



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

Rec'd 3/21/00
W/o dish

IN REPLY REFER TO

5750

Ser 00/060

MAR 01 2000

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officers' Biographies
(5) USS DUBUQUE/USS JUNEAU Crew Swap Lessons Learned
(6) Change of Command Ceremony Pamphlet for 24 September
1999 Ceremony

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted covering the activities of USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) for calendar year 1999.

T. A. Hejl

T. A. HEJL

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To provide a responsive, capable platform to conduct sustained, effective amphibious operations in support of U.S. National Defense as directed by higher authority.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (ISIC):

Commander, Amphibious Group ONE (01JAN99 - 06SEP99)
Commander, Amphibious Group THREE (06SEP99 - 31DEC99)

NAME OF COMMANDING OFFICER:

R. H. Howe, CAPT, USN (01JAN99 - 31MAR99)
J. W. Miller, CAPT, USN (31MAR99 - 28JUL99)
A. M. Haefner, CAPT, USN (28JUL99 - 24SEP99)
T. A. Hejl, CAPT, USN (24SEP99 - 31DEC99)

PERMANENT DUTY STATION: Sasebo, Japan (01JAN99 - 28JUL99)
San Diego, CA (28JUL99 - 31DEC99)

TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED: None

CHRONOLOGY

01 JAN - 06 FEB Underway in Arabian Gulf, enroute to Bahrain.

06 FEB - 12 FEB Port Visit, Mina Sulman, Bahrain.

12 FEB - 20 FEB Amphibious Operations, MIO OPAREA, Arabian Gulf.

20 FEB Transit Straits of Hormuz

20 FEB - 01 MAR Underway, enroute to Phuket, Thailand.

01 MAR - 06 MAR Port visit, Phuket, Thailand.

06 MAR Underway, transit Straits of Malacca.

06 MAR - 14 MAR Underway, enroute to Okinawa, Japan.

14 MAR Arrival of Prospective Commanding Officer, CAPT John W. Miller

14 MAR - 16 MAR Offload Marines, East Army Pier, Okinawa, Japan.

16 MAR - 17 MAR Underway, enroute to Sasebo, Japan.

17 MAR - 31 MAR Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan.

31 MAR USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) conducts change of command ceremony. Captain Robert H. Howe is relieved by Captain John W. Miller.

31 MAR - 28 APR Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan.

28 APR - 30 APR Underway, enroute to Okinawa, Japan.

30 APR - 03 MAY Onload Marines, Okinawa, Japan.

03 MAY - 13 MAY Underway, enroute to Sattahip, Thailand; COBRA GOLD 99

13 MAY - 20 MAY Port visit, Sattahip, Thailand.

20 MAY - 25 MAY Underway, enroute to Pattaya Beach, Thailand; COBRA GOLD 99

25 MAY - 31 MAY Port visit, Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

31 MAY - 07 JUN Underway, enroute to Okinawa, Japan.

07 JUN - 09 JUN Offload Marines, Okinawa, Japan.

09 JUN - 11 JUN Underway, enroute to Pohang, South Korea.

11 JUN Inport, Pohang, South Korea.

11 JUN - 12 JUN Underway, enroute to Sasebo, Japan.

12 JUN - 28 JUN Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan.

28 JUN - 29 JUN DUBUQUE conducts an ammunition offload at anchor at Sasebo, Japan.

30 JUN - 28 JUL Crew Swap with USS JUNEAU (LPD 10).

30 JUN USS DUBUQUE hosts Crew Swap Commencement Brief on the messdecks.

10 JUL The crew of USS DUBUQUE move out of their berthing compartments onboard DUBUQUE and move onboard USS JUNEAU.

13 JUL The crew of USS JUNEAU move out of their berthing compartments onboard JUNEAU and move onboard USS DUBUQUE. USS JUNEAU food service personnel commence serving meals in the USS DUBUQUE enlisted dining facility.

19 JUL Official visit by Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, VADM Moore.

28 JUL USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) and USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) conduct an exchange of command ceremony in Sasebo, Japan. Captain John W. Miller is relieved by Captain Alan M. Haefner. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Commander, Amphibious Group ONE, RADM Highfill.

28 JUL - 09 AUG Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan.

29 JUL USS DUBUQUE conducts a Fast Cruise.

30 JUL NFL All-Star Cheerleaders and the popular music bands "Asia" and "Firefall" visit sailors of USS DUBUQUE as part of an east Asia USO tour.

02 AUG - 04 AUG Safe-to-Steam Assessment conducted by Commander, Amphibious Group ONE.

09 AUG USS DUBUQUE conducts berth shift to Akaski fueling pier in Sasebo, Japan to conduct Mogas offload. Upon completion of offload, USS DUBUQUE proceeds to sea for training.

09 AUG Swing Ship

09 AUG - 11 AUG Underway, East China Sea

10 AUG Deck Landing Qualifications conducted with 31st SOS

11 AUG LCU 1665 embarks and remains embarked until DUBUQUE's return to San Diego

11 AUG - 19 AUG Upkeep, Sasebo, Japan.

12 AUG - 13 AUG Crew Certification conducted by Commander, Amphibious Group ONE.

17 AUG DFM onload at Sasebo, Japan.

18 AUG Official visit conducted by ADM Clemmins, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

19 AUG - 20 AUG Underway, enroute to Okinawa, Japan.

20 AUG USS DUBUQUE arrives, Naha, Okinawa, Japan.

20 AUG - 21 AUG USS DUBUQUE loads "Opportune Lift" material to be carried back to the United States.

21 AUG At approximately 1805 local, shortly after securing from Sea and Anchor detail, USS DUBUQUE suffers a cargo shift while transiting in 8-10 ft. seas. Three boxes of expeditionary TARMAC material are lost over the side from the flight deck; no personnel are injured.

21 AUG - 26 AUG Underway, enroute to Saipan.

26 AUG - 30 AUG Port visit, Saipan.

26 AUG - 28 AUG USS DUBUQUE conducts DFM onload.

28 AUG USS DUBUQUE ship's party held at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel.

30 AUG - 09 SEP Underway, enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

30 AUG - 08 SEP USS DUBUQUE conducts a beard growing contest for officers and crew.

06 SEP Safety Standown

09 SEP - 13 SEP Port visit, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

10 SEP Prospective Commanding Officer, CAPT Thomas A. Hejl arrives onboard USS DUBUQUE.

13 SEP - 19 SEP Underway, enroute to San Diego.

14 SEP USS DUBUQUE conducts underway replenishment with USNS JOHN ERICSSON.

20 SEP USS DUBUQUE conducts an ammunition offload, via MK-8 landing craft, in the vicinity of the San Diego sea buoy, prior to entering port. LCU 1665 debarks and reports to Assault Craft Unit ONE.

20 SEP USS DUBUQUE arrives at San Diego. HM3 Karr gets Married on the sterngate brow just prior to liberty call.

20 SEP - 29 SEP First post-deployment leave period.

21 SEP USS DUBUQUE conducts an offload of all "Opportune Lift" material and equipment.

24 SEP USS DUBUQUE conducts a change of command ceremony at pier 6, Naval Base San Diego. CAPT Alan M. Haefner is relieved by CAPT Thomas A. Hejl. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Commander, Amphibious Group THREE, RADM Smith.

29 SEP - 08 OCT Second post-deployment leave period.

04 OCT - 08 OCT DFM offload

15 OCT USS DUBUQUE is moved to Southwest Marine Shipyard (San Diego, CA) to commence a scheduled Docking, Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA).

15 OCT - 31 DEC DPMA

25 OCT USS DUBUQUE is drydocked at the Southwest Marine drydock facility.

10 DEC USS DUBUQUE's Christmas Party is held at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego.

15 DEC Undocking from Southwest Marine drydock facility. Immediately after undocking, USS DUBUQUE is moved to Naval Base San Diego, pier 9.

17 DEC - 29 DEC First Holiday Leave Period.

29 DEC - 31 DEC Second Holiday Leave Period.

NARRATIVE

USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) began 1999 underway enroute to Mina Sulman, Bahrain, its last port visit in the Arabian Gulf. Upon leaving Bahrain, DUBUQUE transited the Straits of Hormuz and exited the Arabian Gulf.

On March 1, DUBUQUE stopped at the island of Phuket, Thailand for a six day port visit. From Phuket, DUBUQUE transited to Okinawa, offloaded all embarked Marines, and returned to Sasebo, Japan on 17 March.

On March 31, Captain John. W. Miller relieved Captain Robert. H. Howe during a Change of Command ceremony in Sasebo, Japan.

DUBUQUE departed Sasebo on April 28 for Okinawa. Upon completion of a Marine onload, she proceeded to Sattahip, Thailand to participate in exercise COBRA GOLD 99. After the first half of COBRA GOLD, DUBUQUE anchored off of Sattahip for a seven day port visit.

After departing Sattahip, DUBUQUE continued with the remainder of COBRA GOLD. On May 25, DUBUQUE anchored off the coast of Pattaya Beach, Thailand to conduct a six day port visit. From Pattaya Beach, DUBUQUE proceeded to Okinawa, offloaded embarked Marines, and returned to Sasebo.

On 30 June, USS DUBUQUE and USS JUNEAU commenced a crew swap in Sasebo, Japan. During the next month, DUBUQUE's officers and crew turned over shipboard spaces and equipment to JUNEAU's San Diego-based crew. Engineering, damage control, seamanship and combat systems training was conducted throughout the month by the new crew to ensure complete familiarization with their new ship. The crew swap was completed on 28 July during an exchange of command ceremony in Sasebo where CAPT Alan H. Haefner relieved CAPT John W. Miller.

In the three weeks that followed the exchange of command, the officers and crew conducted inport and underway training, and successfully completed a Safe-to-Steam Assessment and Crew Certification by the Commander of Amphibious Group ONE.

On 19 August, USS DUBUQUE departed Sasebo to commence its return to the United States. From 20-21 August, the ship unloaded "Opportune Lift" material in Naha, Okinawa. Shortly after departing Naha on 21 August, three boxes of expeditionary TARMAC loaded on the flight deck were lost over the side in rough seas. After brief port visits in Saipan and Pearl Harbor, HI, USS DUBUQUE returned to San Diego, CA.

On 24 September USS DUBUQUE conducted its fourth change of command ceremony of 1999 when CAPT Alan M. Haefner, USN was relieved by CAPT Thomas A. Hejl, USN.

On 15 October, USS DUBUQUE commenced a complex industrial overhaul at Southwest Marine Shipyard at San Diego. This shipyard period encompassed a significant number of engineering and habitability upgrades and repairs. During this period, every troop berthing compartment and head, in addition to Air, Navigation/Admin and A-Division berthing compartments and associated heads, was refurbished. The Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Commodore, Chief Staff Officer, Commanding Officer of Troops and Executive Officer of Troops cabins and offices also received complete refurbishments. The messdecks, wardroom, CPO mess, and their respective galleys were overhauled and upgraded. These rehabilitation jobs were nearly 50 percent completed at the end of 1999.

Enclosure (3)

Refurbishment of the ship's Pilot House commenced in November 1999. This refurbishment included the removal of the binnacle and repositioning of various pieces of equipment including the chart table, radar repeaters, and radio telephone handsets. Workstations for both the Commanding and Executive Officers were installed. Pilot House refurbishment efforts were approximately 30 percent complete at the close of 1999.

Significant engineering and structural work was completed during this shipyard period. Every tank on the ship was opened, inspected, and repaired as necessary. Both boilers and high-pressure turbine were overhauled as well as numerous pieces of ancillary equipment.

On 15 December USS DUBUQUE undocked and was towed to Naval Base San Diego pier 9, where she was moored for the remainder of the year. With the dry docking completed, DUBUQUE prepared for an additional two months of depot-level repairs during an SRA scheduled from early January through 1 March 2000.