



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DENVER (LPD-9)
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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 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Chronological sequence of events
(2) Biography of Commanding Officer
(3) Biography of Executive Officer
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet for visitors

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is forwarded as the history of USS DENVER (LPD 9) for calendar year 1995.

2. USS DENVER (LPD 9) is the third United States Navy ship to bear the name of American pioneer James William Denver and the capital of the state of Colorado. DENVER's primary mission is to provide an aviation and amphibious launch and recovery platform in support of amphibious assault operations. Secondary missions include training of helicopter pilots, Marines, special warfare personnel, reservists, and midshipman; 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 J. Gilbert was relieved by CAPT W. Hopper. The Executive Officer, CDR J. Wachter was relieved by LCDR T. Guillory. The First Lieutenant, LCDR [REDACTED] was relieved by LT [REDACTED]. The Operations Officer, LCDR [REDACTED] was relieved by LT [REDACTED]. The Supply Officer, LT [REDACTED], was relieved by LT [REDACTED]. The Dental Officer, LT [REDACTED], was relieved by LT [REDACTED]. The Medical Officer, LT [REDACTED] was relieved by LT [REDACTED].

W.F. Hopper
W. F. HOPPER

1995 SUMMARY OF EVENTS

January 1 through 6, 1995, DENVER continued with the Holiday Leave and Upkeep Period in her homeport of San Diego, California. Monday, January 9, began the start of many underway periods for the Tailored Ship Training Availabilities (TSTA), the work-up cycle with the Afloat Training Group. After returning to port Friday, 13 January, DENVER resumed the Upkeep Period. During this inport period preparations were made for numerous administrative inspections by utilizing 3M/PMS assist visits, an Environmental Hygiene Assist visit, and an Industrial Hygiene Survey.

The Upkeep Period ended Monday, 30 January, with the start of TSTA II (inport). On Monday, 6 February, DENVER began a three week underway period for TSTA II. Monday, 27 February, began the administrative inspections, including the Shipboard Explosive Space Inspection.

Intensified preparations and training began for the Operation Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE), on Monday, 13 March. This underway period focused entirely on conducting engineering drill sets. DENVER returned to port Friday, 17 March, to resume the ship's Upkeep Period, which ended on Wednesday, 19 April.

On 19 April, DENVER returned to sea to conduct a "mock" OPPE, returning on Friday, 21 April, anchoring in San Diego harbor.

DENVER's Operation Propulsion Plant Examination started on Tuesday, 25 April. After two grueling days Captain J. Gilbert was notified by the Examiners that DENVER successfully passed OPPE. On Thursday, 27 April, DENVER returned to port.

The weeks beginning on 8 and 15 May, DENVER was underway for TSTA IV (the replacement for the old Amphibious Refresher Training).

The next week, 22 May, was DENVER's Change of Command, with Captain William F. Hopper relieving Captain Arthur J. "Jim" Gilbert on Friday, 26 May.

The following two weeks, 30 May and 5 June, were underway periods for TSTA III. The inport period of 12 June included the Safety Survey from NAVSAFECEN and commenced the Final Evaluation Period (FEP), which would mark the end of single-ship work-ups, and the beginning of the Amphibious Readiness Group's (ARG's) multi-ship work-ups. The FEP was conducted in two parts, an underway period of 20 through 22 June, and an inport period 26 through 30 June.

DENVER was underway Thursday, 6 July, for the first of several fleet exercises. This first one ran through Tuesday, 11 July, with DENVER returning to Seal Beach, 12 through 14 July, for

additional ammunition. DENVER was underway on Monday, 17 July, for fleet exercise COMPTUEX 95-17M, which was conducted until Friday, 21 July. The week of 24 July began an upkeep period. During this period DENVER passed the Medical Readiness Evaluation.

Fleet exercise, FLEETEX 95-2M began on Monday, 28 August, through Friday, 1 September. Following the Labor Day weekend DENVER participated in a joint fleet exercise, JTFEX 95, with the NIMITZ battle group, U.S. Coast Guard, and naval ships from Chile and Brazil. The exercise concluded with a MISSILE-EX on 13 September.

DENVER was in port the week of 15 September for deployment preparations and maintenance. Beginning 25 September, DENVER commenced a pre-deployment stand-down and preparations for overseas movement. The week before deploying RADM Saffell, Commander Amphibious Group THREE, visited the ship and held an Admirals Call for the crew. Sea Trials were conducted on 7 and 8 November. A "Family Day Cruise" was conducted as part of the Sea Trials on 7 November to allow DENVER families and friends to experience life underway.

November 13 marked "day number one" of WESTPAC 95-96. After an emotional goodbye, DENVER was underway. The next stop was Okinawa, Japan. Training conducted during the transit included Visit, Board, Search and Seizure; Emergency Defense of the Amphibious Task Force; Deck Landing Qualifications for the Air Combat Element (ACE); and underway replenishment (UNREP's). Training was hampered for a solid week due to the stormy seas and high winds in the northern Pacific. DENVER's Sailors and Marines conducted a burial at sea for five military veterans, whose families requested their ashes be committed to the ocean.

DENVER arrived in Okinawa 1 December, and conducted a stores on load and Admirals Call from the COMPHIBGRU ONE, Rear Admiral Walter Doran. The Marines conducted amphibious assault vehicle (AAV's) training that incorporated an assault ashore and subsequent maintenance training. After a week-long transit and a Navy Core Values stand-down starting 4 December, the PELELIU Amphibious Ready Group arrived in the first liberty port of the deployment, Singapore. The crew caught up on mail and news from home during the four day port visit.

On 17 December the ARG was underway for the Arabian Gulf, the area of operations for the next three months. On Christmas Day at 1400 local, DENVER was exactly half way around the world from San Diego. On 26 and 27 December, DENVER, along with six U.S. Navy ships, transited the Strait of Hormuz. DENVER arrived in Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, 27 December, and remained there through the New Year's holiday.