



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS TRENTON (LPD-14)  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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(Unclassified upon removal of enclosure 3, 4, 5, and 6)

From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD-14)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09139)

Subj: 1973 Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12B of 20 May 1971

- Encl:
- (1) Command Organization and 1973 Highlights
  - (2) Summary of Operations
  - (3) Post Deployment Report, Carib I-73
  - (4) Post Deployment Report, Carib II-73
  - (5) TRENTON 072040Z JUL 73
  - (6) TRENTON 072045Z JUL 73
  - (7) TRENTON 141300Z NOV 73

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.

*D. G. McCormick III*  
D. G. McCORMICK III

Copy to:  
COMPHIBLANT

CLASSIFIED BY: Commanding Officer  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1975 *80*

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## COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND 1973 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Commanding Officer: Captain Daniel G. McCORMICK III
2. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia
3. Command Association:
  - a. Administratively under the command of:
    - (1) COMPHIBRON FOUR - 1 JAN to 1 MAR 73
    - (2) COMPHIBRON TEN - 1 MAR to 1 OCT 73
    - (3) COMPHIBRON EIGHT - 1 OCT to 31 DEC 73
4. Summary of Operations
  - a. Deployments

(1) TRENTON completed a six month Mediterrean deployment and returned to Norfolk at the end of January 1973. Other deployments included two as part of the Caribbean Ready Group to the Caribbean area and a third to the North Atlantic as a member of the NATRONLANT 73 Midshipmen training squadron.
  - b. Exercises

(1) Exotic Dancer VI - 28 MAR to 7 APR. In company with units of Task Group 22.1, TRENTON conducted an opposed transit, underway replenishment, opposed amphibious assault and supported Marine forces ashore. The exercise was designed to provide training in conducting and coordinating a joint armed forces military operation.

(2) Exercise Escort Tiger XIV - 10 to 14 April. Conducted with ships of the Caribbean I-73 Ready Group, TRENTON landed marine forces on the island of Vieques. As training for disaster assistance to the island countries of the Caribbean, the ships provided logistic support to troops ashore, medical care to the injured and sick civilians and evacuated refugees. The task group provided a naval blockade to prevent intrusion of outside forces or supplies designed to take political advantage of the disaster situation.

(3) Natronlant 73 Cruise - 11 June to 2 August. In company with USS CORONADO (LPD-11), and under the command of COMPHIBRON TEN, TRENTON provided shipboard training for members of the Naval Academy Classes of '74 and '76 while transitting to and from Northern Europe and around the British Isles. With "hands on training" emphasized, the midshipmen actively participated in gunnery exercises, shiphandling drills, underway watches and were required to accomplish many of the tasks performed at all levels on a ship at sea.

(4) Lantreadex 73 - 3 to 6 December. Conducted south of the island of Vieques by units of the Caribbean II-73 Ready Group, Atlantic Fleet surface combatants, aircraft and submarines, the exercise provided training in conducting a full scale landing under opposed conditions. TRENTON participated in an opposed transit, landing and sortie while under the protection of ASW and AAW forces.
5. Special Topics
  - a. Significant engineering casualties
    - (1) Stern Gate - TRENTON experienced three sterngate casualties, one

Enclosure (1)

of which rendered the sterngate operationally unusable for over one month and required outside assistance to repair. All casualties occurred in the hydraulic system on the following dates: 2 April, 6 July and 14 November. Enclosures (5), (6) and (7) pertain.

(2) Power Plant - While moored to the commercial wharf on the Magdalena River in Baranquilla, Colombia, heavy debris clogged the ship's intakes resulting in a loss of all power for approximately twelve hours.

b. Public Relations

(1) Open Houses were conducted at:

- (a) Maracaibo, Venezuela
- (b) San Juan, Puerto Rico
- (c) Ponce, Puerto Rico
- (d) Kiel, Germany
- (e) Oranjestad, Aruba
- (f) Norfolk, VA
- (g) Little Creek, VA

(2) Go Navy and Navy League Guest cruise. During the Carib I-73 deployment, TRENTON hosted high school students and Navy League members of the San Juan area on a one day cruise to Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. Guests toured the ship, enjoyed lunch aboard and on departing, were treated to a launch from the well deck on the ship's LCM-8 landing craft.

(3) Kiel Week Participation - As part of the NATRONLANT 73 Cruise, TRENTON visited Kiel, Germany during the famous Kiel Week naval festival. With ship's from other NATO countries, TRENTON participated in numerous social functions and sporting events, promoting goodwill and understanding.

(4) NJROTC Cruise to the Naval Academy - In conjunction with tour ship duties for Naval Academy plebes, TRENTON hosted 35 NJROTC midshipmen from two Norfolk area high schools, Norview and Manor. The midshipmen had the opportunity to observe the operation of a ship at sea as well as tour the Naval Academy and Washington, D. C. The entire Academy Class of '77 toured TRENTON during her visit. On the return trip to Norfolk, the NJROTC guests observed the ship conduct an air gunnery exercise.

(5) Project Handclasp - While visiting Ponce, Puerto Rico, Handclasp materials including books, athletic equipment and food were delivered to schools of the barrios of Pastillo and Singapur. Other materials were delivered to NAVCOMMSTA, Puerto Rico for later distribution.

During the Carib II-73 deployment, TRENTON transported approximately sixty pallets of Handclasp material which included clothing, medical supplies and beds to the Panama Canal Zone for their distribution. While visiting Baranquilla, Colombia, beds, medical supplies, clothing and yard goods were given to the St. Bernadita Shop School, a school which provides vocational training to the needy children of the area.

(6) Male relatives of the crew were embarked on two occasions. On 17 May, 27 relatives were bused to Morehead City from Norfolk to join with their

fathers/sons returning from a Caribbean deployment for the over night trip to Norfolk. Then on 27 August, 15 relatives boarded for a week cruise that included several days at Annapolis and one day at sea observing various seamanship and gunnery exercises.

c. Statistics

- (1) Salaries expense - approx. \$750,000
- (2) Operating Expenditures (less fuel) - \$152,887
- (3) Ship's fuel burned - 3,696,743 gallons
- (4) Helicopter landings since commissioning - 2498

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - 1973

1-10 JAN Inport Palma, Spain under command of COMPHIBRON FOUR.  
 11 JAN Underway with Mediterranean 2-72 Ready Group for Rota, Spain.  
 14 JAN Inport Rota, Spain for turnover to relieving Ready Group.  
 16-24 JAN Transit Atlantic.  
 25 JAN Inport Morehead City, N.C. to debark Marines. Underway PM  
 for Little Creek, VA.  
 26 JAN Arrive Little Creek, VA. Commenced leave and upkeep period  
 and preparation for upcoming EXDANC VI Exercise and Carib  
 1-73 deployment.  
 1 MAR Shifted to the administrative command of COMPHIBRON TEN.  
 19 MAR Underway for Norfolk ammo anchorage EX-1 to load LFORM required  
 for up coming operations. Remain overnight.  
 20 MAR Complete ammo onload. Underway for Craney Island to refuel.  
 21 MAR Move to pier 5 at Norfolk.  
 26 MAR Underway for Morehead, City, N.C., and rendezvous with ships of  
 TG 22.1, USS CORONADO (LPD-11), USS PENSACOLA (LSD-38) and  
 USS SAGINAW (LST-1188) under the command of COMPHIBRON EIGHT.  
 27 MAR Arrive at Morehead City, load Marines and equipment. Depart  
 PM for anchorage at Onslow Beach, N.C.  
 28 MAR Conduct boat operations at Onslow in preparation for EXDANC VI.  
 29 MAR Conduct practice landing at anchorage. Commence opposed transit.  
 2 APR D-Day. Conducted early morning amphibious assault landing in  
 conjunction with EXDANC VI. Experienced sterngate hydraulic  
 failure in the down position.  
 3-7 APR At anchorage off Onslow Beach, supported COMNAVFORBLUE. De-  
 parted anchorage on 5 APR to refuel from USS CALOOSAHATCHIE.  
 7 APR Underway with TG 22.1 for Island of Vieques.  
 10 APR Arrive at Vieques, anchor off south coast. Commenced partici-  
 pation in Exercise Escort Tiger XIV.  
 14 APR Complete Exercise Escort Tiger XIV. Remain at anchor.  
 15 APR Ship beach party on Vieques. Underway at 2100 for Maracaibo,  
 Venezuela.  
 17-20 APR Inport, Maracaibo, Venezuela.  
 20 APR Underway for Roosevelt Roads, P.R.  
 22-23 APR Inport Roosevelt Roads, P.R. Load supplies.  
 23-27 APR At anchoraoff Vieques. Conduct training turnaway landing  
 and upkeep.  
 27 APR Underway for San Juan, P.R.  
 28-30 APR Inport San Juan.  
 30 APR Embark guest for San Juan for cruise to St. Thomas, V.I.  
 Arrive Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas PM.  
 3 MAY Depart St. Thomas for anchorage off south coast Vieques. Stop  
 briefly at Roosevelt Roads for vehicle onload and fueling.  
 Arrive at Vieques at 1800 and backload Marines.  
 4 MAY Depart Vieques and arrive in Ponce, P.R.  
 9 MAY Depart Ponce for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.  
 10-14 MAY Inport Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Marine FAMEX.  
 14 MAY Underway for Morehead City, N.C.

17 MAY Arrive at Morehead City, N.C., offload Marines and equipment. Underway for Norfolk, VA.

18 MAY - 11 JUN Inport, Norfolk, VA. 26 MAY detached from Caribbean Ready Group.  
6 JUN Commander, Amphibious Squadron TEN, Captain K. J. CARROLL, USN, was relieved by Captain J. M. MATHEWS on board TRENTON.

11 JUN Departed Norfolk for Kiel, Germany on NATRONLANT 73 Cruise. Conducted numerous training exercises enroute.

22 - 29 JUN Inport Kiel, Germany for informal port visit. Participated in Kiel Week activities.

29 JUN - 11 JUL Enroute to Portsmouth, England, via North Sea and western coast of Ireland. Conduct Phase II training program enroute.

11 - 16 JUL Inport, Portsmouth, England for informal visit.  
16 JUL Enroute to Rotterdam, Netherlands.

17 - 21 JUL Inport Rotterdam, Netherlands for routine visit.

21 JUL - 2 AUG Underway for Annapolis, Maryland. Conduct Phase III training enroute.

2 AUG Arrive Annapolis and offload midshipmen. Underway for Norfolk, arriving at 1800.

3 - 27 AUG Inport Norfolk for leave and upkeep.

27 AUG Underway for Annapolis, Maryland with 35 NJROTC midshipmen.

28 - 30 AUG At anchor off Annapolis. Conduct tours for Academy Class of '77.  
30 AUG Underway for Vacapes Operating Area.  
31 AUG Conduct air gunnery exercise in Vacapes Operating Area. Return to Norfolk and commence tender availability period and POM period for upcoming Caribbean cruise.

1 OCT Shifted to the administrative command of COMPHIBRON EIGHT.

31 OCT Underway for Morehead City, N.C.

1 NOV Arrive Morehead City, join TG 22.1 with COMPHIBRON FOUR, USS PONCE (LPD-15), USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29) and USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1188) and load Marines of BLT 1/2 with equipment. Underway upon completion for Colon, Panama.

6 NOV Arrive Colon, offload Marines for JUNGLEX.

7 NOV Underway with USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29) for Baranquilla, Colombia.

8 NOV Arrive at Baranquilla. Generators overheat in early evening and are secured with resultant loss of power for approximately twelve hours.

10 NOV Move to anchorage in Magdalena River to avoid debris near shore.  
12 NOV Underway for Colon, Panama. Engineering plant fails during crucial point of ship's turn to proceed downstream and a collision with a moored merchant is narrowly averted.

13 - 15 NOV Inport, Colon, Panama. Backload Marines.  
15 NOV Underway with TG 22.1 for Netherlands Antilles.  
17 NOV Arrive at Oranjestad, Aruba with USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29).  
20 NOV Underway for Island of Vieques. Engineering casualty limits speed to 16 knots.

21 NOV Arrive at Vieques anchorage off southern coast, join TG 22.1. Underway for night steaming.

22 NOV Conduct pre-dawn landing on Vieques. At anchor remainder of day, offload cargo.

23 NOV Underway and arrive at San Juan. Present anchor to the San Juan Beautification League.

26 NOV Underway. After brief stop at St. Thomas, transit to Vieques and anchor.

27 NOV Underway for Roosevelt Roads, P.R. Arrive commence refueling and onload of supplies.

29 NOV - 2 DEC Depart Roosevelt Roads, conduct exercise in the Vieques Operating area, anchoring at night during period.

2 DEC Anchor off Vieques and conduct beachparty.

3 DEC Backload BLT 1/2, underway in the evening for opposed transit with TG 22.1.

4 DEC Continue opposed transit in conjunction with LANTREADEX 73.

5 DEC Conduct predawn landing with TG 22.1 on southern coast of Vieques. Return to anchorage following assault.

6 DEC Backload BLT 1/2. Conduct opposed sortie and the transit with USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29) and USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST-1188) to San Juan.

7 - 10 DEC Inport, San Juan.

10 - 13 DEC Underway for Morehead City, N.C. Join CTG 22.1 on 11 DEC.

13 DEC Arrive at Morehead City and offload Marines and equipment.

14 - 31 DEC Underway for Norfolk, VA.  
Inport, Norfolk.