

USS NAVASOTA AO-106

CHRONOLOGY 1973

JANUARY 1973

- 01 Moored, port side to berth 4A Bethlehem Steel Shipyard San Pedro, CA. While in the final stages of a regular overhaul.
- 10 Shifted to Fuel Pier San Pedro. Moored starboard side to berth 39 and 40.
- 12 Shifted to Bethlehem Steel Shipyard San Pedro, moored port side to berth 4A.
- 17 Shifted to Fuel Pier San Pedro. Moored starboard side to berths 39 and 40.
- 18 Shifted to Bethlehem Steel Shipyard San Pedro, moored port side to berth 4A.
- 23 Entered dry dock 2 Bethlehem Steel Shipyard.

FEBRUARY 1973

- 01 Resting on keel blocks in dry dock 2, Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, San Pedro.
- 05 Left dry dock. Moored port side to berth 4A Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, San Pedro. Held dock trials.
- 06 Shifted to Fuel Pier, San Pedro. Moored starboard side to berths 39 and 40. Underway for sea trials.
- 07 Completed sea trials. Moored port side to berth 4A Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, San Pedro.
- 12 Shifted to Fuel Pier, San Pedro. Moored starboard side to berths 39 and 40.
- 14 Shifted to anchorage at U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot , Seal Beach, CA. Underway for Southern California operations.
- 16 Moored starboard side to pier 9 berth 14, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.
- 20 Underway for Southern California operations.
- 22 Moored starboard side to pier 9, berth 14, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.
- 27 Underway for Southern California operations. UNREPED: USS PYRO (AE-24).
- 28 UNREPED: USS HANCOCK (CVA-19), USS HAMMOND (DE-1067), USS TICONDEROGA (CVS-14), USS EDSON (DD-946), and USS AGERHOLM (DD-826).

MARCH 1973

- 01 Underway off the coast of Southern California. UNREPED: USS MATACO (ATF-86), USS EDISON (DD-946), USS CARPENTER (DD-825), and USS WACHUSETT (WHEC-44).

MARCH 1973

02 Moored starboard side to pier 9, berth 14 U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, CA.
07 Underway for WESTPAC.
10 UNREPED: USS CONE (DD-866).
11 UNREPED: USS OHARE (DD-889).
20 Crossed the International Date Line indoctrinated into this Domain of the Golden Dragon.
22 UNREPED: USS ORISKANY (CVA-34).
29 Arrived Subic Bay, moored starboard side to USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148) Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, RPI.

APRIL 1973

01 Brested out USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148) underway. Moored starboard side to Alava Pier, U. S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, RPI.
06 Shifted to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, moored starboard side to.
07 Underway for WESTPAC operations.
09 Received helo from USS CAMDEN (AOE-2). UNREPED: USS CAMDEN (AOE-2), and USS EPPERSON (DD-779).
10 Received helo from USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), UNREPED: USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43).
11 UNREPED: USS LAWE (DD-763), and USS WORDEN (DLG-18). Received helo from USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43).
12 UNREPED: USS WADDELL (DDG-24), USS REASONER (DE-1063), USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11), USS OGDEN (LPD-5), USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8).
15 UNREPED: USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10).
16 Moored starboard side to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay. Shifted to Alava Pier moored starboard side to USS SHASTA (AE-33).
21 Underway for WESTPAC operations.
23 UNREPED: USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64), USS TURNER JOY (DD-921), and USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050). Received helo from USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64).
26 UNREPED: USS CAMDEN (AOE-2). Received helo from USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
28 Moored starboard side to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, RPI.
30 Shifted to Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, moored starboard side to USS SHASTA (AE-33).

MAY 1973

01 Moored starboard side to USS SHASTA (AE-33), Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay, RPI.
05 Underway for WESTPAC operations.

MAY 1973

07 UNREPED: USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050), USS CHANDLER (DD-717),
USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64).
08 UNREPED: USS HIGBEE (DD-806).
09 Received helo from USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64).
10 UNREPED: USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43), USS KING (DDG-3), USS
WADDELL (DDG-24), USNS TALUGA.
11 UNREPED: USS LAWE (DD-763), and USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).
14 Steaming independently enroute to Sasebo, Japan.
18 Arrived Sasebo, Japan. Moored port side to berth India 1.

JUNE 1973

01 Moored starboard side to berth India 1, Sasebo, Japan.
14 Shifted to Yokose Fuel Pier, Sasebo, Japan, moored starboard
side to.
15 Underway for Singapore.
22 Crossed the Equator, indoctrinated into Solemn Mysteries of
the Ancient Order of the Deep.
23 Arrived Singapore. Anchored Eastern Petroleum Anchorage.
24 Shifted to ESSO Fuel Pier, Palau Ayer Chawan, Singapore.
Moored port side to.
25 Shifted to Johore Dockyard, Singapore. Moored starboard
side to berth 7.
29 Underway for WESTPAC operations.

JULY 1973

01 Steaming independently enroute from Singapore to Yankee
Station.
04 UNREPED: USS HANCOCK (CVA-19), USS REASONER (DE-1063).
05 UNREPED: USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64), USS JOHN PAUL JONES
(DDG-32).
06 UNREPED: USS OGDEN (LPD-5), USS DUBUQUE (LPH-8), USS
VANCOUVER (LPD-2), USS INCHON (LPH-12), USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10),
USS STERETT (DLG-31), USS EDISON (DD-947), USS COOK (DE-1083),
USS DECATER (DLG-31). Received helo from USS DUBUQUE (LPH-8).
08 UNREPED: USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG-32), USS SAMPLE (DE-1048),
USS STERETT (DLG-31), USS EDSON (DD-946), USS COOK (DE-1083),
USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4).
09 Arrived Subic Bay, moored starboard side to USS CALIENTE
(AO-53), Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic.
15 Shifted to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay, moored
starboard side to.
16 Underway for Hong Kong.
19 Arrived in Hong Kong. Anchored in the Western Anchorage.
28 Underway for WESTPAC operations.
30 UNREPED: USS OUELLET (DE-1077), USS STRAUSS (DDG-16), USS
JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG-32), USS EDSON (DD-746). Received helo
from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).
31 Received helo from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).

AUGUST 1973

- 01 Steaming independently in the Tonkin Gulf, UNREPED: USS HALEAKEA (AE-25) . Received helo from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).
- 02 Received helo from USS HANCOCK (CVA-19).
- 03 UNREPED: USS HANCOCK (CVA-19), USS AGERHOLM (DD-826).
- 04 UNREPED: USS HULL (DD-945).
- 05 UNREPED: USS AGERHOLM (DD-826), USS HAMMOND (DE-1067).
- 06 UNREPED: USS HANCOCK (CVA-19), USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64), USS GRAY (DE-1054). Received helo from USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4).
- 10 UNREPED: USS DULUTH (LPD-6), USS SAMPLE (DE-1048), USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10), USS MCCORMICK (DDG-8).
- 12 Escorting USS BEAUFORT (AFS-2) and her tow.
- 13 UNREPED: USS BEAUFORT (AFS-2).
- 14 Enroute to Sattahip. Debarked emergency leave case. Resume WESTPAC Operations in Tonkin Gulf.
- 15 UNREPED: USS MCCORMICK (DDG-8), USS SAMPLE (DE-1048), USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), USS DULUTH (LPD-6), USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10). Received helo from USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10).
- 16 Enroute Subic Bay.
- 18 Arrived Subic Bay, moored starboard side to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station, Subic Bay.
- 19 Shifted to Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic, moored starboard side to.
- 20 Shifted to Fuel Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic, moored starboard side to. Underway for Long Beach, California via Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- 29 UNREPED: USS TRUXTON (DLG-35).
- 30 Crossed the International Date Line.

SEPTEMBER 1973

- 01 Arrived Pearl Harbor, HI, moored starboard side to berth Kilo 7, U.S. Naval Supply Center Pearl Harbor. Cleared U.S. Customs.
- 04 Underway for Long Beach, California.
- 07 UNREPED: USS HENDERSON (DD-785), USS MASON (DD-852), USS BRONSTIEN (DE-1037), USS LOCKWOOD (DE-1064), USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63).
- 10 Arrived Long Beach, California, moored port side to pier 7, U.S. Naval Station.

OCTOBER 1973

- 01 Moored port side to pier 7, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach.
- 04 Shifted to pier 9 berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station Long Beach, moored starboard side to.
- 29 Inspected by Sub-Board of Inspection & Survey, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

NOVEMBER 1973

- 01 Moored starboard side to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station Long Beach.
- 09 CDR R. L. MATHEWS, USN, was relieved by CDR J.R. CAMPBELL, USN, as Commanding Officer.
- 26 Underway for modified sea trials. Moored starboard side to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station Long Beach.

DECEMBER 1973

- 01 Moored starboard side to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station Long Beach.
- 06 Shifted to Fuel Pier, San Pedro.
- 07 Shifted to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station. Long Beach.
- 10 Underway for Southern California Operating Area.
- 14 UNREPED: USS CORAL SEA (CVA-41) and USS WILTSIE (DD-716). Moored starboard side to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach.
- 19 Shifted to Fuel Pier San Pedro.
- 20 Returned starboard side to pier 9, berths 8 & 10, U. S. Naval Station Long Beach and there remained for the remainder of 1973.

SHIP'S HISTORY 1973

The arrival of 1973 found NAVASOTA in Bethlehem Steel Shipyard, San Pedro, California, completing her first regular overhaul in six years. This was not an ordinary overhaul, but an accelerated and demanding one which subsequently proved to be worth the effort expended. During the ensuing six month deployment the ship did not have a single major material casualty.

Upon completion of sea trials on 7 February, NAVASOTA immediately began getting ready for another deployment to the Western Pacific. The remainder of February was occupied with loading fuel and ammunition, accelerated refresher training, underway replenishments, etc. On 7 March NAVASOTA headed west for Subic Bay and another WESTPAC deployment. Enroute, she replenished two East Coast Destroyers off the coast of Baja, California who were returning home from Viet Nam. NAVASOTA once again entered the Domain of the Golden Dragon as she crossed the International Date Line on 20 March and found ORISKANY thirstily awaiting a drink. On 29 March NAVASOTA arrived in Subic Bay, RP to begin her WESTPAC deployment and participate in operation "END SWEEP".

During April and the first part of May, NAVASOTA was in and out of Subic Bay making line swings off the coast of Viet Nam. Then on 14 May she left the line heading for Sasebo, Japan and an upkeep period. During this upkeep period her helicopter deck was modernized, and upgraded to allow landings instead of just hovering. While in Sasebo, NAVASOTA was moored alongside a quaywall inside of what had been the world's largest World War II drydock.

On 15 June NAVASOTA left Sasebo enroute to Singapore. While enroute, she crossed the Equator on 22 June, meeting King Neptune, and initiating her crew into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. She arrived in Singapore on 23 June and found the parking situation equally as bad as that encountered in New York City. After "gassing up" at the ESSO station she shifted berths to the British Naval Station where she remained for the duration of her visit. On 29 June NAVASOTA left Singapore for Yankee Station to try to satisfy the unquenchable thirst of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

During the first part of July, NAVASOTA was in the vicinity of Yankee Station trying to avoid Tropical Storm ANETIA and at the same time "top off" all ships in the area. This was a seemingly endless task that went around the clock. On 9 July she stopped in Subic Bay to take on fuel and departed on 16 July for ten days of R & R in Hong Kong.

During August, NAVASOTA was once again doing "her thing" between Subic Bay and Yankee Station. On 12 August NAVASOTA escorted and assisted USS BEAUFORT (AFT-2) for several days when BEAUFORT's tow began breaking up in heavy seas. Finally, she arrived in Subic Bay on 18 August to adjust her load and prepare for the long trip home. NAVASOTA departed Subic on 20 August for the last time in 1973. During her homeward voyage she briefly stopped in Pearl Harbor to clear U.S. Customs and meet with her Type Commander. Arriving in Long Beach, 10 September, 6 months after leaving, with another WESTPAC deployment behind her, she was warmly greeted by family's and friends.

On 29 October NAVASOTA was pronounced healthy and ready to provide service to the fleet by the Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey. On 9 NOVEMBER CDR John R. CAMPBELL, USN, relieved CDR Richard L. MATHEWS, USN, as Commanding Officer. She briefly flexed her sea legs off the Southern California coast during the week of 10 December returning to Long Beach on 14 December to await the arrival of the new year.

The efforts and successes of the ship and her crew during 1973 were recognized and rewarded when she received the coveted Battle Efficiency "E" Award.