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U.S.S. HORNET (CVS 12)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1967

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From: Commanding Officer, USS HORNET (CVS12)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-5A5C)

Subj: 1967 OPNAV Report 5750-1; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12

Encl: (1) HORNET Historical Summary for 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. A. Stockton
J. A. STOCKTON

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9) less attachments
3.b, 3.c and 3.d

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1967 HISTORICAL SUMMARY
USS HORNET (CVS12)

1. CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS.

a. From 1 January to 26 March, HORNET operated in and out of Long Beach Naval Base, engaged in FLEETEX 1-67 (SNATCH BLOCK) and HUKASWEX 1-67 and 2-67. On 27 March, she was underway for operational deployment with the SEVENTH Fleet in WESTPAC. Enroute to Hawaii, HORNET, in company with CORTON THREE, was diverted to participate in the search and tracking of N-52. On 17 April, ASWGRU THREE, consisting of HORNET, CORTON THREE, and DESRON ELEVEN, left Pearl Harbor enroute to WESTPAC operations. From 4 to 17 May, HORNET transited the Sea of Japan in combined exercises with the JMSDF, JASDF, ROKAF, and ROKM. From 23 May to 25 June, HORNET conducted Surface Subsurface Surveillance Operations on Yankee Station. HORNET participated in the SEATO exercise SEA DOG from 10 to 25 July. From 4 to 14 August HORNET again operated on Yankee Station. On 16 August, HORNET arrived in Hong Kong for a four-day visit. From 8 September to 5 October, HORNET made her third operational trip to Yankee Station. On 16 October, HORNET left Yokosuka, Japan, enroute CONUS, arriving in Long Beach on 28 October. From 1 November through 14 November, HORNET was at the Long Beach Naval Base in a restricted availability status, and entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a six month overhaul on 15 November.

2. BASIC NARRATIVE.

a. On 27 February 1967, CAPT Van V. Eason, Jr., was relieved as Commanding Officer USS HORNET (CVS12) by CAPT Gordon H. Robertson, in ceremonies held aboard HORNET while in her homeport of Long Beach, California.

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b. HORNET's assigned Air Group, CVSG-57, was embarked from 5 to 12 January, 20 to 26 January, 14 to 24 February, and 27 March to 28 October. CVSG-57 is composed of VS-35, VS-37, HS-2 and VAW-111 Det 12. Formerly VAW-11 Det N, the unit was redesignated VAW-111 Det N, on 20 April. On 4 June, it was again redesignated, VAW-111 Det 12.

c. From 5 to 13 January, HORNET participated in Exercise SNATCH BLOCK (FLEETEX 1-67). The mission of SNATCH BLOCK was to exercise at surface, antisubmarine, anti-air, air strike, and electronic warfare to increase the operational readiness of all participants in preparation for WESTPAC deployment.

d. From 14 to 24 February, HORNET participated in an ASW Training Exercise and held her Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

e. On 27 March, HORNET, in company with CORTON THREE, was underway for Hawaii and deployment to WESTPAC. While enroute to Pearl Harbor, HORNET and her escorts were detached to search for and track a Russian submarine, designated N-52, which was transiting the MIDPAC area. From 9 to 12 April, following the tracking mission, the units of ASWGRU THREE participated in an Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE).

f. From 4 to 17 May, HORNET and her escorts made a transit of the Sea of Japan. In addition to the units of ASWGRU THREE, the transit participants included: PATRON FOUR, FAIRRECONRON ONE, USS TALUGA, the submarines USS CATFISH and USS RAZORBACK, elements of the FIFTH AIR FORCE, elements of the JASDF, CORTDIV ELEVEN and CORTDIV TWENTY-ONE of the JMSDF, elements of the ROKAF, and units of the ROKN. The task

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Group was shadowed by nine Soviet Naval units; two oilers, six destroyers, and one ELINT configured Fleet Tug. During the period of 8 to 15 May, the Task Group was overflown by nineteen Soviet BADGER aircraft.

g. From 23 May to 25 June, HORNET conducted Surface Subsurface Surveillance Operations in support of SEVENTH Fleet operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. During this first period on Yankee Station, aircraft from CVSG-57 tracked and photographed 39 merchant ships transiting the Tonkin Gulf to and from North Vietnamese ports. Of these merchant vessels, 4 were of Polish registry and 35 of Soviet registry. In addition, the S2E's of CVSG-57 served as spotter aircraft for the SEA DRAGON Forces.

h. From 10 to 25 July, HORNET participated in the SEATO exercise SEA DOG. The SEA DOG Forces were composed of units from the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand. The exercise commenced in Manila Harbor, had an opposed entry into a minefield in the Lingayen Gulf, Philippines, a convoy exercise enroute to Thailand, and terminated in the Gulf of Siam at Bang Saen.

i. From 4 to 14 August, HORNET was again on Yankee Station conducting SSSC operations. During this short "on-station" period, HORNET's aircraft tracked and photographed eleven merchant ships, one of Polish registry and ten Soviets. During this time, it was first observed that several of the Soviet vessels had maritime ensigns painted on their hulls, hatch covers and superstructures.

j. On 16 August, HORNET arrived in Hong Kong for a four-day visit. The stopover was cut short due to an approaching tropical storm, and

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HORNET was again underway on 20 August. During the Hong Kong visit, HORNET's intelligence team observed a Polish and a Yugoslav freighter, and a Soviet tanker all anchored in the harbor.

k. From 8 September to 5 October, HORNET operated for her third and final period on Yankee Station. This Yankee Station period saw a more effective and increased usage of HORNET's S2E's in SEA DRAGON operations. A total of fifteen merchant ships were sighted transiting to and from North Vietnamese ports. Of these 15 ships, two were Polish and the remaining 13 were Soviet. By the end of HORNET's final period of operations in the Tonkin Gulf, her aircraft had sighted and photographed sixty-eight merchant ships in trade with North Vietnam. The intelligence team had filed 55 DOD Intelligence Reports, most of which concerned merchant shipping, and also surveillance of trawlers and Soviet Naval units.

l. On 16 October, HORNET was underway, enroute CONUS, arriving in Long Beach on 28 October. On 30 October, HORNET was anchored off Seal Beach to offload ammunition. From 2 to 14 November, she was in a restricted availability status at the Long Beach Naval Base. HORNET commenced overhaul at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 15 November, and entered drydock on 27 November, where she remained until the end of the year.

m. During the year 1967, a total of 10,334 landings were made on HORNET's flight deck. Of these, 3,839 were helicopter landings and 6,495 were made by propellor-driven aircraft. From date of commissioning until the end of 1967, the starboard catapult made 31,913 launches while

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the port "cat" launched 22,339 aircraft. For the flight hours logged by CVSG-57 in 1967, the aircraft consumed 1,847,832 gallons of aviation gasoline (AV/GAS) and 1,359,375 gallons of jet fuel (JP-5). During the year, HORNET steamed 62,133.1 nautical miles and consumed 15,214,616 gallons of Naval Standard Fuel Oil (NSFO). At the year's end, HORNET's complement consisted of 1,634 enlisted men, 24 Naval Aviators (officer) and 79 other officers.

n. During 1967, HORNET originated 66 OPSTAT reports, reflecting casualties in radar, sonar, and communications equipment, catapults and arresting gear, optical landing systems, gyro systems, generators, fuel and heat service pumps, boilers, air compressors, and a line shaft bearing. Also included was information generated by the squadrons of CVSG-57. The equipment casualties were corrected by the ship's work force and required no extended yard period for the corrections. The only casualty in personnel was a shortage of trained maintenance technicians in HS-2. This problem was temporarily alleviated through the assignment of TAD personnel from other HS squadrons.

o. On 13 June, four midshipmen arrived aboard HORNET for the summer at-sea training program.

p. At 2350 (local time), 24 May, CDR E. R. Callahan of VS-35 made the 99,000th landing aboard HORNET. On 23 June, at 1345 (local time) the 100,000th landing on HORNET was made by CAPT Gordon H. Robertson, Commanding Officer, USS HORNET (CVS12). On 15 September, LT (jg) C. F. Thom of VA-25 (based on USS CORAL SEA) brought his A-1H "Spad" onto HORNET's flight deck to cop the 102,000th landing on the CVS.

q. The following special guests visited HORNET in 1967: (1) 4 June,

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RADM V. P. DuPoix, Commander Carrier Division SEVEN; (2) 22 June, the Honorable Charles F. Baird, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management; (3) 22 June, VADM John J. Hyland, Commander SEVENTH Fleet; (4) 25 June, RADM R. W. Mehle, Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet; (5) 25 July, MGEN Abhichart, Royal Thai Army.

r. On 26 July, CDR J. Gallagher was relieved as Executive Officer of USS HORNET (CVS12) by CDR J. Hattersley. On 11 August, RADM H. L. Harty was relieved as Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Group THREE by RADM W. J. Moran. Just prior to the change of command, RADM Harty was awarded the LEGION OF MERIT by RADM R. W. Mehle, Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet.

3. DOCUMENTARY ANNEXES.

a. Biography of Commanding Officer.

Captain Gordon Hubbard Robertson was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on 27 December 1920. He attended Kansas City (Missouri) Junior College and the University of Illinois. In May 1942 he enlisted in the Naval Reserve. Appointed Aviation Cadet in July 1942, he was commissioned and designated Naval Aviator in March 1943. After completing further flight training, he joined Bombing Squadron TWO as squadron navigator. In December 1944, he reported as Operations Officer of Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED. In October 1945, he was assigned duty at the Naval Air Station, Edenton, North Carolina. From November 1946 to February 1948 he was a flight instructor, after which he served as Air Operations Officer on board USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA42). He was a student at the General Line School from June 1949 to May 1950, and next served

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as Training Aids Officer on the staff of Chief of Naval Air Technical Training. He received instruction at the Heavy Attack Training Unit, Air Force Atlantic Fleet, in the spring of 1952, and then joined Composite Squadron EIGHT as Administrative and Operations Officer. In August 1955, he was assigned to the Attack Design Class Desk in the Bureau of Aeronautics where he remained until August 1957. After jet transitional and heavy attack training, he served from April 1958 to May 1960 as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Heavy Attack Squadron ELEVEN. Following an assignment as Air Operations and Operations Officer on board USS FORRESTAL (CVA59), he had duty in connection with nuclear operations at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe. In August 1964, he reported for instruction at the National War College, Washington, D. C. While in Washington he attended courses at George Washington University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1965. He served as Commanding Officer, USS CAPRICORNUS (AKA57) from November 1965 to December 1966. Captain Robertson assumed command of HORNET on 27 February 1967. From HORNET, Captain Robertson will assume duties with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal (six awards), he wears the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, World War II Victory, Navy Occupation, Vietnam Service, and National Defense medals. Also he has received three foreign awards, the National Order of Vietnam (5th class), Gallantry Cross with palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He is married to the former Francis Hodges of Olathe, Kansas, and has two daughters, Sally, married to Marine LT R. A. Holt,

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and Carolyn, a senior in Rolling Hills High School.

- b. Photograph of Commanding Officer, attached separately.
- c. Roster of Officers, attached separately.
- d. The HORNET'S BUZZ is the official ship's magazine, printed monthly. The December 1967 edition is attached separately.

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