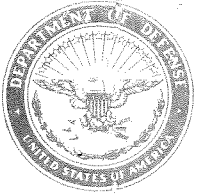


Rec'd 3/20/92



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD 1)

FPO, NEW YORK, NY 09556-1660

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5700

NAV/Ser 276

13 Mar 92

From: Commanding Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, USS WASP (LHD 1), 1991 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Battle Efficiency Award
(5) Public Affair Releases

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for 1991 has been compiled in accordance with reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (5).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles R. Saffell, Jr.", is written over the typed name. The signature is written in black ink and is quite stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.
C. R. SAFFELL, JR.

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

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

2. Chain of Command.

Amphibious Squadron Four (Operational)
Amphibious Squadron Twelve (Administrative)
Amphibious Group Two
Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

3. Commanding Officers.

01 Jan 91 - 29 Jul 91 Captain Robert R. Hanke
29 Jul 91 - 31 Dec 91 Captain Charles R. Saffell, Jr.

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

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

CHRONOLOGY

January 1991

01JAN	0001	Start the year moored to pier 12N Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.
18JAN	1330	VADM Reason arrives.
	1345	VADM Donnell arrives.
	1350	ADM Kelso (Chief of Naval Operations) arrives.
	1400	Commence COMNAVSURFLANT change of command ceremony.
31JAN	1330	ADM Miller arrives.
	1350	ADM Carter arrives.
	1355	Honorable H. Lawrence Garrett (Secretary of the Navy) arrives.
	1400	Commence CINCLANTFLT change of command ceremony.

February 1991

06FEB	1000	Underway enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAS for Selected Refresher Training/Limited Team Training.
19FEB	2000	Complete LTT.
20FEB	0800	Commence Combat Systems Assessment.
21FEB	1700	Complete Combat Systems Assessment.

March 1991

04MAR	0900	Underway enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAS for Amphibious Refresher Training (PHIBREFTRA).
12MAR	1300	Underway enroute ONSLOW BAY, NC for Type Commander Amphibious Training/MARG 2-91.
26MAR	1500	Underway enroute VACAPES OPAREAS for local operations/carrier Quals.

April 1991

08APR	0800	Commence Supply Management Inspection.
09APR	1800	Host American Helicopter Society dinner.
15APR	0800	Host Commanding Officer and crew of HMS INVINCIBLE (A-05).
19APR	1100	Underway enroute ONSLOW BAY, NC for MARG 2-91 work-ups.

May 1991

No significant events

Encl (2)

June 1991

03JUN	0800	Commence LANTRAMID 1-91 (midshipmen summer training program).
20JUN	0800	Complete LANTRAMID 1-91.
20JUN	1330	Underway enroute Morehead City, NC to onload elements of 26 MEU.
21JUN	0630	Anchor Morehead City, NC. Commence onload 26 MEU.
21JUN	2000	Complete onload 26 MEU. Underway enroute Mediterranean Sea for MARG 2-91 deployment.
26JUN	0800	Commence MEDRTAMID 2-91.

July 1991

01JUL	0001	INCHOP to Sixth Fleet.
03JUL	1505	Arrive Fuimicino, Italy for routine port visit.
04JUL	0815	Honorable Peter F. Secchia (U.S. Ambassador to Rome), ADM J. Howe (Commander in Chief Naval Forces Europe) and VADM Owens (Commander Sixth Fleet) arrive for 4th of July celebration.
06JUL	0830	Underway from Fuimicino, IT for routine operations.
11JUL	0800	Arrive Iskendrun, Turkey in support of Operation Provide Comfort.
12JUL	1730	Underway from Iskendrun, TU for routine operations.
17JUL	0800	Complete MEDTRAMID 2-91.
18JUL	0805	Anchor Haifa, Israel for routine port visit.
18JUL	0900	Chief of Naval Operations, Israel Navy arrives for visit and tour.
19JUL	1130	Moor Military pier, Haifa, IS.
26JUL	0800	Commence MEDTRAMID 3-91.
29JUL	1100	Commence USS WASP (LHD 1) change of command ceremony. Captain Charles R. Saffell, Jr. assumes command.

August 1991

08AUG	2124	Underway from Haifa, IS for routine operations.
12AUG	0800	Complete MEDTRAMID 3-91.
13AUG	0739	Anchor Cap Serrat, Tunisia. Commence 26 MEU offload. Commence Tunisian PHIBLEX.
14AUG	1000	Honorable John MCarthy (U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia), Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tunisian Minister of the Interior and Chief of Naval Operations, Tunisian Navy arrive for tour.

18AUG	0800	Complete Tunisian PHIBLEX. Commence backload of 26 MEU.
19AUG	1829	Underway from Cap Serrat, Tunisia. Enroute Palma de Mallorca, Spain.
21AUG	0728	Moor Dique del Oste pier Palma de Mallorca, SP.
22AUG	0900	BGEN Enrique Pascual Rivera (Military Governor of the Baelearics) and COL Jose Santaner Garau (Chief of Baelearics Aerial sector) arrive for tour.
23AUG	0800	Commence MEDTRAMID 4-91.
23AUG	1300	Princess Milar and the Count of Barcelona arrive for tour.
26AUG	1000	King Constantine and Queen Anna of Greece arrive for tour.
30AUG	0709	Underway from Palma de Mallorca, SP for routine operations.

September 1991

04SEP	1624	GEN Galvin (CINCEUR), GEN Saint (CINCUSAREUR), GEN Oaks (CINCUSAFEUR) and ADM Howe (CINCUSNAVEUR) arrive for Component Commander's Conference.
04SEP	1821	Component Commander's Conference dignitaries depart.
09SEP	0852	Anchor Saint Rafael, France. Commence 26 MEU offload for training.
09SEP	1743	Complete offload. Underway from Saint Rafael, FR.
10SEP	1042	Moor Pier 6 Naval Arsenal Toulon, France for routine port visit.
11SEP	0800	Complete MEDTRAMID 4-91.
16SEP	1705	VADM Reason (COMNAVSURFLANT) arrives.
16SEP	1730	ADM Trippier (Commander, Mediterranean French Navy) arrives.
16SEP	1800	Commence COMNAVSURFLANT reception.
16SEP	2105	Commander, Mediterranean French Navy and COMNAVSURFLANT depart.
26SEP	0730	Underway from Toulon, FR. for routine operations.

October 1991

01OCT	0645	Anchor Antalya, Turkey for Display Determination 1991 (DD-91) Commander's conference.
01OCT	1258	Turkish General Staff, COMNAVSOUTH, DEPCOMSTRKFORSOUTH and Commander TF 502
01OCT	1300	Commence DD-91 Commander's conference.

		arrive.
01OCT	1632	Turkish General Staff, COMNAVSOUTH, DEPCOMSTRKFORSOUTH and Commander TF 502 depart.
02OCT	0820	Underway from Antalya, TU. Commence DD-91
10OCT	0720	Anchor Saros Bay, Turkey. Commence 26 MEU offload for training.
14OCT	0800	Complete DD-91. Commence backload of 26 MEU.
15OCT	1311	Underway from Saros Bay, TU for routine operations.
17OCT	0724	Anchor Rhodes, Greece for routine port visit.
21OCT	0450	Underway Rhodes, GR. for routine operations.
21OCT	1000	RADM Davis (Commander Task Force 60) embarks.
21OCT	1600	Commence operation HAMMERLOCK (sea control exercise).
23OCT	1330	Complete operation HAMMERLOCK. Enroute Souda Bay, Crete for Southern Region Strategy Conference.
23OCT	1627	Anchor Souda Bay, CR.
24OCT	1000	Commence Southern Region Strategy Conference.
24OCT	1300	Complete Southern Region Strategy Conference.
24OCT	1330	RADM Davis departs.
25OCT	1015	RADM Panagiotopoylos (Chief of Staff, Hellenic Fleet) arrives for tour.
26OCT	1030	Brigadier General J. Almonds (Deputy Commander British Forces) arrives for visit.
31OCT	0902	Moor Dique Del Sur pier Valencia, Spain for routine port visit.

November 1991

07NOV	0748	Underway from Valencia, SP for routine operations.
08NOV	0743	Anchor Almeria, Spain. Commence 26 MEU offload for training. Commence BETACOM 2-91.
16NOV	0800	Complete BETACOM 2-91. Commence backload 26 MEU.
18NOV	0755	Underway from Almeria, SP for routine operations.
19NOV	0830	Moor Barcelona, Spain for routine port visit.
23NOV	2115	Port Elevator struck by MV AGDAL, Registry: Morocco
29NOV	0826	Underway from Barcelona, SP for routine operations.

December 1991

02DEC	1303	Moor Rota, Spain for routine port visit.
06DEC	0829	Underway from Rota, Spain for routine operations.

07DEC	2359	OUTCHOP to Second Fleet enroute Morehead City to offload elements of 26 MEU.
18DEC	0732	Anchor Morehead City, NC.. Commence offload 26 MEU.
19DEC	1000	Commence Tiger cruise.
19DEC	1344	Underway for Norfolk, VA.
20DEC	0807	Moor pier 12N Norfolk, VA. Completed Mediterranean deployment 2-91.
31DEC	2359	Complete the year moored to pier 12N Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.

NARRATIVE

The start of 1991 found WASP preparing for her maiden deployment. January was spent conducting local operations off the Virginia coast. Each day at sea meant an increase in crew teamwork and combat readiness in engineering, flight deck, fire control and well deck operations.

Additionally, January saw two major change of command ceremonies conducted onboard WASP. VADM Reason relieved VADM Donnell as Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and ADM Miller relieved ADM Carter as Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet.

In February and March, WASP completed four significant pre-deployment events. Limited Team Training (LTT), conducted by a group from GMT0, worked for two and one half weeks to improve the ship's ability to fight and repair damage in a wartime environment. After LTT, COMNAVSURFLANT came onboard to inspect combat systems management, training and maintenance. The two day CSA (combat systems assessment) culminated in four perfect detect to engage exercises utilizing the ship's NATO sea sparrow missile and Close-in-weapons defenses. Amphibious Refresher Training, conducted by Group Two training personnel, was a week of intensive well deck operations in the Lynnhaven anchorages. In mid March, WASP successfully completed Type Command's Amphibious Training (TCAT). This was the first time WASP operated with other elements of MARG 2-91 under the control of Amphibious Squadron Four. The exercise took the ship to Onslow Bay, North Carolina to conduct basic ship to shore operations using LCM-8s, LCACs and helicopters.

In April, WASP successfully completed a COMNAVSURFLANT Supply Management Inspection, a significant "Battle Efficiency Award" milestone. Also, WASP hosted several tours and dinner functions, ranging from project "IDENTA-KID" to the American Helicopter Society and the crew of the HMS INVINCIBLE.

The last major pre-deployment training exercise was conducted in late April and early May. Blue/Green water workups again saw WASP operating off the coast of Onslow Bay with the other afloat commands of MARG 2-91. The major difference between this exercise and any previous ones was the inclusion of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, both ground and air forces, in the training. For three weeks, WASP worked with the Marines to improve planning, logistics movement and tactics. The exercise concluded with the combined staffs of the 26th MEU and PHIBRON FOUR earning the tactical designation of "Special Operations Capable" and ready for deployment.

WASP spent most of May moored to pier 12 NOB Norfolk, Va.

Encl (3)

Final repairs to the ship's five large cargo elevators were completed by personnel from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Repair parts, ammunition, consummable goods and food came aboard in large quantities. Personnel took leave to be with their families or went TAD to complete required maintenance and operator courses necessary for the ship to achieve maximum combat readiness.

WASP participated in the midshipmen summer training program (LANTRAMID 1-91) during early June. The program was designed to provide "hands on" training for college and Academy students seeking a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps.

On 20 June 1991, WASP departed Norfolk on its maiden deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. After a brief stop in Morehead City, North Carolina to pick up the 26th MEU, WASP conducted a high speed transit of the North Atlantic, passing through the Straits of Gibraltar on the 1st of July.

WASP participated in a traditional, American 4th of July celebration with the U.S. Ambassador to Rome and several Italian military and political dignitaries. Almost 150 civilians boarded WASP to tour the ship, eat hot dogs and observe Harrier and LCAC operations. After the celebration, the crew spent time on liberty in Rome. WASP was the first American warship to visit Rome since World War II.

Next came WASP's brief involvement in Operation Provide Comfort, a United Nations relief effort for the Kurds in northern Iraq. In addition to Operation Provide Comfort, WASP spent the time anchored in Iskendrun, Turkey conducting a turnover with MARG 1-91.

The last part of July found WASP in Haifa, Israel for a three week maintenance period. During that time, CAPT Charles R. Saffell, Jr. relieved CAPT Robert R. Hanke as Commanding Officer.

August found WASP conducting routine operations throughout the Mediterranean. Several advanced training exercises were completed in WASP's bid for COMNAVSURFLANT's Battle "E" award. Additionally, WASP participated in the bilateral Tunisian Amphibious Exercise. Conducted at Cap Serrat, the 26th MEU spent five days operating with the Tunisian ground and air forces. The teamwork between the two countries promoted military readiness and tactics and enhanced political stability.

The next port of call for WASP was Palma de Mallorca, Spain. For the next nine days, the crew enjoyed the hospitality, beaches and nightclubs of the various towns along the island's resort coast. The ship hosted tours for several hundred native Mallorcans and tourists daily. The most notable included visits by the father of the current King of Spain and the ex-King and Queen

of Greece.

In early September, WASP served as the host ship for the Component Commanders Conference. The senior military officers for the Army, Navy and Air Force in Europe, along with their wives spent a day at sea to observe the warfare capabilities of WASP.

While in Toulon, France, WASP served as the platform for the US/French Navy Quarterly Staff planning conference. Once the conference was completed, ADM Reason (COMNAVSURFLANT) hosted a reception for ADM Trippier (CECMED) and approximately 300 prominent citizens of Toulon.

The next major at-sea exercise that WASP participated in was Display Determination 91(DD-91). Warships from France, United Kingdom, Turkey, Italy, Spain and the United States spent three weeks in the Aegean Sea conducting AAW, ASW, ASUW and amphibious exercises. DD91 culminated in an opposed landing against Turkish forces on the beaches at Saros Bay.

After DD91, WASP spent five days in Rhodes, Greece to relax before participating in the sea control exercise, Operation Hammerlock. Hammerlock provided the Navy with an initial assessment of the feasibility of the LHD functioning as the centerpiece and flag ship for a sea control battle group (SCBG) against a limited threat. Using WASP's advanced combat data system, warfare commanders successfully monitored the tactical and strategic theater of operations. Multiple coordinated attacks utilizing both surface and air assets were conducted around the clock against afloat and shore targets. WASP's performance throughout the exercise established the LHD platform as a viable option to the carrier in sea control.

The Southern Region Strategy Conference completed the month of October. Several senior NATO commanders spent two days onboard WASP conducting a series of briefs for future NATO operations. Besides work, the senior officers and their wives enjoyed the accommodations, tours and demonstrations conducted by WASP crewmembers.

After a relaxing port visit to Valencia, Spain, WASP participated in another bilateral training exercise with the Spanish Legion called BETACOM 2-91. The ten day operation was conducted while at anchor at Almeria, Spain.

WASP spent Thanksgiving in Barcelona, Spain before transiting to Rota to clean the vehicles and equipment of the 26th MEU.

On 7 December, WASP outchopped from the Mediterranean and started the long transit across the Atlantic to Morehead City. Half way across, WASP joined up with MARG 1-92 and conducted an

open ocean turnover with the relieving units. Finally the first deployment was almost over. After the marines of the 26th MEU debarked at Morehead City, WASP brought onboard several hundred male and female WASP dependents and conducted its first Tiger cruise up the coast to Norfolk. At 0807 on the 20th of December 1991, WASP's maiden deployment to the Mediterranean officially ended when the ship moored to pier 12.

The year ended as it began in Norfolk, Virginia.