

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WASP (LHD 1) FPO AE 09556-1660



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From:

Commanding Officer, USS WASP (LHD 1)

To:

Director of Naval History (N09BH), 805 Kidder Breese

Street, SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Subj:

COMMAND HISTORY, USS WASP (LHD 1), 2001 (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 2001 has been compiled and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).

E. P. MCNAMEE

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, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Rear Admiral John B. Foley III, USN Commander, Amphibious Group TWO Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran, USN

Operational

Commander, Second Fleet

Vice Admiral Mike G. Mullen, USN (1 Jan-13 Aug 01)

Vice Admiral Cutler J. Dawson, USN (13 Aug-31 Dec 01)

Commander, Amphibious Group TWO

Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran, USN

Commander, Amphibious Squadron Four

3. Commanding Officer

Captain R. C. Jackson, USN

4. Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments

Captain Peter J. Frothingham, USN

Amphibious Squadron Four (Embarked 9 July-31 Dec 01)
Fleet Surgical Team Four (Embarked 4 Jul-31 Dec 01)
Assault Craft Unit FOUR, Detachment B
Tactical Squadron 22, Detachment One
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit TWO, Detachment 16
Helicopter Support Squadron Eight, Detachment 6
22 Marine Expeditionary Unit
6th Marine Regiment
2^D Marine Expeditionary Brigade

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

6. Command Employment

JAN NNSY, FMAV
FEB CART I, CEC Testing
MAR CART II
APR Well Deck Certification
MAY CEC Testing

JUN	TCAT, RIVEREX
JUL	AMMO ONLOAD, FEF
`AUG	MEBEX
SEP	PMINT
OCT	FMAV
NOV	FMAV, ARGEX
DEC	ARGEX

CHRONOLOGY

January 2001 01 Jan Moored Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Departed Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA for sea 25 Jan trials. 26 Jan Arrived Norfolk, VA. Completed installation of new Collective Protective System backfit. February 2001 03 Feb Underway for Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Testing. 22 Feb Arrived Cape Canaveral, FL. 26 Feb Departed Cape Canaveral, FL. 27 Feb Celebrated African-American History month. March 2001 06 Mar Arrived Norfolk, VA. 16 Mar Earned fourth "Green H". Conducted Supply Management Assessment. 20 Mar April 2001 02 Apr Underway Annapolis, MD. Navy League tour. Arrived Annapolis, MD. 05 Apr Hosted U.S. Naval Academy Alumni reception. 07 Apr 09 Apr Departed Annapolis, MD. 10 Apr Arrived Norfolk, VA. Underway for CEC testing. 17 Apr Steel beach picnic. 27 Apr Conducted burial at sea for former USS WASP(CV 18) Sailor. Supply earned fourth "Blue E". 28 Apr May 2001 02 May Arrived Naval Station Mayport, FL. 05 May Departed Naval Station Mayport, FL. 10 May Arrived Norfolk, VA. Swedish National Defense College tour. 16 May 19 May AWANA's Club tour. Conducted Supply Management Assessment. 21 May 24 May Commander, Amphibious Group TWO Spouse tour. Center for Naval Analysis tour. 25 May Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) tour. 30 May June 2001 Underway for Tactical Commander's Amphibious Training 04 Jun

(TCAT) and Riverine Exercise (RIVEX).

,		Jun Jun		Arrived Norfolk, VA. The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Civilian/Military Leadership Program for freshman members of Congress tour.
	29	Jun Jun Jun		Underway Boston, MA. Arrived Boston, MA. WASP(CV 18) Alumni Association visited.
		Ly 20	01	
	04	Jul		WASP participated in USS CONSTITUTION's annual turnaround cruise.
	07	Jul		Arrived Norfolk, VA.
	17	Jul		Underway Naval Weapons Station, Earle, Leonardo, NJ to
	19	Jul		conduct ammunition onload. Completed Underway Demonstration/Engineering Certification.
		Jul		WASP Crash and Salvage team participated in the Commander, U.S. Naval Air Forces Atlantic Crash and Salvage Olympics.
		Jul		Arrived Norfolk, VA.
	<u>ا</u> ک	Jul		Underway to conduct Final Evaluation Period(FEP).
	Aug	rust	20	01
	02	Aug		FEP completed. Arrived Norfolk, VA.
		Aug Aug		Participated in Operation SOLID CURTAIN. Naval-Marine Corps News team visited. Hosted a summer blood drive. Uruguayan War College Tour.
	10	Aug		Navy Sea Cadets Tour.
	12	Aug		Underway for Marine Expeditionary Brigade Exercise
	13	Aug		(MEBEX). Arrived Morehead City, N.C.
		Aug	*	Departed Morehead City, N.C.
		Aug		Conducted burial at sea.
		Aug Aug		Arrived Norfolk, VA. Ship's Family Picnic.
		Aug		Conducted Commander, Naval Safety Center survey.
	α			2001
	_	Sep	er	2001 Safety Stand-down.
	14	Sep		Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony.
		Sep		Underway to conduct Preliminary Exercise (PMINT) Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kick-off.
		Sep Sep		Conducted burial at sea. Conducted "Reenlistment Sunday."
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		ober Oct		Arrived Norfolk, VA.
(7 (Oct		Sailors supported Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).
(08 (Oct		Conducted Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV).
				Encl (2)

10 Oct Vice Adm. Michael L. Cowan, Surgeon General of the Navy visited WASP.

17 Oct Rear Adm. Steven Maas, Commanding Officer, Naval Exchange Command visited.

23 Oct Rear Adm. J. Kevin Moran, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, visited Chief Petty Officers' Mess.

November 2001

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01 Nov	Naval Supply Command tour.
02 Nov	Conducted Mass Casualty drill.
06 Nov	Sailors supported Kid's Voting USA.
08 Nov	WASP holiday Christmas party.
17 Nov	WASP children's holiday picnic.
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21 Nov Navy-Marine Corps News Team visited.

22 Nov Channel 13 News visited.

27 Nov Underway to conduct Amphibious Readiness Group Exercise (ARGEX).

December 2001

03	Dec	Conducted Force-wide Preventive Maintenance System
		standdown.
06	Dec	Three media representatives from MSNBC visited.
11	Dec	Arrived Norfolk VA

11 Dec Arrived Norfolk, VA.
13 Dec French CNO visited.

14 Dec Commenced holiday standdown.

NARRATIVE

January 2001

WASP began 2001 moored at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth wrapping up a Post-deployment Maintenance Availability (PMA) which included renovations in berthing, messing and recreation areas on board. WASP was the first amphibious ship to receive a new \$8 Million Collective Protection System (CPS). The new CPS zone added four protected zones to allow for mission-critical operations in a Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) environment and an additional decontamination station located in the ship's Flight Deck Triage. WASP ended the month conducting two days of sea trials to evaluate and test the ship's underway performance after the four-month yard period.

February 2001

In February, WASP was underway conducting Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) testing. On February 22, WASP enjoyed a fourday port visit to Cape Canaveral, FL. Sailors visited places such as Kennedy Space Center, Orlando's Disney World and Cocoa Beach. At the end of February the ship observed African-American History month with a special celebration, which included a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and focused on "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture."

March 2001

WASP spent most of the month of March undergoing numerous assessments, evaluations and inspections. Mid-March, WASP's Medical department earned it's fourth straight Force Commander's Annual Wellness Unit Award, also known as the "Green H" for sustaining a high level of accomplishment in heath and wellness related services. March 20 brought senior logistic representatives from Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic aboard for a four-day Supply Management Assessment. These logistic experts reviewed budgets, records, customer services and quality of life concerns of the crew. BM1(SW/AW)

WASP's Sailor of the Year received further recognition as Commander, Amphibious Group Two's Sea Sailor of the Year.

April 2001

April started with WASP traveling to Annapolis, MD, to provide orientation tours to U.S. Navy Academy (USNA) midshipmen. The first day underway, WASP welcomed fifty Navy Leaguers on board for ship orientation tours and a Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) ride. In Annapolis, the ship hosted a USNA Alumni reception. The end of April, brought good news of the Supply department capturing it's fourth Logistics Management Excellence Award, also known as, the Supply Blue "E". WASP continued more Cooperative Engagement Capabilities Testing (CEC) in the Puerto

Rican operating area. WASP's Weapon's Division (VG) spent the lengthy underway periods providing small arms training to the crew. The weapon's training extended to include Shipboard Security Defense Force classroom instruction. This training provided all hands the necessary force protection skills to deter any threat from infiltrating the ship. WASP held a burial at sea ceremony for a former USS WASP (CV 18) plankowner, Seaman First Class Conrad M. Keating.

May 2001

After more than two weeks at sea, WASP enjoyed a three-day port visit in Mayport, FL from May 2-5. WASP returned to homeport on May 10. The rest of the month was spent providing shipboard tours to groups such as, the Swedish National Defense College, AWANA'S Club, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO spouses, the Center for Naval Analysis and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

June 2001

June started with Tactical Commander's Amphibious Training (TCAT) off the North Carolina coastline. WASP and 6th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, NC were the participants. This weeklong evolution benefited the Marines by providing them shipboard familiarization and rehearsal embarkation. Also, during the same underway period, service members from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army participated in a Riverine Exercise (RIVEX) off the North Carolina coastline. of RIVEX is to familiarize the different services with each other and to work together to gain command and control of the waterways RIVEX was the first opportunity since the ship's and coastline. previous major deployment to perform its primary mission of supporting a Marine Landing Force. WASP welcomed aboard Representatives Edward L. Schrock (R-VA) and Todd R. Platts (R-PA) and Mr. Jim Dykstra, Director for the Civilian/Military Leadership Program for shipboard orientation tours. At the end of June, WASP departed for a six-day public affairs port visit to Boston, MA, serving as the Navy's host ship for the city's annual Harborfest celebration. In preparation for the port visit, two Boston policemen came onboard to ride the ship and talk to the crew about safety and security in the Boston area. Sailors also enjoyed a Harborfest kick-off reception at the Paul Revere House and sampled some of Boston's fine clam chowder during the city's Chowderfest competition. Members of the WASP Supply department entered the Chowderfest, competing solely with USS CONSTITUTION and taking top military clam chowder honors.

July 2001

While in Boston, for the first week in July, six crewmembers reenlisted on board USS CONSTITUTION. WASP had the honor of hosting a reception for approximately 200 Boston area community leaders. WASP's CO, XO and CMC participated in USS CONSTITUTION's annual turn around cruise. After returning to Norfolk, for ten days, WASP was again underway for Naval Weapons Station Earle, Leonardo, NJ to conduct ammunition onload, bringing on over two million pounds of ordnance. While in New Jersey, MWR arranged for bus trips to Six Flags amusement park and a baseball game at Yankee Stadium. WASP's Crash and Salvage Team participated in the Commander, U.S. Naval Air Forces Atlantic 2001 Crash and Salvage Olympics, taking the amphibious class top prize for the third year in a row. The last day in July saw WASP underway for two days to complete a Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). requires the crew to respond to situations such as Hangar Bay and Flight Deck fires, CBR attacks, a three-hit battle problem, Force Protection issues, Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) and Man-overboard exercises.

August 2001

August started with WASP successfully completing FEP. After arriving in Norfolk, WASP participated in Operation SOLID CURTAIN, a Commander, Naval Station Norfolk exercise geared at testing all ships and station personnel on Force Protection Security issues. During a week of inport time, a Navy and Marine Corps News team came aboard to interview Sailors about shipboard berthing cleaning incentives. The Medical department, with the assistance of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA, collected 73 pints of blood during a summer blood drive. The crew also welcomed aboard Uruquayan officers from the Armed Forces War College and thirty Navy Sea Cadets for shipboard tours. On 12 August WASP was underway to participate in a Marine Expeditionary Exercise. MEBEX Brigade exercise, ASSURED ALLIGATOR, was conducted with 2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade. At the end of August, WASP returned to homeport to enjoy a lengthy time in port. WASP Sailors and families enjoyed a ship's picnic at Breezy Point Park, Naval Station Norfolk, VA.

September 2001

WASP spent the first three weeks of September in port conducting Safety stand-down, enlisted rating examinations and promoting 15 crewmembers to Chief Petty Officer. On September 25, WASP was underway to participate in Preliminary Exercise (PMINT) with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejuene, NC. This exercise familiarized Marines with the layout of the ship and the facilities to which they will be assigned for Mediterranean Cruise 2002. During a Saturday Night Special held on the mess decks, the Executive Officer and Command Master Chief kicked off WASP's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), announcing

WASP's monetary goal of \$32,000. WASP's Command Career Counselor's office organized "Reenlistment Sunday" the last Sunday of September which put more than \$194,000 into the pockets of eight Sailors, while giving the Navy an additional 39 years of service.

October 2001

On 5 October WASP returned to homeport from PMINT. WASP started Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV). Fifteen WASP Sailors spent the first Sunday of October volunteering for a Big Brother, Big Sisters (BBBS) event at Hunt's Club, Virginia Beach, Va. Sailors and children picked and decorated pumpkins, made edible bird feeders and enjoyed hayrides. The ship's Medical department hosted a visit from the Navy's fleet surgeon, Vice Adm. Michael L. Cowan and other Navy medical professionals. The Supply Department's Retail Sales Division (S-3) hosted Rear Adm. Steven Maas, Commanding Officer, Naval Exchange Command and received honors and a certificate from him during his visit. S-3 received the coins for capturing the Ship's Store and Retail Service Excellence Award, marking the first time a large deck amphibious ship received the award. Rear Adm. J. Kevin Moran, Commander, Amphibious Group TWO, ended the month with a visit to WASP's Chief Petty Officer Mess.

November 2001

Much of November was spent conducting FMAV. Several WASP Sailors adopted two polling sites on Election Day in support of Kid's Voting USA. WASP Sailors found time to enjoy a Holiday Party at Grand Affairs in Virginia Beach, VA, and the children of WASP Sailors came aboard on 17 November to visit with Santa Claus. A local television station news crew from Channel 13 came on board to share Thanksgiving Dinner with WASP Sailors. The end of November WASP was underway for an Amphibious Readiness Training Exercise (ARGEX).

December 2001

While underway, WASP was visited by three media representatives from MSNBC. WASP returned to homeport from ARGEX on December 11. The French Chief of Naval Operations and several French and American Navy Officers visited WASP on 13 December for an orientation tour. WASP Sailors donated time and money in support of the Angel Tree Project, which provided gifts to crewmember's children. WASP began holiday stand down on 14 December.