



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS WASP (LHD 1)
FPO AE 09556-1660

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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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), 1993 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

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

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for 1993 has been compiled in accordance with reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (3).

R. C. Chaplin
R. C. CHAPLIN

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Mission. USS WASP (LHD-1) is a multipurpose 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 Group Two
Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

3. Commanding Officers:

01 JAN 93 - 15 JAN 93	CAPT C.R. SAFFELL, JR., USN
15 JAN 93 - 02 JUN 93	CAPT G.B. MCEWEN, USN
03 JUN 93 - 31 DEC 93	CAPT R.C. CHAPLIN, USN

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

CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY 1993

01	0001	In Homeport Norfolk, Virginia
06	1215	COMPHIBGRU visit
	1230	Commander of Turkish Naval Forces visit
18	0715	Commence FLEET-EX/Blue Green
23	0400	Enroute to Puerto Rico OPAREA for training
24	2200	Arrive at Puerto Rico OPAERA for training
30	1700	Inport Roosevelt Roads

FEBRUARY 1993

01	1500	Depart Roosevelt Roads transit to FLEET-EX
04	0900	Conduct FLEET-EX
08	0600	Conduct SOCEX
11	1900	Return to Norfolk, Virginia
23	1030	Deploy CARG 2-93

MARCH 1993

08	1330	VADM Martin, Spanish Navy Visit/Tour
	1800	Transit through Straits of Gibraltar
12	1200	EDATF Exercise
15	0100	Transit through Suez Canal
23	0500	Anchor off the coast of Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope
25	1700	Anchor Mogadishu in support of Operation Restore Hope

APRIL 1993

02	1130	BGEN Zinni, LTGEN Johnson (CJFTSOMOLIA) visit
04	1725	CJCS visit
09	1735	GEN Hoar USCINCCENT visit
10	1400	Underway for Kismaayo
15	1015	CJTF visit
22	2000	Davy Jones arrives
23	0600	Neptunus Rex arrives
28	1000	2500th Landing ceremony

Enclosure (2)

MAY 1993

01 1800 Transit the Strait of Hormus
02 0900 Moor Abu Dhabi
08 1430 VADM Katz visit
1500 Operation EAGER MACE
17 0900 Moor Jebel Ali
26 1215 DEPUSNAVCENT visit
31 1615 COMUSNAVCENT visit

JUNE 1993

01 1030 COMPHIBGRU TWO visit [Change of Command]
05 0800 Anchor Bahrain for Operation Southern Watch (North Persian Gulf)
06 0400 Underway enroute Kuwait
07 0400 Arrive Kuwait
17 0800 Transit to Mogadishu, Somalia in support of UN
23 1440 COMUSFORSOMALIA visit

JULY 1993

01 0900 COMUSFORSOMALIA visit
15 1500 Anchor Port Suez
16 0600 Transit Suez Canal
22 0900 Inport Toulon, France
30 1700 Inchop Second Fleet

AUGUST 1993

02 0900 Inport Rota, Spain
06 0615 Commence translant
19 1045 Senator Thurmond, RADM Picotte, BGEN Braaten visit
1405 RADM Picotte visit
1415 Tiger Cruise
20 0900 Return from deployment; moor Norfolk, Virginia
27 1130 Funeral services for CAPT Boldin

SEPTEMBER 1993

03 1300 Arrival conference IMAV 332 (USS Puget Sound)
17 0815 CAPT Pratt (INSURV visit)
20 1330 BGEN Rhodes, COMMARFORLANT visit
27 0800 Ammo Offload

OCTOBER 1993

13 1100 US Navy Birthday cake cutting ceremony
1400 NATO Secret Control Inspection
18 0900 UMI
22 0730 USMC Comm School visit

NOVEMBER 1993

05 0945 V12 50th Anniversary Tour
09 0900 ACE assist visit
10 1500 VADM Less (AIRLANT) visit
11 1100 Marine Corps Birthday/cake cutting ceremony
12 1000 NNSY arrival conference
16 1100 Moor NNSY Portsmouth
19 1300 RM2 Bobo's memorial service

DECEMBER 1993

15 0800 TIGER TEAM NAVSUPSYSCOM visit
1115 RADM Clark (CINCLANTFL maintenance officer) visit
19 0700 Holiday Standown Starts

NARRATIVE

The USS WASP (LHD 1) began 1993 moored along side Pier 12 in their home port of Norfolk, Virginia. While the crew spent time enjoying the New Year holiday with their friends and family, the WASP was busy in its preparation for their upcoming deployment. As this time quickly came to an end, the WASP and her crew would begin making final arrangements for deployment.

In January, the WASP was hosted the Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces. After a short visit, the distinguish guest departed with an exceptional impression of the ship's personnel and its capabilities. Also in January the WASP transited to Puerto Rico for Marine Corps Training. Operating in the Carribean enabled the embarked Marines to practice their forward deployment. They had successfully conducted helo assaults on Camp Santiago, and employed Force Recon and surveillance insertions including Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) operations. After eight days of Marine training, the WASP departed for her assigned FLEET-EX Training, which lasted the entire month of February.

March saw the WASP returning to Norfolk for POM (Pre Overseas Movement) and the beginning of her transatlantic voyage to the Indian Ocean. Enroute, the Marines continued their unique training by conducting a simulated helo raid on Rota, Spain. The Marines did such an outstanding job, VADM Martin of the Spanish Navy requested a tour of the WASP. After his departure the WASP steamed eastward through the Straits of Gibraltar and into Suez Canal.

While on station during the month of April, BGEN Zinni, LTGEN Johnson (CJFTSOMILA), and GEN Hoar (USCINCCENT) visited the WASP. The month of April was a very fast pace; however, the ship's captain host invited two very special guest in Neptunus Rex and Davy Jones. The two came aboard to conduct a time honored tradition of converting of "Polliwogs" to "Shellbacks".

In May, VADM Katz visited the WASP and praised the efforts of the crew in their role during Operation Restore Hope. He hoped that Operation Eager Mace would achieve the same success. It was a big moral boost during the long and tedious deployment. Later in May DEPUSNAVCENT and COMUSNAVCENT visited and praised the crew for their hard work in fulfilling her mission. May was not without its port visits. The crew was able to experience local culture and traditions in Abu Dahbi and Jebel Ali. Although the middle Eastern customs were very unfamiliar to most of the crew, they enjoyed the time they had sight seeing, relaxing and having fun.

Enclosure (3)

Following the arrival of COMPHIBGRU TWO, the WASP got underway once again, this time to Bahrain, in the Northern Persian Gulf, to begin Operation Southern Watch. They then transited to Mogadishu, Somalia in support of the deployed UN troops in Operation Restore Hope. It was there the COMUSFORSOMALIA visited WASP and praised the crew for their efforts.

In late July, the WASP began its transit back to the United States, being sure to stop off for a well earned port visit in Toulon, France. Before crossing the Atlantic, WASP pulled into Rota, Spain for minor restorations, provisions and a washdown, all in preparation for their last exercise and their home transit to "home port."

August was not without its dignitaries. U.S. Senator of South Carolina Thurmond, RADM Picotte, and BGEN Braaten came to inspect and address the crew and troops. They were a welcomed sight, for they escorted the families of the crew for the Tiger Cruise which started on 19 August. The following day, you could see the shining faces of the crew manning the rails as they steamed into homeport.

September consisted of many visits, including the IMAV 332 conference and the NMITC intel student tour. CAPT Pratt from INSURV and BGEN Rhodes from COMMARFORLANT paid visits to WASP. The WASP ended September with an Ammo Off-Load on the 27th.

On October 13th, the WASP celebrated the US Navy's Birthday, with a cake cutting ceremony. November 5 saw the celebration of V12's 50th Anniversary. The members were given a tour of the ship and a demonstration of it's capabilities. Next came the ACE visit on the 9th followed by VADM Less's (AIRLANT) tour. VADM Less also got to participate in the Marine Corps Birthday celebration and cake cutting ceremony. October also saw WASP mooring at Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a six month restricted availability.