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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U. S. S. JOHN S. MCCAIN (DDG-36)  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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4 FEB 1972

From: Commanding Officer, USS JOHN S. McCAIN (DDG 36)  
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS JOHN S. McCAIN (DDG 36) Command History for the period  
of 1 January 1971 to 31 December 1971

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

*C. Neil Ammerman*  
C. NEIL AMMERMAN

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Command History  
USS JOHN S. McCAIN (DDG 36)  
1 January 1971 - 31 December 1971

1. Command Organization:

Commanding Officer:

1 JAN 71 - 17 SEP 71 - CDR David N. DENTON, USN  
17 SEP 71 - 31 DEC 71 - CDR C. Neil AMMERMAN, USN

Homeport Change:

1 SEP 71 - From Long Beach, California to San Diego, California

2. Summary of Operations:

The year 1971 dawned with USS JOHN S. McCAIN (DDG 36), flagship of Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-THREE, preparing for her first deployment to the Western Pacific since conversion. Departing Long Beach, California on 6 January 1971 in company with USS JAMES E. KYES (DD 787), USS MEYERKORD (DE 1058), USS SCHOFIELD (DEG 3) and USS BRONSTEIN (DE 1037), elements of DESRON 23, and rendezvousing with USS TICONDEROGA (CVS 14), Anti-Submarine Warfare Group THREE embarked, McCAIN officially began her deployment.

Enroute to the Western Pacific, McCAIN participated in HUKASWEX UPTIDE 2E conducted in the Hawaiian Operating areas from 15 January to 25 January. This exercise thoroughly tested the ship's material and personnel conditions of readiness along with testing new techniques of anti-submarine warfare. Upon completion of this and other individual ship's exercises McCAIN returned to her homeport in preparation for participating (with ASWGRU THREE) in Exercise ADMIXTURE conducted in the Southern California Operating areas by Commander FIRST Fleet from 23 February to 3 March.

Exercise ADMIXTURE's tempo included both simulated cold war and hot war situations pitting friendly Blue forces (of which McCAIN was a member) against enemy Orange forces. Enemy threats of all types, (surface, sub-surface, and air) were encountered as were various conditions of electronics interference and jamming, necessitating a very close watch on the ECM and ECCM (electronic counter-measures and electronic counter-counter-measures) pictures.

Departing once again for the Western Pacific on 16 March 1971, McCAIN, in company with ASW Group THREE, participated in several major ASW exercises whose locations ranged from the Indian Ocean to the Northern Pacific. Interspersed between these exercises were two brief periods of surveillance

operations conducted in the Tonkin Gulf in close proximity to Communist-controlled Hainan Island (2-3 April and 12-13 May). McCAIN showed her versatility during these periods of detachment from the main force by acting as positive identification unit for any possible unknown or enemy aircraft which posed a threat to aircraft flying missions from USS TICONDEROGA (CVS 14) or other units in the Gulf. During these periods on picket stations McCAIN also dependably handled her role of maintaining a watchful eye on friendly aircraft flying in close proximity to Hainan Island, constantly keeping all air units under advisory control.

In April 1971 USS JOHN S. McCAIN had the opportunity of being attached to one of the first United States Naval task forces in recent years to conduct a full-scale ASW exercise in the INDIAN Ocean. Entering the INDIAN Ocean via the Java Sea and Sunda Strait necessitated crossing the Equator where all lowly pollywogs were duly initiated into the Realm of King Neptune - Shellback or Pollywog, none will forget 15 April 1971! While transiting through the Sunda Strait after leaving the Indian Ocean on 24 April 1971, McCAIN along with USS TICONDEROGA (CVS 14), USS MEYERKORD (DE 1058), USS SCHOFIELD (DEG 3), and USS BRONSTEIN (DE 1037) participated in a memorial service for men killed in action aboard USS HOUSTON and HMAS PERTH in the early months of World War II.

The month of May found JOHN S. McCAIN transiting toward Hong Kong from a week of upkeep in the Republic of Singapore. Except for stops at Pearl Harbor and Subic Bay, this was the first opportunity for McCAIN sailors to taste life in this shopper's paradise. Hong Kong was the first true liberty port visited by McCAIN and as such was a welcome sight.

While transiting toward the war zone from Hong Kong, McCAIN experienced difficulty with one of her engines and was diverted to Subic Bay, for voyage repairs. Upon completion of repairs, McCAIN set sail for Sasebo, Japan, transiting the Taiwan Straits. She met ASW Group 3 in Sasebo and departed on her final mission before transiting home. This involved approaching the eastern coast of the Soviet Union under conditions of radio silence, stopping for three days to test sonar conditions, showing the presence of American forces in the area and collecting information concerning unknown or Soviet air, surface and sub-surface units while remaining at least 200 miles from the Kamchatka Peninsula. During this operation McCAIN again demonstrated her ability to perform effectively under AAW, ASW and EW environments. One of her primary tasks was acting as Anti-Raid Reporting Control Ship and Anti-Air Warfare Coordinator. Because of diligent personnel performance McCAIN was able to insure immediate detection of all surveillance actions by Soviet Naval and air units. In addition to performing picket duties, McCAIN also acted in an advisory capacity for friendly aircraft operating from USS TICONDEROGA (CVS 14).

Upon completion of her surveillance operations off the Soviet coast, McCAIN headed home via Adak, Alaska, where she stopped for fuel. Arriving in Long Beach, California on 5 July to the sounds of bands playing and the sight of piers crowded with dependents, McCAIN began her post-deployment stand-down period. This ended on 23 August when she put to sea for a week of independent steaming off the Southern California coast.

A homeport shift, in the planning stages since March, occurred 1 September and with dependents embarked, McCAIN entered San Diego. During the remainder of September McCAIN participated with other FIRST Fleet units in two ASW exercises (8-16 September and 24 September-7 October), the first of which was followed on 17 September by a change of command ceremony wherein CDR C. Neil AMMERMAN relieved CDR David N. DENTON as Commanding Officer of JOHN S. McCAIN.

From 8 October to 5 December McCAIN was in an upkeep and restricted availability status. During this period numerous inspections and assist visits occurred, most notably the annual Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) which McCAIN passed with a recommended mark of Outstanding.

McCAIN got underway on 6 December for a week of independent exercises off the Southern California coast followed by a week-end visit to San Francisco. Returning to San Diego on 14 December, McCAIN spent the remainder of a very busy year in port enjoying a well-deserved holiday leave period.