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

IN REPLY REFER TO
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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 ~~2001.~~ 2003

J. B. MILLER

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:
Commander, Amphibious Squadron ONE (01 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03)

Name of Commanding Officer:
J.B. Miller, CAPT, USN (01 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03)

Permanent Duty Station:
San Diego, CA (01 Jan 03 – 31 Dec 03)

Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned:

AH-1W	(9)	(10 Jan 03 – 24 Feb 03)
CH-53E	(1)	(10 Jan 03 – 24 Feb 03)

CHRONOLOGY

1 JAN 03	DUBUQUE began making prepartions to deploy in support of Operation Eduring and Iraqi Freedom
04 JAN 03	Commenced 2 day ammunition onload
05 JAN 03	Conducted CIWS Pacfire and TDU shoot
06 JAN 03	Completed LCAC Certification
10 JAN 03	Conducted pierside fly on (9 UH-1's and 1 CH-53)
16 JAN 03	Inport Force Protection Training Onload USMC 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, Commanding Officer of Troops/ Officer in Charge of HMLA-267 detachment, Major Charles Johnson III A Company, USMC 1st Battalion, 4th Marines CAPT Gomez B Company, USMC 1st Battalion, 4th Marines CAPT Shaw LCU 1633 QMC Kerr
17 JAN 03	Underway commences for WESTPAC 2003
19 JAN 03	All Commanding Officers, ATF West, meet on USS Boxer
24 JAN 03	USS DUBUQUE conducted CIWS PACFIRE
03 FEB 03	Completed Underway Demonstration Engineering certification
05 FEB03	Completed Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) certification
07 FEB 03	Conducted Underway Replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE
08 FEB 03	Transited the Surugao Strait
12 FEB 03 – 13 FEB 03	Completed transit of Singapore Strait and Straits of Malacca
16 FEB 03	Conducted Underway Replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE
17 FEB 03	Steel Beach picnic to celebrate Presidents Day.
18 FEB 03	Conducted night Quick Draw exercise (25mm/. 50 ca)
19 FEB 03	Inchop 5th Fleet
20 FEB 03	Completed RHIB gun exercise and SAR exercise

21 FEB 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS NIAGARA FALLS and RFA BRAMBLELEAF
22 FEB 03	Transited Strait of Hormuz
24 FEB 03	On station near Kuwait Naval Base
24 FEB 03 – 03 MAR 03	USMC Offload
03 MAR 03	Inchop CTG 51.4
05 MAR 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS JOHN ERICSSON
06 MAR 03	Transferred Medical Officer to USS MILIUS to assist with medical emergency
07 MAR 03	Conducted vertical replenishment with USNS NIAGARA FALLS Enemy Prisoner of War coordination meeting conducted aboard USS DUBUQUE.
10 MAR 03	LCU 1633 launched to clear well deck for construction of EPW suite
14 MAR 03	Completed ammunition replenishment at sea with USNS FLINT
15 MAR 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS PECOS
18 MAR 03	Completed replenishment at sea with USNS JOHN ERICCSON. Eight shipwrecked Iraqi fishermen were transferred and berthed from USS GARY (FFG 51) and remained on boarduntil able to return to a free Iraq
19 MAR 03	Opening salvos of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM launched by Coalition Forces
21 MAR 03 – 29 MAR 03	106 EPWs held in detention onboard USS DUBUQUE until permanent facilities ashore are established
02 APR 03	USS DUBUQUE flight deck served as Lily pad for two MH-60S Seahawks that participated in the rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch from her Iraqi captors
08 APR 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS YUKON

15 APR 03	The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Master Chief Terry Scott, visited USS DUBUQUE
18 APR 03 – 21 APR 03	106 EPWs held in detention onboard DUBUQUE pending transfer to a shore facility
21 APR 03	LCU 1633 returned home to DUBUQUE after finishing wet well operations
22 APR 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS PATUXENT
23 APR 03	Conducted vertical replenishment with USNS NIAGARA FALLS
25 APR 03	Steel beach picnic on the flight deck
26 APR 03 – 28 APR 03	Conducted flight operations for Deck Landing Qualifications in support of HS-6 from USS NIMITZ
29 APR 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS -PATUXENT and vertical replenishment with USNS NIAGARA FALLS
01 MAY 03	Began transit to Bahrain for maintenance period
02 MAY 03	Arrived and anchored off Bahrain
03 MAY 03 – 07 MAY 03	Inport Bahrain
11 MAY 03	Conducted LCAC and LCU operations for backload of 306 Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, Commanding Officer of Troops, LTCOL Kirk Hymes, returned to U.S. Territory after combat operations in Iraq
18 MAY 03 – 26 MAY 03	ATF WEST backload
26 MAY 03	Conducted underway replenishment with USNS GUADALUPE and vertical replenishment with USNS CONCORD
27 MAY 03	Began the transit to Sydney, Australia
29 MAY 03	Transited the Strait of Hormuz
06 JUN 03	Crossed the Equator at International Date Line
20 JUN 03	Arrived in Sydney, Australia
20 JUN 03 – 26 JUN 03	Inport Sydney, Australia

26 JUN 03	Left Sydney, Australia transiting to Carnes, Australia
28 JUN 03 – 01 JUL 03	Inport Carnes, Australia
01 JUL 03	Underway to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
07 JUL 03	Crossed the Equator at the International Date Line
12 JUL 03 – 20 JUL 03	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
20 JUL 03	Underway to homeport San Diego, California, carrying Tigers for the cruise home.
24 JUL 03 – 25 JUL 03	Offload of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calafornia
26 JUL 03	Arrived homeport San Diego, California.
26 JUL 03 – 02 SEP 03	Post deployment stand-down
03 SEP 03	Back to work
09 SEP 03 – 11 SEP 03	Underway for Deck Landing Qualifications
04 OCT 03	Underway for LCAC demonstration in support of the 2003 San Diego Sea-N-Air Parade Fleetweek demonstration in San Diego Harbor
15 OCT 03 – 20 OCT 03	Underway for shipboard training
03 NOV 03 – 07 NOV 03	Supply Management Assist inspection/Shipboard Team Trainer
12 NOV 03	Underway to Santa Barbara, California
13 NOV 03 – 17 NOV 03	Inport Santa Barbara, California
18 NOV 03 – 19 NOV 03	LARC/LCU operations
21 NOV 03	Navy Safety Center Survey
01 DEC 03 – 05 DEC 03	Force Protection Team Trainer #1
09 DEC 03	Underway to La Playa Fuel Farm
19 DEC 03 – 31 DEC 03	Holiday Leave

NARRATIVE

On January 17, 2003, the USS DUBUQUE prepared for her second Western Pacific/ Indian Ocean deployment in two years. DUBUQUE deployed in the seven ship Amphibious Task Focer (ATF) West, along with the USS BOXER, USS BON HOMME RICHARD, USS CLEVELAND, USS COMSTOCK, USS PEARL HARBOR, and USS ANCHORAGE. All vessels were underway in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

USS DUBUQUE finished its training cycle underway, completing the Engineering Underway Demonstration on 3 February and Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) on 5 February. On 8 February, she transited the Surugao Strait, followed by a two-day transit of the Singapore Strait and the Strait of Malacca. On 17 February, a steel beach picnic was held to commemorate President's day. DUBUQUE inchopped 5th fleet on 19 February and on 22 February transited the Strait of Hormuz arriving in the Arabian Gulf for operations. On 24 February, she arrived at Kuwait Naval Base and began a two-day offload of Marine Corps personnel. Following the offload, she joined CTG 51.4 for the remainder of the time in the Arabian Gulf.

DUBUQUE was able to deliver 600 ready combat Marines by providing innovative nighttime close combat training for all embarked infantry. Over 3000 flight hours were conducted for nine UH-1 Hueys and 1 CH-53. In addition, DUBUQUE's crew enhamced the combat readiness by designing and manufacturing sniper rifle sight stands, motor stands, HUMVEE framing, and ladders for the 7 ton trucks.

The ship's medical officer transferred to USS MILIUS via RHIB to assist with emergency medical treatment on 6 March. On 7 March, a coordination meeting was held onboard to sort out details surrounding the enemy prisoners of war that were expected as DUBUQUE was selected to serve as the U.S./Coalition temporary detention facility until camps could be constructed ashore. Three days later, the ship began to construct detention facilities for enemy prisoners of war. 19 March marked the beginning of the war with the opening salvos being launched on Iraqi targets. On 21 March, the first prisoners of war, 43 total, arrived onboard USS DUBUQUE from the HMAS KANIMBLA.

DUBUQUE received another EPW who was wounded and could not be helped onboard USNS MERCY because he allegedly bit or attempted to bite one of the nurses in March 2003. These security and safety concerns caused his transfer to USS DUBUQUE, where the patient received continual treatment for severe gunshot wounds to the shoulder and buttock. The excellent care and supervision by the DUBUQUE Medical Department allowed for the consistent recovery of the EPW and for his interrogation by the Mobile Interrogation Team. After approxiamately ten days, the EPW was returned to the USNS MERCY due to an infection that could not be treated onboard USS DUBUQUE.

Over the next month, the crew of DUBUQUE worked tirelessly around the clock to supervise as many as 106 enemy prisoners that were kept onboard DUBUQUE, with the last EPW being transferred off of the ship 29 April 2003.

On 9 May, USS DUBUQUE received its first LCAC and LCU of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines during wet well operations in anticipation of the ATF WEST backload of 306 Marines that would accompany her on her voyage home. The backload commenced on 18 May, at time 1540 and continued until 27 May. On 29 May, DUBUQUE re-transited the Strait of Hormuz, departing for home with 357 Marines embarked.

During the deployment, USS DUBUQUE conducted underway/vertical replenishments with such ships as the USNS GUADALUPE, USNS NIAGARA FALLS, RFA BRAMBLELEAF, USNS JOHN ERICSSON, USNS PECOS, USNS PATUXENT, USNS CONCORD, USS FLINT, and USNS YUKON.

On the voyage home, USS DUBUQUE made several liberty port calls for rest and relaxation. On 6 June, she crossed the equator and qualified 160 Sailors and Marines as Shellbacks enroute to Sydney, Australia for a weeklong port call from 20 June to 26 June. Following that, the ship spent 28 June until 1 July in Carnes, Australia for another well deserved port call.

On 7 July, on the way to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ship's personnel achieved the distinction of crossing both the equator and the international dateline at the same time, becoming Golden Shellbacks. DUBUQUE visited Pearl Harbor from 12 July to 20 July when she began the four-day trip back home, carrying 55 tigers for the Tiger Cruise. On 24 July, DUBUQUE began a two-day offload of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines Battalion in Camp Pendleton, CA.

On 4 October 2003, DUBUQUE conducted a Family Day cruise in conjuction with the 2003 Sea-N-Air Parade for Fleetweek San Diego. During the demonstration, DUBUQUE ejected a LCAC from her well deck to illustrate amphibious capabilities. From 15 October until 20 October, DUBUQUE was underway to conduct routine operations and training off the California coast.

From early November until the end of the December, DUBUQUE participated in the training cycle, completing force protection certification and a Supply Management Assesment and Inspection from 3 November until 7 November. During that time, shipboard training teams met with Afloat Training Group (ATG) to make final preparations for the training cycle. She also conducted LARC/LCU operations from 18 November until 19 November to maintain and demonstrate proficiency in wet well operations. DUBUQUE also completed a Safety Survey on 21 November conducted by the Navy Safety Center.

December began with a deadstick berth shift to the La Playa Fuel Farm. On 13 December, DUBUQUE held the first of two holiday parties at Boomer's Family Fun Park, allowing time for her Sailors and their families to come together and socialize off duty. On 18 December, DUBUQUE held her adult holiday party at the luxurious U.S. Grant hotel in downtown San Diego, and commenced Holiday leave for the remainder of the year.