

U.S.S. CACAPON (AO-52)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
AO52/DFJ:rol  
5750  
Ser: 152  
11 MAR 1968

From: Commanding Officer, USS CACAPON (AO-52)

To: Director of Naval History

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl: (1) Welcome Aboard and Welcome Alongside Pamphlet  
(2) Commanding Officer's Familygram  
(3) Navy News Release concerning CACAPON's donation to Boys Town  
(4) Copy of letter from Catalina Convent  
(5) Philippine newspaper story concerning clothes donation to Catalina Convent  
(6) Photographs of Ship (2)  
(7) Copy of 1967 WestPac Cruise Book  
(8) 1967 Dependents Cruise Pamphlet  
(9) Officer's Roster for 31 December 1968

1. Chronology of Highlights.

1 January 1968 - 10 February 1968 Deployed to Western Pacific, under operational control of COMSERVGRU THREE. Operated out of NAVSTA, Subic Bay in support of SEVENTH Fleet Units off Vietnam, with visits to Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

11 February 1968 - 9 April 1968 Leave and Upkeep period in homeport of Long Beach, California under operational control of COMSERVGRU ONE.

10 April 1968 - 24 May 1968 Support activities off San Diego, California.

25 May 1968 - 7 June 1968 Refresher training off San Diego, California.

18 June 1968 - 10 July 1968 In California Shipyard, Long Beach, California for restricted availability.

11 July 1968 - 31 December 1968 Deployed to Western Pacific, under operational control of COMSERVGRU THREE. Operated out of NAVSTA, Subic Bay with short visits to Hong Kong, Kaohsiung, Taiwan and Yokosuka, Japan.

69-105-A&B

2. Basic Narrative.

a. 31 October 1966 - 2 May 1968 William H. McCAUGHEY, CAPT, USN, (000791-90)

2 MAY 1968 - 31 December 1968 Fred C. WATSON, CAPT, USN, (000896-00)

b. CACAPON is homeported in Long Beach, California and while deployed overseas operates out of Subic Bay, R.P.I.

c. CACAPON's primary mission is to provide underway replenishment of petroleum fuels to units of the FIRST and SEVENTH fleets. In addition, while deployed, CACAPON transports and delivers packaged petroleum products, ammunition, bottled gases, fleet freight, personnel, movies and mail to ships in the Vietnam Combat Area.

d. Complement on board as of 31 December 1968:

Officers - 16

Enlisted - 249

3. Operations. 1 January 1968 - 31 December 1968:

1 January - 8 January Operations of the Coast of Vietnam

9 January - 11 January Visit to Hong Kong, B.C.C.

12 January - 14 January Visit to Kaoshiung, Taiwan

15 January - 16 January Enroute to Subic Bay, R.P.I.

17 January - 18 January In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.

19 January - 1 February Underway from Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
enroute to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

2 February - 3 February Stopover in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

4 February - 9 February Underway from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
enroute to Long, Beach, California

10 February - 10 March Leave and Upkeep period in Long Beach,  
California

11 March - 13 March Support Activities off San Diego, California

14 March - 9 April Upkeep in Long Beach, California

10 April - 24 May Support Activities off San Diego, California

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25 May - 7 June OK , San Diego, California  
 8 June - 17 June In-port Long Beach, California  
 18 June - 10 July Yard period at California Shipyards, Long Beach,  
 California  
 11 July - 18 July Underway from Long Beach, California enroute  
 to Subic Bay R.P.I.  
 19 July - 20 July Stopover in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii  
 21 July - 4 August Underway from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii enroute to  
 Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 5 August - 7 August In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 8 August - 29 August Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 30 August - 3 September In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 4 September - 13 September Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 14 September - 16 September In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 17 September- 1 October Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 2 October - 3 October Visit to Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
 3 October - 9 October Enroute to Subic Bay, R.P.I. via Tonkin Gulf  
 10 October - 11 October In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 12 October - 22 October Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 23 October - 28 October Upkeep in Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 29 October - 8 November Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 9 November - 10 November In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 11 November - 18 November Visit to Hong Kong, B.C.C.  
 19 November - 20 November Enroute to Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 21 November - 22 November In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 23 November - 4 December Operations off the Coast of Vietnam  
 5 December - 6 December In-port Subic Bay, R.P.I.  
 7 December - 18 December Operations off the Coast of Vietnam

19 December - 21 December Upkeep in Subic Bay, R.P.I.

22 December - 31 December Operations off the Coast of Vietnam

4. Special Topics.

a. Underway Replenishment: The past year incorporates two periods of deployment in the Western Pacific, during which CACAPON replenished 463 ships.

b. Equipment Casualties:

(1) On 5 July 1968, while berthed at the California Shipyards, Long Beach, California, CACAPON was hit on the port side at frame 84 and 85 by the SS. President Van Buren, American President Lines. No personnel casualties were suffered, but rig #2 was sheared off, and the boom and associated rigging was strewn over the forward well deck.

(2) CACAPON's second major equipment casualty occurred on 19 October 1968, while replenishing the USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20). Due to heavy strain, the refueling boom on station #4 buckled, carrying the entire hose assembly into the water. The situation was quickly brought under control and no personnel casualties were experienced. The cause was later determined to be metal fatigue in the boom itself.

c. Community Relations:

(1) On 24 October 1968 members of the crew presented over two hundred and fifty dollars worth of gifts to the orphans of Boys Town of Ologapo City, Republic of the Philippines. Enclosure (3) refers.

(2) Participation in Operation Hand-Clasp included the delivery of Operation Hand-Clasp materials to the Manila Baptist Mission, Northern Luzon Baptist Mission and the American Baptist Mission all in the Republic of the Philippines.

(3) In November, clothing was collected by the crew and delivered along with medicines and discarded bedding to the Catalina Convent, Baguio City, Republic of the Philippines. Enclosures (4) and (5) refer.

d. Special events.

(1) On 15 March 1968, the CACAPON held a dependents cruise and spent the day sailing to Avalon Bay, Catalina Island.

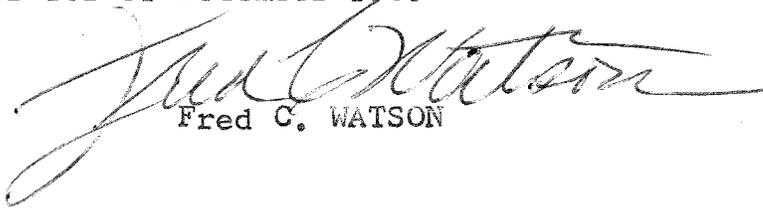
(2) The CACAPON conducted special training on a two week basis for reservists on:

21 April - 6 May, 6 May - 17 May, 3 June - 15 June, 16 June - 29 June

(3) While operating off the coast of Vietnam, CACAPON celebrated her 25th birthday on 23 September 1968. Rear Admiral LONG, COMSERVGRU THREE came aboard by highline to participate in the festivities.

e. Documentary Annexes

- (1) Welcome Aboard and Welcome Alongside Pamphlets
- (2) Commanding Officer's Familygram
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Fred C. WATSON

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CINCPACFLT