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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)

FPO AE 09534-1662

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: USS KEARSARGE COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS KEARSARGE Command History for CY 93

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded for inclusion in your records.

  
C. W. WILSON  
By direction

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) COMMAND HISTORY  
CALENDAR YEAR 1993

*Command Composition and Organization:*

**Mission:** To load, transport and land troops and their equipment.

**Organizational Structure:**

Commander Amphibious Group Two  
RADM Leonard F. Picotte

Commanding Officer  
Captain David J. Montgomery

Executive Officer  
Commander Craig W. Wilson

Command Master Chief  
OSCM(SW) Raymond L. Hart

**Ship's Homeport:** Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia

*Chronology:*

January

15 - AIMD precommissioning detachment ships aircraft crash crane via barge to Pascagoula, Mississippi.

February

8 - Crash crane arrives in Pascagoula.

March

25-26 - Phase I Crew Certification completed.

April

19-22 - Ship taken to sea by Ingalls Shipbuilding for the first time to conduct Builder's Trials.

May

25-26 - Phase II Crew Certification completed.

## June

14-17 - Ship taken to sea for second time to conduct first Acceptance Trials.

## July

30-31 - Ship sails for third and final time prior to commissioning for second Acceptance Trials.

## August

16 - Ship officially accepted for the Navy by Captain Joseph Carnevale, SUPSHIP Pascagoula.

16-18 - Crew move aboard commences. Remaining Precommissioning Detachment crew of over 600 personnel transfers from Norfolk to Pascagoula.

18 - Ship fully manned. Preparations for Light Off Examination and commissioning begin.

## September

1 - Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society established on board.

28-30 - Light Off Examination conducted. Report enclosed.

## October

5-6 - Phase III Crew Certification completed.

7 - Successfully completed first Aviation Certification by Naval Air Engineering Warfare Center, qualifying the ship to conduct flight operations.

14 - Litton Industries European Lawyers tour.

15 - Landed first aircraft: CH-53E, CH-46, UH-1 from MCAS New River in support of the ship's commissioning.

16 - USS Kearsarge placed in commission by VADM J. Paul Reason, COMNAVSURFLANT.

17 - First Divine Services held aboard.

18 - Loaded 256 crewmembers' vehicles for transit to Norfolk.

19-25 - Ship sails from Pascagoula to Norfolk.

19 - Conducted first underway flight operations with two SH-3 helicopters from HELSUPPRON 16, NAS Pensacola.

20 - First Air Cushioned Landing Craft (LCAC) recovery in Well Deck off Pensacola, Florida. Embarked three LCACs for delivery to Assault Craft Unit Four, Little Creek, Virginia.

22 - First firing of Close In Weapons System (CIWS)

25 - First LCAC launch. Delivered hovercraft to Little Creek.

26 - Italian Surgeon General tour.

26 - Offload of crewmembers' vehicles in Norfolk.

### November

3 - Commander-in-Chief, Uruguayan Navy tour.

4 - Metro New York Young Presidents Association tour.

5 - Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet tour.

5 - NATO Medical Advisors tour.

8 - Commence Fitting Out Availability pierside, Norfolk Naval Station.

13-14 - Public Visit Ship.

15 - MCCDC and Naval Doctrine Command tour.

17 - Tactical Air Control for Amphibious Operations Course tour.

17 - Director of Naval Intelligence and Foreign Attaches tour.  
Hosted attaches from over 30 foreign countries.

### December

6 - Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Center tour.

10 - Chief of Staff, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force tour.

14 - Commander, Air Combat Command tour.

14 - USAF Air Command and Staff tour.

### *Narrative:*

At the beginning of this reporting period, Kearsarge (LHD 3) was under construction at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi. Ship's Prospective Commanding Officer, Captain D.J.

Montgomery, and 100-200 crewmembers are stationed at Precommissioning Unit Kearsarge in Pascagoula. The remainder of the crew and arriving crewmembers are assigned to Precommissioning Detachment Kearsarge, Fleet Training Center, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

Precomm Det personnel continued to train in general shipboard skills (firefighting, damage control, etc.) and rating-specific schools.

Precomm Unit personnel, along with Ingalls Shipbuilding workers, confirmed construction and fitting-out details as the ship neared completion.

Following Builders and Acceptance Trials, loadout of ship's supplies and equipment was carried out by Precomm Unit personnel. Following this loadout, the Precomm Det in Norfolk was disestablished and remaining personnel transferred to Pascagoula for move aboard.

Once the entire crew was aboard and working as a unit, departments and divisions began to equip their spaces and prepare the ship for commissioning into the Atlantic Fleet. Extensive training in Main Space fire control began for duty sections in preparation for Light Off Examination.

USS Kearsarge was commissioned into the Atlantic Fleet October 16, 1993. Guests included: General Carl B. Mundy, Commandant of the Marine Corps; Vice Admiral J. Paul Reason, Commander Naval Surface Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Mrs. Alma Powell, Ship's Sponsor and her husband, General Colin L. Powell, USA (ret.). Over 4,500 guests attended the ceremony.

Following commissioning, remaining vehicles were loaded onboard the ship and staged in the hangar deck, upper and lower vehicle stowage areas. The ship set sail for Norfolk, Virginia October 19, 1993. This marked the first time the crew had taken Kearsarge to sea.

Ship and crew arrived in homeport Norfolk the afternoon of October 25, 1993. The crew manned the rails in service dress blues and was greeted by family members, friends and local media. Captain Montgomery was "welcomed home" by RADM L.F. Picotte, COMPHIBGRU TWO.

Ship entered Fitting Out Availability November 8 through February 1994.