



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DENVER (LPD-9)

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Encl: (1) USS DENVER (LPD 9) 1973 Command History

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


L. F. EGGERT

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CINCPACFLT
COMPHIBPAC
COMPHIBRON FIVE

USS DENVER (LPD 9) 1973 COMMAND HISTORY

The beginning of the 1973 calendar year found the Amphibious Assault Ship USS DENVER (LPD 9) in her homeport, San Diego. On 18 January she got underway for an overhaul in Long Beach. During her overhaul in Long Beach, DENVER spent two months in the dry dock. On 1 May DENVER began going through her sea trials, and completed them on 10 May. DENVER returned to her homeport of San Diego, California on 11 May, after four months in Long Beach.

From the 14 to 18 May, DENVER operated in Southern California operational area for general exercises. During the next week in San Diego on 24 May, the new Commanding Officer, Captain Lowell F. EGGERT, USN, took command relieving Captain Robert E. BODAMER, USN, in ceremonies at Pier 8, U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, California.

On 29 May DENVER got underway for refresher training and amphibious refresher training. This intensive training period was successfully completed on 6 July. On 6 July Commodore Glen R. CHEEK, USN, Commander Amphibious Squadron FIVE and his staff embarked in DENVER. On 8 July, sixty-one Midshipmen from colleges throughout the Midwest and West embarked for six weeks training. On 11 July DENVER got underway for a landing exercise at Camp Pendleton, California, for PHIBLEX-MABLEX 1-73, and remained at sea until completion of the exercise on 17 July when she returned to San Diego. DENVER remained in San Diego until 14 August, preparing for her upcoming deployment.

The Mayor of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, the Honorable William H. McNichols, and five distinguished citizens of Denver, were embarked 13 August and got underway with the ship for three days of local exercises which included a dependents cruise. While aboard DENVER, Mayor McNichols awarded the DENVER champion's cup to the ship's Engineering Department for their number one standing in the Department wide competition held during refresher training. Upon return to San Diego, the ship began final preparation for her WESTPAC deployment. Units embarked just prior to deploying were Assault Craft Unit One Detachment BRAVO, Team One; Beach Master's Unit One, Team FOXTROT; Underwater Demolition Team Eleven First Platoon, and Tactical Air Control Squadron One, Detachment BRAVO. On 29 August DENVER got underway for WESTPAC in company with USS MOBILE (LKA 115), USS MOUNT VERNON (LSD 39), USS TUSCALOOSA (LST 1187), and USS SCHENECTADY (LST 1185). Commander Amphibious Squadron FIVE (COMPHIBRON) was in overall command of the task group. On 5 September in Pearl Harbor, Commodore CHEEK and his staff moved aboard USS MOUNT VERNON, making DENVER OTC of the remaining four ships for the transit to Buckner Bay, Okinawa. The transit included many exercises to improve the ship's readiness.

DENVER's first WESTPAC stop was on 18 September at White Beach, Buckner Bay, Okinawa where she loaded Battalion Landing Team 3/4 aboard in preparation for exercise PAGASA II.

Cruising in company with USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19), USS MOBILE and USS TUSCALOOSA, DENVER transited from Buckner Bay to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. While in Subic Bay, DENVER conducted an exercise amphibious raid at Green Beach,

Zambales. On 26 September DENVER got underway with USS MOBILE, USS FREDERICK (LST 1184), and MSTIS TALUGA to join CTF SEVEN SIX and participate in a large scale amphibious landing, PAGASA II. The exercise was completed on 4 October. DENVER proceeded to Okinawa with a brief stop in Subic Bay. On 8 October DENVER embarked Rear Admiral A. W. PRICE, USN, Commander Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet (COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT) for the remainder of the deployment. On 12 October DENVER debarked BLT 3/4 at Numazu, Japan. On 23 October Admiral PRICE, COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT, presented to DENVER the Navy Unit Commendation at a ship's personnel inspection for DENVER's combat operations in Southeast Asia on her previous deployment.

From 14 October to 5 November, DENVER was in port Okinawa. The ship got underway for Keelung, Republic of China, on 5 November with a brief stop in Tsoying, Taiwan to deliver LVT's to the Republic of China. After delivering the LVT's, she proceeded to Keelung and on 7 November began five days of liberty.

After one day in Okinawa on the thirteenth of November, DENVER got underway for her next liberty port, Inchon, Republic of South Korea. The ship anchored in Inchon harbor and despite rough seas and difficult weather, enjoyed three days of liberty and recreation. On 4 December DENVER embarked BLT 3/4 in Numazu after BLT 3/4 had completed six weeks of cold weather training. USS DENVER, USS MOBILE, and USS SCHENECTADY with Commanding Officer, USS DENVER as Commander Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO (ARG BRAVO), conducted two landing exercises in December. The first exercise was conducted in Chin Wan, Okinawa (8-10 December), and the second exercise was conducted in Subic Bay (13-14 December). On 15 December BLT 3/4 debarked for six weeks training at the Mau Camp, Subic Bay. DENVER spent three more days in Subic Bay and departed 18 December, arriving in Buckner Bay on 21 December for the Christmas holidays. During the Christmas holidays, DENVER hosted a Christmas Party for children from an Okinawan school. On Christmas day, the ship conducted a special Christmas program of music and carolling. The year came to a close with the ship moored starboard side to Navy Pier White Beach, Okinawa.