



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12E

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Commander Ronald W.
Zaperach, USN
(2) 1995 Chronology
(3) 1995 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 LAVs (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.

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).

In 1995, TRENTON spent most of her time preparing for the next deployment in 1996. She spent April in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba going through refresher training. She set many milestones by passing all the major drills/inspections on the first try. OPPE (Operations propulsion plant examination) was passed in August of 1995.

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.

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

c. Commanding Officers: Captain Gerard T. Lennon, USN, 1 January to 31 August 1995. Commander Ronald W. Zaperach, USN, 1 September to 31 December 1995.

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia.

e. Command Association: 95Jan-95Dec Commander Amphibious Group TWO

f. Deployments: None.

g. Exercises and Operations: GITMO Refresher training, Operation Propulsion Plant Examination, TSTA IV Amphibious Refresher Training, TCAT (Type Commander Amphibious Training), JTFEX 1-96 (Joint Task Force Exercises).

h. Embarked Units: During Exercises October - December 1995:

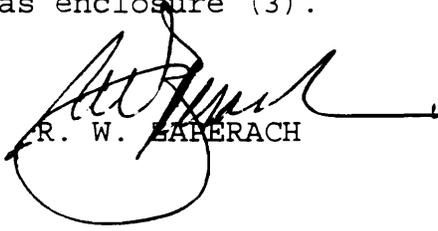
22-MSSG (Marine Supply and Support Group)
Force Recon, Battalion Landing Team
SEAL Team 8, Platoon G
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Maritime Unit 2 Det 4
Special Boat Unit 20
Landing Craft Unit 1656

i. Statistics:

- (1) Fuel consumed: 2,257,452 gallons.
- (2) Refueling at sea: 1.
- (3) JP5 aviation fuel received: 374,768 gallons.
- (4) MOGAS delivered: 17,000 gallons.
- (5) Large caliber ammunition expended: Unknown.
- (6) Underway replenishments: 1.
- (7) Aircraft landings: 1512.
Life time total landings: 39972.
- (8) 1994 Budget: Repair parts - \$ 638,050.00
Consumables - \$ 835,051.00

j. Chronology attached as enclosure (2).

k. Narrative attached as enclosure (3).


R. W. ZAPERACH

1995 CHRONOLOGY

95JAN01 In Metro Machine Ship yard, Portsmouth, VA.

95JAN26 Depart Metro Machine Yards for two days of sea trials.

95FEB08 TRENTON Wardroom attends Gator ball. Center piece wins first place.

95FEB10 TRENTON'S flight deck recertified.

95MAR20-24 Ammunition onload at anchorage, Chesapeake Bay.

95APR03 Underway to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for 4 weeks of refresher training (GITMO).

95APR07 Arrive Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

95APR08 Refresher training commences.

95APR28 Depart Guantanamo Bay, Cuba enroute to Freeport, Bahamas.

95MAY01 Arrive Freeport, Bahamas for 3 day port visit.

95MAY04 Depart Freeport, enroute to Norfolk, Virginia.

95MAY08 Return to port, Norfolk Naval Base.

95MAY22 Engineering Readiness Assistance Team (ERAT) on board for 4 days of underway training in preparation for OPPE (Operation Propulsion Plant Evaluation).

95MAY25 Return to port, Norfolk Naval Base.

95MAY30-JUN06 Logistics Management Assessment assist visit.

95JUN01 RADM Fladd (Commander, Amphibious Group TWO) visited the ship.

95JUN26-30 ETG (Engineering Training Group) on board for final preparations for OPPE.

95JUL10-13 Underway, VACAPES for OPPE rehearsal.

95JUL17	Underway for Operations Propulsion Plant Exam.
95JUL18-20	Conduct unsuccessful OPPE.
95JUL20	Return to port, Norfolk Naval Base.
95JUL26-31	Underway, VACAPES area for OPPE II preparations.
95JUL31	TRENTON conducts burial at sea for two U.S. Veterans.
95AUG01-15	TRENTON conducts inport training, repairs for OPPE II evaluation.
95AUG16-21	Underway VACAPES area for OPPE II preparations.
95AUG25-28	Conduct successful OPPE II evaluation underway.
95AUG31	Change of Command: CAPT Gerard T. Lennon relieved by CDR Ronald W. Zaperach as Commanding Officer.
95SEP05-08	Logistics Management Assessment conducted.
95SEP15	Medical Readiness Inspection conducted; C-1 status.
95SEP18-21	Underway Onslow Bay, North Carolina for TSTA IV, Amphibious Refresher Training.
95SEP25	Underway for ammunition onload.
95SEP25	Underway for Special Forces Joint Exercises involving Army, Navy, and Marine Forces.
95OCT05	Return to port, Norfolk Naval Base.
95OCT09-12	Environmental Health Survey conducted.
95OCT12-20	CSRR/Target Evaluations, Training performed.
95OCT23	TRENTON makes 30 second video on flight deck for input into Army-Navy game.
95OCT24-NOV09	Underway for TCAT (Type Commander Amphibious Training) Onslow Bay, North Carolina.

95OCT28 Conduct first replenishment at sea, 1995, with USS KALAMAZOO.

95NOV07 RADM Fladd (CPG-2) Visited the ship.

95NOV29-DEC16 Underway for JTFEX 1-96 (Joint Task Force Exercise) with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group.

95NOV30 Onload 22 MEU from Morehead City, North Carolina.

95DEC07 RADM Fladd (CPG-2) revisited the ship.

95DEC08 Deputy Secretary of Defense, DR. White, and Senior Enlisted Personnel from Army, Navy (Master Chief Hagan), Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard visited the ship to see how sailors and marines live on board.

95DEC15 Offload 22 MEU in Morehead City, North Carolina.

95DEC16 Return to home port Norfolk, VA.

95DEC17-31 Standdown for holidays and IMAV with USS SHENANDOAH for final preparations for the upcoming deployment in January, 1996 to the Mediterranean Sea.

COMMAND NARRATIVE 1995

The new year started out on a very busy note. All hands were busy completing projects from the preventive maintenance period which started in October 1994 at Metro Machine Shipyard. The ship left the yards on the 26th of January for two days of sea trials. After its successful initial voyage of 1995, TRENTON returned to Norfolk Naval Base and continued preps for her first exercise in the workup cycle prior to the next deployment. February provided the TRENTON an opportunity to display her splendor at the annual Gator Ball. This gala was attended by all the amphibious commands in the local area, hosting upward of fifty commands. TRENTON took first place in the center piece competition with a four foot paper-mache replica of the TRENTON "Gator Man."

On the 10th of February, TRENTON conducted deck landing qualifications underway and recertified her recently refurbished flight deck. The rest of February was spent in port. She got underway on 20th March to go to anchorage for an ammunition onload returning to port on 24 March. She spent the last week in preparation of the first evolution in the training cycle: GITMO.

April was spent in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where the crew received damage control refresher training. During this four week period, the crew passed the first major evolution, setting of yoke and zebra. The crew also passed other major damage control evolutions on the first try, giving the TRENTON a "clean sweep" of the GITMO exercises. In celebration of the success in Cuba, TRENTON spent a three day port call in Freeport, Bahamas before returning to Norfolk Naval Base on the 8th of May.

The month of May was filled with Operations Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) preparations, including a visit by the Engineering Readiness Assistance Team (ERAT), which provided four days of underway training. At the end of May, TRENTON conducted a Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) assist to prepare for the inspection in September. June started with a visit by the new Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, RADM FLADD. All hands concentrated on the preparations for OPPE and at the end of June, ETG (Engineering Training Group) came on board for one final look at the main plant.

The rest of the summer months were devoted to OPPE. TRENTON got underway on the 10th of July for a three day rehearsal prior to the actual oppe. On the 17th, she set sail for the main event, which lasted 3 days (18-21 July). Due to material breakage and training requirements, OPPE was not successfully completed until the end of August. The crew spent long hours on intensive training to overcome the obstacle presented to her and on 28 August, TRENTON finally earned her Engineering Plant recertification for 18 months. Prior to returning

to port, TRENTON conducted a burial at sea for two U.S. Armed-Forces Veterans on 31 July.

The end of August brought a new skipper for TRENTON. Captain Gerard T. Lennon was relieved by Commander Ronald W. Zaperach in a ceremony conducted on board 31 August 1995. CDR Zaperach became the first O-5 in the U.S. Navy to command a LPD. With the new skipper on board, TRENTON continued onward through her workup cycle. Logistics Management Assessment was a highly successful inspection. TRENTON received outstanding scores of 95% for 3M (Material Management and Maintenance) and an overall score of 96.8% for Supply (stores, food service, retail operations).

On 15 September, trenton conducted her Medical Readiness Inspection (MRI), receiving a C-1 status (no discrepancies, ready for deployment). 18-21 September was spent underway off the coast of North Carolina, conducting TSTA IV, Amphibious Refresher Training with Marines and AAV's (Amphibious Assault Vehicles). At the end of September, TRENTON unloaded more ammunition and on the 25th of September, she got underway for a two week Special Forces Joint Exercise off the coast of Savannah, Georgia. On board were Army, Navy and Marine Special Forces that were conducting joint operations.

TRENTON returned to port on the 5th of October and spent the time conducting more repairs and inspections. The Environmental Health Survey was conducted 9-12 October and CSRR/ Target Evolutions occurred over two weeks. TRENTON crew made a special video for inclusion in the annual Army - Navy game in December. She acquired a live ram and chanted "go Navy, ram Army!". On the 24th of October, TRENTON got underway once again to conduct TCAT (Type Commander Amphibious Training) which included unloading of Marine elements (MSSG 22) and the Navy LCU, EOD, and Seal Team EIGHT Embarking units. They conducted two weeks of training in preparation for the upcoming deployment and received recertification for special operations. On 28 October, TRENTON conducted her first underway replenishment of 1995 (RAS) with the USS KALAMAZOO. TRENTON was visited by RADM Fladd on November 7th prior to returning to Norfolk on the 9th.

TRENTON spent Thanksgiving in port, and on the 29th of November, she got underway for 17 days to complete her last evolution in the workup cycle: JTFEX (Joint Task Force Exercise) with the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Carrier Battle Group. TRENTON unloaded all her embarking units and spent two weeks practicing all phases of naval and amphibious operations. During this time, the MSSG 22 received her certification to conduct sustained operations at sea and ashore. On Pearl Harbor Day, RADM Fladd visited the ship to see how preparations were coming for the distinguished visitors on the 8th of December.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Mr. White and the senior enlisted personnel from all branches of the service came on board to see how sailors and marines live.

TRENTON returned home to Norfolk Naval Base on the 16th of December, commencing a holiday leave and upkeep period to give the crew an opportunity to spend the holidays with their loved ones. With only 41 days left before the deployment, TRENTON spent the last days of 1995 finishing the final preparations. During this time, she also conducted an IMAV (Intermediate Material Availability) with USS SHENANDOAH.