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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
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1993 ✓

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From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for CY 1993

1. Per reference (a), the command history for calendar year 1993 is submitted as enclosure (1).

Matthew S. Brown

MATTHEW S. BROWN
By direction

NHC/SH holds original

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
COMMAND HISTORY, 1993

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), sixth of the NIMITZ-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, was commissioned on July 4, 1992 at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Home ported at Norfolk, she is an asset of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet under Vice Admiral Anthony A. Less, and an operational unit of the Second Fleet, under Vice Admiral William Flanagan.

Commanded by Captain Robert G. Sprigg who relieved Captain Robert M. Nutwell in January, GEORGE WASHINGTON is tasked with numerous missions, the primary one being to conduct sustained combat air operations. In this role she serves as the flagship for the COMMANDER, GEORGE WASHINGTON BATTLE GROUP, commanded by Rear Admiral Alexander Krekich, who relieved Rear Admiral Michael A. McDevitt in August.

GEORGE WASHINGTON's embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, is commanded by Captain Stephen H. Baker. The air wing's task is to conduct sustained offensive air operations against land, surface, and sub-surface targets and to defend the battle group in support of assigned missions.

The air wing employs about 80 aircraft including: the F-14 (series) Tomcat fighter, flown by the VF-142 Ghostriders and the VF-143 Pukin' Dogs; the F/A 18 (series) Hornet strike-fighter, operated by the VFA-131 Wildcats and the VFA-136 Knighthawks; the A-6E Intruder medium attack aircraft, flown by the VA-34 Blue Blasters; the EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft, flown by the VAQ-140 Patriots; the S-3B Viking anti-submarine warfare aircraft flown by the VS-31 Topcats; the E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft, flown by the VAW-121 Bluetails; the ES-3B Raven, flown by the Black Ravens; and the SH-3H Sea King helicopter, flown by the HS-5 Nightdippers. The tailcode for Carrier Air Wing SEVEN is "Alfa Golf."

In addition, GEORGE WASHINGTON serves as the base of operations for Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY SIX while at sea, and is being examined as a potential platform for joint operations with Army and Air Force aviation and ground units.

Enclosure (1)

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Department Heads

CDR David M. Crocker	Executive Officer
CAPT James M. Brown	Reactor Officer
CDR [REDACTED]	Reactor Officer
CAPT Earl L. Boyette	CRMD
CAPT Vic Smith	CRMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Engineering
CAPT Myron Almond	Medical
CDR [REDACTED]	Medical
CDR [REDACTED]	Dental
CDR [REDACTED]	Dental
CDR [REDACTED]	AIMD
CDR [REDACTED]	AIMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Navigator
CDR [REDACTED]	Weapons
CDR [REDACTED]	Supply
CDR [REDACTED]	Supply
CDR [REDACTED]	Operations
CDR [REDACTED]	Operations
CDR [REDACTED]	Safety
LCDR [REDACTED]	Deck
LCDR [REDACTED]	Deck
LCDR [REDACTED]	Training
LCDR [REDACTED]	Training
LCDR [REDACTED]	Legal
LCDR [REDACTED]	Administration
LT [REDACTED]	Communications

1993 CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Jan Inport at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company for a post shakedown cruise availability.
- 9 Jan Ship enters dry-dock at Newport News Shipbuilding
- 23 Jan CAPT Sprigg relieves CAPT Nutwell in a ceremony at LP2 on Naval Air Station Norfolk
- 15 Feb CAPT Sprigg participates in a George Washington parade in Alexandria, Va as a guest of honor.
- 25 Feb GW Band and Chorus perform at the VA Hospital
- 27 Feb Ship undocks at Newport News
- 10 Mar Adoption of Huntington Middle School in Newport News
- 31 Mar - 02 Apr Nuclear Power Mobile Training Team aboard
- 11 Apr Chorus performs aboard USS AMERICA (CV 66) for Easter
- 27-28 Apr Comcrudesgru TWO visit GW, his flagship.
- 5-7 May Fast cruise at Newport News Shipbuilding
- 14-20 May Underway for sea trials in the VACAPES Op Area
- 26 May ADM Miller visits ship
- 1-15 June TSTA 1 inport phase
- 12 June Clean the Bay Day around the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads
- 16-30 June Underway for TSTA 1 with Air Wing SEVEN embarked in the VACAPES Op Area
- 28-30 June NPMTT underway training
- 2 July VADM Less holds all hands quarters on the hangar deck and presents the ship with its second golden anchor.
- 3-4 July Open visiting for the holiday weekend
- 6 July GW Night at Harbor Park with the Norfolk Tides.
- 10 July Command Picnic at Fleet Recreation Park
- 19 July - 2 Aug Underway for Fleet Replacement Squadron CQs and TSTA 4 evaluation.
- 21-22 July CAPSTONE embark
- 23-24 July White House Staff members embark
- 27-28 July White House Fellows embark
- 30 July ADM Miller and the Ukrainian Minister of Defense fly aboard in TF/A-18's
- 3 Aug Dependent's Cruise

9 Aug First Marine Detachment is established aboard

12 Aug GWBATGRU (COMCRUDESGRU TWO) Change of Command on the flight deck, RADM Krekich relieves RADM McDevitt

15 Aug Broadway musical review, "One Singular Sensation" staged in hangar bay 2.

16 Aug Secretary Dalton (SECNAV) and ADM Mauz live on NBC's Today Show on the flight deck.

17 Aug ADM Zumwalt and Congressman Young (FL) aboard for bone marrow type matching drive

24 Aug Underway in VACAPES Op Area for TSTA 2

23-27 Aug Supply Management Assist

25-26 Aug Nashville Civic Leaders embark

2-7 Sep Inport Fort Lauderdale for open visiting in the afternoons and special tours in the morning.

3 Sep Reception for 300 guests on the hangar deck

8-14 Sep Underway for type training.

8-10 Sep Bronze Quarter joint exercise with USA, USMC, USAF units off the Carolina, Georgia and Florida coasts.

17 Sep USS ESSEX reunion tour for 300 people

21 Sep - 1 Oct Underway for fleet replacement squadron CQs and TSTA 4 training

21-22 Sep Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Group embark

25-26 Sep Chicago Civic Leaders embark

26 Sep Congressional Black Caucus embark

29 Sep - 1 Oct Underway NPMTT final visit prior to ORSE.

2 Oct 455th Bomb Group reunion tour for 300 people

14-21 Oct Underway VACAPES Op Area

19-21 Oct ORSE, VACAPES Op Area

30 Oct Family Halloween Party

1-5 Nov Underway, VACAPES Op Area for fleet CQs

1 Nov CNO embark for a look at Total Quality Leadership (TQL)

3-5 Nov 3M inspection

22 Nov Norfolk chapter of the Nationwide Executive Convention Liaison Council sponsored visit to GW

25 Nov Thanksgiving Dinner on the mess decks for dependents and members of local area boys and girls clubs.

1 and 2 Dec Ship's Holiday Parties aboard the "Spirit of
Norfolk" harbor cruise ship.

7-16 Dec Underway VACAPES Op Area for TSTA 3 evaluation.

8-9 Dec Kansas City Civic Leaders embark

10-11 Dec CODEL McNulty embark

NARRATIVE

GEORGE WASHINGTON began the new year in her birthplace, Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, in a post shakedown cruise availability. While in the yards the crew was making preparations for a deployment that was potentially scheduled for as early as the Fall of 1993.

On January 23, 1993 CAPT Robert (Bob) G. Sprigg relieved CAPT Robert M. Nutwell in a ceremony held in hangar LP2 at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk. CAPT Sprigg soon discovered how popular the ship was with Virginians when he was asked to participate in the George Washington parade in Alexandria on February 15. Community involvement would continue to remain an important ingredient in the ship's routine throughout the year.

While the band and chorus performed at many notable events during the year, one of the first occasions of 1993 to entertain was on February 25 for patients at the local Veterans Administration Hospital. This was followed up by an Easter sunrise performance aboard AMERICA for all Navy families and friends.

The period in the shipyard was ideal for involvement in other community relations projects as well such as sponsorship of the Huntington Middle School in Newport News. Crew members participated in tutorial programs, athletic events, field trips and a career fair.

Training was a major thrust during the stay at Newport News, and for the Reactor Department, included a visit by the Nuclear Power Mobile Training Team (NPMTT). Crew qualifications were tested in a three day fast cruise starting on May 5 to ensure the ship was prepared to go to sea. On May 14, 1993 GEORGE WASHINGTON left the shipyard for sea trials and a return to her new home at NAVSTA, Norfolk on May 20.

The busy training and upkeep schedule continued with TSTA phase 1 inport, then underway off the Virginia Capes in June for another visit by the NPMTT. Despite the hectic pace, the crew found time to help take care of ~~our~~ surroundings and participated in "Clean the Bay" day on June 12. ^{the} ^{Environment}

The first half of the year was closed out by a visit from VADM Less, who presented the Captain and crew with the ship's second Golden Anchor award for retention.

The ship was opened to the general public for the Fourth of July weekend for visiting, a fitting introduction for the ship to the rest of the year. About 10,000 people toured in 2 days of open ship. The public got some more exposure to GW on July 6 when MWR sponsored a family night at the Norfolk Tides game at newly opened Harbor Park. The GW Chorus made an appearance in which they sang the National Anthem, the color guard carried the standards and the Captain made a presentation of a photo collage and ball caps to the owner and general manager. The week closed out with the ship's picnic at fleet recreation park in which MWR set up an extensive pig-roast buffet, inflatable "Fun Rooms" for the kids, and musical entertainment for the adults by the GW band.

Underway again on July 19 for a fleet carrier qualification (CQ) period, the ship was visited by numerous distinguished visitors including a CAPSTONE group on July 21-22, and the Ukrainian Minister of Defense, accompanied by ADM Miller on July 30.

Returning to port on August 2, the ship got underway again early the next morning for a dependents day cruise, marked by an aerial demonstration by CVW 7 pilots, a large screen TV on the hangar deck and an extensive spread of picnic food items. EM3 [REDACTED] took the opportunity to get married on the flight deck, another first for GW!

Another pre deployment item was completed and the GW family got bigger when our first Marine Detachment (MARDET) reported aboard on

August 9, fresh from a tour on JOHN F. KENNEDY. The extended GW family, including dependents, flag officers and local dignitaries were aboard on August 12 as RADM McDevitt was relieved by RADM Krekich.

On August 15, the ship experienced the treat of "One Singular Sensation," a Broadway review show, performed by the Broadway and Washington companies of Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera. Although it was a warm evening, and the sound system was acting in a cranky way, the 1000 plus member audience of family and friends enjoyed tunes and dance numbers from shows like: "A Chorus Line," "Westside Story," "Miss Saigon," and "Phantom of the Opera," to name a few.

A different media event took place the next morning as the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John Dalton, visited sailors on the mess decks at breakfast, and then conducted a live interview with Katie Couric and Bryant Gumble via satellite on the flight deck for NBC's Today Show.

Continuing on into the week, ADM Elmo Zumwalt and Congressman C.W. Bill Young from Florida visited the ship on August 17 while a bone marrow blood drive was being conducted in the medical department. A boy with leukemia and his sister toured the ship with the admiral and congressman and got to appear on the ship's SITE TV system.

The ship got underway again on August 24, with GWBATGRU embarked, for TSTA 2 in the Virginia Capes area, as well as a Supply Management Assessment and several large embark groups including two White House sponsored events. As the month drew to a close, GW proceeded to Florida and a port visit in Port Everglades.

While in Florida from September 2 until September 7 the ship was open to the public for three and one half days and was toured by over 30,000 people. In addition, a semi-formal sunset reception was held on the hangar deck on September 3 for 300 guests from the area including Navy League personnel, local elected officials and members of the diplomatic corps from the Miami area. Receptions were also held ashore on the nights of September 2, 4 and 5 for the Admiral, Captain, chief petty officers and enlisted men at various clubs and restaurants in the area. September 4 also found the GW Chorus singing the National Anthem at the Florida Marlins game.

Underway again on September 8 for type training, the ship and airwing participated in "Bronze Quarter," a joint exercise with the other services off the southeastern coast of the United States before returning to Norfolk for a brief week's visit on September 14 and a reunion tour for 300 sailors from the ex-USS ESSEX.

September 21 found GEORGE WASHINGTON supporting the fleet CQ needs in the Virginia Capes area, as well as continuing to conduct nightly embarks for civic and government officials, business leaders and dignitaries from around the country. The familiar faces of the NPMTT were again seen aboard as the Reactor Department made the final preparations for the ORSE inspection in October.

A brief inport period from October 1 through October 14 was marked by another series of tours including a reunion for another 300 visitors, this time from the 455th Bomber Group, famed for the raids on the Ploesti Oil Fields in World War 2.

After getting underway on October 14 and taking on some ammunition from NITRO, the ship commenced the ORSE inspection on October 19 and passed with all colors flying in a happy return to Norfolk on October 21.

On October 27, the ship participated in the initial phases of an educational program that links classrooms across the country in a kind of electronic field trip. Sponsored and produced by a group called "Community Visions," the concept includes a video tour of the ship, and the second phase includes a chance to phone in questions to a designated

representative of the ship. This second portion of the show is scheduled to be conducted in 1994.

The week continued for the GW family with some good times and some sad ones as well. On October 28, a memorial service was held in hangar bay 2 by Father Lesak for a shipmate who lost his life on the beach. The week concluded with a Halloween Party for dependent children sponsored by the GW Spouses organization.

November 1 found the ship underway on rather short notice for another fleet CQ period and then a return to port on November 5. Included in a full week of tours and embarks was the CNO, ADM Kelso, aboard for a brief look at the ship's TQL program, and a Young Presidents group from New York. Additional guests aboard included the COMNAVAIRLANT 3M inspection team for a surprise maintenance inspection.

The crew shared their good fortunes with family and friends, as well as 32 members of local area girls and boys clubs on Thanksgiving Day when the mess decks personnel produced a feast of turkey, ham, prime rib, and all the fixings to go along with a festive holiday meal.

Ring in the holiday season continued on December 1 and 2 as MWR sponsored Holiday Dinner Cruises aboard the "Spirit of Norfolk" cruise ship. Finishing the year up was one last underway period from December 7 to 16 for TSTA 3 in preparation for COMPTUEX in January 1994 and of course, more embarks including Representatives McNulty (NY), Knollenberg (MI) and Reed (RI). Upon return to Norfolk on December 16, the crew commenced the holiday leave and upkeep period having completed the first fully operational year in commission.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

There are many ongoing themes, events and occurrences that marked the first full year of commissioned service and some of those are noted in the following section along with applicable enclosures and photographs.

Excellence and a "Can Do" spirit are the key philosophies for the GW crew. As the Atlantic Fleet Total Quality Leadership Demonstration Ship (TQL), the idea of doing things in new ways and with a new outlook became the modus operandi.

CRMD set out to improve the religious and outreach programs available to crew members and their families as described in the attached documents.

Athletic teams strived to be their best and earned many awards.

MWR proved time and again that there is no end to the creativity that can be tapped when entertaining the crew.

In Public Affairs, thousands of people were exposed to the Navy through an aggressive tour and embark program, as well as a superb fleet home town news release program.

Even the legal department set about to improve the brig facilities aboard.

Operationally, this same spirit can be seen in the unprecedented safety record to date and in the award of consecutive gold anchors.

See 517