



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington D.C. 203740-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted covering the activities of USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) for calendar year 1992.

D. L. Ihlenfeld
D. L. IHLENFELD

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To land Marines and equipment either by landing craft carried in the well deck and floated out through the stern gate, or by helicopters operated from the flight deck.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (ISIC): Commander Amphibious Squadron NINE

NAME OF COMMANDER: D.L. Ihlenfeld, CAPT, USN

PERMANENT DUTY STATION: San Diego, CA

TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED: None

Enclosure(1)

CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan 1992 Drydocking Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA) at Southwest Marine Shipyard in San Diego, CA.

04 May - 06 May Light-Off Examination

18 May Completed overhaul. Returned to NAVSTA San Diego.

26 May - 27 May Conducted sea trials and test firing of CIWS.

22 Jun - 25 Jun Conducted Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) in support of Mine Countermeasures Helicopter Squadron FIFTEEN (HM-15). Launched and recovered RHIB and MK105 sled for training.

26 Jun Anchored off Silver Strand.

27 Jun - 28 Jun Visit ship, Broadway Pier.

29 Jun Underway from Broadway Pier. Anchored vicinity Camp Pendleton.

30 Jun - 01 Jul Commenced VERTREP ammo onload with HC-11.

01 Jul Returned to San Diego.

07 Jul - 19 Jul Participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust-92 as Mine Countermeasures Flagship (Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group ONE). Embarked HM-15 Detachment and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit.

24 Jul - 06 Aug Participated in Exercise Behavior Criterion N278-92 and Comptuex 92-13T as Battle Group and ASW Commander Flagship. Embarked 3 SH-60F helicopters for Northbound transit to Seattle Seafair 92.

28 Jul Transited Strait of Juan de Fuca. Moored Port Angeles, WA.

29 Jul Transited Puget Sound with Navy League members embarked. Moored Seattle, WA.

04 Aug Underway from Seattle, WA for transit south to San Diego. Embarked Senior Officer Shipboard Material Readiness Course (SOSMRC) class for training.

06 Aug Conducted Emergency MEDEVAC via USCG helicopter to North Bend, Oregon Medical Facilities.

Enclosure (2)

07 Aug Conducted UNREP with USNS JOHN ERICSSON. Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

13 Aug Underway for exercise Fleetex 92-2M SOCAL OPAREAS, workup exercise in preparation for short notice Indian Ocean/Arabian Gulf deployment.

14 Aug Anchored vicinity Camp Pendleton. Embarked 14 AAV's. Practice launched numerous AAV waves.

16 Aug Commenced Special Operations Capabilities Exercise (SOCEX) with insertion of Naval Special Warfare and USMC Reconnaissance & Surveillance team insertion into Long Beach, CA.

17 Aug Anchored outside San Pedro Harbor. Conducted Hostage Rescue operations.

18 Aug - 19 Aug Completed Hostage Rescue Operations. Conducted RHIB and CRRC operations off Chaffee Island.

22 Aug Performed takedown of GOPLAT Edith vicinity Long Beach. Completed FLEETEX 92-2M and SOCEX. Completed offload at Camp Pendleton. Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

27 Aug - 28 Aug Combat Systems Shipboard Qualification Trials (CSSQT)

01 Sep Underway for Staff Exercise (STAFFEX). Anchored Camp Pendleton for ammunition VERTREP onload.

03 Sep Underway from anchorage. Conducted (STAFFEX) with RCT-7 and two silent H-hour AAV assaults at Red Beach. Conducted LCAC welldeck training and LAV transport to Red Beach. Conducted L-Hour assault using HMM-363 CH-53.

04 Sep Completed STAFFEX. Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

10 Sep CAPT D. L. Ihlenfeld relieved CAPT T. A. Fitzgibbons as Commanding Officer USS JUNEAU (LPD 10).

06 Oct Underway for well deck training and ammo onload. Anchored ATG anchorage. Conducted LCU sterngate marriage. Embarked LCM-8s at Yellow Beach, Silver Strand. Proceeded to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA upon completion.

07 Oct Arrived Seal Beach

08 Oct Completed L-Form/SEAL ammo offload/onload. Underway enroute SOCAL OPAREAs.

09 Oct Participated in Anti-Ship Missile Defense Exercise (ASMDEX) and Chaff Exercise.(CHAFFEX) Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

15 Oct Embarked Battalion Landing Team 2/9, Special Boat Unit Twelve Det, and Seal Team One Platoon.

16 Oct - 23 Oct Multi-sail, in company with Commander Amphibious Squadron THREE, USS TRIPOLI and USS RUSHMORE enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

22 Oct Amphibious Task Unit/Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force training event canceled due to heavy seas.

23 Oct - 24 Oct Inport Pearl Harbor

24 Oct - 06 Nov Underway from Pearl Harbor enroute Okinawa, Japan.

05 Nov Entered CENTCOM tether

06 Nov - 07 Nov Inport Okinawa, Japan following cancellation of Valiant Usher exercise due to typhoon.

07 Nov - 10 Nov Underway enroute Singapore

10 Nov - 12 Nov Successfully completed short notice Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) vicinity Philippine Islands.

12 Nov - 15 Nov Continued enroute Singapore.

16 Nov - 23 Nov Entered Strait of Singapore. Anchored Singapore anchorage area for maintenance availability.

23 Nov - 26 Nov Departed Singapore. Transited Straits of Malacca.

26 Nov Diverted with USS TRIPOLI and USS RUSHMORE to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope relief efforts.

02 Dec Conducted VERTREP with USS NIAGARA FALLS. Arrived vicinity Somalia.

03 Dec Conducted Refueling-at-sea with MV LAWRENCE H. GIANELLA.

03 Dec - 08 Dec Remained vicinity Somalia. Joined by USS RANGER battle group.

09 Dec Executed successful pre-dawn amphibious landing at Mogadishu Airport and port facilities.

09 Dec - 19 Dec Supported forces ashore. Embarked Fifth Belgian Parachute Battalion and proceeded enroute Kismayo, Somalia.

20 Dec Inserted US Marines and Belgian Army Forces into Kismayo via helicopter and Amphibious Assault Vehicles. Anchored vicinity Kismayo

21 Dec Conducted UNREP/VERTREP with USS SACRAMENTO. Returned to anchorage in Kismayo for backload of US Marine Forces.

22 Dec Underway. Returned to vicinity Mogadishu.

26 Dec Inserted SEALS into Munghia for beach surveillance and returned to Mogadishu. Safely landed 500th helicopter of deployment.

27 Dec - 31 Dec Remained anchored off Mogadishu supporting forces ashore.

NARRATIVE

USS JUNEAU began 1992 in a Drydocking Phased Maintenance Availability at Southwest Marine Shipyard in San Diego, CA. After significant engineering and habitability repairs, a communication upgrade, and installation of Mk 15 CIWS, JUNEAU completed a Light-Off Examination and returned to Naval Station San Diego on 18 May.

From 26-27 May, JUNEAU conducted sea trials and successfully test fired CIWS before returning to Naval Station San Diego.

JUNEAU got underway on 22 June to conduct Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) in support of Mine Countermeasures Helicopter Squadron FIFTEEN (HM-15). During this period, JUNEAU launched and recovered Rigid Hull Boats (RIBs) and Mk 105 sled for training. On 26 June, JUNEAU anchored off Silver Strand Yellow Beach. On 27 July, JUNEAU returned to Broadway Pier in San Diego for Visit Ship. While at Broadway Pier, JUNEAU sailors assisted in the rescue of a disabled civilian who had fallen off the pier into the water.

JUNEAU got underway on 29 June and proceeded to anchorage off Camp Pendleton. From 29 June to 1 July JUNEAU conducted a Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP)/ammunition onload with helicopters from HC-11. JUNEAU returned to San Diego in the afternoon of 01 July.

From 07 July until 19 July JUNEAU participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust-92 as Mine Countermeasures Flagship for (Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group ONE). Embarked during this exercise was a detachment from HM-15 and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit. All command and control of the mine sweeping ships and aircraft was conducted from JUNEAU. This was the first time an LPD was used in this capacity in the Pacific Fleet. Upon conclusion of Tandem Thrust-92 JUNEAU returned to Naval Station San Diego.

On 24 July, JUNEAU was once again underway enroute Seattle, WA for Seattle Seafair. During the transit, JUNEAU embarked three (3) SH-60 Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters and participated in Exercise Behavior Criterion N278-92 and Comptuex 92-13T as Battle Group and ASW Commander Flagship. Embarked were Commander, Carrier Group SEVEN and Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE. On 28 July JUNEAU entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca and moored in Port Angeles, WA. JUNEAU got underway the next day with members of the local Navy League aboard and transited the Puget Sound before mooring in Seattle, WA.

JUNEAU hosted over eight thousand visitors during the five days inport involved with Seattle Seafair. On 04 August, JUNEAU embarked a Senior Officer Shipboard Material Readiness Course (SOSMRC) class and got underway enroute San Diego. On 06 August, after leaving the Strait of Juan de Fuca, JUNEAU conducted an emergency Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) via US Coast Guard helicopter from a North Bend, Oregon Medical Facility. The next day, JUNEAU conducted an underway replenishment (UNREP) with the USNS JOHN ERICSSON before returning to Naval Station San Diego.

Enclosure (3)

On 13 August, JUNEAU got underway for Fleet Exercise (FLEETEX) 92-2M which was designed as a Southern California (SOCAL) workup for the upcoming short-notice deployment. On 14 August, JUNEAU anchored vicinity Camp Pendleton, CA, embarked 14 Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) through the well deck, and practiced several launches and recoveries before getting underway enroute the Long Beach area. SOCEX commenced on 16 August with an insertion of Special Warfare elements from the SEALs and USMC Reconnaissance and Surveillance teams into Long Beach harbor. On 17 August, JUNEAU anchored outside San Pedro Harbor and practiced hostage rescue operations. From 18-19 August, JUNEAU launched SEALs and Marines in RHIBs and Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRCs) in operations off Chaffee Island. On 22 August, JUNEAU was involved with a takedown of the Gas/Oil Platform (GOPLAT) Edith in the vicinity of Long Beach which marked the conclusion of FLEETEX 92-2M and SOCEX. JUNEAU disembarked the Marines at Camp Pendleton and returned to Naval Station San Diego.

From 27-28 August, JUNEAU performed Combat Systems Shipboard Qualification Trials (CSSQT).

JUNEAU was underway 01 September for Staff Exercise (STAFFEX) enroute anchorage off Camp Pendleton, CA for VERTREP ammunition onload. JUNEAU got underway 03 September and conducted STAFFEX with RCT-7 and two silent H-Hour assaults at Red Beach. JUNEAU also conducted Air-Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) welldeck training, LAV transport to Red Beach and an L-Hour assault using CH-53 helicopters from HMM-363. STAFFEX concluded on 04 September and JUNEAU returned to Naval Station San Diego.

On 10 September, Captain D.L. Ihlenfeld relieved Captain T.A. Fitzgibbons as Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU in a ceremony that included COMPHIBGRU THREE as guest speaker.

JUNEAU got underway on 06 October and anchored in the San Diego Harbor for well deck training that included a LCU sterngate marriage. JUNEAU departed the harbor enroute Yellow Beach, Silver Strand where LCM-8s were embarked before proceeding to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, CA. JUNEAU moored 07 October and completed a L-Form/SEAL ammunition offload/onload the following day. On 09 October, JUNEAU conducted an Anti-Ship Missile Defense Exercise (ASMDEX) and a Chaff exercise (CHAFFEX) off the coast of San Diego and returned to Naval Station San Diego.

On 15 October, Battalion Landing Team 2/9 embarked along with a Special Boat Unit TWELVE Detachment and Seal Team ONE Platoon Alpha.

On 16 October, USS JUNEAU departed San Diego along with Commander Amphibious Squadron THREE embarked in USS TRIPOLI, and USS RUSHMORE for a Western Pacific/Indian Ocean deployment. The three ships arrived off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii on 22 October, but a scheduled exercise was canceled due to heavy seas. All three ships moored inport Pearl Harbor the following day.

On 24 October, The Amphibious Task Unit (ATU) departed Pearl Harbor enroute Okinawa, Japan. The ATU entered the CENTCOM tether on 05 November. Exercise Valiant Usher, scheduled for 06 November was canceled due to an approaching typhoon and JUNEAU conducted a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) at White Beach, Okinawa that day. JUNEAU rejoined TRIPOLI and RUSHMORE on 07 November proceeding towards Singapore.

From 10-12 November while enroute Singapore, JUNEAU successfully completed a short notice Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) off the coast of the Philippines, the first such conducted on a Pacific Fleet ship in over five years. All three ships departed once again for Singapore on 12 November.

The ATU entered the Strait of Singapore on 16 November. JUNEAU and TRIPOLI anchored in Singapore while RUSHMORE proceeded to Lumut, Malaysia. After completing a maintenance availability, JUNEAU and TRIPOLI departed Singapore and transited the Straits of Malacca on 23 November. Rushmore rejoined the ATU on 24 November.

Though initially headed for the Arabian Gulf, the ATU was diverted to Somalia to conduct Operation Restore Hope relief efforts on 26 November. On 02 December JUNEAU conducted a VERTREP with USS NIAGARA FALLS and arrived in the vicinity of Mogadishu, Somalia. All three ships were refueled the next day by the MV LAWRENCE GIANELLA. The USS RANGER Battle Group joined the ATU on 05 December.

In the pre-dawn hours of 09 December, JUNEAU, TRIPOLI and RUSHMORE conducted an amphibious landing at Mogadishu Airport and the Port Facility with JUNEAU successfully launching 14 Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) with "GOLF" Company, Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2/9, and 14 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC) from "FOX" Company BLT 2/9. From 09 to 18 December, JUNEAU conducted almost continuous helicopter and Air Cushion Landing Craft (LCAC) operations in order to support forces ashore. On 19 December, JUNEAU embarked the First Belgian Parachute Battalion and proceeded south to Kismayo, Somalia.

On 20 December, JUNEAU, acting as Primary Control Ship, participated in another amphibious landing inserting US Marines and Belgian Para-Commando forces into Kismayo via helicopter and AAVs. JUNEAU remained anchored in the vicinity of Kismayo until 21 December.

On 21 December JUNEAU and RUSHMORE conducted an UNREP with USS SACRAMENTO and then returned to anchorage in Kismayo for backload of US Marine Forces. JUNEAU departed Kismayo on 22 December and returned to the Mogadishu area.

On 26 December, JUNEAU inserted SEALs into Munghia for beach surveillance and then returned to Mogadishu to support forces ashore. Safely landed the 500th helicopter of deployment. From 27 to 31 December JUNEAU remained anchored off Mogadishu supporting forces ashore.