



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DENVER (LPD-9)
FPO AP 96663-1712

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS DENVER (LPD 9)
CY 1993

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Chronological sequence of events
(2) Muster Reports
(3) Biography and photo of Commanding Officer
(4) Biography and photo of Executive Officer
(5) Welcome aboard pamphlet for visitors
(6) Welcome aboard pamphlet for new personnel
(7) Personnel Chart

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is forwarded as the history for the USS DENVER (LPD 9) for calendar year 1993.

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

3. The following major personnel changes occurred over the last year: the Commanding Officer, CAPT C. W. Burck was relieved by CAPT A. J. Gilbert. The First Lieutenant, LT [REDACTED] was relieved by LT [REDACTED]. The Medical Officer, LT [REDACTED] was relieved by LT [REDACTED].

A. J. Gilbert
A. J. GILBERT

COMMAND HISTORY 1993

USS DENVER BEGAN THE YEAR PIERSIDE AT SOUTHWEST MARINE SHIPYARD, CONTINUING ITS THREE MONTH PHASED MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY. IN ADDITION TO THE MANY SHIPALTS AND REPAIRS, DENVER'S 3'/50 GUN MOUNTS WERE REMOVED. DENVER WAS ALSO BEING CONFIGURED TO OPERATE THE PIONEER UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV). DENVER WOULD BECOME THE FIRST LPD TO OPERATE THE UAV IN SUPPORT OF THE AMPHIBIOUS MISSION.

FROM 27 JANUARY TO 29 JANUARY, THE SHIP UNDERWENT A LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT BY THE IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR IN COMMAND (ISIC), AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON NINE AND ON 31 JANUARY, LIGHTED FIRES IN THE BOILERS.

ON 4 FEBRUARY, AS THE PHASE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY (PMA) CAME TO AN END, DENVER SHIFTED BERTHS (USING SHIP'S PROPULSION) TO PIER 6, NAVSTA SAN DIEGO. FROM 10 - 11 FEBRUARY, DENVER PERFORMED SEA TRIALS TO TEST ALL THE REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS COMPLETED DURING PMA. SEA TRIALS WERE SATISFACTORY, AND THE PMA CAME TO AN END ON THE 12TH.

FROM 22 - 26 FEBRUARY, DENVER'S AIR DEPARTMENT UNDERWENT ASIR FOR FLIGHT DECK QUALIFICATION AND PASSED WITH "FLYING COLORS." ONCE AGAIN, DENVER WAS FULLY CERTIFIED TO OPERATE AIRCRAFT.

HAVING COMPLETED NEARLY ALL INSPECTIONS, DENVER WAS READY TO BEGIN ITS WORKUP FOR DEPLOYMENT. ON 2 MARCH, THE SHIP GOT UNDERWAY FOR COMPTUEX 93-11M. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE NEW ORLEANS AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP, UNDER THE COMMAND OF COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON FIVE, WOULD OPERATE TOGETHER. THE EXERCISE WAS A SUCCESS, CONDUCTING BOTH DAY AND NIGHT AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS WITH HELICOPTERS, LANDING CRAFT AND LCAC'S. DENVER PERFORMED ITS AMPHIBIOUS MISSION OFF THE COAST OF CAMP PENDLETON IN COMPANY WITH THE USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11), USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45), AND USS CAYUGA (LST 1186).

THE SHIP RETURNED TO NAVSTA SAN DIEGO, PIER 6, ON 9 MARCH, AND SAILED AGAIN ON 15 MARCH FOR SEAL BEACH AND AN AMMUNITION ONLOAD. ALL AMMUNITION WAS ONLOADED IN TWO DAYS AND DENVER RETURNED TO SAN DIEGO ON 18 MARCH.

WORKUPS CONTINUED FOR DENVER. FROM 22 MARCH TO 2 APRIL THE SHIP WAS UNDERWAY FOR TSTA IV, DURING WHICH THE SHIP WAS GRADED ON ITS AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITIES. THE OPERATIONS WERE A SUCCESS, AS DENVER PROVED ITS COMPETENCY IN ALL ASPECTS OF AMPHIB OPS.

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DENVER RETURNED TO PIER 6, NAVSTA. ON 6 APRIL, RADM (SEL) W. FLADD, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR COMNAVSURFPAC VISITED THE SHIP. RADM (SEL) FLADD ONCE COMMANDED THE DENVER AND WAS PLEASED TO RETURN. DENVER STAYED PIERSIDE UNTIL 7 APRIL, AND ON THE 8TH, THE SHIP WAS UNDERWAY AND COMMENCED ITS TRANSIT TO TREASURE ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO. DENVER ARRIVED AT TREASURE ISLAND ON FRIDAY THE 8TH AND COMMENCED ITS TRAINING AVAILABILITY ON THE 10TH. FOR TWO WEEKS, THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF DENVER ATTENDED SCHOOLS IN DAMAGE CONTROL, UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT, COMMAND TRAINING TEAM, AND VARIOUS OTHER TOPICS. ON THE 23RD, THE SHIP WAS UNDERWAY FOR CAMP PENDLETON AND ARG/MEU TRAINING, RETURNING ON THE 30TH TO PIER 11, NAVSTA.

THE PACE CONTINUED TO QUICKEN AS DENVER UNDERWENT COMBAT SYSTEMS READINESS REVIEW (CSRR) FROM 3 TO 14 MAY (UNDERWAY ON THE 6TH AND 7TH). IT WAS BACK WITH THE ARG FROM THE 17TH THRU THE 21ST FOR MEU/SOC OPERATIONS WITH A RETURN TO PIER 13 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH. DENVER UNDERWENT A LOGISTICAL MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT FROM THE 24TH TO THE 28TH RECEIVING A GRADE OF OUTSTANDING. CAPTAIN C. W. BURCK WAS RELIEVED AS COMMANDING OFFICER BY CAPTAIN A. J. GILBERT ON 28 MAY.

JUNE BEGAN OFF THE COAST OF CAMP PENDLETON, AS THE SHIP WAS OPERATING WITH THE REST OF THE ARG IN COMPTUEX 83-14M. IT WAS BACK TO PIER 6, NAVSTA TO LOAD MARINES ON THE 9TH, WITH A BERTH SHIFT TO PIER 11 ON THE 16TH. FROM JUNE 18TH TO JULY 1ST, THE ARG COMPLETED ARG/MEU FLEETEX 93-1M OFF PENDLETON. DENVER CONDUCTED SIMULATED STRAIT OF HORMUZ TRANSITS, SEAL TEAM INSERTIONS, AV-8B HARRIER LANDING QUALIFICATIONS, GUN SHOTS, AND ALL ASPECTS OF ARG/MEU (SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE) TRAINING.

DENVER SPENT THE FIRST HALF OF JULY PIERSIDE, ORGANIZING THE EMBARKED MARINES AND THEIR EQUIPMENT ONBOARD. ON 19 JULY, THE SHIP GOT UNDERWAY FOR SEAL BEACH FOR THE FINAL AMMUNITION ONLOAD PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT. RETURNING 23 JULY, THE DENVER COMMENCED ITS PRIOR TO OVERSEAS MOVEMENT (POM) PERIOD. THE POM PERIOD ENDED 26 AUGUST AND THE DENVER WAS ONCE AGAIN FULLY MANNED AND READY FOR DEPLOYMENT.

ON 3 SEPTEMBER, THE NEW ORLEANS AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP, COMPRISED OF THE DENVER, USS NEW ORLEANS, USS COMSTOCK AND USS CAYUGA DEPLOYED FOR WESTPAC '93 - '94. THE DENVER HEADED WEST FOR OKINAWA, ARRIVING IN OKINAWA ON 24 SEPT. UNDERWAY AGAIN ON THE 27TH, THE DENVER MADE ITS SHORT TRANSIT TO HONG KONG FOR A PORT CALL AND ARRIVED ON 29 SEPT.

DENVER LEFT HONG KONG ON 3 OCTOBER, WITH THE NEXT PLANNED STOP - SINGAPORE. DUE TO HOSTILITIES IN SOMALIA, HOWEVER, THE NEW ORLEANS ARG WAS ORDERED OFF THE COAST OF MOGADISHU, SOMALIA TO SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS OPERATIONS ASHORE. THE ARG ARRIVED ON

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STATION ON 18 OCTOBER AND ON THE 28TH OF OCTOBER, DENVER CELEBRATED ITS 25TH BIRTHDAY.

ON 21 NOVEMBER, THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, GENERAL MUNDY, VISITED THE DENVER TO SPEAK WITH THE CREW. THE DENVER

FINALLY GOT A BREAK FROM THE ACTION AND STEAMED TO THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS FOR LIBERTY, ARRIVING ON THE 23RD AND DEPARTING ON THE 27TH FOR A RETURN TO THE SOMALI COAST.

THE DENVER WOULD SPEND THE REMAINDER OF 1993 OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA, CONTINUING ITS SUPPORT OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS ASHORE.

ON THE 19TH OF DECEMBER, THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, ADMIRAL KELSO, PAID A VISIT TO DENVER TO REMIND THE CREW AND EMBARKED MARINES OF THE SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE BACK IN THE STATES. LATE CHRISTMAS EVE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT CLINTON, PHONED THE DENVER VIA INMARSAT AND SPOKE WITH HM3 [REDACTED]. THE CONVERSATION WAS BRIEF BUT AMIABLE, AND THE PRESIDENT WISHED HM3 [REDACTED] AND THE DENVER A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. ON THE 26TH, CONGRESSMAN KOLBE FROM ARIZONA CAME TO DENVER TO SPEAK NOT ONLY WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS, BUT WITH THE ENTIRE SHIP. HE ENJOYED HIS STAY, SPENDING THE NIGHT AND LEAVING THE FOLLOWING MORNING. DENVER CLOSED OUT 1993 WITH A BRIEF NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION ON 31 DECEMBER OFF THE SOMALI COAST.