



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
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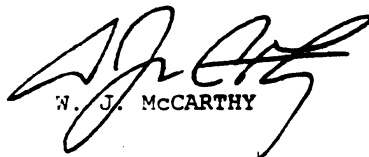
From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH), 2000 Navy Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Subj: USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) 1999 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) 1999 Command History
(2) GW Battle "E" Submission
(3) News Clips
(4) Welcome Aboard Brochure
(5) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photo

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted to document the achievements of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) during the period 1 January to 31 December 1999.


W. J. MCCARTHY

**USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
COMMAND HISTORY 1999**

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. Homeported in Norfolk, Va., GEORGE WASHINGTON is an asset of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, commanded by Vice Admiral Joe Mobley. At the start of this year, GEORGE WASHINGTON was moored at Pier 5N at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va., in the eighth month of a planned 10-month Drydocking Planned Incremental Availability.

Captain Lindell G. Rutherford was in command of *GW* at the beginning of the year; Captain William J. McCarthy relieved him on November 16. The ship serves as the flagship for Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO, commanded by Rear Admiral Ronald Route.

Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN, commanded by Captain Jim Hart, was the ship's main armament and embarked *GW* for the first time in December. The air wing provides the capability to conduct sustained offensive air operations against land, surface, and subsurface targets, and to defend the battle group in support of assigned missions.

There are 70 aircraft in *Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN*, including: the F-14B Tomcat fighter flown by the Jolly Rogers of VF 103; the F/A-18C Hornet strike fighter flown by the Rampagers of VFA 83, the Blue Blasters of VFA 34 and the Sunliners of VFA 84; the E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning aircraft flown by the Tigertails of VAW 125; the S-3B Viking sea control aircraft flown by the Diamondcutters of VS 30; the EA-6B Prowler electronic attack aircraft flown by the Scorpions of VAQ 132; the HH-60/SH-60F helicopter flown by the Red Lions of HS 15; and the C-2 Greyhound carrier onboard delivery (COD) aircraft flown by the Rawhides of VRC 40.

Enclosure (1)

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) LEADERSHIP

CAPT Lindell G. Rutherford	Commanding Officer
CAPT William J. McCarthy	Commanding Officer
CAPT Garry R. White	Executive Officer
CAPT Christopher C. Cain	Reactor Officer
CDR [REDACTED], CHC	CRMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Engineering
CDR [REDACTED]	Air
CAPT Michael J. Krentz, MC	Medical
CDR [REDACTED], MC	Medical
CDR [REDACTED], DC	Dental
CDR [REDACTED]	AIMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Navigator
CDR [REDACTED]	Navigator
CDR [REDACTED]	Weapons
CDR [REDACTED], SC	Supply
CDR [REDACTED]	Supply
CDR [REDACTED]	Operations
CDR [REDACTED]	Operations
CDR [REDACTED]	Safety
CDR [REDACTED]	Safety
CAPT Francis A. Hiser, III	Combat Systems
LCDR [REDACTED]	Deck
LCDR [REDACTED]	Deck
LT [REDACTED]	Training
LCDR [REDACTED]	Training
LCDR [REDACTED], JAG	Legal
CDR [REDACTED]	Administration

NARRATIVE

When 1999 began, *USS GEORGE WASHINGTON* (CVN 73) was in the eighth month of a scheduled ten-month Drydocking Planned Incremental Availability in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va. This was the first ever DPIA for an aircraft carrier and during *GW*'s stay in Portsmouth, the ship completed several major projects, including installation of an additional air conditioner unit, modulation change of rod drives for the reactor, enlarging chill water piping, installation of the Consolidated Automated Support System (CASS) test stations, and outfitting 12 berthing spaces for women.

On January 11, a memorial service was held in the foc'sle for our fallen shipmate, ET3 Colin M. Beebe. *GW* shipmates turned out to remember Petty Officer Beebe's honorable, distinguished service to the Navy and his country.

In mid-January, the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet announced that *GW* was the Atlantic Fleet's 1998 Golden Anchor Award winner. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MMCM (SS/SW/AW) James Herdt, visited *GW* on January 19 and gave a "State of the Navy" address to *GW* Sailors over ship's television.

The first challenge of February was to pass Crew Certification Phase I, which happened on February 3. That was followed by the Post-Overhaul Reactor Safeguards Examination (PORSE), which *GW* successfully completed on February 18. On President's Day, the *GW* Color Guard and 50-state Flag Team marched in the President's Day parade in Alexandria, Va., to commemorate President George Washington's 250th birthday. On February 24, *GW* hosted a Spouse Appreciation Day luncheon to thank spouses for the support they provided during the '97-'98 deployment and the DPIA period.

March saw the DPIA winding down and preparations increase for getting *GW* back to sea. Good news came from COMNAVAIRLANT in the form of departmental Battle "E" awards. Weapons Department won an unprecedented fifth consecutive BLACK W departmental battle efficiency award. *GW* also was awarded the YELLOW E (Air), BLUE H (Habitability), BLUE M (Medical), and the GREEN E (Operations).

Final crew certifications took place in port from March 10-11, with inspectors looking at everything from the bridge watch teams -- which were manned for a simulated underway period -- and major drills like man overboard, abandon ship, General Quarters and a simulated fire on the flight deck. A fast cruise followed March 13-14, then on March 18, *GW* said farewell to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and headed down the Elizabeth River, through Hampton Roads and back to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off the Virginia Capes for three days of Sea Trials. The trials put the ship through the paces and tested all ship's equipment, from communications gear to the ship's laundry, to air conditioning and ventilation. *GW* calibrated the EM log, demonstrated the fathometer, operated all the ship's conveyors, and conducted reactor drills and mass casualty drill sets. The ship returned to Pier 12 at the Naval Base Norfolk for the first time in 10 months on March 23 - but not for long. With the ship's systems testing out OK, it was time to get the flight deck certified for the ship's primary mission - to launch and recover aircraft. On March 25, *GW* pulled away from Pier 12 for its first week of flight operations in almost a year.

That successful underway period ended April 2 with *GW's* return to Norfolk. During the time in port Norfolk, *GW* hosted numerous distinguished visitors and public tours, including former president of Poland Lech Walesa. Rear Adm. Ronald Route, Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO, presented the prestigious Golden Anchor Award for retention and quality of life excellence to CAPT Rutherford on April 14 in a ceremony in Hangar Bay 2. On April 22, *GW* hosted the Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year Banquet, one of the highlights of the weeklong Sailor of the Year competition in Hampton Roads.

During the next underway period, from May 11 to May 20, *GW* continued to support fleet carrier qualifications off the Virginia coast. The ship also hosted a number of distinguished visitors, including Rep. James Greenwood (R-PA) and Dr. Henry Heimlich, inventor of the Heimlich maneuver. The new mezzanine gym, which was installed during the DPIA period and outfitted with the latest fitness equipment, opened during this underway period. After the ship's return to Norfolk, Ms. Eleanor Spector, Director, Defense Procurement, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology), visited on May 26.

The parade of distinguished visitors continued in June. Home improvement guru Bob Vila and 150 executives from Sears visited on June 3 and attended a Sunset reception in Hangar Bay Two. Then on June 12, *GW* Sailors hosted 8,000 family members and friends for a Family Day Cruise off the Virginia coast. Though gray, soggy weather threatened to cancel the air show, the rain stopped briefly in the afternoon and the guests were treated to a mini air show by elements of CVW 17, complete with an F/A-18 supersonic fly by.

GW returned to sea for CQ on June 21. During this underway period, the damage control training intensified and we hosted many dignitaries, including RADM Cifuentes, Chilean Naval Attache.

The ship got back to Norfolk on July 2, just in time for 4th of July celebrations and *GW's* 7th birthday. We spent the month of July in port, conducting drills and improving the ship's readiness and material condition. As the only aircraft carrier in port during the summer tour season, we hosted more than 1,500 visitors during the month.

The ship was underway again on August 2. We headed south and spent two weeks off the coast of Florida, conducting carrier qualifications for training command pilots. *GW* hosted many DVs during the first week in August, including actor/professional wrestler Tommy Lister, Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) Dr. Jacques Gansler and Ambassador Tom Vraalsen from Norway. A video crew from the television show "Real Life" was aboard from August 5-8 to tape a show about career opportunities in the Navy. On August 12, *GW* recorded its 60,000th arrested landing. *GW* headed north to Nova Scotia and a port visit in the city of Halifax from August 16-18. Our trip to Halifax ended on a sad note, however, when we lost our shipmate, Airman Tavius Butler, who fell overboard on the morning of August 18.

GW weighed anchor in Halifax on August 18 with several hundred extra passengers aboard - family members and friends joining us for our 1999 Tiger Cruise. For two days, our Tigers lived the life of U.S. Navy Sailors underway and many gained a new appreciation for the challenges of life at sea.

We pulled into Norfolk on August 20 and spent the next few weeks getting ready for our September underway period -- which would be the first this year with the Battle Group staff embarked -- and avoiding hurricanes. On September 16, Hurricane Floyd threatened the East Coast of the U. S. and *GW* went to sea to ride out the storm. The ship returned to Norfolk on September 18, just long enough to get packed and ready for the longest underway period of the year, starting September 24.

Again the featured evolution of the underway period was flight operations, specifically carrier qualifications for fleet pilots off the Virginia coast and for training command pilots off the Florida coast. During the TRACOM CQ, *GW* was steaming in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast on October 3 when a distress call came in from the seagoing tug *Coastal Sun*. The tug's crew reported that their ship had taken on seven feet of water in the engine room and was in danger of sinking. A repair team from *George Washington*, Senior Chief Petty Officer Joseph Curtin and Fireman Viron Smith, flew over to the tug by helo and dropped by hoist aboard *Coastal Sun* with equipment to pump the water overboard. They dewatered the tug and saved it from sinking; the tug made it to port the next day.

GW pulled into Fort Lauderdale the next day for four days of great South Florida hospitality during Broward Navy Days/Fleet Week '99. The crew had plenty of opportunity not only to enjoy the warm Florida sun, but also to participate in community relations projects. More than 200 *GW* Sailors participated in a Habitat for Humanity project and helped build two houses for underprivileged people in the Miami area. Over the four-day port visit, *GW* hosted more than 10,000 people from South Florida.

On October 8, *GW* left the warmth of Florida behind for a transit north and a return to Norfolk on October 14. This was not to be a long inport period, though; ORSE, or the Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination, was just ahead.

We got underway on October 24, a day before the ORSE team came aboard. ORSE took place from October 25-29, and numerous drills tested the ship's ability to respond to casualties in the propulsion plant. The hard work of the entire crew, especially the men and women in Reactor Department, helped *GW* pass the examination.

We finished that at sea period with a simultaneous VERTREP/CONREP with *USS Supply* and *USS Theodore Roosevelt* November 2-4, receiving more than 2,000 tons of live ammunition. CH-46 helicopters completed over 1200 lifts during this evolution.

GW returned to Norfolk on November 4 and the crew immediately began preparing for the upcoming change of command. In a ceremony in Hangar Bay 2 on November 16, Captain William J. McCarthy relieved Captain Lindell "Yank" Rutherford as *GW's* Commanding Officer.

November also saw the Supply Department win the 1999 Naval Supply Systems Command's Price Fighter's Award for price challenges and selected as a Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award finalist for best General Mess.

After the Thanksgiving holiday, the *GW/CVW 17* team came together for the first time in 1999 during a two-week underway period from December 1-16. During that time, the *GW/CVW 17* team completed TSTA I/II, a Medical readiness assessment and an AIRLANT Handling Team visit, with all inspectors noting the outstanding integration of the ship and the Air Wing. We also completed the migration to the new IT-21 (Information Technology for the 21st Century) local area network. The upgrade dramatically improved the ship's information processing capabilities by upgrading computers, from Pentium 100's to Pentium III 450's, and increasing the number of computers aboard from about 450 to almost 1500.

During that underway period, the Sailor of the Year for 1999 was announced - AT1 (AW/SW) [REDACTED] from AIMD. *GW* returned to Norfolk on December 16 and we celebrated a successful 1999 at the ship's Holiday Party, held at the Pavilion in Virginia Beach on December 17. The party featured two national recording artists: Joan Jett and Faith Evans.

GW traveled more than 26,000 miles in 1999.

1999 CHRONOLOGY

January

- 1 Moored, pier 5N, Norfolk Naval Shipyard for Drydocking Planned Incremental Availability.
- 11 Memorial service for ET3 Colin M. Beebe, USN
- 19 Master Chief Petty of the Navy James Herdt visits; holds MCPON Call on SITE TV
E2/E3 Advancement ceremony

February

- 3 MTT and Crew Certification phase I
- 24 Spouse Appreciation Day luncheon
- 26 Dock trials begin

March

- 8 Weapons Department awarded unprecedented fifth consecutive BLACK W departmental battle efficiency award by COMNAVAIRLANT. GW also awarded the YELLOW E (Air), BLUE H (Habitability), BLUE M (Medical), and the GREEN E (Operations).
Ammo onload
- 10-11 Crew Certification phase II
- 13-14 Fast cruise
- 18 Underway (Sea Trials)
- 20 Inport Norfolk
- 23 All hands Safety Standdown
- 25 Underway (Flight Deck Certification)
- 28 Health Fair
General Quarters
- 29 RAS w/USNS Bighorn
- 30 RAS w/USNS Bighorn
General Quarters
- 31 AAW tracking exercise
Full bore weapons exercise
Women's History Month Celebration

April

- 1 Burial at Sea, AKC Robert N. Crooks, USN (ret.)
- 2 Inport, Norfolk
- 5 Ms. Gudran Schyman, Swedish Member of Parliament visit
VADM Dirk Horten, Commander in Chief, German Fleet visit
- 8 Hosted Tidewater Council Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet.
VADM H. C. Giffin, SURFLANT, guest speaker
- 14 GW awarded Golden Anchor Award for 1998
- 16 Memorial service for EM1 Ben Brown, USN
- 23 Memorial service for [REDACTED] infant daughter
of EM2 [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED]

24 Lech Walesa, former President of Poland visit
26 Captain's Call, Hangar Bay Two
27 Lt. Gen. Sedivy, Chief of Staff, Czech Armed Forces; Gen.
Vegh, Chief of General Staff, Hungarian Home Defense Force
visit
Phantom of the Opera cast visit

May

1 VADM Fallon, Commander, Second Fleet visit
7 USO Board of Governors visit
General Quarters Drill
11 Underway, VACAPES (Fleet carrier qualifications)
12 ADM Demars (ret.), former Director, Navy Nuclear
Propulsion, embarks
13 Mezzanine Gym Opening Ceremony
15 General Quarters drill
Man overboard drill
19 General Quarters drill
20 In port Norfolk
26 General Quarters drill

June

2 General Quarters drill
3 Bob Vila, Sears Executives Sunset reception, Hangar Bay 2
9 General Quarters drill
9 Smart Cards distributed to crew
12 Family Day Cruise
18 Memorial service for BMCS Gregory Thomas, USN
21 Underway, Carrier Qualifications (VACAPES)
22 RAS with USNS KANAWHA
23 FAS with USS ESTOCIN
24 General Quarters drill
DIW drill
25 Burials at Sea, CAPT David Scott, USN (ret.) and AOCM
William Naylor, USN (ret.)
DIW drill
Full Bore/PAC Fire
26 General Quarters drill
28 General Quarters drill
30 General Quarters drill

July

2 In port, Norfolk
7 General Quarters
15 Ammunition on load
16 Ammunition on load
21 Enlisted Nuclear Detailer visit
22 NRAD Training Drill

August

2 Underway, Carrier Qualifications
5 RAS with USNS Bighorn
6 NATO Sea Sparrow Missile Shoot
7 General quarters drill
12 60,000th arrested landing aboard *GW*
13 Safety Standdown
16 Port visit, Halifax, Nova Scotia
18 Underway, Tiger Cruise ;
20 In port Norfolk
24 Memorial service for AN Tavius Butler, USN

September

8 Military Ministries for Christ luncheon
13 Hosted Damage Control Olympics, flight deck
16 Underway, VACAPES (Hurricane Floyd)
18 In port Norfolk
21 NRAD drill
24 Underway, carrier qualifications
25 Burial at sea, SSGT George A. Walz, USAAC

October

3 CAPSTONE Flag and General Officer embark
Last U.S. Navy launch and recovery of the TA-4 Skyhawk
training aircraft
GW Damage Control team saves sinking tug, *Coastal Sun*
4 In port Fort Lauderdale (Port Everglades), Broward Navy
Days
8 Underway
9 General quarters drill
15 In port Norfolk
24 Underway, VACAPES
25-29 Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination

November

2-4 Conducted simultaneous VERTREP/CONREP with USS SUPPLY and
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, receiving more than 2,000 tons of
live ammunition. CH-46 helicopters completed over 1200
lifts during this evolution.
4 In port Norfolk
8 VADM Mobley, COMNAVAIRLANT, visits
16 Change of Command ceremony - CAPT William J. McCarthy
relieved CAPT Lindell G. Rutherford
24 Safety Awareness Day
26 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 1 Underway, TSTA I/II
CNAL Force Medical Readiness Assessment
- 4 The Honorable Stephen Preston, Navy General Counsel,
embarks
- 5 Mr. Alan Lance, National Commander, American Legion,
embarks
Migration to IT-21 LAN begins
- 10 Nick Bollettieri, world famous tennis coach, embarks
- 15 GW Sailor of the year announced: AT1(AW/SW) [REDACTED]
- 16 In port, Norfolk
- 17 GW Christmas Party, Virginia Beach Pavilion. National
recording artists Joan Jett and Faith Evans perform