



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 20374-5060

Subj: 1999 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12F

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Commander James A. Murdoch, USN
(2) 1999 Chronology
(3) 1999 Command Narrative

1. Per 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. 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).

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 US 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 against the Serbian government. 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:

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

c. Commanding Officer: Commander James A. Murdoch, USN, 18 September 1998 to 31 December 1999.

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

e. Command Association:

01 JAN-14 JUN: Commander, Amphibious Group TWO/
Commander, Surface Force Atlantic

14 JUN-31 DEC: Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight/
Commander, Second Fleet

f. Embarked Units:

(1) April 1999:

- (a) ACU Det 2 (Little Creek, VA)
- (b) COMNAVBEACHGROUP 2 (Little Creek, VA)

(2) June, October, and December 1999:

- (a) HQ, MACG-29, 2nd MAW (Cherry Point, NC)
- (b) 3rd BN 2nd MAR (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (c) 2nd LAR BN (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (d) 2nd BN 6th Mar (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (e) 2nd CBT ENGR BN (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (f) 24th MEU (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- (g) MSSG-24 (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)

g. Statistics

- (1) Fuel consumed: 1,488,174 gallons.
- (2) Refuelings at sea: 10

- (3) JP5 aviation fuel utilized: 254,573 gallons
- (4) MOGAS delivered: 344 gallons.
- (5) Large caliber ammunition expended: None.
- (6) Underway replenishments: 12
- (7) Aircraft landings: 935
- (8) Lifetime total landings: 45,142
- (9) 1999 Budget: Repair parts — \$610,173.69
 Consumables — \$727,581.13

- h. Biography and photo of James A. Murdoch is attached as enclosure (1).
- i. Chronology is attached as enclosure (2).
- j. Narrative is attached as enclosure (3).


J. F. BARNES
Acting

1999 Chronology

01 JAN-05 FEB: Preventive Maintenance Availability (PMA) at Metro Machine Shipyard.

11-15 JAN: Prior to Light-Off Testing (PLOT) III at Metro Machine Shipyard.

25-28JAN: Light Off Assessment at Metro Machine Shipyard.

04-05 Feb: Sea trials in VACAPES Oparea.

03-12 APR: School Ship, Newport, RI

05-08 APR: Aviation Certification in the VACAPES Oparea.

26-29 APR: Weapons Onload, Yorktown, VA.

20 MAY: Conducted Engineering Qualifications pierside Norfolk and in the VACAPES Oparea.

15-25 JUN: FEP/TCAT in the Cherry Point Oparea.

26 JUN-09 JUL: FMAV pierside Norfolk, VA.

08-09 SEP: Sea trials in the VACAPES Oparea.

14-22OCT: PMINT in the Cherry Point Oparea.

01-16DEC: Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise (MEUEX) / Special Operations Capability Exercise (SOCEX) / Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) in the Cherry Point Oparea.

Command Narrative

The year commenced with TRENTON 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. TRENTON upgraded most of her systems and received new Coffin Feed Pumps and Main Feed Booster Pumps.

We started the beginning of our training cycle at Metro Machine Shipyard, Norfolk, VA with a Prior to Light-Off Testing and a Light-Off Examination. Upon its successful completion, TRENTON lighted fires and headed for sea. She conducted sea trials off the coast of Virginia and returned to Naval Station Norfolk Virginia.

On 1 April 1999, TRENTON again put to sea bound for to Newport, Rhode Island. TRENTON became a School Ship and conducted more than 30 student tours ranging from Division officer to Prospective Commanding Officer. She was the first Steam Ship to visit Newport in over three years, so she hosted many special events such as the filming of a boiler light-off that will benefit Division Officers and Department Heads for years to come. Heading back to Virginia, Trenton stopped off at the Naval Weapon Station, Yorktown to load her magazines.

In May, TRENTON conducted its Engineering Qualification off the coast of Virginia. Upon an outstanding completion that earned us our Engineering "E", TRENTON headed for the coast of North Carolina in June. We conducted a Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) and Type Commanders Amphibious Training (TCAT) in the Cherry Point Operating Area.

Finally, as a most successful year in this ship's life comes to a close, TRENTON is participating in a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX), steaming with COMPHIBRON EIGHT and the remainder of the WASP ARG in the Cherry Point OPAREA. Upon completion of JTFEX, supported the 24th MEU's Special Operations Capability Exercise (SOCEX). After successfully completing this qualification, TRENTON returned to Norfolk to load out for deployment.