

**U. S. S. CLEVELAND (LPD-7)**

**FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96601**

LPD-7/03/gg

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**From: Commanding Officer, USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)**

**To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-09B91)**

**9 NOV 1970**

**Subj: Ship's History 1969; forwarding of**

**Encl: (1) USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) Ship's History for 1969**

**1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith.**

  
John R. DEWENTER

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CINCPACFLT**

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1  
USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7)  
SHIP'S HISTORY 1969

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1 January - 12 January	Post shakedown availability, San Diego
13 January - 30 April	Inport San Diego, local operations southern California, Exercise Bell Jangle, and preparation for Overseas Movement.
1 May - 18 May	Enroute Western Pacific
18 May - 7 December	Under operational Control of Commander United States Seventh Fleet
29 May - 3 September	Operated as a Unit of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa, Operations Bold Pursuit, Mighty Play and Defiant Stand.
4 September - 19 November	Operated as Flagship for Commander Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet, Operation Sea Float/Breezy Cove and Keystone Cardinal.
20 November - 19 December	Enroute San Diego
20 December - 31 December	Leave and Upkeep, San Diego

USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) spent the first four months of 1969 primarily inport in San Diego in preparation for an extended WESTPAC Deployment scheduled to commence on 1 May. This inport period was interspersed with various short underway periods which included a trip to Seal Beach to load ammunition on 14-15 January, Interim Refresher Training under Fleet Training Group San Diego from 27 January - 7 February, Amphibious Refresher Training from 17-27 February, and participation in Exercise Bell Jangle, as combined Navy-Marine Amphibious Exercise conducted in the Camp Pendleton and Southern California Op areas from 14 - 20 March.

During this period various inspections and visits were conducted to determine the ship's readiness for deployment. These included a Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection on 6 January, Electronic Warfare visit on 9 January, Ney Award visit on 10 February, 3-M Inspection on 11 - 12 February, Force Medical Officer's Inspection on 5 March, Material and Pre-Deployment Inspection on 10 March, Annual Supply Inspection on 24 - 25 March, Administrative Inspection on 2 - 4 April, an Electronic Warfare Material Inspection on 23 April.

A Post Shakedown Availability from 1 - 12 January and Restricted Availabilities from 15 - 19 January and from 25 March - 29 April, which included a period in drydock from 25 Mar to 5 April were used to correct various material casualties before deployment.

On 24 March the Honorable John R. CHAFEE, Secretary of the Navy, visited CLEVELAND for a demonstration of the capabilities of an LPD and for a luncheon with the Commanding Officer.

On 1 May the ship got underway for an extended WESTPAC deployment and participated in Convex 2-69 enroute to Pearl Harbor as a unit of TU 16.8.2. After brief stops in Hawaii and Okinawa, the ship arrived in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, on 29 May and relieved USS OGDEN (LPD-5) as part of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa.

Upon arriving in Danang, Republic of Vietnam, on 6 June, CLEVELAND began its first line period as a unit of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa. Other units of the ready group were USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), USS WASHBURN

(LKA-104), USS WHETSTONE (LSD-27) and Marine Battalion Landing Team 1/26. This first line period lasted until 20 July. During that period the ship participated in Operation Bold Pursuit, a combined helicopter and waterborne landing on Barrier Island from 27 June to 6 July, and Operation Mighty Play, a helicopter assault south of Danang from 10 July until 20 July.

After terminating Operation Mighty Play, the ships of Amphibious Ready Group Alfa returned to Subic Bay for a fourteen day upkeep period.

On 8 August Amphibious Ready Group Alfa arrived in Danang, backloaded units of Battalion 1/26 and commenced its second line period. For CLEVELAND this line period ended on 3 September when the ship assumed duties as Flagship for RADM E. M. ROSENBERG, Commander Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet. Before departing the Danang area, the ship did provide support during Operation Defiant Stand, an amphibious assault south of Danang which included units of the Republic of Korea Marines.

While active as Flagship from 3 September until 19 November, CLEVELAND spent a great deal of time in the Danang area serving as a mobil headquarters for Commander Task Force 76. During this period port visits were also made to Subic Bay, 16 - 18 September, 3 - 10 October, 29 October, 17 - 19 November; Hong Kong, B.C.C. 20 - 25 September; Okinawa 25 - 26 October, 9 - 10 November; and Keelung, Republic of China, 12 - 14 November. The ship also made two Keystone Cardinal lifts, transporting retrograde material from the I Corps of Vietnam to Okinawa. From 28 - 30 September, CLEVELAND participated in Operation Breezy Cove/Sea Float by transporting 6 small craft from Nha Be to Song Ong Doc, Republic of Vietnam. On 3 November Captain John L. MERRICK relieved Captain Isham LINDER as Commanding Officer.

On 19 November in Subic Bay, RADM ROSENBERG shifted his flag to USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) and CLEVELAND was relieved of its duties as flagship. Before departing the WESTPAC area, however, the ship did participate in its third Keystone Cardinal lift from Danang to Okinawa and spent a five day upkeep period in Yokosuka,

Japan, from 29 November to 3 December before departing for CONUS.

In route to San Diego, CLEVELAND aided USCGC WINNEBAGO (WHEC-40), taking the stricken cutter under tow and delivering her to Midway Island on 11 December. On 13 December the ship also provided assistance to a storm damaged LORAN station on Tern Island in the French Frigate Shoals. After offloading retrograde cargo at Del Mar Boat Basin, Camp Pendelton, during the morning and afternoon, the ship finally arrived at San Diego during the evening of 19 December and commenced a month-long leave and upkeep period.