



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)  
FPO AE 09534-1662

*Rec'd*  
*3/99/99*  
IN REPLY TO:  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

- Encl:
- (1) 1998 Command History
  - (2) USS KEARSARGE 1997 Competitive Cycle Award  
Nomination Submission
  - (3) Videotape - "Floating MASH" Report by FOX News
  - (4) Compiled Published Articles
  - (5) The Kearsarge Shot Line

1. As required by reference (a) the following enclosures are submitted.

P. A. MASCIANGELO

# USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) COMMAND HISTORY CALENDAR YEAR 1998

## *Command Composition and Organization*

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

### **Organizational Structure:**

Commander Amphibious Group Two

#### **Commanding Officer**

Captain Peter A. Masciangelo

#### **Executive Officer**

Commander Michael M. Moore

#### **Command Master Chief**

FCCM (SW) Bernard Quibilan

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

**Ship's Awards for 1998:** CNO Safety Award, TYCOM Safety Award, Golden Anchor Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Humanitarian Service Medal and COMNAVSURFLANT Battle "E" Award

### ***Chronology:***

#### **January**

- 1 - 5 Inport Norfolk, Virginia
- 6 - 17 Safety Stand Down Norfolk.
- 8 - 11 Inport Norfolk, Virginia.
- 12 - 31 SRA - Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

#### **February**

- 1 - 27 SRA - Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
- 2 - 6 Engineering Training Group PLOT II

#### **March**

- 1 - 31 SRA - Norfolk Naval Shipyard.
- 2 - 6 Command Inspection
- 12 RADM Holder, COMPHIBGRU TWO visits KEARSARGE
- 17 - 20 Engineering Training Group ERAT

## April

- 1 – 30 SRA - Norfolk Naval Shipyard
- 27 – 29 Dock Trials
- 30 Fast Cruise

## May

- 1 – 8 SRA – Norfolk Naval Shipyard
- 6 – 8 Sea Trials Virginia Capes
- 9 – 18 Inport Norfolk
- 11 – 15 H, M and E Operational Readiness Systems Evaluation (HORSE)
- 11 – 14 Aviation ARE
- 11 – 14 Well Deck Certification
- 15 National Defense Industrial Association visits KEARSARGE
- 16 – 20 Unionville PA Boy Scout Troop 142 visits KEARSARGE
- 17 – 20 Wilmington DE Sea Cadets visit KEARSARGE
- 17 – 20 Tin Can Sailor's Association visits KEARSARGE
- 18 – 20 NYC Educators visit KEARSARGE
- 18 – 20 MARINE CORPS Delayed Entry Program personnel visit KEARSARGE
- 18 – 20 US NAVY Delayed Entry Program personnel visit KEARSARGE
- 18 – 20 NYC High School for Graphic Arts NJROTC personnel visit KEARSARGE
- 18 – 20 Harlem Youth Marine Cadets visit KEARSARGE
- 19 – 20 Mr. Andrew McKelvey, President TMP Worldwide visits KEARSARGE
- 19 – 20 Mr. Andrew Flach, President Hatherleigh Corporation visits KEARSARGE
- 19 – 20 Ms Theresa Deal, Managing Editor Peterson's Magazine Group visits KEARSARGE
- 19 – 20 Ms. Paula Tripp, Editorial Manager Peterson's Magazine Group visits KEARSARGE
- 19 Underway enroute Staten Island New York
- 20 Fleet Week Parade of Ships – Arrive Staten Island NY
- 21 State Senator Paul Gentile and 250 school children visit KEARSARGE
- 22 Medical Herald Magazine reporters visit KEARSARGE
- 23 Modern Healthcare magazine reporters visit KEARSARGE
- 23 Fox News Channel reporter Kristen Gesswein and team film Fox News Channel story "Floating MASH" on KEARSARGE. Program aired 24 May 1998.
- 24 Staten Island Veterans of Foreign Wars visit KEARSARGE
- 24 Congressman Vito Fosella visits KEARSARGE as guest speaker for Sunset Parade held onboard for over 800 Staten Island residents.
- 24 New York City Economic Development Group visits KEARSARGE
- 25 Staten Island Special Olympics Team visits KEARSARGE
- 26 Staten Island elementary school students visit KEARSARGE
- 27 – 29 Underway, Type Training
- 29 – 30 Inport Earle, NJ

## June

- 1 – 4 Inport Earle, NJ. Ammunition Onload
- 5 Enroute/Arrive Norfolk
- 6 – 7 Inport Norfolk.
- 8 – 12 Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II)
- 11 – 12 Engineering Certification (ECERT).
- 13 – 21 Inport Norfolk.
  - 15 Partnership for Peace Foreign Officer's visit KEARSARGE
  - 16 Mr. Art Modell (CEO Baltimore Ravens NFL Team) and players visit KEARSARGE.
  - 18 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MMCMM (SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt visits KEARSARGE.
- 22 – 26 TSTA I (FTG/CSTG) Virginia Capes
- 23 – 27 Deck Landing Qualifications with 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW
- 24 – 25 CAPEX Cherry Point OPAREA
  - 25 KEARSARGE hosts CAPSTONE Fellows headed by GEN Morgan (USMC RET) and GEN Stiner (USA RET)
- 27 – 30 Inport Norfolk

## July

- 1 – 5 Inport Norfolk
- 6 – 10 TSTA I (FTG) Cherry Point OPAREA
- 7 – 9 Deck Landing Quals with 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW
- 11 – 12 Inport Norfolk
- 13 – 17 TSTA I (FTG) Virginia Capes
- 18 – 31 Inport Norfolk
  - 29 KEARSARGE hosts Oklahoma City National Junior Olympics team members
  - 31 KEARSARGE hosts Mid Atlantic Navy League members

## August

- 1 – 2 Inport Norfolk
- 3 – 7 TSTA I (CSTG) Inport Norfolk
- 7 – 30 Restricted Availability Norfolk
- 8 – 23 Upkeep Norfolk
- 19 – 21 OHSAT Norfolk
  - 21 KEARSARGE hosts RADM Uwe Kahre, German Armed Forces Staff College
- 24 – 28 TSTA II (CSTG) Inport Norfolk
  - 25 Armed Forces Staff College Students visit KEARSARGE
- 29 – 30 Inport Norfolk
  - 19 TSTA II (CSTG) Virginia Capes

## September

- 1 – 4 TSTA II (CSTG) Virginia Capes
- 5 – 7 Inport Norfolk
- 8 – 9 ISIC Pre-INSURV Norfolk
- 10 ISIC Pre-INSURV UMI Virginia Capes
- 10 KEARSARGE hosts Argentine Navy Chief of Navy General Staff
- 11 – 13 Inport Norfolk
- 15 – 18 TSTA III Cherry Point OPAREA
- 15 – 25 TCAT Cherry Point OPAREA
- 26 – 30 Inport Norfolk

## October

- 1 – 12 Inport Norfolk
  - 6 Director Inter-American Defense College and 90 students visit KEARSARGE
  - 7 Undersecretary of the Navy for Business Performance and 16 business executives visit KEARSARGE
- 13 – 15 FEP Virginia Capes
- 16 – 25 Inport Norfolk
  - 20 DFAS Disbursing Officers visit KEARSARGE
  - 21 COMNAVAIRLANT N02F visits KEARSARGE
  - 22 TACTRAGRULANT Intelligence Officer School Students visit KEARSARGE
- 21 – 23 Shiphandling Complex
- 26 – 29 Deck Landing Quals with 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW Virginia Capes
- 30 – 31 Inport Norfolk

## November

- 1 Inport Norfolk
- 2 – 6 INSURV Norfolk
  - 3 INSURV UMI Virginia Capes
- 7 – 15 Inport Norfolk
  - 13 Mr. Robert B. Pirie Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment visits KEARSARGE; 13 Senior Medical Officers and Industrial Hygiene Symposium visits KEARSARGE
- 16 – 30 CSRR/TARGET Norfolk.
- 16 – 20 Ship's Explosive Safety Inspection.
  - 16 Armed Forces Staff College students visit KEARSARGE
  - 17 Commander Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command visits KEARSARGE
  - 19 NAVAIR/United Kingdom CVF Exchange Program personnel visit KEARSARGE
  - 19 USMC Command and Staff College students visit KEARSARGE
  - 20 Robert B. Dye Elementary School Third Graders visit KEARSARGE
  - 21 Boy Scout Troop 840 (North Carolina) visits KEARSARGE
  - 23 Royal Canadian Air Force Officers visit KEARSARGE
- 30 Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Norfolk

**December**

- 1 – 3 Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Norfolk
- 4 – 11 PMINT Cherry Point OPAREA
- 12 – 31 Inport Norfolk
- 14 – 31 IMAV Norfolk.

*Narrative:*

*USS Kearsarge* (LHD 3) began the reporting period by entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard January 12 for Selected Restrictive Availability. Among the modifications conducted during the ship's availability was the Women-At-Sea modification. For the first time since the ship's commissioning, enlisted female Sailors were detailed for duty on board. RMC [REDACTED] was the first enlisted female sailor to reported for duty on 26NOV97. Also during the Ship's Restricted Availability, *Kearsarge* underwent a command inspection, Pre-Light-Off Test and Engineering Readiness Assessment Test. Rear Adm. Gordon S. Holder, Commander Amphibious Squadron TWO also visited the ship. *USS Kearsarge* underwent sea trials, in the Virginia Capes operating area four months after entering Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and returned to its homeport May 9.

Following the ship's H, M and E Operational Readiness Systems Evaluation (HORSE), Aviation ARE and Well Deck certification, *Kearsarge* made preparations to get underway for Staten Island, N.Y. as part of New York City's Fleet Week '98 celebrations. The ship hosted more than 5,000 visitors on board which included: New York State Senator Paul Gentile, Staten Island Veterans of Foreign Wars, Staten Island Special Olympics Team and State Congressman Vito Fosella. Congressman Fosella was the guest speaker during the ship's sunset parade, which was attended by more than 800 Staten Island residents.

After participating in New York's Fleet Week '98 celebrations, *Kearsarge* arrived in Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J., to load ammunition. The month of June was highlighted by the ship's completion of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II) and Engineering Certification (ECERT). Ship's crew and engineers set a new milestone by being the first ship in the entire Atlantic Fleet to complete CART II inspection and ECERT in the same week. Also during the month of June, *Kearsarge* played host to both Mr. Art Modell, CEO of the Baltimore Ravens, and Master Chief Petty of the Navy, MMCM (SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt.

After completing two phases of Tailored Shipboard Training Availability (TSTA I and II), the ship underwent a brief restricted availability at Norfolk Naval Station and prepared for the third phase of the training availability which was conducted in the MCAS Cherry Point operating area. With the successful completion of TSTA III, *Kearsarge* was ready for its Final Evaluation Period. For three days in October, the crew showed members of Fleet Training Group Atlantic and Amphibious Group TWO how well it could defend the ship, combat fires and maintain the ship's engineering plants at peak operation. By the end of October, the ship had completed its Final Evaluation Period as well as achieved certification for its Deck Landing Qualifications, while operating with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Air Wing in the Virginia Capes operating area.

The ship surpassed every expectation during INSURV. Senior observers came on board *Kearsarge* to examine the ship's cleanliness, preservation and to ensure every piece of equipment on board operated as it should. The month was highlighted by a visit by the Honorable Robert B. Pirie, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment. Mr. Pirie presented ACC (AW) Eddie G. Mayo with the Navy's 1997 Rear Adm. Robert B. Pirie Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award.

December was an especially challenging month for the crew, in particular *Kearsarge's* Supply Department, which delivered a superb performance during the Logistics Management Assessment. During PHIBRON/MEU Integration (PMINT), Capt. James A. Bolcar, Amphibious Squadron TWO Commander, his staff, Col. Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr., 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit Commander, and his staff, along with various tenant commands embarked on board to begin workups for the upcoming Mediterranean Sea deployment. The month was capped off by an Intermediate Maintenance Availability and a holiday leave period for a well deserving crew.