

1970

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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25 AUG 1971

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From: Commanding Officer, USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1) (1970)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl:
- (1) Chronology of Highlights
 - (2) Basic Narrative
 - (3) Ammunition Expenditures
 - (4) USS CONSTELLATION IOIC Intelligence Report Removed
 - (5) List of press clippings
 - (6) 1969-70 USS CONSTELLATION cruisebook
 - (7) Cruise report JAN-APR 70
 - (8) Important photographs
 - (9) Enlisted roster DEC 70
 - (10) Officer roster DEC 70
 - (11) Biographies and photographs of Commanding Officers

1. Enclosures (1) thru (11) are forwarded, in accordance with reference (a).

H.E. Gerhard
H.E. GERHARD

Copy to:
Director of Naval History, less Enclosure (6)
CINCPACFLT, less Enclosure (6)

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Reg 10240

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS - 1970

JANUARY

1-2 Inport Subic Bay
3 Underway for Yankee Station
4 Enroute
5-29 Yankee Station Special Operations
24 Capt. John S. Christiansen relieved by Capt.
John M. Tierney
30-31 Enroute Subic Bay

FEBRUARY

1 Enroute
2-9 Inport Subic Bay
10 Underway for Yankee Station
11 Enroute
12-28 Yankee Station Special Operations
18 VADM M.F. Weisner, Commander CTF 77, relieved
by VADM F.A. Bardshar aboard Constellation.

MARCH

1-2 Enroute Yokosuka
3 Assumed duties as CTG 71
4-5 Enroute Yokosuka
6-15 Inport Yokosuka
10 VADM Weisner relieved VADM W.E. Bringle as
Commander Seventh Fleet
16 Underway for Okinawa OP Area
17 Enroute
18-23 Okinawa OP Area
24-25 Enroute Yankee Station
26-31 Yankee Station Special Operations

APRIL

1-16 Yankee Station Special Operations
17-18 Enroute Subic Bay
19-23 Inport Subic Bay
24 Underway for San Diego
25-30 Enroute

MAY

1-7 Enroute to San Diego
8-15 Inport San Diego
15-21 Conducting Air Ops
21-30 Inport San Diego
30 Underway for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard,
Bremerton, Wash.
31 Enroute

JUNE

1 Enroute
2 Inport PSNS Bremerton
3 Transit to Bangor for ordnance off load
4 Inport Bremerton
5-26 Commenced overhaul
27 Ship went into dry dock 6
28-30 In dry dock 6

JULY

1-31 Undergoing ROH Bremerton

AUGUST

1-31 Undergoing ROH Bremerton

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Undergoing ROH Bremerton

OCTOBER

1-31 Undergoing ROH Bremerton
27 CONSTELLATION celebrated her ninth anniversary

NOVEMBER

1-30 Undergoing ROH Bremerton

DECEMBER

1-18 Undergoing final stages of dry dock work
19 Undocking, moved to pier 3D, Bremerton, Wash.
20-31 Moved at pier 3D, Bremerton, Wash., continuing ROH

Enclosure (1)

Basic Narrative

- a. Commanding officer: Captain John S. Christiansen, USN. Relieved by Captain John M. Tierney, USN on 24 JAN 1970.
- b. Embarked staffs: Commander Task Force 77/Commander Carrier Division Five: Vice Admiral Maurice F. Weisner relieved 18 FEB 1970 by Vice Admiral Frederick A. Bardshar, USN.
- c. Homeport: San Diego, Calif., until May 1970. Homeport changed to Bremerton, Washington during overhaul period.
- d. Mission: To engage in Naval Air operations against enemy ships, installations, and aircraft in all weather conditions in order to carry out the mission assigned by higher command.
- e. Composition of Command:
 - (1) Embarked Carrier Air Wing Fourteen from 1 JAN to 8 MAY 1970.
 - (2) End of year complement: Officers - 129
 Enlisted - 2,321
- f. Operational Narrative (by months)

JANUARY

CONSTELLATION started the year off in port in Subic Bay but left on the third for Yankee Station operations. The ship arrived on 5 January and remained on station until the 29th. On the 24th of January Captain John M. Tierney relieved Captain John S. Christiansen. CONSTELLATION departed Yankee Station on 30 January for a one week in-port period in Subic Bay.

FEBRUARY

The ship arrived in Subic Bay on the 2nd and remained there until leaving for Yankee Station on 9 Feb. CONSTELLATION arrived on station on the 12th, and six days later was the site of Commander Task Force Seventy-seven change of command when CONSTELLATION's third commanding officer Vice Admiral Frederick A. Bardshar assumed command of the task force from Vice Admiral Maurice F. Weisner.

MARCH

For the second month in a row CONSTELLATION was underway on the first of the month, this time enroute to Yokosuka. The ship arrived on 6 March after assuming duties as Commander Task Group 71 on the third. Twenty days after being relieved as CTF 77 VADM Weisner assumed command of the Seventh Fleet from Vice Admiral William F. Bringle. Once again CONSTELLATION was the host ship

Enclosure (2)

AUGUST

During the month of August CONSTELLATION was "drydocked" as before. A third award ceremony was held during which Rear Admiral William R. McClendon, Commander Carrier Division Nine presented the Commanding Officer, Captain John M. Tierney, the Legion of Merit, in recognition of the Captain's leadership during his tour on the CONSTELLATION while deployed. In addition, 28 other members of the crew were cited for their accomplishments. When the third and final ceremony closed, a total of 370 CONSTELLATION crew members that were still on board had been recognized for giving "that extra effort."

SEPTEMBER

Overhaul work continued during the month of September as the ship remained in drydock #6, PSNS, Bremerton.

OCTOBER

Many overtime hours were spent preparing for the ship's ninth anniversary party on the 26th. Featured guest for the party was Playboy Magazine's Miss July 1970, Carol Willis. Work continued on schedule in support of the overhaul.

NOVEMBER

Final preparation began for lighting off the ship's boiler with Navy Distillate Fuel and the undocking which would take place in December.

DECEMBER

After nearly six months sitting high and dry in Dry Dock #6, CONSTELLATION was afloat again on the 19th of December and moved to pier 3D. On the 22nd CONSTELLATION became the first aircraft carrier to use Navy Distillate Fuel: a new, clean burning economical and smokeless fuel.

g. Special Topics

(1) Flight Information:

- (a) Number of launches - 8,335
- (b) Number of recoveries - 8,835

(2) Ammunition expenditure - See enclosure (3)

(3) Number of underway replenishments: 45

Enclosure (2)

(4) Number of ships replenished: 4

(5) Major conversions:

(a) On December 22nd, the ship lit its reconditioned boilers using the new Navy Distillate Fuel, a cleaner burning propellant. CONSTELLATION thus became the first carrier to take part in the Navy-wide program aimed at getting the sea services operating on a single fuel. The single fuel concept describes the reason for converting older ships to distillate fuel since the Navy has been using three different types of fuel. Now, it is projected that distillate will replace the three. It is believed that the cleaner fuel will result in cleaner air, cleaner work spaces, cleaner aircraft and a 25% reduction in workload for the ship's boilermen.

(6) Installation of major equipment:

(a) NIPS-5 Retrofit - involves removal of old equipment and replacement with one reworked Stereo Comparison Viewer SCV, Model AR-101; two CP-642-B/USO-20(V) computers; two RD-261 Magnetic tape processors and one RD-249 Magnetic tape unit.

(b) NIPS-10 Retrofit - an upgraded PECM capability is realized through installation of a data entry/display console (DE/DC). The DE/DC permits the electronic evaluators to enter human logic into the PECM Processing Cycle.

(c) During the overhaul, the Dental Department performed a major modernization of their facilities in an effort to increase their capabilities and provide better service to the crew. The department accomplished the following: added a preventative dentistry unit, installed a new lighting system and false ceiling. Replaced all dental operating room equipment, renovated clinical and laboratory areas, constructed a new store room and supply system, and instituted a rotary record filing system. It is felt that with the completion of these modifications, the Dental Department on CONSTELLATION has become one of the most modern dental facilities afloat, incorporating several unique innovations distinctive to this command.

(7) Major Intelligence Collected: enclosure (4)

(8) Casualties of equipment:

(a) On 5 March 1970, the tailhook on an A-7A dropped during a catapult shot, catching the shuttle spreader ramp. Damage to the tailpipe caused a power loss, necessitating a barricade recovery.

(b) The ship's C-1A aircraft had an accident at the U.S. Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, Calif., after a flight from Kitsap County Airport, Bremerton, Wash. Material failure of the shrink link in the port main landing gear resulted in a sheels up landing. Damage was substantial.

Enclosure (2)

The following were CASREPT by the Engineering Department:

Number three M.P. Air compressor
Number five and six Salt Water Circulation Pumps
E.M. Underwater Log
Number One-A boiler
Number Four-A Main Feed Booster Pump
Number One-400 Washing Machine
Number Six-Air Conditioning Unit
Number Three-A-Two Forced Draft Blower
Number Ten-T Fire Pump
Number Two-Evaporator Distillate Pump
Number Six-Air Conditioning Plant Motor
Number Two-A Boiler Copes Feed Water Control
Number Two-Main Engine Motor Driven Lube Oil Service Pump
Number Four-B-Two Forced Draft Blower
Electromagnetic Underwater Log
Number Six-Air Conditioning Plant
NTDS Voltage power supply Monitor
Number Eleven-Turbine Driven Fire Pump
Starboard Wing and Speed Detector
Number Eight-Turbine Driven Fire Pump
Number Two-Turbine Driven Fire Pump
Number Two-motor driven Feed Transfer Pump

h. CHAPLAIN'S REPORT: Constellation sailors started 1970 off by co-hosting a party for 100 Filipino orphans at the Manila Hilton. The COMCARDIV 5 band, a magician, and the Manila USO Folk Dancers appeared. In addition to devoting time, Connie sailors also contributed funds and merchandise when it was needed. \$1100 was raised within 24 hours to aid the victims of the Olongapo fire. Constellation men donated \$500 to the Christian Servicemen's Center in Olongapo for the purchase of a new school bus. The Navy Relief Drive was the recipient of \$6400 from the men of the Constellation and Carrier Air Wing Fourteen. Constellation's First Class Mess donated two cassette tape players for use in speech therapy to the Hollyridge Center for retarded children. While the Constellation was overhauled in Bremerton, the word was often passed that bake sales were being held in the hangar bay. No less than seven groups sold baked goods or candy during the overhaul. The enlisted Wives Club, Tracyton Parent Teachers Association, Jackson Park Housing Association, Tubberville Cub Scouts, North Kitsap High School Drill Team, and the Girls Athletic Association from East Bremerton High School and the Officers Wive's Club all brought some good home cooking to the Connie men. During the Holiday season the Chaplains office arranged with local families to have Constellation crew members share a holiday meal. Fifteen men took advantage of this offer Thanksgiving. At the special Christmas meal on 19 December, the Caroliers, sponsored by American Legion Post 68, brought the Christmas spirit to the mess decks where they entertained the crew

Enclosure (2)

and their guests. During the yard period Connie sailors, in conjunction with the Chaplains Office, participated as players in a donkey softball game in support of mentally retarded children, in Bremerton, Wash. More than 800 people attended a Dependents Christmas Party at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Gifts were given to children under 12 years of age.

i. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: During Constellation's 1970 cruise the ship was visited by several journalists. Some of these writers came to do articles on crewmembers from their home states. Mr. Jack Allen from Borger, Texas, covered the activities of crewmembers from his home state. Mrs. Barbara Cook and Mrs. Margaret Kilgore, both of United Press International came aboard during April to cover Yankee Station carrier operations. Mr. Gordon Gammack of the Des Moines, Iowa Register and Tribune was a guest during February. He obtained feature and interview material concerning personnel from Iowa. Corporal D.R. McCrorie, a military correspondent from headquarters New Zealand Forces, Vietnam, came aboard in February to gather information for an article on Constellation for a New Zealand Army Publication. During the time that Corporal McCrorie was aboard Constellation also hosted ABC Saigon Bureau Chief Michael Horowitz, New York Times Correspondent James Sterba, and Japanese News Agency Correspondent Tsugio Katwe. These three journalists received CVA orientation. Mrs. Bernice Pantell, a writer for Computer World Magazine was aboard during February. She obtained information for a series on the use of computers for mechanized techniques. Constellation also provided the setting for meetings of a more specialized nature. Mr. Clayton E. McManaway, Director of Plans and Policy Directorate, Military Assistance Command, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Developments, was a guest of the Constellation during April. COMFAIRWESPAC, RADM R.E. Riera came aboard Constellation during April to meet with CTF 77/CTF 71/COMCARDIV 5, and Constellation. The Pacific Fleet Chaplain, RADM H.J. Rotrige was a March visitor to Constellation. Two of the Navy's top supporters, Robert Gomulinski, National Commander of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and Domini L. Strada, member of the AMVET National Security Commission embarked for two days of unclassified briefings in matters of national security and foreign affairs. The highpoint of the official visitors list would be the visit by the honorable Frank P. Sanders, assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Rep. William Maillard. These two distinguished visitors met with CTF/77 and Constellation, along with VADM Bringle. All work and no play was not the order of the deployment, however. A USO show was presented on 23 March for the benefit of the crew. While in the yards Constellation hosted numerous tours. Local groups such as the Boy Scouts, ROTC classes, and Sea Cadets, enjoyed a chance to view the world's largest conventionally powered carrier. Community groups such as the Navy League were often instrumental in helping to arrange these tours.

Enclosures (2)