



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96663-1711

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
01 MAR 1993

Re 3-11-93

From: Commanding Officer, USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH), Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

REF: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History for 1992
(2) Commanding Officer's Biography
(3) Commanding Officer's Photograph
(4) Secretary of The Navy Letter
(5) Commander Seventh Fleet Letter of Appreciation
(6) USS DUBUQUE's Ship Photograph
(7) USS DUBUQUE's Change of Command Program Booklet
(8) USS DUBUQUE's 25TH Anniversary Welcome Aboard Booklet

1. Enclosures (1) through (8) comprise the 1992 Command History submission for USS DUBUQUE per reference (a).


R.L. CHRISTENSON

Copy to:
Command Chaplain USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
Public Affairs Officer USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8)
COMPHIBRON ELEVEN

COMMAND HISTORY 1992

SECTION ONE: Command Composition and Organization

USS DUBUQUE is a forward deployed Amphibious Transport Dock (AUSTIN Class LPD) homeported in Sasebo, Japan. USS DUBUQUE is part of the BELLEAU WOOD Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) along with USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA-3), USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42), and USS SAN BERNARDINO (LST-1189). USS DUBUQUE's immediate senior in command (ISIC) is Commander, Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN (COMPHIBRON ELEVEN). COMPHIBRON ELEVEN reports to Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet (COMPHIBGRU ONE) in Okinawa. Until the arrival of COMPHIBRON ELEVEN and the USS BELLEAU WOOD in September 1992, USS DUBUQUE was the flagship for COMPHIBGRU ONE. COMPHIBRON ELEVEN relieved COMPHIBGRU ONE of ISIC responsibilities for USS DUBUQUE. USS DUBUQUE's mission is to transport and land United States Marines with their essential equipment and supplies by means of embarked landing craft utility (LCU), amphibious assault vehicles, or by helicopter lift. USS DUBUQUE also has the unique capability of embarkation and debarkation of marines and SEALs via Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC), Rigid Raiding Craft (RRC), and Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RIB). The ship is commanded by Captain Ronald L. Christenson.

Principal Officers are:

Executive Officer, Timothy R. Stith, LCDR
Operations Officer, [REDACTED], LT
Chief Engineer, [REDACTED], LT
Supply Officer, [REDACTED], LT
First Lieutenant, [REDACTED], LT
Air Officer, [REDACTED], LT
Administration Officer, [REDACTED], LT
Navigator, [REDACTED], LT
Medical Officer, [REDACTED], LT
Dental Officer, [REDACTED], LCDR
Chaplain, [REDACTED], LT
Combat Cargo Officer, [REDACTED], CW03, USMC

Section Two, Part one

Ships Chronology:

01-06 JAN INPORT SASEBO, JA
07 JAN REFUELING AKASAKI FUEL PIER SASEBO, JA
07 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA ONLOAD
08 JAN INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA JA
09 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
12 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES OFFLOAD

ENCL (1)

13-16 JAN UNDERWAY OPERATIONS FOR PHIBREFTRA
 17-20 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 21-23 JAN UNDERWAY FOR PHIBREFTRA
 27 JAN UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 27 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 28 JAN UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 28 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 29 JAN UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 29 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 30 JAN UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 30 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 31 JAN UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 31 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 01 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 01 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 02 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 02 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 03 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 03 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 04 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 04 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 05 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 05 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 06 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 06 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 07 FEB UNDERWAY FOR INTERIM REFTRA
 07-08 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES ONLOAD
 09 FEB UNDERWAY FOR VALIANT USHER 92-4
 11 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES OFFLOAD/ONLOAD
 12 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE, HONG KONG
 14-18 FEB INPORT HONG KONG
 19 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 22 FEB INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA OFFLOAD/ONLOAD
 23 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE, YOKOSUKA, JA
 26-28 FEB INPORT YOKOSUKA, JA OFFLOAD
 29 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SASEBO, JA
 02 MAR INPORT AKASAKI FUEL PIER SASEBO, JA
 03 MAR BERTH SHIFT TO INDIA 6 SASEBO, JA
 03-10 MAR INPORT SASEBO, JA
 11 MAR UNDERWAY TO AMMO ANCHORAGE NUMBER 39
 12 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 13-15 MAR INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA ONLOAD
 16 MAR UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OKINAWA OPERATIONS
 21-22 MAR DEFUELING AKASAKI FUEL PIER SASEBO, JA
 23 MAR BERTH SHIFT TO INDIA 1 SASEBO, JA
 23 MAR ENTERED SRA
 23 MAR-30 JUN INPORT SASEBO, JA FOR SRA, CIWS INSTALLATION
 01 JUL AMMUNITION ONLOAD, AMMO ANCHORAGE NUMBER 39
 02 JUL UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS
 03-05 JUL INPORT SASEBO, JA
 06 JUL REFUELING AKASAKI FUEL PIER, SASEBO, JA

06 JUL SRA COMPLETED
 06 JUL UNDERWAY ENROUTE, YOKOSUKA, JA
 09-24 JUL INPORT YOKOSUKA, JA FOR REPAIR AVAILABILITY
 24 JUL UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 28 JUL ANCHORAGE BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA OFFLOAD
 28-29 JUL UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SASEBO, JA
 29-30 JUL INPORT SASEBO, JA
 31 JUL INPORT SASEBO, JA CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY
 01-03 AUG INPORT SASEBO, JA INSURV INSPECTION
 04 AUG UNDERWAY SEA TRIALS
 04-06 AUG INPORT SASEBO, JA
 07 AUG UNDERWAY TO ANCHORAGE NUMBER 39
 08-25 AUG INPORT SASEBO, JA
 26 AUG UNDERWAY FOR VALIANT USHER ENROUTE, OKINAWA, JA
 28-30 AUG ANCHORAGE BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA (TYPHOON
 EVASION)
 30 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SASEBO, JA
 31 AUG-02 SEP INPORT AKASAKI FUEL PIER SASEBO, JA REFUEL/ONLOAD
 03 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE OKINAWA, JA
 07-09 SEP INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 10 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE, PUSAN, KOREA
 13-15 SEP INPORT PUSAN, KOREA
 16 SEP UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SASEBO, JA
 16-24 SEP INPORT SASEBO, JA
 25 SEP INPORT SASEBO, JA SHIP'S 25th ANNIVERSARY
 26 SEP-14 OCT INPORT SASEBO, JA
 15 OCT UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL SASEBO OPERATIONS
 15-27 OCT INPORT SASEBO, JA
 28 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES
 29 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 30 OCT INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 30 OCT UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SINGAPORE
 06-09 NOV INPORT SINGAPORE
 10 NOV UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 18 NOV INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 19 NOV UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OKINAWA OPERATIONS
 25-26 NOV INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 27 NOV UNDERWAY TO ANCHORAGE BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 30 NOV-03 DEC INPORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 04 DEC UNDERWAY ENROUTE, HONG KONG
 08-13 DEC INPORT HONG KONG
 14 DEC UNDERWAY ENROUTE, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA
 17 DEC ANCHORAGE BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA, JA OFFLOAD
 17 DEC UNDERWAY ENROUTE, SASEBO, JA
 18-31 DEC INPORT SASEBO, JA

Section Two, Part Two

Embarked Units:

Following Units or elements of units were embarked on USS

DUBUQUE:

1. ASSAULT CRAFT UNIT - 1 DETACHMENT 1 JAN - 31 DEC
2. BEACHMASTER UNIT DETACHMENT, CORONADO, CA 1 JAN - 31 DEC
3. PHIBREFTRA 13-23 JAN; 35th MEU
4. VALIANT USHER 92-4, 9-13 FEB; 35th MEU, HMM 265 BLT 1/3
5. YOKOSUKA MARINE OPLIFT 23-25 FEB; 12th MARINES
6. AAV TRAINING/DLQ'S 16-23 MAR; 35th MEU
1st ARMORED ASSAULT BATTALION, COMPANY B, 3rd ASSAULT
AMPHIBIOUS BATTALION, COMPANY A, 1st BATTALION
7th MARINES COMPANY F, 2nd BATTALION 5th MARINES
7. OKINAWA MARINE OPLIFT 03-07 Sep; 3rd BATTALION, 5th MARINES
8. 31st MEUEX I, II, AND III 19-25 NOV; RECON PLT 3/1
4-8 DEC; INDIA CO 3/1
LIMA CO 3/1
DET MSSG 31
E PLT SEAL TEAM THREE

SECTION THREE: HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

01 January found USS DUBUQUE observing holiday routine in honor of the New Year in homeport at berth #6, India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. 07 January, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Okinawa, Japan. 08 January, USS DUBUQUE moored Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa and immediately commenced onload of marines and equipment from the 35th MEU. 09-11 January, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Subic Bay, Philippines for Amphibious Refresher Training and exercise Valiant Usher 92-4. While enroute, the ship conducted flight quarters, damage control training and a .50 cal famfire. 12 January, USS DUBUQUE moored Rivera Extension Pier, Subic Bay, Philippines and commenced offload of marines and their equipment.

13-17 January, USS DUBUQUE was underway for PHIBREFTRA. Numerous drills were conducted, which involved recovering and launching boats. Despite the hectic pace of evolutions, the E-7 exam was given in the wardroom. 17-20 January, USS DUBUQUE was moored Alava Pier, Subic Bay, Philippines. While inport on 18 January, a Captain's call was held to frock six E-4's, and to celebrate Dr Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. 21-23 January, USS DUBUQUE was underway to continue PHIBREFTRA. Evolutions included precision anchoring, recovering AAV's, launching PL1 AND PL2 (ship's boats), and helo operations with USAF special operations MH-53J helicopters. 23-26 January, USS DUBUQUE was moored Alava Pier, Subic Bay, Philippines. PHIBREFTRA was

finished with inspectors from Naval Beach Group One giving a grade of excellent to the ship.

27 January - 07 February, USS DUBUQUE was in and out of port for Interim Refresher Training. Various drills were conducted that included general quarters, engineering casualty control drills, man overboard drills, abandon ship drills, precision anchoring, mooring to a buoy, mass casualty, launching and recovering CRRC's, training battle problems, 3"/50 and .50 cal gun shoots, fast cruise, a mass conflagration drill, and a day and night underway replenishment with USNS SPICA. When it was all over, USS DUBUQUE received an overall SAT by the inspectors from Fleet Training Group Westpac.

07-08 February, USS DUBUQUE was moored Alava Pier, Subic Bay, Philippines for onload of marines. 09-11 February, USS DUBUQUE was underway for Valiant Usher 92-4 with Admiral Conley, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet onboard. USS DUBUQUE arrived off the coast of San Miguel to perform various drills throughout the day and evening. Drills included landing and lifting marines via helicopter to the beach and launching the LCU and CRRC's followed by a night recovery. After the day's drills, USS DUBUQUE was anchored overnight. Each morning USS DUBUQUE positioned herself to launch waves of AAV's to the beach. Later in the day USS DUBUQUE steamed to Tabones Gunnery Range and expended 18 rounds from MT 31. USS DUBUQUE concluded Valiant Usher 92-4 with a flawless tactical withdrawal of marines and equipment from the beach. USS DUBUQUE returned to moor at Alava Pier, Subic Bay, Philippines to commence offload and onload of marines. Valiant Usher 92-4 provided valuable amphibious training to ship's personnel.

12 February, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Hong Kong. 14 February, USS DUBUQUE entered Hong Kong harbor with sailors and marines manning the rail and moored north arm wall HMS TAMAR, Hong Kong, B.C. 19-21 February, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa with sailors and marines manning the rail. ECC drills, flight quarters, and a security stand-down were conducted while in transit. 22 February, USS DUBUQUE moored Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa and commenced offload and onload of marines.

23-25 February, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Yokosuka, Japan. While in transit, ECC drills, marines small arms shoot, and marines stinger training was conducted. 26-28 February, USS DUBUQUE was moored Berth #2, Fleet Activity Yokosuka, Japan. While inport the 12th marines were offloaded and selected sailors attended Aviation Fire Fighting School. A ship's party was held at Club Alliance.

29 February through 01 March, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Sasebo, Japan. While underway, intercultural and sexual awareness training were held for all hands on Site TV the night before entering port. Bingo was also held on the mess decks for the crew. 02-10 March, USS DUBUQUE entered port manning the rail in dress blue uniforms. USS DUBUQUE moored berth #6 India Basin,

Fleet Activity Sasebo, Japan. During the inport period, ship's personnel performed the semi-annual physical readiness test, and the Navy wide advancement exam's were given.

11-12 March, USS DUBUQUE was underway to ammo anchorage #39 for onload. Upon completion of ammo onload, she was underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa. On 12 March, all hands were assembled on the flight deck in dress blue uniforms for a burial at sea ceremony. 13-15 March, USS DUBUQUE was moored White Beach, Okinawa. 16-20 March, USS DUBUQUE was underway for AAV/DLQ training with the 35th MEU. Launching and recovering of AAV's, and flight quarters for DLQ's were conducted throughout the day and evening. 20-21 March, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Sasebo, Japan. A safety stand-down was conducted for all hands during transit.

21-22 March, USS DUBUQUE was moored Akasaki Fuel Pier for defueling. RADM Conley, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet Embarked and hosted a luncheon onboard ship with Commander, Amphibious Group THREE, and Commanding Officers of the USS DUBUQUE, USS BELLEAU WOOD, and Fleet Activities, Sasebo.

23 March through 30 June, USS DUBUQUE was moored berth #1 India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan, where she commenced a Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA). Two Phalanx close-in weapons systems were installed for ship's AAW self defense and a C-3 capability upgrade with installation of JOTS. 27 March an award ceremony was held on the flight deck followed by a Captains call. 12 April a community relations project was held at Tenshin-Ryo Orphanage in Sasebo with 15 sailors participating. 17 April Executive Officer Terry Pierce was frocked to Commander at officers call by Captain Boyce. A ship's picnic was held at Nimitz Park. 08 May, an awards ceremony was held on the flight deck followed by a uniform inspection by the Commanding Officer. 10 May, 12 sailors participated in a community relations project at Koyo-Ryo orphanage in Nagasaki. 22 May RADM Hernandez, Commander Naval Forces Japan, held a sexual harassment brief for all officers, chief petty officers, and petty officers first class at the Showboat Theater. 08-10 June, the supply department received a SAT on the FAADCPAC disbursing inspection. 16 June RADM Conley, Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet embarked. 17 June Admiral Kelly, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, arrived onboard to inspect ship's spaces and personnel. After the inspection, an Admirals call was held on the flight deck. 21-23 June, USS DUBUQUE underwent light off assessment (LOA). The crew performed a main space fire drill with precision, skill, and enthusiasm resulting in a grade of satisfactory. 30 June a successful fast cruise was held pierside.

01-02 July, USS DUBUQUE is underway to ammo anchorage #39 for onload. Upon completion of ammo onload USS DUBUQUE is underway for sea trials. 03-05 July, USS DUBUQUE is moored India #1 for loading mogas. 05 July USS DUBUQUE held an open ship visit in honor of Friendship Day for local Japanese and Americans.

06-08 July, USS DUBUQUE refueled at Akasaki Fuel Pier

and SRA was officially completed. After refueling USS DUBUQUE got underway enroute Yokosuka, Japan with 10 male dependents onboard for a tiger cruise. Various drills were conducted underway to include general quarters, ECC drills, flight quarters crash and salvage training, and CIWS pacfire.

09-24 July, USS DUBUQUE moored Harbor Master Pier, Fleet Activity Yokosuka, Japan for repair availability. During this inport time, the ship took advantage of obtaining various school quotas for ship's personnel. Medical Department scheduled appointments for sailors at the Naval Hospital and underwent several successful inspections to include: Environmental Health Survey, Industrial Hygiene inspection, and the Radiation Protection Survey. A ship's picnic was held on 15 July. 16 July a frocking ceremony was held for 28 sailors to be followed by a Commanding Officer's uniform inspection and a ship's crew photograph on the flight deck. 21 July, a farewell party was held for Captain Boyce by ship's officer's at a local Japanese restaurant.

24-28 July, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa for an opportune lift. A combat cargo troop space habitability inspection by CTF 76 staff was conducted and resulted in a passing grade. Various drills were conducted enroute Okinawa to include ECC drill's, full power run, general quarters, and CIWS tracking exercises. 28 July, after AAV's were launched, USS DUBUQUE steamed toward Sasebo, Japan. 29 July - 03 August, USS DUBUQUE was moored berth #7 India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. 31 July a Change of Command Ceremony was held on the flight deck with all hands in dress white uniforms. Commanding Officers from area ships, shore commands, and local Japanese dignitaries were present as RADM Conley, Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet was the guest speaker. Captain Ronald L. Christenson relieved Captain Brian F. Boyce as Commanding Officer of USS DUBUQUE. A reception for all officers was held at the Harbor View Club. Ship's air department completed ASIR flight deck certification.

04-06 August, USS DUBUQUE was underway for INSURV UMI Trials. Various shipwide inspections were conducted while the ship performed a full power run and steering drills. USS DUBUQUE returned to port and completed INSURV fit for further service.

07 August, USS DUBUQUE was underway to anchorage to avoid damage from high winds. 08-26 August, USS DUBUQUE was moored Berth #6 India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. During this inport period all hands attended the ship's sexual harassment stand-down at the Showboat Theater. Midshipmen reported onboard for summer training. 26 August VADM Bennett, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, arrived onboard to visit ship's spaces.

26-30 August, USS DUBUQUE was underway for Valiant Usher 92-4 enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Various drills were conducted enroute. USS DUBUQUE could not enter port due to high winds and seas from Typhoon Omar. USS DUBUQUE remained at anchorage until 30 August when she received a message that the exercise was

anceled. USS DUBUQUE set a course for Sasebo, Japan.

31 August - 02 September, DUBUQUE was moored Akasaki Fuel Pier, Sasebo Japan. During this period USS DUBUQUE took on fuel and unloaded marines and equipment from the USS SAN BERNARDINO (LST-1189). 03-06 September, USS DUBUQUE was underway steaming with USS SAN BERNADINO (LST-1189) enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa. 07-09 September, USS DUBUQUE moored Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa. Marines and equipment were offloaded. RADM Conley, Commander, Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet, arrived onboard for inspection of ship's spaces and had lunch with the commanding officer.

10-12 September, USS DUBUQUE was underway enroute Pusan, Korea. The Navy wide advancement exams were held in the wardroom for qualified candidates. Various drills were conducted to include general quarters and a mass casualty drill. 13-15 September, USS DUBUQUE entered Pusan harbor with sailors manning the rail. USS DUBUQUE was moored to Pier #8, Pusan, Korea. While in Pusan, a community relations project was conducted at Sun Rin orphanage with the ship's doctor and dentist teaching health and dental hygiene to the children. This was followed by a cookout.

16 September - 27 October, USS DUBUQUE was moored Berth #6 India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. 17 September, RADM Conley embarked and held a conference with RADM Starks, Commander, Training Command U.S. Pacific Fleet, RADM Saito, Fleet Training and Development, Captain Mckinley, Commander, Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN and commanding officers of USS DUBUQUE, USS ST LOUIS, and USS SAN BERNARDINO. 25 September, USS DUBUQUE hosted a Twenty-Fifth Birthday Celebration of Commissioned service on the flight deck with commanding officers of homeported ships and shore commands. RADM Noriwaki, JMSDF, officers of DUBUQUE's sister ship Kurama, and local Japanese civilian dignitaries attended the ceremony. A reception followed the ceremony on the flight deck, and a ship's picnic at Nimitz Park. 02 October all hands assembled on the flight deck for a Commanding Officer's dress blue inspection. This was followed by the crew attending a picnic at Nimitz Park welcoming the USS BELLEAU WOOD to Sasebo. 09 October a safety stand-down was held for all hands. 15 October, USS DUBUQUE was underway Sasebo Op-area for Combat Systems Readiness Review. The ship conducted gunnery exercises with CIWS expending 400 rounds, while 3"/50 MT 31 expended 10 rounds. At the end of the day USS DUBUQUE returned to port. 20 October, the ship held it's semi-annual physical readiness test. 23 October a retirement ceremony was held on the flight deck for BTC Aquino with a reception on the messdeck. 28-30 October, USS DUBUQUE was underway steaming in formation with the USS BELLEAU WOOD for Subic Bay, Philippines. USS DUBUQUE received a message to break off formation and steam to Okinawa, Japan. USS DUBUQUE moored east Army Pier, White Beach, Okinawa. The Commanding Officer attended a conference with RADM Conley, Commander Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet. Early afternoon, Dubuque got underway enroute Singapore.

30 October - 05 November, USS DUBUQUE was busy conducting general quarters drills, ECC drills and small arms fire. As the ship was sailing closer toward the equator, plans were underway for a crossing the line ceremony. 04 November was A fun day with a talent show and a Davy Jones beauty contest on the flight deck. The next morning the crossing the line ceremony began at 0500 when wogs were traditionally initiated into King Neptune's royal realm of shellbacks. USS DUBUQUE crossed the equatorial line at 106 degrees 27.4E longitude at 1551. After the ceremony a steel beach picnic was held on the flight deck. The crew's morale was high, anticipating liberty in Singapore. 06 November, USS DUBUQUE entered Singapore manning the rail. USS DUBUQUE was moored at Sembawang shipyard 06-09 Nov. The crew enjoyed liberty with a variety of tours scheduled by the ship's tour officer. The ship's chaplain arranged a two day tour of Singapore's religious sites for ten sailors with Harvester Baptist Church.

10-17 November, USS DUBUQUE celebrated the Marine Corp Birthday on the flight deck with officers and chiefs in summer dress white uniform. After the reception, USS DUBUQUE was underway with all hands manning the rail enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa. The ship conducted general quarters drills, chemical and biological warfare drills, abandon ship drills, ECC drills, and an emergency destruction drill during this underway period.

18 November, USS DUBUQUE entered port manning the rail and then moored Navy Pier, White Beach, Okinawa for onload of 31st MEU marines. 19-24 November, USS DUBUQUE was underway for amphibious operations in the local operation area. A variety of evolutions were conducted that included, general quarters, launching and recovering LCU, AAV'S, CRRC'S, RRC, and flight quarters with H-53's landing marines onboard for Maritime International Intercept Operations.

25-26 November, USS DUBUQUE was moored Navy Pier White Beach, Okinawa. The crew celebrated Thanksgiving day with holiday routine and a Thanksgiving day dinner with all the trimmings. 27-29 November, USS DUBUQUE was underway to anchorage Buckner Bay, Okinawa due to high winds and rough seas from Typhoon Gay. 30 November - 03 December, USS DUBUQUE was moored Army Pier, Buckner Bay, Okinawa for onload of marines and equipment.

04-07 December, USS DUBUQUE was underway for amphibious operations steaming in formation with USS BELLEAU WOOD and USS GERMANTOWN enroute Hong Kong. Various drills were conducted enroute including general quarters, flight quarters, CIWS pacfire, .50 cal. gun shoot, flashing light drills, leap frogs, abandon ship drills, and an underway replenishment with USS BELLEAU WOOD.

08-13 December, USS DUBUQUE entered Hong Kong harbor with sailors and marines manning the rail. USS DUBUQUE moored north arm wall HMS TAMAR, Hong Kong, BC. Sailors and marines enjoyed liberty with a variety of tours scheduled by the ship's tour officer. The ship's chaplain scheduled a retreat for 12 sailors to Lamma Island.

14-17 December, USS DUBUQUE was underway exiting Hong Kong harbor manning the rail. USS DUBUQUE was steaming in formation with USS BELLEAU WOOD, USS GERMANTOWN enroute to Okinawa. During this underway period USS DUBUQUE conducted general quarters, marine small arms fire, and an underway replenishment with USS BELLEAU WOOD. The Marines were offloaded via the LCU while the ship was at anchorage, off the coast of Okinawa.

17-18 December, USS DUBUQUE was underway steaming in formation with USS BELLEAU WOOD and USS GERMANTOWN enroute Sasebo, Japan. USS DUBUQUE conducted flight operations after leaving anchorage with USAF special operations MA-53J helicopters for landing qualifications. On 17 Dec the prospective Executive Officer, LCDR T.R. Stith, reported aboard. 18 December, USS DUBUQUE manned the rail entering Sasebo harbor and moored berth #6, India Basin, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan where she remained throughout the holidays. 19 December, USS DUBUQUE held a dependents Christmas party onboard. OSC Izzet, who posed as Santa Claus, was giving away presents and posing with children for pictures. That same afternoon, the ship held a Christmas party for 35 children from SEIFU-EN Orphanage. Sailors participated as tour guides and sang Christmas carols to the children. Ship's ball caps were presented to the children as presents by Santa Claus. Later that same evening, the ship held a Christmas party at the Harbor View Club where hundreds of dollars in door prizes were given away.

21 December at officer's call, LCDR Timothy R. Stith relieved CDR Terry Pierce as Executive Officer of USS DUBUQUE. All officers lined the quarter deck as CDR Pierce was bonged off the ship.

22 December, USS DUBUQUE held a retirement ceremony for BM1 Hess on the flight deck with a reception on the messdecks. 24 December a Christmas eve candlelight service was held onboard by the ship's chaplain. USS DUBUQUE observed holiday routine throughout the remaining holiday period.