

Historical Highlights

1 Mar 66	Keel laid by Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.	18 May 71	Evacuated crew member from SS AMICA (Norwegian ship); Medical Officer performed appendectomy.
3 Feb 68	Launched. Christened by sponsor, Mrs. Arthur A. de la Houssaye.		
6 Nov 68	Crew moved aboard.	28-31 Jul 71	Provided civic action medical assistance in Paluan Village, Mindoro, R.P.I.
16 Nov 68	Commissioned at U. S. Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, PA. First helicopters landed for display purposes.	5 Nov 71	Returned from WESTPAC.
10-12 Dec 68	First underway helicopter operations; MEDEVAC of shipyard worker by HC-4.	17 Feb 72	Entered Dry Dock #1, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, for new low pressure turbine and communications upgrades.
24 Feb 69	Transited Panama Canal.	17 Jul 72	Underway for WESTPAC (Vietnam contingency operations and Philippine flood relief).
3 Mar 69	Arrived homeport San Diego.	1 Oct 72	Evacuated 28 personnel from USS NEWPORT NEWS after her 8 inch gun turret exploded.
1 Aug 69	Underway for WESTPAC (Vietnam War).	23 Oct 72	15,000th helicopter landing.
11 Jan 70	Conducted memorial service for USS DUPAGE.	4 Feb 73	Rescue and Assistance Team helps USS TOLOVANA (AO 72) in fighting fire while at anchor.
27 Mar 70	Returned from WESTPAC.	13 May 73	Returned from WESTPAC.
14 May 70	Arrived in San Francisco to participate in Maritime Week and Armed Forces Week festivities; hosted over 5,000 visitors.	25 Sep 73	Recovered Skylab III crew and command module.
9-19 Jul 70	Transported load of miscellaneous aircraft to Pearl Harbor.	29 Sep 73	Gun Mounts 32 and 34 removed for installation of Basic Point Defense Missile System (BPDMS).
17-28 Aug 70	Supported Nixon's Presidential Visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.	8 Feb 74	Recovered Skylab IV crew and command module.
28 Sep 70	NASA evaluated Pettybone crane (Tilley) for use with Apollo 14 Mission.	16 Mar 74	Underway for WESTPAC.
7 Jan 71	Underway for Apollo 14 Mission.	30 May 74	Performed MEDEVAC of crewman from merchant ship OCEANIC LONDON.
09 Feb 71	Recovered Apollo 14 crew and command module.	31 May 74	Performed MEDEVAC of female crew member from merchant ship KYMO.
11 Feb 71	Astronauts flown off to Pago Pago, Samoa.	10 Jun 74	Performed MEDEVAC of crewman from USS ST. LOUIS (LKA 116).
25 Feb 71	Returned from WESTPAC.	31 Aug 74	Returned from WESTPAC.
15 Apr 71	Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department established.	5 Jul 75	Underway for WESTPAC.
1 May 71	Underway for WESTPAC.	24 Jul 75	Recovered U. S. astronauts and command module from Apollo/Soyuz Test Project.
12 May 71	Provided medical assistance to SS COLUMBIA MARINER.		

3 Dec 75	25,000th helicopter landing made by CH-46.	22 Feb 81	Arrived Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for regular overhaul.
16 Dec 75	First Harrier landing and takeoff on LPH in Pacific (made pierside).	23 Feb 81	Shifted homeport to Bremerton, WA for overhaul.
19 Dec 75	First underway AV-8A Harrier operations on LPH in Pacific.	8 Jul - 18 Oct 81	Ship's helicopter undergoes Standard Depot Level Maintenance work in Corpus Christi, TX.
17 Mar 76	26,000th landing made by the Commanding Officer, Capt Zoehrer, in CAJUN 05.	12 Dec 81	Returned to San Diego with 200 private vehicles, 20 tons of household goods, and 82 dependents.
23 Mar 76	Returned from WESTPAC.	15 Jul 82	Underway for WESTPAC. Encountered 6 typhoons in a 5 week period.
2 Apr 77	Underway for WESTPAC.	20 Sep 82	Returned from WESTPAC.
4 Jul 77	Fired 21 gun salute in Hong Kong Harbor.	15-19 Oct 82	40,000 guests tour NEW ORLEANS during Fleet Week in San Francisco.
7 Dec 77	Returned from WESTPAC with 58 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.	30 Jan 83	Underway for WESTPAC.
21 Jun 78	Underway for WESTPAC.	3 Feb 83	Participated in the longest over water air-sea rescue to date (775 NM one way)
2 Jul 78	MEDEVAC from USS ASHTABULA (AO 51) to Tripler Army Hospital, Hawaii.	14 Jul 83	Returned from WESTPAC.
5 Oct 78	Returned from WESTPAC with 68 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.	30 May 84	Underway for WESTPAC
16 Feb 79	Received CAJUN 07, the ship's Search and Rescue UH-1N (Huey).	6 Dec 84	Returned from WESTPAC.
3 Oct 79	35,000th accident free landing made by Canadian UH-1N.	16 Jan 86	Underway for WESTPAC.
15 Oct-21 Nov	Modified For Harriers.	14 Feb 86	CH-46 under control of Cubi Point crashes.
30 Mar 80	Rescued the lone and unconscious skipper of a 28 ft sailing vessel 30 miles southeast of Catalina Island. The sailor recuperated from exposure in sickbay while NEW ORLEANS' Sailors returned his boat to Dana Point.	27 Apr 86	Arrived in Bali Operating Area to provide Presidential Support.
15 May 80	Recorded 25.5 knots on ships speed log during Full Power Trials.	2 May 86	Air Force One overflies NEW ORLEANS; President Reagan radios the bridge to say "Thanks."
23 May 80	Underway for WESTPAC.	16 Sep 86	Returned from WESTPAC.
3 Jul 80	Project Handclasp in Luzon. Delivered 25,000 pounds of materials.	6 Oct 86	Homeport shifted to San Francisco for overhaul.
19 Aug 80	Miss America USO troupe visited and spent the night.	22 Apr 87	CAJUN 08 rescues three people from an overturned fishing boat south of Half Moon Bay, CA.
24 Sep 80	Man overboard recovered by Marine CH-46.	29 Sep 87	Returned to San Diego.
20 Nov 80	40,000th safe landing made.	16 Dec 87	CAJUN 08 rescues three people from a sinking fishing boat off San Clemente Island.
22 Nov 80	Returned from WESTPAC with 103 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.	16 Jun 88	Underway for WESTPAC.

15 Aug 88	CAJUN 08 rescues two men overboard from HMAS SWAN.	14 May 93	San Ysidro Middle School National Honor Society induction ceremonies held on NEW ORLEANS.
18-24 Aug 88	12,000 visitors toured NEW ORLEANS while in port Fremantle, Australia.	3 Sep 93	Underway for WESTPAC (Somalia). First WESTPAC with HC SAR detachment.
6-13 Sep 88	Contingency operations near Selat Lombok.	19 Dec 93	GEN John Shalikashvili, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits overnight.
5 Nov 88	A CH-46 makes the 65,000th landing on NEW ORLEANS.	20 Dec 93	Admiral Frank Kelso, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, visits for two nights.
1 Dec 88	CAJUN 08 brings MEDEVAC from USS FRESNO the day after crossing the International Dateline.	18 Mar 94	Returned from WESTPAC with 142 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.
16 Dec 88	Returned from WESTPAC with 53 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.	19 Nov 94	Astronaut Captain Jim Lovell, USN, director Ron Howard, and actors Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, and Bill Paxton film "Apollo 13."
4 May 89	Humanitarian assistance to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.	12 Jun 95	Received Battle Efficiency Award For 1994.
15 Sep 89	CAJUN 08 transferred to USS PELELIU to replace an aircraft lost at sea.	23 Jun 95	Underway for WESTPAC.
21 Feb 90	CAJUN 09 received from MCAS El Toro.	24 Oct 95	Marine raid on Al Hamra Facility.
21 Mar 90	AV-8B from VMA-311 lost at sea; pilot recovered by CAJUN uninjured.	22 Dec 95	Returned from WESTPAC with 198 "Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.
03 Aug 90	Captain Michail Ezel, Deputy Chief of Staff, Red Flag Soviet Pacific Fleet toured the ship.	8 Apr 96	Received Battle Efficiency Award (and all Departmental Efficiency Awards) for 1995.
20 Aug 90	Bolshoi Ballet toured and had lunch aboard NEW ORLEANS.	13 Jun 96	Won 1995 Admiral Flatley Award for Aviation Safety.
1 Dec 90	Underway for WESTPAC (Desert Shield/ Desert Storm/Desert Saber/Desert Stay).	1 Jul 96	Won 1995 CNO Safety Award.
24 Feb 91	Off load of 11th MEU into Kuwait.	31 Jan 97	Underway for WESTPAC.
1 Mar 91	NEW ORLEANS replaces TRIPOLI as the MCM flagship after it struck a mine.	2 May 97	Returned from WESTPAC with "78 Tigers" from Pearl Harbor.
28 Aug 91	Returned from WESTPAC.	20 May-6 Jun 97	Filming for "A Thousand Men and a Baby."
30 Jun 92	First launch/recovery of UAVs on an LPH.	8 Jul 97	Underway for ammunition off load at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.
14 Aug 92	CAJUN 11 transferred to MCAS Yuma.	31 Oct 97	U. S. Navy retires USS NEW ORLEANS. Decommissioning ceremony held at Pier 13, Naval Station San Diego, California.
10 Oct 92	Hosted 1,800 guests, including the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, while at anchor in San Francisco Bay for Fleet Week.		

The Ballad of Typhoon Phil

In the year of eighty-two, NEW ORLEANS sailed the ocean blue, Things were going fine and dandy, until we met with Typhoon Andy. We made a stop for a little rest, but had to run from Typhoon Bess. Along came Cecil followed by Dot, oh how that put us on the spot. No one knew quite what to say, when we crossed with Ellis and Faye. We hoped it to be the last of them, but alas came Gordon and Miriam. Then there was Iwa the last of the year, kept us all from having a beer. We blame you not for all that happened, but now we'll call you Typhoon Captain.