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OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05DZ)

Subj: Command History of USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) for 1977

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events for 1977  
(2) Basic Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), the 1977 Command History of USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) is submitted as enclosures (1) and (2).

R. F. GREEN

 Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-0989),  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC 20390  
CINCPACFLT  
COMNAVSURFPAC  
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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1977

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
01 JAN - 12 JAN 77	Inport San Diego
13 JAN - 14 JAN 77	At Sea in Local OPAREA for MTT OPPE
15 JAN - 16 JAN 77	Inport San Diego
17 JAN - 21 JAN 77	At Sea in Local OPAREA for Interim Refresher Training
22 JAN - 23 JAN 77	Inport San Diego
23 JAN - 28 JAN 77	At Sea in Local OPAREA for Continued Interim Refresher Training
29 JAN - 22 FEB 77	Inport San Diego for MTT OPPE and RAV
22 FEB - 25 FEB 77	Underway in Local OPAREA for ISE and MTT OPPE
26 FEB - 27 FEB 77	Inport San Diego
28 FEB - 04 MAR 77	Underway for Ammo Loadout Seal Beach (01 MAR) and ISE
05 MAR - 07 MAR 77	Inport San Diego
08 MAR - 09 MAR 77	Underway for PEB OPPE
10 MAR - 28 MAR 77	Inport San Diego for Type Training and Preparation for Overseas Movement
29 MAR - 04 APR 77	Underway from San Diego
04 APR - 09 APR 77	Moored Pearl Harbor. Unload Stores, Fuel; Offload Cargo
09 APR - 23 APR 77	Underway from Pearl Harbor
23 APR - 26 APR 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark Commander Task Force 76 Staff
26 APR - 29 APR 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
29 APR - 13 MAY 77	Moored Subic Bay, RP. Upkeep/Offload six AV-8 Harriers and Cargo
13 MAY - 16 MAY 77	Underway from Subic Bay, RP
16 MAY - 20 MAY 77	Moored Keelung, Taiwan. Liberty Port
20 MAY 77	Underway from Keelung, Taiwan
21 MAY 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Load Cargo and Disembark CTF 76 Staff
22 MAY - 25 MAY 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
25 MAY 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Offload Cargo. Underway from Numazu, JA
25 MAY - 06 JUN 77	Inport Yokosuka, JA. Upkeep
06 JUN 77	Underway from Yokosuka, JA
07 JUN 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Embark Battalion Landing Team 1/9

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07 JUN - 10 JUN 77	Underway from Numazu, JA
10 JUN 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark BLT 1/9, Embark BLT 3/9
11 JUN - 14 JUN 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
14 JUN 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Disembark BLT 3/9
15 JUN - 17 JUN 77	Underway from Numazu, JA
17 JUN - 21 JUN 77	Anchored Beppu, JA. Liberty Port
21 JUN - 23 JUN 77	Underway from Beppu, JA
23 JUN - 25 JUN 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark CTF 76 Staff and 3rd Marine Amphibious Force Staff
25 JUN - 28 JUN 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
28 JUN 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Embark BLT 3/9
28 JUN - 02 JUL 77	Underway from Numazu, JA
02 JUL - 06 JUL 77	Moored Inchon, KS. Liberty Port
06 JUL 77	Underway from Inchon, KS
07 JUL 77	Anchored Pusan, KS. Pre-Exercise Conference. Underway from Pusan, KS
08 JUL 77	Anchored Pohang, KS. Logistics/Personnel Transfers
08 JUL - 14 JUL 77	Underway from Pohang, KS. Commence Ssang Yong VI/Battalion Landing Team Exercise 3-77
14 JUL - 17 JUL 77	Underway from Ssang Yong VI/BLTEX 3-77 (10 miles North of Pohang, KS)
17 JUL 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Disembark BLT 3/9. Underway from Numazu, JA
18 JUL - 25 JUL 77	Moored Yokosuka, JA. Upkeep
25 JUL - 28 JUL 77	Underway from Yokosuka, JA
28 JUL 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark CTF 76 Staff/Marine Engineers
28 JUL - 30 JUL 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa for Typhoon Evasion
30 JUL 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark "Sea the World" Guests for Keelung, Taiwan
30 JUL - 02 AUG 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
02 AUG - 05 AUG 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark "Sea the World" Guests, Load 2nd Battalion 12th Marines
05 AUG - 08 AUG 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
08 AUG - 10 AUG 77	Moored Inchon, KS. Disembark 2nd Battalion 12th Marines
10 AUG - 13 AUG 77	Underway from Inchon, KS
13 AUG - 15 AUG 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark "Sea the World II" Guests for Hong Kong
15 AUG - 18 AUG 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa

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18 AUG - 23 AUG 77	Moored Hong Kong, BCC. Liberty Port
23 AUG - 26 AUG 77	Underway from Hong Kong, BCC
26 AUG 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark "Sea the World II" Guests
26 AUG - 29 AUG 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
29 AUG 77	Anchored Numazu, JA. Embark BLT 3/9
30 AUG - 02 SEP 77	Underway from Numazu, JA
02 SEP 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark CTF 76 Staff
03 SEP - 06 SEP 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
06 SEP 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark CTF 76 Staff
07 SEP - 11 SEP 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa for Typhoon Evasion
11 SEP 77	Transit San Bernadino Straits, RP
12 SEP - 01 OCT 77	Moored Subic Bay, RP. Disembark BLT 3/9. Upkeep
01 OCT 77	Underway from Subic Bay, RP
02 OCT 77	Anchored Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP. Disembark BLT 3/9; Offload Supplies
02 OCT - 06 OCT 77	Underway from Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP
06 OCT - 09 OCT 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Embark various USMC Beach Landing Forces and Equipment
09 OCT - 14 OCT 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa. Commence Exercise Bayanihan IV/Fortress Lightning
14 OCT 77	Arrive in the Vicinity of Cape Calavite, Mindoro, RP. Offload Equipment via Helos
14 OCT 77	Depart Cape Calavite, Mindoro, RP
14 OCT - 16 OCT 77	Anchored Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP. Disembark/ Embark various USMC Beach Landing Forces and Equipment
16 OCT 77	Underway from Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP
17 OCT 77	Moored Subic Bay, RP. Embark BLT 3/9 Equipment and 6 LVTs
17 OCT - 20 OCT 77	Underway from Subic Bay, RP
20 OCT 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Offload Trucks and Equipment
21 OCT 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
21 OCT 77	Anchored Oura Wan, Okinawa. Offload LVTs and M-60 Tanks
21 OCT 77	Underway from Oura Wan, Okinawa
21 OCT 77	Anchored White Beach, Okinawa. Offload LVTs and M-60 Tanks
21 OCT - 23 OCT 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa

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23 OCT 77	Anchored Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP. Embark various USMC Beach Landing Forces and Equipment
24 OCT 77	Underway from Paluan Bay, Mindoro, RP
24 OCT 77	Moored Subic Bay, RP. Disembark various USMC Beach Landing Forces/Load Opportune Lift Cargo
24 OCT - 27 OCT 77	Underway from Subic Bay, RP
27 OCT - 29 OCT 77	Moored White Beach, Okinawa. Disembark various USMC Beach Landing Forces, Embark BLT 1/4 and COMPHIBRON SEVEN
29 OCT - 03 NOV 77	Underway from White Beach, Okinawa
03 NOV - 10 NOV 77	Underway from Eniwetok Atoll, HI
10 NOV 77	Moored Pearl Harbor. Offload Cargo, Load One F-4 Phantom Jet Fighter and One CH-46 Helicopter
11 NOV - 17 NOV 77	Underway from Pearl Harbor
17 NOV - 31 DEC 77	Inport San Diego for Post Deployment Leave and Upkeep

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BASIC NARRATIVE

The New Year was ushered in on JUNEAU with an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) conducted by Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific's Mobile Training Team (MTT). This team visited for several days to assist JUNEAU in preparing for a major Engineering Department inspection by CINCPACFLT's Propulsion Examining Board.

JUNEAU was again underway the following two weeks (17-28 January) for Interim Refresher Training. This was essential for JUNEAU in preparation for WESTPAC deployment. The days were spent doing every conceivable type of exercise for a ship of JUNEAU's class. All this training culminated in the final battle problem conducted 28 January. Every department completed training successfully.

After refresher training, JUNEAU was underway again for another week of MTT OPPE. This time the engineers were given "hands-on" training in correcting all possible casualties to the engineering plant.

JUNEAU was underway for the Western Pacific on 29 March 1977 as the flagship for a simulated convoy of merchant ships composed of the other amphibious units that were with us. The convoy staff carried by JUNEAU was comprised of naval reserve personnel who would actually return to active duty to direct convoys during wartime.

Also embarked onboard were fifteen guests of the Secretary of the Navy who had been especially selected to view day to day naval operations on ships of the fleet. Also carried were six Marine Corps Harrier aircraft (AV-8's).

Arriving in Hawaii on 4 April, JUNEAU's crew spent enjoyable days sightseeing and swimming before departing on 9 April 1977. After a fifteen day transit, JUNEAU arrived in White Beach, Okinawa, and assumed duties as flagship for Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, Rear Admiral Norris, and his staff.

Almost immediately, JUNEAU left for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for an upkeep period lasting from 29 April to 12 May. Along with much hard work was some time for relaxation. Tours to Baguio, a resort city in the mountains, were popular, as were tours to Manila, the capitol city.

On 13 May, JUNEAU was again underway for type training and a port visit to Keelung, Republic of China from 17-20 May. The Taiwanese are very anti-Communist, and greeted the Juneau sailors with much warmth and enthusiasm.

Departing Taiwan, JUNEAU headed for Yokosuka, Japan, via Okinawa, for a week's upkeep period. During this week, many took advantage of tours to Tokyo, the world's largest city, and Mount Fuji.

JUNEAU left Yokosuka on 6 June and on the 7th unloaded elements of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/9, their equipment and cargo, at Numazu, Japan.

On 10 June JUNEAU arrived in Okinawa and offloaded BLT 1/9, and then unloaded BLT 3/9 on 11 June. Departing Okinawa the same day, JUNEAU transported BLT 3/9 to Camp Fuji for field training commencing 14 June in preparation for a forthcoming Korean exercise. Relaxation was next as we spent five days of rest and sightseeing in Beppu, Japan, a resort city on the inland sea. Several of our athletic teams competed against some of the local Japanese teams, and JUNEAU was opened for tours. Over 3000 Japanese tourists came aboard to see what an amphibious ship of the U.S. Navy was like.

After re-embarking BLT 3/9 on 28 June, JUNEAU proceeded to Inchon, Korea to celebrate the 4th of July holiday. Korea is one of the last inexpensive ports in the Western Pacific, and crew members sharpened their bartering skills, returning to the ship with all descriptions of merchandise.

Then, with BLT 3/9 embarked, JUNEAU set out to sea to rendezvous with the other ships of Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO off Pohang, Korea, for Exercise Ssang Yong VI/BLTEX 3-77. This major amphibious operation also involved a Korean naval squadron, Korean marine regiment, underwater demolition teams, a detachment of helicopters, a destroyer, an oiler, and other supporting units. Commanding Officer, USS JUNEAU, as Commander Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO, was in charge of this exercise. JUNEAU alone carried approximately 1100 Navy and Marine Corps personnel, both U.S. and Korean, aboard.

After 3 rehearsals, 0530, 11 July (H-Hour, D-Day) arrived. The press release describes it:

"A combined amphibious exercise called Ssang Yong (Twin Dragons) VI/BLTEX (Battalion Landing Team Exercise) 3-77 was conducted by Navy and Marine Corps Forces from the United States and the Republic of Korea during the period 8-14 July 1977. The routine training exercise was conducted in the area of Pohang, Republic of Korea, and provided U.S. and ROK Forces training in amphibious landing techniques and operations ashore.

"3 hours prior to H-Hour on D-Day, two companies of ROK Marines were inserted by rubber boats at "GREEN BEACH", 8 miles south of the main landing beach, to provide a surprise diversionary attack. Those two companies, after H-Hour, proceeded to take assigned objectives in support of the main landing forces. At the main landing beach designated "BLUE BEACH", two battalion landing teams, one U.S. Marine and one ROK Marine, conducted a combined and simultaneous surface assault at H-Hour. One and one half hours later, another company of ROK Marines parachuted from a ROK Air Force C-123 aircraft into the assault area. With this 3 pronged attack, U.S. and ROK Marines seized and secured assigned objectives. When the assault was judged to be successfully completed, the assault forces conducted a tactical withdrawal to complete the exercise.

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"The Commanding Officer of USS JUNEAU (LPD 10), Captain W. A. WALSH, USN, served as the Commander of the Amphibious Task Force. Acting in his capacity as Commander, U.S. Landing Forces and Commanding Officer of Battalion Landing Team 3/9, Lieutenant Colonel R. H. STABLEFORD, USMC, directed the actions of the U.S. Assault Troops in the accomplishment of their objectives ashore. The participating naval units of the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet included: USS JUNEAU (LPD 10), USS ALAMO (LSD 33), USS TUSCALOOSA (LST 1187), USS SCHENECTADY (LST 1185), USS BAUSELL (DD 845), and USNS PASSUMPSIC. The USNS PASSUMPSIC, a navy owned oiler, and the USS BAUSELL, a unit of DESRON FIFTEEN and a participant in the Navy's Overseas Family Residency Program in Yokosuka, Japan assisted ships of Amphibious Squadron SEVEN in the assault of "BLUE BEACH." The 4 ships from Amphibious Squadron SEVEN (USS JUNEAU, USS ALAMO, USS TUSCALOOSA and USS SCHENECTADY) are home ported in San Diego, CA and are currently on deployment to the Western Pacific. At the time of the exercise, those ships had completed half of their scheduled deployment. Also elements of the following units were involved in the conduct of the exercise: Tactical Air Control Squadron ONE, Beachmaster Unit ONE, Assault Craft Unit ONE, Underwater Demolition Team ELEVEN, and an Amphibious Construction Battalion.

"The U.S. Marine Corps Units participating in Ssang Yong VI/BLTEX 3-77 included Battalion Landing Team 3/9 and elements of Marine Helicopter "LIGHT" Squadron 367. Close air support was provided by U.S. Marine Corps and ROK Air Force jet attack aircraft."

During the course of the exercise we learned of a small and very needy orphanage in Pohang. JUNEAU crew members pitched in and donated money and food items. Both were enthusiastically received.

Following the exercise, JUNEAU offloaded Marines at Numazu and spent another week in Yokosuka for rest and upkeep.

At the end of July, JUNEAU was selected by Commander Amphibious Forces, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, to conduct the first "Sea the World" cruise. This program is designed to give Navy men, and men of the other services stationed in Okinawa, a chance to experience life at sea first hand, and also to visit ports within easy steaming distance of Okinawa. Embarking over 200 additional Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marine personnel at Okinawa, JUNEAU headed for her second visit to Keelung, Taiwan. Unfortunately, Typhoon Vera also paid a visit to Keelung with 133 knot winds, and JUNEAU found it necessary to return to Okinawa rather than proceeding to Keelung. Several days later, we returned to Inchon, Korea to deliver a Marine artillery battalion for training. At this time several Naval Academy and NROTC midshipmen embarked for a month of shipboard training.

Returning to White Beach, Okinawa, JUNEAU once again embarked over 300 personnel for a second "Sea the World" cruise. This time we made it to Hong Kong, and spent five very enjoyable days shopping and sightseeing.

Back to Okinawa, we offloaded our guests and continued to Numazu to onload BLT 3/9, and then back to Okinawa for a close air support exercise. The CTF 76 staff spent the Labor Day weekend at sea on JUNEAU as the air wing from the CORAL SEA, a cruiser, two destroyers and various Marine Corps aircraft and air control personnel conducted bombing and strafing runs on simulated targets, fought off "enemy" air, and generally conducted all aspects of an amphibious operation.

On 6 September, we offloaded CTF 76 for the final time during this deployment and departed for the Philippines the following day. Successfully evading Typhoon Babe, we arrived on 12 September and offloaded BLT 3/9 and proceeded to the ship repair facility for a three-week upkeep period with SRF Subic Bay.

Most of the month of October, we were involved in Exercise Bayanihan IV/Fortress Lightning, a joint U.S.-Philippine exercise. This brought together the largest assemblage of ships in the Western Pacific since the days of the Vietnam conflict. During this exercise, JUNEAU conducted the largest helicopter lift of men and equipment in recent history. In a period of seven hours, 117 helicopter lifts were completed to convert an isolated strip of jungle terrain into a tactical air operations center.

While the exercise was in progress, an extensive civil action project was carried out ashore by sailors and Marines to help promote good will between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines. This project benefited the residents of Mindoro, Philippines, by improving health care items, and supplying educational material. Many of the materials were purchased with the \$16,000 donated by sailors and Marines in the Western Pacific. School materials, including over 7,000 textbooks, were donated to area schools. Food was provided by the Navy's Project Handclasp as part of its nutrition supplement program. In addition, U.S. Navy and Philippine medical and dental personnel treated more than 9,000 patients in a three week period.

Upon completion of the exercise, JUNEAU returned to White Beach, Okinawa, for the last time in 1977 to offload the Marines who participated in the exercise. On October 29th, having embarked COMPHIBRON SEVEN and his staff, and elements of BLT 1/4, we set sail for CONUS.

On the 3rd of November, JUNEAU arrived at Eniwetok Atoll, the site of numerous atomic bomb tests in the late 1940's. The Navy is now assisting in the clean-up project to allow the natives to return home after an absence of 30 years. JUNEAU crewmen took part in this effort by delivering supplies necessary for this clean-up.

Arriving in Pearl Harbor on the 10th, we picked up fuel, stores, and 25 "Tigers" - male relatives and friends of JUNEAU and COMPHIBRON SEVEN crew members. Also joining us for the trip back were three guests of the Secretary of the Navy.

On 17 November, JUNEAU arrived in San Diego after a seven and one-half month absence. From the 17th of November until the end of December, JUNEAU enjoyed a well-earned post deployment leave and upkeep period.