



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, Washington,  
D.C. 20374-0571

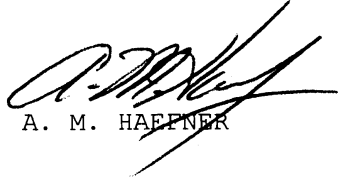
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1998

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 1998.

  
A. M. HAEFNER

**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  
(JAN98 - DEC98)

**NAME OF COMMANDER:** A. M. Haefner, CAPT, USN (01NOVN97 - PRESENT)

**PERMANENT DUTY STATION:** San Diego, CA

**TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED:** None

### CHRONOLOGY

01 Jan - 06 Jan Underway, en route to Jebel Ali, UAE.

06 Jan - 09 Jan Port Visit, Jebel Ali.

10 Jan Underway, transit Straits of Hormuz.

11 Jan - 20 Jan Underway, en route to Bali, Indonesia.

21 Jan - 26 Jan Port Visit, Bali.

27 Jan - 28 Jan Underway, en route to Darwin, Australia.

29 Jan - 01 Feb Port Visit, Darwin.

02 Feb - 17 Feb Underway, en route to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

18 Feb - 19 Feb Port Visit, Pearl Harbor. Arrival of PXO (LCDR Vincent J. Vanjoolen). Pick-up of family members and friends for Tiger Cruise.

20 Feb Underway, en route to San Diego. Tiger Cruise.

21 Feb Burial at Sea ceremony.

22 Feb - 25 Feb Underway, en route to San Diego, California.

26 Feb Offload of Marines at Camp Pendleton, CA. Pick-up of additional family members and friends for Mini-Tiger Cruise.

27 Feb Homecoming San Diego. XO (LCDR Richard J. Abresch) departs.

28 Feb - 14 Mar First Post-Overseas Movement (POM) Leave Period.

10 Mar Naval Safety Center Survey.

14 Mar - 28 Mar Second POM Leave Period.

30 Mar - 02 Apr Ammo Offload, Seal Beach, CA.

04 Apr Gator Ball, Westin Plaza Hotel, San Diego.

06 Apr Change of Command Ceremony, Commander, Amphibious Squadron One. Captain Stephan E. Donlon (Commanding) and Captain William F. Hopper (Relieving).

07 Apr - 28 Apr Southwest Marine Availability.

29 Apr Deadstick Southwest Marine Shipyard, San Diego.

29 Apr - 02 Jun Dry-docked Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA), Southwest Marine.

29 Apr - 14 Jun Dry-dock.

03 Jun - 10 Jun Surface Line Week.

15 Jun - 01 Jul Southwest Marine Pier 1.

02 Jul Depart Southwest Marine Pier 1 for Sea Trials.

03 Jul - 08 Jul Ship's Upkeep, Naval Station San Diego, Pier 11.

09 Jul - 17 Jul Underway, en route to Hawaii for Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 1998. EODMU Three Embarked with ten Marine Mammal Systems.

18 Jul - 19 Jul Port Visit, Pearl Harbor.

20 Jul - 25 Jul Underway, RIMPAC 1998.

26 Jul Inport, Pearl Harbor due to Category 4 CASREP for JUNEAU's Sterngate.

27 Jul - 02 Aug Underway, RIMPAC 1998.

03 Aug - 06 Aug Port Visit, Pearl Harbor.

07 Aug - 13 Aug Underway, en route to San Diego.

14 Aug - 16 Aug Inport, Broadway Pier, San Diego Providing Ship Tours for Fleet Week.

17 Aug Transfer from Broadway Pier to Naval Station San Diego, Pier 11.

18 Aug NAVOSH Safety Inspection.

19 Aug - 25 Oct Continuous Maintenance Availability.

21 Aug Visit by CDR(Ret) Lester Zook (Survivor of USS JUNEAU (CL - 52))

26 Oct - 30 Oct Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II.

31 Oct - 08 Nov Ship's Upkeep and Training.

09 Nov - 13 Nov Underway, Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) I.

14 Nov - 16 Nov Inport, San Diego.

17 Nov - 20 Nov Underway, TSTA I.

21 Nov - 22 Nov Inport, San Diego.

23 Nov - 25 Nov Underway, Engineering Certification (ECERT).

26 Nov	Thanksgiving
30 Nov - 08 Dec	Defense Accounting Officer (DAO) Audit.
05 Dec	Industrial Hygiene Inspection.
09 Dec	JUNEAU Christmas Party
10 Dec - 16 Dec	Logistics Management Assessment (LMA).
14 Dec - 28 Dec	First Holiday Leave Period.
28 Dec - 10 Jan	Second Holiday Leave Period.

## **NARRATIVE**

USS JUNEAU (LPD 10) began 1998 underway en route to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, her last port visit in the Arabian Gulf. Crewmembers spent the majority of their time shopping in UAE's Gold District, which is known to have the best gold prices in the world. Upon departure, JUNEAU transited the Straits of Hormuz and exited the Arabian Gulf, homeward bound after more than four long months at sea.

The journey home held the promise of several exotic ports. The first stop, Bali, Indonesia, was a breath of fresh air for the entire crew. The dollar was extremely strong versus the Indonesian currency, which made an already inexpensive country even less expensive. Several Sailors became instant millionaires after trading their hundred dollar bills for a million Rupees. The tours offered in Bali were quite extensive. Additionally, many JUNEAU Sailors and Marines took advantage of the exceptional shopping and stocked up on gifts for loved ones at home.

JUNEAU departed Bali on 27 January en route to Darwin, Australia. Arriving one day later, JUNEAU was warmly greeted by the Australian community. Darwin offered many diversions, including opportunities to visit the MGM Grand Hotel, crocodile farms and downtown shopping.

JUNEAU departed Darwin on 1 February, en route to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Arriving on 18 February, JUNEAU picked up over 100 family members and friends for the Tiger Cruise back to California. The prospective Executive Officer, LCDR Vincent J. van Joolen also reported for duty. Departing Hawaii on 20 February, JUNEAU conducted a Burial at Sea ceremony the following day. In attendance were the decedent's grandson (a member of the USMC deployed on board JUNEAU) and son-in-law (one of JUNEAU's Tigers). The ship arrived off the coast of Camp Pendleton, CA on 26 February for an administrative offload of the embarked Marines and their equipment. JUNEAU also picked up additional family members for a Mini-Tiger Cruise to San Diego. The ship returned to San Diego for a joyous Homecoming Celebration on 27 February. LCDR Richard J. Abresch, Executive Officer, left the JUNEAU, having been relieved of his duties by LCDR van Joolen.

The first post-deployment leave period began immediately with half of the crew taking leave to be with their families and friends after the long six-month deployment. The Naval Safety Center conducted a survey during the first POM. Despite the minimal crew, JUNEAU performed remarkably well. The first POM period ended on 14 March as the second POM period commenced, giving the other half of the crew the opportunity to enjoy leave. Immediately after the end of the second POM period on 28 March, JUNEAU went back to work as she got underway on 30 March en route to Seal Beach, California for the Post-Deployment Ammunition Offload. Returning from Seal Beach on 2 April, JUNEAU crewmembers had the opportunity to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Amphibious Group Three Gator Ball at the Westin Horton Plaza Hotel in downtown, San Diego. JUNEAU distinguished itself as having the most guests per capita in attendance.

JUNEAU was the host ship for the Amphibious Squadron One Change of Command ceremony on 6 April. Captain William F. Hopper relieved Captain Stephan E. Donlon on JUNEAU's flight deck. A reception was held on board following the ceremony.

Enclosure (3)

JUNEAU began a shipyard maintenance period at Southwest Marine in San Diego on 7 April. Shipyard workers became a common sight as JUNEAU made preparations to go into drydock on 29 April. JUNEAU remained there until 13 June when it moved to Southwest Marine's Pier 1. During the yard period, JUNEAU participated in the COMNAVSURFPAC Surface Line Week competition. Performing exceptionally well in all categories, the crew took first place overall in the sports competition. VADM Kreikich, COMNAVSURFPAC, presented JUNEAU with her award, which proudly accompanied the JUNEAU wardroom to that evening's SURFPAC Ball at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego.

JUNEAU was the first ship of her class to successfully complete the arduous nine-week DPMA on 2 July, when she departed Southwest Marine. After a noble effort by Engineering Department, Sea Trials were extremely successful. JUNEAU returned to San Diego Naval Station that same evening and spent the next week preparing for COMSEVENTHFLEET's Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 1998. During that week the Air Department completed a short notice Aviation Certification, ensuring that the flight deck was fully operational.

JUNEAU departed San Diego Naval Station on 9 July for Hawaii and pulled into Pearl Harbor for a brief port visit on 18 July. On 20 July she was underway for RIMPAC 98. JUNEAU was the primary mine-countermeasures platform for Country Blue and flagship to the MCMRON Commander. To assist in that mission, EOD Mobile Unit 3 was embarked with Mark 4 and Mark 7 Mammal Systems (Dolphins) to hunt for mines. Additionally, Clearance Dive Teams from Canada and Australia were embarked in support of the mission. The JUNEAU/EODMU 3 team demonstrated superior war-fighting skills by clearing 40 of 42 mines. JUNEAU made an unplanned stop at Pearl Harbor on 26 July to receive emergency repairs to her stern gate. Together with the Pearl Harbor Naval Station, the crew worked tirelessly through the night to effect repairs. Their efforts allowed JUNEAU to get underway the next morning. RIMPAC concluded on 2 August with a final port visit to Pearl Harbor. On 6 August, JUNEAU headed home.

Upon returning to San Diego on 14 August, JUNEAU pulled into Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego to provide ship tours in support of San Diego's Fleet Week. Over the course of the weekend, JUNEAU hosted tours for more than 5,000 visitors. Among the visitors were best-selling novelist Tom Clancy and his family.

JUNEAU moved from Broadway Pier back to the Naval Station Pier 11 on 17 August. The following day JUNEAU completed the NAVOSH safety inspection. All safety programs were rated effective as JUNEAU commenced another two-month continuous maintenance availability.

On 21 August, JUNEAU received an unexpected visit from Commander (retired) Lester Zook, a survivor of the USS JUNEAU (CL 52) crew that was sunk by a Japanese submarine in the South Pacific during World War II. He captivated an audience of modern-day JUNEAU shipmates as he recounted his harrowing tale of courage and survival. At that time he was one of only two survivors that were alive today. Sadly, CDR Zook died unexpectedly in an automobile accident in Reno, Nevada on 12 November. The timing of his final visit to JUNEAU and his subsequent death gave us pause for thought. He has

survived the hazards of World War II, yet lost his life at home in the country he so bravely defended. We had come to realize that we must treat our living heroes with dignity and honor, and never forget their contribution to peace and freedom in death.

From 26 through 30 October, initiated the inter-deployment training cycle by completing CART II. JUNEAU spent several days at sea each week through the month of November to conduct numerous drills and training evolutions as part of the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). JUNEAU's remarkable performance earned the ship its Engineering Certification in time for the Thanksgiving holidays. The following week, on 5 December, JUNEAU completed the Industrial Hygiene Safety Inspection, once again performing superbly.

JUNEAU's annual Christmas party was held on 9 December at Admiral Kidd Club in Point Loma. The next day, the Logistics Management Assessment of our Supply Department commenced. This intensive seven-day review of the food service, disbursing, postal, and stores organizations resulted in unprecedented achievement as JUNEAU scored outstanding in all areas. One inspector reported that it was the best assessment he had ever seen.

The first holiday leave period began on 14 December as one half of the JUNEAU crew took well deserved time off for the Christmas season. During the holiday season, the entire crew bore a hand in decorating the ship for Christmas. As result of their creative efforts, JUNEAU took first place in the San Diego Naval Station's Christmas Lights competition. The second holiday period started on 28 December allowing the other half of the crew to enjoy time off during the New Year.

Throughout the year 1998, JUNEAU demonstrated superior performance across the board. By maintaining the highest degree of operational readiness and a superb safety record, she set the standards for LPD performance. JUNEAU was (and still is) one of the cleanest, best preserved, and best maintained capital warships on the waterfront as the crew worked tirelessly to ensure that the best possible ship would be turned over to our forward-deployed forces in Sasebo, Japan in 1999. Whether it was completing an arduous maintenance or training period, participating in the multi-national exercise, or taking first place at a sports competition, JUNEAU consistently reinforced her reputation as the finest ship on the waterfront. By year's end, JUNEAU had distinguished herself by winning her second consecutive TYCOM Safety Award and Green "H" for overall crew wellness. Perhaps the high point of 1998 came when JUNEAU was awarded the prestigious Golden Anchor for leading the U.S. Navy with the finest retention program. The year 1998 will be a difficult to top, but the crew is primed to try in 1999.