DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY TO:

5700 Ser EXEC/ 050 18'MARCH 03

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), 2002 (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref:

(a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization

(2) Chronology

(3) Narrative

(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), USS WASP (LHD 1) Command History for 2002 has been compiled and is forwarded as enclosures (1) through (4).

E. P. MCNAMEE

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. <u>Mission</u>. 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

COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA (UIC 53824)

Rear Admiral John B. Foley III, USN (1 Jan-16 Aug 02)

Rear Admiral Terrance T. Etnyre, USN (16 Aug-Dec 02)

COMPHIBGRU TWO (UIC 55333)

Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran, USN (1 Jan-23 Aug 02)

Rear Admiral Michael P. Nowakowski, USN (23 Aug-Dec 02)

Operational

COMSECONDFLT (UIC 08961)

Vice Admiral Cutler J. Dawson, USN

COMPHIBGRU TWO (UIC 55333)

Rear Admiral J. Kevin Moran, USN (1 Jan-23 Aug 02)

Rear Admiral Michael P. Nowakowski, USN (23 Aug-Dec 02)

COMPHIBRON FOUR (UIC 55336)

Captain Peter J. Frothingham, USN

COMSIXTHFLT (UIC 57042)

Vice Admiral Scott Fry, USN

COMFIFTHFLT (UIC 57045)

Vice Admiral Charles Moore, USN (1 Jan-10 Feb 02)

Vice Admiral Timothy Keating, USN (10 Feb 02-Dec 02)

3. Commanding Officer.

Captain Robert C. Jackson, USN (1 Jan-15 Feb 02)

Capt. Edward P. McNamee III, USN (15 Feb-Dec 02)

4. Embarked/Attached Commands and Detachments.

(22 Feb-30 Aug 02)

COMPHIBRON FOUR (UIC 55336)

22 Marine Expeditionary Unit

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 (Reinforced)

Marine Service Support Group 22

TACRON TWO TWO (UIC 09812)

FLTSURGTEAM EIGHT (UIC 39846)

EODMU TWO DET NORFOLK VA (UIC 45682)

HELSUPRON EIGHT (UIC 55218)

ACU FOUR (UIC 47106) BMU TWO (UIC 53211)

5. Aircraft on board.

(22 Feb-30 Aug 02)

HH-46 Sea Knights

CH-46 Sea Knights

SH-53 Super Stallions

AH-1 Cobras

UH-1 Hueys

AV-8 Harriers

6. <u>Homeport</u>. Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

7. Command Employment

JAN	JTFX/MEUEX, POM
FEB	Operation Enduring Freedom
MAR-AUG	Combat Zone, Operation Enduring Freedom
SEP	Post Deployment Standdown
OCT	Ammunition Offload
NOV	DPMA
DEC	DPMA

8. CY-02 Awards

Battle Efficiency Award
Meritorious Unit Commendation Award
5th Consecutive Green "H" Award for excellence in Health and
Wellness
Retention Excellence Award

CHRONOLOGY

January 2002	
01 Jan	Moored to Pier 10, Berth 2 North, Naval Station.
	Norfolk, VA for holiday leave and upkeep.
14 Jan	Departed Norfolk, VA for Joint Task Force
	Exercise/Special Operations Capable Exercises.
28 Jan	Arrived Norfolk, VA.
February 2002	
15 Feb	Change of Command ceremony, Captain Edward P.
	McNamee relieved Captain Robert C. Jackson.
22 Feb	Departed Norfolk, VA, for a scheduled six-month
	deployment.
23 Feb	Onload 22 MEU, Morehead City, NC.
28 Feb	African American history celebration.
March 2002	
02 Mar	RAS/VERTREP W/USNS PATUXENT.
05 Mar	Inchop Sixth Fleet.
08-21 Mar	Exercise INFINITE ANVIL: 22nd MEU Bilateral.
00-21 Mai	Training with Royal Jordanian Air Force.
10-11 Mar	Souda Bay, Crete port visit.
13 Apr	RAS/VERTREP with USNS KANAWHA.
14 Mar	Suez Canal Transit.
14 Mal	Inchop Fifth Fleet.
15 Mar	VERTREP USNS SPICA.
17 Mar	Turnover with BATARG/26 MEU.
19 Mar	VERTREP with USNS SPICA.
23 Mar	RAS with USS BRIDGE.
24 Mar-03 Apr	Djibouti MEUEX Phase I/II.
April 2002	
03 Apr	Flight deck SCRUBEX.
05 Apr	RAS/VERTREP/CONREP with USS SEATTLE.
06 Apr	Commander, German Task Force visit.
06-15 Apr	Djibouti MEUEX Phase I/II.
08 Apr	Djibouti VIP visit.
	French/U.S. Ambassador visit.
09-11 Apr	Fire Support Coordination Exercise with USS HUE
	City.
13-14 Apr	Obock, Djibouti Humanitarian Assistance.
19 Apr	RAS/VERTREP with USS SEATTLE.
24 Apr	Steel Beach picnic.
29 Apr	RAS with SPS PATINO.
30 Apr	CONREP/VERTREP with USNS SPICA.

May 2002 03 May 04 May 05 May 06-18 May 11-22 May 14 May 23-31 May 25 May 25-28 May 26-30 May 27-30 May 28-29 May 29 May	Swim Call. RAS with SPS PATINO. Cinco de Mayo celebration. Operation SEA EAGLE, Oman-USS TRENTON. ISR IVO Al Hudayah, Yemen ISO CTEP Training. VERTREP with USNS SPICA. Djibouti MEUEX Phase V. Khor Angar, Djibouti Medical/Dental CAP. Obock, Djibouti Road Improvement project. RAS with USS SEATTLE. Lahasa, Djibouti Engineering project. China Beach liberty. Djibouti City Medical/Dental CAP. Asian American celebration.
June 2002	
01 Jun	VERTREP with USNS SPICA.
03 Jun	Hump day celebration.
04-26 Jun	WASPARG/MEU IVO Arabian Sea ISO Pakistan NEO
09 Jun	Contingency. E-5 and E-6 frocking ceremony.
11 Jun	RAS with USNS SIRIUS.
	RAS with SPS MARQUES ENSENADA. MCPON Terry Scott visited.
14-15 Jun 14 Jun-12 Jul	CO's call with enlisted. Deployed "Sparrowhawk" security reinforcement package to U.S. Consulate (Karachi, Pakistan)
16 Jun	following bombing attack.
17-21 Jun	E-4 frocking ceremony. Bahrain port visit.
18-19 Jun	Navy detailer visit.
21 Jun	Departed Manama, Bahrain.
22 Jun	U.S. Central Command, General Tommy Franks and U.S. Naval Central Command visited.
24 Jun	RAS/CONREP USS SEATTLE/USNS SIRIUS.
July 2002	
03 Jul	RAS with USNS WALTER S DEIHL.
03-12 Jul	WASPARG/NEU IVO Arabian Sea ISO Afghanistan Operations.
08 Jul	Rock band ILL MIC concert.
11 Jul	VERTREP with USNS SIRIUS.
13-30 Jul	WASPARG/MEU IVO Gulf of Aden ISO CJTF 180 Yemen
17 Jul	Contingency Operations. RAS with USNS SUPPLY.
20 Jul	U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti visited.
23-26 Jul	Djibouti MEUEX Phase VI-Long Range Raid.
	

28	Jul	Caribbean	heritage celebration.
30	Jul	Strait of	Bab el Mandeb transit.

August 2002	
03 Aug	Suez Canal transit.
04-08 Aug	Aksaz, Turkey port visit.
08 Aug	Departed Aksaz, Turkey for Rota, Spain.
12 Aug	Transited Strait of Gibraltar.
12-18 Aug	Rota, Spain port visit.
-	Desnailing/Washdown.
15 Aug	Agricultural Inspection.
16 Aug	ARGFEST, Rota, Spain.
18 Aug	Departed Rota, Spain.
19 Aug	Inchop Second Fleet.
19-21 Aug	Returned and Reunion Briefs.
19-22 Aug	SHOTEX.
24 Aug	Safety Standdown.
23 Aug	Gospel choir music concert.
26 Aug	RAS with USNS KANAWHA.
27-28 Aug	MEU cargo and personnel offload.
29-30 Aug	Tiger Cruise.
30 Aug	Returned to Norfolk, VA.
30 Aug-26 Sep	Post-deployment leave period.

September 2002

02	- 26 Sep	Post deployment leave period.
11	Sep	Commander, CINCLANTFLT visit.
14	Sep	Westminster, MD High School students visited.
15	Sep	SPECWARGRU 2 tour.
16	Sep	Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony.
23	Sep	WASP (CV 7) veteran tour.
24	Sep	Deputy CINCLANTFLT and Navy League tour.
27	Sep	Conducted fast cruise.
30	Sep	Departed Norfolk, VA for Naval Weapons Station
		Earle, NJ.

October 2002

01-06 Oct	Conducted Ammunition offload.
07 Oct	Departed Earle, NJ for Halifax, Nova Scotia.
10-13 Oct	Halifax, Nova Scotia port visit.
15 Oct	All hands annual security training.
17 Oct	Returned to Norfolk, VA.
21-25 Oct	Underway in VACAPES OPAREA.
25 Oct	Fresh water washdown.
25 Oct	Returned To Norfolk, VA.
28 Oct	Japanese Defense Society tour and lunch.
29 Oct	WASP Health Fair.
	USAF JAG tour and lunch.

30 Oct Enlisted Safety Committee Meeting. CNO/Executive Panel tour/brief.

November 2002

04 Nov NIMA tour.

05 Nov Columbia University Institute of War and Peace

tour.

05 Nov Sailors volunteered for Kid's Voting USA.

Stinger Best Ball Open Golf Tournament.

07-08 Nov National Defense University National War College

tour.

12 Nov Naval Media Center tour.

14-15 Nov SHOTEX.

20 Nov Transited to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth,

VA, to commence DPMA.

25 Nov Angel Tree Project kicked off.

30 Nov Children's Christmas party.

December 2002

05 Dec WASP Christmas party.

13 Dec-10 Jan Holiday standdown period.

NARRATIVE

January 2002

WASP began 2002 moored at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, In preparation for a sixth month deployment WASP Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), comprised of USS WASP (LHD 1), USS TRENTON (LPD 14) and USS OAK HILL (LSD 51), and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (22nd MEU) participated in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 2002 which involved more than 15,000 U.S. Joint and Allied service This exercise presented the U.S. and multinational members. forces with realistic and dynamic exercise threats, closely replicating the operational challenges military forces routinely encounter around the world. WASP ARG and 22nd MEU engaged in several realistic training opportunities such as a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) exercise and Mass Casualty drills, preparing for joint and combined operations. The NEO exercise prepared the ARG and 22nd MEU to respond expeditiously to a variety of humanitarian and operational evacuations of noncombatants from a crisis region. WASP fitness center received a \$40,000 renovation, which included new gym equipment such as a bow flex, iron grip weights, treadmills, weight lifting benches, life cycles, hammer strength machine, bikes, nebula flat benches, a punching bag and boxing and speed gloves.

February 2002

WASP Sailors spent the first two weeks of February making final deployment preparations. In early February, WASP received over 200 care packages from the YMCA in Reston, VA. On February 15, Capt. Edward P. McNamee relieved Capt. Robert C. Jackson as commanding officer of USS WASP. WASP left its homeport and traveled to Morehead City, NC, to embark 22nd MEU and start a scheduled six-month deployment. The theme this year, "African American Legacy: Contributions and Achievements," was chosen to pay tribute to the many contributions made by African Americans in music and dance.

March 2002

After in-chop with SIXTH Fleet, enjoying a two-day port visit in Souda Bay, Crete, then transiting through the SIXTH Fleet Operating Area and the Suez Canal, WASP turned over with the USS BATAAN ARG and positioned itself in the FIFTH Fleet Operating Area. WASP Sailors and Marines from the 22nd MEU prepared for limited training exercises in parts of Northern and Southern Djibouti. Small elements of the unit participated in approximately two weeks of routine training as part of their scheduled deployment overseas. WASP conducted several replenishments at sea. WASP also held a Career Empowerment Night in the First Class Petty Officer's Mess. Junior Sailors received

valuable information about career choices and programs the Navy has to offer. WASP Sailors and Marines kicked off Uniting Through Reading program by videotaping reading sessions for their children back home.

April 2002

While conducting training at sea, the month of April included many opportunities for WASP Sailors to enjoy morale, welfare and recreation activities. WASP MWR and supply department hosted a steal beach picnic 3-on-3 basketball tournament, 3-point shooting contest, sumo wrestling matches, John Madden electronic football tournament, spades competition, bingo night and a talent show. WASP developed a Passageway Enhancement project, designed to bring the ship's working and living spaces up to a higher standard. WASP received several distinguished visitors during the month of March to include, the commander of the German Task Force, the French U.S. ambassador and several Djiboutian leaders. WASP career counselors coordinated more than 37 re-enlistments, which put \$790,000 into the re-enlisting Sailors pockets.

May 2002

After 54 days at sea without a port visit, WASP started the month of May with an all hands swim call. Sailors and Marines safely swam around the ship's tailgate and enjoyed a 30-foot plunge from one of the ship's aircraft elevators. A Cinco de Mavo celebration was held May 5. In conjunction with Armed Forces Week, the United Service Organizations and Chrysler Museum of Art sponsored video teleconferences for all deployed ships home ported in Norfolk, VA, enabling dozens of WASP Sailors and Marines to communicate with family members more than 5,000 miles Cargo taken on board in May included fresh fruit, vegetables, \$10,000 pounds of mail, and more than 3,000 boxes of Girls Scout cookies donated by Hollywood actor Bruce Willis and the Girls Scouts of America as part of Operation Thin Mint. the end of May, Phibron 4 Commodore Peter J. Frothingham and Lt. stumbled upon a beach while scanning locations for potential LCAC and LCU operations. Beach Master Units found the sands too soft for operations, yet Capt. Frothingham saw it as potential liberty for WASP crew members. WASP personnel enjoyed a few hours of hot sand and cool waters on "China Beach." In honor of Asian American heritage month, WASP held a celebration in the ship's hangar bay. This year's theme, "Unity in Freedom," marked the 23rd annual celebration of Asian-Pacific Heritage month.

June 2002

WASP marked halfway through its six-month deployment by

organizing a hump day celebration. MWR planned plenty of athletic events to keep the entertained and the 1st Class Petty Officers' Association served food on the mess decks. WASP received several visitors during the month of June. In the middle of June, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott touched down on USS WASP's flight deck in a CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter, marking his first visit to a ship at sea since taking the position as the Navy's top enlisted adviser seven weeks prior. During a two-day visit, MCPON Scott had the opportunity to visit WASP and the two other ships in the WASP ARG, USS TRENTON and USS OAK HILL. More than 20 Naval Academy and Navy ROTC candidates spent 30 days getting familiar with WASP shipboard operations, crew members, and sea duty. WASP crew members enjoyed a four-day liberty port visit to Bahrain after more than 95 days at sea in the 5th Fleet operating area. From planning tours to organizing transportation requirements, the ship's morale, welfare and recreation committee put together a variety of activities. Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command Army Gen. Tommy Franks' visited USS WASP June 22 to speak with Sailors and Marines of the WASP ARG and 22nd MEU. Marines and Sailors from the 22nd MEU completed over two months of training exercises and operations in the East African nation of Djibouti.

July 2002

WASP celebrated the birth of our nation by participating in several MWR activities and a special meal on the mess decks. Early in July, WASP enjoyed an evening USO concert in the ship's hangar bay, jamming to the unique sound of an Atlanta local band, Ill MIC. Twenty officer cadets (midshipmen) of Plymouth, England's HMS Campbeltown, got the chance to swap accents, culture, and memorabilia with 20 Sailors from USS WASP for a few hours in the middle of July. WASP crew members received a presentation by 50 WASP Sailors and Marines who preformed skits, dances and music in honor of Caribbean heritage month.

August 2002

WASP transited the Suez Canal and positioned itself in the Sixth Fleet Operating Area. After more than five months deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, shipboard personnel relaxed during a four-day liberty port visit in the city of Marmaris, Turkey. WASP Sailors and Marines took advantage of eight tours arranged by the ship's MWR. After a four-day transit that included passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, WASP arrived in Rota, Spain, to prepare for the ship's final transit across the Atlantic Ocean and to enjoy Spain's rich culture. During the six-day port visit, WASP crew members conducted an equipment and vehicle wash down, cleaned out the well deck, upper and lower vehicle stowage, painted the side of the ship, and

painted an orphanage. They also took part in a Naval Station Rota-sponsored ARG Fest, and enjoyed liberty in Spain's southernmost region, Andalucia. After an agricultural inspection, WASP moved into the Second Fleet Operating Area on August 19. The ship's last two weeks at sea included return and reunion briefs sponsored by counselors from the Hampton Roads Fleet and Family Support Center to assist the crew in their reunion with family members. After offloading Marines in North Carolina, WASP embarked more than 800 Tigers. Fifteen buses transported the guests from Naval Station Norfolk to WASP's LCACs. Tigers were brought on board to observe shipboard routine and wrap up the cruise's final moments. WASP returned to Naval Base Norfolk, VA, August 30.

September 2002

WASP Sailors enjoyed a 30-day post-deployment leave period. WASP hosted several tours and visitors during the month of September. Commander U.S. Atlantic Fleet Admiral Robert J. Natter visited WASP to express the fleet's appreciation for its service during Operation Enduring Freedom and to mark the one-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Wasp Sailors were pen pals with students from Westminster High School in Westminster, MD, during the deployment. The students visited in September, touring the ship and eating lunch on board. On September 16, WASP CO pinned 19 new chief petty officers during a ceremony held in the hangar bay. After conducting a one-day fast cruise, WASP departed Norfolk, VA, for an ammunition offload in Earle, NJ.

October 2002

WASP spent the first week of October conducting an ammunition offload at Naval Weapons Station Earle, NJ. MWR sponsored visits to an amusement park and trips into New York City. After completing the offload, WASP headed for a four-day port visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia and enjoyed tours of the Canadian countryside and coastal communities. After returning to homeport for a few days, WASP went underway for four days to conduct helicopter operations in the VACAPES area, which marked its last official underway period for 2002. Near the end of October, WASP hosted several more tours. While in town to play the Norfolk Admirals, 31 players from the Albany River Rats took a day off to visit and learn about the crew. WASP's medical department brought in 15 different organizations to promote wellness, safety and self-awareness during a health fair held in the ship' hangar bay.

November 2002

After hosting several tours at the beginning of November, several WASP Sailors volunteered to support Kid's Voting USA. The Sailors adopted a polling site at a Virginia Beach Elementary School and

provided administrative support in processing ballots and educating the students about the voting process. WASP hosted a 4-man best ball golf tournament. WASP held a pre-shipyard safety standdown in preparation for a six-month maintenance availability at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA. WASP was towed to the shipyard November 22. WASP wrapped up November by holding a children's Christmas party at Jeepers Amusement center inside the MacArthur Mall, Norfolk, VA.

December 2002

During the month of December, WASP Sailors volunteered to support various holiday assistance programs. Off the ship, chaplain services coordinated several efforts at local churches, missions and food banks. Project Angel Tree and Holiday Assistance Program provided gifts to more than 80 children of WASP Sailors in need, as well as \$50 commissary gift certificates to assist in preparation of a holiday meal. Sailors enjoyed dinner and dancing at an annual Christmas party held at the Waterside Marriott. December 13 marked the beginning of Wasp's holiday stand down leave period.