



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS WASP (LHD 1)  
FPO AE 09556-1660

*Rec'd 6/5/00  
w/ disk*

IN REPLY TO:

5700  
Ser Exec/134  
23 May 00

From: Commanding Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
901 M Street, SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, USS WASP (LHD 1), 1998 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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

1. The Command History of USS WASP (LHD 1) for 1998 has been compiled per reference (a) and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).

  
H. G. STORY

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.

(Administrative)

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

(Operational)

Amphibious Squadron Six (12 January 98 - 28 July 98)  
Amphibious Group Two (28 July 98 - 31 December 98)  
Sixth Fleet (13 March 98 - 15 July 98)

3. Commanding Officer.

01 Jan 98 - 31 Dec 98      CAPT T. J. Anderson, USN

4. Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments.

Commander Amphibious Group Two  
Rear Admiral G. S. Holder  
(August 98 - December 98)  
Commander Amphibious Squadron Six  
Captain L.F. Mahoney  
(January 98 - July 98)  
Commander, TWO SIX Marine Expeditionary Unit  
Colonel E.N. Gardner  
(January 98 - July 98)  
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron TWO SIX FOUR (Reinforced)  
(January 98 - January 98)  
(February 98 - 26 July 98)  
Battalion Landing Team THREE/TWO  
(January 98 - January 98)  
(February 98 - 26 July 98)  
Marine Service Support Group TWO SIX  
(January 98 - January 98)  
(February 98 - 26 July 98)

Enclosure (1)

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron EIGHT Detachment FOUR  
(February 98 - July 98)

Assault Craft Unit FOUR

LCAC 39

LCAC 60

LCAC 71

(February 98 - 28 July 98)

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

MAR-JUL	MARG 2-98 Mediterranean Deployment
APR	Dynamic Response, Tunisian PHIBLEX
MAY	Destined Glory, Alexander the Great
JUN	Determined Falcon
OCT	INSURV
NOV	Ammo Off-load, PLOT I
JAN-MAR	SRA
FEB	PLOT II
CY-98	Battle Efficiency Award, TYCOM Safety Award

Enclosure (1)

## CHRONOLOGY

January 1998

- 01 Jan Moored at Pier 5, Berth 2 North, in Naval Station Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep.
- 05 Jan Embarked Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX.
- 12 Jan Underway for Joint Task Force Exercise with USS Portland (LSD 37), USS Trenton (LPD 14) and the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Battle Group.
- 13 Jan Arrived New River, NC. Embarked Marine Expeditionary\* Unit Two-Six. Departed enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 16 Jan Commenced Mass Casualty drills. Drill secured.
- 17 Jan Underway replenishment with USNS Paxtuxent (TAO-201).
- 19 Jan Commander Amphibious Group TWO, Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX and 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived.
- 20 Jan Underway, operating in a MODLOC position. Commander Amphibious Group TWO and 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit departed. 18th Airborne and 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived.
- 21 Jan Underway, enroute to MODLOC, Southern Puerto Rican operating area.
- 22 Jan Commander Amphibious Group SIX departed.
- 23 Jan Anchored off Vieques, Southern Puerto Rican operating area. Conducted amphibious rehearsal at Vieques Island in the Southern Puerto Rican area. 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived. Underway, commenced transit to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- 24 Jan Arrived at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto. Moored portside to pier 3 South.
- 26 Jan Underway, enroute to Southern Puerto Rican operating area. Modloc for Special Operations Capable Exercise.
- 30 Jan Commander Amphibious Group TWO and 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit departed and returned. Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX arrived.
- 31 Jan Underway, operating in Onslow Bay, NC. Commander Amphibious Group TWO departed and returned. Rear Admiral Pawson, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWELVE and Maj. Gen. Nyland, USMC arrived and departed.

February 1998

- 01 Feb Underway, operating in Onslow Bay, NC enroute to Modloc for Special Operations Capable Exercise. Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX and Commander Amphibious Group TWO departed and returned.
- 02 Feb 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived. Offloaded 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit. Departed Onslow Bay enroute NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.
- 03 Feb Underway, enroute to Norfolk Naval Station, VA. Moored port side to Pier 11 south, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA, with Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX embarked.

- 12 Feb TV news crew, WJLA, from Washington, DC, arrived. Pre-deployment coverage of amphibious assault ship mission.
- 13 Feb Moored, starboard side to Pier 11, Berth 4.
- 17 Feb Commander Second Fleet, Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander Amphibious Group TWO arrived and departed.
- 21 Feb The Honorable Congressman Charles Robb from Virginia arrived for an official visit.
- 26 Feb Moored port side to Pier 11, South. Underway, enroute to Morehead City, NC for deployment.
- 27 Feb Anchored Morehead City, NC, embarked 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit. Underway, operating in Cherry Point operations area enroute to Onslow Bay, NC.

March 1998

- 01 Mar Underway, enroute Rota, Spain.
- 04 Mar Burial at Sea.
- 06 Mar Conduct Safety Stand-down for All Hands.
- 10 Mar Underway replenishment with USNS PATUXENT (TAO 201)
- 12 Mar Begin official turn-over with USS GUAM (LPH 9)
- 13 Mar Moored NAVSTA Rota, Spain.
- 16 Mar Departed NAVSTA Rota, Spain enroute to Naples, Italy. Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX assumed duties as Commander Joint Task Force 61.
- 19 Mar Arrived Naples, Italy. Commander Sixth Fleet, Admiral Lopez arrived. Hosted Naples Orphanage for lunch.
- 21 Mar Stars & Stripes, the Armed Forces Network Europe, NAVEUR Magazine and Air Force News embarked. Departed Naples, Italy, enroute for the Adriatic area of operations.
- 22 Mar Embarked Commander SIX Fleet Public Affairs Office augmentees.
- 24 Mar Arrived in Adriatic area of operation. Commenced Operation Dynamic Response. Sir J. MacKenzie, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, European Forces, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Commander SIX Fleet, and more than 100 foreign local press embarked for landing force demonstration, press conference and luncheon.
- 25 Mar Debarked 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit.

April 1998

- 04 Apr DVs arrived.
- 05 Apr Embarked BGEN Dorlink.
- 06 Apr Embarked Congressional Delegation for an official visit. 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit on load commenced. Departed Adriatic enroute to Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 07 Apr WASP won the Secretary of the Navy's 1997 Environmental Award for Environmental Quality, large ship.
- 08 Apr Steel Beach Picnic.
- 09 Apr Anchor Thessaloniki, Greece.

10 Apr Embarked American Consulate Staff, media and local government officials, including the Mayor of Thessaloniki.

11 Apr Conducted tours for local opinion leaders and War College students.

13 Apr Departed Greece enroute to Ismir, Turkey.

14 Apr Arrived Ismir, Turkey.

15 Apr Conduct tours for local American school children and military members.

17 Apr Departed Ismir, Turkey enroute to Malta.

18 Apr Received distress call from Sea-Land Mariner, 50 miles from Crete.

19 Apr Arrived at scene of Sea-Land Mariner. Commenced Search and Rescue operations.

20 Apr Departed scene of Sea-Land Mariner rescue operations. Continue enroute to Malta.

26 Apr United States Ambassador to the Malta arrives, with Commander SIX Fleet Public Affairs Office augmentees and local media.

27 Apr Arrived Malta. Moored Grand Harbour. Commander SIX Fleet Band arrived.

28 Apr President of Malta and U.S. Ambassador to Malta arrived for reception onboard.

29 Apr VIP and Public tours conducted throughout the day. Ambassador returned for tour and dinner with children from local orphanage.

May 1998

01 May Public and VIP tours conducted.

05 May Admiral Natter arrived. Stars & Stripes reporter embarked.

07 May Admiral Natter departed. NATO exercise DESTINED GLORY '98 commenced.

13 May Back load 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit.

21 May Moored NAVSTA Rota, Spain. Took on stores.

23 May Departed NAVSTA Rota, Spain enroute Rhodes, Greece

24 May Steel Beach Picnic.

27 May Underway replenishment with USS Merrimack (AO 179).

28 May Arrived Rhodes, Greece, at anchor. NATO exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT commenced.

30 May Orphanage lunch.

June 1998

01 Jun CORTRAMID 1-98 (Midshipmen summer training program) commenced.

03 Jun United States Ambassador to Greece (Burns) arrived.

?? Jun Departed Rhodes, Greece enroute to Antalya, Turkey.

08 Jun Arrived Antalya, Turkey, at anchor.

09 Jun Conducted tour for representatives of AT&T.

12 Jun Sortie from Antalya, Turkey, enroute to Adriatic.

14 Jun Arrived in Adriatic. Embark media for coverage of Determined Falcon.

15 Jun Commenced Determined Falcon. Live television coverage provided to newscasts worldwide.  
?? Jun Departed Adriatic enroute to Corfu, Greece.  
15 Jun Conducted Safety Stand-down for All Hands.  
23 Jun Arrived Corfu, Greece, at anchor.  
27 Jun Departed Corfu, Greece enroute to Catania, Sicily, Italy. Embarked second group of Midshipmen.

#### July 1998

01 Jul Moored Catania, Sicily, Italy.  
02 Jul Local press and government officials embarked for tour.  
03 Jul Local press embarked for tour.  
05 Jul Departed Catania, Sicily, Italy enroute to Rota, Spain.  
09 Jul Arrived NAVSTA Rota, Spain. Commenced washdown.  
14 Jul Conducted turnover with USS SAIPAN (LHA-2).  
15 Jul Departed NAVSTA Rota, Spain enroute Morehead City, N.C.  
17-18 Jul Safety Stand-down for All Hands.  
19 Jul Steel Beach picnic.  
20 Jul Representatives from the Navy Family Service Center arrived for briefings.  
25 Jul Arrived Onslow Bay, NC. Anchored Onslow Bay, NC. For debarkation of 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit.  
26 Jul Commander Amphibious Group TWO, Admiral Holder embarked.  
27 Jul Tigers arrived from NAVSTA Norfolk, Va. On load Tigers.  
Upon completion, departed enroute to NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.  
28 Jul Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA, moored. COMPHIBRON SIX debarks. Begin leave and upkeep period in preparation for INSERV.  
First Marine from 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit diagnosed with Tuberculosis.

#### August 1998

01 Aug Moored NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. Conducted leave and upkeep period.  
Aug Media coverage of Tuberculosis cases onboard WASP.  
10 Aug Commenced Flight Deck resurfacing.  
25 Aug Commander SECOND Fleet Sorties WASP underway for Hurricane Bonnie.  
29 Aug Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. Moored pier 21.

#### September 1998

01 Sep Moored NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.  
02 Sep Commander Amphibious Group TWO embarked.  
03 Sep Visited by Commanding Officer, HMS Ocean.  
04 Sep Visited by Admiral Ruble, Director Logistics/Fleet Supply Officer U.S. Atlantic Fleet.  
09 Sep Underway PCO Course embarked.  
10 Sep Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.

15 Sep Underway INSERTV practice.  
16 Sep Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.  
17 Sep WASP won first place during Surface Warfare Training Week (SWTW) 2-98.  
22 Sep Surgeon General visited.  
23 Sep Marine Embarkation Course began.  
24 Sep Office of the Secretary of Defense, Senior Executive Service Course visited.  
25 Sep Marine Embarkation Course departed.  
28 Sep Office of the Secretary of Defense visited.  
29 Sep Admiral Moss visited.

#### October 1998

01 Oct Moored NAVSTA Norfolk, VA.  
07 Oct Underway for INSERTV.  
08 Oct Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. Moored starboard side.  
13 Oct WASP hosts Norfolk Fleet Week Navy League Luncheon. PXO arrived.  
16 Oct Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX Change of Command. PCO departs for the major command course in Newport, Rhode Island.  
CDR E. S. Yerger assumed the duty as Executive Officer.  
19 Oct Underway for Ammunition Off load in Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J. Embarked Navy League members.  
20 Oct Arrived Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J.  
23 Oct Departed Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J. enroute to Staten Island, N.Y. Embarked veterans groups for transit through N.Y. Harbor.  
24-25 Oct Conducted public tours while moored to The Sullivans pier at NAVSTA Staten Island.  
26 Oct Departed NAVSTA Staten Island enroute to Norfolk, VA.  
27 Oct Arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, Va, moored port side.

#### November 1998

01 Nov Moored port side to Pier 5 South, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.  
10 Nov Commander Amphibious Group TWO embarked.  
17 Nov Senior Executive Level Tour and luncheon.  
20 Nov Semi-annual Quality of Life Inspection. WASP won third Quarter award Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter.  
23-24 Nov Safety Stand-down for All Hands.

#### December 1998

Dec Hosted Dr. Cori Dauber, Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).  
15 Dec Moored port side to Pier 5 South, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.  
18 Dec Commenced holiday leave and upkeep period.  
31 Dec Completed the year moored to Pier 5S, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.



## NARRATIVE

WASP commenced 1998 moored at Naval Station Norfolk preparing for her upcoming Mediterranean Deployment. Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX embarked and WASP was underway on 12 January. The ship proceeded to Onslow Bay and New River, off the coast of North Carolina to onload the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit for Joint Task Force Exercise 98-1, which included ships of the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Battle Group. The onload operations included Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 and Landing Craft Air Cushioned from Assault Craft Unit Four. Additionally, WASP conducted numerous Engineering Casualty Control and Damage Control exercises to prepare for the upcoming deployment. Upon completion of Amphibious training, WASP conducted refueling operations with USNS PAXTUXENT (TAO-201), then proceeded to the Virginia Capes operating area to complete final, extensive preparations for the Propulsion Examination. Additionally, WASP conducted an amphibious rehearsal at Vieques Island in the Southern Puerto Rican area, and the 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived on board. WASP continued on to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. On 23 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. The Examiners' commented that it was the best efforts they had seen for this size ship. On 31 January, WASP arrived in Onslow Bay, NC operating area. Rear Admiral Pawson, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWELVE and Maj Gen. Nyland, USMC visited WASP.

February began with WASP operating off the coast of Onslow, N.C. en route to Modloc for Special Operations Capable Exercise. WASP offloaded 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) and departed the Onslow Bay operating area en route Norfolk, VA. Upon arrival, WASP moored Pier 11, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA with Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX embarked. In mid-February, a television crew, WJLA, of Washington, DC arrived on board WASP for pre-deployment coverage of the amphibious assault ship mission. Commander Second Fleet, Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and Commander Amphibious Group TWO visited WASP. On 21 February, the Honorable Charles Robb, Congressman from Virginia visited WASP. At the end of February, WASP departed for deployment, en route to Moorhead City, NC. Upon arrival in Moorhead City, NC, WASP embarked 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC).

On 01 March, WASP departed the Onslow Bay operating area, en route Rota, Spain. During the first week of the deployment, WASP conducted a burial at sea and a Safety Stand-down for all hands. At the beginning of the second week, WASP conducted underway replenishment with USNS PATUXENT (T-AO 201) and began official turnover with USS GUAM (LHD-9). On 13 March, WASP moored NAVSTA Rota, Spain, Pier 1. Three days later, WASP departed NAVSTA Rota, Spain en route Naples, Italy and Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX assumed duties as Commander, Joint Task Force 61.

In mid-March, WASP arrived Naples, Italy and VADM Lopez, Commander, Sixth Fleet embarked. While in Naples, Italy, WASP hosted a Naples Orphanage for lunch March 19-20. Media, Stars and Stripes, the Armed Forces Network Europe, NAVEUR Magazine and Air Force News embarked. WASP departed Naples, Italy en route for the Adriatic area of operations. At the end of March, WASP arrived in Adriatic area of operation for the start of Operation Dynamic Response. General, Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, European Forces, Vice Admiral Lopez, Commander Sixth Fleet, and more than 100 foreign local press embarked for landing force demonstration, press conference and luncheon. Debarked 26 MEU debarked for the Operation Dynamic Response.

April began with distinguished visitors arriving on board USS WASP, including BGEN Dorlink and a Congressional Delegation consisting of the Honorable Bob Riley, (R-AL), the Honorable Bob Etheridge, (D-NC), and the Honorable Ernest Istook, (R-OK) for an official visit. Commenced 26 MEU on load. WASP departed for the Adriatic, en route to Thessaloniki, Greece. On 07 April, WASP won the Secretary of the Navy's 1997 Environmental Award for Environmental Quality, Large Ship category. WASP held a Steel Beach picnic for the crew in celebration. On 09 April, WASP anchored at Thessaloniki, Greece, embarking the American Consulate Staff, media and local government officials, including the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Greece. During the port visit, WASP conducted tours for local opinion leaders and War College students. On 13 April, WASP departed Greece en route to Ismir, Turkey. Upon arrival in Ismir, Turkey, WASP conducted tours for local American school children and military members of the community. WASP then departed Ismir, Turkey and headed for Malta. On 18 April, WASP received a distress call from civilian ship Sea-Land Mariner, 50 miles from Crete. Arriving on-scene the next day, WASP assessed the ship was dead in the water with two crewman injured and another two dead. WASP launched nearly a dozen search and rescue operations to help the injured mariners WASP at sea fire party helped fight and contain the fire on board the Sea-Land Mariner. On 20 April, after assessing rescue and fire-fighting operations were under control, WASP departed the scene of Sea-Land Mariner rescue operations and continued on to Malta. On 26 April, the U.S. Ambassador to Malta, Katheryn Proffitt arrived on board WASP, with Commander Six Fleet Public Affairs Officer augmentees and local media. The next day, WASP made a historic "return" to Malta, 56 years after its namesake, USS WASP (CV-7) helped liberated the island nation during World War II, and is moored at the Grand Harbour. Commander Six Fleet Band arrived on board. On 28 April, the President of Malta, Ugo Misfsud Bonnic and the U.S. Ambassador to Malta arrived for the reception held on board. April finished out with WASP conducting VIP and public tours throughout the day. The U.S. Ambassador returned for dinner and a tour with children from a local orphanage.

On 01 May, more VIP and public tours were conducted on board WASP. On 05 May, WASP hosted Admiral Natter, for a two day stay. Stars & Stripes reporter embarked. WASP began NATO exercise DESTINED GLORY '98 conducted with nine NATO nations including Greece, Turkey, Germany, Britain, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Morocco, and Spain. In mid-May, backload of 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) commenced. On 21 May, WASP is moored NAVSTA Rota, Spain, for a few days while taking on stores and then departed en route Rhodes, Greece. On 24 May, WASP held a steel beach picnic. At the end of May, WASP had an underway replenishment with USS MERRIMACK (AO 179). Later that day, WASP arrived in Rhodes, Greece, anchored out and began NATO sponsored exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT which was conducted with nine NATO nations including Greece, Turkey, Germany, Britain, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Morocco, and Spain. On the last day of May, WASP hosted a local orphanage for lunch.

On 01 June, WASP commenced CORTRAMID 1-98, the Midshipmen summer training program. The United States Ambassador to Greece, Ambassador Burns arrived. After a short visit, WASP departed Rhodes, Greece en route to Antalya, Turkey. On 08 June, WASP anchored out Antalya, Turkey. While in Antalya, Turkey, WASP conducted a tour for representatives of AT&T. On 12 June, WASP sortied from Antalya, Turkey, en route to the Adriatic a day earlier than expected. Two days later, WASP arrived in the Adriatic. Media embarked for coverage of DETERMINED FALCON. Mid-June, DETERMINED FALCON, a NATO led exercise, united in its commitment to seek a cease-fire and end to hostilities in Kosovo began. Live television coverage provided to newscasts worldwide. In addition to participating in the NATO exercise, WASP held a safety stand down for all hands. At the completion of the exercise, WASP departed the Adriatic en route to Corfu, Greece. Towards the end of June, WASP arrived in Corfu, Greece at anchor. After a short stay, WASP departed Corfu, Greece, en route to Catania, Sicily, Italy, where the second group of midshipmen embarked.

July started off with WASP moored Catania, Sicily, Italy. On 02 July, local press and government officials embarked WASP for a tour. On 05 July, WASP departed Catania, Sicily, Italy, en route to Rota, Spain. Upon arrival at Naval Station Rota, Spain, WASP commenced wash-down. On 14 July, WASP conducted turnover with USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) and departed Rota, Spain en route to Moorhead City, NC. In mid-July, WASP held a safety stand down for all hands followed by a steel beach picnic. On 20 July, representatives from the Navy Family Service Center arrived for end of deployment briefings. On 25 July, WASP arrived Onslow Bay, NC, debarking 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). On 26 July, Commander Amphibious Group TWO, Admiral Holder embarked. On 27 July, Tigers arrived from Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Upon completion of Tiger embarkation, WASP

departed for Naval Station Norfolk, VA. On 28 July, WASP arrived NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX debarked. Leave and upkeep period began in preparation for INSERV. The first Marine from 26 Marine Expeditionary Unit diagnosed with Tuberculosis.

On 01 August, WASP is moored NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA, and leave and upkeep period began. Media coverage of Tuberculosis cases on board WASP began. On 10 August, WASP began flight deck resurfacing. At the end of August, COMSECONDFLT sortied WASP underway during Hurricane Bonnie. Upon the passing of Hurricane Bonnie, WASP arrived back at NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA, moored pier 21.

At the start of September, WASP is moored NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA. Commander Amphibious Group TWO embarked. During the first week of September, HMS Ocean Commanding Officer and Rear Admiral David R. Ruble, Director, Logistics/Fleet Supply Officer, U.S. Atlantic Fleet visited the WASP. On 09 September, WASP underway with PCO Course embarked, returning to homeport the next day. On 15 September, WASP underway for INSERV. During mid-September, WASP won first place during Surface Warfare Training Week (SWTW) 2-98. Towards the end of September, the Surgeon General visited WASP. The Marine Embarkation Course began. Office of the Secretary of Defense, Senior Executive Service Course and Admiral Moss visited the WASP.

On 01 October, WASP was moored NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA. On 07 October, WASP underway for INSERV, mooring starboard side, NAVSTA, Norfolk, VA the following day. On 13 October, WASP hosted Norfolk Fleet Week Navy League Luncheon. PXO, CDR E. S. Yerger arrived on board. On 16 October, Commander Amphibious Squadron SIX held its Change of Command. PCO, Captain H. G. Story, departed for the major command course in Newport Rhode Island. CDR E. S. Yerger assumed the duty as Executive Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1). On 19 October, WASP underway for ammunition offload in Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ with Navy League members embarked. On 20 October, WASP arrived at Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ. Ammunition offload conducted. At the completion of the ammunition offload, WASP departed Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ en route to Staten Island, NY with embarked veterans groups for transit through New York Harbor. On 24-25 October, WASP conducted public tours while moored to The Sullivans pier at NAVSTA Staten Island. On 26 October, WASP departed NAVSTA Staten Island en route to Norfolk, VA.

November started with WASP moored port side to Pier 5 South, Naval Station Norfolk, VA. On 10 November, Commander Amphibious Group TWO embarked. During mid-November, WASP conducted a Senior Executive Level tour and luncheon. On 20 November, WASP held semi-annual Quality of Life Inspection and won third quarter award, Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter. This award goes to naval vessels that show a high level of resourcefulness, innovative cost-savings and overall contributions to force