

HISTORY OF THE USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1) - 1967

As 1967 began SACRAMENTO was well along in her third major deployment to the Western Pacific, having departed the United States 25 November 1966. SACRAMENTO completed her deployment in June, high-lighted by a visit to Sydney, Australia, and arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington on 13 July. The ship remained at PSNS until 9 November for a much needed Restricted Availability. Following a Pre-Deployment Inspection on 1 and 2 November, SACRAMENTO was enroute to Southern California for Interim Refresher Training. Upon completion of IRFT the ship stopped at Long Beach, California for a missile and ammunition loadout, and then continued to the Seattle area for load-outs. As 1967 came to an end SACRAMENTO was at Pier 91, Seattle, Washington making final preparations for her fourth deployment.

COMMANDING OFFICER

SACRAMENTO was commanded by Captain James R. Collier, USN, 341856/1100, who assumed command on 1 October 1966.

HOMEPORT

SACRAMENTO is homeported in Seattle, Washington, and all yard work was performed at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington.

MISSION

SACRAMENTO is the first of her class of Fast Combat Support Ships. Her mission is to provide rapid, simultaneous, one-stop underway replenishment of all essential requirements (petroleum products, ammunition, provisions, and general stores) for a combatant task force operating at sea in a hostile environment.

COMPLEMENT

As of 31 December, SACRAMENTO had 21 officers and a crew of 500. During her third deployment she had 5 aviators, an air detachment of 20, and 2 Boeing Vertol Technical Representatives.

OPERATIONS

SACRAMENTO began 1967 operating in familiar waters off the coast of Viet Nam. She left the line on 12 January returning to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines for the second load-out of her third deployment. The ship remained at Subic from 14-21 January. On 19 January Commander Task Group 73.5, Captain Leon Grabowsky, broke his flag on board SACRAMENTO. The ship was underway for her third on-line period from 23 January to 11 February. On 11 February after having been in WESTPAC for about two months, SACRAMENTO was enroute to Hong Kong arriving 13 February. Her crew was able to enjoy a well deserved six day liberty period. On 19 February SACRAMENTO departed for Subic Bay arriving on the 20th for her third load-out. During this period Captain Grabowsky was relieved as CTG 73.5 by Captain Archibald T. Nicholson. On 24 February SACRAMENTO's air detachment went to Nichols Air Force Base at Manila to give a demonstration of the Boeing UH-46 Helicopter for Philippine defense and Air Force officials. On 25 February SACRAMENTO left Subic Bay enroute to Yankee Station for her fourth on-line period from 26 February to 11 March. She was back in Subic on 13 March. Captain Nicholson and his staff debarked SACRAMENTO on 15 March. The ship left Subic on 20 March to continue replenishment operations on Yankee Station from 21 March until 2 April. On 3 April she returned to Subic for a longer than usual period for load-out and to make preparations for her upcoming trip to Sydney,

Australia. From 11-13 April SACRAMENTO transited to Yankee Station where she operated until 16 April. Final preparations for the Australia visit commenced when the ship returned to Subic on 17 April.

SACRAMENTO, in company with USS CANBERRA (CAG-2), departed Subic Bay for Sydney, Australia on 20 April. The ship crossed the equator on 22 April, and all Pollywogs were duly initiated into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. The CANBERRA continued independently after completing a replenishment on 24 April. SACRAMENTO slowed in order to join the USS BENNINGTON (CVS-20), USS EPPERSON (DD-719), USS NICHOLAS (DD-499) and USS FLETCHER (DD-445) enroute to Australia.

On 30 April SACRAMENTO arrived in Sydney, Australia for what was to be the high-light of her third deployment. The beneficial effect upon morale cannot be overstated. The relative smoothness of all events was a credit to those responsible for overall planning of the Coral Sea visit in Sydney. The mutual exchange of views and the friendships formed between Australians and members of the U. S. Navy were among the most positive benefits derived. SACRAMENTO was proud that it's landing force was selected as the official U. S. Navy contingent at the Cenotaph Ceremony honoring allied war dead.

The SACRAMENTO left Sydney, Australia on 8 May steaming independently to Subic Bay arriving 16 May. After another load-out lasting until 20 May, SACRAMENTO left for Yankee Station. The ship was also honored on that day when Rear Admiral Frederick E. Janney, Commander Task Force 73 broke his flag. The next two periods on station proved to be the most arduous of the deployment. Replenishment operations began on 21 May. CTF 73 debarked on 22 May, and the ship left for Subic

4. June. Her final load-out commenced on 6 June as she arrived once again in Subic Bay. SACRAMENTO was underway on 11 June for her final period on Yankee Station. The ship set a record by replenishing all Yankee Station aircraft carriers and units in company with them on 13 June, the first day on station during the final on-line period. The carriers were USS BON HOMME RICHARD, USS HORNET, USS ENTERPRISE and USS HANCOCK.

The ship left station on 17 June enroute to Yokosuka, Japan arriving 25 June. The crew was able to enjoy two days liberty until the ship departed for Pearl Harbor on 27 June. On 30 June SACRAMENTO outchopped from Seventh Fleet to First Fleet. The ship made one of its fastest replenishments at 23 knots on 1 July with the USS O'BANNON (DD-450) which travelled in company with SACRAMENTO part of the way to Pearl Harbor. The ship arrived at Pearl Harbor 3 July and departed 5 July enroute to Long Beach, California. The ship anchored at Seal Beach on 9 July for her final ammunition and air detachment off-load. On 11 July with the end of the third deployment near, SACRAMENTO was enroute to Bremerton, Washington and home at best speed. That often thought of day arrived on 13 July when SACRAMENTO moored starboard side to at Pier 6, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. On hand was a large crowd of family, friends and well wishers to greet a hard working ship and crew.

COMMENDATIONS AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

A message from Commander Seventh Fleet to SACRAMENTO:

"During this deployment SACRAMENTO turned in another outstanding support performance. The trip to the Coral Sea Celebration was also marked by exemplary conduct and showed the Navy in its best light. The quality of the service rendered to combat units by SACRAMENTO was of the highest order

and her crew's almost sincere well done.

and justly merits a most sincere well done."

/s/ Vice Admiral John J. Hyland

A message from Commander Service Force Pacific to SACRAMENTO:

"Once again the outstanding performance of the officers and men of SACRAMENTO has demonstrated the great value of the AOE concept in support of the fleet under combat conditions."

/s/ Rear Admiral Edwin B. Hooper

A message from Commander Service Group ONE to SACRAMENTO:

"Consistent effectiveness and constant professionalism have become trademarks of SACRAMENTO and her crew. Your WESTPAC deployment was observed with considerable interest and pride including the excellent personnel conduct during the Coral Sea performance. My best wishes for a pleasant home coming and a well-deserved period of leave and upkeep."

A message from Commander Service Squadron SEVEN to SACRAMENTO:

"The hard work, sacrifice and sustained high performance by the officers and crew of the SACRAMENTO have contributed significantly toward our mission in Southeast Asia. We share your pride in a job well done and know that you are looking forward to a hard earned stateside rest. Best wishes for a joyous home coming, leave and a profitable yard period."

After arrival at Bremerton on 13 July until 12 September, the crew and officers enjoyed a period of well deserved leave and liberty.

On 8 August SACRAMENTO was visited by Captain W. A. Walker III, Commander Service Group ONE.

Commander Service Force Pacific announced the winners of the Service Force,

U. S., Pacific Fleet Battle Efficiency Competition "E" for the fiscal year 1967 on August. For the second year in succession SACRAMENTO was again a winner of the "E", and could proudly display a "hash mark" below the Battle Efficiency "E".

Captain A. F. Betzel, Commander Service Squadron SEVEN, visited SACRAMENTO from 14-15 August.

SACRAMENTO departed Puget Sound Naval Shipyard enroute to Naval Ammunition Depot at Bangor, Washington on 15 August in order to off-load ship's service ammunition. The ship remained overnight at Bangor, and on 16 August the Fourth Annual SACRAMENTO Dependents and Guest Cruise was held. The cruise commenced at Bangor and ended at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton. During the cruise all guests were treated to a fantail cookout.

From 16 August until 9 November the ship remained at PSNS, Bremerton. During this period from 11 September until 6 November, SACRAMENTO had a much needed Restricted Availability.

The Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection was conducted on board on 27-28 October.

Captain A. F. Betzel, Commander Service Squadron SEVEN, broke his flag on board SACRAMENTO on 30 October and debarked 2 November. During this period a Pre-Deployment Inspection was conducted on board by the staff of Service Squadron SEVEN.

Sea trials were held on 9 November as SACRAMENTO steamed through Puget Sound to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and then returned to the POL pier at Manchester, Washington for load-out. The ship remained at Manchester until

13 November. She was then enroute to NAD, Bangor for a brief load-out of ship's service and training ammunition. Later the same day SACRAMENTO was enroute to Southern California for Interim Refresher Training (IRFT). Independent Steaming Exercises were conducted 15-17 November, and on 18 November SACRAMENTO was moored at the Carrier Pier, Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, California. On 20 and 21 November IRFT was conducted inport. During IRFT DET 102 of Helicopter Support Squadron 3 (HC-3) based at NAS, Imperial Beach, California, was on board for training. From 22 to 30 November various phases of IRFT were conducted at sea and inport. After the ship successfully completed her Final Battle Problem on 30 November, she proceeded to Long Beach, California for a missile and ammunition load-out at Seal Beach in preparation for her upcoming deployment.

On 2 December SACRAMENTO was enroute to NAD, Bangor arriving 5 December. An ammunition load-out was conducted until 7 December. The ship was again enroute to PSNS, Bremerton.

SACRAMENTO remained at PSNS until 28 December. During this period the ship had a Restricted Availability from 11-27 December. Members of the crew and officers were able to take advantage of leave and liberty during this period before SACRAMENTO began her fourth deployment on 6 January 1968.

The ship left PSNS for the last time before her deployment on 28 December enroute to Pier 91 at the Naval Supply Center Puget Sound, Seattle Division, for load-out of stores and supplies. On 31 December the load-out continued throughout the night as the duty section turned to, and the remainder of the crew and officers celebrated the coming of the new year.

PRE-DEPLOYMENT MESSAGES

A message from Commander Service Group ONE to SACRAMENTO:

"As you deploy for ops with Seventh Fleet, I extend my deepest best wishes to the officers and men who are making the third deployment in two years. Your busy days of service on the line will be deeply appreciated by the ships in Seventh Fleet.

Happy New Year, safe deployment. Will be looking forward to your return."

A message from Commander Service Squadron SEVEN to SACRAMENTO:

"Good luck upon your departure for another tour on the line. I am confident the standards of service set by the SACRAMENTO will make a welcome and marked contribution to our effort."