



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)

FPO AE 09534-1662

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From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)  
To: Chief of Naval Operation, N09BH

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1996

Ref: (a) CNO (N09BH) ltr 5757 Ser 09BH/SH/7U505482 of 98JAN23

Encl: (1) 1996 Command History

1. As requested by reference (a), enclosure (1) is resubmitted. Our records reflect that KEARSARGE's 1996 Command History was originally forwarded to your office 28 May 1997.

  
P. A. MASCIANGELO

Copy to:  
COMPHIBGRU TWO

# USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) COMMAND HISTORY CALENDAR YEAR 1996

## *Command Composition and Organization*

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

**Organizational Structure:**  
Commander Amphibious group Two

**Commanding Officer**  
Captain Christopher W. Cole

**Executive Officer**  
Captain William J. Ungvarsky

**Command Master Chief**  
OSCM(SW) Timothy Minor

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

**Ship's Awards for 1996:** Battle Efficiency Award and Golden Anchor Award

### *Chronology:*

#### January

10 - Entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for Selected Restrictive Availability. Commenced Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Installation.

#### February

1 - Dental Department developed and presented a Preventative Dentistry series to the City of Portsmouth. Headstart program in conjunction with children's dental health month.

6-8 - LHD Class Combat Systems Working Group Meeting.

15 - RADM Fladd presentation of TYCOM Surface Ship Safety Award.

26-27 - Command Inspection.

29 - Black History Month Dinner at the Drydock Club, Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

#### March

safety Stand-down.

8 - Initial Logistics Support Management meeting at St. Julien's Creek.

11-12 - Semi-annual PRT measurements taken.

18 - SRA 50% review.

18-19 - Semi-annual PRT.

### April

1 - Boiler Inspection.

1-2 - CSTT Training.

11 - RADM Rempt, Director of Theater Air Defense visit.

16-19 - Light Off Assessment.

22-24 - Dock Trials.

24-26 - Fast Cruise.

29 - Ammo Onload (Smoke floats).

### May

1-2 - Sea Trials.

1 - Burial-at-Sea.

3 - Selected Restrictive Availability ends.

6-10 - Entered Magnetic Silencing Facility, Norfolk, VA. Completed Deperm.

11 - NAVMACS II Message Processing System activated.

13-17 - Preliminary Combined Ship Qualification Trial visit. Well Deck Certification.

13-31 - Conducted Intermediate Maintenance Availability.

14-15 - RAM System Installation Assurance Test.

21 - RADM Fladd presents "Battle E" Award to KEARSARGE.

23 - Change of Command. Captain Michael T. Wittkamp relieves Captain Christopher W. Cole.

28-31 - SEDRE-96 (Sealift Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise).

29 - Embarked over 500 U.S. Army personnel in support of SEDRE-96.

31 - Safety Stand down.

31 - Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Dinner at Norfolk Live.

### **June**

3 - TACAN Certification.

3-6 - Underway for Cortramid.

10-14 - CART II. KEARSARGE rated as "fully functional" and ready to undergo further training during TSTA phases.

12-15 - Joint Communication Unit Readiness Exercise.

14 - COMPHIBRON 8 Change of Command.

17-19 - Magazine Arrangement Planning Aid - Computerized (MAPA-C) Installation.

17-21 - TSTA-I, CSTG.

21 - OHSAT visit.

24-28 - Underway for TSTA I, ETG.

28 - Successfully completed exercise WHITE PINNACLE.

### **July**

1-3 - 3M Assist visit.

1-5 - TSTA I (CSTG).

8 - Operational Evaluation on the High Speed Fleet Broadcast (HSFB) system complete.

2-28 - KEARSARGE assigned duties as Ready ARG.

8-12 - Underway for NWS Earle. NJ.

8 - Burial-at-Sea.

9-11 - Ammo Onload.

11 - Underway for Norfolk/Hurricane Bertha evasion.

16-26 - Underway for TSTA-I. FTG. medical Department and medical training team were rated "fully functional."

22 - CIWS Pacfire.

22-31 - Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration.

26 - Family Day Cruise.

29-31 - Combined Ship Qualification Trial - Inport phase.

29-31 - Combat Systems Tests and Trials.

### August

1-20 - Combat Systems Tests and Trials continued.

1-30 - Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration continues.

1 - AIMD hosted the first Aviation Readiness Review Conference for the upcoming deployment.

1-2 - Combined Ship Qualification Trial - Inport phase (cont).

5-8 - Underway for SWY-3 Aircraft Flyovers.

9 - RAM/NSSMS Blast Test Vehicle Upload.

9-11 - Enroute Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. PR.

10 - RAM/NSSMS Blast Test Vehicle Firings.

11 - RAM/MSSMS Telemetry Missile Upload.

12 - Arrive AFWTF - Conduct Range brief.

13 - CIWS Firing Exercises - Pacfire and TDU for MT 22/23.

14 - RAM/NSSMS Firing Exercises - RAM 4/4. NSSMS 2/2.

14-18 - Enroute Norfolk.

17 - 25mm Chain Gun Structural Test Firing.

19-21 - Underway for ETG/E-Certification.

19-22 - JWID Execution Week.

20 - 25mm Chain Gun Structural Test Firing/Familiarization.

21-23 - Completed Engineering Certification with a grade of SAT.

22 - Return to Norfolk.

23 - JWID Media Day.

26-29 - Navy Food Management Team conducted assist visit.

26-30 - TSTA II (CSTG).

26-30 - JWID Demonstration Week.

### **September**

3-5 - TSTA II. CSTG.

17-20 - Underway for TSTA III. ITT.

23-27 - LMA Assist Visit.

23-27 - CSOSS Validation Visit.

24 - Type Commander's Exercise (TYCOMMEX); final score 99.1%.

30 - Underway for TSTA IV/TCAT 1-97.

### **October**

1-8 - Underway for TSTA IV/TCAT 1-97 (cont).

14-18 - FEP.

15 - Navigation Check Ride.

16 - Successfully completed exercise WHITE PINNACLE.

21-25 - CSOOSS Validation Visit.

21-25 - Test Equipment Calibration Readiness Assessment.

28-30 - LMA Inspection - 3M.

28-31 - Explosive Safety Inspection.

29 - Chop to Second Fleet.

### **November**

1 - Dental Department rated an outstanding for the third consecutive year during COMNAVSURFLANT's annual Administrative/Quality Assurance Inspection.

5-9 - Underway for TCAT.

6 - CIWS Pacfire/TDU Exercise - MT-21.

12-16 - LCAC/DLQ Services.

12-19 - CSTS Operator/Maintenance Training.

18-30 - CSRR Phase I.

18-22 - Logistics Management Assessment conducted.

18-21 - LMA Supply.

25 - Ordinance brief to ACE personnel at MCAS, New River.

26 - SNAP III instillation begins.

### **December**

2-6 - CSRR Phase I.

3-5 - LHD Class Combat Systems Working Group Meeting.

13-18 - Underway for PMINT.

19-29 - First Christmas Leave Period.

30 - Start Second Leave Period.

*Narrative:*

KEARSARGE (LHD 3) began the reporting period by entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard January 10 for Selected Restrictive Availability. KEARSARGE ended the SRA May 3 after sea trials May 1-2. During the yard period KEARSARGE had many distinguished visitors highlighted by a visit by RADM Rempt, Director of Theater Air Defense.

After a visit to the Magnetic Silencing Facility, Norfolk May 6-9, preparation began for deployment workups. Captain Michael T. Wittkamp, USN, assumed command of KEARSARGE May 23, 1996.

KEARSARGE's first operation after leaving the shipyards was SEDRE-96 (Sea Lift Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise) during which time the ship embarked over 500 U.S. Army personnel.

Throughout the rest of the year, KEARSARGE continued its inspections and qualifications for departments throughout the ship. KEARSARGE was underway for several levels of damage control certifications. KEARSARGE also went to NWS Earle, NJ for ammunition onload July 8-11.

KEARSARGE participated in the Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration from July 22 - August 30. During the demonstration for VIP's the week of August 26-30, KEARSARGE had more than 200 visitors tour communication spaces to view new C4I equipment and programs.

At the end of the reporting period, KEARSARGE unloaded 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit for PHIBRON/MEU Integration training in preparation of the scheduled 1998 deployment.