

U. S. S. PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PASSUMPSIC (AO 107)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Command History for calendar year 1967

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

  
R. R. HALE

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMSERVPAC  
COMSERVGRU ONE  
COMSERVGRU THREE

COMMAND HISTORY

USS PASSUMPSIC (AO 107)

Calendar Year 1967

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CHRONOLOGY - USS PASSUMPSIC (AO 107)

1967

JAN:

- 1 Enroute Subic Bay
- 2 Anchored Subic Bay, R. P.
- 2-9 Moored Carrier Pier NAS Cubi, Subic Bay
- 10 Underway Sea Trials. Conducted Z-3-AA and Z-5-AA Gunnery Exercises
- 11 Moored Subic Bay
- 12-13 Shift to POL Pier, Subic Bay
- 14-22 Underway. Enroute Singapore. Conducted Z-3-AA and Z-5-AA Gunnery Exercises
- 16-18 Crossed Equator
- 21 Held initiation into Fraternal Order of Shellbacks.
- 22 Unrep USS ROOSEVELT (CVA 42)
- 23-27 Anchored Singapore, HM Dockyard. Host Ship HMS BULWARK (RO 8)
- 27-30 Underway Yankee Station
- 29 Casrep HSHP pinion bearing. Port main reduction gear.
- 31 Consolidation USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)

FEB:

- 1-7 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.
- 8-17 Moored dry dock #16, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 18 Shift berths to Army Fuel Pier, Hakazari, Underway sea trials.
- 19 Sea trials. Moored port side to USS TALUGA (AO 62), Yokosuka, Japan.
- 20-21 Moored Yokosuka, Japan.
- 22-28 Underway Subic Bay

MAR:

1. Unrep HMS AISNE (D-22). Conducted Z-21-G Gunnery Exercise. Moored Subic Bay, P. I.

- 2-4 Underway for ~~Subic~~ Station. Vietnam combat zone.
- 5 Transferred personnel by Helo to USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)  
Unrep USS PERRY (DD 883), USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31),  
USS MULLANY (DD 528)
- 6 Vertrep to USS BENNINGTON (CVS 20)
- 7 Unrep USS TICONDEROGA (CVA 14), USS HOLLESTER (DD 888), USS WARRINGTON  
(DD 843), USS MAHAN (DLG 11), USS GRIDLEY (DLG 21), USS MAIRSFIELD  
(DD 728), USS WILSON (DLG 7), USS MCKEAN (DD 784)
- 8 Unrep USS MULLANY (DD 528), USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31),  
USS PERRY (DD 883)
- 9 Unrep USS EDSON (DD 946), USS INGERSOLL (DD 652), USS KEPPLER (DD 765),  
USS STODDARD (DD 565), USS CANBERRA (CAG 2)
- 10 Unrep USS TICONDEROGA (CVA 14), USS WARRINGTON (DD 843), USS  
HOLLISTER (DD 788), USS LUCID (MSO 458)
- 11 Unrep USS ENHANCE (MSO 43), USS MANLEY (DD 940), USS CECIL (DD 835),  
USS HISSEM (DER 400), USS LEADER (MSO 437)
- 12 Unrep USS CLARION RIVER (LSMR 409), USS EXCELL (MSO 439), USS  
DE HAVEN (DD 727), USS WHIPPOORWILL (MSC 207), USS VANCE (DER 387),  
USS MADDOX (DD 731)
- 13 Unrep USS GUIDE (MSO 447), USS KRETCHMER (DER 320), USS PHOEBE  
(MSC 199), USS FALGOUT (DER 329),
- 14 Unrep USS CECIL (DD 835)
- 15 Enroute Subic Bay. Transferred personnel by boat to USS ANNAPOLIS  
(AGMR 1), Unrep USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR 1)
- 16 Enroute Subic Bay
- 17 Conducted exercises Z-3-AA and exercise Z-1-N. Anchored Subic Bay.  
Shifted berths to POL Pier, Subic Bay
- 18 Shifted berths to Alava Wharf #586
- 19 Inport Subic Bay
- 20-22 Underway for Vietnam combat zone
- 23 Consolidate to and vertrep from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1)
- 24 Unrep USS HENDERSON (DD 785), USS HANCOCK (CVA 19), USS REEVES  
(DLG 24), USS PROVIDENCE (CLG 6)
- 25 Unrep USS LUCID (MSO 458), USS MADDOX (DD 731), USS WHITE RIVER  
(LSMR 536), USS ENHANCE (MSO 437), USS FECHTLER (DD 870), USS  
SHASTA (AE 6), USS HISSEM (DER 400)

- 26 Unrep USS LEADER (MSO 490), USS EXCELL (MSO 439), USS WHIPPOORWILL (MSC 207)
- 27 Unrep USS VIRGO (AE 30), USS MC CAFFERY (DD 860), USS VANCE (DER 387) USS MAURY (AGS 16), USS MADDOX (DD 731), USS GUIDE (MSO 447), USS FALGOUT (DER 324)
- 28 Unrep USS PHOBE (MSO 199), USS KOINER (DER 331), USS OXFORD (AGTR 1), USS KRISHNA (ARL 38)
- 29 Unrep USS GUIDE (MSC 199). Enroute Subic Bay, P. I.
- 30-31 Enroute Subic Bay, P. I.

APR:

- 1 Moored POL Pier, Subic Bay, P. I.
- 2 Shifted berths to Bouy 25
- 3 Shifted berths to Alava Wharf #586
- 4-5 Inport Subic Bay P. I.
- 6 Underway for Hong Kong
- 7 Rudder casualty, returned to Subic Bay P. I.
- 8 Inport Subic Bay P. I.
- 9-10 Underway to Hong Kong
- 11 Steering casualty while entering Hong Kong Harbor
- 11-12 Anchored Hong Kong Harbor
- 13-14 Underway for Vietnam combat zone
- 15 Unrep USS KITTY HAWK (CAV 63), USS FECTHLER (DD 445), USS CARPENTER (DD 825), USS TURNER JOY (DD 951), USS DUNCAN (DD 874), USS WADDEL (DDG 24), USS O'BRIEN (DD 725), USS MAHAN (DLG 11), USS CHANDLER (DD 717), USS REEVES (DLG 24)
- 16 Unrep USS DALGHREN (DLG 12), USS DE HAVEN (DD 727). Consolidation from USS TAPPAHANOCK (AO 43). Unrep USS SPROSTON (DD 577), USS TICONDEROGA (CVA 14)
- 17 Unrep HMAS HOBART (DDG 39), USS ENTERPRISE (CVA 65), USS ISBELL (DD 869), USS OZBOURN (DD 846), USS DUNCAN (DDR 874)
- 18 Unrep USS TICONDEROGA (CVA 14), USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887), USS CARPENTER (DD 825), USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), USS BARNEY (DDG 6) USS C. R. WARE (DD 865), USS FOREST ROYAL (DD 872), USS MAHAN (DLG 11), USS CHANDLER (DD 717), USS REEVES (DLG 24), USS DALGHREN (DLG 12), USS DE HAVEN (DD 727), USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA 31)

- 19 Unrep USS ~~BOSTON~~ (CAG 1), USS COLLETT (DD 730), USS WADDILL (DD 24), HMAS HOBART (DDG 39), USS AULT (DD 698), USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887), USS SPROSTON (DD 577). Vertrep to USS TICONDEROGA (CVA 14)
- 20 Unrep USS PRIME (MSO 466), USS BIGELOW (DD 942), USS VAIGE (DER 387), USS FETCHLER (DD 445), USS FIRM (MSO 444), USS KRETCHMER (DER 329), USS SHELTON (DD 790), USS VIRGO (AE 30), USS REAPER (MSO 467)
- 21 Consolidate with USS TAPPAHANNOCK (AO 43). Unrep USS EMBATTLE (MSO 434), USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209), USS BRISTER (DER 327), USS PICKING (DD 685), USS WHIPPORWILL (MSC 207)
- 22 Unrep USS FORESTER (DER 334), USS HISSEM (DER 400)
- 23-24 Enroute Subic Bay P. I.
- 25 Unrep USS SUMNER (DD 692), USS HANCOCK (CVA 19), USS MOORE (DD 747). Moored POL Pier, Subic Bay P. I.
- 26 Shifted Berths to NSD Pier, Subic Bay P. I.
- 27 Underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Conducted gunnery exercise. Water in lube oil port main sump, returned to Subic Bay
- 28 Inport Subic Bay P. I.
- 29-30 Underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- MAY:
- 1-11 Enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 8 Crossed International Dateline
- 10 Conducted Full Power trial
- 12 Moored berth B-16, U. S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 13-19 Underway for Long Beach, Calif.
- 20 Moored berth 14, pier 9, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.
- 21-31 Inport Long Beach. Leave and upkeep
- JUN:
- 1-30 Inport Long Beach, Calif. Leave and upkeep
- JUL:
- 1-5 Inport Long Beach, Calif.
- 6 Underway for Sea Trials. Returned to Long Beach, Calif.
- 7-9 Inport Long Beach, Calif.

- 10 Underway, enroute services for F.T.G., San Diego, Calif.
- 11 Unrep USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2), USS HENRY COUNTY (LST 824), USS JEROME COUNTY (LST 848), USS ROWAN (DD 782)
- 12 Unrep USS RANGER (CVA 6), USS TULARE (AKA 112), USS BROOKE (DEG 1)
- 13 Unrep USS NIAGRA FALLS (AFS 3), USS ROWAN (DD 782), USS HIGBEE (DD 806), USS BROOKE (DEG 1), USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852), enroute San Pedro
- 14 Moored San Pedro Fuel Depot.
- 15 Underway, enroute services in southern Calif. CP areas. Unrep USS WALKE (DD 723), USS KEARSARGE (CVS 33), USS LARSON (DD 830), USS EVANS (DD 754), USS MC CORMICK (DDG 8), USS KYES (DD 787), USS THOMASTON (LSD 28)
- 16 Moored Pier 9, berth 14, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.
- 17 Underway, enroute services for F.T.G. San Diego.
- 18 Unrep USS WALKE (DD 723), USS MC CORMICK (DDG 8), USS LARSON (DD 830), USS EVANS (DD 754), USS THOMASTON (LSD 28), USS KEARSARGE (CVS 33), USS KYES (DD 787)
- 19-23 Moored Pier 9, berth 14, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.
- 24 Underway, enroute services for F.T.G. San Diego
- 25 Unrep USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2)
- 26 Unrep USS COLONIAL (LSD 18), USS PICKING (DD 685), USS MASON (DD 852)
- 27 Unrep USS HIGBEE (DD806), USS TULARE (ADA 112)
- 28 Conducted Z-25-G Gunnery Exercise - moored San Pedro Fuel Depot
- 31 Underway, enroute services for F.T.G. San Diego

AUG:

- 1 Unrep USS GRAFFIAS (AF 29), USS HORNE (DLG 30), USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG 5), USS COLONIAL (LSD 18)
- 2 Unrep USS ENDURANCE (MSO 435), USS HIGBEE (DD 806), USS CROCKETT (PG 88), USS TULARE (AKA 112)
- 3 Unrep USS VALLEY FORGE (LPH 8), USS STERETT (DLG 31), USS PICKING (DDG 85), USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7)
- 4-6 Moored Pier 9, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.
- 7 Dependents Cruise. Unrep USS BENNINGTON (CVS 20), conduct barrel shoot. Moored Pier 9, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.

8-11 Underway for local operations and tank cleaning (ISE)

11-15 Moored Pier 9, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.

16 Shifted berths to Fuel Depot San Pedro

21 Shifted berths to Bethlehem Steel Co. San Pedro, Calif. commenced restricted availability.

22-31 Restricted availability, Bethlehem Steel Co. San Pedro, Calif.

SEPT:

1-30 Restricted availability, Bethlehem Steel Co. San Pedro, Calif.

OCT:

1-16 Restricted availability, Bethlehem Steel Co. San Pedro, Calif.

17 Shifted berths to Fuel Depot, San Pedro, Calif.

18 Underway for sea trials, moored Bethlehem Steel Co. San Pedro, Calif.

19 Shifted berths to pier #4, Bethlehem Steel Co., San Pedro, Calif.

22 Underway for Sea Trials. Local Long Beach OP area.

23-29 Moored Berth 124 Pier "E", U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.

24-25 Administrative and pre-deployment inspection conducted by COMSERVGRU ONE and staff

27-30 Underway for local Ops (ISE)

30 Conducted Z-1-AA gunnery exercise

31 Moored pier #7, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.

NOV:

1-5 Moored pier #7, U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.

6-10 Underway for sea trials and ISE San Diego OP Area

8 Conducted Z-21-G gunnery exercise

9 Unrep USS HECTOR (AR 7)

10 Moored to Fuel Pier, San Diego

11-14 Moored bouy #11 and #12, San Diego Harbor

13 OPCON COMTRAPAC

13-14 Training readiness evaluation conducted by FTG San Diego



- 15 Commenced refresher training. Underway for F.T.G. exercises.  
Unrep USCGC MINNETONKA (WME 67)
- 16 Unrep USS HECTOR (AR 7), USS UNION (AKA 106)
- 17-19 Moored bouys #11 and #12, San Diego Harbor
- 20 Underway for F.T.G. exercises
- 21 Unrep USS STERET (DLG 31). Moored bouys #11 and #12, San Diego Harbor.
- 22 Underway for Final battle problem. Brief turn around San Diego Harbor. Underway for Long Beach. Moored U. S. Naval Fuel Depot, San Pedro, Calif.
- 23 Shifted berths to Pier #7 U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, Calif.
- 24-26 Inport Long Beach. Preparations for WESTPAC deployment.
- 27 Underway for Subic Bay, P. I. Loaded service ammunition. Consolidation with USS CHIMARON (AO 22)

DEC:

- 1 Rendezvous with USNS GENERAL WIEGEL to transfer injured man.
- 9 Crossed International Dateline.
- 11 OPCON COMSEVENTH FLT
- 18 Moored POL Pier, Subic Bay, P. I.
- 19 Shifted berths to Alava Wharf #5 and #6.
- 23 Underway for Vietnam combat zone
- 25 Unrep USS ARLINGTON (AGMR 2)
- 26 Unrep USS BELKNAP (DLG 26), USS DALE (DLG 19), USS HIGBEE (DD 806),  
USS KING (DLG 10), USS WILTSIE (DD 716)
- 27 Visit from Chief of Chaplain's, RADM KELLY by Helo.
- 28 Unrep USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), USS HAMNER (DD 718)
- 29 Unrep USS BUCK (DD 761), USS GURKE (DD 787), USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43)
- 30 Consolidation with USS TOLOVANA (AO 64). Unrep USS CORAL SEA (CVA 43),  
USS BORDELON (DD 881), USS MC CARD (DD 822), USS BUCK (DD 761)
- 31 Unrep USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), USS GURKE (DD 783), USS HAMNER (DD 718),  
USS CASTOR (AKS 1), USS CANBERRA (CAG 2), USS CHANDLER (DD 717)

USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)

1967

COMMAND HISTORY -- BASIC NARRATIVE

The PASSUMPSIC arrived at Subic Bay, R.P. on 1 January 1967 after a tour in the Combat Zone off North Vietnam (Yankee Station) which was cut short due to a failure of the high speed, high pressure pinion bearing on the port main reduction gear. With repairs, which were to prove only temporary in nature, completed, and a full load of cargo on board, underway 14 January for Singapore and UNREP of USS ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). ROOSEVELT was returning to her homeport on the East Coast.

While enroute, with a full load of fuel and consequent deep draft, heavy seas from tropical storm Pamela pounded the ship 16-18 January. Although the ship proceeded at slow speed into and down sea, topside cargo, number one utility boat, and other gear were torn loose by the waves. Water entered many of the main deck spaces, which had no vent covers. The forward storerooms were flooded destroying valuable supplies and records. Installation of vent covers and a partial raising of JP-5 vents were accomplished in February, 1967, by SRF, Yokosuka. Recommended design changes to preclude a repetition of such damage were recommended by official correspondence.

In traditional Navy ceremony, Pollywoys became trusty Shellbacks as PASSUMPSIC crossed the Equator 21 January. The UNREP of ROOSEVELT took place 22 January.

On 23 January the ship anchored at H.M. Dockyard, Jahore Straits, Singapore. The hospitality of host ship HMS BULWARK (RO-8) and the clubs at the Dockyard nearly overwhelmed the crew. No one lacked a chance to join in the festivities.

Enroute from Singapore to the Combat Zone, the HSHP pinion bearing failed once more on 29 January. A consolidation to USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1) was affected on the 31st and a run directly to Yokosuka, Japan for repairs was made, arriving on 8 February.

Yokosuka proved a place of contrast to the crew who had heretofore only operated in the South China Sea. The entrance of Tokyo was fog bound, where Subic was invariably clear; the weather was cold, Subic was very warm; the traffic, both water born and ashore, was extremely heavy, Subic is relatively very quiet; Yoko is a highly industrialized city, Subic only lately emerging from its pastoral past. A great deal of snow fell a few days after arrival, the heaviest recorded in years. This reduced topside maintenance but did not slow the great deal of repair work to be accomplished. The reduction gear problem was resolved and modifications were made to the boat craddles and ventilation systems to prevent a recurrence of storm damage.

PASSUMPSIC sailed from Yoko 22 February enroute Subic. HMS AISNE (D-22) was replenished enroute and a gunnery exercise was conducted before entering port on 1 March.

Underway 2 March for the Combat Zone. Mobile logistic support was provided to various units of Task Force 77 on Yankee Station from 5 to 10 March and to units of Task Force 119 and Task Unit 70.8.9 off South Vietnam (Market Time) from the Gulf of Tonkin to

the Gulf of Siam 11-14 March. Forty-one ships were replenished in this period. Another gunnery exercise was conducted prior to entering Subic on 17 March.

Underway again for the Combat Zone on 20 March. On Yankee Station and through the Market Time area UNREPS were conducted 23 to 29 March; then back to Subic Bay with twenty-six more replenishments completed.

At Subic Bay 1-5 April, preparations were made for a well deserved visit to Hong Kong. The visit had been scheduled earlier in the deployment, but had been cancelled due to equipment casualty. On 6 April, underway when a steering gear casualty prompted a return to Subic 7 April. With intense effort, repairs were accomplished. Underway again on 9 April. On 11 April, as the ship stood into Hong Kong Harbor, the steering gear failed once more. Though in restricted waters, the situation was handled well, the casualty restored and Liberty Call was not delayed. The stay was short but the crew thoroughly enjoyed it. Every nook and cranny on board seemed crammed with the various bargains available in Hong Kong.

On Yankee Station 15-19 April, PASSUMPSIC carried the load alone. Forty ships were replenished with one consolidation from another oiler to provide staying power. Sixteen more ships were replenished in Market Time 20-22 April and three more prior to entering Subic on 25 April making a total of 59 UNREPS during this final swing in the Combat Zone before heading home. In Subic, AVGAS and other products were off-loaded in preparation for departing WestPac. The PASSUMPSIC departed on the 27th. A gunnery exercise was conducted, Subic faded from view, and shortly after a gasket gave way

on a line to the port main lube oil sump. With the oil contaminated, PASSUMPSIC returned to Subic.

Early on 29 April, underway again for the States. Passage through San Bernadino Straits was made and the great circle to Hawaii lay ahead. With favorable seas and a full power trial, lost time was quickly recouped. Tanks were cleaned and much administrative and maintenance work accomplished prior to arrival at Pearl Harbor, as scheduled, 11 May.

The first leave party departed at Pearl. COMSERVPAC, RADM HOOPER made a brief inspection of berthing and messing spaces. Several members of the Admiral's staff boarded for briefings on WestPac ops.

13-19 May enroute Long Beach.

Remember the 20th of May. Home at last. For the first few weeks, the duty sections maintained the ship while those in a liberty status left after muster to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The second and third leave parties took their turn during this period.

A tender availability commenced in June and the ship remained moored at Long Beach until a sea trial on 6 July, then moored again until the 10th.

Underway 10 July to provide services for Fleet Training Group, San Diego. These services not only helped ships undergoing refresher/shakedown training, but also provided invaluable training for ships company. Many new men had replaced experienced personnel. Many "old hands" were the raw recruits of the previous year. Services

were provided for forty-four ships during the periods of 11-13, 15-18, 25-31 July, and 1-3 August. Short stops at Long Beach or at the Fuel Depot, San Pedro filled the interim.

On 7 August a dependent's cruise was conducted. A carrier replenishment and a gunnery shoot highlighted the event. Families and friends were quite impressed by their men in action.

Cargo fuel tanks were cleaned at sea 8-11 August and alongside the fuel pier, San Pedro 16-20 August in preparation for a restricted availability which commenced 21 August at Bethlehem Steel Co. Shipyard, San Pedro. Along with planned ship's force work and assistance and followup on yard work, men were sent to schools, much administrative traffic handled, and, during the latter half of the availability, general quarters drills conducted.

17 October PASSUMPSIC shifted berths to the fuel pier, San Pedro and loaded cargo fuel for sea trials on 18 and 22 October. For the most part, the trials were successful. Several items, including the steering gear, required additional attention.

While moored at the Naval Station, Long Beach from 23-29 October, COMSERVGRU ONE, CAPT WALKER, and his staff conducted an Administrative and Pre-Deployment Inspection. The ship passed with flying colors.

At sea preparation for deployment began in earnest on 27 October. However, due to the exasperating steering problems, the main port condenser, and fire and flushing pump casualties, the ship returned to Long Beach on the 31st. Sea trials were held on 6 November. The steering gear seemed to function satisfactorily, so intensive at-sea training continued until 11 November when the ship moored in San

Diego Harbor.

Fleet Training Group observers conducted a Training Readiness Evaluation 13 and 14 November. Some discrepancies were found, however, due to the extensive preparation, they were minimal. Underway training commenced 15 November and continued through the 21st.

An unfortunate accident occurred the evening of 21 November. While standing into San Diego, a nylon line on the forecastle parted under strain, struck and killed Seaman Herman BLACKMAN.

A saddened ship stood out of San Diego the morning of the 22nd. Though in mourning for a shipmate, the crew performed well during the Operational Readiness Inspection. They were ready. On completion of the inspection and critique, F.T.G. observers debarked and a course was set for San Pedro.

The preparation for overseas movement began the evening of 22 November. Cargo fuel was taken aboard, including AVGAS. The morning of the 23rd, Thanksgiving Day, the ship shifted berths to the Naval Station at Long Beach. Throughout the holiday weekend preparations continued.

Monday morning, 27 November, underway for WestPac. With families and friends standing on the pier, PASSUMPSIC slipped quietly away from Long Beach Harbor into the mist. USS CIMARRON (AO-22) joined outside the breakwater for a consolidation to top off cargo fuel for the transit west.

The sea was angry. Little topside work could be accomplished. The ship slowly fell behind the position of intended movement. Signalman Third Class LENKER slipped on a ladder and injured his

back requiring immediate medical attention. Rendezvous with USNS General Wiégal was effected on 1 December and SM3 LENKER was transferred via boat. That day, fortunately, the seas were calm.

Near the half way mark across, the seas shifted direction and abated somewhat. Lost time was gradually regained. Passage through San Bernadino Straits and arrival Subic Bay, R.P. was as scheduled, on 18 December.

Subic had not changed much since departure in April. Briefings were held to update the crew on current operations. Freight, mail, and the extra deck load of items were brought on board.

Underway for the Gulf of Tonkin 23 December. In the combat zone Christmas day and the first UNREP of the deployment, USS ARLINGTON (AGMR-2). Twenty-one ships were replenished, one consolidation from USS TOLOVANA (AO-64) effected, and a visit by Chief of Chaplains RADM KELLEY on 27 December rounded out the year. The planning, training, repair work and that extra effort by all hands was rewarded in competent, dependable service to the Navy and the country.

USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107) -- "KEY TO MOBILITY"