



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), 2000 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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

1. Per reference (a), USS WASP (LHD 1) Command History for 2000 has been compiled and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).


R. C. JACKSON

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 Group TWO (8 Aug - 31 Dec 00)
Commander, Amphibious Squadron Eight (1 Jan - 8 Aug 00)
Commander, Second Fleet (1 Jan - 2 Mar 00/26 Jul - 31 Dec 00)
Commander, Sixth Fleet (2 Mar - 26 Jul 00)

3. Commanding Officer

Captain H. G. STORY, USN (1 Jan - 8 Sept 00)
Captain R. C. JACKSON, USN (8 Sept - 31 Dec 00)

4. Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments

Commander, Amphibious Group Two
Commander, Amphibious Striking Force
Rear Admiral W. G. Sutton
(1 Jan - 31 Aug 00)
Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran
(31 Aug - 31 Dec 00)
Commander Amphibious Squadron Eight
Commodore J. A. Read
(1 Jan - 8 Aug 00)
Commander, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC)
Colonel R. T. Tryon
(19 Feb - 6 Aug 00)
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron TWO SIX THREE (Reinforced)
(1 Jan - 6 Aug 00)
Battalion Landing Team THREE/TWO
(1 Jan - 6 Aug 00)
Marine Service Support Group TWO SIX
(1 Jan - 6 Aug 00)
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron EIGHT Detachment FOUR
(1 Jan - 6 Aug 00)

Beach Master Unit TWO
(18 Feb - 8 Aug 00)

Assault Craft Unit FOUR Detachment BRAVO Two
LCAC 71
LCAC 60
LCAC 39
(19 Feb - 8 Aug 00)

5. Homeport. Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

6. Command Employment

JAN	JTFX, SACEX/SOCEX, MUEX, CERTEX
FEB	MARG 00-2 Commences
MAR	Spanish PHIBEX, DYNAMIC RESPONSE
APR	DYNAMIC RESPONSE
MAY	DYNAMIC MIX
JUN	DYNAMIC MIX, NOBEL SHIRLEY
JUL	NOBEL SHIRLEY
AUG	Return from Deployment
SEP	Ammo Offload, CEC Eval, FMAV
OCT	NNSY
NOV	NNSY
DEC	NNSY

Encl (1)

CHRONOLOGY

January 2000

01 Jan Moored to Pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep.
10 Jan CERTEX Commenced.
18 Jan Burial at Sea.
19 Jan CERTEX completed.
20 Jan Pre-Deployment stand down began.

February 2000

Feb WASP Sailor of the Year selected.
14 Feb Pre-Deployment stand down ended.
18 Feb WASP underway for Mediterranean Deployment 2000. MARG 00-2 commenced. Began TRANSLANT across the Atlantic Ocean.
24 Feb African-American Heritage Program.
26 Feb WASP Sailors began taking college classes by VTC (video tele-conference).

March 2000

02 Mar INCHOP Mediterranean Operational area. Turnover with USS BATAAN (LHD 5).
03 Mar Arrived Lisbon, Portugal.
04 Mar Distinguished visitors and general tours.
05 Mar Secretary of State arrived on board. USS OAKHILL/USS TRENTON Pre-sail Conference began. Distinguished visitors and general tours began.
06 Mar Departed Lisbon, Portugal. USS OAKHILL (LSD 51) and USS TRENTON (LPH 14) began offload.
07 Mar Spanish PHIBLEX commenced off the coast of Sierra Del Retin. WASP offload. Pre-sail conference ended.
10 Mar Backload of 24th MEU(SOC) began.
11 Mar Spanish PHIBLEX ended.
16 Mar DYNAMIC RESPONSE advance party arrived.
18 Mar ARG arrived SPOD.
21 Mar DYNAMIC RESPONSE Exercise began.
25 Mar Women's History Month Program.
30 Mar Shipwide Health and Comfort Inspection.
31 Mar Steel Beach Picnic.

April 2000

13 Apr Exercise DYNAMIC RESPONSE completed.
17 Apr Arrived Trieste, Italy.
21 Apr Departed Trieste, Italy. WASP visited by Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe Fleet Master Chief & Commander, Sixth Fleet Command Master Chief.
24 Apr Arrived Marmaris, Turkey.
28 Apr Departed Marmaris, Turkey.

May 2000

03 May Arrived Rota, Spain.
10 May Departed Rota, Spain.
12 May Arrived Palma, Spain.
16 May Departed Palma, Spain.
17 May First Anthrax shot commenced.
19 May Exercise DYNAMIC MIX commenced off the coast of Italy. WASP anchored.
23 May CO call (E3).
24 May CO Call (E4).
25 May CO Call (E5).
26 May COMPHIBRON EIGHT Distinguished visitors arrived. CO Call (E6).
29 May Navy Wide Memorial Service held at 1500; 21 gun salute.
30 May Moored Augusta Bay, Greece for fuel and stores onload. Media on board included Navy and Marine Corps News and Stars and Stripes. Greek, Spanish and Turkish foreign military arrived. EM3 [REDACTED] was selected for OCS program. Humanitarian medical evacuation of Turkish sailor.
31 May Underway - Media onboard.

June 2000

02-04 Jun Dynamic Mix assault.
05 Jun Dynamic Mix backload.
06 Jun Exercise DYNAMIC MIX completed. Second Anthrax shot commenced.
07 Jun Frocking ceremony for E4, E5 and E6.
09 Jun Arrived Genoa, Italy.
12 Jun Departed Genoa, Italy.
13 Jun Arrived Toulon, France.
18 Jun CNET FMC HMCM Irv Clifton on board for Navy College information visit.
20 Jun CNET FMC HMCM Irv Clifton departed.
21 Jun Departed Toulon, France.
Bone Marrow drive began.

Encl (2)

22 Jun Bone Marrow drive ended.
23 Jun Arrived Naples, Italy.
24 Jun USO Millennium Gala held on board.
25 Jun Departed Naples, Italy.
26 Jun NOBLE SHIRLEY began. The 24th MEU(SOC) Marine offload began on Zikim Beach, Nevtim, AB, Camp Shivta, Haifa, Israel. Third Anthrax shot commenced.
29 Jun Arrived Haifa, Israel.

July 2000

04 Jul Picnic held on the beach in celebration of Independence Day.
14 Jul Departed Haifa, Israel.
16 Jul NOBLE SHIRLEY completed. The 24th MEU(SOC) backload completed. Combined bi-lateral and unilateral training commenced.
21 Jul Arrived Rota, Spain. OUTCHOP Mediterranean Sea. Turnover with USS Saipan (LHA 2).
26 Jul Departed Rota, Spain.

August 2000

06 Aug Arrived Onslow Bay, NC. Began 24th MEU(SOC) offload.
07 Aug Offload completed. Eight hundred Tiger Cruise participants arrived. Departed Onslow Bay, NC enroute to Norfolk, VA.
08 Aug Arrived Norfolk, VA. MARG 00-2 completed.
09 Aug Post-Deployment stand down began.

September 2000

08 Sep Change of Command.
CFC Campaign began.
11 Sep Stand down end. Underway Earle, NJ.
12 Sep Moored Earle, NJ. Ammunition offload.
26 Sep Departed Earle, NJ.
27 Sep Entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for post-deployment maintenance.

October 2000

13 Oct Navy birthday celebration on board.
30 Oct Uniform change.

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November 2000

23 Nov Combined Federal Campaign completed.

December 2000

08 Dec Angel Tree program began.
15 Dec Christmas standdown began.
15 Dec Angel Tree gifts distributed.

Encl (2)

NARRATIVE

JANUARY

The Navy's "greatest warship" began the new millennium, moored portside, pier 7, Naval Station Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep. On 10 January, WASP underway for JTFEX/CERTEX in preparation for the upcoming deployment. On 18 January, WASP performed two burial-at-sea ceremonies. On 19 January, CERTEX completed and WASP returned to Norfolk, VA. On 20 January, pre-deployment stand down began.

FEBRUARY

In February, Air Traffic Controller First Class (Aviation Warfare/Surface Warfare) [REDACTED] was selected as WASP's 1999 Sailor of the Year. [REDACTED], an 11-year Navy veteran, was assigned to the Operations Department. On 14 February, pre-deployment stand down ended. Final preparations were taken for deployment. On 18 February, WASP departed for Onslow Bay, North Carolina for 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) onload for Mediterranean Deployment 2000. The onload included; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron TWO SIX THREE, Battalion Landing Team Three/Two, Marine Service Support Group Two Six, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight Detachment Four, Beach Master Unit Two and landing craft air cushioned from Assault Craft Unit FOUR. On 20 February, WASP commenced TRANSLANT to the Mediterranean Sea. On 24 February, WASP Sailors celebrated African-American History with a cultural awareness program held in the Hangar Bay. Also in February, WASP Sailors started taking college courses through a new program called VTC (Video Tele-Conferencing). The program, sponsored by Old Dominion University, enabled Sailors to take Master level courses one day per week. The instructor taught from Norfolk VA via television.

MARCH

On 2 March, WASP conducted it's INCHOP Mediterranean. Turnover with USS BATAAN (LHD 5). The following day, WASP arrived in Lisbon, Portugal for a four-day port visit. On 4 March, WASP began distinguished visitors and general tours on board the ship. On 5 March, a Pre-Sail conference was held on board with USS OAKHILL (LSD-51) and USS TRENTON (LPH-14). Distinguished visitors and general shipboard tours continued. Also on 5 March, WASP hosted

U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. The Honorable Madame Albright visited with Sailors and Marines on board WASP. Afterward, she spoke to a crowd of Portuguese and U.S. VIP's about continuous U.S. support of the European region. On 6 March, WASP departed Lisbon, Portugal for the Spanish coast. On 7 March, WASP hosted the Spanish PHIBLEX and Pre-Sail conference. Spanish PHIBLEX began off the coast of Sierra Del Retin with the offload of 24th MEU(SOC). On 10 March, backload of 24 MEU(SOC). On 11 March, Spanish PHIBLEX ended. On 16 March, DYNAMIC RESPONSE advance party arrived onboard. On 18 March, WASP ARG arrived SPOD. Exercise DYNAMIC RESPONSE commenced on 21 March. On 25 March, WASP celebrated Women's History Month with a program in the Hangar Bay. Sailors and Marines performed various skits and historical readings to the delight of the crew. On 30 March, the ship conducted a Health and Comfort Inspection. On 31 March, the crew enjoyed a Steel Beach picnic. Also in March, Captain Story had the pleasure of frocking one Master Chief Petty Officer.

APRIL

April began with exercise DYNAMIC RESPONSE in full swing. During DYNAMIC RESPONSE, WASP ARG exercised its Marine capabilities and conducted numerous general quarter drills, flight operations, amphibious operations and various other training scenarios. On 8 April, MWR held BINGO on board for the crew's enjoyment. On 13 April, DYNAMIC RESPONSE came to an end, and WASP headed for Italy. On 17 April, WASP arrived in Trieste, Italy after 46 days at sea for a much needed port visit. On 21 April, WASP departed Trieste, Italy. Also 21-22 April, WASP hosted MMCM(SW/AW) Robert R. Hallstein, Fleet Master Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and MMCM(SS) Don Kultti, Command Master Chief, Sixth Fleet. Both Master Chief's were visiting to discuss important Naval issues, such as; retention, uniforms, pay and housing. On 24 April, WASP arrived in Marmaris, Turkey for a 5-day port visit. Marmaris was one of the crew's favorite ports, with white water rafting and shopping enjoyed by the crew. The month ended with WASP departing Marmaris on 28 April.

MAY

May began with WASP's arrival in Rota, Spain on 3 May for maintenance and restocking of supplies. On 10 May, WASP departed Rota, Spain and headed for Palma, Spain. On 12 May, WASP entered Palma, Spain for a relaxing port visit. On 16 May, WASP departed

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Palma, Spain. WASP sailors received their first Anthrax shot on 17 May. On 19 May, WASP anchored off the coast of Italy, while the ARG began participating in Operation DYNAMIC MIX exercise. On May 23-26, WASP's CO held Captain's Call for sailors, updating the crew on the deployment mission. While moored, the ship hosted a group of COMPHIBRON EIGHT distinguished visitors. On 29 May, WASP participated in a Navy-wide Memorial Day service, in honor of our fallen servicemen and women complete with a 21-gun salute. At the end of May, WASP was moored Augusta Bay, Greece for stores onload. WASP hosted U.S. media and military members from Greece, Spain and Turkey. Additionally, EM3 [REDACTED] was selected for Officer Candidate School. WASP also conducted an emergency Medical Evacuation for a Turkish sailor who was having an appendicitis attack. On 31 May, WASP underway with media on board.

JUNE

June began with a DYNAMIC MIX assault. The 24th MEU(SOC) Marines began backload on 5 June. On 6 June, DYNAMIC MIX ended and sailors received their second Anthrax shot. A frocking ceremony was held on 7 June. The ship arrived in Genoa, Italy on 9 June. While in Genoa, Italy, WASP sailors and Marines explored Italian culture and visited the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. On June 12, WASP departed from Genoa, Italy. On 13 June, WASP arrived in Toulon, France. In France, sailors and Marines experienced the Parisian life with MWR-sponsored tours to Paris, Monaco and Monte Carlo. Also, while in France, WASP received a visit from Chief of Naval Education and Training, Fleet Master Chief, HMCM Irv Clifton. Master Chief Clifton discussed Navy College programs with WASP sailors. WASP also hosted a group of orphaned children from a local organization, "100 Blackbelts for the Year 2000," which offers discipline and responsibility associated with learning Judo. On 20 June, HMCM Clifton departed WASP. On 21 June, WASP departed Toulon, France and headed towards Naples, Italy. During the transit to Naples, WASP held a Bone Marrow Drive for the Bill Young Marrow Program, a Department of Defense program managed by the Naval Medical Research Institute. After the two-day drive, WASP set yet another Navy record. A total of 866 donors were registered, the most donors ever registered during a single drive, upsetting the previous record of 796 set by USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74). Upon arrival in Naples, Italy on 23 June, WASP began the final preparations for the USO Millennium GALA, which was held on board WASP 24 June. The event was co-hosted by Captain H. G. Story, Commanding Officer and RADM Charles Munns, U.S. Navy Liaison to the Naples

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USO. The guest speaker was VADM Luigi Lillo, Commander, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe. The Master of Ceremonies was Commander [REDACTED]. "L Trapanarella" and Commander, U.S. SIXTH Fleet Band provided entertainment. Gala participants were treated to a variety of foods and drinks, including Italian pastas, steam ship round, turkey, chicken wings, shrimp, vegetable dips, assorted sauces, breads, coldcuts and cheeses. The gala was held to promote an understanding and appreciation between Italy and the U.S. On 25 June, WASP departed Naples, Italy for Haifa, Israel. On 26 June, Exercise NOBLE SHIRLEY began and WASP sailors received their third Anthrax shot. On 29 June, WASP arrived in Haifa, Israel.

JULY

On 4 July, a picnic was held on an Israeli beach in celebration of our nation's Independence Day. While in Haifa, crewmembers were able to enjoy tours across Israel, including visits to historic biblical sites such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. On 14 July, WASP departed Haifa for Rota, Spain. On 21 July, WASP arrived in Rota, Spain for OUTCHOP and turnover with USS SAIPAN (LHA 2). After a short visit for restocking of supplies, WASP departed Rota, Spain on 26 July and began TRANSLANT to Onslow Bay, NC.

AUGUST

After a 10-day transit across the Atlantic Ocean, WASP arrived at Onslow Bay, NC. for the offload of 24th MEU(SOC). Upon the completion of 24th MEU(SOC) offload, WASP welcomed over 800 Tiger Cruise participants on board and headed for Norfolk, VA. With family members on board, WASP Sailors enjoyed a busy night, getting reacquainted with family members and sharing with them the experience of life at sea. On the morning of 8 August, WASP arrived in Norfolk, VA. and Mediterranean Cruise 2000 came to an end. On 9 August, post-deployment stand down began, with half of WASP's crew enjoying leave with their families.

SEPTEMBER

On 08 September, WASP held its Change of Command ceremony on board. Captain Hugh G. Story was relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain Robert C. Jackson. In attendance were Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO and Rear Admiral

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Robert C. Chaplin, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Japan. Rear Admiral Chaplin, a former WASP CO served as such from June 1993 to December 1994, was the guest speaker. On 11 September, post-deployment stand down ended and WASP was underway to Earle, NJ for ammunition offload. On 12 September, WASP was moored in Earle, NJ and ammo offload commenced. On 26 September, WASP departed Earle, NJ and headed to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA. On 27 September, WASP entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for post-deployment maintenance.

OCTOBER

October began with WASP in Norfolk Naval Shipyard for post-deployment maintenance. To stay proficient, WASP held weekly General Quarters drills. On 12 October, the country received the devastating news that USS COLE (DDG-67), homeported in Norfolk, VA was attacked by a terrorist bomb while refueling in Yemen. The Navy family lost 17 Sailors. On 13 October, under a cloud of heartache, WASP held a Navy Birthday Celebration onboard. On 30 October, WASP sailors shifted into the winter uniform.

NOVEMBER

November began with Combined Federal Campaign Drive. WASP, at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, continued its' weekly general quarters drills. On 23 November, WASP Combined Federal Campaign Drive ended. WASP sailors had donated a total amount in excess of \$32,000, the third largest donation in the LHA/LHD category.

DECEMBER

December marked the halfway point for the shipyard maintenance period. Weekly general quarters drills continued in preparation for WASP's Light-Off Assessment (LOA) scheduled for mid-December. On 15 December, WASP passed LOA. WASP Sailors donated time and money in support of the Angel Tree Program. Christmas stand down began. The end of December, WASP remained in the shipyard and half of her crew on holiday leave.

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