Naval Personnel Praised For Berlin Airlift Work

All Navy personnel who took part in the Berlin airlift during that city's 462 days of isolation were congratulated by the President and the Secretary of Defense in a letter released to the service by SecNav.

The letter, originated by SecDefense, is quoted in part as follows:

"The President has asked me to convey to you his gratification at the successful conclusion of the Berlin airlift. I am very happy to add my own expression of appreciation for a difficult job well done.

"Please extend to the officers, the men, and the women of your service our appreciation of their efforts and sacrifices in supplying a city of two and one-half million people during 462 days of isolation. The American people shall long remember this dramatic acceptance of a challenge to our honor and traditions. History shall record the consequences which have lifted American prestige to new heights.

"The teamwork exemplified by the Berlin airlift is the most potent weapon in the arsenal of democracy — one which no regimented nation can duplicate."

The congratulatory statement was published to the Fleet in Alnav 102-49 (NDB, 15 Oct 1949).