



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TRENTON (LPD-14)
FPO AE 09588-1716

5757
Ser 00/034
01 Mar 04

From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD 14)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington,
DC 20374-5060

Subj: 2003 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5150.12F

Encl: (1) Photograph and Biography of Commander Steven W. Holland
(2) 2003 Chronology
(3) 2003 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. 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 and Arabian Gulf (22 February to 30 August 2002). Conducting exercises in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, deployment highlights included 107 consecutive days at sea and the 50,000th safe flight deck operation. TRENTON is now as always ready to answer the call to support any tasking.

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:

CDR Robert P. Irelan 7 March 2002 - 5 September 2003

CDR Steven W. Holland 5 September 2003 - Present

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

e. Command Association:

01 JAN-14 JUL: Commander, Amphibious Group Two

14 JUL-31 DEC: Commander, Amphibious Group Two/
Commander, Amphibious Squadron Two

f. Deployment:

None

g. Exercises/Operations:

Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) 03

TCAT in support of BATAAN ARG

h. Embarked Units:

7-13 DEC: Combat Support Service Detachment 24

i. Statistics

- (1) Fuel consumed: 919,726 gallons of F76.
- (2) Refuelings at sea: 7
- (3) JP5 aviation fuel utilized: 83,292 gallons.
- (4) MOGAS delivered: 0 gallons.
- (5) Large caliber ammunition expended: None
- (6) Underway replenishments: 7
- (7) Aircraft landings: 364
Lifetime total landings: 51406
- (8) 2003 Budget: Repair parts — \$1,576,875.00
Consumables — \$1,433,571.00

j. Biography and photo of Steven W. Holland is attached as enclosure (1).

k. Chronology is attached as enclosure (2).

l. Narrative is attached as enclosure (3).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. W. Holland', written in a cursive style.

S. W. Holland

Chronology

- 10 January 2003: End of Holiday Standown
- 14 January 2003: Underway and arrival at Metro Machine, Begin Phased Maintenance Availability
- 21 March 2003: Search and Rescue Certification
- 23 April 2003: Light Off Assessment
- 18 April Flight Deck Resurfacing Assessment
- 24 April 2003: Crew move aboard
- 05 May 2003: Underway from Metro Machine and Sea Trails, End Phased Maintenance Availability
- 06 May 2003: Return to Norfolk Naval Base
- 12 May 2003: E-6 and E-5 Frocking Ceremony
- 16 May 2003: E-4 Frocking Ceremony
- 29 May 2003: Aviation Certification
- 02 June 2003: Underway VACAPES
- 04 June 2003: Return to Norfolk Naval Base
- 10-12 June 2003: Underway VACAPES
- 26 June 2003: Underway for Wilmington
- 27-30 June 2003: Inport Wilmington, DE for CNO High Priority Port Visit
- 30 June: Underway from Wilmington, DE
- 01 July Return to Norfolk Naval Base
- 08 July 2003: Initial Assessment
- 16 July 2003: Underway for CART II
- 05-8 August 2003: Underway VACAPES
- 26-28 August 2003: Underway VACAPES
- 26 August 2003: Well Deck CERT
- 05 September 2003: Change of Command
- 11-20 September 2003: Underway VACAPES
- 24-26 September 2003: Underway Demonstration
- 01 October 2003: Underway enr to Savannah, GA
- 03 October 2003: Arrive Savannah, GA for CNO High Priority Port Visit
- 06 October 2003: Depart Savannah, GA
- 10 October 2003: Arrive Norfolk Naval Base
- 27 October 2003: Final Evaluation Problem
- 03 November 2003: Underway enr to Mobile, Al
- 04 November 2003: E-6 and E-5 Frocking Ceremony
- 10-12 November 2003: Inport Mobile, AL for CNO High Priority Port Visit
- 13 November 2003: Underway enr to Pensacola, FL
- 14-16 November 2003: Inport Pensacola, FL for CNO High Priority Port Visit
- 17 November 2003: Underway from Pensacola, FL
- 18 November 2003: Arrive Norfolk Naval Base
- 19 November 2003: E-4 Frocking Ceremony
- 7-13 December 2003: TCAT – BATAAN ARG

NARRATIVE

TRENTON started 2003 with the completion of Holiday standown and preparing to enter Metro Machine for Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) 03. On January 14th TRENTON got underway from Norfolk Naval Base and arrived to begin a five-month shipyard period. PMA 03 saw upgrades to the hotel steam system, ships SSTGs, re-tubing of Main Condensers, Boiler inspections, and rehab to berthing and troop spaces. Changing the appearance of TRENTON was the removal of the huge Discone-discage antenna (SRC 4191) formerly located on the forecastle and the installation of Super High Frequency (SHF) enabling higher speed connectivity while at sea. The completion of the Light off Assessment on 23 April 2003 was culmination of the intense training conducted throughout the shipyard period, showing TRENTON's commitment to sustaining the highest levels of readiness. TRENTON finished the PMA 03 ahead of schedule and finally departed Metro Machine Corporation on 05 May 2003.

TRENTON immediately went to sea for Sea Trials, demonstrating the successful repairs and upgrades from PMA 03. During the early summer, TRENTON took advantage of the short time prior to the beginning of the basic phase with multiple underway days in the VACAPES operating area preparing for CART II and a CNO High Priority Port Visit to Wilmington, DE.

An April revision to the Surface Force Training Manual saw changes shortening the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle, just in time for TRENTON to be a test platform. With careful scheduling and crew participation TRENTON made the preparations to begin the basic phase with CART II on July 22, 2003. A meticulous self-assessment and demonstration of TRENTON's ability to integrate training teams to provide quality training proved valuable and set high standards that were carried throughout the basic phase.

In the time-honored tradition, TRENTON conducted a Change Of Command at sea on 05 September 2003 when CDR Steven W. Holland, USNR became the 20th Commanding Officer of LPD-14 relieving CDR Robert P. Ireland, USN. Commander Holland took Command in the middle of the basic phase and ensured that his ship was ready to complete all certification and inspections during the shortened Inter-Deployment Training Cycle.

September saw TRENTON and most of the East coast Navy ships sortie to avoid Hurricane Isabel, TRENTON literally weathered the storm getting underway and rescheduling its Underway Demonstration. After returning, no time was wasted in getting the Underway Demonstration completed again with outstanding results.

An already compacted schedule was made even tighter with the addition of a CNO High Priority Port visit to Savannah, GA in support of OKTOBERFEST. The crew enjoyed the hospitality of Savannah and then returned to make preparations for the Final Evaluation Period (FEP) conducted 27 October 2003. TRENTON set the standard for the newly revised Inter-Deployment Training Cycle with the completion of FEP.

In November TRENTON was tasked with supporting Veteran's Day festivities in Mobile, AL, while providing ship tours to the visiting public. While there showcasing the fleets best amphibious ship, TRENTON was tasked to fill in for another CNO High priority port visit to Pensacola, FL to provide training to the Officer Candidate School.

Another successful year ended with TRENTON's support of the BATAAN Expeditionary Strike Group in their TCAT. TRENTON provided amphibious services, transporting troops and equipment to the beach, gaining some more valuable training. TRENTON looks forward to 2004 as another opportunity to showcase the commitment to excellence that has become the standard of the fleets finest amphibious ship demonstrating the motto "No greater gator."