



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD-1)
FPO AE 09556-1660

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IN REPLY TO:

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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), 1999 (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 1999 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

Commander, Amphibious Group TWO
Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

Operational

Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight

3. Commanding Officer

CAPT T. J. Anderson, USN (01 Jan 99 - 08 Jan 99)
CAPT H. G. Story, USN (08 Jan 99 - 31 Dec 99)

4. Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments

Commander, Amphibious Group Two
Commander, Amphibious Striking Force
Rear Admiral G. S. Holder (01 Jan 99 - 05 Feb 99)
Rear Admiral W. G. Sutton (05 Feb 99 - 31 Dec 99)
Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight
Captain R. H. Enderly (01 Jan 99 - 28 Oct 99)
Captain J. A. Read (28 Oct 99 - 31 Dec 99)
Commander, 24 Marine Expeditionary Unit
Colonel R. T. Tryon
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron
Assault Craft Unit FOUR Detachment BRAVO Two
LCAC 71
LCAC 60
LCAC 39

5. Homeport - Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

JAN	Change of Command, PMA-NNSY
FEB	PMA-NNSY
MAR	PMA-NNSY, LOA
APR	CART II/Sea Trials
MAY	E-Qual, FLEET WEEK NYC
JUN	TCAT, AVCERT

Encl (1)

JUL	LTT
AUG	TSTA I, II, III, MISSILEX, FEP, AMMO onload
OCT	PMINT
NOV	CSRR
DEC	MEUEX, JTFEX, SACEX/SOCEX

6. AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS - WASP has won Two Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, one Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Two SECNAV Environmental Quality and Environmental Safety Awards, Two Tycom Safety Awards and one SECNAV Safety Award, the 1998 Allen G. Ogden award and was the Flagship during Fleet Week 99.

CY 98	Battle Efficiency "E" Award
FY 98	Maritime Warfare Excellence, black "E" Award
FY 98	Engineering Survivability Excellence, red "E" Award
FY 98	Command and Control Excellence, green "E" Award
FY 98	Logistics Management Excellence, blue "E" Award
FY 98	Health and Wellness Excellence, green "H" Award
FY 98	CNO Safety Award
FY 98	TYCOM Safety Award
FY 98	Marjorie Sterritt Battleship Fund Award
FY 98	SECNAV Environmental Quality Award
FY 98	CNO Environmental Quality Award
	Runner up for the Allen Ogden Crash and Savage Award
	Runner up for the Edward F. Ney Food Service Award

CHRONOLOGY

January 1999

01 Jan Moored to Pier 5, Berth 2 North, Naval Station Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep.
08 Jan Change of Command ceremony held onboard. Capt. Hugh G. Story relieves Capt. Thomas J. Anderson
11 Jan Dead stick move to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Pier 8 Berth 2, starboard side. Commenced tropical hours.
19 Jan Capt. Story held first Captain's Call, for E1 to E3 personnel in the Hangar Bay.
22 Jan Ships company moved to berthing barge.
Jan Received word on NEY runner-up selection

February 1999

11 Feb Began weekly Light off training.
12 Feb Began weekly General Quarters training.
28 Feb WASP won second Battle Battle "E" award. WASP received the TYCOM Safety Award.

March 1999

01 Mar Capt. Story designates Process Action Team (PAT) to determine feasibility of increasing WASP duty sections to more than six.
13 Mar Three Norfolk Naval Shipyard workers sustain injuries from steam valve leak.
14 Mar One worker dies of injuries sustained in steam valve leak.
19 Mar Weekly General Quarters drills end.
23 Mar Galley reopens with cake cutting ceremony. Light off assessment (LOA) begins.
25 Mar LOA ends.
26 Mar Fast Cruise.
30 Mar Tropical hours end.
31 Mar Returned to normal working hours.

April 1999

02 Apr Fast Cruise.

05 Apr Fast Cruise continued.
 07 Apr Admiral W. G. Sutton, COMPHIBGRU TWO visited.
 08 Apr Light off.
 12 Apr Yards finished. Underway to Norfolk Naval Station,
 moored to Pier 7 North, Berth 5, starboard side.
 13 Apr Ship Store held grand reopening.
 15 Apr Light off.
 16 Apr Commenced nine-section duty.
 18 Apr WNET-TV Channel 13, (PBS-NYC) arrived onboard for
 underway coverage of USS WASP for Memorial Day special.
 19 Apr Underway. Passed E Qualls. News team commenced in depth
 interviews with Capt. Story, and HTFN [REDACTED]
 23 Apr Arrived Mayport, Fla, moored in berth C-2-1, starboard
 side. WNET news team departed.
 26 Apr Underway. CART II/Sea Trials.
 28 Apr CART II/Sea Trials end.
 30 Apr Arrived Norfolk Naval Station, moored Pier 7 North,
 Berth 5, starboard side.

May 1999

03 May Non-skid replacement began on vehicle decks.
 05 May Supply Admiral tour. Hungarian Major General Dobo tour.
 11 May Engineering Qualification completed.
 14 May Office of Information tour.
 15 May COMPHIBRON EIGHT embarked. COMSECONDFLT debark.
 17 May Supply Foreign officers tour and lunch. Navy Marine
 Corps News Team embarks.
 18 May Underway en route Onslow Bay, NC.
 19 May Arrived Onslow Bay, NC, commenced SPMAGTF onload.
 20 May Departed Onslow Bay, NC, underway en route New York.
 21 May Risely Pier, 46 Naval Sea Cadets arrived via LCU.
 Embark 40 BEACHGRU TWO personnel.
 22 May COMPHIBGRU TWO Public Affairs Reservist Augmentation
 team arrived for Fleet Week support. Arrival of 150 day
 riders. Forty-one USMC Recruiting Station New York
 Delayed Entry Program Pax arrived via LCU. Two PAX from
 NYPD arrived. Embarked 6 pax from NRD New York via
 helo. Embarked ten COMPHIBGRU TWO personnel via Helo,
 embarked 3 personnel from the US Merchant Marine
 Academy via helo, embarked 19 personnel from the Navy
 Jr. Cadet Academy via helo.
 25 May Intrepid Museum visitors arrived. CPG-2 and
 DEPMARFORLANT arrived via helo. IMF DVs arrived.
 26 May 12th annual FLEET WEEK. Parade of Ships commenced.
 Underway, arrived NYC. Approximately, 40

Media PAX embark, including ABC-NY, WNET-TV. Day riding DV's arrived. MajGen Richard, DEPMARFORLANT, RADM Sutton, COMPHIBGRU TWO departed. Forty-six Sea Cadets departed. Forty-one USMC Recruiting Station New York Delayed Entry Program Pax departed. Two PAX from NYPD departed.

- 27 May "Good Day New York" Live morning show (Local NY) from Flight Deck. Navy Recruiting Command spot series debuted in Hanger Bay. Spike Lee arrived and met with Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Jerry Hultin and RADM William G. Sutton, Amphibious Group Two, DVs and Military dignitaries arrived (RADM Barbara E. McGann, COMNAVCRUITCOM & MGEN Richard). WASP Sailors appear on David Letterman show. BM1 [REDACTED] piped. COMREL project- Jewish Hospital and Home.
- 28 May Live morning show, Fox and Friends, from Flight Deck. General ship visitation. COMREL project (Holy Cross Church and School & Covenant House (troubled youth)) General ship visitation.
- 29 May During Fleet Week, Reenlistment of seven Sailors onboard USS INTREPID Museum. Various activities (5k runs, Seamanship Olympics, skydiving demo, SAR demo, USA Old Guard Performance, Crew parties, receptions, tour, shows, ball games parades). WASP won the Elizabeth Fisher Cup for overall outstanding performance for athletics, seamanship and extra curricular activities.
- 30 May Sunset Parade on Flight Deck. CINCLANTFLT, Adm J. Paul Reason, interviewed on the bridge. General ship visitation. WNET Live shot from WASP.
- 31 May WNET-TV aired 2 hour Memorial Day special featuring 45 minutes of WASP packages. Aired across the United States by PBS affiliates and around the world by the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. LCAC evolution with MTV. General ship visitation.

June 1999

- 01 Jun General ship visitation.
- 02 Jun Fleet Week ends, depart NYC. Underway enroute Onslow Bay, NC.
- 04 Jun Anchored Onslow Bay, NC. Offload SPMAGTF. CPR-8 Debark. Underway enroute Norfolk, VA.
- 05 Jun Moored Naval Station Norfolk, B Pier 7N.
- 09 Jun Ninety members of the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff Course (JSCSC) embarked for a tour for general orientation..

10 Jun Elementary School tour of 40-45 students from the Point of View School. Tour of ship and lunch onboard. Supply Corp Officer School visit.

13 Jun Embarked three Ukrainian Naval Officers for amphibious training. Focus of effort was to provide UKN naval officers observation of planning and preparation involved in embarking a landing force.

15 Jun Underway - Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) - Onslow Bay, NC. AVCERT with ATG.

16 Jun Ukranian Officers departed.

18 Jun Certification of LMA.

24 Jun Return to homeport. TCAT completed.

28 Jun LMA/CSTG LTT.

29 Jun Tour for 20 Coca-Cola executives and their children, guest of RADM Andrew Granuzzo, Dir, Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division (OPNAV N45). General orientation.
WASP cycling team raised over \$1600.00 for the Tour de Cure, American Diabetes Association.

July 1999

02 Jul LMA/CSTG LTT completed.

06 Jul LTT in port Norfolk. NALCOMIS Assist visit. Thirty-three Sea Cadets visited.

08 Jul Ed Hughes, Channel 3 onboard to do a story on WASP environmental capabilities.

12 Jul Twenty Delayed Entry Personnel and Recruiters visit.

13 Jul Hosted the CINCLANTFLT Senior Naval Reserve Officer Orientation Course. (2 ADM's & 22 CAPTS) tour and lunch

16 Jul Three Fortune 500 CEO's and escorts visit at the invitation of SECNAV.

19 Jul WASP hosted 21 members of the German Armed Forces University.

21 Jul Forty Employers of Guard and Reserve Personnel visit.

23 Jul LTT ends.

26 Jul Underway for TSTA II/ATG Training.

28 Jul WASP conducted five burials at sea.

29 JUL WASP celebrates 10th year anniversary. Former crew members of CV-18 in attendance.

Jul Replaced AS-3506 VHF/UHF antenna.

August 1999

02 Aug Underway for TSTA I, II, III.

03 Aug WASP conducted five burials at sea.

7-8 Aug Port visit - Roosevelt Roads, PR.

09 Aug MISSILEX - Puerto Rico OPAREA.

14 Aug FEP began.
 15 Aug TSSE (SAT) MEDEVAC Flight.
 16 Aug TSTA and FEP completed.
 20-26 Aug Port visit- Earle, NJ.
 23 Aug Ammo Onload commenced.
 26 Aug Ammo Onload finished.
 27 Aug Arrived Naval Base Norfolk, VA. pier 5, berth 5, port side. Captain R. Enderly, COMPHIBRON EIGHT, broke his pennant on WASP. WASP won 1998 Atlantic Fleet Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award.
 28 Aug Media coverage of TB cases onboard WASP.
 30 Aug NEO exercise.

September

07 Sep RADM Sutton. COMPHIBGRU TWO, broke his flag on USS WASP.
 08 Sep WASP hosted members of the Australian Department of Defense.
 24 Sep Twenty-four members of the Secretary of Defense Senior Executive Service (SES) grade civilians and 4 staff members visit.
 27 Sep Combat Cargo begins prehabilitation inspection. AN/SLQ-32 passed the ULM range.

October 1999

06 Oct WASP hosted nine members of the German Leadership Education Center.
 13 Oct WASP held hangar bay buffet for crew.
 14 Oct PMINT commenced. RADM W. G. Sutton, USN, COMPHIBGRU TWO hauled down his flag.
 15 Oct WASP held SHOTEX.
 17 Oct Returned from PMINT, VACAPES AOR, due to Hurricane Irene, moored Pier 5.
 18 Oct Returned to sea to continue PMINT.
 21 Oct PMINT concluded.
 22 Oct WASP moored, Naval Station Norfolk, VA, Pier 7, Berth 6, starboard side.
 27 Oct Brig re-certification.
 28 Oct Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight's Change of Command. Captain John A. Read, USN, relieved Captain Richard H. Enderly.

November 1999

- 01 Nov WASP visited by twelve students participating in the Naval Intelligence Officer Senior Course (NIOSC).
- 03 Nov WASP hosted three general officers (08) and 90 students, support staff, and interpreters from the Inter-American Defense College.
- 05 Nov Hosted Ms Ulla Gudmundson, Former Deputy Chief of Mission at the Swedish Delegation to Belgium.
- 08 Nov CSRR starts.
- 15 Nov CRC results: final grade of 99.45 received.
- 16 Nov Hosted 32 Members of the Defense Committee of the Assembly of the Western European Union.
- 19 Nov CSRR completed. Visited by a video project team producing a video on retention.
- 30 Nov MEUEX, JTFEX, SACEX/SOCEX - Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 00-1.

December 1999

- 01 Dec WASP arrived vicinity of Onslow Bay training area to begin on-load.
- 10 Dec 14 members of international, national, and local media. Media onboard for MEUEX/JTFEX 00-1.
- 11 Dec Media depart by LCAC to Camp Lejune for SOCEX coverage.
- 13 Dec VADM Fallon and staff onboard for JTFEX for day.
- 16 Dec MEUEX, JTFEX, SACEX/SOCEX concluded.

NARRATIVE

January

The Navy's "greatest warship" began 1999 moored to Pier 5, Berth 2 North, Naval Station Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep. On January 8, WASP held its Change of Command ceremony onboard. Captain Hugh G. Story relieved Captain Thomas J. Anderson, as the ninth Commanding Officer of USS WASP (LHD 1). On January 11, WASP completed a dead stick move to Norfolk Naval Shipyard for Ship's Restricted Availability, moored to Pier 8, Berth 2, starboard side and tropical hours began. Ships' company moved to a berthing barge. While in the yards, WASP reconstructed its cold storage, refrigeration facilities and some berthing areas. Engineering projects completed; removal and repair of more than 40 fire main valves, a total chemical flush of WASP's Collection, Holding and Transfer (CHT) system and the overhaul of all nine salt water flushing reduction stations' relief and reducing values. Quality of life projects included installation of polyurethane deck covering compound throughout the main deck general mess decks and adjoining passageways. Capt. Story held his first Captain's Call for E1-E3 personnel in the Hangar Bay. The end of January brought news that WASP was selected as a runner-up for the Edward F. NEY Food Service Award.

February

In February, WASP held weekly Light Offs and General Quarters training. At the end of February, WASP was notified that it had received its second prestigious Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") award for the 1998 calendar award cycle. WASP also received the TYCOM Safety Award in the Large Afloat category. Ship's Restricted Availability continued.

March

In March, Capt. Story designating a Process Action Team (PAT) to determine feasibility of WASP increasing duty sections to more than six, an initiative of the IDTC reductions mandated by the CNO. On March 13, three Norfolk Naval Shipyard workers sustained injuries from a steam valve leak. The following day, one of the workers died from the injuries sustained. On 19 March, weekly GQ drills ended. WASP's galley reopened with a cake cutting ceremony and Light Off Assessment (LOA) began. On 25 March, LOA was completed. The next day, WASP tropical hours ended with working hours returning to normal.

April

WASP began the first week of April with a Fast Cruise. On 07 April, Rear Admiral Sutton, COMPHIBGRU TWO embarked. WASP Light Off on 08 April. On 12 April, yard work on WASP was completed. WASP underway to Norfolk Naval Station, VA, moored Pier 7 North, Berth 5, starboard side. The next day, WASP's Ship Store held its Grand Reopening. On 15 April, WASP light Off, but remained in six-section duty. The following week, WASP went to nine-section duty, greatly enhancing the quality of life of the crew. Halfway through April WNET-TV Channel 13, (PBS-NYC) arrived onboard for underway coverage of USS WASP for their Memorial Day special. In-depth interviews with Capt. Story and HTFN [REDACTED] were conducted. WASP held a promotion ceremony for one of its four permanently assigned Marines, Master Sergeant [REDACTED], Combat Cargo Department's leading non-commissioned officer in charge. She became the first female Marine to be promoted to that rank while onboard a large deck amphib. On 19 April, WASP was underway for sea trials and a shake down cruise. During this time, WASP passed Engineering Qualifications (E QUAL) with less than 10 days to prepare. This qualification was completed seven weeks ahead of schedule, negating the ship having to get underway to demonstrate the underway drill phase resulting in a fuel savings of \$400,000. On 23 April, WASP arrived Mayport, Fla. and WNET new team departed. On 26 April, WASP conducted CART II/Sea Trials, which end on 28 April. WASP concluded the month of April moored Pier 7 North, Berth 5, Norfolk Naval Station, Va.

May

May was an extremely busy month for WASP, starting with the replacement of the non-skid in the Well Deck. On 05 May, WASP hosted Hungarian Major General Dobo. On 11 May, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO granted a waiver for USS WASP Engineering Qualification underway demonstration, based on superior performance demonstrated by watch teams and the Engineering Training Team. Also during May, [REDACTED] was baptized on WASP in the Foc'sle and his name was engraved on the ship's bell. During mid-May, Mr. Dan Porter (SES-6), Department of the Navy's Chief Information Officer (DON CIO), visited WASP to get a first hand look at information technology as it currently exists in the fleet. COMPHIBRON EIGHT embarked and COMSECONDFLT debarked. On 17 May, WASP hosted a group of foreign

Supply Officers for a tour and lunch. A Navy and Marine Corps news team embarked. The next day, WASP is underway en route Onslow Bay, NC, for onload of SPMAGTF. On 20 April, upon completion of SPMAGTF onload, WASP was underway en route New York City to participate in Fleet Week 1999. On 21 May, 46 Naval Sea Cadets arrived onboard via LCU, and 40 BEACHGRU TWO personnel embarked. May 22 was a very busy day for WASP. It began with the arrival of COMPHIBGRU TWO Public Affairs' Reservist Augmentation team onboard for Fleet Week support. One hundred fifty day-riders, 41 USMC Recruiting Station New York Delayed Entry Program members and two members of the New York Police Department arrived WASP by LCU. Embarked onboard WASP by helo included 19 members of the Navy Jr. Cadet Academy, three members of the US Merchant Marine Academy, ten personnel from COMPHIBGRU TWO and six personnel from NRD New York. On 25 May, visitors from Intrepid Museum arrived onboard. RADM Sutton, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO and Major General Richard, Deputy, Marine Force Atlantic (DEPMARFORLAN) arrived via helo. IMF distinguished visitors arrived onboard. On 26 May, the Parade of Ships commenced for arrival into New York City to begin the 12th annual Fleet Week. Media embark, including television stations ABC-NY and WNET-TV for the ride into New York Harbor. COMPHIBGRU TWO and DEPMARFORLANT, Sea Cadets, USMC Delayed Entry Program members and the New York Police Department officers departed. The next day, a local television station holds its morning show, "Good Day New York", live on the Flight Deck. Director, Spike Lee, arrived to debut his Navy Recruiting Command series of recruit commercials. Spike Lee met with the Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Jerry Hultin, RADM William G. Sutton, Amphibious Group T, RADM Barbara E. McGann, Commander, Naval Recruit Command and Major General Richard, Deputy, Marine Force Atlantic. A COMREL project was completed for the Jewish Hospital and Home. On the evening of 27 May, Sailors were invited to the David Letterman show to participate in a skit, with BM1(SW) [REDACTED] piping live on the show. On 28 May, another morning show, "Fox and Friends" was shown live from the Flight Deck. General ship visitation commenced. A second COMREL project for Holy Cross Church and Covenant School, for school for troubled youths was completed. The reenlistment of seven Sailors took place on 29 May onboard USS INTREPID Museum. General ship visitation tours continued. WASP participated in various activities including, the Seamanship Olympics, 5K runs, Search and Rescue demonstrations, NY shows, baseball games, parades, crew parties, receptions, and tours. WASP won the Elizabeth Fisher Cup for the Seamanship Olympics for overall outstanding performance for athletics, seamanship and

extra curricular activities. On 30 May, general ship visitation continued and WNET-TV did a live shot from WASP. The Sunset Parade was held on the Flight Deck and Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, Admiral J. Paul Reason was interviewed on the bridge. On 31 May, WNET-TV aired a two-hour Memorial Day special across the United States by PBS affiliates and around the world by the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services featuring 45 minutes of WASP packages. ACU-4 brought MTV onboard for LCAC evolutions. General ship visitation continued. CWO4 [REDACTED], USMC, new Combat Cargo Officer arrived.

June

June began with WASP still in New York for Fleet Week '99. General ship visitation continued. On 02 June, WASP departed NYC, ending Fleet Week '99. WASP went en route Onslow Bay, NC. WASP arrived Onslow Bay, NC, and offload of SPMGTF began. CPR-8 debarked and WASP was underway en route Naval Station Norfolk, Va. 05 June, WASP moored NOB, Pier 7 North. On 09 June, 90 members of the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff Course (JSCSC) embarked for a tour for general orientation of amphibious ships. The next day, WASP hosted an elementary school of 45 students from the Point of View School. The students were given a tour and lunch was served to them on the messdecks. Also on this day, WASP hosted a visit by the Supply Corps Officer School. Mid-month, WASP cycling team raises over \$1600.00 during the Tour de Cure road race, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. WASP embarked by three Ukrainian Naval Officers for three days of amphibious training. The training focused on planning and preparation of embarking a landing force. On 14 June, WASP was underway en route Onslow Bay OPAREA for Type Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) and AVERT/ATG training. On 25 June, WASP returned to homeport with the completion of TCAT. On 28 June, following the recent Logistics Management Assist (LMA) visit, WASP passed her LMA with one less inspection, receiving the highest rates in recent history on the assist. WASP was the first ship in history to forego its Logistics Management Assessment. On 29 WASP hosted a group of Coca-Cola executives and their children, guests of RADM Andrew Granuzzo, Director, Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division (OPNAV N45), for a general shipboard orientation tour.

July

July started with the completion of LMA/CSTG LTT and the replacement of the AS-3506 VHF/UHF antenna by WASP's Operation

Department. On 6 July, WASP hosted NALCOMIS and thirty-three Sea Cadets. On 8 July, Ed Hughes, Channel 3 reporter, conducted a story on WASP environmental capabilities. WASP is the only ship to win the CNO's Afloat Environmental Award twice back to back. On 12 July, WASP hosted 20 Delayed Entry personnel and their recruiters for a shipboard orientation visit. The following day, WASP hosted the CINCLANTFLT Senior Naval Reserve Officer Orientation Course for a tour and lunch. On 16 July, WASP was visited by three Fortune 500 CEO's and their escorts at the invitation of SECNAV. On 19 July, WASP hosted 21 members of the German Armed Forces University for an amphibious assault ship orientation visit. On 21 July, 40 employers of Guard and Reserve personnel visited WASP to get a better understanding of the role guard and reserve personnel serve in national defense. On 23 July, LTT ended. On 26 July, WASP was underway for TSTA II/ATG training. On 28 July, WASP was honored to conduct five burials at sea. (CDR M. C. Galassi, CDR J. R. Bedenbaugh, LCDR F. Guertin, Sr., LT D. S. Myers, YN3 D. E. Little) On 29 July, WASP in port Norfolk, Va., celebrating its 10th anniversary, distinguished guests included former crewmembers of USS WASP (CV-18).

August

WASP began the month of August underway for TSTA I, II, and III. On 3 Aug, WASP conducted another five burials at sea. (QMC R. B. Brant, EN1 D. L. Adkins, AN W. L. Wood, PFC J. S. Szanyi, Mrs. M. A. Tucker, dependent wife). August 7-8, WASP was inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for a port visit. On 9 August, WASP participated in MISSILEX in the Puerto Rico OPAREA. On 14 August, FEP began. A MEDEVAC operation conducted on 15 August with the help of the US Coast Guard. Professionalism and support during the MEDEVAC flight from WASP, ensured the patient was successfully treated at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. On 20 August, WASP was in port Earle, NJ for a port visit and ammunition onload. On 27 August, WASP arrived inport Norfolk Naval Station, pier 5, berth 5 port-side. Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT broke his pennant onboard WASP. WASP selected for the 1998 Atlantic Fleet Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award as the most combat ready ship in the Atlantic Fleet. August concluded with a Non-Combatant Exercise.

September

September begin with WASP in port Norfolk, Va. WASP's AN/SLQ-32 radar successfully passed the ULM range. On 7 September, RADM

Sutton, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, broke his pennant onboard WASP. On 8 September, WASP hosted members of the Australian Department of Defense. Members included the Honorable Mr. Stephen Martin, Shadow Minister for Defense, Australian Government, RADM C.H. Simon Harrington, Head of Australian Defense Staff, and Ms. Adrienne Mary Jackson, Counsellor, Defense Policy, Australian Department of Defense. The purpose of the visit was to give the minister an overall understanding of U.S. Command relationships, the scale of USN air and amphibious operations and their impact on coalition operations. On 24 September, WASP hosted 24 members of the Secretary of Defense Senior Executive Service (SES) grade civilians and their staff members. On 27 September, WASP's Combat Cargo Department began their prehabilitation inspection of Troop spaces in preparation for the upcoming deployment.

October

WASP began October in port Norfolk Naval Station. On 6 October, WASP hosted nine members of the German Leadership Education Center. In appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the WASP crew, the Supply Department held a Hangar Bay buffet. On 14 October, COMPHIBGRU TWO, RADM W. G. Sutton hauled down his flag. WASP got underway for PMINT in the Virginia OPAREA. On 15 Oct, WASP's Medical department conducted SHOTEX. The entire crew was brought in for flu shots and pre-deployment screening. During the 11 hour SHOTEX, a total of 1,048 crewmembers had their records updated. On 17 October, WASP was brought into port due to the threat of Hurricane Irene. On 18 October, with the threat passed, WASP returned to sea to continue PMINT. On 21 October, PMINT concluded and WASP moored, Naval Station Norfolk, Va., pier 7, berth 6, starboard side on 22 October. WASP's brig obtains recertification qualification in preparation of the upcoming deployment. October concluded with Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT Change of Command being held onboard WASP. Captain John A. Read, USN relieved Captain Richard H. Enderly, USN.

November

On 1 November, WASP hosted a ship tour for 12 students participating in the Naval Intelligence Officer Senior Course (NOISC) to familiarize students with the current afloat intelligence systems used in an operational environment. On 3 November, WASP hosted three general officers (O8 equivalent) and 90 students, support staff and interpreters from Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada and the US consisting of military and

civilian personnel from the Inter-American Defense College. On 5 November, WASP hosted Ms. Ulla Gudmundson, Former Deputy Chief of Mission at the Swedish Delegation to Belgium for a ship's orientation visit. On 8 November, CSRR began. On 15 November, WASP received its CRC results and a final grade of 99.45. On 16 November, WASP hosted 32 members (senator/congressman equivalent) of the Defense Committee of the Assembly of the Western European Union. On 19 November, CSRR ended. CDR [REDACTED] and PHC [REDACTED] visited WASP to produce a video on retention in the Navy. November concluded with WASP underway for the start of Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 00-1, which included MEUEX, JTFEX, and SACEX/SOCEX.

December

On 1 December, Wasp arrived in the vicinity of Onslow Bay training area and began the onloading of 24 MEU for JTFEX 00-1. JTFEX 00-1 employs Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps elements in a littoral operational environment. This exercise provided the opportunity for forces of all services to operate in joint exercises, preparing them for future forward-deployed operations. Units involved include the DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER carrier Battle Group, WASP Amphibious Ready Group, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and elements of the Air Force. On 10 December, 14 members of international, national and local media embarked for JTFEX coverage. On 11 December, WASP sends 4 media ashore by Helo and 10 ashore by LCAC for SACEX photo shoot. On 13 December, VADM Fallon, Commander, U.S. SECOND Fleet visited WASP for the day. On 16 December, JTFEX concluded and WASP returned to homeport, Norfolk Naval Station, Va. for leave and stand down during the Christmas season.