



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
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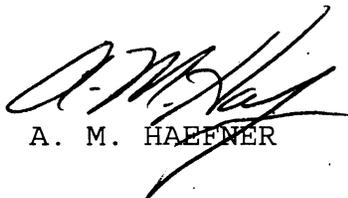
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1997

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted covering the activities of USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) for calendar year 1997.


A. M. HAEFNER

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION: To provide a responsive, capable platform to conduct sustained and effective amphibious operations as directed by higher authority.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (ISIC): Commander, Amphibious Group THREE
(JAN97-SEP97)
Commander, Seventh Fleet
(SEP97-OCT97)
Commander, Fifth Fleet
(OCT97-DEC97)

NAME OF COMMANDER: A. M. Haefner, CAPT USN (01NOV97-31DEC97)

PERMANENT DUTY STATION: San Diego, CA

TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED: None

CHRONOLOGY

01JAN-05JAN Drydocked Southwest Marine San Diego, CA
06JAN Deadstick move to Naval Station San Diego, CA
13JAN-17JAN Conducted Inport Phase of TSTA II San Diego, CA
18JAN-19JAN Inport San Diego, CA
20JAN-23JAN Underway SOCAL OPAREA for TSTA II
24JAN-26JAN Inport San Diego, CA
27JAN-31JAN Underway SOCAL OPAREA for TSTA II
01FEB-02FEB Inport San Diego, CA
03FEB-07FEB Underway SOCAL OPAREA
08FEB-11FEB Inport San Diego, CA
12FEB-14FEB Underway SOCAL OPAREA
15FEB-17FEB Inport San Diego, CA
18FEB-21FEB Underway SOCAL OPAREA for Engineering Certification (ECERT)
24FEB-07MAR Maintenance Availability San Diego, CA
07MAR-11MAR LMA visit conducted by ATGPAC
11MAR-14MAR Underway SOCAL OPAREA for TSTA III
15MAR-24MAR Inport San Diego, CA
25MAR-28MAR Underway SOCAL OPAREA for FEP
29MAR-30MAR Inport San Diego, CA
31MAR-02APR Underway enroute Santa Barbara, CA
03APR-06APR Port Visit Santa Barbara, CA
07APR-08APR Underway enroute San Diego, CA
09APR-11APR Conducted SEMAT Assist Visit Inport San Diego, CA
10APR-12APR Conducted PRE-INSURV Inport San Diego, CA
13APR Underway enroute Seal Beach, CA
14APR-16APR AMMO onload at NWS Seal Beach, CA

17APR	Underway enroute San Diego, CA
18APR-21APR	Inport San Diego, CA
18APR-19APR	Disbursing Surprise Audit conducted by COMNAVBASE San Diego
22APR	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for INSURV/CSRR
23APR	Inport San Diego, CA
25APR	Complete INSURV
26APR-27APR	Inport San Diego, CA
28APR-02MAY	Complete CSRR/SESI
03MAY-07MAY	Inport San Diego, CA
08MAY-16MAY	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for COMPTUEX 97-12
11MAY	Helo Crash, Leucadia, CA
17MAY-08JUN	Inport San Diego, CA
09JUN-13JUN	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for COMPTUEX 97-13
14JUN-19JUN	Inport San Diego, CA
20JUN-02JUL	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for KERNEL BLITZ
01JUL	Conducted AMMO Onload via VERTREP, Falbrook
02JUL-13JUL	Inport San Diego, CA
14JUL-23JUL	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for JTFEX
24JUL	Conducted MOGAS Refueling at LaPlaya Pier
25JUL-21AUG	Pre-Overseas Movement Inport San Diego, CA
22AUG	Underway SOCAL OPAREA for Dependent's Day Cruise
23AUG-27AUG	Inport San Diego, CA
28AUG	Deploy WESTPAC '97
28AUG	VERTREP, Falbrook
29AUG-02SEP	Enroute Pearl Harbor, HI
03SEP-06SEP	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for maintenance issues and onload of supplies.

07SEP-18SEP Underway enroute Saipan, Commonwealth of the North
 Mariana Islands.
 15SEP INCHOP C7F
 19SEP-22SEP Saipan Port Visit
 23SEP-29SEP Underway enroute Singapore
 30SEP-04OCT Singapore Port Visit
 05OCT Underway enroute Phuket, Thailand.
 Conducted transit of Strait of Malacca.
 06OCT-10OCT Phuket, Thailand Port Visit
 10OCT-21OCT Underway enroute Bahrain, U. A. E.
 11OCT Conducted FAS with USNS TIPPECANOE
 15OCT INCHOP C5F
 18OCT Transit Strait of Hormuz
 22OCT-24OCT Inport Bahrain, U. A. E.
 23OCT CAPT Haefner reports aboard
 25OCT Underway enroute Jebel Ali, U. A. E.
 26OCT Commander U.S. Fifth Fleet (VADM Fargo) and
 Commandant of the United States Marine Corp
 (GENERAL Krulak) visit JUNEAU.
 27OCT Conducted FAS with USS SACRAMENTO
 27OCT-02NOV Maintenance Availability Jebel Ali, U. A. E.
 01NOV Conducted Change of Command Ceremony,
 CAPT Haefner relieves CAPT Quinn
 03NOV-19NOV Underway Central Arabian Gulf OPAREA
 11NOV Conducted FAS and VERTREP with USNS SIRIUS and
 USNS SPICA
 18NOV DPP CA IMEF visits JUNEAU
 19NOV Conducted FAS and VERTREP with USNS SPICA
 20NOV-24NOV Maintenance Availability, Jebel Ali, U. A. E.
 25NOV-26NOV Underway enroute Bahrain

26NOV-30NOV Inport Bahrain
30NOV-01DEC Underway enroute Kuwait City
02DEC-05DEC Inport Kuwait City
02DEC-04JAN Exercise EAGER MACE, Kuwait City
06JAN-10JAN Underway enroute Kuwait Bay
10DEC Conducted FAS and VERTREP with USS SACRAMENTO
10DEC-12DEC Anchored Kuwait Bay
12DEC-13DEC Inport Kuwait City
13DEC-16DEC Underway, Surface Portion of Exercise EAGER MACE
16DEC Commander Amphibious Group Three visits JUNEAU
16DEC-17DEC Inport Kuwait City
17DEC-20DEC Underway Northern Arabian Gulf OPAREA
20DEC Conducted FAS and VERTREP with USS SEATTLE
21DEC-22DEC Inport Bahrain, U. A. E.
22DEC-23DEC Underway enroute Northern Arabian Gulf OPAREA
23DEC Chief of Naval Operations visits JUNEAU
24DEC-26DEC Anchored Kuwait Bay
26DEC-28DEC Underway Northern Arabian Gulf OPAREA
28DEC-31DEC Inport Kuwait City for backload

NARRATIVE

USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) began 1997 drydocked at Southwest Marine in San Diego, CA. We deadsticked over to 32nd St. Naval Station on 6 January to begin our workups for deployment. In January, we conducted a successful TSTA II cycle both inport and underway SOCAL OPAREA. The month of February was spent preparing for an Engineering Certification (ECERT).

On 24 February, JUNEAU began a two week maintenance availability inport San Diego. ATGPAC inspectors conducted a Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) on 7 March. JUNEAU's supply department received a grade of satisfactory on their support and logistics capabilities.

On 11 March, JUNEAU got underway for TSTA III in the SOCAL OPAREA. Marines from BLT 1/1 CRRC and AAV teams embarked to conduct amphibious operations off the coast of Camp Pendleton. On 25 March, JUNEAU got underway for Final Evaluation Phase (FEP) in SOCAL OPAREA. Marines again embarked on JUNEAU to plan and execute an amphibious landing at Camp Pendleton.

JUNEAU got underway on 31 March for Santa Barbara, CA and anchored off of Santa Barbara on 3 April. The Wardroom hosted a luncheon and ship tours for 20 members of the Channel City Club. The ship's crew enjoyed four days of liberty.

On 8 April, the medical department had their Medical Readiness Assessment and received a "C1" rating. JUNEAU conducted a three day SEMAT and PRE-INSURV assist visit inport San Diego on 9 April. The ship continued into a ten day INSURV/CSRR/SESI inspection beginning on 21 April. COMNAVBASE San Diego conducted a five day Disbursing Surprise Audit on 14 April.

On 13 April, we got underway from San Diego and headed to Seal Beach. On 14 April, JUNEAU conducted an ammunition onload at Seal Beach. The onload was in preparation for the deployment. Over 99 tons of ordnance was loaded over a two day period.

We commenced a 10 day Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) training with exercise COMPTUEX 97-12 on 8 May. It was the first predeployment exercise with the USS PELELIU and the USS COMSTOCK.

A tragedy occurred while conducting night vision goggle landing qualifications onboard the USS JUNEAU on 11 May. A CH-46E with two pilots and two aircrewmen crashed into the ocean. It was Knight rider 11 from HM 164. The helicopter's forward rotor cut our port side stack antenna in half. The helicopter then lost control and crashed into the ocean approximately 100 yards off our stern. JUNEAU immediately commenced search and rescue operations. All available ARG assets including SAR Helo's, CRRC's, LCU's and RHIB boats were used. We did not find survivors.

On 9 June, JUNEAU got underway in the SOCAL to conduct COMPTUEX 97-13. On 10 June, we embarked marines from BLT 1/1 off the coast of Camp Pendleton. The CRRC and AAV teams conducted amphibious operations off the coast of Camp Pendleton. On 20 June, JUNEAU got underway for twelve days in SOCAL OPAREA for KERNEL BLITZ. KERNEL BLITZ was an intense scenario driven exercise involving two ARGs and a Carrier Battle Group. On 1 July, a second ammunition onload was conducted off the coast of Camp Pendleton. The onload was done via VERTREP.

JUNEAU celebrated its 29th Birthday on 12 July. On 14 July, JUNEAU got underway in SOCAL OPAREA for 10 days to conduct JTFEX. This was the final exam for the ARG. The ARG operated on the southern California coast in a scenario driven exercise testing all capabilities which the joint ARG/MEU forces had to offer. All the Special Operations Capable (SOC) aspects of the ARG/MEU team were exercised to their fullest. On our transit back to San Diego, we stopped at LaPlaya pier for MOGAS refueling on 24 of July. The following day we pulled into San Diego and started the POM period.

During the POM period, JUNEAU researched a number of options on how to set up a private, user-friendly, self-contained e-mail service for the crew. As a non-SHF ship, the current navy resources available did not support the ability to transmit and receive personal e-mail. An account with a local San Diego commercial vendor was setup. The system used INMARSAT(A) during the deployment with a fair rate of success. The company was called TERRACOMM INCORPORATED.

On 22 August, family and friends of the JUNEAU navy and marine team embarked for a one day Dependant's Cruise for a taste of shipboard life. The events for the day consisted of transitting out to SOCAL OPAREA, conducting DIVTACS, LCAC ops, Air Power Demo, and ended with a Steel Beach picnic.

Prior to deployment, the Afloat Personal Telecommunications Service (APTS) System was installed and was commonly called "Sailor Phones". The system was online on 1 September. Initial sailor phone setup proved unreliable.

On 28 August, JUNEAU deployed for the Arabian Gulf with its normal crew of 387 Sailors. The ship was augmented by 498 Marines. JUNEAU embarked personnel from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, BLT 1/1, Special Boat Unit, SEAL Team 5(H Platoon), and a Naval Cryptological Detachment.

In route to Hawaii, a Sailor Phone technical representative came aboard to repair the unreliable system. The software and hardware problems were corrected and the Sailor Phone connectivity rate was increased to 94 percent. Sailors had the option of using pre-paid phone cards, credit cards, or other phone charge cards.

On 3 September JUNEAU entered the Hawaiian OPAREA. The ARG conducted amphibious operations on the Northern side of Oahu. AAV's and CRRC's were offloaded. An attempted LCAC offload was unsuccessful because the seas were not within operating criteria. After the amphibious offload, we pulled into Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. A two day maintenance period was scheduled.

On 7 September, JUNEAU got underway from Hawaii. We began our transit towards Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Enroute we diverted South of our original track to avoid two storm systems. The ARG chopped into COMSEVFLT on 15 September.

On 19 September, JUNEAU went pierside for four days in Saipan. It was our first port visit of the deployment. Sailors and marines took advantage of the local hospitality and enjoyed a much needed rest. The wardroom hosted a luncheon for the Governor of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. The officers and the crew were then invited to a special "Welcome Celebration" hosted by the Governor of Saipan. JUNEAU hosted over 5,000 visitors.

On 23 September we got underway for Singapore. Enroute we saw some of the effects of the forest fires that were making the international news. Skies were hazy and visibility was decreasing. For several days, the sun did not break through.

Inport Singapore for a port visit starting on 30 September. Our sailors and marines took advantage of the shopping and tours. JUNEAU also contributed to the Singapore community by leading two community relations (COMREL) projects organized by JUNEAU's Chaplain. JUNEAU pulled in the North side of the island.

On 5 October, underway to Phuket, Thailand. On the evening of the 5th, JUNEAU conducted a transit of the Strait of Malacca. The transit through the straits was plagued by severe low visibility due to the forest fires. The installation of our ARPA/ECDIS (Automatic Radar Piloting Assistor /Electronic Chart Display Imaging System) allowed us to navigate safely without incident.

JUNEAU anchored off the coast of Phuket, Thailand on 6 October for a four day port visit. The crew enjoyed themselves immensely during this final port call prior to commencing operations in the Arabian Gulf. The local currency exchange rate was 34 Baht to 1 American dollar. Many souvenirs were bought for loved ones back home.

On 10 October JUNEAU was underway enroute Bahrain, United Arab Emirates(UAE). On 11 October, we successfully completed our first underway FAS with USNS TIPPECANOE. There would be many more to come during the deployment. The ARG chopped to COMFIFTHFLT on 15 October.

On 18 October, JUNEAU transited the Strait of Hormuz with the ARG and USS Ford. On 22 October, we were inport Bahrain, UAE for three days. Captain Haefner, PCO USS JUNEAU arrived on 23 October. Preparations for Change of Command are in full swing. On 25 October JUNEAU was underway enroute Jebel Ali, UAE.

The Commander, US Fifth Fleet (Vice Admiral Fargo) and the Commandant of the United States Marine Corp (General Krulak) visited JUNEAU on 26 October. They were impressed with the material condition of the ship. They inform us that we are at the "Tip of the Spear". We conducted FAS with USS Sacramento on 27 October. We pulled into Jebel Ali for a much needed maintenance availability.

On 1 November, JUNEAU conducted change of command ceremony pierside in Jebel Ali, UAE. Capt Quinn was relieved by Capt Haefner.

JUNEAU was underway on 3 November for the Central Arabian Gulf OPAREA. We conducted CIWS PACfire, 25MM, .50 cal, and M60 gunnery exercise on 9 November. Both CIWS mounts were successfully fired for the first time during deployment. Famfire was also conducted on the ships 25MM mounts, .50 cal mounts, as well as the M60 machine gun. We conducted FAS and VERTREP with USNS SIRIUS and USNS SPICA respectively on 11 November.

General Bolden, Deputy CG IMEF visited JUNEAU on 18 November. He was impressed with ship's material condition and with the navy-marine team spirit.

On 19 November, JUNEAU conducted FAS and VERTREP with USNS SPICA. On 20 November, we conducted a much needed five day maintenance availability in Jebel Ali, UAE. Also, JUNEAU received over 6,000 lbs of mail and 50 pallets of stores for delivery to the PELELIU ARG.

Underway on the 25 November, JUNEAU arrived in Bahrain on the 26th. JUNEAU was underway again, enroute Kuwait City on 30 November. The JUNEAU was inport Kuwait City on 2 Dec for three days. We offloaded embarked marines and equipment in support of sustainment training ashore. Exercise EAGER MACE began 2 December and lasted through 4 January in Kuwait City.

JUNEAU got underway in the Northern Arabian Sea on 6 December. On 8 December, a PACFire and M-14 famfire were conducted. Both CIWS mounts fired successfully and over 100 ships force personnel were qualified on the M-14 rifle. We conducted a FAS and VERTREP with USS SACRAMENTO on 10 December.

From 13 to 16 December, we conducted the surface portion of Exercise EAGER MACE. JUNEAU acted as Command and Control Platform for the bi-lateral exercise. Other ships involved were the USS FORD and two Kuwaiti vessels: the AL SANBOUK and AL SHAHEED. The exercise incorporated the following events:

signaling, maneuvering, and communication drills; helo operations, detect-to-engage sequence, UNREP, VERTREP, small boat attack, and photoex.

The Commander, Amphibious Group Three visited the JUNEAU on 16 December. He too was impressed with the material condition of the ship and the professionalism of the crew.

JUNEAU was in port Kuwait on 16 and 17 December. On 17 December, a combined JUNEAU/FORD team participated in a soccer match against the host Kuwaiti Navy team. Both sides had a thoroughly enjoyable time, however, the JUNEAU/FORD team was not victorious. JUNEAU got underway Northern Arabian Gulf OPAREA on 18 December.

JUNEAU conducted a FAS and VERTREP with the USS SEATTLE. JUNEAU is inport Bahrain on 21 and 22 December. On 22 December, JUNEAU got underway enroute Northern Arabian Gulf OPAREA.

The Chief of Naval Operations visited JUNEAU on the 23 of December. Also, JUNEAU started to receive TV Direct to Sailors (TV DTS). This enabled us to receive CNN, live sports broadcasts, the Super Bowl, and various other television programming. Without a doubt, TV DTS has been well received by the entire JUNEAU crew and embarked marines.

We were inport Kuwait City for backload from 28 to 31 December. A scheduled three day evolution, all equipment and personnel were completely backloaded in only one day.