unclassified network is called Secret Internet Protocol Network (SIPRNET). The networks enabled enhanced

tactical efficiencies and improved quality of life for the crew by making electronic mail available. Sailors utilized this ten-week inport period to pursue college courses and sporting events. At the mid point of the C4I installation, the ship made a day cruise on Saturday, 17 July, for Family Day. Families and friends were able to observe *Denver* operations up close and personal. Our departure from port was highlighted by a local cruise boat narrator who pointed out landmarks and shared local history. Tours, presentations, and movies accented the "steel beach" picnic, which was the highlight of the day. *Denver* families and friends gained a new appreciation for the dedication and pride of their Sailors. For the remainder of July, and the first week of August, *Denver* continued pierside upkeep, C4I installation, began a shore intermediate maintenance availability, and prepared for year 2000 (Y2K) testing of computer systems.

Denver was underway 9-19 August for Y2K testing and independent steaming exercises off the coast of southern California before returning to Naval Station San Diego, California for upkeep and an intermediate maintenance availability (IMA), which lasted through the end of the month.

The first real signs of the impending deployment involved our transit up the coast to Seal Beach, California, on 7 September, for the ammunition onload. The crew unloaded over 200,000 pounds of ammunition, another successful evolution by the *Denver* team, as we completed the onload in time to return to San Diego before the weekend. *Denver* remained inport for another week to make final preparations for composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX). *Denver* was underway for COMPTUEX from 20 September to 1 October.

October provided an opportunity for *Denver's* continuous upkeep process and enabled the installation of "Sailor phone," another means of communicating with family and friends while the ship is underway. The time pierside was also utilized for a follow-on maintenance availability including re-tubing number one boiler, combat systems readiness review, and aggressive training for deployment and emergency response.

The load out for the fleet exercise took place from 1-7 November and *Denver* was underway on the morning of 8 June to refuel. *Denver's* main propulsion plant suffered a casualty that required a return to port to effect repairs. Repairs and upkeep continued throughout the month. An inport force protection exercise and *Bonhomme-Richard* Amphibious Ready Group (BHRARG) certification loadout were conducted 30 November to 3 December.

Having completed boiler repairs, *Denver* was once again underway for independent steaming exercises, followed by BHRARG Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable (MEUSOC) certifications. *Denver* began holiday leave and upkeep and pre-overseas movement on 18 December, and the crew ended the month and year enjoying the holidays with family and friends while looking forward to the upcoming deployment.