USS NITRO (AL-23) Fleet Post Office New York 09501



AE23/00:ptt 5750 Ser 07 29 May 1973

ATTEMPORAL (UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE (1))

From: Commanding Officer, USS NITRO (AE-23)

To: Director of Naval History

Command History; forwarding of (Report Symbol OPNAV 5750-1) //72_ Subji

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

Copy to: CINCLANTELT COMSERVIANT COMSERVEON TWO I. Chronology of 1972

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- II. Basic Narrative
 - A. Command Organization and Relations
 - B. Operations and Activities

III. Annexes

- 1. Employment Data 1972
- 2. WESTPAC Cargo Statistics
- 3. List of Competitive Exercises
- 4. Reserve Officer Training
- 5. Personnel Casualties
- 6. Roster of Officers Aboard as of 31 December 1972
- 7. Roster of Enlisted Personnel Aboard as of 31 December 1972
- 8. Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF E. O. 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT
TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON
16 MAY 1975

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DATE 
              Moored Lert Drydock, Bethlehem ShipperdECLASSIFIED
Ol JAN
              Underway for EAST Cruise and sea trials
10 JAN
              Moored Bethlehem Shipyard
LL JAN
              Underway for South Boston
17 JAN
IIIIII
              Arrive South Boston
21 JAW
              Underway for Davisville, R.I.
              Arrive Davisville, R.I.
22 JAN
31 JAN
              Underway for NAD, Earle, N.J.
              Arrive NAD Earle, N.J.
Ol FEB
04 FEB
              Underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
11 FEB
              Arrive Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
14 FEB
              Commander Service Squadron TWO Visit
16 FEB
              Underway
17 FEB
              Replenished two ships
22 FEB
              Replenished one ship
24 FEB
              Replenished one ship
25 FEB
              Replenished and refueled one ship
29 FEB
              Anchored Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
02 MAR
              Underway for Port au Prince, Haiti
O4 MAR
              Anchored Port au Prince, Haiti
10 MAR
              Underway for NAD Earle, N.J.
14 MAR
              Arrive NAD Earle, N.J.
              Four USNR officers and twenty-eight USNR enlisted
19 MAR
              men reported aboard for ACDUTRA
              Underway for JAX OPAREA, replenished one ship
21 MAR
24 MAR
              Replenished one ship
26 MAR
              Replenished one ship
27 MAR
              Replenished two ships, refueled one ship
              Replenished two ships
28 MAR
29 MAR
              Replemished (silent) one ship
31 MAR
              Arrive Yorktown, Va.
              USNR officers and enlisted men debarked
Ol APR
              Underway for Davisville, R.I.
05 APR
07 APR
              Arrive Davisville, R.I.
19 APR
              Underway for NAD Earle, N.J.
24 APR
              Underway for Panama Canal
              Transit Panama Canal
29 APR
30 APR
              Replenished one ship
              Arrive Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
ll MAY
              Underway for Subic Bay, R.P.
12 MAY
              Arrive Subic Bay, R.P. Commence loadout
25 MAY
29 MAY
              Underway for Vietnam Operating Area (OPAREA)
30 MAY
              Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
13 JUN
              Depart OPAREA, enroute Subic Bay, R.P.
              Moored NAVMAG, Subic Bay, R.P.
15 JUN
              Underway for OPAREA
24 JUN
              Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
26 JUN
              Collision to port with USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) at
28 JUN
               approximately 2100.
              Departed OPAREA, suroute Subic
29 JUN
บ2 มีปม
               Anchored Subic Bay, R.P.
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Moored MAVMAG Subic, Connence Offload

Underway for MAVMAG Subic

03 JUL

IIIIII

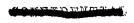
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buderway for Ship Repair Pacility, Subic
06 JUL
            Moored SRF, Subic, Commence repair of collision damages
//////
09 JUL
            Underway for NAVMAG, Subic
IIIIII
            Moored NAVMAG, Subic, Commence loadcut
13 JUL
            Underway for OPAREA
15 JUL
            Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
26 JUL
            Pepart OPAREA, enroute SUBIC
28 JUL
            Arrive NAVMAG Subic, commence loadout
Ol AUG
            Underway for OPAREA
03 AUG
            Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
15 AUG
            Depart OPAREA, enroute SUBIC
17 AUG
            Arrive NAVMAG, Subic
22 AUG
            Underway for HONG KONG
24 AUG
            Arrive HONG KONG
30 AUG
            Underway, enroute OPAREA
            Available for SVCS in OPAREA
31 AUG
10 SEP
            Depart OPAREA, enroute SUBIC
            Arrive NAVMAG Subic, commence offload
12 SEP
15 SEP
            Underway for Ship Repair Facility, Subic. Commence
          · UPKEEP period,
26 SEP
            Underway for NAVMAG Subic. Arrive NAVMAG, commence
            loadout
30 SEP
         Underway for OPAREA
         Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
02 OCT
10 OCT
            Depart OPAREA, envoute SUBIC
12 OCT
            Arrive NAVMAG Subje, commence loadout
18 OCT
            Underway for OFAREA
20 OCT
            Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
29 OCT
            Depart OPAREA, enroute SUBIC
31 OCT
            Arrive NAVMAG Subic, commence loadout
05 NOV
            Underway for Kao-hsiung, Taiwan
VON TO
            Arrive Kaohsiung, Taiwan
13 NOA
            Underway for OPARMA
15 NOV
            Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
Ol DEC
          - Depart OPAREA, engoute SUBIC
03 DEC
            Arrive NAVMAG Subic
O4 DEC
            Underway for Pontoon Pier, NAVMAG Suble, Arrive
            Pontoon Pier, commence loadout
09 DEC
            Underway for OPAREA
11 DEC
            Arrive OPAREA, available for SVCS
26 DEC
            Depart OPAREA, enroute Sattahip, Thailand
27 DEC
            Arrive Sattahin, Thailand
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Anchored in Sattahip, Thailand until end of year

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16 MAY 1975



A. Johnanu Organization and Relation.

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The Commanding Officer USS NITRO (AE-23) was Commander Harry L. DAVIS. NITRO was homeported throughout the year at the Construction Battalion Center at Davisville, Rhode Island. The year was devoted to carrying out the ship's mission of delivering ammunition at sea, but the ship also performed various other tasks such as delivery of fuel, mail, movies, personnel, and food. NITRO also completed a major overhaul on 17 January 1972. During the calendar year approximately 61% of the crew was changed due to transfer or discharge, and 0 of 15 officers aboard on 31 December were new for a turnover rate of 60%.

B. Operations and Activities

The year 1972 began with NITRO in Bethlehem Shipward in Boston, Massachusetts for the completion of a major overhaul. Upon completion of the overhaul on 21 January, NITRO spent a week and a half in her homeport at CBC Davisville. On 31 January WITRO got underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and much needed refresher training. Enroute, NITRO put into NAD Farle, N.J. to on-load ammunition. Arriving at Guantanamo Bay on 11 February, NITRO's new crew then underwent 3 weeks of intense training. Departing Guantanamo Bay on 29 February, NITRO arrived at Port au Prince 3 days later for some well deserved rest and recreation. After 3 days there it was back to NAD, Earle. From Earle, NITRO went to Jacksonville, Florida to take part in JAX OPS. After one week, NITRO departed the OPARKA and proceeded to Yorktown, Virginia to offload, commencing the offload on 31 March. Then WITRO returned to Davisville on 5 April. and began a two week leave period. Unbeknownst to a majority of the crew, this was to be the last time NITRO would see her homeport for some 11 months. On 19 April NITRO got underway from Davisville, Rhode Island, for a deployment to WESTPAC in support of U.S. Naval Forces operating in the coastal water of Southeast Asia. Enroute NITRO had a 4 day onload at NAD, Farle, W.J. and she transited the Panama Canal on 29 April. rived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 11 May, and finally at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on 25 May. From this point untilthe end of the year, NITRO saw the heaviest operating schedule in her history with normal operating periods of ten days to 2 weeks, intersparsed by 5 day periods of onloading at NAVMAG, Subic Bay, R.P. NITRO maintained an excellent safety record during this period of heavy operations, with only one significant incident taking place. That was a minor collision with the USS ORISKANY (CVA-34), on the evening of 28 June as she was making her approach to port for an UNREP.

The WESTPAC deployment offered NITRO the opportunity to visit several excellent Far East liberty ports. She

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1975.

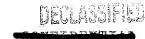


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visited hong Kong for 1 week late in August. Then early, and Hovember, NITRO spent six days in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Then on 27 December she arrived at Sattahip, Thailand, for rest and recreation in Bangkok, Thailand. She stayed at anchor in Sattahip for the remainder of the Calendar year 1972.

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I. Days Not Underway

A_{c}	In	home p	ort		
- 73	Tn	Other	than	home	nort

C. In Seventh Fleet Port D. Evolutions at anchor

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	oct	NOV	DEC
\mathbf{A}_{\pm}	8	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	Ò	0	0	0
8 .	50	6	15	9	l	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C_{c}	0	0	0	0	5	9	25	11	17	7	11	9
D.	0	Û	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

II. Days Underway

Ac	Trans	it		

- C. Major Fleet Operations
- B. Minor Fleet Exercisés
- D. Special Operations

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	jun	JUL	AUG	MEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
\mathbf{A}_{c}	Ţŧ	7	8	11	25	3	i e	6	3	7	4	6
Bo	0	16	7	0	0	0	Ü	0	43	0	O.	(1)
C_{\circ}	0	0	0	0	O	18	20	<u>14</u>	11	J 75		
$\mathbf{D} \sim$	Ö	O	Ů	O	Ű	0	0	0	Ō			

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Replenished: 136 Destroyers

9 Carriers

9 Cruisers

1 LSD

58 CONSOLS to Other Service Force Ships

Transferred: 140,000 Gallons NSFO to Destroyers

7,321 Short Tons Gun Cranance

11,118 Short Tons Aviation Ordinance

80 Short Tons Fleet Freight

13,375 Pounds Mail

279 Passengers

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NITRO completed the following competitive exercises during calendar year 1972.

EXERCISE	DATE COMPLETED
Z-4-N	10 FEB 72
Z 200 5 00 N	11 FEB 72
ZmlOmCC	25 MAR 72
Z in 3 in AA	25 MAR 72
Z = 1.0 = C	23 MAY 72
Z = 28 = S	12 AUG 72
Z -31 - S	12 AUG 72
Z-5-N	17 OCT 72

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