



COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

16 November 1968

Dear Captain EVEN:

As the USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11) is commissioned today, the United States Navy takes one more significant stride forward. The capabilities inherent in this well-designed, competently-built amphibious assault ship and in her hand-picked crew will help ensure that this Nation maintains its advantage of having an Amphibious Force second to none.

The NEW ORLEANS brings to the Navy a powerful capability in amphibious assault that has been well tested and proven by her sister ships which have already earned places of respect and admiration in the Fleet. Through their efforts the concept of vertical envelopment became a time-tested technique used with unvarying success in many situations and in many locations. Success of nearly 60 amphibious assaults in the Vietnam War stems largely from the LPHs on the line in the South China Sea.

But LPHs have a capacity for peaceful achievements as well as wartime victories. They have recovered spacecraft splashing into the sea; brought medical care, food and supplies to persons stricken by hurricanes, floods and earthquakes; rescued seafarers in peril on stormy oceans, and have been emissaries of good will to other nations.

Along with advances in size, speed and weapons systems, the NEW ORLEANS and her sister ships also have made progress in another essential area--the comfort and well being of their crewmen and embarked Marines. Emphasis on habitability is no accident, for the Navy recognizes its role in supporting the daily, sustained contributions of dedicated, able and intelligent fighting men.

As Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, I appreciate the significance of NEW ORLEANS joining the United States Navy, and it is with great pride and satisfaction that I say WELCOME ABOARD to an outstanding ship and her proud crew.

Sincerely,

L. C. HEINZ

Captain G. M. EVEN, USN
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