



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD 1)
FPO AE 09556-1660

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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14 Mar 93

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), 1992 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography
(5) Public Affairs Press Releases

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for the year 1992 has been compiled in accordance with reference (a) and is submitted as enclosures (1) through (5).

G. B. Mcewen
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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 Expeditionary Unit in amphibious assault operations by helicopter, landing craft, assorted amphibious vehicles, V/STOL or any combination of these methods. USS WASP has the secondary mission of Sea Control, utilizing AV-8B Harriers and Attack Helicopters to establish and maintain maritime superiority in a designated geographic area.

2. Chain of Command.

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

3. Commanding Officer.

01 Jan 92 - 31 Dec 92 Captain Charles R. Saffell, Jr., USN

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

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

CHRONOLOGY 1992

JANUARY

01 JAN 0001 Start the New Year moored to pier 11S, Naval Station Norfolk, VA. WASP in Holiday Leave, Upkeep and Standdown.

FEBRUARY

03 FEB 0633 Underway, enroute Earle, NJ.
04 FEB 0827 Moored, Weapon Station Earle, NJ.
1000 Commenced Ammunition Offload.
06 FEB 2100 Completed Ammunition Offload.
07 FEB 0816 Underway for New York City.
1132 Moored Pier 1N, Naval Station New York. Port visit, New York City.
10 FEB 1030 Underway for Virginia Capes OPAREA.
13 FEB 1000 Enroute Norfolk, VA.
1416 Moored Pier 11S, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
19 FEB 0802 Underway enroute Norfolk Naval Shipyard for SRA.
1034 Moored Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Commenced SRA.

MARCH

SRA. No significant events.

APRIL

SRA. No significant events.

MAY

12MAY 0712 Completed SRA. Underway enroute Virginia Capes OPAREAS for Sea Trials.
13MAY 1811 Anchored, Lynnhaven Roads Anchorage.
0602 Underway from Lynnhaven Roads anchorage enroute Norfolk, VA.
0827 Moored Pier 7N, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
19MAY 0600 Underway from Pier 7N enroute G3 anchorage.
0644 Anchored G3 anchorage. Commenced ammunition onload.
20MAY 1328 Underway from G3 anchorage, enroute Pier 7N.
1415 Moored Pier 7N, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
26MAY 0700 Embarked 19 Midshipmen for LANTRAMID I.
28MAY 0633 Underway enroute Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

JUNE

01JUN 0808 Moored Pier 3, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
0900 COMPHIBGRU TWO broke his flag on board.
Assumed duties as COMPHIBGRU TWO Flagship.
0900 Embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment.

02JUN 0810 Underway, enroute Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

09JUN 0001 Commenced CD Operation "Solar Apex".

10JUN 1311 WASP SH-60 foils piracy attempt on U.S. Flagged Tug and Tow, causing attempted hijackers to disperse/run.

18JUN 2359 Concluded CD Operation "Solar Apex".

19JUN 0818 Anchored Cartagena, Colombia for port visit.

20JUN 1900 Hosted United States Ambassador and USCINCSOUTH on board.

23JUN 0800 Underway from anchorage, Cartagena, Colombia enroute Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

27JUN 0758 Moored Pier 3, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
0800 COMPHIBGRU TWO hauled down his flag.

28JUN 0800 COMCARGRU SIX broke his flag on board.
Assumed duties as COMCARGRU SIX Flagship.
0900 Concluded LANTRAMID I. Midshipmen debarked at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
1600 Embarked 7 Midshipmen for LANTRAMID II.

29JUN 0747 Underway, enroute Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

JULY

02JUL 0712 Moored, Kingston, Jamaica for port visit.

04JUL 1900 Hosted United States Ambassador to Jamaica on board during Independence Day Celebration.

05JUL 0704 Underway, enroute Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

07JUL 0800 Senior Military Intelligence Officer (SMIOC) Conference hosted on board.

09JUL 0734 Anchored Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for PMC transfer. Debarked SMIOC.
1330 Underway, enroute Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.

16JUL 0817 Moored Pier 3, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Concluded Caribbean Law Enforcement/Counter Drug Operations.
0900 COMCARGRU SIX hauled down his flag.

17JUL 0700 Concluded LANTRAMID II. Midshipmen debarked.
1800 Underway, enroute Norfolk, VA.

21JUL 0845 Moored Pier 7N, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

23JUL 0700 Embarked 27 Midshipmen for LANTRAMID III.

27JUL 0800 Hosted Dependent's Day Cruise.

AUGUST

03AUG	1314	Underway for Newport, RI.
05AUG	0600	Delivered 2 barges to Naval Station New York.
	1659	Arrived Newport, RI for port visit.
10AUG	0755	Underway from Newport, RI enroute Norfolk, VA.
11AUG	0848	Anchored, Lynnhaven Roads Anchorage.
	1035	Underway from Lynnhaven Anchorage enroute Virginia Capes OPAREA.
	1143	Anchored vicinity Chesapeake Light.
13AUG	1243	Underway from anchorage vicinity Chesapeake Light.
	1639	Moored Pier 7N, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
14AUG	0700	Concluded LANTRAMID II. Midshipmen debarked.
24AUG	1421	Underway from Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA enroute deperming crib at Craney Island, VA.
	1541	Moored at the deperming crib, Craney Island.
27AUG	1257	Underway from Craney Island to Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
	1425	Moored Pier 7N, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

SEPTEMBER

15SEP	0600	COMPHIBRON TWO broke his pennant. COMPHIBRON TWO is embarked through AUG93.
	1100	Hosted luncheon for the First Sea Lord, Royal Navy.
29SEP	1000	Hosted an official visit from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

OCTOBER

20OCT	1041	Underway from Pier 7N enroute Virginia Capes OPAREA for Amphibious Team Training and Aircraft Dynamic Interface Testing.
26OCT	0805	Anchored Lynnhaven Roads.
	2059	Underway from Lynnhaven Roads anchorage enroute Virginia Capes OPAREA.
	2233	Anchored vicinity Chesapeake Light.
27OCT	2040	Underway from vicinity Chesapeake Light enroute Virginia Capes OPAREA.
29OCT	2030	Commenced Surface Ship Radiated Noise Measurements.
30OCT	0151	Completed Surface Ship Radiated Noise Measurements.
	1350	Moored Pier 5N Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

NOVEMBER

02NOV	0600	COMSECONDFLT broke his flag on board. Assumed duties as Second Fleet Flagship.
09NOV	1800	COMSECONDFLT hauled down his flag.
10NOV	0901	Underway from Pier 5N enroute Cherry Point OPAREA for Amphibious Refresher Training.
11NOV	0746	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
12NOV	1710	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC.
13NOV	1550	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
14NOV	1553	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC.
15NOV	0825	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
16NOV	1552	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC enroute Norfolk, VA.
17NOV	1422	Moored Pier 11S, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
	1800	COMSECONDFLT broke his flag on board. Assumed duties as Second Fleet Flagship.
19NOV	1223	Hosted official visit from CINCLANTFLT, CNO Spanish Navy and Commander Allied Forces Northern Europe.
30NOV	0600	COMSECONDFLT hauled down his flag.
	0700	Commenced Combat Systems Assessment
	2103	Underway from Pier 11S enroute G3 Anchorage.
	2131	Anchored G3 Anchorage.

DECEMBER

01DEC	0629	Underway from G3 Anchorage enroute Cherry Point OPAREA for Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT).
	1600	Concluded Combat Systems Assessment.
02DEC	0935	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
	1720	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC.
03DEC	0659	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
	1546	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC.
08DEC	0752	Anchored in the vicinity of Onslow Bay, NC.
09DEC	1211	Underway from anchorage, Onslow Bay, NC enroute Norfolk, VA.
10DEC	0829	Moored Pier 11S, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
14DEC	0729	Underway from Pier 11S enroute G2 Anchorage.
	0757	Anchored G3 Anchorage for ammunition onload.
17DEC	1114	Underway from G3 Anchorage enroute Pier 11S.
	1238	Moored Pier 11S, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
	1300	Commenced Holiday Leave, Upkeep and Standdown.

NARRATIVE
1992

The beginning of 1992 found WASP in a holiday, leave and upkeep status following her maiden deployment. Most of January was spent preparing WASP for her ammunition offload and pending SRA. In February, WASP got underway and conducted an Ammunition offload in Earle, NJ, followed by a port visit to New York City, where she berthed at the new Naval Station in Staten Island. After conducting local operations in the Virginia Capes, WASP tied up at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and commenced her first SRA.

After spending the latter half of February, all of March and April and the beginning of May pierside, WASP began her workup cycle which was to culminate in her second deployment in support of the U.S. Central Command. May saw WASP conducting sea trials, a limited ammunition onload and the commencement of an eight week cruise to the Caribbean to conduct U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement and Counter Drug Operations. Additionally, the first of fifty three midshipmen WASP would host that summer reported aboard for training.

Caribbean operations permitted WASP to operate numerous aircraft again, after a six month absence. These provided exceptional support to the embarked flag (COMPHIBGRU TWO) during the initial phase of the Law Enforcement Operations. Most notably, WASP's state of the art command and control facilities easily detected suspect aircraft, accurately reporting their location, course and speed to DEA authorities. These efforts resulted in the arrest and confiscation of the pilots, their aircraft and cargoes.

During this operations, WASP made successive port calls to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Cartagena, Colombia and Kingston, Jamaica. Additionally, WASP was flagship to COMPHIBGRU TWO and COMCARGRU SIX and was the site of the annual Senior Military Intelligence Officer's Conference (SMIOC) in mid July. Midshipmen from the Naval Academy and NROTC were able to experience firsthand the underway versatility of the LHD, which filled the role of a Guided Missile Cruiser rather than as an Amphibious Assault Ship. After debarking LANTRAMID I in Roosevelt Roads, seven Midshipmen from LANTRAMID II embarked for the latter phase of the operation, debarking in Roosevelt Roads when WASP passed on flagship duties to USS VIRGINIA in late July and then returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

In early August, WASP was again underway, enroute to Newport, Rhode Island for a routine port visit. While in Newport, the crew and the twenty seven embarked Midshipmen were able to experience firsthand the extensive facilities at the heart of Surface Warfare.

After returning to Norfolk in mid August, WASP steamed up the Elizabeth River to the deperming facility at Craney Island, remaining there three days before returning to the Naval Operating Base.

During the month of September, WASP hosted two very senior military officers. The middle of the month saw the First Sea Lord, Royal Navy tour the ship as a guest of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. At the end of the month, General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, toured WASP to review firsthand, her extensive Command and Control facilities.

October found WASP underway in the Virginia Capes, conducting Amphibious Team Training, Aircraft Dynamic Interface Testing and Surface Ship Radiated Noise Measurements.

In early November, WASP became flagship for COMSECONDFLT and conducted Amphibious Refresher Training off Onslow Bay, North Carolina. Here, WASP was again operating with her Marine Air Combat Element and Marine Expeditionary Unit for the first time in nearly ten months. Upon return to Norfolk, WASP again assumed duties as COMSECONDFLT flagship, which she held through the remainder of the month. In late November, WASP again departed for Onslow Bay to successfully conduct Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) and her annual Combat Systems Assessment (CSA), enroute.

Returning to Norfolk in mid December, WASP fully loaded her shipfill allowance of ammunition and then tied up to end the year where it began, pierside, Naval Station Norfolk for holiday leave, upkeep and stand-down.