



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96663-1711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser LPD 8-CO/19φ
06 MAR 1987

From: Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.1C

Encl: (1) Command History for 1986

1. In accordance with reference (a), the history for USS DUBUQUE for 1 January 1986 to 31 December 1986 is submitted.

D. M. Schorn
D. M. SCHORN
by direction

1. Basic History

a. Command Organization:

USS DUBUQUE served as a unit of Commander Task Force 76 during the entire year. The ship was commanded by Captain John F. Neese, USN, .

b. Designation of units assigned. Elements of the following units were embarked on DUBUQUE:

1. Beach Master Unit One
86 May 07 to present
2. Beach Master Unit One Phantom Det
86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 27
3. LCU-1665
86 June 15 to present
4. COMPHIBRON THREE
86 March 07 - 86 March 29
5. AMPHIBIOUS CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
86 Mar 07 - 86 Mar 25
6. TACRON ELEVEN
86 Mar 07 - 86 Mar 26
7. HEADQUARTERS BATTALION 3RD MARINE DIVISION
86 Mar 08 - 86 Apr 01
86 Oct 09 - 86 Oct 12
86 Nov 06 - 86 Nov 09
86 Nov 28 - 86 Dec 01

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8. 3RD BATTALION 12TH MARINES

86 Feb 02 - 86 Feb 10
86 Mar 08 - 86 Apr 01
86 May 09 - 86 May 12
86 Jun 30 - 86 Jul 30
86 Nov 24 - 86 Nov 27
86 Nov 28 - 86 Dec 01

9. 1ST BATTALION 2ND MARINES

86 Feb 02 - 86 Feb 05
86 Oct 26 - 86 Nov 04
86 Nov 06 - 86 Nov 09
86 Nov 15 - 86 Nov 18

10. 2ND BATTALION 7TH MARINES

86 Feb 07 - 86 Feb 10
86 Apr 06 - 86 Apr 09
86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 27
86 Jul 05 - 86 Jul 10
86 Oct 26 - 86 Nov 04
86 Nov 24 - 86 Nov 27

11. TRACK VEHICLE BATTALION

86 Mar 08 - 86 Apr 01
86 May 09 - 86 May 12
86 Jun 15 - 87 Jun 27
86 Nov 06 - 86 Nov 09
86 Nov 15 - 86 Nov 24
86 Nov 24 - 86 Nov 27

12. TRUCK COMPANY

86 Apr 06 - 86 Apr 09
86 May 09 - 86 Apr 09
86 Jun 30 - 86 Jul 03
86 Oct 09 - 86 Oct 12
86 Nov 28 - 86 Dec 01

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13. COMBAT SERVICES SUPPORT DETACHMENT

86 Feb 02 - 86 Feb 05

86 Feb 07 - 86 Feb 10

14. COMBAT ENGINEERS BATTALION

86 Apr 06 - 86 Apr 09

86 May 09 - 86 May 12

86 Oct 26 - 86 Nov 04

86 Nov 06 - 86 Nov 09

86 Nov 28 - 86 Dec 09

15. MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP EIGHTEEN

86 Jun 10 - 86 Jun 27

16. HML 267

86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 27

17. 3RD RECON BATTALION

86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 27

86 Oct 09 - 86 Oct 12

86 Oct 26 - 86 Nov 04

86 Nov 06 - 86 Nov 09

86 Nov 24 - 86 Nov 27

18. RLT 2

86 Jun 18 - 86 Jun 27

19. RLT 4

86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 27

20. CSSD 31

86 Jun 15 - 86 Jun 24

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HISTORICAL NARRATION

The following is an account of the ship's history for USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) during 1986. DUBUQUE is a "forward deployed" unit, operating out of Sasebo, Japan. While overseas, the ship serves as part of America's front line of defense.

From 1 January to 22 January DUBUQUE remained in Sasebo during a holiday leave and upkeep period. On 23 January DUBUQUE departed for a port call to Fukuoka, Japan. The ship moored at 1600 on the same day. On 29 January the ship left Fukuoka for Yokohama, Japan. The ship moored on 1 February and loaded CSSD-31 and BLT 1/2 Marine Units for transport to Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

DUBUQUE got underway on 2 February and arrived in Okinawa on 5 February to offload. On 6 February the ship sailed around the island to moor in Naha, Okinawa and load BLT 2/7. The ship left Okinawa one day later and proceeded to Yokohama to offload BLT 2/7. DUBUQUE arrived in Yokohama on 10 February and, after a one day offload, moored at Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan on 11 February for upkeep and training purposes. DUBUQUE remained in Yokosuka until 24 February, when the ship got underway to return to Sasebo for a brief stay.

DUBUQUE got underway on 5 March for Buckner Bay, Okinawa and moored on 6 March to begin loading the various Marine Units for Exercise Team Spirit 86. On 8 March the ship left Okinawa to participate in Team Spirit. The ship moored on 12 March in Pohang, Republic of Korea and offloaded the Marine Units. On 13 March the ship again got underway to participate in Exercise Team Spirit 86. The ship remained underway until 27 March when it moored in Pohang to re-deploy the Team Spirit Marine Units. After a brief rest in Pohang, DUBUQUE pulled out on 31 March to return the Marines to Okinawa. The ship offloaded the entire complement on 1 April and pulled out of Buckner Bay on 2 April to pick up BLT 2/7. DUBUQUE arrived in Yokohama on 5 April and after completing a one day onload, left Yokohama on 6 April anchoring at Numazu, Japan for an opportune lift of tank equipment. DUBUQUE then moved on to Naha to offload BLT 2/7 and the equipment picked up in Numazu on 9 April.

The ship got underway for Pusan, Republic of Korea on 10 April and arrived on 12 April. After a three day stop, DUBUQUE left Pusan on 15 April for an 8 hour trip back to Sasebo. Thirty dependents accompanied the ship back to Sasebo for the cruise.

From 15 April to 5 May the ship remained in Sasebo for another short upkeep period. On 5 May DUBUQUE left Sasebo for Pohang. The ship arrived on 9 May to load BLT 3/2 and leave again, underway for Buckner Bay. DUBUQUE arrived in Buckner on 12 May and offloaded the Marine units.

The following morning the ship left Okinawa for Shimoda, Japan. DUBUQUE arrived on 16 May to show U.S. Naval presence during the Black Ship Festival held in honor of Commodore Perry's historic visit.

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On 19 May DUBUQUE left Shimoda for Hong Kong, British Crown Colony. The ship arrived on 24 May for a four day port call. Liberty was the call of the day except for duty sections.

DUBUQUE left Hong Kong on 28 May for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The ship arrived on 30 May and remained in port until 11 June, except for one day underway in Subic operations area to conduct an Operational Propulsion Plant Reexamination (OPPRE). In addition to successfully passing the OPPRE, DUBUQUE passed the scheduled Command Inspection, which included a zone and personnel inspection as well as the actual Command Administrative Inspection. Prior to leaving Subic, the ship onloaded Marine Air Control Group 18 (MACG 18) for an opportune lift to Buckner Bay. The ship arrived in Buckner Bay on 14 June and offloaded MACG 18 and onloaded the various Marine Units for Exercise Valiant Usher 86-3KS.

The ship left on 15 June for Pohang to plan the final coordination for exercise Valiant Usher. DUBUQUE arrived on 17 June. The ship departed the following day to conduct the exercise, which was held off the coast of Tok Sok Ri, Republic of Korea. DUBUQUE served as primary troop transport as well as command ship for the task force.

Following the completion of Valiant Usher, the ship returned to Buckner Bay to offload the Marines of Valiant Usher on 27 June. DUBUQUE remained in Okinawa until 30 June. After onloading the Marines of BLT 3/7, the ship departed for Yokohama, Japan. The ship arrived in Yokohama on 3 July in full dress, ready for the fourth of July. The stay was a short one however. DUBUQUE was underway again on 6 July, loaded this time with Marines from BLT 2/3 for transit to Buckner Bay. The ship arrived, one day late, due to Typhoon Peggy, on 10 July. DUBUQUE departed on 11 July for Sasebo, arriving on 13 July to a warm, Hawaiian style reception on the pier from the wives and dependents.

The next inport period in Sasebo was longer. DUBUQUE remained in port until 6 October. The major work scheduled during the inport period was a 40 day Dry Dock Ship Repair Availability Period (DSRA). In preparation for the DSRA, ammunition was offloaded on 17 July and the fuel tanks were emptied. From 28 July to 1 August DUBUQUE passed an INSURV inspection. On 4 August, DUBUQUE settled on the blocks at Dry Dock number 2 at Sasebo Heavy Industrial Company, LTD (SSK). The DSRA was completed on 5 October. Working conditions during the DSRA were harsh. Summer was hot and humid, and ventilation was secured throughout the ship. With the completion of the drydock portion of the DSRA, the ship moored port side to Berth 7, India Basin at COMFLEACTS, Sasebo, Japan to finish all uncompleted jobs from DSRA, and prepare for the upcoming underway period.

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On 6 October DUBUQUE departed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. On 8 October the ship loaded for Operation Bear Hunt, departing for Inchon, Republic of Korea on 10 October. The ship moored in Inchon on 12 October to offload the Marine Units for Operation Bear Hunt. DUBUQUE got underway on 13 October enroute back to Sasebo, and moored on 14 October. CSRT inspection began 15 October and was completed satisfactorily during this inport period.

On 22 October DUBUQUE left Sasebo for Buckner Bay. The ship arrived on 24 October and loaded the Marines of Regimental Landing Team Nine over a two day period. DUBUQUE then proceeded on towards Subic Bay, to participate in Training Exercise 87-1 (TRAEX 87-1). The "D" Day landing occurred early in the morning of October 31. The ship remained at anchor until 2 November, to conduct fire support drills. On 3 November DUBUQUE moored at Leyte Pier, Subic Naval Base for a much needed rest from operations. The rest was short however. On 6 November the ship got underway, heading for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. The Marines from RLT 9 were offloaded on 9 November.

DUBUQUE then proceeded to Inchon, Republic of Korea to assist in the redeployment of Bear Hunt Marines left in Korea in October. The ship arrived on 13 November and departed on 15 November. The Marines were offloaded on 18 November in Buckner Bay. DUBUQUE left Okinawa on 19 November and returned to Inchon. The rest of the Bear Hunt Marines were loaded on 22 and 23 November and the ship again got underway on 24 November for Naha, Okinawa to offload the remaining Bear Hunt Marines. The Marines were offloaded on 27 November and BLT 3/9 Marines were loaded on 28 November. DUBUQUE left Okinawa on 29 November, underway for Subic Bay. The ship pulled into Subic on 2 December and remained inport Subic Bay through the sixth of December. During the inport period DUBUQUE passed a surprise 3-M inspection and a Supply Management Inspection. A second Command Inspection, scheduled for the inport period, was cancelled.

On 7 December, the ship left Subic Bay for Hong Kong. DUBUQUE arrived in Hong Kong on 9 December and stayed until 12 December for a liberty port call. The ship left Hong Kong on 13 December and returned home to Sasebo on 17 December. Once again, the ship received another warm greeting from the wives and dependents. DUBUQUE finished out 1986 with another holiday leave and upkeep period in homeport, Sasebo, Japan.

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