



Rear Admiral R. J. Naughton
USTRANSCOM (J5)

Captain Richard C. Perkins
COMMANDING OFFICER



**DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND POLICY
UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND
508 SCOTT DR
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IL 62225-5357
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11)
FPO AP 9627-1650

31 Oct 97

Dear Captain Perkins

You and your crew have done wonderful things with the USS NEW ORLEANS. Although she is a great ship, a ship is only as good as the men and women who sail her. Your crew has made all of us former NEW ORLEANS sailors proud of your accomplishments.

NEW ORLEANS has served proudly in nearly every contingency during her commissioned service. From Vietnam to the Gulf War and Somalia, NEW ORLEANS and her crew always answered the bell when the National Command Authority called. It is a sad but proud day for you and the crew.

Thank you for sailing this great ship so well! You have carried on the long tradition of sailors who have served aboard "the hallmark ship."

Sincerely

Richard J. Naughton
RICHARD J. NAUGHTON
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, Plans and Policy

Crew and Families of NEW ORLEANS,

As we say farewell to USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11), it is proper that we reflect upon the many accomplishments made by the present and past crews who have sailed on this proud U.S. Navy warship. Over 45,000 energetic, young members of the Navy-Marine Corps Team have served proudly aboard NEW ORLEANS during her 29 years of service to our great nation.

Highlights of the many accomplishments of the crew and ship include 18 deployments to the Western Pacific with U.S. Marine units in support of SEVENTH Fleet tasking, flagship for Presidents Nixon and Reagan, recovery of Apollo 14, Skylab III and IV, and Apollo/Soyuz Test Project astronauts, minesweeping operations off North Vietnam in 1972, Iran hostage operations in 1980, and operations in support of national tasking in OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in the North Arabian Sea and RESTORE HOPE off the coast of Mogadishu, Somalia. NEW ORLEANS and crew are also immortalized in time through their participation in two Hollywood films, "Apollo 13" and "1000 Men and a Baby," reflecting great pride for our nation and the U.S. Navy.

I am extremely proud and grateful to have had the opportunity to command this warship and this crew. Words cannot adequately express my pride and admiration for the accomplishments I have observed during my time aboard. I have seen the magic of the ship instill in each of her young crewmen a sense of confidence and a "can do" spirit that will carry on throughout the lives of the Sailors and officers. To all the former NEW ORLEANS crews, I salute you for all the ship's historic achievements. To my crew, thank you for the outstanding job you have done. I have been extremely proud of what you have accomplished and to have served as your Commanding Officer.

As NEW ORLEANS' distinguished career draws to a close, the Navy and Marine Corps Team who have served so superbly for 29 years can be assured that they and this great ship have served their nation professionally, and will be honorably remembered by our grateful nation.

R.C. Perkins
R. C. PERKINS

Captain R.C. Perkins, USN
Commanding Officer
USS NEW ORLEANS
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