



*Admiral J. W. Prueher*  
USCINCPAC



*Admiral A. Clemens*  
CINCPACFLT



18 August 1997

Dear Captain Perkins,

My personal thanks and congratulations to the officers and crew of USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11), both past and present, for their significant contributions to our nation's security.

For almost three decades, NEW ORLEANS has been on our front line of defense protecting U.S. national interests. During 29 years of service, NEW ORLEANS amassed an enviable record of accomplishments. In the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars she boldly sailed into harm's way to ensure that her charge of Marines could take every objective. In the Somali Crisis, she provided crucial humanitarian assistance to a starving, violence ravaged country. NEW ORLEANS recovered astronauts and spacecraft; rescued refugees from countries throughout Asia and Africa; performed experimental helicopter, Harrier and UAV trials; conducted Presidential support operations; and won almost every award possible. NEW ORLEANS has done it all.

I have the utmost appreciation and respect for the capabilities which NEW ORLEANS brought to every conflict and crisis. Her distinguished list of achievements is a direct reflection on the fine Sailors and Marines who served aboard her. Although NEW ORLEANS' career is ending, those dedicated professionals will carry her legacy of excellence for years to come.

Well done, NEW ORLEANS.

*Decommissioning is hard emotional work. Like all other tasks, New Orleans has excelled, and sprinted through the finish line - BZ! JWP*  
Captain R. C. Perkins, USN  
Commanding Officer  
USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH 11)  
FPO AP 96627-1650

My best,

*Joe Prueher*  
J. W. PRUEHER  
Admiral, U.S. Navy



31 October 1997

Dear Captain Perkins,

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

Since commissioning in 1968, USS NEW ORLEANS has played a starring role in much of America's history in the Pacific and Indian Oceans for the past three decades. With 18 deployments to the Western Pacific, USS NEW ORLEANS has protected America's vital national interests in the region from her first deployment to Vietnam in 1969 to her most recent actions in the 1991 Gulf War and the Somali Crisis. USS NEW ORLEANS has played an integral role in creating the climate of peace and stability which has set the stage for the 21st century, the century of the Pacific.

In addition, USS NEW ORLEANS' historic roles have been punctuated with important contributions and firsts in amphibious warfare, including launching the first AV-8 Harrier aircraft and UAV craft from an LPH. Along with her wartime service and support during humanitarian crises, USS NEW ORLEANS has had a "Wonderful Life" as a star in our Navy and in Hollywood roles in such films as "Apollo 13" and "A Thousand Men and a Baby." Always there when needed, she has made a special mark in history and will leave the service of her country with an exceptional record of outstanding performance.

The Pacific Fleet commends each and every Sailor and Marine who gave USS NEW ORLEANS such a distinguished and honorable heritage. On behalf of your shipmates, Well done!

Sincerely,

*Archie Clemens*  
ARCHIE CLEMENS  
Admiral, U.S. Navy