



USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)  
FLEET POST OFFICE ✓  
SAN FRANCISCO 96669

LPD10/EPA:mjg  
5750  
Ser 144  
13 April 1982

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[REDACTED]-Unclassified upon removal of enclosures (1) and (2)

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS JUNEAU (LPD-10)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Naval Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: USS JUNEAU Command History for Calender Year 1981

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

- Encl: (1) Chronology of events for 1981  
(2) Basic narrative  
(3) Photograph of present Commanding Officer  
(4) Autobiography of present Commanding Officer  
(5) Change of Command pamphlet

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1. (U) In accordance with reference (a) the Command History for USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) for Calender Year 1981 is submitted herewith as enclosures (1) through (5).

LYNN P. BLASCH

Copy to: (encls. (1) and (2) only)  
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OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: 16 Nov 2005

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1981

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01 JAN-20 JAN	Inport San Diego, CA
21 JAN	Load MOGAS Laplaya Pier
22 JAN	Inport San Diego
23 JAN	Dependents' cruise
24 JAN-29 JAN	OPLIFT cargo loaded
30 JAN-03 FEB	Completed pre-overseas movement period
04 FEB-10 FEB	Group sail to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii with units of PHIBRON FIVE
11 FEB-13 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
14 FEB-18 FEB	Exercise BELL VOLCANO (MIDPAC OPS)
19 FEB-20 FEB	Inport Pearl Harbor
21 FEB-28 FEB	Group sail to Western Pacific with units of PHIBRON FIVE
01 MAR-06 MAR	Group sail to Buckner Bay, Okinawa with units of PHIBRON FIVE
07 MAR-08 MAR	Inport Buckner Bay
09 MAR-19 MAR	Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 81/VALIANT FLEX 81-2 with PHIBRON SEVEN, PHIBRON FIVE and units of South Korean Navy in vicinity of Pohang, Republic of South Korea
20 MAR-21 MAR	Group sail to Okinawa with USS CAYUGA (LST-1186)
22 MAR	Offload Buckner Bay, Okinawa
23 MAR-24 MAR	Group sail to Pohang with USS CAYUGA
25 MAR-26 MAR	Load Pohang
27 MAR-28 MAR	Lift to Okinawa
29 MAR	Offload Buckner Bay, Okinawa
30 MAR-31 MAR	Group sail to Yokohama with USS CAYUGA
01 APR-02 APR	Battalion Landing Team turnover, Yokohama, Japan
03 APR	Battalion Landing Team turnover, Numazu, Japan
04 APR-05 APR	Group sail to Okinawa
06 APR-08 APR	Inport Buckner Bay. Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX and staff embarked
09 APR-10 APR	Group sail to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines with USS CAYUGA
11 APR-20 APR	Upkeep Subic Bay
21 APR-24 APR	Group sail to Thailand with USS CAYUGA
25 APR-29 APR	Visit Pattaya Beach, Thailand
30 APR-05 MAY	Exercise PHIBTRAEX, vicinity of Rayong, Thailand
06 MAY-09 MAY	Enroute to Subic Bay
10 MAY-15 MAY	Upkeep Subic Bay
16 MAY-17 MAY	Enroute to Hong Kong, British Crown Colony
18 MAY-22 MAY	Visit Hong Kong
23 MAY-25 MAY	Enroute to Okinawa
26 MAY	Offload Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX and staff
27 MAY	Exercise Okinawa PHIBLEX 81
28 MAY	Independent steaming, PHILSEA
29 MAY-30 MAY	AAV Operations, Ourawan, Okinawa
31 MAY	Enroute to Sasebo, Japan
01 JUN-18 JUN	Upkeep Sasebo

Enclosure (1)

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
19 JUN	Ready for sea, Sasebo
20 JUN-21 JUN	Enroute Numazu, Japan
22 JUN-24 JUN	Load Numazu
25 JUN-26 JUN	Enroute Pusan, Republic of South Korea
27 JUN-28 JUN	Inport Pusan
29 JUN-03 JUL	Exercise VALIANT USHER 81-5, vicinity of Tok Sok, South Korea
04 JUL-10 JUL	Upkeep Sasebo
11 JUL-12 JUL	Group sail to Okinawa with USS CAYUGA
13 JUL	Inport Naha, Okinawa
14 JUL-19 JUL	Group sail to Pearl Harbor with USS CAYUGA
19 JUL	Turnover with units of PHIBRON THREE
20 JUL-25 JUL	Group sail to Pearl Harbor with units of PHIBRON FIVE
26 JUL-27 JUL	Inport Pearl Harbor
21 JUL-03 AUG	Group sail to San Diego with units of PHIBRON FIVE
04 AUG-08 SEP	Inport San Diego
09 SEP	Underway SOCAL OPAREA
10 SEP-20 SEP	Inport San Diego
11 SEP	Change of Command
21 SEP-24 SEP	Underway SOCAL OPAREA
25 SEP-26 SEP	Moored Broadway Pier for start of Cabrillo Festival
27 SEP-01 OCT	Underway SOCAL OPAREA. Six Navy League guests embarked
02 OCT-18 OCT	Moored pier 12 San Diego
19 OCT-23 OCT	Underway SOCAL OPAREA
21 OCT	Requalified in Naval Gunfire Support
22 OCT	Moored Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA for ammunition offload
23 OCT	Underway for San Diego
24 OCT-25 OCT	Moored San Diego
26 OCT-29 OCT	Underway SOCAL OPAREA
26 OCT	Damage control and engineering casualty drills held
27 OCT	Marines embarked for amphibious training
28 OCT	Marine landing exercise at RED BEACH, Camp Pendleton
29 OCT	Underway replenishment with USNS KAWISHIWI (TAO-146)
29 OCT-11 NOV	Moored pier 12 San Diego
12 NOV-31 DEC	Moored South Mole Pier San Diego
30 NOV	Commenced regular overhaul

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BASIC NARRATIVE

The first day of January 1981 found USS JUNEAU (LPD-10) and her crew in San Diego, California accomplishing the many predeployment tasks which arise before a Western Pacific Deployment. On 19 January, COMPHIBRON FIVE, Captain Paul C. Matthews, Jr., embarked in JUNEAU. 21 January found JUNEAU underway to Laplaya Pier to load MOGAS. A dependents' cruise was conducted 23 January for JUNEAU dependents, many of whom were underway for the first time. Opportune Lift, or OPLIFT, was unloaded during the week of 29 January, the first of many Marine cargo loads which JUNEAU would transport. On 3 February, JUNEAU completed her pre-overseas movement period in San Diego.

After a full schedule of trials and refresher training periods, JUNEAU got underway on 4 February for her seventh deployment. With COMPHIBRON FIVE embarked along with detachments from Beachmasters UNIT ONE, Assault Craft Unit ONE, and Tactical Air Control Squadron ONE, JUNEAU along with the other units of PHIBRON FIVE, USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), USS CAYUGA (LST-1186), and USS TUSCALOOSA (LST-1187), sailed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

JUNEAU entered Pearl Harbor on 11 February and, during the short stay there, COMPHIBRON FIVE shifted his flag to USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA-3), which had arrived in Pearl Harbor earlier. In Pearl Harbor, JUNEAU embarked 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines and 1st Battalion, 3rd Division, 25th Infantry (a contingent of the U.S. Army).

From 14 to 18 February JUNEAU participated in a MIDPAC exercise named Exercise BELL VOLCANO. With successful completion of BELL VOLCANO, JUNEAU spent 19 and 20 February inport Pearl Harbor.

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On 21 February JUNEAU got underway for points West as part of a group sail which included all units of PHIBRON FIVE including USS BELLEAU WOOD. On 1 March JUNEAU inchooped to COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET, while enroute to the island of Okinawa, Japan.

Upon arrival at Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 7 March, JUNEAU offloaded the oplift cargo loaded in January, and commenced loading for Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 81. After embarking Battalion Landing Team 3/4, Headquarters 4th Marines, and Headquarters Battalion Landing Team 3/12, JUNEAU steamed for South Korea where from 9 to 19 March, JUNEAU participated with all units of both PHIBRON SEVEN and PHIBRON FIVE and contingents of the South Korean Navy and Marines in Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 81/VALIANT FLEX 81-2. The joint U.S. and South Korean operation was conducted in the Pohang, South Korea operating area.

From 20 to 21 March JUNEAU steamed with USS CAYUGA as the Separate Operating Group (SOG) Task Group 76.7 back to Okinawa, arriving 22 March for the TEAM SPIRIT offload. Completing that, JUNEAU steamed back to Pohang, South Korea, where she arrived on 25 March to load cargo and men of the Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division for transport to Okinawa. The transit was completed 27-28 March, with offload commencing 29 March. Upon completion of this offload, JUNEAU embarked 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.


On 30 March JUNEAU and CAYUGA got underway enroute for Yokohama, Japan. Upon arrival 1 April battalion landing team turnover was conducted between BLT 3/1 and BLT 2/4. On 2 April JUNEAU got underway for Numazu, Japan to complete the offload and then sailed for Okinawa. Transit to Okinawa occurred 4-5 April with arrival in Buckner Bay 6 April.

From 6 to 8 April JUNEAU offloaded BLT 2/4 and onloaded cargo and

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men of BLT 3/4. On 7 April, Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX, Rear Admiral George B. Shick, Jr., embarked. On 8 April JUNEAU was underway in company with CAYUGA enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

While inport Subic Bay from 10 to 20 April, JUNEAU was in an upkeep status, and the men polished, painted and repaired JUNEAU for the missions ahead. While inport Subic Bay with the entire Amphibious Squadron FIVE, JUNEAU participated in Professional Olympics 1-81 (PRO OLY). JUNEAU's crew turned in an excellent performance and placed second overall and captured first place in the SOG competition.

With Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX embarked, JUNEAU steamed with CAYUGA to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Enroute to Pattaya Beach, JUNEAU came across two boat loads of Vietnamese refugees on 23 April. JUNEAU embarked ten "boat people" who were in a life-threatening situation. CAYUGA also took on six "boat people". These refugees along with additional refugees transferred to JUNEAU from another Seventh Fleet unit were transferred ashore in Pattaya Beach for relocation during the inport visit 25-29 April.

On 29 April, JUNEAU set out for PHIBTRAEX 81, an extensive exercise involving contingents of the U.S. and Thai Navies and U.S. and Thai Marines. Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX and BLT 3/4 participated in the exercise which lasted from 30 April to 5 May, 1981.

On 6 May, JUNEAU commenced transit with CAYUGA to Subic Bay for a short upkeep. During this transit USS CAYUGA detached for independent operations. Inport Subic Bay from 10 to 15 May, JUNEAU once again utilized the recreational and repair facilities of the port.

Underway 16 May, JUNEAU began her transit to the port of Hong Kong. Anchoring in Hong Kong harbor on 18 May, the crew enjoyed liberty

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in this city for five days. While in Hong Kong, Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX and USS JUNEAU were visited by the Commanding Officer of HMS TAMAR.

May 23 found JUNEAU once again underway in transit to Okinawa, where on 26 May, JUNEAU offloaded Commander Task Force SEVEN SIX and his staff. That same evening JUNEAU got underway in preparation for the Okinawa PHIBLEX 1-81 for disembarkation of BLT 3/4. On 27 May PHIBLEX 1-81 was conducted followed by one day independent steaming exercises on 28 May. On 29 and 30 May, AAV operations were conducted in the area of Ourawan, Okinawa.

On 31 May, JUNEAU transited to Sasebo, Japan for an extensive upkeep. The Sasebo upkeep, which lasted from 1 to 18 June, was by far the most productive repair and upkeep period the ship had during the deployment. Repair facilities were excellent, and JUNEAU received excellent service in all areas. While in Sasebo, JUNEAU conducted her ship-wide annual physical fitness test for all hands.

Ready for sea by 19 June, JUNEAU transited to Numazu, Japan 20-21 June. Arriving on 22 June, JUNEAU onloaded BLT 3/1 in preparation for the upcoming VALIANT USHER 81-5 exercise. Enroute 25-26 June to Pusan, South Korea, JUNEAU arrived there on 27 June. After enjoying liberty in Pusan, JUNEAU participated in Exercise VALIANT USHER 81-5 in the Tok Sok, South Korea operating area from 29 June to 3 July. The exercise involved contingents of the U.S. and South Korean Navies and Marines.

Completing the exercise, JUNEAU headed for Sasebo, Japan where she arrived on the Fourth of July. Holiday flags were flown to commemorate our nation's birthday. From 4 to 10 July, JUNEAU once again benefited from the efficient repair facilities of Sasebo.

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Departing Japan 11 July, JUNEAU sailed in company with CAYUGA to Naha, Okinawa where OPLIFT material was unloaded on 13 July. The next day, 14 July, JUNEAU once again sailed with CAYUGA to complete turnover with units of PHIBRON THREE on 19 July. Steaming with units of PHIBRON FIVE from 20-25 July, JUNEAU arrived in Pearl Harbor 26 July and by 28 July was sailing with PHIBRON FIVE to a joyful return in San Diego on 4 August after a highly successful deployment.

Beginning 4 August, JUNEAU moored at pier 6 and began her post-deployment leave and upkeep period. On 9 September, JUNEAU was once again underway in the Southern California (SOCAL) operating area for the day. Embarked onboard was Captain Lynn P. Blasch, USN, who would be relieving Captain Charles R. Flather as Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU.

Fair skies on 11 September set the stage for the Change of Command Ceremony. Before the officers and men of JUNEAU and invited guests, Captain Flather formally transferred responsibility of USS JUNEAU to Captain Blasch on JUNEAU's flight deck. In attendance and delivering the main speech was COMPHIBRON FIVE, Commodore Matthews. Receptions were held in the wardroom and the messdecks following the ceremony.

On 21 September, JUNEAU was underway with her new Commanding Officer. Stopping alongside the Point Loma Fuel Annex to offload fuel, JUNEAU then proceeded to SOCAL for local operations. On 22 September the busy schedule of the preceding day continued and JUNEAU anchored in the Delmar Boat Basin to conduct boat offload. Completing this operation and getting underway, JUNEAU then conducted flight operations with USMC helos. The day ended with JUNEAU conducting independent steaming in the SOCAL OPAREA. Local operations continued 23 September with steering casualty drills that day and return to port on 24 September.

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The weekend of 25-26 September was special for JUNEAU. Returning from the operating area, JUNEAU moored to the north side of Broadway Pier for the start of the Cabrillo Festival. While there she hosted thousands of civilian visitors along with several hundred recruits from Recruit Training command, San Diego, Ca. With the very successful open-house weekend coming to a close, JUNEAU prepared once again to embark on local operations. JUNEAU got underway 27 September with six Navy League guests embarked. On 28 September, JUNEAU conducted general quarters drills, abandon ship drills and flight quarters. Similar exercises were conducted through the rest of the week, and October arrived with JUNEAU still at sea conducting gunnery exercises. Completing the local operations successfully, JUNEAU returned to 32nd Street Naval Station on 2 October where she moored to pier 12. The period 2 through 18 October was spent inport and JUNEAU crewmembers reunited with family and friends while preparing to get underway once again for local operations.

From 19 to 23 October, JUNEAU was underway in the SOCAL OPAREAS in accordance with CINCPACFLT quarterly employment schedule. During this period JUNEAU again conducted gun shoots, flight quarters, and general quarters. On 21 October JUNEAU requalified in Naval Gunfire Support off San Clemente Island with a score of 96.5. On 22 October the ship moored at Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, Ca. to offload ship's ammunition and LFORM in preparation for regular overhaul. JUNEAU got underway on the morning of 23 October and returned to San Diego 24 October. On 26 October JUNEAU got underway for damage control and engineering casualty drills. One hundred eighty Marines of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines embarked 27 October for amphibian training which culminated in a landing exercise at RED BEACH, Camp Pendleton on 28 October. Underway replen-

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ishment exercises were conducted with USNS KAWISHIWI (TAO-146) 29 October followed by return to pier 12, Naval Station, San Diego the same day.

On 12 November, JUNEAU shifted berths to the South Mole Pier, where she remained moored throughout the remainder of 1981. On 30 November JUNEAU commenced her regular overhaul with Superintendent of Shipbuilding, San Diego, Ca. The overhaul was awarded to Southwest Marine, Inc. of San Diego, Ca. Activities during the rest of the year included off-loading fuel, repair parts and stores in preparation for the rip-out phase of overhaul.

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