

U. S. S. COONTZ (DLG-9)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

DLG9/AK:jja
5750
Ser 630

11 AUG 1970

From: Commanding Officer, USS COONTZ (DLG9)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9) Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: USS COONTZ (DLG9) Command History for 1969 (OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of Highlights
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.



T. J. BOWEN

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMCRUDESPEC
COMDESRON SEVENTEEN

1969 CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>
1 January - 14 May	Deployed in the Western Pacific as a unit of the U Seventh Fleet. This is COONIZ's sixth deployment.
1 January - 13 March	Assigned to Task Force 77. Conducted search and rescue and plane guard duties in the Tonkin Gulf.
8 February	Change of Command at U. S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
10 February - 14 February	Visited Hong Kong, B.C.C.
13 March - 26 March	Engaged in operations in the Yellow Sea area as a unit of Task Force 71.
27 MARCH - 16 April	Visited Yokosuka, Japan, for upkeep, maintenance and repairs.
17 April - 26 April	Assigned to Task Force 71 conducting operations in the Sea of Japan.
30 April - 3 May	Visited Subic Bay, R.P.
4 May - 17 May	Enroute San Diego, having completed deployment. Changed operational control from Seventh Fleet to First Fleet.
18 May -	Arrived San Diego
15 June - 5 August	Training and upkeep. Embark 27 Midshipmen.
25 August	Chief of Turkish Naval Forces visited COMDESRON 17 on board COONIZ.
27 August	Change of command of DESRON 17 on board USS COONIZ
2 September - 5 September	Conducted guided missile firing exercises at the Pacific Missile Range.
22 September - 1 October	MUKASWEX Operations at sea as a unit of the First Fleet.

BASIC NARRATIVE

The 1969 New Year found USS COONTZ in mid-deployment as a unit of the U. S. Seventh Fleet on her sixth WESTPAC cruise. From 1 through 24 January, COONTZ was stationed at the Task Force 77 South Search and Rescue (SAR) station, escorted by USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729). On 24 January, COONTZ was detached and proceeded to YANKEE Station where she rendezvoused with USS RANGER (CVA-61) for two days of plane guard duty. Following these duties, COONTZ proceeded independently to Subic Bay, R. P., arriving on 28 January for a period of liberty and upkeep.

The eleven days spent in Subic Bay were a welcome respite for all from the rigors of a long at-sea period. It was also during this period that COONTZ welcomed aboard her sixth captain. On 8 February, CDR DONALD P. ROANE, USN, relieved CDR E. DALE GEIGER, USN, as Commanding Officer, USS COONTZ.

It was new Captain ROANE's luck to make his first port of call as commanding officer of the COONTZ in Hong Kong where COONTZ anchored on 10 February having departed Subic Bay on 8 February. COONTZ spent four days in Hong Kong departing on 15 February to return to South SAR. It was a four day transit with a brief stop of a few hours in Subic Bay for refueling.

Arriving on South SAR on 18 February, COONTZ relieved USS WORDEN (DLG-1) and carried out air control and rescue ship duties for the next twenty-five days. Again, COONTZ was accompanied by SWENSON.

On 13 March, COONTZ departed South SAR with SWENSON, DUNCAN and HOPEWELL to conduct operations in the Sea of Japan as part of Task Force 71. The members of COONTZ were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for this action.

Following this operation, on 26 March, COONTZ proceeded to Yokosuka, Japan. Originally intended as a short stay in Yokosuka, COONTZ remained there for several weeks, receiving needed repair attention. Underway again on 17 April, COONTZ rejoined TF 71 for ten days steaming in the Sea of Japan.

On 27 April, COONTZ departed the Sea of Japan for Subic Bay. Arriving in the evening of 29 April, COONTZ rendezvoused with RANGER and SWENSON. The four days were spent at Subic Bay preparing to leave WESTPAC on 4 May for San Diego and home.

After the excitement of the Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan, the trip to San Diego was relatively uneventful and relaxed but spirits were high as San Diego grew closer. On 15 May, COONTZ and SWENSON detached from RANGER for the final leg homeward and entered San Diego on 18 May.

The days from 19 May through 14 June were a welcome time of leave and upkeep. Back to business, the period from 15 June through 5 August was one of inport training and schools. On 12 June, COONTZ welcomed aboard 10 first class and 17 third class midshipmen from colleges all across the country.

BASIC NARRATIVE (CONT)

On 6 and 7 August, COONTZ went back to sea briefly for ASW training. Operating with USS HARDER and USS HENRIADEN, submarine tracking and weapons firing procedures were practiced and demonstrated by the crew to the midshipmen. Arriving back in San Diego on 8 August, COONTZ remained inport until 17 August.

On 18 and 19 August, COONTZ conducted further ASW training. Returning on the afternoon of the 19th, COONTZ on-loaded missiles in preparation for a late firing and returned to the San Diego Naval Station.

The inport days following from 20 August through 27 August were marked by two major events. On 25 August, the Chief of Turkish Naval Forces paid an official call on COMDESRON 17 aboard the COONTZ. Then, on 27 August, Captain C. P. ROBERTSON, USN, was relieved by Captain R. Y. SCOTT, USN, as Commander Destroyer Squadron. Present for the ceremony were Rear Admiral FREEMAN, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Rear Admiral COX, Commander Training Command, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

On 28 August, COONTZ was underway for a day of engineering trials, arriving back in San Diego early in the evening. COONTZ was in port for the following 4 days for training and upkeep.

On 2 September, COONTZ departed for the Pacific Missile Range and for 4 days of missile firing and related exercises were conducted. Because air services were not fully available, the 5 planned missile shots were not completed but COONTZ was 2 for 2 on the score sheet. Arriving back in San Diego on the evening of 7 September, the midshipmen were detached to return to their various schools. However, Midshipmen I/C HERMS remained aboard to complete his requirements for commissioning.

COONTZ remained inport for training and upkeep until 22 September. On 23 September, COONTZ departed San Diego to participate in HUKASWEX 11-69. COONTZ assumed duty as picket and deception ship for USS HORNET in a hostile submarine environment. Although "sunk" herself, the exercise was rated a success and COONTZ enabled HORNET to launch her strikes at the designated targets. For her performance in this and other exercises throughout the year, COONTZ was awarded ASW "A" award for excellence. Upon completion of HUKASWEX 11-69, COONTZ returned to San Diego, arriving on 1 October.

On 3 October, an Awards and Commissioning ceremony was held on COONTZ's fantail for Midshipmen First Class HERMS who was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy. The following nine days were spent inport for training and upkeep. On 12 October, however, COONTZ was honored with a ceremony rarely held aboard naval vessels today. Boatswain's Mate third class CHEENEY, USN, was married to the former Miss Judy Ann Bean of San Diego in a ceremony held on the COONTZ's fantail.

BASIC NARRATIVE (CONT)

From 13 through 15 October, COONTZ was at sea for local operations in the Southern California Operations Area. Arriving back in San Diego on 17 October COONTZ tied up at Broadway Pier to receive weekend visitors on the 18th and 19th of October. It was a rewarding two days as 1,552 visitors toured the ship. Many favorable comments and letters were received concerning the hospitality of COONTZ's personnel.

Tying up again on 20 October at the San Diego Naval Station, COONTZ was inport until 26 October. A large ship's party was held on 25 October at Admiralty Field for all hands and their families.

On 27 October, COONTZ visited the La Playa pier to prepare for ASW operations the next two days with USS BUGARA and USS CATFISH. This exercise completed COONTZ's at sea time for 1969. From 30 October through 31 December, COONTZ was moored at San Diego for inport training, schools, and upkeep. During 1969, COONTZ completed her sixth WESTPAC deployment and earned awards for excellence in Supply, Operations and ASW.

ROSTER AS OF 28 DECEMBER 1969

ENLISTED: 347

OFFICERS: 20

AIR: 0

TOTAL: 367

Enclosure (3)