



Dec 0 4/24/92
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TRENTON (LPD-14)
FPO NEW YORK 09588-1716

5757
Ser PAO/169
12 Jun 92

From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD 14)
To: Director of Naval History (DF-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1991 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12E

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Captain Stephen H. Ries,
USN
(2) 1991 Chronology
(3) 1991 Command Narrative
(4) TRENTON Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is submitted:

a. Background: USS TRENTON (LPD 14), an amphibious transport dock, is named for the historic capital of the state of New Jersey that was founded by an 18th century ship owner and businessman, Colonel William Trent.

The present USS TRENTON is the third United States vessel to bear the name. The first was a steam sloop of war commissioned in 1884. The second was a light cruiser, CL-11 commissioned in 1924, which served with the Asiatic, Caribbean and Southeast Pacific Fleets during World War II. The keel for the present TRENTON was laid on 8 August 1966. She was christened on 3 August 1968 by Mrs. Richard J. Hughes, wife of then governor of New Jersey. TRENTON was commissioned 6 March 1971. The amphibious transport dock (LPD) is a very versatile class of amphibious ship. TRENTON can transport, land and support a Marine force on a hostile shore. TRENTON is capable of carrying over 900 troops plus their vehicles, equipment, weapons, ammunition, and supplies. She also carries landing craft in her floodable well deck. Her flight deck capability allows her to operate the Navy and Marine Corps active helicopter inventory and VTOL aircraft.

TRENTON participated in the 1983 liberation of Grenada, was a member of the multinational force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983-1984, and was a participant in Operation Praying Mantis in April 1988 during a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

Most recently, TRENTON played a supporting role in the presidential summit at Malta in December 1989, participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama in June 1990 and deployed on short notice to the Middle East as a member of the amphibious task force during Operation Desert Shield (January 1991) and Operation Desert Storm (January 1991 to April 1991).

In its effort to transform into a Total Quality Leadership organization in line with the Department of the Navy concept; TRENTON has developed the following Mission, Vision and Guiding Principals:

b. Mission: USS TRENTON will defend the nation and its allies by supporting United States foreign policy and world peace, through the maintenance of full amphibious capability, while readily adapting to changing global, strategic, and tactical requirements.

c. Vision: TRENTON leaders at all levels are united in effective leadership and management.

TRENTON personnel achieve personal excellence, enjoy their work place in an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and quality. Sailors are filled with organizational pride and a willingness in task accomplishment.

TRENTON maintains the highest state of readiness and is the ultimate supplier by continuous improvement. TRENTON is the most effective command and the ship of choice for all amphibious, and special operations, achieving excellence in all endeavors and consistently capturing awards.

d. Guiding Principles:
We are committed to:

(1) Providing an environment which stimulates professional growth and personal excellence through continuous training and education of the crew and embarked troops. We will:

- Seek 100 percent professional qualification standards qualification.
- Seek 100 percent Navy wide exam participation and advancement.
- Actively nominate personnel for educational, advanced training, and commissioning programs.
- Pursue the means to eliminate barriers to training and education.
- Provide state of the art training and educational equipment.

(2) Providing an environment of safety for ship's company and embarked marines. We will:

- Continually strive for zero environmental and personnel mishaps.

(3) Continually employ sound leadership that stimulates professional growth, encourages studied solutions and obtainable goals seeking more effective ways to improve over the long term. We will:

- Continually strive for quality, optimizing the use of materials, money, manpower and equipment.

- Conducting all work in an atmosphere of trust and cooperation.

(4) Being in the forefront of naval technology and doctrine. We will:

- Strive to obtain and employ the latest technological equipment and systems upgrades.
- Be pioneers in naval doctrine, disposing of antiquated theories and practices.
- Meet all operational requirements on time.
- Develop, institute, and publish new practices and strategies.
- Train other units on innovative techniques.

(5) Unwavering support to TRENTON crew members and families.

(6) Enhancing the welfare and morale of TRENTON crewmembers and embarked troops by stimulating growth through consistent leadership.

(7) Providing TRENTON crewmembers and embarked troops with a quality environment to facilitate their development through training, equipment operation, and highest living conditions possible to carry out the mission.

(8) We are committed to: Actively promoting actions and ideas that enhance pride in being a TRENTON crewmember. We will:

- Encourage and display a positive attitude to all TRENTON customers.
- Encourage good citizenship at home and overseas.
- Promote TRENTON to the public.
- Conduct an active sponsor program.

e. Commanding Officers: Captain James A. Curtis, USN, 1 January 1991 to 28 February 1991; Captain Stephen H. Ries, USN, 29 January to 31 December 1991.

f. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia.

g. Command Association: Under operational command of Commander Amphibious Group 2, 1 January to 23 March 91; Commander 6th Fleet, 24 March - 3 April 91; Commander 2nd Fleet, 4 April 91 - 16 April 91; Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic Fleet, 17 April - 31 December 91; under administrative command of Commander Amphibious Group 2/Commander Amphibious Squadron 12, 31 January 91 - 31 December 91.

h. Deployments: Middle East, 1 January 1991 to 17 April 1991.

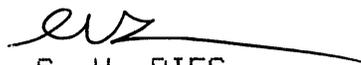
i. Exercises and operations: Operation Desert Shield, Operation Eastern Exit, Operation Desert Storm, Sea Soldier IV Exercise, Kiowa Runner Exercise.

j. Embarked Units:

Seal Team Eight	1 January - 17 April
Special Boat Unit Twenty	1 January - 17 April
ABC2, Construction BN Det	1 January - 17 April
Beach Master Group Two	1 January - 17 April
LCU 1644, ACU-2	1 January - 17 April
BSSG-4	1 January - 17 April
2D Force Recon CO 2D PLT	1 January - 17 April
UMH 461, Detachment	1 January - 17 April
Cobra Det 294	13 March - 16 April
Seal Team Six	3 - 6 December

k. Statistics:

- (1) Engine Miles travelled Starboard Shaft 27382 NM
Port Shaft 26552 NM
 - (2) Fuel consumed: 21,872,164 gallons (52077.7 barrels)
 - (3) Refueling at sea: 9
 - (4) Aircraft landings: 876, record set-passed 32,000
landing mark, life time total 32,279
 - (5) A. JP5 aviation fuel delivered: 135,144 gallons
B. MOGAS delivered: 3,577 gallons
 - (6) Large caliber ammunition expended: - 3" 50 Cal: 24
rounds - CIWS: 1498 rounds
 - (7) Underway replenishment: 9
 - (8) 1991 Budget: Repair parts: \$981,800.00
Consumables: \$768,763.00
Total Cost Salaries
and expenses: \$5,850,000.00
- l. Chronology attached as enclosure (2)
- m. Narrative attached as enclosure (3)
- n. TRENTON Welcome Aboard Pamphlet (4)


S. H. RIES

1991 CHRONOLOGY

91JAN03-11 NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS SOMALIA
(OPERATION EASTERN EXIT) USS GUAM, USS TRENTON AND
COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON 6

91JAN11-13 INPORT MUSCAT OMAN. OFFLOAD OF EVACUEES. BOARDING
INSPECTION OF IBN KHALDOON. IBN KHALDOON PASSES
INSPECTION

91JAN14 UNDERWAY FOR NORTH MASIRAH TRAINING ANCHORAGE.
AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE JOIN UP.

91JAN14 ALL HANDS RECEIVED PAGE 13 ENTRY FOR EASTERN EXIT
SIGNED BY AMBASSADORS FROM 12 EMBASSIES

91JAN17 OPERATION DESERT STORM BEGINS

91JAN18-91FEB01 SEA SOLDIER IV

91JAN23 PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT RIES ARRIVES.

91JAN24 ADMIRAL LAPLANTE (COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP-2)
VISITS

91JAN29 CAPTAIN STEPHEN H. RIES RELIEVES CAPTAIN JAMES
CURTIS AND ASSUMES COMMAND OF USS TRENTON (LPD-14)

91FEB01-06 TRANSITING THROUGH STRAITS OF HORMUZ

91FEB07-11 ADVANCE FORCE TRAINING OPERATIONS

91FEB12-14 TRANSITING FOR FUELING AND REPLENISHMENT AT SEA
AND RETURN TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ANCHORAGE

91FEB14-04MAR CENTRAL ARABIAN GULF

91MAR05-07 INPORT ABU DHABI

91MAR08 UNDERWAY FOR DUBAI

91MAR09-10 INPORT DUBAI

91MAR11 UNDERWAY FOR TRANSIT TO CONUS

91MAR17 ONE DAY CSA AND NATO/SECRET CONTROL INSPECTION BY
BY COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP 2

91MAR17 DETACHED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO SS CAPE MOHICAN

91MAR18 LEFT CAPE MOHICAN TO REJOIN FORMATION
 91MAR23 TRANSIT THROUGH SUEZ CANAL
 91MAR30 ARRIVAL ROTA, SPAIN FOR WASH DOWN
 91APR03 DEPART ROTA FOR MOREHEAD CITY, NC
 91APR15 ARRIVE MOREHEAD CITY NC. OFFLOAD BSSG4
 91APR16 DEPART MOREHEAD CITY
 91APR17 ARRIVE NORFOLK VA
 91MAY20,21 ELECTRONIC CALIBRATION RECERTIFICATION GPETE CAL
 LAB. RECEIVED TWO YEARS CERTIFICATION.
 91MAY23 TRENTON DESIGNATED AS TOTAL QUALITY LEADERSHIP
 FLEET DEMONSTRATION UNIT BY CNO
 91MAY28-14JUN ELECTRO MAGNETIC INTERFERENCE SURVEY
 91JUN3-5 UNDERWAY GOLF-2 ANCHORAGE FOR AMMO OFFLOAD.
 91JUN10-11 BASCOLEX (MARINES)
 91JUN24 UNDERWAY DEAD STICK METRO SHIPYARD. COMMENCE PMA
 91SEP30-2OCT SAFE TO LIGHT EXAM
 91OCT10-13 UNDERWAY SEA TRIALS
 91OCT16 UNDERWAY VACAPES
 91OCT23,24 SUPPLY MANAGEMENT INSPECTION
 91NOV13-16 COMMAND INSPECTION
 91NOV18 AVIATION CERTIFICATION
 91NOV25-27 AMMO ONLOAD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN
 91DEC3-13 UNDERWAY KIOWA RUNNER SPECWAROPS SEAL TEAM-6 / USS
 GAUM
 91DEC13 COMMENCED CHRISTMAS LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD
 91DEC19 AVIATION READINESS EVALUATION

COMMAND NARRATIVE

THE NEW YEAR FOUND USS TRENTON STATIONED OFF THE COAST OF MASIRAH IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION DESERT SHIELD. SEVERAL DAYS INTO THE NEW YEAR REBEL FIGHTING IN THE CAPITAL OF SOMALIA ON THE EASTERN COAST OF AFRICA THREATENED U.S. AND FOREIGN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. USS TRENTON AND USS GUAM WERE TASKED TO EXTRACT THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL. BREAKING OFF FROM THE AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE SUPPORTING OPERATION DESERT SHIELD, THEY SET SAIL IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION EASTERN EXIT. HELICOPTERS FROM THE TRENTON AND GUAM EXTRACTED PERSONNEL FROM 12 EMBASSIES THAT HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. BY THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY TRENTON WAS STEAMING BACK ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN TO MUSCAT, OMAN TO OFF LOAD THE EMBASSY EVACUEES.

TRENTON'S EMBARKED SPECIAL UNITS ALSO LED TO HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEARS MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONS. IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. THE TRENTON BOARDED THE IBN KHALDOON. AFTER A THOROUGH INSPECTION FOR ILLEGAL MATERIAL THE IBN KHALDOON WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ON.

THE TRENTON THEN RETURNED TO ANCHORAGE OFF THE COAST OF MASIRAH, OMAN. THREE DAYS LATER, 17TH OF JANUARY, THE UNITED STATES AND COALITION FORCES LAUNCHED OPERATION DESERT STORM. AIR ATTACKS BY COALITION FORCES BEGAN THE DECIMATION OF IRAQI FORCES. THE NEXT DAY TRENTON BEGAN OPERATION SEA SOLDIER IV. THIS EXERCISE HONED THE AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE'S ABILITY TO INSERT AND EXTRACT MEN AND MATERIAL DURING AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING. JANUARY DREW TO A CLOSE WITH TRENTON'S CHANGE OF COMMAND. ON THE 29 OF JANUARY. CAPTAIN STEPHEN RIES RELIEVED CAPTAIN JAMES A. CURTIS.

THE 8TH THROUGH THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY FOUND TRENTON IN SUPPORT OF A SEAL/EOD/RECON TRAINING EXERCISE OFF THE COAST OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. FOR FIVE DAYS WE CONDUCTED THESE EMBARKED UNITS FULL MISSION PROFILE. THE END OF FEBRUARY FOUND THE GROUND WAR OF OPERATION DESERT STORM BEGINNING AS IRAQ'S MILITARY COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE COLLAPSED. AS PART OF THE LARGEST AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE ASSEMBLED IN THE LAST THREE DECADES TRENTON WAS POISED FOR ATTACK, THE IRAQI AGGRESSORS HAD FORTIFIED THE BEACHES OF KUWAIT WITH THOUSANDS OF MINES, BARRICADES, TRAPS AND SIX DIVISIONS. TRENTON, ALONG WITH THE OTHER SHIPS OF THE AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE, WHICH CONSISTED OF THIRTY ONE SHIPS AND 20,000 MARINES, PREVENTED THE ENEMY FROM RE-DEPLOYING ANY PART OF THE SIX DIVISIONS IN THE KUWAIT COASTAL THEATER OF OPERATIONS.

WITH THE EJECTION OF IRAQ FROM KUWAIT THE TRENTON STEAMED FOR A MIDDLE EAST PORT OF CALL. TRENTON SPENT TWO DAYS IN ABU DHABI THEN TWO MORE IN DUBAI. BOTH ARE LOCATED IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. SHE THEN SET SAIL FOR THE UNITED STATES. AS TRENTON WAS TRANSITTING THE RED SEA SHE WAS DETACHED FROM THE AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE TO ASSIST THE MV CAPE MOHICAN OFF OF YEMEN. MV CAPE MOHICAN HAD SHORTED OUT HER ELECTRICAL MOTORS ON THE 17TH OF MARCH. THE CAPE MOHICAN CORRECTED THE PROBLEM HERSELF AND

Encl (3)

TRENTON REJOINED THE TASK FORCE AS IT PREPARED TO PASS THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL ON THE 23RD OF MARCH. TRANSITTING THE MED THE TRENTON ARRIVED IN ROTA, SPAIN ON THE 1ST OF APRIL TO BEGIN A TWO DAY AGRICULTURAL WASH DOWN. SHE THEN SET SET SAIL FOR HOME.

BRIGADE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP-4 WAS DISEMBARKED IN MOREHEAD CITY, NC. ON THE 15TH OF APRIL, EXACTLY EIGHT MONTHS TO THE DAY THAT THEY EMBARKED TRENTON. UPON ARRIVAL IN NORFOLK TRENTON ENTERED A THIRTY DAY LEAVE AND UPKEEP PERIOD.

DURING THIS TIME TRENTON WAS APPOINTED BY THE CNO AS ONE OF THE VANGUARD SHIPS IN THE FLEET TO IMPLEMENT TOTAL QUALITY LEADERSHIP. THE MISSION, VISION, AND GUIDING PRINCIPALS DEVELOPED BY TRENTON'S EXECUTIVE STEERING TEAM ARE LISTED IN THIS YEARS COMMAND HISTORY COVER LETTER.

AFTER BEING UNDERWAY FOR EIGHTEEN OF THE PAST TWENTY FOUR MONTHS, TRENTON PREPARED TO ENTER P.M.A. FROM THE 3RD TO THE 5TH OF JUNE TRENTON OFF LOADED ALL AMMUNITION AT ANCHORAGE GULF TWO IN NORFOLK, VA. TRENTON PROCEEDED DEAD STICK UP THE ELIZABETH RIVER TO THE METRO SHIPYARDS ON THE 24TH OF JUNE. DURING HER PMA, TRENTON EXPANDED THE RECENTLY UPGRADED LIBRARY TO A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER. THIS PROVIDED TRENTON'S SAILORS THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE BASIC LEARNING SKILLS AND TO PURSUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE CENTER ALSO SERVES AS AN EXAMPLE OF A PHYSICAL CHANGE IMPLEMENTING DR. DEMMINGS THIRTEENTH POINT, "TO INSTITUTE A VIGOROUS PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND SELF IMPROVEMENT FOR EVERYONE." IT IS THE FIRST CHANGE ON THE ROAD TO TOTAL QUALITY LEADERSHIP ON TRENTON. MAJOR JOBS DURING THE PMA WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- SHIPALT 941D-STEERING GEAR
- SHIPALT 829D-AIR DEBALLAST SYS FR 144 AFT
- SHIPALT 840D-ELEVATOR PLATFORM SAFETY
- SHIPALT 627- BOILER BLOW SYS.
- SHIPALT 895- (PARTIAL) TANK LEVEL INDICATORS
- SHIPALT 847D-VEHICLE RAMP SAFETY MOD
- SHIPALT 966D-CRYPTO VAN JUNCTION BOX
- BIRMUS #1 AND #2 BOILER
- WELL DECK OVERHEAD
- ELECTRIC CONVECTION OVENS INSTALLED (12)

FROM THE 30TH OF SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OF OCTOBER, TRENTON CONDUCTED HER SAFE TO LIGHT EXAM TO PREPARE TO LEAVE THE YARDS. WITH THE SOUND "UNDERWAY" TRENTON LEFT THE YARDS ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER TO BEGIN SEA TRIALS. THE 23RD AND 24TH OF OCTOBER SAW THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT PASSING THEIR SUPPLY MANAGMENT INSPECTION WITH FLYING COLORS. NOVEMBER FOUND THE COMMAND STANDING ITS FIRST COMMAND INSPECTION IN OVER TWENTY FOUR MONTHS. TRENTON'S OFFICERS AND CREW'S EFFORTS WERE REWARDED WITH A SUCCESSFUL INSPECTION.

FROM THE 25TH TO THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER TRENTON ON-LOADED AMMUNITION IN PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT. AFTER THE AMMUNITION ON-LOAD TRENTON PREPARED FOR KIOWA RUNNER, A JOINT EXERCISE WITH NAVY SPECIAL WARFARE AND U.S.ARMY ASSETS. KIOWA RUNNER COMMENCED IN DECEMBER. SEAL TEAM 6 EMBARKED IN TRENTON; AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH USS GUAM WAS A PART OF THIS COORDINATED MARITIME INTERDICTION EFFORT TO COVERTLY TRACK A VESSEL AND THEN BOARD HER AT SEA WHILE UNDERWAY.

AS DECEMBER CAME TO A CLOSE, TRENTON, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TWO YEARS SPENT THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN HER HOMEPORT. SHE RANG OUT THE YEAR 1991 AS THE NEW ATLANTIC FLEET BATTLE "E" WINNER AMONG THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OF SHIPS- LPD/LCC/LCA/AGF. TRENTON'S SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS WERE AS FOLLOWS: ANTI-AIR WARFARE, MAIN PROPULSION MOBILITY, ELECTRONIC WARFARE, AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE, AIR INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT, DAMAGE CONTROL AND NAVIGATION/DECK SEAMANSHIP.