

The Mighty Eight

USS DUBUQUE: OUR COUNTRY, OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE

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June 27, 2010

Dubuque Participates in MAREX-10



Photo by MC1 David McKee

DUBUQUE receives the last waves of Amphibious Assault Vehicles June 26, wrapping up MAREX 2010.

USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8), At sea – USS DUBUQUE (LPD 8) wrapped up a bilateral exercise promoting cooperation through Civic Action Programs and training with Indonesia June 26.

Marine Exercise 2010 (MAREX 10) was designed to enhance interoperability between the U.S. and Indonesian Marines (KORMAR) and included training the Marines in jungle and urban warfare training.

The exercise began Saturday, June 19 when Marines departed DUBUQUE via CH-46E Sea Knights and Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) to conduct a mock amphibious assault on the Indonesian Island of Java.

“The Marines are a naval force, and they can’t get to their place of combat without the DUBUQUE. So we’re the chaffeur that gets the striking force ashore,” said the Commanding Officer of DUBUQUE, CAPT Christopher Bolt. “Our job is to get them on shore safely and exactly on time in exactly the right location, so they’re set up for success for any kind of operation they are tasked to do.”

According to Marine CAPT Christopher Congre with HMM-165, the jungle training provided the Marines with a rare opportunity considering the focus in recent years being on the arid regions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We are focused on the desert, so we don’t get a lot of instruction on jungle warfare,” said Congre.

The primary mission for Congre and HMM-165 was logistics including transporting passengers, food and ammunition for the Battalion Landing Team and sustaining a 24-hour-a-day casualty evacuation standby. Without DUBUQUE

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Photo by ENS Christopher Oliveria

A photo is worth a 1,000 words, still I try to balance news, information and visual imagery with each weekly issue.

This issue of the Mighty Eight includes photos from Sailors and Marines. Last week IC1 Warner gave his thoughts on leadership and this week the FSO and NCC even provided write ups.

Submissions are important in making this newsletter a representation of the crew and remember one of the audiences is the families back home.

Thank you for your support.

Chain of Command



CAPT Christopher Bolt



CDR Christopher Nodine



CMDCM (SW/SCW/AW)
Reinaldo Rosado

Command Corner:

NCC (SW) Justin McNicol

Let's start off with the pink elephant in the room. Decommissioning. It is a hot topic for everyone. As of right now we do have a decommissioning date, but as of now we do not have any direction by Navy Personnel Command as to what our timelines will be for transferring personnel. What does that mean? Try to resist calling or contacting your detailer too early because as of right now the detailers have no clue that we are decommissioning. The time will come in the near future about how this will all work. So please sit tight on this matter.

The thing that personnel have to worry about right now is Perform to Serve (PTS). In the last couple of months, PTS has dug in on giving members quotas to be able to stay Navy. Here are a couple of stats that I just received and maybe that will give you the bigger picture of things right now. Zone C (10 – 14 years of service) is overmanned as a whole. Current Fiscal Year Zone C E5's are competing for approval against E6's. Zone C E5's are not going to fair well, particularly those that are in overmanned ratings and further into the zones to worry about. The big thing that you can do to help your situation is sustained superior performance in your rate and rank. For the time being I only see this situation getting worse before it gets better, so please look at your application every month and make sure that everything is correct when it's comes to conversion and evaluations.

Lastly, I am serving my last couple days on board would to thank everyone for making this ship the best I have ever served on. DUBUQUE is the standard and WE are the best ship out there. Believe it and live it every day, because as we all know those days are numbered. Thank you.

Indonesia:



Photo by MCI David McKee

This traditional fishing boats is an example of Indonesian culture and trade. Indonesia, officially the Republic of Indonesia or Republik Indonesia, has a population of approximately 230 million people. It is the world's fourth most populous country, and has the world's largest population of Muslims.

The current nation of Indonesia is a unitary presidential republic consisting of thirty three provinces. The nation's capital city is Jakarta and the government with an elected president and legislature.



Photo by MCI David McKee

Bali and Java, two of the 17,508 islands of the Indonesian archipelago, are the most volcanic in the region and of the world.

The Southern Cross

This constellation (group of stars) is much sought by mariners as there is no polar reference like the North Star in the Northern sky



Photo by CDR Christopher Nodine

MAREX Cont.

as a forward-staging platform from which to conduct the operation from and its facilities to sustain the crew and helicopters, the exercise would not have been possible.

“For the ACE, the DUBUQUE team is part of our heart and soul. We can’t operate without them,” said Congre. “Here at MAREX, we are in a foreign country, and we have very little resources ashore. From the start of the day to the end of the day, the ship provides fuel and food for the air crew.”

The exercise provided interaction between the KORMAR and U.S. Marines and was an important diplomatic opportunity. The idea was for 600 Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to show the Indonesians that people from the United States are just people like them but from a different country.

On the first day of the exercise, DUBUQUE offered senior members of the Indonesian military a tour of the ship and a chance to see an amphibious ship first-hand. The ship is also hosting Indonesian Midshipmen following the exercise to give a broader perspective of the Navy and the way we work and live.

The Fleet Surgical Team extended our role of diplomacy into the civilian population by conducting medical and dental Civic Action Projects (MEDCAP/DENCAP). Marines rebuilt a roof on a local school and built desks for the school’s students.

“When we perform community service projects the recipients get to say, ‘wow we’re spending some of our treasure and our energy on some of their needs as part of the world’s community,’” CAPT Bolt said. “When they are allowed to work alongside us day in and day out for eight straight days, they see that our rhetoric is not just an act - it’s the truth.”

Congre’s sentiments about the Marines on the ground echoed CAPT Bolt’s.

“The sentiment pretty much has gone around between the Marines that the KORMAR have been awesome to work with,” CAPT Congre said.

DUBUQUE is part of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (PEL ARG) and consists of the Command Element, Commander, Amphibious Squadron 3, USS Peleliu (LHD 5) and USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52)

The Peleliu ARG is transiting the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and reports to Commander, Task Force 76.

For more news from USS DUBUQUE visit www.navy.mil/local/lpd8/.

DIVISION IN FOCUS: FOOD SERVICE



Photo by ENS Christopher Oliveria

DUBUQUE’s Food Service Division is a major contributor to each Sailor and Marine’s quality of life, morale and most importantly their health and nutrition. Each Sailor and Marine aboard the ship anticipates three flavorful and nutritious meals a day that are served in the most hygienically conscious process possible.

The Culinary Specialists and Food Service Assistants who run a tight 24/7 shift, find themselves under pressure daily, meeting strict deadlines to prepare over 3,000 meals each day. Although “they are only as good as your last meal,” the CSs and FSAs have all the intentions of striving for food service excellence; to make your next meal better than your last. They are always looking for ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of galley operations through teamwork. The Food Service Division included the Wardroom Mess, CPO Mess, Crew’s Galley and Mess, Trash, Pulping Room and Damage Control.

Newest Members of the DUBUQUE Family



OS1 Jeremy Jones and his wife Vivian welcomed a new member of the family. Beau Michael Jones was born June, 21st. He arrived weighing in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces and 21 inches.



Jonathon and Maria Stone (DUBUQUE Ombudsman) had a baby girl named Soleil Stone June 23. She arrived weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces and in good health.

MAREX: Exercise in Indonesia

June 19-26, 2010



Photo by MCI David McKee

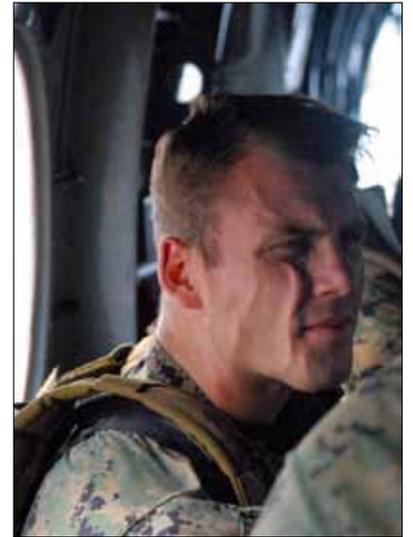


Photo by MCI David McKee



Photo by CDR Christopher Nodine



Photo by DC3 Edmund Schafer



Photo by ENS Christopher Oliveria



Photo by MCI David McKee

The above photos were taken by a variety of Sailors onboard DUBUQUE. Photographs like these are a valuable part of our upcoming cruise book. This will be the ship's sunset cruise book and should be a reflection of the crew. If you take pictures on liberty or on duty, pass them onto your division cruisebook representative.