



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: 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12F

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Commander James A.  
Murdoch, USN  
(2) 1998 Chronology  
(3) 1998 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 state capital 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. Mrs. Richard J. Hughes, wife  
of the governor of New Jersey, christened the TRENTON on 3  
August 1968. 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 LCACs (Landing  
Craft Air Cushion), LCUs (Landing Craft Utility) and AAVs  
(Amphibious Assault Vehicle) in her floodable well deck. Her  
flight deck allows her to operate all Navy and Marine Corps  
helicopters and VTOL aircraft (harriers).

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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. She 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 deployed in January 1994 to the Mediterranean Sea where she was called upon to support Operation Continue Hope off the coast of Somalia (February - March 1994). Ten days after the deployment, TRENTON was called upon again to deploy in support of Operation Support Democracy off the coast of Haiti (July - August 1994).

TRENTON participated in Operation Joint Endeavor off the coast of Bosnia during her 1996 deployment. She also took part in Operation Assured Response off the coast of Liberia, Africa and three NATO exercises (Destined Glory, Matador, Alexander the Great). Upon returning home, TRENTON was immediately tasked as the command ship for the TWA Flight 800 Recovery Operation off the coast of Long Island, N.Y., from 9 September to 19 October 1996.

TRENTON's most recent deployment took her back to the Mediterranean Sea (26 February to 28 July 1998). While conducting exercise DYNAMIC RESPONSE 98, TRENTON was one of the first U.S. Naval Ships to visit the ports of Split and Ploce, Croatia in nearly 40 years. This unique training made TRENTON a vital part of the ARG while exhibiting Marine Corps air superiority in a NATO military demonstration. TRENTON completed her deployment by participating in three NATO exercise: DESTINED GLORY 98, ALEXANDER THE GREAT 98, and COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98.

b. TRENTON has developed and now operates under the following Mission:

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

c. Commanding Officer: Commander Stephen P. Curtis, USN, 1 January to 18 September 1998; Commander James A. Murdoch, USN, 18 September to 31 December 1998.

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

e. Command Association:

01 JAN-14 FEB: Commander, Amphibious Group TWO/  
Commander, Second Fleet  
14 FEB-14 JUL: Commander, Amphibious Squadron Six/  
Commander, Sixth Fleet  
14 JUL-31 DEC: Commander, Amphibious Group TWO/  
Commander, Second Fleet

f. Deployments: MARG 2-98 (26 February to 28 July 1998)

g. Exercises and Operations:

(1) DYNAMIC RESPONSE 98 25 March to 07 April  
(2) TUNISIAN PHIBLEX 19 to 25 April  
(3) DESTINED GLORY 04 to 22 May  
(4) ALEXANDER THE GREAT 98 01 to 05 June  
(5) COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98 12 to 26 June

h. Embarked Units:

(1) January to July 1998:  
(a) HQ, MACG-28, 2nd MAW (Cherry Point, NC)  
(b) 3rd BN 2nd MAR (Camp Lejeune, NC)  
(c) 2nd LAR BN (Camp Lejeune, NC)  
(d) 3rd BN 10th Mar (Camp Lejeune, NC)  
(e) 2nd CBT ENGR BN (Camp Lejeune, NC)

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- (f) 26th MEU (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (g) MSSG-26 (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (h) 2nd ANGLICO (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (i) FORCE REC CO, 2nd SRI GROUP
- (j) COMSPECWARGRU 2 (Little Creek, VA)
- (k) SBU 20 (Little Creek, VA)
- (l) ACU Det 2 (Little Creek, VA)
- (m) COMNAVBEACHGROUP 2 (Little Creek, VA)

(2) October 1998:

- (a) MUDSU 2 (Little Creek, VA)

i. Unit Awards

- (1) Armed Forces Service Medal (23 March to 7 April 1998)
- (2) Sea Service Ribbon (26 February to 26 May 1998)

j. Statistics

- (1) Fuel consumed: 3,237,928 gallons.
  - (2) Refuelings at sea: 20
  - (3) JP5 aviation fuel utilized: 385,910 gallons
  - (4) MOGAS delivered: 4,400 gallons.
  - (5) Large caliber ammunition expended: None.
  - (6) Underway replenishments: 30
  - (7) Aircraft landings: 1,685
- Lifetime total landings: 44,208

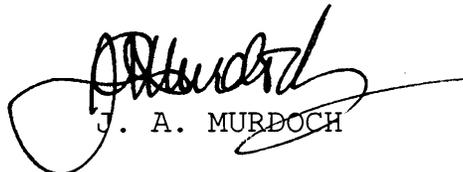
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(8) 1997 Budget: Repair parts — \$783,761.80  
Consumables — \$1,126,244.09

k. Biography and photo of James A. Murdoch is attached as enclosure (1).

l. Chronology is attached as enclosure (2).

m. Narrative is attached as enclosure (3).



J. A. MURDOCH

### 1998 Chronology

12 Jan-03 Feb: Live fire JTFEX/SOCEX in Puerto Rican Oparea.

19 Feb: Sea trials.

26 Feb: Deployed MARG 98-2. Elements of 26 MEU embarked.

11 Mar: Arrive Rota, Spain for turnover.

20-22 Mar: Port visit Sircusa, Sicily.

25 Mar-06 Apr: Operation DYNAMIC RESPONSE (SFOR), Ploce and Split, Croatia.

08-13 Apr: Port visit Trieste, Italy.

17-19 Apr: Port visit Tunis, Tunisia.

18 Apr: Diplomatic reception for U.S. Ambassador

20-25 Apr: TUNISIAN PHIBLEX

28 Apr-01 May: Port Visit Alicante, Spain.

04-28 May: Spanish exercise DESTINED GLORY 98.

01-05 Jun: Greek exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT 98.

08-10 Jun: Port visit Istanbul, Turkey.

12-14 Jun: Port visit Constanta, Romania.

14-27 Jun: NATO-PFP exercise COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98.

16-19 Jun: Conducted Joint Contact Training Program Military to Military Training with Romanian officers.

26 Jun: Hosted Romanian President Constantinescu onboard for capabilities and exercise briefing.

03-05 Jul: Port visit Corfu, Greece.

10 Jul: Hosted the USO Gala in Naples, Italy.

13-14 Jul: Conducted 36-hour agricultural washdown in Rota, Spain.

22 Jul: Mid Cycle Assessment.

25-26 Jul: Offload troops in Morehead City, NC.

27 Jul: Conducted tiger cruise.

28 Jul: Arrive Norfolk, VA.

26-30 Aug: Sortie to avoid Hurricane Bonnie.

10-11 Sep: PCO familiarization operations.

- 11-12 Sep: Visit ship for Norfolk reggae festival.
- 28-30 Sep: Weapons offload at NWS Yorktown.
- 05-09 Oct: Broward County Navy Days amphibious representative.
- 11-14 Oct: Transport Titan missile recovery craft to NAB Little Creek, VA.
- 26 Oct-31 Dec: Preventive Maintenance Availability (PMA) at Metro Machine Shipyard.

## Command Narrative

The year commenced with TRENTON participating in the first live fire Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) in several years, steaming with COMPHIBRON SIX and the remainder of the WASP ARG in the Puerto Rican OPAREA. Upon completion of JTFEX, TRENTON proceeded to the Cherry Point Oparea to support the 26th MEU's Special Operations Capability Exercise (SOCEX). After successfully completing this qualification, TRENTON returned to Norfolk to load out for deployment.

Deploying as a vital member of MARG 2-98 in February, TRENTON made brief stops in Rota, Spain and Siracusa, Italy before pressing on to the Adriatic Sea. To demonstrate the U.S. Navy's ability to land Strategic Reserve Forces (SFOR) quickly and in strength, Exercise DYNAMIC RESPONSE 98 utilized TRENTON as one of the first U.S. Naval Ships to visit the ports of Split and Ploce, Croatia in nearly 40 years. TRENTON spent the next 3 weeks supporting SFOR training for a possible future contingency in the Balkans. Three months later, TRENTON's contribution to this unique training was drawn upon as a portion of the ARG was called upon to demonstrate the Marine Corps' air superiority in a NATO military demonstration. After a brief stop in Trieste, Italy, TRENTON steamed south to Tunis, Tunisia, to take part in TUNISIAN PHIBLEX 98. Operating with Tunisian marines, the exercise permitted TRENTON to showcase the ability to transport and land the waterborne assault assets necessary to storm and take beach positions held by opposition forces. Also showcased were TRENTON's SPECWAR capabilities, which permitted the insertion of Special Forces for hydrographic surveys of an unknown beach prior to the assault.

The month of May found TRENTON participating in the month long NATO exercise DESTINED GLORY 98. TRENTON conducted advance force operations and inserted opposition forces at Sierra de Retin, then returned to rejoin the force. Assuming the role of Primary Control Ship (PCS), TRENTON assumed responsibility of tasking, tracking, and controlling scores of landing craft from over five participating countries. After numerous practice assaults and movement to the objective area, TRENTON guided over a dozen waves of assault craft to a successful landing.

Sailing eastward, TRENTON was again detached to conduct advance force operations in exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT 98. Island hopping throughout Greece, TRENTON covertly launched, and later recovered, Marine Corps Special Operations Forces via air and sea assets, during both day and night operations. After completing these highly complex exercises, TRENTON rejoined the ARG to participate in the amphibious assault on Volos Bay, Greece.

The final exercise of the deployment found TRENTON in the Black Sea for COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98. COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98 was a joint NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Exercise with units from Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and France. TRENTON's embarked marines planned the training serials for both the amphibious and ground units. As CTF 903, TRENTON directed the movement of multinational amphibious forces to the training site at Vadu, Romania, and their subsequent employment. TRENTON also conducted two public shows of force demonstrations for the local populace of Constana, Ro. Additionally, TRENTON hosted Romanian President Constantinescu onboard for an exercise and capabilities brief.

To conclude an outstanding deployment, TRENTON received a Bravo Zulu from Commander Sixth Fleet for hosting the 1998 USO Gala in Naples, Italy. TRENTON provided an atmosphere of camaraderie and diplomacy for over 700 of Italy's greatest Navy supporters.

After a restful POM period, which included a not so restful emergency sortie to avoid Hurricane Bonnie, TRENTON served as the only amphibious representative at Broward County Navy Days in Broward County, Florida. After that well-earned port visit, TRENTON retrieved the Titan missile recovery craft for transport to Norfolk.

Finally, as the most successful year in this ship's history comes to a close, TRENTON is hard at work in METRO Machine Shipyard, working to ensure that she will be the last LPD to meet the cutter's torch and the first to be called upon in time of crisis.