

USS WIDGEON MSC-208

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, USS WIDGEON (MSC 208)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2B

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

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) through (3) are submitted as the command history for calendar year 1969.



J. E. MINARD

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CINCPACFLT
COMNAVFORJAPAN

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 28 February - Completed Yard Overhaul
- 23 March - 13 April - REFTRA at Yokosuka
- 20 April - 30 April - Fleet Service Mine Test at Okinawa
- 25 May - 12 September - Eighth Market Time Deployment
- 22 September - Return to Sasebo
- 10 October - 23 October - MCM REFTRA at Okinawa
- 3 November - 13 November - International Minex at Chinhae
- 1 December - 12 December - TYT Sasebo

Enclosure (1)

BASIC NARRATIVE

USS WIDGEON (MSC 208), commanded by LT Julian E. MINARD, USN, administratively homeported in Sasebo, Japan, was under the control of COMSEVENTHFLT during 1969. The mission of the ship was to maintain a high state of readiness in minewarfare as a member of the Seventh Fleet MCM Ready Group. Operational control of WIDGEON was assumed by CTF 115 during the period of her Market Time Patrol in June through September 1969.

The new year found WIDGEON in the yards going through Regular Overhaul. Because of the heavy work load the yard period was extended one month, until the end of February. After a month of sea trials and upkeep the ship journeyed to Yokosuka for three weeks of Refresher Training, ending 13 April with a final grade of 89.20.

One week in Sasebo was followed by two weeks in Okinawa for a Fleet Service Mine Test. Then, after another three weeks at home the ship traveled south for her eighth Market Time Patrol.

This patrol was highlighted by the search for and detection of a downed Air Force F-100. The ship also engaged in some Naval Gunfire Support and extensive merchant traffic inspection. During the latter weeks of the patrol, the ship completed many MCM drills.

This training time was well-spent, for after a three week sojourn in Sasebo, WIDGEON participated in Mine Countermeasures Refresher Training at Buckner Bay, Okinawa. This two week period proved again the professionalism of WIDGEON, as she qualified for a fourth consecutive MCM excellence award with a grade of 91.54.

After another week in Sasebo, WIDGEON sailed for Chinhae, Korea and a joint Mine Countermeasures exercise with the British and South Koreans. After many long hours of hard work, the harbor was successfully cleared of drill mines.

December saw WIDGEON on daily operations and type training out of Sasebo. She also entertained dependents and guests on a one day cruise where she demonstrated a light line transfer with USS WOODPECKER (MSC 209), streamed some minesweeping gear, and held man overboard drills. A fantail cookout made the day complete.

Soon thereafter, WIDGEON visited Kagoshima, a city near the southern tip of Kyushu. She conducted type training during transit and held general visiting for the people of Kagoshima. Some 300 visitors crossed her bow that weekend. The return transit was stormy, but a ship's party early in the Christmas holidays restored high spirits.

Enclosure (2)



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

USS WIDGEON (MSC-208)

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service from 1 June 1968 to 13 September 1969, while serving with the United States SEVENTH Fleet, both as a unit of the Mine Countermeasures Ready Group and as a unit of the Coastal Surveillance Forces engaged in combat operations off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam. During this period, the consistently high state of readiness of USS WIDGEON enabled her to assume assigned duties early or on short notice with no material degradation. The ship completed three MARKET TIME patrols involving not only inspection or boarding of over 1,100 vessels, but also the return of hostile fire from ashore and the conduct of underwater searches. Throughout repeated patrol extensions, the continually outstanding performance, high state of morale, preparedness, and ingenuity of the officers and men of WIDGEON attested to their exceptional team spirit and professionalism. By their exemplary courage and dedication, they contributed significantly to the success of anti-infiltration efforts in the Republic of Vietnam and enhanced the reputation of the Mine Countermeasures Ready Group, thereby reflecting credit upon themselves and the United States Naval Service.

Copies to:
Citation Files
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All Hands
OP09B91



For the Secretary,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Operations