



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
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Subj: USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000

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Encl: (1) Command History for CY 2000
(2) GW award submissions for CY 2000
(3) News clips
(4) Welcome aboard brochure
(5) Disk
(6) Commanding Officer's photo and biography

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted as USS GEORGE WASHINGTON's command history for calendar year 2000.


W. J. McCARTHY

**USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
COMMAND HISTORY 2000**

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), sixth of the NIMITZ class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, was commissioned on 4 July 1992 at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Homeported in Norfolk, Va., GEORGE WASHINGTON is an asset of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. At the start of this year, GEORGE WASHINGTON was moored at Pier 12N at the Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Va.

Captain William J. McCarthy was in command of *GW* at the beginning of the year. The ship serves as the flagship for Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO, commanded by Rear Admiral Ronald Route until April, when Rear Admiral Gary Roughead relieved him.

Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN, commanded by Captain James Hart until October 4, 2000, then by Captain Rodger Welch, was the ship's main armament. 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-81; 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-2A Greyhound carrier onboard delivery (COD) aircraft flown by the *Rawhides* of VRC-40.

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) LEADERSHIP

CAPT William J. McCarthy	Commanding Officer
CAPT Garry R. White	Executive Officer
CAPT(sel) Kevin M. Donegan	Executive Officer
CAPT Christopher C. Cain	Reactor Officer
CAPT Michael D. Davis	Reactor Officer
CAPT Lorenzo C. York, CHC	CRMD
CDR [REDACTED] CHC	CRMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Engineering
CDR [REDACTED]	Engineering
CDR [REDACTED]	Air
CDR [REDACTED]	Air
CDR [REDACTED] MC	Medical
CAPT Robert Wren, DC	Dental
CAPT(sel) Patricia M. Garrity, DC	Dental
CDR [REDACTED]	AIMD
CDR [REDACTED]	Navigator
CDR [REDACTED]	Weapons
CAPT(sel) William A. Brown	Supply
CDR [REDACTED]	Operations
CDR [REDACTED]	Safety
CAPT Francis A. Hiser III	Combat Systems
CDR [REDACTED]	Combat Systems
LCDR [REDACTED]	Deck
LT [REDACTED]	Deck
LCDR [REDACTED]	Training
LCDR [REDACTED] JAGC	Legal
LCDR [REDACTED] JAGC	Legal
CDR [REDACTED]	Administration
LCDR [REDACTED]	Administration

NARRATIVE

When 2000 began, *USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)* was moored at pier 12N at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. The ship was in the middle of the inter-deployment training cycle and approaching intermediate training in preparation for a Summer deployment.

On 26 January, *GEORGE WASHINGTON* got underway for a week to conduct carrier qualifications for fleet pilots off the Virginia coast. While underway, GW put on a Super Bowl party on 30 January in Hangar Bay TWO with a big screen TV, bleachers, popcorn and hot dogs. About 1,000 people participated in this major event to cheer for their favorite team.

The ship returned to Norfolk, Virginia on 4 February and immediately began the preparations for the next major evolution in the training cycle - the Composite Training Unit Exercise. GW left Norfolk on 28 February for the six-week TSTA III/FEP/COMPTUEX underway period. The first week at sea brought GW challenging damage control scenarios of increasing difficulty as GW Sailors worked to earn certification from the Afloat Training Group evaluators. The crew's enthusiasm for meeting challenges was evident in the final grade, when GW passed FEP and was the first carrier in recent memory to pass *Zebra* at this stage in the work-up cycle.

The COMPTUEX portion of the underway began directly after FEP. Since the ranges at Vieques in Puerto Rico were closed at this time, the GW/CVW-17 team shifted to the Gulf of Mexico, using ranges at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, marking the first time a carrier battle group conducted intermediate training in the Gulf of Mexico. The GW/CVW-17 team flew up to 100 sorties a day during the exercise, practicing many of the warfighting techniques that would be needed in combat operations during the upcoming deployment. On 17 March, GW hosted Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Readiness) Thomas Longstreth. From 18-21 March, *Team 90 (CVN 73 + CVW 17)* made a port visit to Key West, Florida, another first for a *Nimitz*-class carrier. The exercise continued after the port visit. On 29 March, *Team 90* received Blue Water Certification. 36 hours of continuous flight operations capped off a successful exercise, and GW returned to Norfolk, Virginia on 7 April.

The final exercise of the inter-deployment training cycle began on 10 May, when GW departed from pier 12 for Joint Task Force Exercise 02-00.

Under the auspices of Commander, Second Fleet, GW/CVW 17 and the *GEORGE WASHINGTON* Battle Group worked through a combat exercise in the waters off the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. The scenario escalated into the typical operations the battle group could potentially encounter during deployment, culminating in an amphibious assault on the beaches of North Carolina. This was the "graduation exercise" for the battle group. After hosting Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) on 20-21 May, GW returned to Norfolk, Virginia on 22 May, ready to deploy.

Wednesday, 21 June arrived bright and warm, and it was time to say goodbye to families and friends, cast off the mooring lines, and head off on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf.

Before crossing the Atlantic Ocean, GW detoured South to the waters off Vieques, Puerto Rico so the Air Wing could enhance their readiness by dropping ordnance on the newly reopened ranges there. After three days of dropping inert ordnance on Vieques training ranges, GW turned East and crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

GW passed the Azores on 2 July and went through the Strait of Gibraltar on 4 July. After a high-speed transit through the Mediterranean, GW arrived on station in the Adriatic Sea and conducted three days of intense flight operations, providing presence and deterrence in a sometimes tense and volatile region. The ship left the Adriatic Sea on 10 July and worked east toward Turkey. On the way, CVW-17 aircraft trained by dropping live ordnance at the Avgo Nisi range on Crete.

GW pulled into Antalya, Turkey on 13 July for a port visit. During the visit, the Commander of the Turkish General Air Command and six Turkish generals toured the ship and had lunch with Rear Admiral Roughead, Captain McCarthy and Captain Hart.

After leaving Antalya on 16 July, GW headed for the Suez Canal, entering on 17 July and, after an 18-hour transit, emerging in the Red Sea on 18 July.

GW relieved USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) as the FIFTH Fleet ready carrier on 22 July. After transiting the Strait of Hormuz on 25 July, Team 90 entered the Arabian Sea flying missions over Iraq in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, and to support maritime interdiction operations there. GEORGE WASHINGTON and CVW-17 arrived on station ready to conduct combat operations, and immediately executed complex 50 plus aircraft day and night mirror image contingency rehearsals.

August started with a port visit to Jebel Ali in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 1-5 August. During the next underway period, on 11 August, CVW-17 aircraft responded to Iraqi aggression in the Southern no-fly zone by launching air strikes against military facilities in Southern Iraq. This was the first combat action in GEORGE WASHINGTON's history. Continued Iraqi violations of U.N. sanctions and the no-fly zone, as well as, attacks on coalition aircraft, led to additional strikes through August and September. In all, Team 90 executed 5 Operation Southern Watch response options, expertly expending 4 GBU-10s, 3 GBU-12s, 15 GBU-16s, 7 JDAMs and 3 SLAM-ERs.

This successful underway period ended with a port visit in Bahrain on 20 August. GW's scheduled 24 August departure was delayed when Gulf Air Flight 072 crashed into the Arabian Gulf in the evening of 23 August near Bahrain International Airport, less than 10 miles from the ship's anchorage. Team 90 assisted Bahrain's rescue and recovery efforts, launching search and rescue helicopters and all ship's boats with more than 100 crew members aboard to the scene. Team 90 provided assistance on station at the crash site for 20 hours after the rescue became a recovery operation. The assistance provided resulted in recovery of all victims, the black boxes, U.S. diplomatic pouches, and various parts of the aircraft. GW left Bahrain on 25 August.

GW stayed at sea from August 25 through the month of September, as tensions rose in both the Arabian Gulf and the Adriatic Sea. Continued Iraqi incursions into the no-fly zone, and even into Saudi Arabia, resulted in the GW/CVW 17 team continuing to provide a strong presence in the area. The U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, the Honorable James Larocco, visited GW on 28 August and told Team 90 Sailors their presence in the Arabian Gulf was crucial to maintaining stability in the region. Team 90 supported Operation Southern Watch with a 98 percent sortie completion rate in the scorching heat of the Arabian Gulf Summer.

On 19 September, in response to National Command Authority direction, Team 90 was ordered to transit at "best speed", from the Northern Arabian

Gulf to the Northern Ionian Sea, to provide a stabilizing presence in the aftermath of the volatile and unpredictable Serbian elections. After turning over FIFTH Fleet ready carrier responsibilities to USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), GW transited the Strait of Hormuz on 25 September, the Suez Canal on 30 September and reported on station in the Ionian Sea on 2 October as the SIXTH Fleet ready carrier.

After tensions in the area abated, GW was authorized to stand down and conduct a port visit to Corfu, Greece from 5-8 October.

Then, GW transited back to the Ionian Sea and conducted of flight operations in theater. On 14 October, GW participated in a PASSEX with HMS INVINCIBLE before transiting into the Eastern Mediterranean Sea toward Greece, Turkey and the largest NATO exercise of the year - Destined Glory. While most of CVW 17 participated in Destined Glory, a small detachment of F-14s from VF-103, and F/A-18s from VFA-34, VFA-81 and VFA-83 flew into Hungary to train with our new NATO allies there.

GW's next port visit was to the historic city of Dubrovnik, Croatia from 30 October to 3 November. Though inclement weather limited boating and liberty during the second day in port, GW Sailors enjoyed the almost 800-year-old city, while more than 700 Croatians visited GW during the last day of the port visit.

GW departed Dubrovnik, Croatia for a one day transit North to a port visit at Trieste, Italy.

Inclement weather was also experienced in Trieste, Italy, which stranded approximately 600 personnel on shore. An airlift by Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR from Sigonella brought the last 300 people aboard, enabling the ship to get underway with all hands as scheduled on 7 November.

During the next underway period, *Team 90* conducted Exercise Croatian Hawk and Sluunj 2000 in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, with Croatian forces and other units of the SIXTH Fleet.

On 17 November, GW arrived at Naples, Italy. Again, inclement weather with high seas proved challenging. When boats were available for liberty, personnel enjoyed the local area, including a pilgrimage of hundreds of Sailors to Rome in order to attend a service at the Vatican, officiated by Pope John Paul II, in honor of the world's military and police forces.

After departing Naples, *TEAM 90* participated in a PASSEX with French Naval forces and the Standing Naval Force Mediterranean. After departing the Adriatic Sea on 1 December, GW successfully completed a NATO Sea Sparrow missile shoot in the Ionian Sea.

GW then conducted a port visit on 5-8 December at Palma De Mallorca, Spain. While attempting to anchor, GW was challenged with an anti-nuclear demonstration. GW's measured, professional response ensured the security of the ship, while denying Greenpeace and Green Party members of the local government any public relations mis-steps. Three Greenpeace vessels, including two high-speed zodiac boats, approached the ship in transit to anchor. While not predicted by intelligence agencies, the potential threat was immediately detected by lookouts and the Ship's Integrated Security Response Plan was successfully executed. Visual surveillance by HS-15's airborne FP helicopter immediately confirmed that the demonstrators were unarmed. GW exercised aggressive self-restraint using on board helicopters

and fire hoses, as well as, coordinating local police helicopters and coast guard vessels to deter the harassing speed boats until the Guardia Civil maritime patrol was able to disperse the demonstrators with rubber bullets. During the port visit, GW enjoyed the typical hospitality of the people of Mallorca, including a dinner hosted by the Navy League of the United States.

On the day of departure, there was a final demonstration by Greenpeace, that included as many as 50 local boats. Nonetheless, GW departed on schedule and, without incident.

SIXTH Fleet ready carrier duties and responsibilities were turned over to USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN 75) on 10 December. GW passed the Strait of Gibraltar, into the Atlantic Ocean enroute to Norfolk, Virginia.

During the transit to Norfolk, the ship successfully completed an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination on 13-16 December. The ship also experienced severe weather, which caused the arrival date to be advanced.

Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN flew off GW on 18 December and GW arrived and moored at pier 12N at Norfolk, Virginia on 19 December.

2000 highlights:

- Awarded Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet 2000 Battle Efficiency Award.
- Garnered 10 of 11 possible Type Commander Departmental Excellence awards.
- Winner of the 2000 "Best Wardroom Mess in the Atlantic Fleet".
- CNO nominee for the 2000 DOD Anti-terrorism/Force Protection Program Award.
- Runner-up for the U.S. Navy - Marine Corps Fire Protection Association, 2000 "Ogden Crash and Salvage Award".
- Awarded the 2000 Vice Admiral Flatley Award for Operational Excellence through Safety.
- Awarded the 2000 Battenberg Cup.
- Awarded the inaugural RADM "Jig Dog" Ramage Award as the best CVW/CV Team in the Navy.

2000 CHRONOLOGY

January

- 11 Ammunition onload
- 21 MLK Day celebration, Hangar Bay
- 26 Underway, VACAPES
- 30 Super Bowl Party in Hangar Bay
Northrop DVs embark

February

- 4 In port, Norfolk
- 16 Major General Heraido Covas Pereira, Brazilian Army, Chief, Brazilian Delegation to the Inter-American Defense Board
- 23 Live ammunition onload
- 28 Underway, TSTA III/FEP/COMPTUEX (Gulf of Mexico)

March

- 3 Congressional Staff Delegation embark (STAFFDEL Kiefer)
- 8 Cake cutting for GW's 30,000th catapult shot
- 15 Portuguese First Secretary, Ms. Claudia Pinto, embark
- 17 Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Readiness) Thomas Longstreth embark
- 18 Key West Port visit
- 21 Depart Key West, underway, COMPTUEX
- 29 GW certified for Blue Water flight ops

April

- 7 Return to Norfolk
- 11 SMART Card startup
- 13 Ammunition onload
- 22 COMCRUDESGRU TWO Change of Command, Foc'sle
- 26 NRAD Drill

May

- 3 Force protection Exercise
- 5 VADM Donnell (ret., former SURFLANT) visit
Safety Standdown
- 9 Underway, VACAPES, JTFEX
- 13 President of Harley Davidson embarks
- 14 Media embark (WVEC, WAVY, Virginian Pilot, Wings Publishing)
- 16 Media embark (Defense Week, Aerospace Daily, Navy Times)
- 18 ADM Clark, CINCLANTFLT, visits
- 19 VADM Fallon, COMSECONDFLT, visits
- 20 Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) embarks
- 22 Return to Norfolk

June

- 15 Dinner, Official reopening of GW Museum
- 21 Deployment to Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf begins
- 26 Ney Award presentation
- 27 Vieques training

July

1 EMCON Drill
5 Strait of Gibraltar, inchoption to 6th Fleet
8 Adriatic operations
10 Slovenian Ambassador to Italy, Honorable Peter Bekes, embarks
13 Port visit, Antalya, Turkey
14 BGEN Osmin Yildirim, Commander, Turkish Air Force, visits
16 Depart Antalya
17 Suez Canal transit
18 American Embassy Cairo DVs visit
22 Turnover with USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
25 Strait of Hormuz, enter Arabian Gulf
26 Stefan Troendle, German Radio Network, embarks
28 RADM Fitzgerald, Deputy NAVCENT/5th Fleet, embarks

August

1 Port visit, Jebel Ali, UAE
RADM Krol, SUBGRU 7, visits
3 U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi visit
5 Underway, Arabian Gulf
6 VADM Moore, COMFIFTHFLT, embark
8 RADM Preston, JTF SWA, visits
11 GW's first combat action - Response Option Strike against Iraq
11 JTF Kuwait, Col. David, embarks
12 Response Option strike against Iraq
20 Port visit, Bahrain
23 Gulf Air flight 072 crashes in Arabian Gulf near Bahrain International
Airport; Team 90 Sailors assist in search and rescue/recovery efforts
25 Depart Bahrain
28 U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, The Honorable James Larocco, embarks
30 Response option strike against Iraq

September

1 Abandon ship drill
2 Response option strike against Iraq
12 RADM Jewett, Deputy JTF SWA, embarks (RO1N)
14 Response option strike against Iraq
15 CVW-17 participates in Exercise Beacon Flash with Oman
24 Turnover with USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, depart Arabian Gulf
30 Suez Canal transit

October

4 VADM Johnson, COMSIXTHFLT, visit
4 CVW 17 Change of Command (CAPT Welch relieves CAPT Hart)
5 Port visit, Corfu, Greece
9 Underway
13 Navy Birthday celebration
14 HMS Invincible officers crossdeck
16 Exercise Destined Glory with NATO forces in the Mediterranean Sea
28 Hungarian Minister of Defense, LTG Lajos, embarks
29 Croatian Deputy Prime Minister, Zeljka Antunovic, embarks
29 GW's 75,000th trap
30 Port visit, Dubrovnik, Croatia

30 Croatian Ambassador to U.S. designate Professor Ivan Grdesic and the
Croatian Commander in Chief of the Navy VADM Vid Stipetic visit

November

3 Depart Dubrovnik
4 Port visit, Trieste, Italy
7 Depart Trieste
17 Port visit, Naples
25 Media embark, Jane's Defense Weekly
26 Brigadier General Sten Edholm, Swedish Joint Forces Commander, embark
29 BGEN Van Valkenberg, Commander, Balkans CAOC, embark

December

5 Port visit, Palma De Mallorca, Spain
8 Depart Palma
12 RDML Curtis A. Kemp, Prospective Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group
TWO, embark
13 ORSE
18 CVW 17 fly off
19 End of deployment, homecoming in Norfolk