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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)  
FPO AE 09550-2873

1994

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Ser 01/

From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for CY 1994

1. Per reference (a), the command history for calendar year 1994 is submitted as enclosure (1).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Matthew S. Brown", is positioned above the typed name.

MATTHEW S. BROWN  
By direction

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)  
COMMAND HISTORY, 1994

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), sixth of the NIMITZ-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, was commissioned on July 4, 1992 at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Home ported at Norfolk, she is an asset of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, under Vice Admiral Richard Allen and an operational unit of the Second Fleet first under Vice Admiral William Flanagan, and then Vice Admiral Jay Johnson after a change of command.

Commanded by Captain Robert G. Sprigg, GEORGE WASHINGTON is tasked with numerous missions, the primary one being to conduct sustained combat air operations. In this role she serves as the flagship for the COMMANDER, GEORGE WASHINGTON BATTLE GROUP, commanded by Rear Admiral Alexander Krekich.

GEORGE WASHINGTON's embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, is commanded by Captain Herb Coon. The air wing's task is to conduct sustained offensive air operations against land, surface, and sub-surface targets and to defend the battle group in support of assigned missions.

The air wing employs about 80 aircraft including: the F-14 (series) Tomcat fighter, flown by the VF-142 Ghostriders and the VF-143 Dogs; the F/A 18 (series) Hornet strike-fighter, operated by the VFA-131 Wildcats and the VFA-136 Knighthawks; the A-6E Intruder medium attack aircraft, flown by the VA-34 Blue Blasters; the EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft, flown by the VAQ-140 Patriots; the S-3B Viking anti-submarine warfare aircraft flown by the VS-31 Topcats; the E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft, flown by the VAW-121 Bluetails; the ES-3B Raven, flown by the Black Ravens; and the SH-3H Sea King helicopter, flown by the HS-5 Nightdippers. The tailcode for Carrier Air Wing SEVEN is "Alfa Golf."

In addition, GEORGE WASHINGTON serves as the base of operations for Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY SIX while at sea, and has served as a platform for joint operations with Army and Air Force aviation and ground units as part of the deployment work up cycle.

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Department Heads

CAPT David M. Crocker	Executive Officer
CDR William L. McKee	Executive Officer
CDR Jim Chapman	Reactor Officer
CAPT Vic Smith	CRMD
CAPT Moses Stith	CRMD
CDR Brad Mason	Engineering
CDR Ed Gardner	Engineering
CDR John Mills	Medical
CDR Steve Wallace	Dental
CDR Tom VandenBerg	AIMD
CDR Jon Lemen	Navigator
CDR Gerry Mauer	Navigator
CDR Jeff McComb	Weapons
CDR John Drerup	Supply
CDR Walt Donovan	Operations
CDR Wayne Nelms	Operations
CDR George Yacus	Safety
CDR Bob Schniedwind	Safety
CDR Debra Straub	Information Systems
LCDR Fred Campillo	Deck
LCDR Rick Burgess	Training
LT Keith Wettschreck	Training
LCDR Michael Waters	Legal
LCDR Mark Budensiek	Legal
LCDR Dave Perry	Administration
LCDR Randy Clifton	Administration
LT Gary Stubbs	Communications

1994 CHRONOLOGY

- 14 Jan Capt Coon relieved Capt Baker as CAG 7
- 15 Jan C2F sponsored tour for boy scouts
- 16 Jan CARGRU FOUR embarked for COMPTUEX  
tour for guests of RADM Ed Allen (CARGRU FOUR)
- 19 Jan Underway for COMPTUEX in the Puerto Rican oparea  
Command Reception, Ponce Puerto Rico  
Chicago Museum of Science and Industry Filming  
cameraman lost in Puerto Rico  
VADM Kaufman embark
- 19 Feb Boy Scout tour sponsored by CNAL
- 20 Feb Boy Scout tour from Chapel Hill NC sponsored by CNAL
- 22 Feb Naval Doctrine Command tour
- 24 Feb Eagle Scout recognition dinner in Wardroom 3, VADM Less speaker  
NJROTC tour from Hampton Roads area  
Hungarian gymnastics team tour  
JCS sponsored Romanian Naval Officers tour
- 25 Feb Madison Career Center Day for Adopt-a-School  
White House Advance Party Walkabout
- 02-12 Mar Underway for Fleet CQ
- 14 Mar Royal Canadian Air Cadets tour
- 16 Mar Virginia Peninsula Engineers Club tour  
Z104 staff tour
- 17 Mar Armed Forces Staff College tour  
Rehearsal for CNAL Change of Command
- 18 Mar VADM Allen relieves VADM Less in a rainy flight deck ceremony
- 21-25 Mar Underway for Fleet CQ
- 26 Mar German exchange students tour  
Duke University nuclear power candidates tour
- 29 Mar Elizabeth City, NC NJROTC tour
- 31 Mar Community Visions instructional TV walkabout
- 05 Apr Indoctrination tour USS San Jacinto Wardroom

06 Apr Underway for FLEETEX  
French Media embark

07 Apr DASN Harrison embark

08 Apr CLF sponsored DV embark

09 Apr Treasury Dept embark

10 Apr CLF sponsored media embark, KPRC, NBC Houston, TX

11 Apr CLF sponsored media embark, WFAA, ABC Dallas, TX

12 Apr CLF sponsored environmental embark

13 Apr ASN Pang and ADM Mauz embark

14 Apr DASD C3I embark

15-22 Apr Multiple media embarks during JSOTF operations

22 Apr Complete FLEETEX

25 Apr Community Visions aboard for final shipcheck

26 Apr Community Visions interactive TV aboard for daylight project

03 May VTB52 World War 2 reunion group tour

04 May Madison Career Center tour

06 May Wardroom Dining Out

07 May European Nanny tour  
Boy scout tour  
Command Picnic

10 May Armed Forces Staff College tour

12 May Washington and Lee High School tour

16 May Norfolk Naval Shipyard tour

17 May National Security Agency tour

18 May ADM Mauz visits the ship  
NAVSEA environmental development staff visits the ship

19 May Army War College tour

20 May Ship leaves on maiden deployment  
CIA representatives embark for RON  
World War 2 veterans embark ship for translat

21 May Media pool embarks ship to cover preparations for D-Day ceremonies

28 May Portuguese/Azores DV embark - daylight only

28 Jul General Fornasiero, C5ATAF visit  
29 Jul Mayor of Milan and civic group visit ship  
02 Aug RADM LeGrand, JAG, RO1N  
12-17 Aug Inport Haifa, Israel  
13 Aug MGEN Bodinger, IDF tour  
14 Aug Command reception, Wardroom 3 and lounge areas  
18 Aug RADM Lair onboard for VF 143 Change of Command  
19 Aug VF 143 Change of Command  
20-24 Aug Inport Rhodes, Greece  
26 Aug Southbound transit of Suez Canal  
    Embark Mr and Mrs Littrell, parents of LT Geoff Littrell, in  
    RX Dept from AMEMBASSY, Cairo.  
02 Sep Transit Strait of Hormuz  
03 Sep VADM Katz, COMUSNAVCENT, daylight visit  
04 Sep RADM Allen, DCJTFSWA aboard for daylight visit  
05 Sep CDS 23 embark  
    JTF SWA staff familiarization embark, RON  
07 Sep MGEN Pratt, CJTFSWA aboard for RON  
20-24 Sep Inport Mina Jebel Ali/Dubai  
29 Sep Northbound transit of Suez Canal  
October Return to Persian Gulf for  
    Operation Vigilant Warrior in response  
    to Iraqi troop repositioning along the  
    Kuwaiti border.  
15 Nov VADM Davis, OPNAV N6 embark for RON  
17 Nov Anchor out at Hampton Roads due to poor weather preventing a  
    pier approach.  
18 Nov Moored at pier 12 north, deployment complete  
23 Nov Governor of Mississippi Fordice visit  
02 Dec 200 NAVSUPSYSCOM Comptrollers visit  
12-15 Dec Underway for ammunition offload  
17 Dec Fort Meade boyscout group tour  
20 Dec MIT group visits to discuss TQL  
29 Dec Virginia Boys home tour, accompanied by most local media

The focus of GEORGE WASHINGTON'S calendar during 1994 was the maiden deployment, scheduled to begin on May 20 with a planned completion date of November 17.

The year started with COMCARGRU FOUR and RADM Ed Allen embarking for COMPTUEX and a graded evaluation period. After a number of combined ship and airwing exercises in the Puerto Rican oparea and a visit to Ponce, PR (the first for a carrier in almost 50 years), our own battle group embarked for the final evaluation period, where the staff's work with the ship/airwing team was graded. The results were some of the highest grades ever given for a COMPTUEX.

Upon return to Norfolk, planning for FLEETEX/JTGEX in April moved into high speed with only two brief interruptions for fleet carrier qualification periods. FLEETEX/JTGEX combined Army H-47 helicopters and special forces troops and Air Force H-53 Pave Low helicopters with CVW7, sans VF 142, to test principles that could be used in NEO operations or special forces insertion missions. The result was a successful integration of all four services (the Marines from the GW ARG also participated) in a final exercise at Fort Bragg, NC. One point of interest was the reduction in time it took for the Army helicopter crews to manually fold the blades on the H-47 from over 2 hours, to under 50 minutes.

After a busy POM period the end of April and beginning of May, the ship departed on the 20th with a send off by ADM Boorda, the first carrier to deploy upon his assuming the office of CNO.

The first event for deployment was the 50th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. June 1 saw the arrival of GW at Portsmouth, England for the first phase of the ceremonies. After numerous official events ashore, and hundreds of tours aboard for media and veterans, the culmination of the events in England was reached on June 5 with the sail past of the Royal Yacht with the Queen, President Clinton, and President Mitterand. President Clinton, the First Lady and a host of cabinet and military officials then joined the White House Press Corps aboard GW for a crew address, media interviews, dinner on the mess decks and a concert of big band music presented by the CINCLANTFLT band, while crossing the channel. At 0700, June 6, the first ceremony of the day took place on elevator 1 as the President and selected D-Day veterans placed a memorial wreath in the water off Omaha Beach. The ceremony lasted approximately 1 hour and concluded with the sounding of Taps and the Navy Hymn. The official party disembarked immediately following the ceremony for further services ashore, but helicopter loads of veterans came out to visit the ship, and included a group of survivors from USS CORRY, a destroyer lost on June 6, 1944. This group also place a wreath donated by the American Legion and VFW in Norfolk in memory of their ship mates. The D-Day ceremonies were completed with a short visit to Brest, France and a dedication of a monument to the memory of mariners lost during the war.

Underway from Brest, the GEORGE WASHINGTON headed toward the Mediterranean to relieve the SARATOGA and take up station in the Adriatic conducting no-fly-zone operations over Bosnia. The ship operated in the Adriatic until September with short breaks in July and August for visits to: Antalya, Turkey; Corfu, Greece; Haifa, Israel; and Rhodes, Greece.

July 11 in particular stood out as a date to remember for the ship as the entire crew was put to the test battling a blaze caused by mogas on the aft starboard fueling station. The training and team work paid off, and although the fueling station was destroyed, the fire parties performed superbly and extinguished the fire in under one hour.

The end of August brought about another challenge as the ship's tasking was changed on short notice to include a period of duty in the Arabian Gulf during the month of September. Completing another first for the ship, GW transited through the Suez and worked for COMUSNAVCENT and JTF SOUTHWEST ASIA conducting no-fly-zone operations over southern Iraq. Completing this assignment, GW chopped back to SIXTH FLEET the last day of September for more operations in the Adriatic. However, after one week, Iraqi troop movements toward Kuwait ensured that the GW would be heading back to the Arabian Gulf, arriving at the Suez and passing through within two days of being notified. After almost four weeks in the Gulf participating in Vigilant Warrior, GW was released back to SIXTH FLEET for a Mediterranean crossing and then transit home.

Prior to the start of the deployment, the CNO had promised to have the ship back in exactly six months from the departure date. November 17 was the target date. However, Hurricane Emily had other plans, and after making a record crossing for time that even included a "GO NAVY" spellout on the flight deck for the Navy-Army football game, the ship had to anchor less than 1 mile from the end of pier 12 in Hampton Roads because of high winds. The deployment was safely completed one day late on November 18.

After four weeks in port, the ship got underway in December for an ammunition offload with USS SUPPLY (AOE 6) prior to entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard in January, 1995 for an SRA.

1. The accomplishments of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) during calendar year 1994 are without equal. Operationally, every tasking, whether short notice or long range, was accomplished with a complete commitment to excellence. This same dedication to excellence has been the foundation for every activity in which the ship has participated resulting in a list of achievements that mark GEORGE WASHINGTON as the premier unit in the Atlantic Fleet. In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted as rationale in support of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S nomination for this prestigious honor.

2. During the competitive cycle, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S accomplishments include the following awards and recognition:

a. 1994 COMNAVAIRLANT Battle E winner. Winner of 1994 departmental warfare area awards as follows:

- (1) AIMD
- (2) AIR
- (3) COMMUNICATIONS
- (4) DAMAGE CONTROL
- (5) DECK
- (6) ENGINEERING
- (7) NAVIGATION
- (8) OPERATIONS
- (9) SUPPLY
- (10) WEAPONS
- (11) HABITABILITY

b. Other awards/competitions/nominations:

- (1) Won the 1994 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award for excellence in food service
- (2) Won the 1994 Allen G. Ogden Award for best flight deck crash and salvage crew in the Navy.
- (3) Nominated by CINCLANTFLT for the Secretary of Defense Phoenix Award for maintenance proficiency.
- (4) Designated as the COMNAVAIRLANT Golden Anchor runner up for retention and career counseling.
- (5) Nominated by COMNAVAIRLANT for the Admiral Flatley Memorial Award for aviation safety.
- (6) Received a COMNAVAIRLANT Gold Award for pledging in excess of 110% of goal for the Combined Federal Campaign.
- (7) Navy wide, 1994 CHINFO Merit Award Winner in the following categories:
  - (a) First in family grams, large command.
  - (b) Third in daily newspaper
  - (c) First place editorial writer, and candidate for an inter-service Thomas Jefferson Award for journalistic achievement.
  - (d) Third place editorial writer
  - (e) Third place illustrator
  - (f) Honorable mention for feature writing
  - (g) Honorable mention for evening newscast
  - (h) Honorable mention for training documentary film
- (8) Awarded the Navy Unit Commendation by the Secretary for flawless support of the Presidential embark and memorial service for the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasions.

(9) Awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal for support of Operations Southern Watch and Vigilant Warrior, August through October 1994.

(10) Awarded the Sea Service Ribbon in conjunction with the ship's maiden overseas deployment.

(11) Selected as the COMNAVAIRLANT representative for the VADM Robert B. Pirie air traffic control award competition.

(12) Command representative selected for membership on the City of Chesapeake's Commission on Substance Abuse.

(13) Command representative selected for the statewide Governor's Award for Volunteering Excellence from a field of 400 candidates.

(14) Command representative selected for the statewide Governor's Transportation Safety Award.

(15) Recognized by COMNAVAIRLANT for the highest quality industrial hygiene survey and showcased at the Navy wide annual environmental health conference.

(16) Commended by CINCSOC for efficiently conducting joint Army and Air Force embarkation and flight operations aboard during FLEETEX.

(17) Recognized by Naval Air Warfare Center for designing a superior cam follower for aircraft arresting gear which will be used to replace the old part Navy wide.

(18) Command representative selected as a finalist for the Naval Safety Center sponsored GEICO Military Leadership Recognition award.

(19) Selected four sailors for LDO/CWO and one sailor for the Seaman to Admiral program.

(20) Achieved the highest overall score in the COMNAVAIRLANT Maintenance inspection of any carrier in the Atlantic Fleet.

(21) Participated in the Tidewater Area basketball playoffs for 1994.

(22) Formally recognized the many achievements of crew members with 6 Meritorious Service Medals, 95 Navy Commendation Medals, 330 Navy Achievement Medals, 915 Flag Letters of Commendation, and 875 Commanding Officer Letters of Recognition.

(23) Qualified 116 Sailors as Enlisted Surface or Aviation Warfare Specialists with over 500 personnel working toward qualification. In addition, 9 junior officers were awarded their warfare qualifications with another 19 working toward qualification.

(24) Commended by the Naval Base Norfolk Educational Services liaison as having the most extensive and well planned education program available on an afloat unit, allowing over 1500 college credits to be earned on deployment through CLEP and DANTES. In addition, 276 Sailors participated in PACE courses.

(25) Command representatives selected for the all-Navy basketball and boxing teams.

3. USS GEORGE WASHINGTON established herself as the preeminent afloat unit, from pioneering operations with Army and Air Force units and testing and evaluation of new technologies and equipment, to a highly successful maiden deployment. The impressive accomplishments of GEORGE WASHINGTON sailors positively affected every unit in the Navy and are without parallel during this period. Providing a catalyst for the superb performance of the GEORGE WASHINGTON team was their operational schedule listed in chronological order.

a. January 1994 through February 1994: COMPTUEX, including numerous governmental and private industry familiarization embarks, and the first visit by a carrier to Ponce, Puerto Rico in over 40 years.

b. March 1994: Special Operations Forces carrier qualification period for Army and Air Force pilots and troops, and fleet replacement squadron carrier qualifications.

c. April 1994: Exceptional first integration of Army and Air Force aviation and special operations units with the ship's air wing during FLEETEX/SOCEX 94-2, featured by national news media and witnessed by civic leaders.

d. May 1994 through November 1994, Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea, Arabian Gulf, Deployment 2-94:

(1) Presidential embark and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, June 4-6.

(2) Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea in support of Operations Deny Flight, Provide Promise and Sharp Guard.

(3) Red Sea and Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Southern Watch and Vigilant Warrior.

e. November 1994 through December 1994: Surge carrier.

4. Representative of the sustained superior achievements of GEORGE WASHINGTON sailors was the performance of the damage control and main propulsion teams, evaluated as outstanding by type and fleet commanders, during training, evaluations and operations.

5. In summary, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON has performed superbly in every respect. The numerous accomplishments of this fine warship have set new standards throughout the fleet and are a model of achievement that I am proud to be associated with. There is no finer unit in the fleet than USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, and she has my strongest recommendation for receipt of the 1994 Battenburg Cup.