



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8)  
FPO AP 96663-1711

IN REPLY REFER TO

5750

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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 2002.

  
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 (ISIC):**

Commander, Amphibious Group THREE (01 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02)

**Name of Commanding Officer:**

B. J. McCormack, CAPT, USN (15 May 02 – 06 Dec 02)

J. B. Miller, CAPT, USN (06 Dec 02 – 31 Dec 02)

**Permanent Duty Station:**

San Diego, CA (01 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 02)

**Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned:**

None

## CHRONOLOGY

01 JAN 02 Underway enroute Freemantle, Australia.

14 JAN Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS JOHN LENTHALL.

16 JAN Rendezvous with BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Readiness Group (BHRARG).

18 JAN Inchop 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.

20 JAN Underway replenishment with USNS JOHN ERICSSON.

28 JAN – 03 FEB Port Visit Freemantle, Australia.

03 FEB Underway enroute Sydney Australia.

08 FEB – 12 FEB Port Visit Sydney, Australia.

08 FEB – 13 FEB Conducted command Physical Readiness Test (PRT).

13 FEB Underway enroute Pearl Harbor

17 FEB Groundhog Day, inchop 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet.

19 FEB Cross Equator at International Dateline.

23 FEB Port Visit Pearl Harbor Hawaii, embark Tigers.

24 FEB Underway enroute San Diego.

25 FEB PELELIEU Amphibious Readiness Group (PELARG) Air Power Demonstration.

02 MAR Arrived Camp Pendelton anchored at ANCHORAGE 3. Embarked VIP's.

03 MAR Off Load 15<sup>th</sup> MEU, embarked mini tigers.

04 MAR Arrive Home Port San Diego completing Western Pacific 2001/2002 deployment. Debark tigers, Embark VIP's, Commence Stand down.

18 MAR Turnover for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> leave periods.

01 APR Stand down ends.

08 APR Underway for Exercise Northern Edge. RAS with USNS TIPPECANOE.

12 APR	Arrived Everett, WA.
14 APR	Underway from Everett, WA enroute Esquimalt, Canada.
14 APR	Arrived Esquimalt, Canada. Offloaded MOGAS, Esquimalt, Canada.
16 APR	Underway from Esquimalt, Canada enroute Valdez, Alaska.
21 APR	Arrive Valdez, AK.
22APR-03MAY	Inport Valdez, AK.
30 APR	Conducted DLQ's with 123 <sup>rd</sup> AVN Regiment, United States Army.
04 MAY	Underway from Valdez, AK enroute Everett, WA.
08 MAY	Arrive Everett, WA.
08-09 MAY	Conducted DLQs with HC-11.
10 MAY	Underway from Everett, WA enroute Seal Beach
14-17 MAY	Arrive Seal Beach, commence Ammunition Offload.
17 MAY	Underway from Seal Beach enroute San Diego, Ca.
17 MAY	Arrive San Diego, CA.
17 MAY-24 JULY	Inport San Diego, Ca.
17-19 JUNE	Command Participated in Admirals Cup.
25 JULY	Underway SOCAL.
26-29 JULY	Inport San Diego.
30 JULY	Underway enroute San Francisco, CA.
31 JULY	Conducted RAS with USNS GUADALUPE.
01 AUG	Shotgun Famfire. 50 cal shoot.
02-06 AUG	Inport San Francisco, Ca.
06 AUG	Underway enroute San Diego, Ca.
07-26 AUG	Inport San Diego, Ca.

27-29 AUG Underway SOCAL for DLQs with HMM-367.

03-06 SEPT Conducted command PRT.

10-12 SEPT Underway Socal for DLQs with HC-11.

12-14 SEPT Import San Diego, Moored to Broadway Pier for Festival of Sails.

13 SEPT Banquet held on the flight deck for 500 people.

14 SEPT Berth Shift from Broadway Pier to Naval Station (NS) San Diego.

25 SEPT Commenced Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA).

28 NOV – 01 DEC Thanksgiving Stand Down

03 DEC Ended PMA, deadstick berth shift to Pier 12.

06 DEC Captain Miller assumed command from Captain McCormack.

10 DEC Deadstick berth shift to pier 8.

17 DEC MWR Christmas Raffle.

25 DEC Christmas Day.

31 DEC New Years Eve.

## NARRATIVE

USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) began 2002 underway in the North Arabian Sea, having been the first ARG on scene at the start of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, enroute Kuwait to conduct a fresh water wash down of all Marine equipment and vehicles. After a few days of backloading the 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), DUBUQUE was once again underway to exit the Arabian Gulf for their final time to rendezvous with the USNS JOHN LENTHALL on 14 January for a replenishment at sea. On 16 January, DUBUQUE, USS PELELIU and USS COMSTOCK did a turnover with the USS BONHOMME RICHARD ARG. Upon completion of the ARG turnover the PELARG set their course for their first port visit since 11 September 2001. Enroute to Freemantle, Australia the PELARG conducted another replenishment at sea, this time with USNS JOHN ERICSSON on 20 January. On 28 January, DUBUQUE arrived in port Freemantle, Australia for some well deserved, hard-earned liberty.

On 04 February 2002 DUBUQUE Sailors once again took their ship to sea for a one week underway enroute to Sydney, Australia for another well deserved port visit from 08 -12 February. While inport Sydney, the crew conducted their semi-annual PRT. On 13 February, DUBUQUE pulled out of Sydney enroute to Pearl Harbor and her return to the United States. On 17 February, DUBUQUE and PELARG crossed the international date line, repeating the day over known as Groundhog Day, as they chopped to COMTHIRDFLT. DUBUQUE pulled into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 23 February. They were greeted by family and friends waiting to see their Sailors and Marines and to embark the ship for the 7 day tiger cruise back to San Diego.

24 February, DUBUQUE set sail for the coast of Camp Pendleton to conduct their offload of the 15<sup>th</sup> MEU and company. While enroute on 25 February, the PELARG conducted an air power demonstration with various aircraft including AV-8B Harriers, CH-53 Sea Stallions, CH-46 Sea Knights and UH-1 Cobras. From 02-03 March, DUBUQUE anchored off the coast of Camp Pendleton to commence offloading the 15<sup>th</sup> MEU and LCU 1633 and embark the last of the tigers. 04 March marked the most important day for the crew. DUBUQUE arrived home in San Diego, California with hundreds of family and friends waiting to greet them and to begin the leave periods.

After only a month inport, DUBUQUE sailed north to Valdez, Alaska to participate in Exercise Northern Edge. On 08 April, DUBUQUE conducted a replenishment at sea with USNS TIPPECANOE prior to pulling into Everett, Washington for a 2 day visit before continuing on to Esquimalt Canada for another 2 day visit. On 16 April, DUBUQUE departed Esquimalt enroute a 2 week stay in Valdez, Alaska from 22 April - 03 May. Upon completion of NORTHERN EDGE on 04 May, DUBUQUE got underway for Everett, Washington and then Seal Beach to offload ammunition. On May 17, DUBUQUE returned to Naval Station San Diego.

From 17 May to 24 July, DUBUQUE was in port San Diego. While inport, the crew of DUBUQUE participated in the COMPHIBGRU 3 Admirals Cup. After successful participation, DUBUQUE got underway on 25 July to conduct operations off the coast of Southern California (SOCAL) enroute San Francisco, California. On 30 July, DUBUQUE conducted a replenishment at sea with USNS GUADALUPE 02-06 August. The crew enjoyed another port visit in San Francisco before returning to San Diego.

On 13 September, DUBUQUE made the San Diego headlines by hosting the Festival of Sails banquet located at Broadway pier in honor and support of all the sailing ships and their crews. Over 500 people came onboard DUBUQUE to enjoy some of MSCS [REDACTED] and his Mess Specialists' gourmet cooking and to talk and enjoy the evening with members of the ship's crew. From 25 September - 03 December DUBUQUE commenced their Phased Maintenance Availability at Southwest Marine Shipyard.

Upon receiving a short-fused deployment order, DUBUQUE cut short her PMA in order to start immediate work-ups for a deployment to the Arabian Gulf in support of OPERATON IRAQI FREEDOM. On December 3, DUBUQUE conducted a deadstick berth shift from Southwest Marine Shipyard to pier 12, Naval Station San Diego. On December 6, Captain J. B. Miller assumed command from Captain B. J. McCormack during a ceremony held onboard. During the holidays, DUBUQUE's crew was busy preparing for the upcoming operation. DUBUQUE spent the remainder of the year training, stocking needed materials and performing critical maintenance.