



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS TRENTON (LPD-14)  
FPO NEW YORK 09588

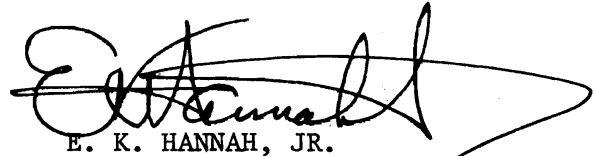
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From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD 14)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP - 09B9)  
Subj: 1980 Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12C

Encl: (1) Command Organization and 1980 Highlights  
(2) Summary of Operations  
(3) Command Narrative, 1980

1. Enclosures (1) thru (3) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).



E. K. HANNAH, JR.

Copy to:  
COMNAVSURFLANT  
COMPHIBGRU TWO  
COMPHIBRON FOUR

USS TRENTON (LPD 14)

Command Organization and 1980 Highlights

1. Commanding Officer: Captain Henry C. Atwood, Jr., 1 January to 8 July; Captain Elmore K. Hannah, Jr., 8 July to 31 December 1980.

2. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

3. Command Association: Under administrative and operational command of Commander Amphibious Squadron Six 1 January to 1 November; Commander Amphibious Squadron Four 1 November to 31 December 1980.

4. Special Topics:

a. Public Relations:

(1) TRENTON made port visits in Malmo, Sweden; Bremerhaven, West Germany; and Portsmouth, England after Teamwork '80, and hosted over 8000 visitors during open houses and special tours.

(2) TRENTON, on 22-23 November held an open house at the Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia and entertained over 250 guests.

b. Statistics:

(1) Salaries/Expenses: \$1,608,000

(2) Repair Parts and Ship Support: \$516,610

(3) Ship's Fuel Burned: 2,702,462 gallons DFM

(4) Engine Miles Traveled: 26,161 miles

(5) Ammunition Expended: 195 rounds 3"/50

(6) Safe Flight Deck Evolutions: 830 landings/take offs

c. Summary Information:

(1) Enroute to and from Guantanamo Bay during the period of 7 May through 4 June TRENTON operated with the USS Pegasus (PHM-1). During this time TRENTON conducted alongside refueling, "tethering" (high speed towing of Pegasus), and in general tested concept of acting as a tender/support ship for a squadron of hydrofoils.

d. Special Certifications/Qualifications:

(1) Received an OPPE equivalency certification during REFTRA, May 1980

(2) Passed the Supply Management Inspection; November 1980

(3) Certified to Land/Recover AV-8A Harriers

(4) AN/SLQ-32 (V)L installation and certification - April 80

(5) Certified to conduct RH-53D Airborne Mine Countermeasures evolutions.

## Summary of Operations 1980

1 Jan - 11 Mar Inport, Berkley, Norfolk, VA - ROH Metro Machine Corp  
12 Mar - 30 Mar Inport, Norfolk, VA  
31 Mar - 1 Apr ISE, VACAPES OPAREA  
2 Apr - 3 Apr Enroute/Inport, Yorktown, VA - Ammo onload  
4 Apr - 6 Apr Inport, Norfolk, VA  
7 Apr - 11 Apr ISE, VACAPES OPAREA - Antenna Radiation Patterns  
12 Apr - 28 Apr Inport, Norfolk, VA  
29 Apr - 1 May Enroute, Key West, Florida - in company with USS Pegasus (PHM-1)  
2 May - 5 May Inport, Port visit, Key West  
6 May Enroute, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba - Refresher Training  
7 May - 4 Jun REFTRA, Guantanamo Bay  
24 May - 26 May Enroute/Inport, Port Visit, Ocho Rios, Jamaica  
5 Jun - 7 Jun Enroute, Norfolk, VA  
8 Jun - 22 Jun Inport, Norfolk, VA - Upkeep  
23 Jun - 27 Jun Lynnhaven Anchorages, Norfolk, VA - Amphibious Refresher Training  
28 Jun - 29 Jun Inport, Norfolk, VA  
30 Jun - 3 Jul Lynnhaven Anchorages, Norfolk, VA - AMPHIB REFTRA  
4 Jul - 13 Jul Inport, Norfolk, VA  
8 Jul Change of Command  
14 Jul - 17 Jul Underway (VACAPES)/Lynnhaven Anchorages, Conducted Minecounter-  
measure Exercises with HM-16  
18 Jul Ammo Anchorage, Hampton Roads - Ammo Onload  
19 Jul - 20 Jul Inport Norfolk, VA  
21 Jul - 25 Jul Enroute, Fredriksted, ST Croix, U.S. VI  
25 Jul - 27 Jul Inport, Port Visit, ST Croix  
27 Jul - 28 Jul Enroute/Inport, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico  
28 Jul - 1 Aug Underway, Puerto Rico OPAREA - READEX 2-80  
1 Aug Inport, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico - Refuel  
1 Aug - 4 Aug Enroute, Norfolk, VA  
2 Aug - 26 Aug Inport, Norfolk, VA - Post Overhaul Maintenance  
14 Aug RADM R. K. Fontaine, COMSERVGRU TWO Embarked  
26 Aug - 28 Aug Enroute/Inport, Morehead City, N.C. - Embark Elements of Second  
Recon Battalion and Artillery Battalion 5/10  
28 Aug - 4 Nov Underway/Inport, TEAMWORK '80  
4 Oct - 9 Oct Inport, Port Visit, Malmo, Sweden  
10 Oct - 15 Oct Enroute/Inport, Port Visit, Bremerhaven, West Germany  
16 Oct - 21 Oct Enroute/Inport, Port Visit, Portsmouth, England  
1 Nov Chop to COMPHIBRON Four  
4 Nov - 1 Dec Inport, Norfolk, VA  
1 Dec - 5 Dec Underway, VACAPES OPAREA - MARG 1-81 Workup  
6 Dec - 7 Dec Inport, Norfolk, VA  
8 Dec - 19 Dec Underway, VACAPES OPAREA/Onslow Bay, N.C. - MARG 1-81 Workup  
20 Dec - 31 Dec Inport, Norfolk, VA - Upkeep, Holiday Leave Period

USS TRENTON (LPD 14)

COMMAND NARRATIVE, 1980

1 January 1980 found TRENTON in the midst of a regular overhaul being conducted at the Metro Marchine Corporation, Berkley, Norfolk, Virginia. This overhaul proved to be noteworthy in that it was completed on time and within cost. As later events were to prove, this overhaul was particularly significant in that the quality of work was substantially better than that being experienced by some other ships being overhauled in the private sector. TRENTON's exceptional material reliability throughout the remainder of the year bore mute testimony to the success of what was a cooperative and productive joint effort on the part of the company and ships force. Over 80 crewmen were specifically cited by awards, medals and letters of commendation stemming from their outstanding individual efforts during the overhaul period ending 11 March 1980.

After sea trials, independent ship exercises and ammunition loadout in the VACAPES area, TRENTON was enroute for refresher training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 29 April. Accompanying TRENTON was USS Pegasus, and enroute the concept of "tethered operations" was exercised. This saw TRENTON towing Pegasus at various speeds, in various sea states, to test the feasibility of increasing the PHM's combat radius by towing it with quick release towing rigs, thus providing rapid response to combat threats. TRENTON continue to Cuba, engaging in refresher training during the period of 7 May - 4 June. During this period TRENTON made a port visit to Ocho Rios, Jamaica 24-26 May. TRENTON completed REFTRA ahead of schedule, and at the same time achieved an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) equivalency due to the outstanding performance of the Engineering Department during training.

After a short upkeep period in Norfolk, TRENTON continued with her post-overhaul workup by engaging in Amphibious Refresher Training at the Lynnhaven anchorage area adjacent to the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA. This was successfully completed on 3 July.

On 8 July, Captain Henry C. Atwood, Jr., U.S. Navy, was relieved of command by Captain Elmore K. Hannah, Jr., USN, during ceremonies held on board. Guest speaker at the change of command was RADM W. C. Hamm, Jr., Commander, Amphibious Group TWO. Other flag officers in attendance were RADM R. C. Berry, U.S. Navy, Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, and RADM James S. Elfelt, U.S. Navy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Intelligence, SACLANT.

The week of 14 July saw TRENTON underway in the VACAPES/Lynnhaven operations areas, undergoing exercises with Helicopter Minesweeping Squadron 16, leading to qualification as an airborne minesweeper support platform.

TRENTON's first major fleet exercise following overhaul/REFTRA took place in the Caribbean during the period 21 July - 4 August. This exercise, READEX 2-80, was conducted under the command of RADM H. C. Mustin, COMCRUDESGRU TWO. During the exercise TRENTON engaged in intership exercises while steaming with the TASK Group, and also acted as primary target drone recovery ship, 13 of 15 target drones launched during the exercise were recovered by TRENTON and delivered

to NAVSTA, Roosevelt Roads, PR for refurbishment and reuse. During this operation TRENTON crewmen also enjoyed a brief port call at Fredriksted, ST Croix V.I..

The month of August was spent in preparation for a major NATO exercise, TEAM-WORK 80, during which TRENTON was to act as flagship for the Advance Force Commander. On 14 August, RADM R. K. Fontaine and members of his Service Group TWO staff embarked. On 26 August, TRENTON was enroute Morehead City, N.C. to embark USMC units scheduled for exercise participation, the major units being elements of the Second Recon Battalion, 5th Battalion 10th Marines, and supporting units. Also embarked were UDT and SEAL teams to engage in prelanding recon, surveys and beach clearance. Arriving in Norway on 11 September, TRENTON entered the Fjord complex in the vicinity of Christiandsund, NO., where she would remain until joined by the main landing force on 18 September. Following exercise termination and backloading of troops and equipment, TRENTON enjoyed various port calls in the Northern Europe area, specifically Malmo, Sweden, 4-9 October, Bremerhaven, West Germany 10-15 October, and Portsmouth, England 16-21 October. TRENTON was particularly commended by the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden for the most successful visit by a U.S. Navy ship in many years. A superb time was had by all in each port and TRENTON men and embarked units acquitted themselves as befitting Navy ambassadors of good will.

TRENTON participated in a demanding and fast paced transit back to CONUS 22 October - 3 November, termed "GATOR SWEEP '80". Under the command of COMPHIBGRU TWO, all participants benefited greatly from shiphandling, gunnery, engineering and quick reaction drills during the return transit.

Following a month of upkeep in homeport 4 Nov - 1 December, TRENTON was once again underway for type training. Under the command of Capt. J. J. Kingston, U.S. Navy, COMPHIBRON FOUR, and in company with USS IWO JIMA, USS HERMITAGE, USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY and USS MANITOWOC, the Marine Amphibious Ready Group 1-81 workup began. The first three weeks of December saw individual, intership, and task group exercises being conducted to mold the ships into an integrated, highly ready amphibious force. This training included embarkation of USMC units which would be deploying with the MARG in January, 1981, with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. The MARG Workup was successfully completed on 19 December, and holiday season was spent in a well deserved leave and upkeep period in the ship's homeport of Norfolk, VA. It should be noted that not one significant mobility impacting casualty had occurred during the previous 9 months of intensive steaming. This, then stands as the mute testimony referred to at the outset of this record, a proud record compiled by USS TRENTON, the year of our Lord, 1980.