

Classification (when filled in): UNCLAS

Command Operations Report

1. Command Data (Boxes will expand as information is typed)

Name of your Command or Organization: USS WASP

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 21560

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: KASTNER First: KURT M.I.: A Rank: CAPTAIN

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2015-01-23

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations:

Mission: Embarkation, deployment, landing, and support of a Marine Landing Force. Specifically designed to accommodate Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC), a full range of Navy and Marine Corps helicopters, conventional landing craft, amphibious vehicles, Osprey MV-22 Tilt Rotor aircraft, Harrier II AV-8B STO/VL jets, and Medical/Dental facilities capable of providing intensive medical assistance to 600 humanitarian or combat casualties.

Command Employment: CNO Availability, Sea Trials.

Area of Operations: Western Atlantic / CONUS

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): NORFOLK NAVAL STATION

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: COMPHIBRON 6

Administrative: COMNAVSURFLANT

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): N/A

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: See Attached Files

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): None

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 84 Enlisted: 1012 Civilian: 01

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LCDR [REDACTED]

Job Title/Office Code: METOC

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): 757-443-7520

Command Mailing Address: USS WASP
FPO AE 09556-1660

2. Commander's Assessment

2014 was a year of getting the Wasp back into fighting shape with ten months spent in the ship yards for a CNO Availability. During this shipyard period, the decertified combat systems were all updated to the SSDS MK II, the network was replaced with the Navy's next generation tactical afloat network CANES, and various modifications were made to support Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) embarkation. In November we got underway for the first time in over a year for Combat Sea Trials. During this sea trial we received passing grades for all Combat Systems, putting the Wasp on track to return to an operational deployment cycle after more than ten years.

3. Chronology

2 Jan – Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command Visit
25 Mar – Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems Visit (PEO IWS)
28 Apr – Holocaust Remembrance
21 May – Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN) Sean J. Stackely Visit
22 May - Wasp Summer Safety Stand-Down.
5 Jun – Ship Store “Best in Class” Award Ceremony

25 Jul – WASP Safety Stand-Down
28 Jul – Naval Surface Force Atlantic (CNSL) and Expeditionary Strike Group Two (ESG-2) Visit
29 Jul – WASP 25th Birthday Celebration
28 Aug – WASP GMT Stand-Down
30 Sep – USS WASP Departs BAE Shipyard for Norfolk Naval Base.
17-20 Oct – War Familiarization Exercise (WARFEX)
27 Oct – U.S. Senate Staff Visit
30 Oct – Republic of Turkey Air Force Officer Tour
4-5 Nov – Navy Safety Center (NSC) Safety Survey
5 Nov – Ordnance Onload
7 Nov- Magazine Sprinkler Certification granted from MARMC
7 Nov – WASP Winter Safety Stand-Down
7-8 Nov – Midshipmen Overnight Visit
19-25 Nov – WASP Underway for Combat Sea Trials.
24 Nov – Burial at Sea
30 Nov – Baptism of LT [REDACTED]’s Child, [REDACTED]
9 Dec – USFF Comptroller Supply Tour
11 Dec – USS WASP Health Fair
29 Dec – Executive Officer Turnover

4. Narrative

January 2014 began with WASP four months into her Dry-docked Phased Maintenance Availability in BAE Systems Shipyard Norfolk for upgrades and repairs. The DPMA was a major milestone for USS WASP. Many regularly scheduled, contracted, maintenance items took place as well as many modernization upgrades to return WASP to the fight.

On January 2, Vice Admiral (VADM) William Hunter Hilarides, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, visited WASP as part of an area visit agenda.

On March 25, Rear Admiral (RADM) Joseph A. Horn, Jr., Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems Visit (PEO IWS), visited WASP for a brief on the status of the availability and modernization onboard WASP as well as review the schedule of CAPSTONE and Critical Paths, Risks, Issues pending for USS WASP on the upcoming Sea Trials, Combat System Sea Trials, and CSSQT.

Wasp hosted a Holocaust Remembrance on the Barge Mess Decks with guest speaker Rabbi Connie Golden, April 28.

On May 21 the Honorable Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), conducted a tour of WASP to gain an overview of the progress regarding CANES/CAPSTONE/SSDS installation.

Rear Admiral (RADM) John P. Polowczyk, Fleet Supply Officer, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, presented WASP’s Sales Division with the FY13 “Best in Class” Award on the flight deck, June 5.

On July 25, WASP conducted a safety stand-down to familiarize Sailors with policies, procedures, and precautions of daily duties while onboard WASP. This was followed by a visit from Rear Admiral (RADM) Peter A. Gumataotao and Rear Admiral (RDML) Cynthia M. Thebaud (Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic (CNSL) and Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Two (ESG-2) respectively), who toured throughout various areas of WASP. The month wrapped up with WASP's 25th Birthday Celebration. WASP crewmembers celebrated the life of WASP and the unique contributions WASP has made to our national defense, as well as showcasing significant events which have taken place in her 25 years of service.

In August, WASP conducted a General Military Training stand-down in order to meet mandated annual training requirements on the 28th.

After 13 months of yard time, WASP departed BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair to return to her homeport, Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia on September 30.

From 17-20 of October WASP hosted 238 Marines from The Basic School (TBS) who conducted their War Familiarization Exercise (WARFEX), an orientation to shipboard operations to familiarize students with capabilities and limitations of multi-purpose amphibious assault ships. On October 27, U.S. Senate Staffers visited WASP. Mr. Joel Elliott, Chief of Staff, Senator Donnelly (D-IN), Mr. Bruce Evans, Chief of Staff, Senator Cochran (R-MS), Mr. Jason Rauch, Mil. Legislative Asst., Senator McCaskill (R-MO), Mr. Chris Cook, Lead Analyst, Senate Committee on Budget, and Mr. Nathan Adler, Staff Member, Select Committee on Intelligence toured WASP in order to gain a better appreciation of the Navy and the ship's mission. This was followed by another tour on October 30. Colonel Yuksel Akkale, Deputy Chief of Staff Resource and Management, NATO SACT, along with 14 officers and cadets from the Republic of Turkey Air Force, also toured WASP in order to gain a better appreciation of the Navy and the ship's mission.

November began with the Navy Safety Center (NSC) conducted a Survey Inspection aboard WASP, from 4-5. They identified safety hazards and provided the Commanding Officer (CO) with an evaluation of the command for deployment preparations. On November 5, WASP conducted pier-side ordnance onload in support of training requirements and qualifications. After weeks of rework by the Weapons Department, the Magazine Sprinklers were certified by Mid Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC) on November 7 which allowed Wasp to store Ammunition onboard. WASP also conducted a stand-down to deliver safety and General Military Training (GMT) in order to mitigate risks associated with recreational and off-duty safety, and meet annual GMT training requirements prior to the beginning of the Holiday Season on November 7. This coincided with an overnight visit for 20 Midshipmen and 2 Naval Officers on November 7-8. Then, beginning November 19, WASP went underway for the first time in 14 months for Combat System Sea Trials. During the sea trials, the combat systems in CIC were put to test with various exercises, to include; CWIS Antenna alignment verification, Detect Tract Engage (DTE), Non-Firing RAM engagement, and Non-Firing CWIS. During this underway she also conducted a Burial at Sea for nine veterans. Rounding out the month, WASP's Chaplains baptized LT ██████████'s Child, ██████████. ██████████ was baptized in the ship's bell in the ship's chapel aboard USS WASP. In accordance with naval tradition, the child's name was inscribed inside the bell.

On December 9, USFF Comptroller CAPT William Skinner visited WASP for a general shipboard orientation tour followed by an overview of key Supply Department spaces. The Health Promotions Committee provided Sailors with tools they could use to correct their health

course in order to maintain a correct heading on how to correctly fuel their bodies during the USS WASP Health Fair, December 11. The year ended with CAPT Kurt A. Kastner beginning turnover of Executive Officer duties with CAPT Andrew F. Smith on December 29.

5. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

Attached to Email:

Battle Efficiency Submission Exemption

CNO Afloat Safety Award Submission

Navy League Admiral Vern Clark Safety Award Submission

Ships Safety Excellence Award Submission

6. Published Documents

www.wasp.navy.mil

7. Photographs

Attached to Email:

CAPT K.A. Kastner, CO

CAPT A.F. Smith, XO
