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DOD MEMO OF 12 Apr 1974

COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION 24
(COMMANDER TASK GROUP 16.12)

SERIAL 07

15 MARCH 1946

MAGIC CARPET OPERATIONS

REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF TASK GROUP 16.12
WHOSE MISSION WAS THAT OF RETURNING SERVICE
PERSONNEL FROM THE PACIFIC AREAS TO THE
UNITED STATES.

MIDDLE

DECLASSIFIED

CCD24/A4-1
LSP: Hs

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET
COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION TWENTY-FOUR

Serial 07

15 MAR 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR,
(Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE).

To : Chief of Naval Operations.

Via : (1) Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
(2) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and dissolution of.

References: (a) CinCPac despatch 051311 of September 1945.
(b) CinCPOA despatch 050339 of March 1946.
(c) CNO despatch 062050 of March 1946.
(d) Graphic representation of personnel lift.
(e) Graphic representation of total personnel lift by services.
(f) Weekly photographs of operational plotting board.
(g) CinCPac Confidential despatch 092032 of March 1946.

Enclosures: (A) Copy of reference (a).
(B) Copy of reference (b).
(C) Copy of reference (c).
(D) Copy of reference (d).
(E) Copy of reference (e).
(F) Copy of reference (f).
(G) Copy of reference (g).

DECLASSIFIED - OPNAV INST 5500.30
BY J. Kue DATE 3-16-60

1. Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR, which operated under the command of Rear Admiral Henry S. KENDALL, U. S. Navy, was dissolved on 15 March 1946 in accordance with references (b), (c), and (g). Operational control of the remaining 23 ships carrying the designation, Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, was placed directly under the organization of Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

2. Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR, with the designation Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, was assigned to Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and given the mission of returning service personnel from the Pacific areas to the United States. On 4 September 1945, through his issuance of reference (a), the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, made known his intention of utilizing certain aircraft carriers to operate under the command of Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR as troop transports for effecting the homeward movement of personnel. On the same date, Rear Admiral KENDALL was ordered to proceed from Guam to Pearl Harbor by air transport for the purpose of setting up headquarters at Pearl Harbor and forming the Task Group. With five officers and four enlisted members of his staff, Rear Admiral KENDALL arrived at Pearl Harbor on 8 September 1945. After a conference with Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Com-

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mander Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR was designated Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE. The Task Group was formed and operations were begun on 10 September 1945. The progressive increase in the number of vessels assigned required an increase in the nucleus of staff personnel to a maximum of sixteen officers and forty-four enlisted men.

3. There were initially assigned to Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, one large aircraft carrier and eighteen escort aircraft carriers. By addition of more aircraft carriers as well as ships of other types, the Task Group reached a peak strength of 369 ships on 15 December 1945, as noted below. As the backlog of personnel awaiting transportation was dissipated, the size of the Task Group was reduced starting with the release to their postwar assignments of the battleships and cruisers on 28 December 1945. A gradual reduction in strength continued from that time until the final dissolution of Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR was effected.

SHIPS ASSIGNED TO TASK GROUP 16.12

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
AH	10
APH	3
AK	8
AKA	28
AP	7
APA	222
AV	4
BB	6
CA	9
CL	9
CV	7
CVL	4
CVE	46
LSV	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	369

4. Commander Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE is responsible to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, for the weekly presentation of data covering the return of all personnel from the Pacific area regardless of the category or the method by which returned.

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5. In order that they might more efficiently perform their missions as troop transports, ships of all types were temporarily modified to increase their passenger capacities and to promote the welfare of the passengers. These modifications included installation of additional bunks, increasing sanitary facilities, enlarging galley facilities, carrying greater stocks of athletic equipment and games, and expanding canteen and small stores services. Frequent unsolicited statements from passengers testify to the ingenuity and interest of the commanding officers of the ships and their subordinates in providing for passenger comfort. Especially noteworthy were the many letters of appreciation which were received from Army passengers of all ranks and ratings.

6. Proportionate assignment of space to the various branches of the armed services was made as directed by the Joint Military Transportation Committee through the Chief of Naval Operations. Allocation of spaces among the various areas was made on the following approximate percentage basis: thirty percent to the Philippines, thirty percent to the Marianas, thirty percent to the Okinawa-Japanese Empire area, and ten percent to the other areas including Hawaii, the Marshalls-Gilberts, the Southern Pacific, Korea, and China. On 14 November 1945, a system was placed in effect under which ships of the Task Group were placed in one of three categories, i.e., "Army Block", "Navy Block", and "Unassigned". Ships assigned to blocks operated between specified ports of call and gave first priority to members of the service to which they were allocated. Local agreements by Army and Navy commanders in the forward areas resulted in frequent inter-change of space between the services to their mutual advantage. Ships which were "Unassigned" were utilized to answer unexpected requirements and to augment block-assigned shipping. On 18 January 1946, the block system was discontinued and all shipping of the Task Group subsequently engaged primarily in the return of Naval, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel.

7. Upon the dissolution of Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR and the reassignment of Task Group SIXTEEN POINT TWELVE, the number of personnel returned to the United States and that portion which were returned by ships of the Task Group were as follows:

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<u>Category</u>	<u>Total Returned</u>	<u>Number Returned by TG 16.12</u>
Army	1,469,202	501,616
Navy (including C.G.)	1,448,868	679,819
Marines	165,410	117,686
Civilian	<u>39,914</u>	<u>8,738</u>
GRAND TOTAL	3,123,394	1,307,859

The above figures are graphically portrayed by reference (e).

8. A monthly tabulation of the number of personnel returned to the United States follows:

	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sep. 1945	164,072	80,738	8,628	6,418	259,856
Oct. 1945	261,217	149,762	26,867	8,869	446,715
Nov. 1945	271,003	243,918	50,359	8,789	574,069
Dec. 1945	242,312	416,154	32,965	4,055	695,486
Jan. 1946	277,835	304,518	16,438	2,770	601,561
Feb. 1946	173,590	200,578	22,641	4,944	401,753
Mar. 1946	<u>58,839</u>	<u>73,534</u>	<u>7,512</u>	<u>4,069</u>	<u>143,954</u>
GRAND TOTAL	1,448,868	1,469,202	165,410	39,914	3,123,394

Reference (e) gives a graphical picture of the above numbers.

9. Reference (d) gives in graphical form the predicted rate of return of personnel, the number actually returned, and the number returned by facilities of the various organizations. Reference (f) contains weekly photographs of the operations plotting board upon which the approximate position of each ship of the Task Group was represented daily.

H. S. Kendall
H. S. KENDALL

Copy to:
ComAirPac

SER-05-ELH/dmf

A 4-1(2)
Serial: 0276-05

COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET



CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 29 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on
ComCarDiv-24 A4-1 Ltr
Serial 07 dated 14
March 1946.

From: The Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.
Via: The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.
Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and
dissolution of.

02133

1. Forwarded.
2. The Commander Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet, desires to express his appreciation and congratulations to Commander Carrier Division TWENTY-FOUR (Commander Task Group 16.12) and all the ships of this Task Group for a job well-done.

E. C. Badger

E. C. BADGER

Cincpac File

A4-1(2)

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Serial:

0729

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2nd Endorsement on
ComCarDiv-24 A4-1 Ltr
Serial 07 dated 15
March 1946.

7 APR 1946

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.
To: Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Carrier Division 24; report of operations and
dissolution of.

02133

1. Forwarded.

2. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet considers that the efficient operations of vessels in Task Group 16.12 which resulted in such a great number of personnel being returned to the United States during this short period most highly merits a well done to Rear Admiral H. S. Kendall and to the Commanding Officers of all vessels formerly under this command.

03

J. H. TOWERS.

12 APR 1946

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A4-1(2)

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

7 APR 1946

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CONFIDENTIAL
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12 APR 1946

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U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

DATE: 5 SEPT '45 DTG: 051311

PREC: -P-P-P

CLASS: CONF

CRCH:

TO ENSURE THE PROMPT HOMEWARD MOVEMENT OF SERVICE PERSONNEL FOR DEMOBILIZATION AND REPATRIATION IT BECOMES IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY TO EMPLOY SUCH OLDER CVE'S AS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE X PARA X INTEND ASSIGN FOLLOWING SHIPS TO OPERATIONAL CONTROL COMSERVPAC THROUGH COMCARDIV 24 X SARATOGA SALAMAU KASAAN BAY ANZIO PLUS TWO CVE'S FROM TG 16.6 PLUS FOUR CVE'S NOW IN WESTERN PACIFIC FROM TRANSRONPAC PLUS TULAGI CASABLANCA WHITE PLAINS LONG ISLAND MARCUS ISLAND SAGINAW BAY PLUS WHEN RFS SARGENT BAY AND STEAMER BAY X PARA X PROPOSE SHIFT SANTEE FROM SEVENTH TO FIFTH FLEET X PARA X THIS WILL LEAVE ASSIGNMENTS AS FOLLOWS X FIFTH FLEET X SUWANEE CHENANGO SANTEE CAPE GLOUCESTER X PETROF BAY MAKIN ISLAND LUNGA POINT SAVO ISLAND X SEVENTH FLEET X BLOCK ISLAND

U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

DATE:

DTG:

PREC:

CLASS:

CRCH:

GILBERT ISLANDS KULA GULF SIBONEY SALERNO BAY PUGET SOUND X NORPAC X
KITKUN BAY HOGGATT BAY MATANIKAU NEHENTA BAY FANSHAW BAY MANILA BAY X
SERVRON SIX X VELLA GULF THETIS BAY HOLLANDIA ROI MUNDA X CARTRAINRONPAC
TRIPOLI CORREGIDOR TOKANIS BAY MAKASSAR STRAIT COMMENCEMENT BAY CARTRANSRONPAC
X SHAMROCK BAY RUDYARD BAY BOGUE COPAHEE NASSAU ALTAMAHA BARNES ATTU
KADASHAN BAY PRINCE WILLIAM KWAJALEIN SITKOH BAY BOUGAINVILLE CARD
CORE KALININ BAY WINDHAM BAY ADMIRALTY ISLANDS CAPE ESPERANCE X PARA X
FURTHER TRANSFERS FROM COMBAT FORCES AND FROM CARTRANSRONPAC TO
OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COMSERVPAC THROUGH COMCARDIV 24 ARE INTENDED AS
OPERATING CONDITIONS PERMIT X PARA X IN ADDITION TO THIS SPECIFIC AL-
LOCATION FOR PERSONNEL TRANSPORTATION IT IS EXPECTED THAT ESCORT CARRIER
MOVEMENTS UNDER COMCARTRANSRONPAC WILL ~~XXX~~ BE CONSISTENT WITH NORMAL

U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

DATE: DTG: PREC: CLASS: CRCH:

FUNCTIONS ALSO BE USED ON EACH EASTBOUND TRIP TO RETURN MAXIMUM NUMBERS ON A NOT TO DELAY BASIS X PARA X IT IS CINCPAC'S CONCEPT THAT THESE CVE'S SHOULD RETURN THEIR OWN OR EQUIVALENT AIR GROUPS X SHOULD DISPOSE OF AIRCRAFT AS DIRECTED BY COMAIRPAC AND SHOULD PRIOR TO NEXT DEPARTURE FROM THE EASTERN PACIFIC REDUCE OWN COMPLEMENTS TO MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR TRANSPORT OPERATIONS X THE ABOVE CVE'S WILL OPERATE AND CARRY NO RPT NO AIRCRAFT X PARA X REQUEST COMMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR SUBSTITUTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO ABOVE LIST X MY SECRET 030503 X 030433 REFER

Adm	C of S		Oper		Tactics		Comm		Flg Sec		Flg Lt		Mat		Gun		Intel		SDO		Marine			
Capt	Exec	Nav	Air	1st Lt	Gun	Eng	Comm	Med	Sup	Chap	Mar	D.C.	OOD	AGC	VF	VB	VT	AIR Plot	RPO	Intell	CWO	CIC	Capt. Off.	Exec. Off.

ENCLOSURE ADV

FROM: CINCPAC ADV

051311

ACTION: COMAIRPAC/COMNORPAC/COM3RDFLT/COM5THFLT/COM7THFLT/SUBFWD/COMSERVPAC/BUPERS/COMCARDIV 24/CWSF/CHSF/COM MARIANAS/COMCARTRAINRON/CNOB OKI/COMHILSEAFRON/

INFO: COMINCH/CNO/COMSERVRON SIX/COMCARTRONSRONPAC/COMAIRPAC/COMSERVPAC/BUPERS/COMCARDIV 24/CWSF/CHSF/COM MARIANAS/COMCARTRAINRON/CNOB OKI/COMHILSEAFRON/