



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD 1)
FPO AE 09556-1660

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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), 1994 (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 1994 has been compiled in accordance with reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (3).


R. A. DUFFY

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 Group Two
Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

3. Commanding Officers.

01 Jan 94 - 01 Dec 94	CAPT R. C. Chaplin, USN
02 Dec 94 - 31 Dec 94	CAPT R. A. Duffy, USN

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

CHRONOLOGY

January 1994

01 Jan Moored to Pier 4, Norfolk Naval Ship Yard, Portsmouth, VA, continuing a six month Selected Restricted Availability.

February 1994

01 Feb No significant events occurred during the month of February. Continued the Selected Restricted Availability.

March 1994

01 Mar No significant events occurred during the month of March. Continued the Selected Restricted Availability.

April 1994

22 Apr Underway to VACAPES Oparea for sea trials and initial Cooperative Engagement testing.

28 Apr Completed sea trials. Moored Norfolk Naval Station.

May 1994

09-11 May Ammunition Onload (G-2 Anchorage, Hampton Roads)

12 May Embarked Commander Carrier Group Two

18 May U/W for Refresher Training, Cooperative Engagement Testing and Missile Firing, and Caribbean Contingency Operations.

23 May COMCARGRU Two assumed duties as Commander Joint Task Force 120

26 May Arrived Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

June 1994

02 Jun Commander, United States Atlantic Command Arrived for Official Visit.

05 Jun RADM C. S. ABBOT, Commander Carrier Group Eight, relieved RADM J.J. Mazach as Commander Joint Task Force 120

09 Jun Unrep with USNS BIG HORN.

12 Jun Commenced CORTRAMID 1-94 (Midshipmen summer training program). U/W from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba enroute Puerto Rican Operating Area for Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Testing

19 Jun Conducted successful CEC Nato Sea Sparrow missile shoot.

23 Jun Conducted Unrep with USNS BIG HORN.

- 25 Jun Under Secretary of the Navy Arrived for Official Visit (Departed).
- 25 Jun Completed CORTRAMID 1-94.

July 1994

- 01 Jul Completed CEC Testing. Departed Puerto Rican Operating area enroute Nassau, Bahamas.
- 04 Jul Moored Nassau, Bahamas for a port visit.
- 05 Jul United States Ambassador to the Bahamas and the Honorable Congressman from the 35TH Congressional District of California Arrived for an Official Visit.
- 07 Jul Departed Nassau, Bahamas enroute Great Inagua Island.
- 09 Jul Arrived vicinity of Great Inagua Island
- 10 Jul Conducted Unrep with USNS BIG HORN
- 11 Jul Departed vicinity of Great Inagua Island
- 13 Jul Enroute Morehead City, N.C./ Special Marine Air Ground Task Force Debarks
- 18 Jul Arrived Navsta Norfolk, VA. Commander Carrier Group Eight debarks.

August 1994

- 12 Aug Underway enroute MHC for further transit to Haiti for Operation Support / Uphold Democracy. Embarked Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group 12.
- 13 Aug Arrived Morehead City, NC, embarked Marine Air Ground Task Force. Departed MHC enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 20 Aug Arrived Guantanamo Bay, Cuba operating area. Chief of Naval Operations arrived for official visit.
- 21 Aug Chief of Naval Operations departed
- 22 Aug Commenced operations in northern Joint Operating Area.
- 25 Aug Conducted amphibious rehearsal at Great Inagua Island, Bahamas.
- 26 Aug Completed amphibious rehearsal. Commenced transit to northern Joint Operating Area and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 27 Aug Conducted Unrep with USNS KANAWA.
- 29 Aug Anchored Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 30 Aug Departed anchorage, operating in Guantanamo Bay Operating Area.

September 1994

- 03 Sep Conducted Unrep with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN during transit to Vieques Island in the Southern Puerto Rican Operating Area.
- 04 Sep Ambassador of Santa Domingo arrived for official visit (departed).

- 06 Sep Arrived Vieques, Southern Puerto Rican Operating Area. Commenced amphibious assault rehearsal.
- 12 Sep Completed amphibious rehearsal. Commenced transit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Joint Operating Area.
- 14 Sep Arrived Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Joint Operating Area. Conducted Unrep with USS SAVANNAH.
- 18 Sep Operating in vicinity of CAP Haitian, Haiti in preparation for an assault on the island of Haiti in support of "Uphold Democracy".
- 20 Sep Anchored off CAP Haitian, Haiti. Conducted an unopposed Amphibious landing at CAP Haitian, Haiti.
- 21 Sep Underway for Unrep with USS LEROY GRUMMAN.
- 22 Sep Anchored CAP Haitian, Haiti.

October 1994

- 01 Oct Departed CAP Haitian, Haiti enroute NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 04 Oct Arrive NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 09 Oct Underway from NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads enroute to CAP Haitian, Haiti.
- 11 Oct Anchored at CAP Haitian, Haiti
- 16 Oct Underway enroute to Joint Operating Area and Unrep with USS LEROY GRUMMAN. Upon completion, departed enroute Onslow Bay, NC
- 19 Oct Anchored Onslow Bay, NC. Offloaded MAGTF. Departed Onslow Bay enroute NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- 20 Oct Moored NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.

November 1994

- 01 Nov Moored NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. No significant events occurred during November. Conducted upkeep and standown period.

December 1994

- 02 Dec Commandant of the Marine Corps and Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic arrive for Change of Command. Conducted USS WASP Change of Command. CAPT. R.A. Duffy assumes command.
- 06 Dec Underway, enroute Virginia Capes Operating Area to conduct training and preparations for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.
- 12 Dec Conducted underway replenishment with USS SAVANNAH.
- 15 Dec Moored starboard side to Pier 7 South, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.
- 16 Dec Commenced Holiday Leave and Upkeep period.
- 31 Dec Complete the year moored to Pier 7S, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA

NARRATIVE

The start of 1994 found WASP in Norfolk Naval Shipyard conducting a Selected Restrictive Availability. During this extensive maintenance availability, numerous repairs and improvements were made throughout the ship. The Combat Systems suite was significantly upgraded to include the installation of the Cooperative Engagement Capability, replacement of the AN/SPS-52C three dimensional air search radar with the AN/SPS-48E, upgrading the air control radar to the AN/SPN-43C and the addition of the AN/SPN-41 controlled approach landing system for AV-8B Harrier aircraft.

By the end of April, upon completion of a highly successful Propulsion Plant Light Off Examination, WASP completed Sea Trials and returned to Norfolk Naval Station as a full up round. The month of May began with a full ammunition onload followed by extensive preparations for contingency operations (Operation Support Democracy) in the Caribbean. WASP embarked COMCARGRU Eight, a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force and Commander Joint Task Force 120. In conjunction with contingency operations, WASP successfully completed Refresher Training and extensive Cooperative Engagement Capability testing which included exercise missile firings with the USS EISENHOWER Battle Group. During this period, WASP hosted numerous high level dignitaries including the Commander, United States Atlantic Command, the United States Ambassador to the Bahamas, a Congressman from the 35th district of California, and the Under Secretary of the Navy.

Upon completion of her first Caribbean contingency operations in July, WASP returned to Naval Station Norfolk for a three week Intermediate Maintenance Availability and upkeep period.

Mid August saw WASP again underway for contingency operations in the Caribbean. WASP embarked COMCRUDESGRU Twelve, a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), and again became the flagship of Commander Joint Task Force 120 for Operation Support/Uphold Democracy off Haiti. Throughout the remainder of August and September, WASP conducted extensive preparations for combat operations in the Haitian theater. WASP participated in two amphibious assault rehearsals at Great Inagua Island and Vieques Island prior to the actual landing in Haiti. The evening of 18 September saw WASP and her embarked Marines ready in all respects for an early morning combat assault on CAP Haitian.

After an "eleventh hour" diplomatic settlement, WASP stood down and peacefully landed the MAGTF on 20 September to provide security for the general population. WASP remained in the vicinity of CAP Haitian supporting her troops ashore. Additionally, during this time period, WASP hosted visits by the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Secretary of Defense. Mid October saw the re-embarkation of the MAGTF, WASP's departure from the Joint Operating Area, and the end of WASP's participation in Operation "Support/Uphold Democracy". For her outstanding support of Haitian operations, WASP was awarded her second Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and nominated for a second Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Humanitarian Services Medal. Crewmembers received 16 Navy Commendation Medals, 71 Navy Achievement Medals, and 516 Letters of Commendations. On 20 October, WASP returned to Naval Station Norfolk for a much deserved upkeep and standown period.

November and December saw WASP preparing for an upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination and a change of command. On 02 December Captain R.A. Duffy relieved Captain R.C. Chaplin as Commanding Officer. Honored guests at the ceremony included the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic. WASP ended 1994 moored at Naval Station Norfolk.