From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD 14)
To: Director of Naval History (OF-O9BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1992 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12E

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Captain Larry C. Baucom, USN
(2) 1992 Chronology
(3) 1992 Command Narrative
(4) Press Releases and Messages

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is submitted:

   a. Background: USS TRENTON (LPD 14), an amphibious transport dock, is named for the historic capital of the state of New Jersey that was founded by an 18th century ship owner and businessman, Colonel William Trent.

   The present USS TRENTON is the third United States vessel to bear the name. The first was a steam sloop of war commissioned in 1884. The second was a light cruiser, CL-11 commissioned in 1924, which served with the Asiatic, Caribbean and Southeast Pacific Fleets during World War II. The keel for the present TRENTON was laid on 8 August 1966. She was christened on 3 August 1968 by Mrs. Richard J. Hughes, wife of then governor of New Jersey. TRENTON was commissioned 6 March 1971. The amphibious transport dock (LPD) is a very versatile class of amphibious ship. TRENTON can transport, land and support a Marine force on a hostile shore. TRENTON is capable of carrying over 900 troops plus their vehicles, equipment, weapons, ammunition, and supplies. She also carries landing craft in her floodable well deck. Her flight deck capability allows her to operate the Navy and Marine Corps active helicopter inventory and VTOL aircraft.

   TRENTON participated in the 1983 liberation of Grenada, was a member of the multinational force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983-1984, and was a participant in Operation Praying Mantis in April 1988 during a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

   TRENTON played a supporting role in the presidential summit at Malta in December 1989, participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama in June 1990 and deployed on short notice to the Middle East as a member of the amphibious task force during Operation Desert Shield (January 1991) and Operation Desert Storm (January 1991 to April 1991). During her most recent deployment (May - Nov
TRENTON participated in Operation Provide Promise as the Sea and Air Rescue platform for Humanitarian Relief flights into the former Yugoslavia.

TRENTON has developed and now operates under the following Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles:

OUR MISSION:

To conduct sustained combat amphibious and special operations safely and efficiently.

OUR VISION:

- TRENTON "looks good" and does everything with class.
- TRENTON personnel are qualified and trained to perform each mission assigned and have modern, well maintained equipment with which to do it.
- TRENTON is maintained as a clean, safe and healthy ship in which to live and work.
- TRENTON maintains the highest state of operational and damage control readiness and is unsurpassed in the support of landing force units.
- TRENTON personnel achieve and are rewarded for personal excellence in an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and quality.
- TRENTON promotes continuous improvement through strong positive leadership, intelligent innovation and enthusiastic teamwork.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Effective communications and chain of command
- Individual value and growth
- Integrity, moral courage and responsibility at all levels
- Preservation of assets
- Safety
- Quality assurance and innovation
- Positive leadership
- Reward for good performance
- Family involvement


g. Command Association:
   92Jan-Mar92 Commander Amphibious Squadron Twelve / Commander Second Fleet
   92Mar-92Jun Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight / Commander Second Fleet
   92Jun-25Nov92 Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight / Commander Sixth Fleet
   25Nov92-31Dec92 Commander Amphibious Group Two


j. Embarked Units:
   Seal Team Two Platoon Delta 27 May-25 November 1992
   Special Boat Unit Twenty Det C&E 27 May-25 November 1992
   CEB Detachment 27 May-25 November 1992
   Beach Master Group Two Bravo 1 27 May-25 November 1992
   ACU-2 27 May-25 November 1992
   MSSG-Det 27 May-25 November 1992
   2D Force Recon PLT 27 May-25 November 1992
   2nd Radio Bn 27 May-25 November 1992
   ANGLICO 2nd FSSG 27 May-25 November 1992
   Weapon’s Company 22 27 May-25 November 1992
   EOD Det 30 27 May-25 November 1992
   2D Recon Battalion 27 May-25 November 1992
   ACB 2 27 May-25 November 1992

k. Statistics:
   (1) Engine Miles travelled 24,978 NM
   (2) Fuel consumed: 3,245,436 gallons
   (3) Refueling at sea: 17
   (4) Aircraft landings: 2248
      Life time total landings 34527
   (5) A. JP5 aviation fuel delivered: 131,733 gallons
B. MOGAS delivered: 3,206 gallons
(6) Large caliber ammunition expended:
   - CIWS: 9,300 rounds
(7) Underway replenishment: 11
(8) 1992 Budget: Repair parts: $900,000.00
    Consumables: $800,000.00
    Total Cost Salaries and expenses: $12,000,000.00

1. Chronology attached as enclosure (2)

m. Narrative attached as enclosure (3)

L.C. BAUCOM
1992 CHRONOLOGY

92JAN13-17  UNDERWAY DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS VIRGINIA CAPES

92JAN27   COMMENCED ENGINEERING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

92JAN30   UNDERWAY 0800, CONDUCTING BASIC ENGINEERING CASUALTY CONTROL EXERCISES. ENGINEERING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT TEAM ONBOARD.

92JAN31   ARRIVE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

92FEB03   UNDERWAY TYPE COMMANDERS AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING, ENROUTE ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA

92FEB03   ARRIVE LITTLE CREEK ANCHORAGE, LA-5. LCU 1649, MIRE SIX BUBBLEGUM 16, 11, LARC 14, 19. EMBARKED ONBOARD.

92FEB05   RIGID RAIDER CRAFT ARRIVE ONBOARD ONSLOW BAY.

92FEB06   BOAT OPERATIONS SECURED DUE TO WEATHER. AT ANCHOR AS, ONSLOW BAY.

92FEB08   EMBARKED SECOND COMPANY FOURTH LANDING SUPPORT GROUP VIA AIR AND BOAT TOTAL 450 PASSANGERS.

92FEB09   DEPARTED ONSLOW BAY ENROUTE LITTLE CREEK ANZIO BEACH

92FEB10   ARRIVED LITTLE CREEK ANZIO BEACH, OFFLOAD LCU LARC’S AND PUSHER BOATS. DEPARTED LITTLE CREEK INDEPENDENT STEAMING EXERCISE VIRGINIA CAPES.

92FEB12   MOORED PIER TWO BERTH FIVE NAVAL OPERATIONS BASE.

92FEB24-28   SCIENTISTS AT SEA, PATUXENT NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMUNICATIONS.

92MAR09   VAN ONLOAD, 8 VANS FOR SEAL TEAM TWO

92MAR16-20   SCIENTIST AT SEA

92MAR20   AMMUNITION ONLOAD YORKTOWN, VICE LA-7 DUE TO WEATHER. MOORED NORFOLK VIRGINIA.

92MAR24-26   UNDERWAY OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION VIRGINIA CAPES

92MAR30-APR14   BLUE/GREEN WORK UPS ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA

Encl (2)
PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT

UNDERWAY MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

ARRIVE MOREHEAD CITY, ONLOAD 26TH MEU/ UNDERWAY FOR MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP 2-92

BLUE WATER TURNOVER AND PASSEX WITH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP 1-92.

INCHOP SIX FLEET COMPHIBRON 8, BECOMES COMMANDER TASK FORCE-61.

CONDUCTING SPANISH PHIBLEX, AT SIERRA DE RETIN, SPAIN WITH SPANISH SHIPS SPS CASTILLA, SPS ARAGONA, SPS DESUBIERIA, SPS VENCEDORA, SPS INFANTA ELENA, SPS CAZADORA.

ANCHOR SIERRA DE RETIN. LCU-1649, PUSHER BOATS, AND LARC'S OFFLOADED.

COMMENCE BACKLOAD OF MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP 2-92 ASSETS.

MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP 2-92 TRANSITS STRAITS OF GIBRALTOR.

ARRIVE CARTAGENA, SPAIN.

DEPART CARTAGENA, SPAIN ENROUTE RENDEZVOUS WITH USS IWO JIMA, USS TORTUGA, USS SPRATANBURG COUNTY, USS SAGANAW

REPLENISHMENT AT SEA, FUELING AT SEA WITH USS DETROIT.

ENROUTE GULF OF TARANTO, STEAMING WITH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP, USS BIDDLE, AND USS COMTE DE GRASSE.

MOORED NAPLES, ITALY.

ENROUTE MODLOC WITH IWO JIMA VICINITY ATHENS, FOR TROOP CROSSDECK.

CONDUCTED TROOP CROSSDECK WITH IWO JIMA. BRAVO ZULU (WELL DONE) FROM COMMANDER TASK FORCE-61.

ANCHORED HAIFA, ISRAEL.

2200 MOORED HAIFA, ISRAEL.
ENROUTE TUNISIA FOR TUNISIAN PHIBLEX.

ANCHORED TUNISIA WITH CPRS DET A EMBARKED ONBOARD, CSO AND N-3 ONBOARD.

BACKLOAD AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE TRENTON PRIMARY CONTROL SHIP. UNDERWAY FOR ADRIATIC SEA.

ON STATION IN THE ADRIATIC SEA FOR OPERATION PROVIDE PROMISE, TRENTON IS "LILLY PAD" FOR POSSIBLE SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION IN SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS RELIEF FLIGHTS INTO YUGOSLAVIA.

RELIEVED ON STATION BY USS IWO JIMA; TRENTON ENROUTE TOULON, FRANCE.

TRANSIT STRAITS OF MESSINA.

TRANSIT STRAITS OF BONIFACIO.

ARRIVE TOULON, FRANCE.

CHANGE OF COMMAND - CAPTAIN LARRY BAUCOM ASSUMES COMMAND FROM CAPTAIN STEVEN RIES.


ARRIVE AND ANCHOR IN AKSAZ.

UNDERWAY FROM AKSAZ ENROUTE "BROWN FORCE" OPERATION AREA FOR DD-92. VISIT BY CPG-2, RADM PICOTTE.

VISIT BY COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET, VADM LOPEZ.

FUELING AT SEA WITH HNLMS POOLSTER.

ARRIVE SAROS BAY RENDEZVOUS WITH FOUR TURKISH MSO'S.

DISPLAY DETERMINATION-92 PUT INTO "FREEZE" 

RESTART DISPLAY DETERMINATION-92 

COMPLETED DISPLAY DETERMINATION-92, COMMENCE BACKLOAD. 

ARRIVE THESSALONNIKI, GREECE. PORT VISIT.

DEPART THESSALONNIKI. ENROUTE ALMERIA, SPAIN.
ARRIVE ALMERIA, SPAIN
DEPART ALMERIA, SPAIN
ARRIVE MALAGA, SPAIN
DEPART MALAGA, SPAIN EARLY DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF BERTH.
ARRIVE ROTA, SPAIN, COMMENCE WASHDOWN OF VEHICLES.
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, COMMANDER IN CHIEF UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES EUROPE, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT MARINE CORPS, COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET VISIT TRENTON. "BRAVO ZULU" (WELL DONE) MESSAGE RECEIVED.
DEPART ROTA, "OUTCHOP" ENROUTE MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.
ARRIVE MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA. CONDUCTED OFFLOAD. DEPARTED MOREHEAD CITY ENROUTE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.
ARRIVE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. COMMENCED POST DEPLOYMENT LEAVE AND UPKEEP.
MR. JOHN HOLUM OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CLINTON'S TRANSITION TEAM TOURED TRENTON AND TALKED WITH THE CREWMEMBERS CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITIES OF ALLOWING HOMOSEXUALS IN THE NAVY.
THE NEW YEAR FOUND USS TRENTON OPERATING IN UNITED STATES COASTAL WATERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS. JANUARY WAS A BUSY MONTH FOR TRENTON—THE NEXT DEPLOYMENT WAS ONLY FIVE MONTHS AWAY. THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS AND AN ENGINEERING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT WERE COMPLETED IN THE VIRGINIA CAPES OPERATING AREA AS JANUARY CAME TO A CLOSE.

FEBRUARY BROUGHT TYPE COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING (TCAT) AND A WEEK AND A HALF OFF THE COAST OF ONSLOW BEACH, N.C. THIS EXERCISE ALLOWED TRENTON AND MARINE SEA BORNE UNITS (26MEU) THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE LAUNCHING AND RECOVERING RIGID RAIDER CRAFT AND ZODIAC BOATS IN TRENTON'S WELL DECK. TRENTON'S EMBARKED NAVY UNITS, LCU 1649, BUBBLE GUM'S 16,17 AND LARC'S 14,19 ALSO PRACTICED BEACH LANDINGS AND EMBARKATION AND DEBARKATION PROCEDURES. THE WEATHER ON THE SIXTH OF FEBRUARY TURNED ROUGH AND THE EXERCISE WAS DELAYED FOR THIRTY-SIX HOURS AS ALL UNITS RODE OUT THE HIGH SEAS AND FORTY-FIVE MILE-AN-HOUR WINDS. TRENTON COMPLETED THE EXERCISE IN STYLE WHEN HER SIGNALMEN SPOTTED A FLOUNDERING CIVILIAN BOAT UNABLE TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THE HIGH SEAS. TRENTON'S SIGNALMEN GUIDED RESCUE CRAFT TO THE BOAT AND INTO SAFER WATERS. AS FEBRUARY DREW TO A CLOSE, TRENTON HOSTED "THREE SCIENTISTS AT SEA" WHILE ENGAGED IN A ROUTINE TRAINING EXERCISE IN THE VACAPES AREA. THE SCIENTISTS ENJOYED THREE DAYS ROTATING THROUGH ENGINEERING, DECK, OPERATIONS, AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENTS LEARNING ABOUT TRENTON. THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS SCIENTISTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENT AND MEET THE PEOPLE WHO UTILIZE THE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT THEY DESIGN FOR SHIPS SUCH AS THE TRENTON. MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP 2-92 WAS ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY AND THE BLUE/GREEN WORKUPS WERE TWO AND A HALF WEEKS AWAY, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP TRENTON FROM CONDUCTING AN OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION AND RECEIVING AN OVERALL GRADE OF ABOVE AVERAGE ON THE MARCH EXAM. THREE DAYS AFTER THE OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION SHE WAS STEAMING SOUTH TO ONSLOW BAY, N.C. WITH HER EMBARKED NAVY PERSONNEL TO BEGIN TWO WEEKS OF WORK-UPS WITH THE 26 MEU AS A PART OF PHIBRON 8, CULMINATED BY A SUCCESSFUL SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABILITIES (SOCEX) EXERCISE.

APRIL 15 TO MAY 26 WAS TRENTON'S PRE-OVERSEAS MOVEMENT (POM) PERIOD. LAST MINUTE ITEMS AND ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THE DEPLOYMENT WERE ADDRESSED AND ALL PRE-DEPLOYMENT GOALS WERE MET. ON 26 MAY 92 TRENTON DEPARTED NORFOLK FOR MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. TO PICK UP ELEMENTS OF THE 26TH MEU (SOC). HALFWAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC MARG 2-92 AND TRENTON CONDUCTED A BLUE WATER TURN-OVER WITH THE OUT-CHOPPING MARG AND TRENTON'S COUNTERPART, USS SHREVEPORT.
TRENTON’S FIRST EXERCISE AFTER INCHOPPING TO SIXTH FLEET WAS A SPANISH PHIBLEX AT SIERRA DE RETIN, NEAR ROTA. UNITED STATES AND SPANISH HELICOPTERS AND LANDING CRAFT WORKED JOINTLY OFF OF AND OUT OF EACH OTHERS’ FLIGHT AND WELL DECKS. DURING THIS EXERCISE TRENTON HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST 150 SPANISH MIDSHIPMEN FROM SPAIN’S NAVAL ACADEMY FOR A TOUR.

AS JUNE DREW TO A CLOSE TRENTON’S CREW ENJOYED A TWO DAY PORT CALL IN CARTAGENA, SPAIN. TRENTON THEN TRANSITED TO NAPLES ITALY. WHILE IN NAPLES TRENTON’S SAILORS AND MARINES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY AT THE ANNUAL "FIESTA AMERICANA" IN CARNEY PARK. THIS CELEBRATION WAS SPONSORED BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, STATIONED IN AND AROUND THE NAPLES AREA.

AS JULY BEGAN TRENTON WAS STEAMING EAST TO HAIFA, ISRAEL FOR A THREE WEEK IMAV WITH USS YELLOWSTONE. WHILE IN ISRAEL ELEMENTS OF THE 26 MEU (SOC) CONDUCTED TRAINING ASHORE. TRENTON CLOSED OUT JULY AS SHE SET SAIL FOR TUNISIA AND A JOINT U.S. TUNISIA PHIBLEX. THE END OF JULY SAW A FLURRY OF TRENTON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY. SHE CONDUCTED COMBINED TUNISIAN AND U.S. AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS ON CAPE SERRAT, TUNISIA. TRENTON WAS ALSO BEING RECONFIGURED AS THE ADVANCE FORCE SHIP FOR HER NEXT MISSION. COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON 8 DETACHMENT ALPHA EMBARKED AND TRENTON SET SAIL FOR THE ADRIATIC SEA. ON 11 AUGUST TRENTON ARRIVED AT "DALMATION STATION" IN THE ADRIATIC SEA OFF OF THE COAST OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. HER MISSION WAS TO BE A "LILLY PAD" FOR ANY SEA OR AIR RESCUE MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION PROVIDE PROMISE. OPERATION PROVIDE PROMISE WAS THE UNITED NATION’S EFFORT TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FLIGHTS INTO EMBATTLED YUGOSLAVIA TO FEED THE STARVING CITIZENS. UPON COMPLETION OF HER TOUR IN THE ADRIATIC TRENTON PROCEEDED TO TOULON, FRANCE. THE THREE WEEK LayOVER IN TOULON ALLOWED THE CREW AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE FRENCH-ETATS-UNIS GROUP’S MANY TOURS AND HOME HOSPITALITY PROGRAM. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN WELCOMING AND ENTERTAINING AMERICAN SAILORS AND MARINES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE FOR OVER FORTY YEARS. ON 8 SEPTEMBER 1992 CAPT LARRY C. BAUCOM RELIEVED CAPT STEPHEN H. RIES AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF TRENTON WHILE IN PORT, TOULON, FRANCE.

AS SEPTEMBER DREW TO A CLOSE TRENTON WAS STEAMING TO AKSAZ, TURKEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION ‘92. TRENTON WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF ADVANCE FORCE COMMANDER. DURING DISPLAY DETERMINATION ‘92 TRENTON HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFUEL WITH THE OILER HNLMS POOLSTER FROM THE NETHERLANDS. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE MID-70’S THAT TRENTON UTILIZED THE PORT SIDE RAS STATION TO RECEIVE A NATO REFUELING RIG. AT THE COMPLETION OF DD-92 TRENTON PROCEEDED TO THESSALONIKI, GREECE. THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT PORT CALL FOR BOTH TRENTON AND THE CITY OF THESSALONIKI. THIS WAS ONLY THE SECOND TIME A UNITED STATES WARSHIP VISITED THIS NORTHERN GREECE CITY. THE PORT CALL INCLUDED
A VIP VISIT BY THE AREA’S HIGHEST RANKING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DIGNITARIES. WHILE ON BOARD TRENTON THEY ENJOYED A LUNCHEON AND TOUR THAT PROVIDED THEM WITH A FIRST HAND GLIMPSE OF THE UNITED STATES’ "GATOR" NAVY.

TRENTON’S LAST MEDITERRANEAN EXERCISE WAS IN ALMERIA SPAIN. TRENTON’S 2-92 MARINES PARTICIPATED WITH SPANISH FORCES IN EXERCISE BETACOM. A SPECIAL OPERATIONS WARFARE EXERCISE. TRENTON’S FINAL LIBERTY PORT WAS MALAGA, SPAIN. THE VISIT WAS CUT SHORT DUE TO PIER COMMITMENTS, SO TRENTON MOVED ON TO ROTA, SPAIN FOR WASHDOWN AND OUT CHOP.


UPON TRENTON’S ARRIVAL IN MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. SHE OFF-LOADED HER ELEMENTS OF THE 26 MEU AND EMBARKED CREWMEMBER’S DEPENDENTS FOR THE "TIGER CRUISE" TO NORFOLK. USS TRENTON ARRIVED HOME ON THE 24TH OF NOVEMBER AFTER A SUCCESSFUL, MISHAP FREE SIX MONTHS DEPLOYMENT. SHE RANG OUT THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR IN A THIRTY DAY LEAVE AND UP-KEEP PERIOD.

L. C. BAUCOM