

COMMAND HISTORY FOR PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1974 - 31 DECEMBER 1974

1. Command Organization. Commanding Officer, 1 January - 31 December 1974, Commander G. E. GNECKOW, USN.

2. Summary of Operations.

a. Prior to commencing refresher training in mid-January, repairs to the fire damage incurred on 13 December 1973, were completed, costing nearly a quarter of a million dollars. The fire gutted the ship's Sick Bay and destroyed a major wiring trunk junction located in Sick Bay. Refresher training proceeded on schedule without significant difficulties; however, with less than one-half of the training completed, steam leaks developed in the nozzle block mating surfaces of number two high pressure turbine. Refresher training was consequently curtailed for nozzle block repairs. During the repairs to the turbine, assorted bolts and nuts were found to have been introduced into the nozzle in an apparent attempt to damage the turbine, or delay repairs. As a result, the ship's WESTPAC deployment was postponed until 8 April 1974 while the turbine was disassembled to verify that all foreign material had been removed. JOHN S. MCCAIN's Western Pacific deployment commenced on 8 April 1974 and lasted for six months. During the first portion of the cruise, JOHN S. MCCAIN participated in one of the largest Anti-Air Warfare exercises conducted by the U.S. Navy in the Western Pacific. However, while enroute to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, soon after having completed the missile exercise, number one high pressure turbine nozzle block began leaking, necessitating repairs by USS SAMUEL GOMPERS, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Nozzle block leaks were a persistent problem throughout the cruise; the magnitude of which seriously impaired JOHN S. MCCAIN's engineering readiness and ability to meet all operational requirements. During the remainder of the deployment, additional repairs were accomplished on both nozzle blocks. As a result of the unreliability of the main engines, JOHN S. MCCAIN returned to San Diego two weeks earlier than originally scheduled and remained in port for the duration of 1974.

b. JOHN S. MCCAIN embarked at various periods during the cruise three South Vietnamese Midshipmen, three Taiwanese Midshipmen, fifteen Japanese Midshipmen, and five American Midshipmen for training. The midshipmen were able to observe and participate in gunnery exercises, underway and vertical replenishments, tactical maneuvering, a missile exercise, in addition to under-instruction watches, and formal training lectures from all departments.

3. Chronology of Events.

1-16 JAN IN PORT SAN DIEGO, CALIF; UPKEEP

16-13 FEB REFRESHER TRAINING

13 FEB - 1 APR IN PORT SAN DEIGO; UPKEEP

1-8 APR IN PORT SAN DIEGO; RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AND PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT; ASSIGNED TO TASK UNIT 35.1.1

8 APR UNDERWAY; DEPARTED SAN DIEGO FOR SEAL BEACH, CALIF

10 APR IN PORT SEAL BEACH; AMMUNITION LOADING

11-16 APR UNDERWAY; ENROUTE TO PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII; ASSIGNED TO COMMAND TASK UNIT 35.8.4

16-18 APR IN PORT PEARL HARBOR

18-22 APR UNDERWAY FOR MIDWAY; ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK UNIT 35.8.2, COMMANDER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON 7, WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING SHIPS: MCCAIN, FANNING, MACKENZIE, AND BRADLEY

23 APR IN PORT MIDWAY; REFUELED

23-30 APR UNDERWAY FOR GUAM; 28 APR ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER OF 7th FLEET; COMMANDER TASK UNIT 75.5.2, COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 7.

30 APR IN PORT GUAM, APRA HARBOR; REFUELED

1-5 MAY UNDERWAY FOR SUBIC BAY, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILLIPINES.

5-14 MAY IN PORT SUBIC BAY; UPKEEP; 6 MAY 3 SOUTH VIETNAMESE MIDSHIPMEN REPORTED ABOARD FOR TRAINING: QUANG, NAHE, AND CANH; THEIR TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH

14-18 MAY UNDERWAY FOR SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA FOR OPERATIONS WITH THE KITTY HAWK: ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK UNIT 77.7.2, COMMANDER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON 7. COMMANDER TASK GROUP 77.7 IS COMMANDER OF CARRIER GROUP 1 ON THE KITTY HAWK

18 MAY ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK FORCE 75 FOR MISSILE EXERCISE

19-21 MAY PARTICIPATED IN MISSILE EXERCISE: 21 MAY DESTROYED DRONE WITH WARSHOT

21 MAY CONDUCTED SILENT NIGHT UNREP; OFFICER IN CHARGE OF EXERCISE: COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 21

22-25 MAY UNDERWAY FOR KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN; 25 MAY ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK FORCE 75

25 MAY - 3 JUN IN PORT KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN; TENDER AVAILABILITY WITH SAMUEL GOMPERS; 28 MAY HOSTED VISIT BY 30 TAIWANESE NAVAL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEMBERS

4-6 JUN UNDERWAY FOR ORIENTATION AND VIEWING OF TRANSITING SOVIET TASK GROUP AND ENROUTE TO KEELUNG, TAIWAN

6-10 JUN IN PORT KEELUNG, TAIWAN - REST AND RECREATION

10-11 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA; ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK FORCE 75; TYPHOON EVASION WHILE ENROUTE TO SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA; 12 JUN ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK UNIT 77.3.2 FOR OPERATIONS IN SOUTH CHINA SEAS - SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA

14-26 JUN IN PORT SUBIC BAY FOR ENGINEERING REPAIRS

26 JUN UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS

26 JUN - 6 JUL IN PORT SUBIC BAY; 1 JUL THREE TAIWANESE MIDSHIPMEN REPORTED ABOARD FOR TRAINING: CHAO-WEI-YEN, LEE-CHUNG-WEE, AND HSU-WEN-CHANG. THEIR TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH

6 JUL UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS

6-13 JUL IN PORT SUBIC BAY; UPKEEP

13-16 JUL UNDERWAY FOR BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA; PARTICIPATION IN AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISE

16 JUL IN PORT BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA

16-19 JUL UNDERWAY FOR UKI BARU SHIMA, OKINAWA FOR PARTICIPATION IN AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISE WITH THE THIRD MARINE BATTALION



19-21 JUL UNDERWAY FOR YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

21-22 JUL IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN; UPKEEP; THREE AMERICAN MIDSHIPMEN REPORTED ABOARD FOR TRAINING: MIDSHIPMEN POLLUCK, PIKE AND WARD. MIDSHIPMAN POLLUCK'S TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AND THE OTHER TWO MIDSHIPMEN'S TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK.

22-24 JUL UNDERWAY FOR KURE, JAPAN, TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE WORDEN AND THE BERKELY IN MIDSHIPMEN EXCHANGE CRUISE WITH JAPANESE MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE; 22 JUL MCCAIN ASSIGNED ADMINISTRATIVELY TO COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SEVEN

24-26 JUL IN PORT KURE JAPAN; JOHN S. MCCAIN DESIGNATED SHOW SHIP AT KURE, THUS RECEIVING PIER PRIVILEGES; 25 JUL HELD OPEN HOUSE FOR CITIZENS OF KURE JAPAN, AND JAPANESE MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE DESTROYERS; 26 JUL RECEIVED FIFTEEN JAPANESE MIDSHIPMEN FOR TRAINING. THEIR TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK

30 JUL UNDERWAY FOR OPERATIONS WITH THE WORDEN, BERKELY, and THREE JAPANESE MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE DESTROYERS; ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

30 JUL - 2 AUG IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN; 1 AUG RECEIVED TWO AMERICAN MIDSHIPMEN, PERCICH AND SELENBINDER; THEIR TRAINING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH

2-6 AUG UNDERWAY; ENROUTE TO SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA TO JOIN RANGER'S TASK GROUP; CONDUCTED TYPHOON EVASION WHILE ENROUTE

7-11 AUG CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA WITH THE RANGER, BRADLEY, DAVIDSON, AND THE HALSEY; YANKEE STATION ACTIVATED; ENROUTE HONG KONG, B.C.C.

12-18 AUG IN PORT HONG KONG, B.C.C. - REST AND RECREATION

19-21 AUG UNDERWAY; ENROUTE SUBIC BAY

21-31 AUG IN PORT SUBIC BAY; AVAILABILITY AT SUBIC REPAIR FACILITY; 21 AUG ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK FORCE

31 AUG - 6 SEP

UNDERWAY FOR SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA; OPERATING WITH THE RANGER, TURNER JOY AND THE BRADLEY IN SOUTH CHINA SEA. ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK UNIT 77.3.2 AND COMMANDER TASK GROUP 77.3, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE TURNER JOY AND RANGER, RESPECTIVELY; 1 SEP ASSIGNED ADMINISTRATIVELY TO COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 25. 2-6 SEP PARTICIPATED IN COORDINATED ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE EXERCISE WITH THE BRADLEY, TURNER JOY, AND HER MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN SHIPS STUART AND ONSLOW IN SUBIC OPERATIONAL AREA

6-11 SEP

IN PORT SUBIC BAY FOR ENGINEERING REPAIRS

11-12 SEP

UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS

12-20 SEP

INPORT SUBIC BAY FOR MORE ENGINEERING REPAIRS

20 SEP - 8 OCT

UNDERWAY FOR SAN DIEGO, CALIF. ESCORTING THE SACRAMENTO CONDUCTING TRAINING AND OPERATIONS ENROUTE. 20 SEP ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER TASK UNIT 73.2.7, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SACRAMENTO. 27 SEP ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER OF THE THIRD FLEET, COMMANDER TASK UNIT 33.9.1, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SACRAMENTO; ASSIGNED ADMINISTRATIVELY TO COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON 21.

8 OCT - 31 DEC

IN PORT SAN DIEGO FOR RESTRICTED AVAILABILITIES, TENDER AVAILABILITIES, AND DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CENTER REPAIRS AND SERVICES