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From: Commanding Officer, USS CHARA (AE-31)
To: Distribution List

Subj: USS CHARA (AE-31) January - August 1970 WestPac Deployment

Encl: (1) Informal Report of USS CHARA (AE-31) January - August 1970 WestPac Deployment

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for information.
2. The information contained therein has been prepared to provide information to Commanding Officers and department heads of ammunition ships deploying to WestPac.
3. This report has been divided into nine (09) sections as follows:

(1) Narrative	(4) Engineering	(7) Medical
(2) Operations	(5) Deck	(8) Admin
(3) Navigation	(6) Supply	(9) Summary Fact Sheet


 JOHN C. BONIFACE

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NARRATIVE

CHARA completed her predeployment loadout in her homeport at Concord, California and departed for her fourth WestPac deployment 6 January 1970. CHARA transited to WestPac via Pearl Harbor and inchooped to CTG 73.5 on 2 February. CHARA completed six line swings, visited Hong Kong during mid-deployment and returned to her homeport via Sasebo. CHARA arrived back in Concord on the 13th of August. A more detailed look at the deployment would show:

- 6 Jan 70 - Departed Concord
- 14 Jan - Arrived Pearl
- 15 Jan - Departed Pearl
- 2 Feb - Arrived Subic
- 7 Feb - Departed Subic First Line Swing
- 1 Mar - Arrived Subic
- 5 Mar - Departed Subic Second Line Swing
- 26 Mar - Arrived Subic
- 1 Apr - Departed Subic
- 3 Apr - Arrived Hong Kong Visit
- 8 Apr - Departed Hong Third Line Swing
- 26 Apr - Arrived Subic
- 30 Apr - Departed Subic Fourth Line Swing
- 20 May - Arrived Subic
- 26 May - Departed Subic Fifth Line Swing
- 8 Jun - Arrived Subic
- 27 Jun - Departed Subic Sixth Line Swing
- 14 Jul - Arrived Subic
- 19 Jul - Departed Subic
- 23 Jul - Arrived Sasebo
- 29 Jul - Departed Sasebo
- 13 Aug - Arrived Concord

OPERATIONS

A. Operations Orders. WestPac operating policy is set forth in the C7F 201. We found RED THREE (C7F 77 320-YR) useful for Yankee Team operations. CTG 73.5 201-YR gives applicable AE guidance. The Market Time operations order is C7F 115 201-YR. It is quite detailed. We could have lived without it.

B. REARM Coordination. Messages proliferate out on the line, requiring a collection/reference system. Our method is noted below:

(1) Operations Officer REARM Notebook. Three-ring binder with tabs for information messages like YT RECAP/MI SUMMARY/CVA FLYING HOURS/AE/AO/AFS PIMS/NGFS AVAIL/CTG 70.8 SUMMARY and so forth. We also inserted operating schedules of the other 73.5 ships, reference points requests/replys. REARM traffic was arranged by date. The notebook was either on the Bridge or kept by the Operations Officer.

During 1971, CHARA was commanded by Captain John Grissett BONIFACE, USN, until 29 January when he was relieved by Captain Frederick King FEAGIN, USN. CHARA operated as a unit of Service Squadron SEVEN.

CHARA began 1971 in her homeport of Concord, California under the operational control of Commander, U. S. FIRST Fleet. On 4 January, CHARA got underway for Refresher Training at San Diego, California. The time was devoted to sharpening the crew's skills through General Quarters and Damage Control drills. Valuable experience was gained for her upcoming fifth deployment with the U. S. SEVENTH Fleet since reactivation in 1966. CHARA returned to her homeport on 22 January.

18 February saw CHARA at sea once again for a rendezvous with the aircraft carrier MIDWAY to load her with ordnance for a deployment to Westpac. CHARA loaded the MIDWAY's ordnance and returned to NAS Alameda. On 23 February, CHARA departed for San Diego to take part in a major FIRST Fleet exercise called ADMIXTURE. During the ADMIXTURE exercise, the MIDWAY loadout was completed. CHARA returned to her homeport on 4 March to commence final preparations for her Westpac deployment.

On 6 April, CHARA's crew bid farewell to family and friends to commence her fifth deployment. Travelling west via Pearl Harbor, CHARA chopped to SEVENTH Fleet on 23 April and arrived in Subic Bay 2 May.

From 2 May until 19 November, CHARA operated out of Subic Bay furnishing underway replenishment support services as directed by Commander, Service Squadron NINE. During this time, CHARA completed eight line swings, never missing assigned commitments. During the deployment, CHARA visited Ban Sattahip, Thailand from 25-30 September and Hong Kong twice, from 23-27 July and again from 6-12 November.

CHARA began her journey home on 19 November, transiting from Subic Bay to Concord, California. On 27 November, CHARA chopped to FIRST Fleet and subsequently arrived in Concord on 8 December.

CHARA's mission having been completed, her ammunition was off-loaded at Concord, and on 13 December moved to Mare

Enclosure (1)

Island Naval Shipyard to make preparations for an INSURV inspection in January 1972. The Inspection would determine CHARA's fitness for future Naval service.

Enclosure (1)

HISTORY OF USS CHARA FROM 1 JANUARY UNTIL DECOMMISSIONING

During 1972 CHARA was commanded by Captain Frederick King FEAGIN, U. S. Navy. CHARA commenced 1972 berthed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard under the operational control of Commander, First Fleet and administrative control of Commander, Service Squadron Seven.

From 12-14 January an inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey was held on board CHARA to determine her fitness for future naval service. The findings of the inspection recommended that CHARA be stricken from the Naval Register. Authority to strike CHARA is contained in the Third Endorsement on SubinsurvPac report ser 55 of 18 JAN 1972 (Annex A).

On 28 January an awards ceremony was held on board to recognize CHARA personnel for outstanding performance during the 1971 deployment with the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET.

3 February CHARA singled up all lines and got underway for the last time as a commissioned naval ship. The move was from Pier 23N at Mare Island Naval Shipyard to Pier 55W at Naval Inactive Ship Facility, Vallejo. It was at this facility that final preparations were made for the striking of the ship. All stores, repair parts and requested equipment were removed.

On 10 March CHARA's Commissioning Pennant was hauled down, her name was struck from the Naval Register and the ship officially turned over to the Commanding Officer, Inactive Ship Facility, Vallejo for final disposition. CHARA's history was complete.