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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TRENTON (LPD-14)  
FPO AE 39588-1716

5757  
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09 APRIL 1996

From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD-14)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1994 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12E

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Captain Gerard T. Lennon,  
USN  
(2) 1994 Chronology  
(3) 1994 Command Narrative

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

a. Background: USS TRENTON (LPD 14), an amphibious transport dock, is named for the capital of the state of New Jersey.

The present USS TRENTON is the third United States warship 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 Southwest 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 the governor of New Jersey. TRENTON was commissioned 6 March 1971. The amphibious transport dock (LPD) is a very versatile 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 such as LCUs and AAVs (amphibious assault vehicles) in her floodable well deck. Her flight deck allows her to operate all Navy and Marine Corps helicopters and VTOL aircraft (Harriers).

TRENTON participated in the 1983 liberation of Grenada, was a member of the multinational force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon in 1983-84, 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 - April 1991). In 1992 TRENTON participated in Operation Provide Promise as the sea and air rescue platform for humanitarian relief flights into the former Yugoslavia.

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TRENTON was deployed in January 1994 back to the Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Continue Hope off the coast of Somalia (February - March 1994). After only 10 days post deployment, TRENTON was called upon again to deploy in support of Operation Support Democracy off the coast of Haiti for six weeks (July - August 1994).

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

OUR MISSION:

To conduct sustained amphibious combat 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 to perform such missions.
- 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 equality.
- TRENTON promotes continuous improvement through strong positive leadership, intelligent innovation, and enthusiastic teamwork.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Effective communications up and down the chain of command.
- Individual value and growth.
- Integrity, moral courage, and responsibility at all levels.
- Preservation of assets.
- Safety.
- Quality assurance and innovation.

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- Positive leadership.
- Reward for good performance.
- Family involvement.

c. Commanding Officers: Captain Larry C. Baucom, USN, 8 September 1992 through 9 February 1994; Captain Gerard T. Lennon, USN, 9 February through 31 December 1994.

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia.

e. Command Association:

94Feb-94Jun: Commander Amphibious Squadron FOUR/  
Commander Sixth Fleet.

94Jul-94Aug: Commander Amphibious Squadron TWO/Commander  
Second Fleet.

94Sep-94Dec: Commander Amphibious Group TWO.

f. Deployments:

(1) Mediterranean Sea, 05 January to 24 June 1994.

(2) Haiti, 06 July to 17 August 1994.

g. Exercises and Operations: "Operation Continue Hope", "Operation Eyes Over Mogadishu", "Alexander the Great", "Operation Dynamic Impact", "Operation Restore Democracy."

h. Embarked Units:

(a) MSSG 24

(b) ACU 2

(c) BMU 2

(d) Cryptotech Detachment

(e) CAD II

(f) Special Boat Unit 20

(g) Seal Team 2, "G" Platoon

(h) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team

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i. Statistics:

- (1) Fuel consumed: 4,227,015 gallons
- (2) Refueling at sea: 38.
- (3) JP-5 aviation fuel received: 123,606 gallons
- (4) MOGAS delivered: 58,000 gallons.
- (5) Underway replenishments: 30.
- (6) Aircraft landings: 2720

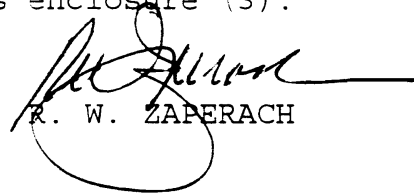
Life time total landings: 38460

- (7) 1994 Budget:           Repair parts - \$ 687,539.00  
                                  Consumables - \$ 937,748.00

j. Biography and photo of Commanding Officer as enclosure  
(1).

k. Chronology attached as enclosure (2).

l. Narrative attached as enclosure (3).

  
R. W. ZAPERACH

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1994

94JAN01 Inport Norfolk, Virginia.

94JAN05 Set sail for Morehead City, North Carolina in company with USS INCHON, USS PORTLAND, and USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY to onload MSSG-24 for Mediterranean deployment.

94JAN08 Deploy with SARATOGA Battle Group to Mediterranean Sea.

94JAN19 Transit the Straits of Gibraltar.

94JAN26 Transit the Suez Canal, Red Sea to Somalia.

94FEB02 Arrive at the operational area off of Mogadishu, Somalia; start of Operation "Continue Hope."

94FEB09 Captain G. T. Lennon relieves Captain L. C. Baucom as Commanding Officer.

94MAR04 Commodore S. H. Ries, COMPHIBRON FOUR, visited the ship.

94MAR07 U.S. Army Logistics Support Group from Germany visited ship.

94MAR11 RADM Perkins, COMPHIBGRU THREE, visited the ship.

94MAR25 Depart from Mogadishu operational area; end of Operation "Continue Hope."

94MAR26 Crossing the Equator, Shellback ceremony.

94APR01-03 Transit Red Sea enroute to Port Siad.

94APR04 Transit the Suez Canal into Mediterranean Sea.

94APR05-12 Port visit Haifa, Israel.

94APR11 VADM Prueher, COMSIXTHFLT, visited the ship.

94APR15-22 Conduct the Greek PHIBLEX "Alexander The Great," in the Volos operational area.

94APR19 VADM Prueher revisited the ship.

94APR26-MAY05 Port visit Naples, Italy; IMAV with USS SHENANDOAH.

94APR27 Crew members travel to Vatican to meet Pope John Paul II.

94MAY06-18 Begin Operation "Dynamic Impact" off the coast of Sardinia, Italy; INCHON ARG with multi national force of British, Italian, Greek, Dutch, Belgian, Spanish ships.

94MAY14 RADM Wright, Commander SARATOGA BG, visited the ship.

94MAY20-24 Port visit Brindisi, Italy.

94MAY24-JUN01 Port visit Corfu, Greece.

95JUN05 Transit the Straits of Gibraltar.

94JUN06-10 Port visit Rota, Spain. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day.

94JUN10 Depart Rota, Spain enroute to Morehead City, North Carolina.

94JUN11 Turnover with GUAM ARG.

94JUN16 RADM Wright revisited the ship.

94JUN21 Commander, Amphibious Squadron FOUR, revisited the ship.

94JUN23 Arrive Morehead City, North Carolina; debark MSSG-24, embark 200 Tiger Cruise members.

94JUN23-24 Tiger Cruise enroute to Norfolk, Virginia.

94JUN24 Return to home port of Norfolk, Virginia; end deployment.

94JUL06 Depart Norfolk enroute Morehead City, North Carolina to onload MSSG-24 for Operation "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti.

94JUL07 Embark MSSG-24, depart Morehead City, North Carolina.

94JUL09 ADM Borda, Chief Naval Operations and Master Chief of Navy, ETCM(SW) Hagan visited the ship.

94JUL11 Arrive in the operational area off Haiti coast.

94JUL11-AUG14 Conduct Operation "Uphold Democracy."

94JUL12 General Mundy, Commandant of Marine Corps, visited the ship.

94AUG01-03 Port Visit Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

94AUG04 Continue operations in the operational area off the coast of Haiti.

94AUG14 Turnover with WASP ARG and depart for Morehead City, North Carolina.

94AUG16 Arrive Morehead City, North Carolina; off load MSSG-24. Depart for home port.

94AUG17 Return to home port of Norfolk, Virginia.

94AUG19-SEP19 Post-deployment inport period.

94AUG29-SEP16 IMAV with SHENANDOAH.

94OCT06-DEC31 DPMA Metro Machine, Norfolk, Virginia.

94NOV05-DEC20 Drydock.

94NOV08 RADM Picotte, COMPHIBGRU TWO, visited the ship.

94DEC13 RADM Picotte revisited the ship.

## COMMAND NARRATIVE 1994

The new year started out on a very busy note. All hands made last minute preparations prior to leaving Norfolk for a six month deployment. The ship set sail on the fifth of January; first stop was Morehead City, North Carolina where MSSG-24 would embark. On the eighth of January, TRENTON embarked on an eleven-day voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Turnover with the outgoing amphibious ready group was brief and TRENTON continued her voyage through the Mediterranean Sea toward Port Siad and the Suez Canal. On the twenty-sixth of January, TRENTON passed through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea. Finally, on the second of February, TRENTON reached its operational area off the coast of Mogadishu, Somalia.

During the two-month stay, in support of Operation "Continue Hope," TRENTON provided Marine support ashore and participated in Operation "Eyes Over Mogadishu" a helicopter surveillance operation. TRENTON received on board Commodore S. H. Ries, Commander Amphibious Squadron FOUR, U.S. Army Logistics Support Group from Germany, RADM Perkins, Commander Amphibious Group THREE, and the Commanding Officer, USS DULUTH (LPD 4) during this time frame. On the ninth of February, Captain Gerard T. Lennon relieved Captain Larry C. Baucum as Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON, becoming TRENTON's 14th Commanding Officer.

TRENTON departed the Somalia operation area on 25 March, headed southward toward the Equator and crossed the Equator on the 26th. This gave the crew an opportunity to initiate new members into the Shellback community, those who have crossed the Equator on board a Navy vessel. TRENTON then headed back through the Suez Canal on passage to its first port visit in Haifa, Israel, arriving 05 April. After a seven-day visit, she departed for Volos, Greece to participate with the Grecian amphibious fleet in the PHIBLEX "Alexander The Great," 15-22 April. On the 19th of April, VADM Prueher, CCMSIXTHFLT visited to observe part of the exercise.

On the 22nd of April, TRENTON departed for a four-day transit to her second port call in Naples, Italy from 26 April-05 May. During this time, some of the crew members got a chance to go to Rome and the Vatican to meet Pope John Paul II.

TRENTON departed Naples 05 May to participate in the last operation, "Dynamic Impact," from 06-18 May. This exercise involved the INCHON ARG (USS INCHON, USS TRENTON, USS PORTLAND, and USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY) along with ships from the United Kingdom, Italy, Greece, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain. This was an enjoyable opportunity for the ARG to practice multinational amphibious operations. During the exercise, RADM



Wright, Commander SARATOGA Battle Group, visited to observe this integration.

The third port call commenced on the 20th of May in Brindisi, Italy. The crew had four days to tour around before TRENTON departed for the next port call in Corfu, Greece, which started on the 24th of May. The last week of May was spent in Corfu, allowing the crew time to unwind and begin preparations for the nearing return voyage home. On 01 June, TRENTON departed for its final port call to Rota, Spain. She spent four days in Rota, getting a wash down of embarked Marine equipment, and final preparations were made for the voyage across the Atlantic. During the four-day stop, TRENTON was treated to special festivities in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebrating the D-Day invasion of northern France in Normandy.

June 10th marked the beginning of the 13-day transit with the INCHON ARG turning over with the GUAM ARG on the 11th. During the trans-Atlantic cruise, RADM Wright and CAPT Ries, (COMPHIBRON FOUR), revisited the ship. TRENTON arrived in Morehead City, North Carolina on the 23rd of June and began debarking MSSG-24 and embarking 200 Tiger Cruise participants. TRENTON made her final stop of the deployment on the 23rd of June, arriving in Norfolk, Virginia on the 24th.

After only twelve days into the post deployment inport period, TRENTON was called upon to set sail in support of Operation "Restore Democracy." She unloaded MSSG-24 again in Morehead City, North Carolina and spent five days transiting to the operational area off of Haiti, arriving 11 July 1995. On the 9th of July, TRENTON hosted ADM Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations and ETCM(SW) Hagan, Master Chief of the Navy. This visit was followed by a visit from General Mundy, Commandant of the Marine Corps, on 12 July. After eighteen days, TRENTON left the operational area for a port call at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. After a three-day visit, TRENTON departed 03 August, returning to the Haiti operational area. Prior to the invasion in late August, the INCHON ARG was relieved by the WASP ARG on the 14th. TRENTON then pointed her bow North and returned her Marines back to Morehead City on the 16th and ended her 43-day deployment on the 17th with a long-awaited return to family and loved ones in Norfolk, Virginia.

After arrival in Norfolk, TRENTON finished the post deployment in port period from 19 August to 19 September. On 03 October, TRENTON offloaded her ammo at Yorktown Weapons Station in preparation of her upcoming yard period. TRENTON entered Metro Shipyards in Norfolk on 06 October and spent the remainder of 1994 in drydock. During that period, she spent an estimated 45 days in drydock and hosted two visits from RADM Picotte, COMPHIBGRU TWO: one on the 8th of November and the second on 13 December.