



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DENVER (LPD-9) ✓
* FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96663

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From: Commanding Officer, USS DENVER (LPD-9)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: USS DENVER (LPD-9) Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

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

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. C. Butler".

G. C. BUTLER

By direction

Copy to:

CINCPACFLT

COMNAVSURFPAC

COMPHIBGRUEASTPAC

COMPHIBRON THREE

USS DENVER (LPD-9)
COMMAND HISTORY 1983

The efforts of the Engineering Department to pass OPRE in January resulted in success. DENVER was finally ready for sea. With a schedule assigning her to operate in the northern hemisphere of the Western Pacific, DENVER commenced her tenth deployment on January 30th.

It was during this month that the Dental Department acquired a new state-of-the-art fiber optics system which allows for the placement of highly esthetic restorations in crewmembers' anterior teeth.

RM3 [REDACTED] was selected as the ship's Sailor of the Quarter for 1st Qtr, FY '83.

February found DENVER in transit to Pearl Harbor; Yokohama, Japan; and Okinawa, Japan. Two separate underway replenishments were coordinated with the ship during this month.

In March, after transferring Marines to Pohang, Republic of Korea, DENVER sortied north to beaches off Tok Sok Ri where the ship participated in "Team Spirit '83," a multi-service amphibious operation involving the armed forces of the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. American Landing Vehicles Tracked (LVTs) and other amphibious warfare related vehicles were loaded in the well deck in support of landing operations. DENVER's own boats were used as platforms for boat wave commanders and as safety boats during the "Team Spirit" exercise. Upon completion, the

Marines were transported back to Okinawa.

During a port visit in Pusan, crewmembers distributed 10 pallets of Project Handclasp materials to three orphanages and one hospital.

EW2 [REDACTED] was recognized in March for being selected as DENVER Sailor of the Year for 1982 and also for Amphibious Squadron THREE.

Also in March, 8,000 gallons of MOGAS leaked from the storage tank into the surrounding cofferdam due to a faulty tank top gasket. Gas remaining in the tank was off-loaded at Okinawa. The cofferdam was emptied enroute to and while at Subic Bay, R.P.

Most of April was spent in an availability status at the Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, R.P.

Personnel changes this month included LTJG [REDACTED]'s assignment as Main Propulsion Assistant; ENS [REDACTED] assignment as B-Division Officer; and MMC [REDACTED]'s assignment as M-Division Officer.

On April 20th the ship's rock band "Dedran" made its international debut in a local night club in Olongapo City, just outside the Naval Base gate. On April 23rd crewmembers painted a school house while the ship's doctor, dentist, and their assistants provided medical and dental care to residents of a barrio located 60 miles from Subic Bay Naval Base.

On April 25th DENVER passed her 3-M inspection with a score of 75.

J02 [REDACTED] was recognized in April for being selected

as DENVER and Amphibious Squadron Three's Sailor of the Quarter
2nd Qtr, FY '83.

In May, DENVER's Commanding Officer, CAPT D. F. Greenhoe,
acted as CATF of a joint Philippine/American amphibious exercise
"Balikatan/Tangent Flash 83." The exercise provided training for
R.P. and U.S. military units and staffs in the planning and
conduct of joint/combined military operations. RM1 [REDACTED]
and RM3 [REDACTED] trained Philippine sailors on radio circuit
authentication systems.

A salvage and assistance team including ENS [REDACTED], the
ship's diving officer, and BMC [REDACTED] was tasked with
unfolding a Philippine LST's screws and with locating the USS
SCHENECTADY's fallen anchor. Both jobs were successful.

After Balikatan/Tangent Flash '83, DENVER headed south for
one week of liberty at Hong Kong, B.C.C. While moored to a buoy
there, the ship's bullnose suffered complete structural failure.
High winds at the ship's beam caused the anchor chain to rip
through the bullnose and across the deck destroying the bullnose,
the hatch to the forward gear locker, and several life rails.
The sea and anchor detail was hastily manned, but the anchor
chain held and despite the damage the ship remained moored to the
buoy.

While in Hong Kong, the ship's crewmembers and assigned
Marines donated 104 pints of blood to the Red Cross Transfusion
Facility. On the sports side, the DENVER softball team played

two games against the Champions of the Hong Kong Softball Association. The Champions won the fast-pitch match by one run, 9-8. DENVER redeemed herself in the slow-pitch contest by pounding out a 23-9 victory.

The damaged bullnose did not hinder DENVER from participating in her next exercise--Valiant Blitz 83-3, conducted near the coast of Okinawa, Japan. USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2) was originally assigned to the exercise, but because of damage to her screws, DENVER took VANCOUVER's commitment.

Early in June, during Valiant Blitz, elements of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Amphibious Unit were offloaded on landing craft and aboard helos as part of the landing force at Kin Blue Beach. After the exercise, the Marines were returned to Okinawa.

The ship headed for Yokosuka, Japan, for a short upkeep period from June 16-24. There, the bullnose was repaired temporarily.

Also in June, ENS [REDACTED] was assigned as A-Division Officer.

While in transit to Hawaii from Yokosuka, the ship successfully completed MTT Phase I.

On July 6th, opportune lift boats and automobiles were loaded on board at Pearl Harbor for transport to California.

DENVER concluded her deployment when she moored at Naval Station, San Diego on July 14th.

A leave and upkeep period followed the five-and-a-half month deployment.

Within weeks of DENVER's return, the Administrative Department received its second Xerox 860 information processing system. This computer facilitates processing of information, reduces man hours, and allows a large library of information to be stored on a computer disc.

AN [REDACTED] was selected as DENVER and Amphibious Squadron Three's Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Qtr FY '83.

August personnel changes included LTJG [REDACTED]'s assignment as First Lieutenant and LT [REDACTED]'s assignment as Communications Officer.

Short underway periods during August resulted in the ship passing MTT Phase II, and the ULM-4 range with both ULQ-6B. Additionally, post deployment inspections of the hull, boilers, and diesels were held.

The ship's major employment in September was the offload of JP-5 and MOGAS at La Playa Pier, San Diego; and of Landing Force Operational Reserve Materials (LFORM) and ammunition at Seal Beach.

Naval Surface Force Pacific held an Aviation Assist visit on October 3rd. Discrepancies were minimal and the assist was upgraded to full Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) certification.

Underway October 5 and 6, DENVER successfully completed OPFRE.

ASIR held an Aviation Facilities assist visit October 10th. Certification visit is scheduled for January 1984.

From October 12 to 14, the ship was underway conducting amphibious operations.

Upon return on the 15th, the ship entered a Planned Restricted Availability period. Areas of concentration were sea suction valves, fire pumps, SSTGs, #1 boiler and most significantly, replacement of the outdated and problem-ridden Dynalec telephone system with the Dimension 2000. Installed by Western Electric Company, this new \$40,000 system offers more in-house features like programmable call waiting, call hold, call forwarding, call transfer, and the 211 emergency dialing.

The DENVER cruisebooks arrived October 19th just 14 weeks after deployment, and were well received by all crewmembers.

October 26th marked DENVER's 15th anniversary of commissioning.

In November, Dental Department personnel were trained in "Casualty Care Treatment." This training allows them to assist the Medical Department in the treatment of major injuries during mass casualty evolutions.

Waveoff/cut lights and a stabilized Glide Slope Indicator were installed on top of Pri-fly by Naval Air Rework Facility, North Island. The equipment constitutes a major improvement in the ship's ability to visually signal approaching aircraft.

DENVER Signalmen were selected as Amphibious Squadron Three's Signal Bridge of the Quarter, 4th Qtr, FY'83.

Another quarterly award went to RM2 [REDACTED], who was selected as DENVER Sailor of the Quarter for the same period.

Commodore J. F. Gamboa, COMPHIBRON 3, conducted a personnel inspection aboard the ship on November 18th.

On the evening of November 21st, the ship had a buffet dinner at the Naval Station CPO Club. About 300 well-mannered crewmembers, wives, girlfriends, and guests attended the casual event which was funded by Welfare and Recreation.

It was on November 25th that LCDR Gregory C. Butler relieved LCDR Robert C. Giffen III of duties assigned as Executive Officer.

Other personnel changes included CWO2 [REDACTED]'s assignment as Damage Control Assistant.

CWO4 [REDACTED], formerly the Engineering Material Officer, retired in November in a ceremony held in the wardroom.

In December work commenced on DENVER's ballast system. One thousand feet of 10-inch main header pipe had to be replaced because of extensive corrosion to the piping and defective expansion joints. Approximately 5,040 feet of vent/blow piping were also installed. The new piping allows the ship to ballast and deballast in accordance with design criteria, use more tanks to ballast down, save JP-5, and better isolate ballast tanks.

At the request of SOPA Admin San Diego for interpreters, DENVER responded by allowing HMI Johannes Brenner and SN Wilmer Woodrum to participate as German and Russian interpreters, respectively, for the International Amateur Athletic Federation's World Championship 10K Race held December 1-7 at Fiesta Island, San Diego.

Also in December, DENVER was selected as Amphibious Group Eastern Pacific's nominee for the Secretary of the Navy Energy Conservation Award for 1983.

Personnel changes in December included LT [REDACTED]'s assignment as Administrative Assistant and LTJG [REDACTED]'s assignment as Navigator.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, a Christmas party sponsored by Welfare and Recreation was held on board for crewmembers and their families. Sweets, sing-alongs, Santa, and gifts were in order for the day.

December was a heavy month for sports as DENVER secured No. 1 positions in softball and basketball. The racquetball squad and the 10K runners also posted reputable records by the end of the calendar year.

In 1983, the Air Department logged 1,700 accident-free landings and take-offs; pumped 89,532 gallons of JP-5 to aircraft and utility equipment; and issued 1,600 gallons of automotive gasoline.

Electronic Warfare Specialists received the "EW" battle efficiency award for the second consecutive cycle.

Total OPTAR obligated for calendar year 83 was \$1,075,697.52. Of that, \$615,471.00 was spent on repair parts and \$460,226.52 was spent on other consumable type items.

In the Supply Department personnel changes included ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s assignment as Sales/Disbursing Officer and ENS [REDACTED] as Food Service Officer.