



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)  
FPO AP 96663-1711

*Reply 3/14/01  
w/o disk*

IN REPLY REFER TO

5750

Ser 00/054

26 Feb 01

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 5750.12 (Series)

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted covering the activities of USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) for calendar year 2000.

*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 THREE (01JAN00 - 31DEC00)

**NAME OF COMMANDING OFFICER:**

T. A. Hejl, CAPT, USN (01JAN00 - 31DEC00)

**PERMANENT DUTY STATION:**

San Diego, CA (01JAN00 - 31DEC00)

**TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED:**

None

**ENCLOSURE ( 1 )**

## CHRONOLOGY

01 JAN - 10 JAN Inport San Diego, Naval Station San Diego, Pier 9; Second Holiday Leave Period; DPMA.

10 JAN - 06 FEB Inport San Diego, Pier 9; DPMA.

17 JAN Martin Luther King Birthday

07 FEB Crew Moves Aboard DUBUQUE from Barracks at Fleet Training Center, San Diego, California.

07 FEB - 28 MAR Inport San Diego, Pier 9; Planned Maintenance Availability.

21 FEB Presidents' Day.

03 MAR Official Visit by COMPHIBGRU THREE, RADM Smith.

07 MAR E4 Exam.

09 MAR E5 Exam.

14 MAR E6 Exam.

15 MAR - 17 MAR Light-Off Assessment.

17 MAR Aviation Readiness Qualification.

20 MAR Overnight Fast Cruise.

28 MAR - 30 MAR Underway, SOCAL OPAREA; Sea Trials.

30 MAR Official Visit by CINCPACFLT Materiel Officer, RADM Klemm.

30 MAR - 12 APR Inport San Diego, Pier 9; Maintenance Availability.

07 APR Ship's Picnic, Admiral Baker Field.

12 APR Inport San Diego, La Playa Pier; Refueling; Inport San Diego, Pier 9.

13 APR Inport San Diego, Bravo Pier; Ammunition Onload.

ENCLOSURE (2)

13 APR - 17 APR Inport San Diego, Pier 9; Upkeep.

17 APR - 20 APR Inport San Diego, Pier 9; CART II.

20 APR - 21 APR Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; CART II.

21 APR - 09 MAY Inport San Diego, Pier 9; Upkeep.

09 MAY - 12 MAY Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; TSTA A.

12 MAY - 15 MAY Inport San Diego, Pier 9; Upkeep.

15 MAY - 18 MAY Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; TSTA A.

17 MAY USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE.

18 MAY - 22 MAY Inport San Diego, Broadway Pier.

20 MAY - 21 MAY Visit Ship.

22 MAY - 24 MAY Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; Type Training.

24 MAY - 19 JUN Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Planned Maintenance Availability.

05 JUN - 06 JUN Command Physical Readiness Test.

19 JUN - 23 JUN Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; TSTA B; San Diego Young Marines Training Cruise.

20 JUN - 22 JUN Leaders at Sea Tours.

23 JUN - 26 JUN Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

26 JUN - 29 JUN Underway SOCIAL OPAREA; TSTA B.

27 JUN USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment Practices Approaches on USNS GUADALUPE.

29 JUN Inport San Diego, La Playa Pier; Refueling.

29 JUN - 11 JUL Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

04 JUL Independence Day.

08 JUL Ship Tours--Educators to Sea (Educators from the Los Angeles Area.)

11 JUL - 14 JUL Underway SOCAL OPAREA; TSTA B.

14 JUL - 28 JUL Inport San Diego, Pier 12; Upkeep.

17 JUL - 21 JUL Surface Line Week.

19 JUL Arrival of Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Robert D. Sallade.

26 JUL Departure of Former Executive Officer, LCDR James C. Hamblet.

28 JUL - 29 JUL Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Final Evaluation Phase.

28 JUN USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment with USNS RAINIER.

29 JUL - 02 AUG Underway, Enroute to Seattle, Washington.

02 AUG Inport Everett, Washington; Embarkation of 450 Seattle Sea Fair Riders; Underway, Enroute to Seattle, Washington; Seattle Sea Fair's Parade of Ships.

02 AUG - 07 AUG Inport Seattle, Washington; Port Visit.

05 AUG - 06 AUG Seattle Sea Fair Visit Ship.

07 AUG - 11 AUG Underway, Enroute to San Diego; Tiger Cruise.

11 AUG USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE.

11 AUG - 28 AUG Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

17 AUG Ship Tours--Former USS TOPEKA (CLG 8) Crewmembers.

28 AUG - 01 SEP Underway SOCAL OPAREA; PCOs to Sea; Amphibious Specialty Training.

28 AUG DUBUQUE Experiences Loss of Steering Casualty While Transiting San Diego Harbor.

01 SEP - 05 SEP Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

04 SEP Labor Day.

05 SEP - 08 SEP Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Amphibious Specialty Training.

07 SEP E4 Exam.

08 SEP USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway with USNS PECOS.

08 SEP - 20 SEP Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

14 SEP E5 Exam.

15 SEP Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony for: BMC Daily; DCC Guthrie; EMC Deinla; MMC Pacheco; SHC Howerton.

20 SEP - 21 SEP Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Type Training.

21 SEP Underway Demonstration; E6 Exam.

21 SEP - 03 OCT Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

25 SEP PHIBRON ONE Embarks.

29 SEP Retirement Ceremony Held for CWO2 Rhoades After 22 Years of Service.

03 OCT - 07 OCT Underway, Enroute to Vancouver, Canada.

04 OCT USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment with USNS SACRAMENTO.

06 OCT Burial at Sea for:  
 CAPT Charles Crabill, USN;  
 LCDR Norman Campbell, USN;  
 LTJG Frederic Bemis, USN;  
 FN1c Keith Ries, USN;  
 BMC Donald Gates, USCG;  
 BM1 Crasses Hartsfield, USN;  
 SN1c Arthur Baker, USN;  
 SGT Grant Velie, USA

07 OCT - 10 OCT Inport Vancouver, Canada; Port Visit.

09 OCT Columbus Day.

10 OCT - 14 OCT Underway, Enroute to San Diego.

14 OCT - 18 OCT Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

17 OCT Ship Tours--Former USS ENOREE (AO 69)  
 Crewmembers, Chicago Young President's  
 Organization, Former LCI Flotilla II  
 Crewmembers.

18 OCT - 20 OCT Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Type Training.

18 OCT USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment  
 with USNS GUADALUPE.

20 OCT San Diego Fleet Week Parade of Ships.

20 OCT - 06 NOV Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

25 OCT Community Relations Ship Tour--La Mesa Dale  
 Elementary School.

27 OCT Safety Stand-Down.

28 OCT Ship's Picnic, Admiral Baker Field.

06 NOV - 09 NOV Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Type Training.

09 NOV USS DUBUQUE Conducts Underway Replenishment  
 with USNS TIPPECANOE.

09 NOV - 27 NOV Inport San Diego, Pier 8; Upkeep.

10 NOV Veterans Day.

13 NOV - 14 NOV Command Physical Fitness Assessment.

13 NOV PHIBRON ONE Debarks.

16 NOV Ship Tours--Clark High School NJROTC, Las Vegas, NV.

23 NOV Thanksgiving Day.

27 NOV - 28 NOV Underway, Enroute to Seal Beach, California.

28 NOV - 30 NOV Inport Seal Beach, California; Ammunition Onload.

30 NOV - 01 DEC Underway, Enroute to San Diego.

01 DEC - 11 DEC Inport San Diego, Pier 8; Upkeep.

07 DEC Ship Tours--Perris High School AJROTC, Moreno Valley, CA.

08 DEC Ship's Christmas Party, Mission Valley Marriot.

09 DEC Children's Christmas Party, National City Chuck E. Cheese's.

11 DEC - 14 DEC Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Type Training.

14 DEC Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Onload Family Day Cruise Guests and La Mesa Dale Elementary Students; Underway SOCAL OPAREA; Dependent Cruise/Community Relations Cruise.

14 DEC - 31 DEC Inport San Diego, Pier 6; Upkeep.

15 DEC - 27 DEC First Holiday Leave Period.

25 DEC Christmas Day.

27 DEC - 31 DEC Second Holiday Leave Period.

## NARRATIVE

USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) began 2000 at Pier 9 of Naval Station San Diego, with the crew enjoying the holiday leave period until the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. Then, it was back to work and the familiar sights of contractor work. DUBUQUE would remain in the midst of the Depot-Level Planned Maintenance Availability until the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. It was an especially intense period of time for all the crew as DUBUQUE was undergoing a \$22 million five-month overhaul.

The 7<sup>th</sup> of February was a much-anticipated day as the crew was able to move out of their temporary housing at the Naval Training Center barracks and move back aboard ship. In preparation, the Supply Department went to great lengths to ensure that the new galley, despite all the work that was going on on the ship, was able to pass the Board of Health's sanitary inspection before the first meal was served.

DUBUQUE remained at Pier 9 until the 26<sup>th</sup> of March as contractor work continued throughout the ship. RADM Smith, COMPHIBGRU THREE paid the ship a visit during the extensive overhaul. He wanted to see what the material condition of DUBUQUE and assess the progress of various jobs throughout the ship.

DUBUQUE was ready for Light-Off Assessment (LOA) on March 15<sup>th</sup>. After months of diligent training, the crew displayed extraordinary skill at combating Main Space Fires and passed Light-Off Assessment with flying colors. In fact, DUBUQUE did so well that the Afloat Training Group senior member said, "This was the best LOA this Senior Assessor has seen in 39 months of assessing PACFLT units."

In order to accustom the crew to an underway routine, the ship held an overnight fast cruise on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. From the 28<sup>th</sup> of March until the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, DUBUQUE was underway for Sea Trials. The ship held up to the strain and performed well throughout a variety of tests, earning a passing mark for Sea Trials.

Following a ship's picnic at Admiral Baker Field, DUBUQUE needed to fill up her tanks and also onload essential ammunition. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, she travelled down the waterfront to La Playa Fuel Pier to take on a full load of fuel. She returned to the Naval Station that night and made the trip back down the waterfront the next morning. Only this time, she went to Bravo Pier to load ammunition and again returned to the Naval Station at night.

**ENCLOSURE (3)**

On the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>, DUBUQUE began her Command Assessment Readiness and Training (CART) II inspection. It was a long week for all the crew, but they persevered and received outstanding marks. This led Naval Beach Group and Afloat Training Group inspectors to declare that DUBUQUE was one of the best-prepared ships that they have ever seen during CART II inspections.

From May 9<sup>th</sup> until May 18<sup>th</sup>, DUBUQUE conducted Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA) A. It was a long couple of weeks as each department honed their skills and prepared for the later stages of the Basic Training Cycle. At the conclusion of TSTA A, DUBUQUE pulled into Broadway Pier in downtown, San Diego for ship tours. Over the course of the weekend, over 4,000 visitors were given guided tours of the ship.

DUBUQUE continued with TSTA B on June 19<sup>th</sup>. For the next two weeks, the crew would again be working to sharpen their skills and improve their battle efficiency. While they were in the midst of all of this work, DUBUQUE embarked the San Diego Young Marines for a week-long training cruise. As part of this mentorship program, at-risk youths with the hope to one day be Marines were integrated into the ship's routine. In addition, DUBUQUE was the host ship for SURFPAC's Leaders at Sea Program. Approximately 10 community leaders were flown onto the ship in the morning and given an extensive tour, lunch, and personal time with the Captain. At the end of the day, they were flown home to share their experiences with family, friends, and people in their communities.

The Prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Robert D. Sallade, checked aboard on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of a week, he conducted a thorough turnover with the outgoing Executive Officer. By the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, he had assumed the reins of Executive Officer and bid farewell to LCDR James C. Hamblet.

DUBUQUE's Final Evaluation Phase began on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of two days, DUBUQUE passed this comprehensive completion to the Basic Training Phase and then proceeded to Seattle for the Seattle Sea Fair.

DUBUQUE first pulled into Everett, Washington to embark hundreds of riders for the trip into Seattle. DUBUQUE followed in procession along with all other ships during the Seattle Sea Fair Parade of Ships. Following the Parade of Ships, it was liberty time for the crew. After four days in Seattle, DUBUQUE prepared to leave Seattle and commence a Tiger Cruise back to San Diego.

Throughout the four-day Tiger Cruise, the Tigers were able to learn all about the Navy. There were daily activities held for them, along with tours, special meals with the Captain, Officers, and crew.

Following three weeks in port, DUBUQUE was back out to sea for Amphibious Specialty Training (AST). On August 28<sup>th</sup>, while transiting San Diego Harbor to begin AST, DUBUQUE experienced a loss of steering casualty. With the bow of the ship heading rapidly to shore and shoal water, the crew was forced to put all their training to work to prevent disaster. The entire crew pulled together to stop the ship before steering into shoal water and bring DUBUQUE back into the channel.

For the next two weeks, Deck Department worked with Operations Department to launch and recover Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs), Landing Craft Utility (LCU), and Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC). Thorough planning and coordination resulted in DUBUQUE being able to meet every H-hour and recover all boat waves on time.

The next big hurdle for DUBUQUE was Underway Demonstration. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, in a remarkable testament to the quality of the Engineering Department, DUBUQUE completed Underway Demonstration in only one day. DUBUQUE conducted a passenger transfer off the coast of San Diego in which all the inspectors came aboard. For the next several hours, the engineers ran through numerous drills, impressing the inspectors with their skill at combating all sorts of casualties. By nightfall, the verdict was in, DUBUQUE's Engineering Department was fully-prepared to handle any and all casualties. With that information, Captain Hejl directed the ship back to port. DUBUQUE pulled in that night, affording the crew a good night's sleep at home and a day off for all their hard work.

Following Underway Demonstration, DUBUQUE rewarded her sailors with a port visit in Vancouver, Canada. Enroute to Vancouver, DUBUQUE conducted a Burial at Sea for eight former service members. From the 7<sup>th</sup> of October until the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, DUBUQUE Sailors were able to enjoy the beauty of autumn in Canada.

Following her return to San Diego, DUBUQUE conducted Type Training in the local SOCAL OPAREA. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, while returning to port for the weekend, DUBUQUE participated in the San Diego Fleet Week Parade of Ships. Travelling in formation with over a dozen warships from the United States, France, and Canada, DUBUQUE quietly impressed thousands of spectators as she transited San Diego Harbor.

In early November, DUBUQUE conducted another week of Type Training. With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day ahead, DUBUQUE remained in port for a few weeks to allow her Sailors to relax with friends and family.

By the end of November, she would be underway again, this time for Ammunition Onload.

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, DUBUQUE proceeded north to Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach California to onload a variety of ammunition her Marines will need on WESTPAC. The onload began several hours late due to dense fog in the channel. However, despite the setback, DUBUQUE safely loaded and stored ammunition in a record time of two days. The crew enjoyed the liberty in Seal Beach, but was happy to return to San Diego for the weekend.

DUBUQUE's Christmas Party was held at the Mission Valley Marriot on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Great food, combined with thousands of dollars in door prizes, ensured that everyone had a good time. A comedian entertained guests during dinner; a DJ kept the dancing lively and the dance floor packed.

The final underway period of the year lasted from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. After conducting Type Training for three days, DUBUQUE returned to port on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. She remained pierside only long enough to embark over 200 students from La Mesa Dale Elementary school and several dozen family members for a Community Relations/Family Day Cruise off the coast of San Diego. After an afternoon at sea, DUBUQUE returned to the Naval Station and began holiday leave.