



Rec 10 3/12/96  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD 1)  
FPO AE 09556-1660

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5700  
NAV/wjp  
Ser 048  
11 Feb 96

From: Commanding Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M Street, 5E, Washington, DC 20374-5060  
  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, USS WASP (LHD 1), 1995 (OPNAV 5750-1)  
  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
  
Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for 1995 has been compiled per reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).

  
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 maintains a secondary mission of sea control.

2. **Chain of Command.**

(Administrative)

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

(Operational)

Amphibious Squadron Four  
Amphibious Group Two (01 January 95 - 09 September 95)  
Sixth Fleet (09 September 95 - 31 December 95)

3. **Commanding Officer.**

01 Jan 95 - 31 Dec 95      CAPT R. A. Duffy, USN

4. **Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments.**

Commander Amphibious Group Two  
Rear Admiral L. F. Picotte  
(23 February 95 - 10 March 95)  
Rear Admiral W. R. Fladd  
(15 August 95 - 20 August 95)  
Commander II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)  
Brigadier General B. B. Byrum  
(23 February 95 - 10 March 95)  
Commander Amphibious Squadron Four  
Captain C. C. Buchanan  
(10 January 95 - 31 December 95)  
Commander Two Six Marine Expeditionary Unit  
Colonel J. R. Battaglini  
(29 August 95 - 31 December 95)  
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron Four Six Four  
(10 February - 04 April 95)  
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron Two Six Four (Reinforced)  
(29 August 95 - 31 December 95)  
II Marine Regiment Element  
(10 February 95 - 04 April 95)

Encl (1)

Battalion Landing Team Two / Six  
(29 August 95 - 31 December 95)  
Second Force Service Support Group Element Detachment  
(10 February 95 - 04 April 95)  
Marine Service Support Group Two Six  
(29 August 95 - 31 December 95)  
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight Detachment Eight  
(09 February 95 - 05 April 95)  
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Two Detachment Two  
(09 February 95 - 05 April 95)  
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 8 Detachment 2  
(28 August 95 - 31 December 95)  
Assault Craft Unit Two  
LCU 1645  
LCU 1654  
(09 February 95 - 05 April 95)  
Assault Craft Unit Four Detachment Two  
LCAC 08  
LCAC 38  
LCAC 53  
(28 August 95 - 31 December 95)

5. Homeport.

United States Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

## CHRONOLOGY

January 1995

- 01 Jan Moored starboard side to, Pier Seven South, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
- 10 Jan Underway, operating in the Virginia Capes and Cherry Point Operating Areas conducting Type Commanders Amphibious Training and Operational Propulsion Plant Examination preparations. Commander, Amphibious Squadron Four embarked.
- 16 Jan Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS Big Horn (TAO-198).
- 17 Jan Anchored in the Virginia Capes Operating Area. Commander Amphibious Squadron Four debarked.
- 18 Jan Underway for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination preparations.
- 20 Jan Commander Amphibious Group Two and Commander Netherlands Amphibious Group, Commodore Canter conducted visit and tour.
- 22 Jan Anchored in the Virginia Capes Operating Area.
- 23 Jan Underway. Commenced Operational Propulsion Plant Examination.
- 24 Jan Temporarily secured from Operational Propulsion Plant Examination to assist the fishing vessel "Valley Wind." Assistance ultimately rendered by the Canadian ship HMCS Terra Nova.
- 25 Jan Satisfactorily completed Operational Propulsion Plant Examination. Moored Starboard side to Pier Seven North, Naval Station Norfolk, Va.
- 26 Jan Commander, Amphibious Group Two and Italian Navy Chief of Staff, Admiral Angelo Mariani conducted ship visit and tour.

February 1995

- 02 Feb Commander Marine Strike Force conducted ship visit and tour.
- 09 Feb Underway enroute Onslow Bay, North Carolina for Marine onload in support of Exercise Strong Resolve. Steaming in company with USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). Commander Amphibious Squadron Four embarked. Additional units embarked include LCU 1645 and LCU 1654 from Assault Craft Unit Two, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight Detachment Eight, and Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Two Detachment Two.

Encl (2)

- 10 Feb Anchored off Morehead City, North Carolina for troop and equipment onload.
- 11 Feb Underway, enroute Portsmouth, England for Exercise Strong Resolve, elements of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) embarked including Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron Four Six Four, II Marine Regiment Element, and Second Force Service Support Group Detachment.
- 17 Feb Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Platte (AO-186).
- 18 Feb AV-8B Harrier, BUNO 161394 crashed on takeoff. Aircraft lost overboard. Pilot ejected safely, landing onboard WASP with non-life threatening neck, back, and ankle injuries. Additional damage included two flight deck nets on the starboard bow and the ship's jackstaff destroyed, and main rotor damage to two blades on CH-53E BUNO 161394.
- 21 Feb Amphibious Readiness Group diverted to Rota, Spain due to inclement weather along track to Exercise Strong Resolve operating area.
- 23 Feb Moored starboard side to Pier One, Naval Station Rota, Spain. Commander Amphibious Group Two embarked.
- 24 Feb Underway enroute Norway in support of Exercise Strong Resolve. USS Shreveport (LPD 12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) in company.
- 28 Feb Commenced northern transit of the English Channel.

March 1995

- 01 Mar Completed English Channel transit.
- 03 Mar Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).
- 04 Mar The Prime Minister of Norway conducted a ship visit and tour. Commander Netherlands Amphibious Group arrived for discussions with Commander Amphibious Group Two. Marine Forces Atlantic arrived for ship visit and tour. Arrived in Halsafjorden, Norway for Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Strong Resolve.
- 05 Mar Commenced extensive air and surface Amphibious Operations for Exercise Strong Resolve.
- 10 Mar Completed Amphibious Operations. Commander Amphibious Group Two debarked. Commenced transit from Halsafjorden to Trondheim, Norway. Proceeded on a track through Arsundfjorden, Talgsjoen, Ytrefjorden, Edoyfjorden, and Trondheimsleia.

11 Mar Anchored in Trondheimsfjorden off Trondheim, Norway. Liberty granted to crew and embarked personnel. Dragged anchor due to high winds (over 50 knots). Ship underway, steaming in the vicinity of Trondheim. Six hundred twenty-one personnel remained ashore.

12 Mar Proceeded through Trondheimsleia, Edoyfjorden, Ytrefjorden, and Gripholen to sea. During transit, airlifted personnel left ashore to the ship from USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). When in open ocean, encountered heavy weather. Experienced sustained winds of 48 knots and waves up to 16.5 feet.

13 Mar Heavy weather continued. Sustained wind speed increased to 60 knots and seas rose to 25 feet. Damage incurred due to the weather included loss of the starboard "H" Frame, flooding in the anchor windlass machinery room, damage to rotor blades and rotor heads on aircraft spotted on the flight deck, structural damage to the superstructure (cracks) in the vicinity of frame 61 on the O3 and O4 levels, and structural damage to the bow (bent frames and stringers and deformed shell plating) on the main deck.

14 Mar Amphibious Readiness Group diverted to Stavanger, Norway due to heavy weather.

15 Mar Moored starboard side to, bow in at Pier Straen, Stavanger, Norway. Liberty granted to the crew and embarked personnel.

19 Mar Shifted berths. Moored starboard side to, bow out at Pier Straven, Stavanger, Norway.

21 Mar Underway, commenced transit to Morehead City, North Carolina.

22 Mar Commenced southern transit of the English Channel.

23 Mar Completed English Channel transit.

29 Mar Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Seattle (AOE-3). While alongside, Seattle sustained a gyro repeater casualty causing her to collide with WASP. Damage to WASP included the platform for the starboard accommodation ladder buckled, one vent plenum door on starboard side crushed, frame 79 in compartment O2-77-1-Q (Electronic Equipment Room) twisted, three safety nets on the starboard elevator torn and bent, and three life rafts damaged.

April 1995

03 Apr Anchored off Morehead City, North Carolina in Onslow Bay for troop and equipment offload.

04 Apr Underway enroute Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

- 05 Apr Moored starboard side to, Pier Seven North, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.
- 21 Apr Conducted Change of Command ceremony for Commander Amphibious Group Two. Rear Admiral W. R. Fladd relieved Rear Admiral L. F. Picotte. Distinguished guests included the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

May 1995

- 01 May Hosted NATO and European journalists for a visit and tour.
- 05 May Hosted Harvard Center for International Affairs Delegation for visit and tour.
- 03 May Hosted United States Air Force Commanders Conference for visit and tour.
- 10 May Hosted Amphibious Officers Wives Club for lunch and tour.
- 16 May Underway enroute Onslow Bay for Type Commanders Amphibious Training. Commander, Amphibious Squadron Four embarked. Units in company include USS Shreveport (LPD-12), USS Ashland (LSD-48), and USS Jack Williams (FFG-24). Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel (WASP delivery ship) with USS Jack Williams (FFG-24) for training.
- 17 May Arrived Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina. Commenced air and surface Amphibious Operations for Type Commanders Amphibious Training.
- 18 May USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) joined the Amphibious Training.
- 19 May Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel (WASP delivery ship) with USS Jack Williams (FFG-24).
- 20 May Anchored Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina. Underway, continuing Amphibious Training.
- 21 May Recovered and launched five Amphibious Assault Vehicles.
- 22 May Anchored Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina. Commander Amphibious Group Two arrived for visit.
- 23 May Commander Amphibious Group Two departed. Completed Type Commanders Amphibious Training. Underway, enroute Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).
- 24 May Moored port side to Pier Seven North, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

25 May Hosted Captain M. G. Mullen, Director Surface Officer Distribution Division and Commanding Officers of various ships present at Norfolk Naval Station for Junior Officer distribution and rotation brief.

29 May Embarked 19 First and Second Class Midshipmen for LANTRAMID Phase I Midshipmen Summer Training Program.

June 1995

05 Jun Underway, enroute Onslow Bay for Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95 Phase I. Ships in company include USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). Commander Amphibious Squadron Four embarked.

06 Jun Arrived Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina. Commenced Amphibious Operations in support of Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95 Phase I.

07 Jun Anchored Onslow Bay off Morehead City, North Carolina. Underway, proceeding to anchorage off exercise assault beaches south of Morehead City. Anchored off exercise assault beaches, Onslow Bay.

08 Jun Underway, proceeding to sea to conduct exercise Amphibious Assault with USS Shreveport and USS Whidbey Island.

09 Jun Conducted CIWS, 25MM and 50 Cal gun shoots.

10 Jun Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel (WASP delivery ship) with USS Boone (FFG-28). Anchored Onslow Bay off the exercise assault beaches, Onslow Bay. Underway, proceeding to sea to conduct Underway Replenishment. Commander Carrier Group Six arrived for visit.

11 Jun Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189). Commander, Carrier Group Six departed. Anchored off the exercise assault beaches, Onslow Bay.

12 Jun Underway, proceeding to sea to conduct engineering casualty control exercises. Anchored off exercise assault beaches, Onslow Bay.

14 Jun Underway, proceeding to sea to conduct exercise surface and air Amphibious assault.

16 Jun Anchored off exercise assault beaches, Onslow Bay. Underway, enroute Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Conducted exercise CHAFF launching.

17 Jun Moored port side to Pier Seven South, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

21 Jun British Ship Design Team conducted visit and orientation tour.

- 22 Jun SACLANT (United States Atlantic Command) hosted lunch and tour for 50 O-7 through O-10 equivalent United States and foreign dignitaries from various NATO countries. Additional hosts included Strike Fleet, Atlantic (Commander Second Fleet), and Amphibious Strike Force Atlantic, (Commander Amphibious Group Two).
- 25 Jun Completed Midshipmen Summer Training LANTRAMID Phase I.
- 29 Jun Conducted Change of Command ceremony for Commander, Amphibious Group Four. Rear Admiral J. F. Amerault relieved Rear Admiral R. S. Cole. Distinguished guests included the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet and the Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

July 1995

- 06 Jul Underway enroute Onslow Bay in support of Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95 Phase II and III. Commander, Amphibious Squadron Four embarked. Ships in company include USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41).
- 07 Jul Anchored Onslow Bay in the vicinity of Beaufort Inlet off Morehead City, North Carolina.
- 08 Jul Underway, proceeding to anchorage off exercise assault beaches south of Morehead City, North Carolina. Anchored off exercise assault beaches.
- 10 Jul Underway, proceeding to sea to conduct exercise air and surface assault.
- 11 Jul USS Boone (FFG-28) and USS Scott (DDG-995) joined Amphibious units in support of Exercise Joint Task Force 3-95 Phase II and III.
- 12 Jul Commander Amphibious Squadron Two arrived for visit. Commenced Amphibious Readiness Group Special Operations Certification evaluation. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Monongahela (AO-178).
- 15 Jul Hosted Commanding General, Second Marine Division, Major General Livingston for a visit and tour.
- 16 Jul Commenced transit from Onslow Bay to Virginia Capes Operating Area to conduct rehearsal assault for the Joint Task Force Exercise.
- 18 Jul Conducted rehearsal assault in Virginia Capes Operating Area. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Monongahela (AO-178).
- 19 Jul Commenced transit from Virginia Capes Operating Area to Onslow Bay to continue Joint Task Force Exercise.

21 Jul Secretary of Defense hosted the United Arab Emirates Chief of Staff, Sheik Mohammed Benzied for a visit and tour. Additional hosts include Commander Second Fleet, Vice Admiral Johnson, and Commander Amphibious Group Two, Rear Admiral Fladd.

22 Jul Anchored Onslow Bay off the exercise assault beaches. Commander, Amphibious Squadron Two departs.

23 Jul Completed Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95. Amphibious Readiness Group Certified Special Operations Capable and ready for deployment. Underway enroute Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

24 Jul Moored starboard side to Pier Seven South, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

26 Jul Commenced the Logistic Management Assessment.

28 Jul Completed the Logistic Management Assessment with an overall grade of Satisfactory.

29 Jul Commenced Pre-operational Movement Stand-down.

August 1995

07 Aug United States Atlantic Command hosted the "Partnership for Peace" Delegation consisting of various dignitaries from countries of the former Soviet Union on a visit and tour. Additional hosts included Commander Second Fleet, Vice Admiral Johnson and Commander Amphibious Group Two, Rear Admiral Fladd.

15 Aug Underway for Hurricane Felix evasion. Commander Amphibious Group Two and Commander Amphibious Squadron Four embarked. Operated in Virginia Capes Operating Area.

20 Aug Moored starboard side to Pier Seven North, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

25 Aug Completed Pre-operational Movement stand-down.

28 Aug Underway for Mediterranean Deployment 3-95. Commander Amphibious Squadron Four Embarked. Enroute Morehead City, North Carolina for troop and equipment onload. Ships in company include USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). Additional units embarked include LCAC 08, LCAC 38, and LCAC 53 of Assault Craft Unit Four Detachment Two and Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight Detachment Two.

29 Aug Anchored off Morehead City, North Carolina in Onslow Bay for troop onload. Underway commencing transit to Valencia, Spain for Mediterranean Deployment 3-95 in company with USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). Embarked units include Marine Expeditionary Unit Two Six comprised of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron Two Six

- Four, Battalion Landing Team Two/Six, and Marine Service Support Group Two Six. USS Shreveport (LPD-12) proceeded ahead of Amphibious Readiness Group.
- 30 Aug Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Merrimack (AO-179).
- 31 Aug USS Shreveport (LPD-12) rejoins Amphibious Readiness Group.

September 1995

- 06 Sep USS Shreveport (LPD-12) departed Amphibious Readiness Group to proceed ahead for an Exercise in the Black Sea.
- 08 Sep Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Monongahela (AO-178). Received distress call from the Portuguese vessel Condor De Vilamour. Vessel was conducting sport diving operations on the Gettysburg Sea Mount. Four divers onboard reported suffering from decompression sickness. Dispatched Search and Rescue helicopters to the vessel. Four German citizens, Gerd Gurich, Ralph Hupfner, Henning Banse, and Dieter Wichmann were brought aboard WASP, examined by the medical staff, and further transferred by Marine aircraft to Naval Station Rota, Spain for treatment. Amphibious Readiness Group shifted operational control from Commander Second Fleet to Commander Sixth Fleet.
- 09 Sep Conducted Amphibious Readiness Group turnover with USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) Group. Transited the Straits of Gibraltar.
- 11 Sep USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) detached to proceed to Alacante, Spain for a port visit. Moored starboard side to Dique Del Sur, Valencia, Spain. Crew and embarked personnel granted liberty.
- 15 Sep Underway enroute Cape Serrat, Tunisia in support of Exercise Atlas Hinge. USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) rejoined Amphibious Readiness Group.
- 16 Sep USS Dewert (FFG-45) joined Amphibious Readiness Group. Commenced Exercise Atlas Hinge. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel and stores with USNS Kanawha (TAO-196).
- 17 Sep Anchored off Cape Serrat, Tunisia in support of Exercise Atlas Hinge. Commenced surface and air Amphibious Operations. Underway proceeding to sea to conduct rehearsal approach to the Amphibious Objective Area.
- 18 Sep Anchored off Cape Serrat, Tunisia. Continued Amphibious Operations.

20 Sep Underway proceeding to sea for Sixth Fleet visit. Commander Sixth Fleet, Vice Admiral D. L. Pilling arrived for visit. Addressed crew on mission in the Mediterranean and Adriatic. Anchored off Cape Serrat, Tunisia. Continued surface and air Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Atlas Hinge.

21 Sep Completed Exercise Atlas Hinge.

22 Sep Underway enroute to the Adriatic. USS Dewert (FFG-45) departs Group.

23 Sep Transited the Straits of Sicily.

24 Sep Operated off the East Coast of Sicily conducting flight operations to and from Sigonella, Sicily.

25 Sep Commenced transit of the Straits of Otranto

26 Sep Completed transit of the Straits of Otranto. Entered the Adriatic. Conducted Underway Replenishment for stores with the USNS San Diego (TAFS-6). Conducted 25MM gun shoot. Commenced Exercise Rescue Eagle. Commenced flight operations in support of Operation Deny Flight.

28 Sep Commander Carrier Group Six, Rear Admiral Cross arrived for a visit.

30 Sep USS Shreveport rejoined Group. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

October 1995

01 Oct Commenced operations in support of Exercise Rescue Eagle off the coast of Albania.

02 Oct USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) departed Group. Conducted air Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Rescue Eagle.

09 Oct Conducted 25MM gun shoot.

10 Oct Hosted a Major General of the Albanian Air Defense Force for a visit and tour.

12 Oct The Deputy Director of United States European Command, arrived for visit and tour. Addressed the wardroom and senior enlisted personnel on mission in the Adriatic. Completed Exercise Rescue Eagle.

13 Oct Deputy Director of United States European Command departed. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel and stores with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

14 Oct Conducted Full Power Demonstration.

16 Oct Conducted CIWS pre-action calibration shoot. Transited the Straits of Otranto enroute the Eastern Mediterranean for Exercise Noble Shirley.

17 Oct Conducted AAW (CIWS) gunnery exercise. Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel and stores with USS Monongahela (AO-178).

18 Oct USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) rejoined Group. Conducted Underway Replenishment for stores with USNS San Diego (TAFS-6). Conducted Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drill on USNS San Diego (TAFS-6) using embarked SEAL detachment.

22 Oct Commenced air and surface Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Noble Shirley. Anchored off Ashqelon, Israel.

23 Oct Hosted General Officers of the Israeli Defense Force for a visit and tour. Underway enroute Haifa, Israel for offload of embarked troops in support of Exercise Noble Shirley.

24 Oct Moored port side to the south side of the Cargo Jetty, Haifa, Israel. Conducted offload of embarked troops for Exercise Noble Shirley. Granted Liberty for the crew.

25 Oct Underway in company with USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) enroute to the waters off Ashqelon, Israel in support of Exercise Noble Shirley.

26 Oct Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USS Monongahela (AO-178).

28 Oct Conducted 50 Cal gun shoot.

29 Oct Debarked the three LCACs of Assault Craft Unit Four Detachment Two. Craft remained in the shipyard at Quishon, Israel while WASP inport Haifa, Israel. Moored port side to the south side of the Cargo Jetty, Haifa, Israel. Granted Liberty for the crew.

November 1995

03 Nov Completed Exercise Noble Shirley. Commenced backload of embarked troops.

05 Nov Granted Liberty for embarked Marines.

08 Nov Underway enroute Al Ahmed, Egypt in support of Exercise Bright Star 95. Re-embarked three LCACs of Assault Craft Unit Four Detachment Two. Ships in company include USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41).

09 Nov Hosted Exercise Bright Star 95 pre-sail conference.

10 Nov Anchored in the vicinity of Al Ahmed, Egypt in support of Exercise Bright Star 95. Hosted Exercise Bright Star 95 Press Pool consisting of reporters and media personnel from the various participating nations for a tour and capabilities brief. Underway proceeding to sea for rendezvous and exercise approach to the

Amphibious Objective Area. FS Ouragan joined the Amphibious Readiness Group.

11 Nov Anchored in the vicinity of Al Ahmed, Egypt. Commenced surface and air Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Bright Star 95.

12 Nov Underway to conduct LCAC operations. Anchored in the vicinity of Al Ahmed, Egypt. FS Ouragan departed Group.

13 Nov Underway proceeding to sea to conduct an exercise approach to the Amphibious Objective Area.

14 Nov Anchored in the vicinity of Al Ahmed, Egypt.

15 Nov Continued surface and air Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Bright Star 95.

16 Nov Completed Exercise Bright Star 95. Underway enroute Augusta Bay, Italy for cold weather equipment onload.

18 Nov Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

19 Nov Moored starboard side to Pontile Marina Militaire Pier, Augusta Bay, Italy for Marine cold weather equipment onload. Pier liberty granted crew and embarked personnel.

20 Nov Underway enroute the Adriatic in support of Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight.

21 Nov Transited the Straits of Otranto. Commenced operations in support of Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight.

24 Nov Conducted Underway Replenishment for stores with USNS Saturn (TAFS-10).

25 Nov Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

26 Nov Transited the Straits of Otranto proceeding to the vicinity of Augusta Bay, Italy to conduct personnel and stores transfer from Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.

27 Nov Transited the Straits of Otranto, proceeding back to the Adriatic in support of Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight.

December 1995

01 Dec Hosted Romanian Naval Staff Operations Officer for a two day orientation tour and departmental briefs.

02 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

03 Dec Romanian Naval Staff Officer departed.

07 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

08 Dec Conducted CIWS pre-action calibration shoot.

09 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel (WASP delivery ship) for training with USS Scott (DDG-995). Conducted 25MM and 50 Cal shoot (all mounts).

10 Dec Commenced transit to Trieste, Italy for a port visit.

11 Dec Moored starboard side to Molo VII, Trieste, Italy. Liberty granted to crew and embarked personnel.

13 Dec Experienced sustained winds over 50 knots with gusts over 70 knots on the starboard quarter. Three mooring lines parted. Employed two commercial tugs to hold ship against the pier throughout the remainder of the night and early morning.

14 Dec Underway enroute the Central Adriatic.

15 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel and stores with USNS Leroy Grumman (TAO-185). Commander Marine Forces Atlantic, Lieutenant General Wilhelm arrived for visit with embarked Marines.

17 Dec Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral J. M. Boorda arrived for a visit. Addressed the crew and embarked personnel on the mission in the Adriatic.

18 Dec Commenced operations in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

20 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel and stores with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

21 Dec Hosted the Commanding Officer of the ITS San Marco onboard for a visit, tour and lunch.

22 Dec Hosted Commander, Italian Third Naval Division for a visit and tour.

23 Dec Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Krulak arrived for a visit. Addressed crew and embarked Marines on mission in the Adriatic.

24 Dec Commandant of the Marine Corps departed. Commander Carrier Group Six, Rear Admiral Cross conducted visit. Addressed the wardroom and Chief Petty Officer's mess.

27 Dec Commander Implementation Forces, Admiral Leighton W. Smith arrived for visit.

29 Dec Conducted Underway Replenishment for fuel with USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

30 Dec Moored port side to Diga Di Punta Riso, Brindisi, Italy.

## NARRATIVE

WASP commenced 1995 moored at Naval Station Norfolk preparing for her upcoming Operational Propulsion Examination and Type Commander's Amphibious Training for Exercise Strong Resolve. Underway on the 10th of January, she proceeded to Onslow Bay off the coast of North Carolina for extensive training which included air operations with Marine Helicopter Squadron 464 and surface operations with conventional landing craft from Assault Craft Unit Two. Additionally, when not conducting Amphibious operations, she conducted numerous Engineering Casualty Control and Damage Control exercises to prepare for the upcoming examination. Upon completion of Amphibious training, WASP refueled from the USNS Big Horn (TAO-198), then proceeded to the Virginia Capes Operating Area to complete final, extensive preparations for the Propulsion Examination. On 23 January, the Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board came aboard to evaluate WASP's engineering expertise and Damage Control capabilities. The examination was delayed while the ship went to the aid of the fishing vessel "Valley Wind," which was foundering in heavy seas. WASP arrived ready to render assistance if required, but two Canadian Corvettes, who also answered the distress calls, arrived on scene and stood by. Upon ascertaining the situation was well in hand, WASP continued with her examination. On 25 January, WASP completed the Atlantic Fleet Operational Propulsion Plant Examination with an overall grade of Satisfactory. The crew received a grade of Excellent in the area of fire fighting and the Examiner's comments of the best efforts they had seen for this size ship. Once back in Norfolk, WASP hosted a visit and tour for the Italian Navy Chief of Staff, Admiral Angelo Mariani.

In February, WASP departed Norfolk for the Fjords of Norway and Exercise Strong Resolve. Stopping in Onslow Bay off Morehead City, North Carolina, WASP embarked elements of Marine Expeditionary Force II (Forward), then commenced an arduous winter crossing of the Atlantic in company with USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). During the transit, the Group refueled from the USS Platte (AO-186). WASP lost an AV-8B Harrier while conducting routine flight operations in the vicinity of the Azores. The mishap occurred during takeoff, and luckily, the pilot ejected safely. Originally scheduled to stop in Portsmouth England, the uncooperative weather forced the Amphibious Readiness Group to divert to Rota, Spain. In Rota, Commander Amphibious Group Two (COMPHIBGRU 2), Rear Admiral Picotte and Commanding General II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) (II MEF FWD), Brigadier General Byrum, embarked. After replenishing and refueling, the Group was back underway, bound for Norway. The end of February saw WASP transiting the English Channel.

Encl (3)

The month of March began with WASP and her accompanying ships entering the North Sea. After refueling from the USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189), the Group hosted visits from the Commander of the Netherlands Amphibious Group, the Commanding General, Marine Forces Atlantic, and the Prime Minister of Norway. On March 4th, WASP arrived in Halsafjorden, Norway where she conducted extensive air and surface Amphibious Operations in support of Exercise Strong Resolve. Maneuvering in the small confines of the Fjord for six straight days, she completed the Exercise on the 10 March and transited through the Fjords to Trondheim, Norway for a much needed port visit. Anchoring in Trondheimsfjorden on the 11th, liberty was granted the crew and embarked personnel. Unfortunately, the weather was again uncooperative. High winds (in excess of 50 knots) arose, causing the ship to drag anchor and get underway, leaving over 600 personnel ashore. USS Shreveport and USS Whidbey Island embarked those personnel for further transfer back to WASP. On the 12th, the ARG transited to sea, transferring personnel by helicopter as the ships proceeded through the fjords. All personnel were returned prior to the ARG's arrival in open water. Once again, the weather became uncooperative. Sustained winds rose to over 60 knots and the seas were running at 25 feet. At one point, WASP was steaming with turns for 12 knots ordered and making only 0.5 knots over ground! After sustaining minor structural damage and slight damage to embarked aircraft, WASP and her consorts were diverted to Stavanger, Norway until the weather abated. From 15 March to 21 March, the crew and embarked personnel enjoyed an excellent visit with the people of Stavanger. The ship was open to the public for general visiting and the crew enjoyed the shops and fine restaurants of the city. On 21 March, WASP was again underway bound for Morehead City and home. As the ARG traveled west, the ships refueled from the USS Seattle (AOE-3). While alongside WASP, Seattle suffered a casualty to her gyro repeaters, causing her to collide with the LHD. WASP sustained damage to the starboard accommodation ladder and platform, starboard vent plenum doors, elevator safety nets and three life rafts. Seattle received damage to her port side, helicopter control tower, and her B & A crane.

On 03 April, WASP anchored in Onslow Bay off Morehead City, North Carolina to offload embarked troops and equipment. Underway on the 4th, she moored starboard side to, Pier Seven North, Naval Station Norfolk on 05 April. The rest of the month was spent preparing for Type Commanders Amphibious Training and the Amphibious Group Two change of command which was held on 21 April. WASP hosted the time honored ceremony where Rear Admiral W. R. Fladd relieved Rear Admiral L. F. Picotte as Commander Amphibious Group Two. Distinguished guests included the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

The month of May began with WASP carrying out host ship duties for various distinguished visitors and special interest groups. Personnel visiting the World's Greatest Warship included a group of NATO and European journalists, the Harvard Center Delegation for International Affairs, the Air Force Commanders Conference, and the Amphibious Officers Wives Club. On 16 May, WASP departed Norfolk for Onslow Bay for Type Commanders Amphibious Training in company with USS Shreveport (LPD-12), USS Ashland (LSD-48), and USS Jack Williams (FFG-24). Enroute WASP conducted an underway refueling with Jack Williams in which WASP was the delivery ship. On 17 May, the Group arrived in Onslow Bay and commenced training. The extensive operations included work with conventional Landing Craft, LCACs, another refueling with Jack Williams, and the recovery and launching of five Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs). Upon completion on 23 May, WASP refueled from the USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189) and proceeded back to Norfolk where she moored port side to, Pier Seven South on the 24th. On the 25th, WASP hosted the Director of Surface Officer Distribution and the Commanding Officers of ships present at the Naval Operating Base for a Junior Officer distribution and rotation brief. The month of May closed with the arrival of 19 First and Second Class Midshipmen for their summer training cruise.

June commenced with WASP again underway for Amphibious training, this time in support of Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95 Phase I. The ship proceeded to Onslow Bay in company with USS Shreveport and USS Whidbey Island. Upon arrival on 06 June, the Group commenced extensive surface and air Amphibious training, conducting practice assaults, gun shoots, and chaff launchings. Refueling again from USNS John Lenthall, WASP returned to Norfolk on the 17th of June, mooring port side to Pier Seven South. On 22 June, WASP was the host platform for a SACLANT (United States Atlantic Command) luncheon for 50 O-7 to O-10 equivalent United States and foreign dignitaries from various NATO countries. Additional hosts included Strike Fleet Atlantic (Commander Second Fleet), and Amphibious Strike Force Atlantic (Commander Amphibious Group Two). On 25 June, the embarked Midshipmen completed their training and departed for their parent commands. WASP closed out the month again hosting a change of command ceremony on 29 June. Rear Admiral J. F. Amerault relieved Rear Admiral R. S. Cole as Commander, Amphibious Group Four. Distinguished guests included the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, and the Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

July once again saw WASP proceeding south to Onslow Bay in company with USS Shreveport and USS Whidbey Island to conduct Joint Task Force Exercise 3-95 Phases II and III. Exercise assaults were conducted in Onslow Bay and the Virginia Capes Operating Area off Camp Pendleton, Virginia. While conducting Amphibious operations, Commander Amphibious Group Two embarked to aid in certifying the Amphibious Readiness Group as Special Operations Capable. Additionally, during this busy time, WASP hosted distinguished visits from the Commanding General, Second Marine Division and the United Arab Emirates Chief of Staff, Sheik Mohammed Benzied. After refueling from the USS Monongahela (AO-178), on 24 July WASP returned to Norfolk, fully certified to deploy to the Mediterranean in August. The Logistics Management Assessment was conducted on 26th through the 28th of July on which WASP received a grade of satisfactory. On 29 July, she commenced her Pre-operational Movement stand-down period and pre-deployment maintenance availability.

On 07 August, WASP once again became the platform of choice for visiting foreign dignitaries. The ship was toured by the "Partnership for Peace" Delegation which consisted of high-level dignitaries from countries of the former Soviet Union. On 15 August, WASP sortied with most of the other ships present in the Norfolk area to evade Hurricane "Felix." Operating with slightly over half her crew on board, she maneuvered over an area between New York, Bermuda, and Charleston to avoid the storm. Returning to port on 20 August, WASP continued her stand-down and maintenance period. During this timeframe, yard workers completed the initial installation of her Afloat Pollution Prevention Equipment. Items installed included a large paper and cardboard pulper unit, two compressed melt units for plastics, and a plastic shredder unit. On 28 August, with all personnel back aboard, WASP commenced the Mediterranean 3-95 deployment in company with USS Shreveport (LPD-12) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41). Arriving off Morehead City, North Carolina on 29 August, the Group embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit 26, then departed for the Mediterranean. During the transit, the ships refueled from the USS Merrimack (AO-179) and USS Monongahela (AO-178).

September found WASP continuing her transit to the Mediterranean. On 08 September, the ship answered distress calls from the Portuguese vessel "Condor De Vilamour." The vessel was conducting sport diving operations on the Gettysburg Sea Mount in the Eastern Atlantic, and had four divers onboard suffering from decompression sickness. WASP dispatched her Search and Rescue helicopters to the scene to evacuate the injured personnel. Once on board WASP, the divers were examined by ship's medical

personnel, then flown to Rota, Spain by Marine aircraft for further treatment. On 09 September, WASP conducted the turnover of the Amphibious Readiness Group duties with the USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) Group and entered the Mediterranean. Proceeding directly to Valencia, Spain, she conducted a four day port visit. The 15th of September saw WASP underway for Cape Serrat, Tunisia and Exercise Atlas Hinge. Enroute, she refueled from the USNS Kanawha (TAO-196). From 17 September to 22 September, WASP and Whidbey Island, escorted by USS Dewert (FFG-45), conducted air and surface Amphibious Operations in support of the Exercise. On 20 September, the ship was visited by the Commander Sixth Fleet. Vice Admiral Pilling addressed the officers, crew, and embarked personnel on the mission of the Amphibious Readiness Group in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic. After Exercise Atlas Hinge, WASP proceeded to the Adriatic, arriving on the 26th of September. WASP hosted a visit from Commander Carrier Group Six, Rear Admiral Cross on the 28th, and completed the month refueling from the USNS John Lenthall (TAO-189).

From 01 to 16 October, WASP and Shreveport conducted operations off the coast of Albania in support of Exercise Rescue Eagle. During this time frame, the ship hosted visits from the Deputy Director of the United States European Command, a Major General from the Albanian Air Defense Force, and Albanian journalists and media personnel. After again refueling from the USNS John Lenthall, WASP and Shreveport departed the Adriatic for the Eastern Mediterranean and Exercise Noble Shirley. Enroute, the ships were joined by the Whidbey Island and conducted underway replenishments with the USS Monongahela (AO-178) and USNS San Diego (TAFS-6). The ARG arrived off Ashqelon, Israel on 21 October and commenced the Exercise. After debarking troops for the initial assault, WASP proceeded to Haifa, Israel, arriving on 24 October to debark the remainder of the assault force. Underway on the 25th, WASP moved back off Ashqelon to support the troops ashore and to refuel from the USS Monongahela. On 29 October, WASP proceeded back to Haifa for a much needed port visit and troop backload.

WASP began the month of November in port Haifa, Israel. Underway on the 8th, WASP and her accompanying ARG proceeded to the waters off AL Ahmed, Egypt for Exercise Bright Star 95. On 10 November, the ARG commenced extensive air and surface Amphibious operations in support of the Exercise. WASP hosted the Exercise Pre-sail Conference, and a visit by the Bright Star press and media pool consisting of reports and journalists from the various participating nations. Completing the Exercise on 16

November, WASP proceeded to Augusta Bay, Italy to onload cold weather equipment for her embarked troops. Enroute, she refueled from the USNS John Lenthall. Departing Augusta Bay on the 20th, WASP again proceeded to the Adriatic, where she arrived on the 21st of November to support Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight. The ARG conducted underway replenishments with the USNS John Lenthall and the USNS Saturn (TAFS-10) on the 24th and 25th, and completed the month on station in the Central Adriatic.

December found WASP in the Central Adriatic supporting Operations Sharp Guard and Deny Flight, and preparing for contingency operations in support of the NATO peace accord in Bosnia. Additionally, WASP hosted an operations officer from the Romanian Naval Staff for a two day orientation tour and brief. After refueling twice from the USNS John Lenthall and conducting a training underway replenishment (WASP was delivery ship) with the USS Scott (DDG-995), the ship proceeded to Trieste, Italy, arriving on 11 December for a port visit. While in Trieste, the effects of the Bora winds of the Adriatic were experienced first hand. Sustained winds quickly rose to over 70 knots, causing mooring lines to part and the ship to set the underway detail. Two tugs were employed throughout the night of the 13th to keep WASP alongside the pier and in her assigned berth. Once the winds abated, WASP was able to get underway on the 14th and proceed back to the central Adriatic. While on station, the ship refueled from the USNS Leroy Grumman (TAO-185) and hosted visits by the Commanding General, Marine Forces Atlantic, and the Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Boorda addressed the officers and crew on the Navy's mission in the Adriatic. On the 18th of December, the WASP ARG became the Implementation Force Ready Reserve in support of Operation Joint Endeavour. Throughout the remainder of December, the ARG refueled from USNS John Lenthall, and hosted visits from numerous distinguished visitors including the Commanding Officer of the Italian Ship San Marcos, the Commander of the Italian Third Naval Division, the Commander Carrier Group Six, the Commander, Implementation Forces, Admiral L. W. Smith, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Krulak, who addressed the embarked Marines on their mission in the Adriatic and Bosnia. The ship again refueled from the USNS John Lenthall on the 29th, then proceeded to a port visit in Brindisi, Italy, arriving on 30 December and closing out 1995.