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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS WASP (LHD 1)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 09556-1660

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, USS WASP (LHD 1), 1989 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for 1989 has been compiled in accordance with reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).


R. R. HANKE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Mission. USS WASP (LHD 1) is a multi-purpose amphibious assault ship whose primary mission is to embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine Landing Force in amphibious assault operations by helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicles or any combination of these methods. USS WASP has a secondary mission of sea control.

2. Chain of Command:

Amphibious Squadron TWELVE
Amphibious Group TWO
Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

3. Organizational Structure. USS WASP's Commanding Officer was CAPT Leonard F. Picotte, who was born in [REDACTED], enlisted in the Navy in 1957 and served onboard USS SARSFIELD (DD-837). He graduated from Northern Michigan University in June 1963 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and following the OCS Program at Newport, RI, he received his commission the same year. He served onboard the USS HORNET (CVS-12) as Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer and Gunnery Officer, and then aboard the USS HAMMERBURG (DE-1015) as Main Propulsion Assistant. In June of 1967 he attended Naval Destroyer School at Newport before serving as Weapons Officer for the USS PRICHETT (DD-561).

From 1969-1971, CAPT Picotte was assigned as Assistant Cruiser/Destroyer Placement Officer with the Bureau of Naval Personnel. He then assumed command of USS MARATHON (PG-89) and operated with River Division 115 in Vietnam. Following this tour, he attended San Diego State University, obtaining an MA in political science in June 1975. He subsequently graduated from Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.

Returning to sea duty, CAPT Picotte served as Executive Officer of USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31). From 1978-1980, he was Executive Officer and then Officer in Charge of Surface Warfare Officer's School (SWOS) in Coronado, CA. After his tour at SWOS, he served for six months as Executive Officer, Naval Station, San Diego, before reporting to USS ALAMO (LSD-33) in June of 1980 for duty as Commanding Officer. He completed that tour in June 1982 and returned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC for duty as the Surface Warfare Commander Detailer. He then attended the Naval War College, Senior Course in Newport, RI from which he graduated in June 1985. His next assignment was Commanding Officer, USS DULUTH (LPD-6) until February 1988. Upon completion of this tour, CAPT Picotte was assigned as the Commanding Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1).

CAPT Picotte's decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

USS WASP's manning allowance is 67 Officers, 66 Chief Petty Officers, and 922 Enlisted organized into the following departments and divisions (Department Heads and Division Officers as indicated):

- a. Executive Officer - CAPT Keith H. Larson
* Chaplains: LCDR [REDACTED]

- LT [REDACTED]
- * Ratings: JO, LI, LN, MA, NC, PC, PN, RP, YN
- b. Air Department - CAPT (Sel) Ludvig K. Tande
- * V-1 Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings: ABH
 - * V-3 Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings: ABH
 - * V-3 Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings: ABF
- c. Air Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) - CDR [REDACTED]
- * IM-1 Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - AD, AE, AF, AK, AME, AMS, AT, AZ, PR
 - * IM-2 Division - CWO2 [REDACTED]
Ratings - AD, AE, AME, AMH, AMS, APO, AT, AZ, PR
 - * IM-3 Division - ATC(AW) [REDACTED]
Ratings - AE, AO, APO, AT
 - * IM-4 Division - ASC(AW) [REDACTED]
Ratings - AK, APO, AS
- d. Combat Cargo Department - Capt [REDACTED]
- e. Combat Systems Department - LCDR [REDACTED]
- * CD Division - DSCS(SW) [REDACTED]
Ratings - DS
 - * CF Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - FC
 - * CG Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - AO, FC, GMG
 - * CI Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - EW
- f. Communications Department - LT [REDACTED]
- * CM Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - RM
 - * CR Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - RM
 - * CS Division - ENS [REDACTED] /SMC(SW) [REDACTED]
Ratings - SM
- g. Deck Department - LT [REDACTED]
- * 1st Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - BM, SN
 - * 2nd Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - BM, SN
 - * Side Cleaners - CWO3 [REDACTED]
Ratings - BM, SN
- h. Dental Department - LCDR [REDACTED]
Ratings - DT, DN
- i. Engineering Department - CDR [REDACTED]
- * A-Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - EN, MM, MR
 - * MPA - LT [REDACTED]

- * MP1-Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - BT, MM
- * MP2-Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - BT, MM
- * DCA - LCDR [REDACTED]
- * R-Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - HT, DC
- * Electrical Officer - LT [REDACTED]
- * E-Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - EM, IC
- j. Medical Department - LT [REDACTED]
 - * H Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - HM, HN
- k. Navigator - LCDR [REDACTED]
 - * Navigation Division - QMC(SW) [REDACTED]
Ratings - QM
- l. Operations Department - CDR [REDACTED]
 - * OA Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - AG
 - * OC Division - MAJ [REDACTED]
Ratings - AC
 - * OE Division - LCDR [REDACTED]
Ratings - ET
 - * OI Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - OS
 - * OS Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - CTA, CTM, CTO, CTR, CTT
 - * OZ Division - LCDR [REDACTED]
Ratings - DP, PH, IS
- m. Safety Department - LT [REDACTED]
- n. Supply Department - CDR [REDACTED]
 - * S-1 Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - SK
 - * S-2 Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - MS
 - * S-3 Division - LT [REDACTED]
Ratings - SH
 - * S-4 Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - DK
 - * S-5 Division - ENS [REDACTED]
Ratings - MS
 - * S-6 Division - LCDR [REDACTED]
Ratings - AK
 - * S-7 Division - CWO2 [REDACTED]
Ratings - DP

4. Assigned Aircraft. One UH-1N, BUNO 158763

5. Homeport. U.S. Naval Station Norfolk, VA

CHRONOLOGY

- 05 MAY - 1235 - CAPT L. F. Picotte, PCO, accepted delivery of WASP from Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, MS. Ship was placed in service, special. Posted the inport watch, DSCS(SW) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] assumed the watch as OOD.
- 17 MAY - 1605 - Commenced exercise fast cruise.
1720 - Secured from fast cruise.
- 20 MAY - 0800 - Commenced exercise fast cruise.
1025 - Secured from fast cruise.
- 24 MAY - 1500 - RADM Roland Guilbault, COMCRUDESGRU 12, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1613 - COMCRUDESGRU 12 departed the ship.
- 15 JUN - 0723 - Propulsion Examining Board arrived onboard to conduct Light-Off Exam (LOE).
- 16 JUN - 1505 - Propulsion Examining Board departed the ship. LOE successfully completed. Results: Ready for Light-Off in all spaces. Graded "Above Average" in all areas - Material, Firefighting capability, Level of Knowledge, and Administration.
- 20 JUN - 1007 - Lighted fires, #2 Boiler.
1056 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1745 - COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.
2254 - COMPHIBGRU 2 returned onboard.
- 21 JUN - COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.
- 23 JUN - 0820 - Commenced exercise fast cruise.
1757 - Secured from fast cruise.
- 26 JUN - 1421 - CAPT T. S. Treanor, COMPHIBRON 12, and staff arrived onboard to conduct Crew Certification, Phase III.
- 27 JUN - - Conducted fast cruise for Crew Certification.
- 29 JUN - 1020 - COMPHIBRON 12 and staff departed the ship, Crew Certification successfully completed, ship evaluated, "capable and ready to safely operate at sea."
1620 - Commenced ammunition onload.
- 30 JUN - 0132 - Sustained approximately 12 ft flooding water in 4-125-1-E, Stern Gate Machinery Room.
- 05 JUL - 1900 - Ship placed in commission, special.
- 07 JUL - 0857 - Shifted the watch from the Quarterdeck to the Bridge, CDR King has the deck.

1004 - Underway from Pascagoula, MS enroute AUTEK Site 1, Bahamas.

2015 - 2215 - Conducted shaft vibration trials.

08 JUL - 0004 - 0153 - Conducted economy trials.
1257 - Flight Quarters.
1339 - 1516 - Exercised at General Quarters; fired CIWS MT 21; expended 160 rounds.
2228 - 2350 - Conducted boiler flex.

10 JUL - 0615 - 0940 - Flight Quarters.
1000 - 1031 - Flight Quarters.
1444 - 1650 - Flight Quarters.
Commenced acoustic trials, vicinity AUTEK Site 1.

12 JUL - 0656 - Completed acoustic trials, AUTEK Site 1, enroute Norfolk, VA

13 JUL - 1325 - 1445 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1814 - 1838 - Conducted acceleration vibration trials.
2031 - Commenced lateral stability trials.

14 JUL - 0534 - Secured from lateral stability trials.
2008 - 2130 - Conducted horizontal overshoot trials.

15 JUL - 0718 - 0736 - Conducted drag shaft trials, port shaft.
0915 - 1044 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1456 - Commenced tactical characteristic standardization trials on HECTOR Range, vicinity 35-55'N/074-55'W.

17 JUL - 1037 - 1136 - Flight Quarters.

18 JUL - 1113 - 1221 - Fired .50 cal MT 2, 50 rounds expended.
1948 - Anchored vicinity 35-56'N/075-01'W in VACAPES OPAREA 27B.

19 JUL - 0810 - Underway, continued standardization trials on HECTOR Range.
0929 - 1156 - Flight Quarters: recovered and launched helicopter from USS GUADALCANAL.
1128 - Completed standardization trials.

20 JUL - 0600 - Stationed the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
1017 - Moored starboard side to Pier 11, U.S. Naval Station Norfolk, VA
1110 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived for an informal visit.
1129 - COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.

21 JUL - 1213 - RADM J. Pappas, COMNAVBASE NORFOLK, arrived for an informal visit.
1341 - COMNAVBASE departed the ship.

26 JUL - Embarked the following aircraft from HMM-162 to serve as static displays during commissioning ceremony : AV-8B, AH-IT Cobra, UH-1N Huey, CH-46 Sea Knight, and CH-53E Sea Stallion.

29 JUL - 1030 - USS WASP placed in commission by Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM J. S. Donnell. Principal speaker was GEN A. M. Gray, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

31 JUL - Disembarked HMM-162 Aircraft.

04 AUG - 1304 - VADM J. L. Johnson, COMSECONDFLT, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1530 - COMSECONDFLT departed the ship.

10 AUG - 1520 - VADM J. O. Tuttle, OP-03, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1854 - VADM Tuttle departed the ship.

11 AUG - 0847 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
0924 - VADM J. M. Boorda, Chief of Naval Personnel, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1050 - VADM Boorda departed the ship.
1054 - RADM Whisler departed the ship.

15 AUG - 1330 - MGEN R. F. Milligan arrived for an informal visit.
1550 - MGEN Milligan departed the ship.

17 AUG - 1031 - VADM H. K. Fiske, OP-03B, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1046 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1110 - VADM J. S. Donnell, COMNAVSURFLANT, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1316 - VADM Donnell departed the ship.
1404 - VADM Fiske and RADM Whisler departed the ship.

18 AUG - 0800 - Broke COMPHIBRON 12's pennant onboard. Force Dental Officer visited the ship.

22 AUG - 1000 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1014 - Commander, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, arrived for an informal visit.
1106 - Commander, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, departed the ship.
1110 - COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.
1253 - RADM C. R. Lohr, Commander, Naval Medical Command, Mid-Atlantic Region, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1414 - RADM Lohr departed the ship.

26 AUG - MMI Everett died off the ship in an automobile accident.

29 AUG - 1330 - MGEN H. C. Stackpole, III, USMC, Director Plans and Policy, USCINCLANT, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1554 - MGEN Stackpole departed the ship.

30 AUG - 1056 - VADM P. D. Miller, DCNO (Naval Warfare, OP-07) and VADM W. D. Smith, DCNO (Navy Program Planning, OP-08) arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1215 - VADM Miller departed the ship.

1312 - VADM Smith departed the ship.

01 SEP - 1408 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard for an informal visit.
1501 - COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.

06 SEP - 1106 - Delegation from NATO Assembly arrived for a tour of the ship.
1155 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, RADM P. R. OLSEN, COMLOGGRU 2, and RADM D. B. Robinson, COMCRUDESGRU 8, arrived for a tour of the ship.
1323 - Delegation from NATO Assembly departed the ship.
1430 - COMPHIBGRU 2, COMLOGRU 2, and COMCRUDESGRU 8 departed the ship.

07 SEP - - BGEN J. J. Sheehan, Commanding General, Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade, toured the ship.

11 SEP - 0830 - VADM J. A. Zimble, Director, Naval Medicine (OP-093) arrived for a tour of the ship.
1245 - VADM Zimble departed the ship.

13 SEP - 1545 - Stationed Special Sea and Anchor Detail for berth shift.
1704 - Underway.
1837 - Moored, Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

14 SEP - - Commenced inport phase of UNREP Ship Qualification Trails (SQT).

15 SEP - 1023 - BGEN G. L. McKay, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, arrived for an informal visit.
1143 - CAPT T. S. Treanor, COMPHIBRON 12 arrived onboard.
1255 - BGEN McKay departed the ship.
1435 - COMPHIBRON 12 departed the ship.

19 SEP - 1004 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard.
1435 - His Excellency, Guy Coeme, Minister of National Defense, Belgium, arrived for an official visit.
1146 - The Minister of National Defense, Belgium, departed the ship; COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.
- Completed inport phase of UNREP SQT.

20 SEP - - Completed inport phase of UNREP SQT.

25 SEP - 0800 - COMPHIBRON 12 shifted his pennant off WASP. Underway, enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAs.
1608 - Set Flight Quarters to recover UH-IN.
1700 - Secured from Flight Quarters.

26 SEP - 0825 - Buried remains of MM1 D. N. Everett (died in automobile accident 26 AUG) at 36-48.3'N/073-49.4'W in 1423 fathoms of water.
0921 - 1028 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1340 - 1630 - Conducted boiler flex, #1 Boiler.
1839 - 2108 - Conducted boiler flex, #2 Boiler.

27 SEP - 0724 - 0839 - Flight Quarters, launched UH-IN.
1036 - Flight Quarters to recover UH-IN.
1336 - 2108 - Conducted Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises.

28 SEP - 0800 - 0833 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
0912 - 1020 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1121 - 1215 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
1345 - 1550 - Flight Quarters for Deck Landing Qualifications.
1714 - 1800 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch and recovery.

29 SEP - 0546 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
0711 - 0725 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
0844 - Moored, starboard side to Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

02 OCT - 0804 - Underway, enroute Hampton Roads Ammunition Anchorage G-2.
0836 - Anchored.
0930 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for getting underway.
1730 - 1847 - Flight Quarters for UN-1N recovery.

03 OCT - 0930 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
1017 - Underway, enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAs.
1340 - 1809 - Conducted Trails on the Ships' Electronics Systems Evaluation Facility (SESEF) Range, vicinity of Chesapeake Light.

04 OCT - 0730 - 0845 - Flight Quarters for flight deck drills.
0753 - 0906 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1300 - Stationed the UNREP Detail.
1348 - Alongside USNS NEOSHO (T-AO-143) for UNREP SQT (Ship Qualification Trials); refueling and manila highline transfers.
1716 - Secured the UNREP Detail. SQT considered incomplete as no cargo was transferred via STREAM method and night UNREP was not accomplished.

05 OCT - 0700 - 0730 - Flight Quarters for UH-1N launch.
0745 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
1120 - Moored, port side to Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

11 OCT - 1327 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived onboard.
1353 - His excellency, Gerhard Stoltenberg, Minister of Defense, Federal Republic of Germany, arrived in company with ADM F. B. Kelso, CINCLANTFLT, for a tour of the ship.
1454 - The Minister of Defense, CINCLANTFLT, and COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.

18 OCT - 1428 - His Excellency, Ambassador Derek Arnould, Acting Commandant of the NATO Defense College, arrived for an official visit.
1626 - Ambassador Arnould departed the ship.

23 OCT - 1300 - Stationed the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
1400 - Underway, enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAs.
1503 - 1531 - Flight Quarters for UH-1N recovery.

- 1705 - Anchored vicinity of Chesapeake Light.
- 1749 - 1915 - Embarked three Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC's) from Assault Craft Unit 4, callsigns Hopper 8, Hopper 10, and Hopper 11.

- 24 OCT - 0645 - Set Condition 1A for LCAC Operations.
- 0749 - 1718 - Conducted 6 LCAC launches and 7 recoveries at anchor with LCAC's 8, 10, 11.
- 0956 - 1054 - Set Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
- 1214 - 1256 - Set Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery and launch.
- 1335 - 1427 - Set Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery and launch.
- 1620 - 1713 - Set Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.

- 25 OCT - 0657 - Underway to conduct LCAC Operations.
- 0830 - 1219 - Conducted 3 underway LCAC launches and 3 recoveries with LCACs 10 and 11.
- 0932 - 1026 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
- 1145 - 1206 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
- 1419 - 1518 - Launched LCAC 11, recovered LCAC 8 while underway.
- 1449 - 1507 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
- 1534 - Anchored, vicinity of Chesapeake Light.
- 1634 - Launched LCAC 8.
- 1826 - 1900 - Recovered LCACs 8 and 11.

- 26 OCT - 0600 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
- 0630 - Underway for local operations in the Virginia Capes OPAREAs.
- 0715 - 0756 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
- 0746 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, and RADM E. B. Baker, COMPHIBGRU 3, arrived for an informal call.

- 0842 - 1002 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 21, 350 rounds expended.
- 1011 - 1056 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 22, 350 rounds expended.
- 1145 - 1246 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
- 1244 - COMPHIBGRU 2 and COMPHIBGRU 3 departed the ship.
- 1306 - 1308 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 23, 100 rounds expended.
- 1325 - 1328 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 22, 110 rounds expended.
- 1333 - 1339 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 21, 100 rounds expended.
- 1408 - 1555 - Conducted gunnery exercises, MT 23, 440 rounds expended.
- 1557 - 1657 - Flight Quarters for Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQs).

- 27 OCT - 0735 - 0929 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery and DLQs.
- 1043 - 1629 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recoveries and launches (helicopter aloft for range safety).
- 1101 - Fired 110 rounds, MT 21.
- 1249 - 1704 - Exercised at General Quarters.
- 1525 - 1559 - Fired four missiles from aft NATO Sea Sparrow Missile launcher.

1643 - 1654 - Fired two missiles from forward NATO Sea Sparrow Missile launcher.

1818 - 1906 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.

28 OCT - 0858 - Streamed AN/SLQ-25 Nixie torpedo counter-measures decoy.
1518 - 1723 - Fired 14 rounds of SRBOC (Super Rapid Blooming Off-Board Chaff).

29 OCT - 0930 - 1004 - Launched helicopter for range safety.
1019 - 1151 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1123 - Fired one missile, forward NATO Sea Sparrow Missile launcher.
1145 - Recovered helicopter.
1403 - 1507 - Exercised at General Quarters.
1433 - Launched helicopter for range safety.
1450 - Fired one missile, aft NATO Sea Sparrow Missile launcher.
1452 - 1519 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery: ship's 100th safe landing.

30 OCT - 0700 - 0830 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
0729 - 1151 - Conducted two underway LCAC launches and two recoveries with LCACs 8 and 11.
1020 - 1051 - Conducted .50 cal gunnery exercises; expended 50 rounds each on mounts 1, 2, 3, and 8.
1205 - 1239 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
1418 - Anchored, vicinity of Chesapeake Light.

31 OCT - 0701 - 0807 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
0959 - 1037 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
1330 - 1431 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.
1409 - Stationed the Anchor Detail.
1432 - Underway, enroute Onslow Bay, NC.

01 NOV - 1220 - Recovered two CH-46 helicopters from MCAS Cherry Point, NC.
1233 - Set Condition 1A for simulated amphibious assault, Onslow Bay, NC.
1345 - 1346 - Launched two CH-46 helicopters.
1346 - 1352 - launched LCACs 8 and 11.
1400 - H - Hour.
1407 - Recovered two CH-46 helicopters.
1424 - 1425 - Launched two CH-46 helicopters.
1431 - 1438 - Recovered LCACs 8 and 11.
1506 - 1512 - Launched LCACs 8 and 11.
1515 - Anchored, Onslow Bay, NC.
1531 - 1541 - Recovered LCACs 8 and 11.

02 NOV - 0615 - Stationed the Anchor Detail.
0641 - Underway for local operations, Onslow Bay.
0705 - Set Condition 1A for simulated over the horizon amphibious assault, Onslow Bay.
0829 - Recovered two CH-46 helicopters.
0915 - Launched LCACs 8 and 11.
0931 - Launched two CH-46 helicopters, side numbers 65 and 66.
1000 - H - Hour.
1016 - Recovered two CH-46 helicopters.
1101 - 1104 - Recovered LCACs 8 and 11.

- 1106 - Secured from Condition 1A, enroute to Norfolk, VA.
- 1142 - 1203 - Conducted CH-46 DLQs.

- 03 NOV - 0729 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
- 0836 - 0841 - Launched LCACs 8 and 11 to return to Assault Craft Unit 4.
- 1044 - Moored port side to Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
- 1310 - CAPT T. S. Treanor, COMPHIBRON 12, arrived.
- 1558 - COMPHIBRON 12 departed the ship.

- 13 NOV - - Commenced Engineering Material Assessment Team (EMAT) visit.

- 14 NOV - 0600 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
- 0748 - Underway, enroute Hampton Roads Anchorage G-4.
- 0858 - Anchored, Hampton Roads Anchorage G-4.
- 0910 - 1152 - Set Condition 1A modified for well deck operations; conducted two recoveries and two launches of LCM-8 numbers 2 and 4, and one recovery and one launch of LCU-1654.

- 15 NOV - 0703 - Set the Sea and Anchor Detail.
- 0739 - Underway, enroute to the Virginia Capes OPAREAs.
- 0815 - 1013 - Flight Quarters for DLQs and Helicopter recovery.
- 1700 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for anchoring.
- 1744 - Anchored, vicinity of Chesapeake Light.

- 16 NOV - 0742 - Underway for local operations in the Virginia Capes OPAREAs.

- 17 NOV - 0603 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
- 1000 - Moored, starboard side to Pier 7, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA.
- (Completed EMAT visit).

- 21 NOV - - Conducted Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) in preparation for Limited Team Training with Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, CU. TRE resulted in six 8 underway restrictives, 59 training restrictives, and 77 major discrepancies.

- 27 NOV - 1144 - RADM G. E. Whisler, COMPHIBGRU 2, arrived for an informal visit.
- 1207 - ADM P. F. CARTER, CINCLANTFLT, arrived for an informal visit.
- 1452 - CINCLANTFLT and COMPHIBGRU 2 departed the ship.

- 28 NOV - 0600 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
- 0801 - Underway enroute to the Virginia Capes OPAREAs for Final Contract Trail (FCT) rehearsal.
- 0904 - 0944 - Flight Quarters for DLQs.
- 1255 - 1414 - Conducted anchor drop tests.
- 1427 - 1654 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch and recovery.
- 2034 - 2218 - Conducted Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCEs).

- 29 NOV - 0834 - 0955 - Flight Quarters for helicopter launch.

1315 - 1414 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
2320 - Completed on-line verification (OLV), #2 Boiler.

30 NOV - 0035 - 0418 - Conducted BECCes.
0394 - 0402 - Conducted swing ship.
0703 - 0827 - Flight Quarters to recover and launch helicopter #721 from HC-2.
- Commenced Combat Systems Assessment (CSA).
1510 - 1607 - Flight Quarters for helicopter recovery.
- Completed Combat Systems Assessment (CSA) with the following results:
* Detect to Engage (DTE) - SAT
* Overall Combat Systems Operability Test (OCSOT) - SAT
* General Purpose Electronic Test Equipment (GPETE) - SAT
* Onboard Repair Parts - SAT
* NAIA - SAT
* PQS - Marginal
2230 - Commenced boiler flex tests.

01 DEC - 0135 - Completed boiler flex tests.
0845 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
1148 - Moored, port side to Pier 5, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

02 DEC - 2006 - CAPT T. S. Treanor, COMPHIBRON 12, arrived onboard.
2235 - COMPHIBRON 12 departed the ship.

11 DEC - - Commenced Final Contract Trials (FCT).
1147 - CAPT T. S. Treanor, COMPHIBRON 12, arrived onboard.
1255 - COMPHIBRON 12 departed the ship.

12 DEC - 0600 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail.
0738 - Underway, enroute to Virginia Capes OPAREAs for FCT.
1805 - Sustained approximately 6 ft of flooding water in compartment 2-122-1-A; source of flooding was failed AFFF supply valve.

13 DEC - 0630 - Set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail for entering port.
1018 - Moored, port side to Pier 5, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

15 DEC - - Completed FCT; Board of Inspection and Survey recommended "contract settlement for WASP upon correction or resolution of all safety and Part I material deficiencies."

NARRATIVE

USS WASP was delivered to the U.S. Navy and placed in service, special, on 05 May 1990, at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, MS. The ship immediately entered a Post-Delivery Availability (PDA) in the builder's yard to complete unfinished industrial work, and the entire crew was assembled onboard for the first time. The next two months were devoted to intensive preparations to ready WASP for sea. Ship's company had to ensure the completion of equipment and systems installation and testing, as well as frequently training and drilling to be ready for underway operations. These preparations were successfully demonstrated during Light-Off Examination on 15 -16 June and Crew Certification (Phase III), conducted by COMPHIBRON 12, 26 - 29 June.

The ship was placed in commission, special, on 05 July, and got underway from Pascagoula on the morning of 07 July. During the thirteen day transit to Norfolk, VA, the ship drilled extensively at General Quarters and at Flight Quarters, while conducting acoustic trials at AUTEC Site 1 at Tongue of the Ocean in the Bahamas (10 -12 July) and standardization trials enroute to and on the HECTOR Range off the North Carolina coast (13 - 19 July); standardization trials included measurements of shaft torque, acceleration/deceleration, and tactical diameter/rate of turn for various rudder and speed combinations.

WASP arrived in her homeport, Norfolk, on the morning of 20 July. Following a week and a half of preparation and rehearsal, USS WASP was placed in commission on 29 July at Pier 11, Naval Station Norfolk. The ship was placed in commission by VADM Joseph S. Donnell, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. The Principal Speaker was GEN Alfred M. Gray, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps. The Quarterdeck watch was posted by ENS [REDACTED], who received the OOD's long glass from CAPT F. J. Herndon, who as a Lieutenant (jg) had stood the last watch on USS WASP (CV-18) prior to her decommissioning in 1972.

The ship then entered a seven week Restricted Availability (RAV) in preparation for upcoming operations in the fall. During this period, WASP became well known as a show piece of the Atlantic Fleet, hosting visits and tours by numerous Flag and General officers, including the Fleet Commander, COMSECONDFLT and the Chief of Naval Personnel. WASP was also shown off extensively to visiting NATO dignitaries including a delegation from the NATO Assembly, the Ministers of Defense from Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Acting Commandant of the NATO Defense College.

The ship completed RAV and got underway for sea trials on 25 September, the beginning of an intensive two and a half month shakedown and work-up period in preparation for Final Contract Trials (FCT) and Caribbean cruise scheduled for January - March 1990. During this period, WASP conducted twenty-three days of underway operations, completing UNREP Ship Qualification Trials; LCAC (Landing Craft Air Cushion) interface trials; Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) which included live firing from both NATO Sea Sparrow Missile Launchers and all three Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) mounts; an Integrated Combat Systems Assessment which culminated in close-in and over the horizon amphibious assaults by helicopter and LCACs in Onslow Bay; Engineering Material Assessment and extensive Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCes); and Combat Systems Assessment. The ship also

successfully completed the Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) in preparation for training at Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The year's operations concluded with Final Contract Trials, 11 - 15 December, in which the Board of Inspection and Survey recommended contract settlement (with caveats) for USS WASP. The ship then entered a holiday leave and upkeep period prior to departure on 17 January 1990 on a nine week cruise, which would include Limited Team Training in Guantanamo Bay, CU, Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, and Shock Trials in the Key West OPAREAs.