



Vice Admiral Robert J. Natter
COMSEVENTHFLT

Vice Admiral H. A. Browne
COMTHIRDFLT



COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

UNIT 25104
FPO AP 96601-6003

25 Aug 97



COMMANDER THIRD FLEET

29 August 1997

Dear Captain Perkins,

Dear Captain Perkins,

It is a pleasure to issue a sincere and hearty congratulations to USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11), as the ship completes its distinguished career. During its commissioned service NEW ORLEANS was faced with challenges and provided important contributions to our defense and foreign policy initiatives world-wide. Each time NEW ORLEANS deployed to SEVENTH Fleet, it served as a platform of choice for rapid response to any crisis.

On behalf of all your shipmates in Third Fleet, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to you and the crew of USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11) as you decommission this magnificent warship after 29 years of distinguished service to our Navy and nation.

The tens of thousands of Sailors and Marines who served aboard this fine warship during its 29 year career should march with pride for the important role they played in maintaining world peace during often troubled times. These Sailors and Marines truly represented the hard work, teamwork, perseverance, and pride that is our Navy.

USS NEW ORLEANS has made many important contributions to our nation's security. Since commissioning in 1968, NEW ORLEANS has completed fifteen overseas deployments. Serving with honor and distinction in the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War, NEW ORLEANS has time and again answered the call to go wherever needed to operate forward from the sea. From humanitarian assistance operations in the Pacific to support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Arabian Gulf, NEW ORLEANS has left an indelible mark on the stellar history of our Navy over the past three decades. NEW ORLEANS has performed each mission flawlessly and leaves the service of our nation with a superb record of achievement.

Through the years, SEVENTH Fleet commanders were filled with confidence at having such an effective fighting ship as NEW ORLEANS under their command. This ship and crew will be missed greatly.

Every current and past crewmember of NEW ORLEANS should take great pride in their personal and professional achievements. Our Navy is strong thanks to your impressive spirit and the tradition of excellence you leave in your wake. I wish each of you "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as you move on to new assignments in the fleet. Well done NEW ORLEANS.

Fair winds and following seas.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. NATTER
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

H. A. BROWNE
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Captain R. C. Perkins
Commanding Officer
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)
FPO AP 96627-1650

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