



COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE  
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

12 February 2013

Dear Captain Quin,

Congratulations to you and the crew of USS ANCHORAGE (LPD 23) on the commissioning of our nation's most advanced amphibious ship. There are few moments as filled with tradition and and impact as the day a ship is commissioned and joins the fleet.

At the point when the ship sponsor calls out to the crew, "Bring this ship to life!" and the ship is manned, systems turned on and the ensign hoisted, the community and the Navy share a singular moment in history which will remain in your collective memories forever.

The first namesake ship USS ANCHORAGE (LSD-36) was commissioned in 1969 and immediately began service in the western Pacific transporting Marines home from Vietnam. The following years saw her transporting materiel and personnel throughout the Pacific as well as conducting humanitarian assistance missions. After 34 years service she was decommissioned in 2003.

LPD 23 is the second namesake ship for the city of Anchorage whose enthusiasm and support for the Navy, the ship and her crew have been shown in countless ways. Your commissioning ceremony in the port of Anchorage is fitting and a testament to the manner in which ANCHORAGE has already been embraced.

On behalf of the Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, we are proud to add USS ANCHORAGE (LPD 23) to the greatest fleet of the greatest nation and look forward to her carrying on the proud tradition of service found in her predecessor and in the great city of Anchorage.

Sincerely,

T. H. COPEMAN  
Vice Admiral, US Navy

CAPT Brian J. Quin, USN  
Commanding Officer,  
USS ANCHORAGE (LPD 23)  
FPO AP 96660-1705