



Admiral Jay L. Johnson
Chief of Naval Operations



General C. C. Krulak
Commandant of the Marine Corps



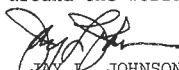
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

A MESSAGE FOR THE SAILORS OF
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)

As you prepare to decommission USS NEW ORLEANS, I congratulate current and former crew members on your historic contributions to our nation's security. While it's always difficult to bid farewell to old friends, each of you should take great pride in NEW ORLEANS' accomplishments throughout an extremely distinguished career.

For three decades, NEW ORLEANS' crews have served our country with distinction. Always ready to defend our nation's interests, NEW ORLEANS played an instrumental role during the Vietnam Conflict, Persian Gulf War and Somalia contingency operation. She exemplified forward presence during a turbulent era in our history and served as a powerful deterrent to any state that might have considered testing our nation's resolve. Her numerous awards for superior performance are testimony to operational excellence demonstrated around the globe.

Today's ceremony does not end the legacy of USS NEW ORLEANS. Your ship will live on in the memories of all those who served aboard her and in the hearts of freedom-loving people around the world.


JAY L. JOHNSON
Admiral, U.S. Navy




31 October 1997

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For over a quarter of a century the USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11) has been an instrument of our nation's resolve. She has been a weapon in our arsenal and a symbol of our strength. She has been both an instrument of war and the conveyance for the outstretched hand of our compassionate and generous citizenry. For 29 years, USS NEW ORLEANS has faithfully done the nation's bidding.

The strength of this ship, however, was not in her ability to weather the pounding sea or to withstand enemy fire. The strength of the USS NEW ORLEANS has been her crew and the Marines embarked aboard. In their determination to persevere in the face of great challenges, in their courage to go in harm's way, and in their selfless service, is written the legacy of USS NEW ORLEANS. Their pursuit of excellence in the execution of their mission... whether on watch around the world, or landing the landing force, is the true testimony of NEW ORLEANS' worth to the nation.

As we strike NEW ORLEANS from the active register of ships, it is fitting that we remember all those who served aboard this great ship. From Viet Nam, to operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the sailors and Marines who have crossed her decks served with honor and purpose. As the ensign and commissioning pennant are hauled down, and the last deck log entry is made, the legacy of NEW ORLEANS will live on through the memory of their dedicated and gallant service.

Semper Paratus

C. C. KRULAK
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps