

From: Commanding Officer, USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715)

To: Ship's Company, USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715)

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

1. Now that our deployment to Southeast Asia has come to an end, it gives me great pleasure, as your Commanding Officer, to extend a "Well Done" and a sincere note of thanks to each of you.
2. As the first of the new 378' class cutter to be deployed, HAMILTON passed with flying colors her first real test of capability and endurance since being commissioned. Since departing Boston in August 1960, we have been underway nearly 80% of the time and despite this high operating level, we never failed to meet a scheduled operation and did not suffer any serious personnel casualties during the deployment. This in itself is a record of which to be proud.



CAPTAIN J. H. B. MORTON
Commanding Officer

3. We accomplished 38 UNREPs during which you all performed with great efficiency and professional expertise with not one personnel casualty incurred. As I talked with the various COs of the UNREP ships, they had nothing but praise for your performance.
4. Vessel upkeep is always a problem on an extended cruise such as ours, due to the high percentage of underway time and the many scheduled and unscheduled missions that necessarily take away from maintenance time. I want to congratulate everyone for their part in keeping the HAMILTON in exceptionally fine shape appearance wise. I was personally congratulated everywhere we went for our fine appearance. I especially want to thank the Deck Force for your part in keeping the ship looking so well. I know the amount of hard work and extra hours that you spent in maintaining our excellent appearance and I am especially aware that this included duty sections working on holidays and at night while in port.
5. Our Naval Gunfire Support Team's performance was another outstanding accomplishment during our deployment. Bridge, CIC, 5" Mount, Director, Plot, Upper and Lower Handling Room personnel were truly outstanding. A total of 4615 rounds of 5" 38 caliber ammunition were fired in 87 separate missions. The gunners-mates and fire control technicians maintained the system throughout the deployment in a high state of readiness and as a result we had no sustained or disabling casualties and the accuracy of our gunfire was among the best ever seen by experienced Army, Navy, and Marine Corps spotters. One part of the NGFS Team that I want to make special mention of is the 5" Mount and the upper and lower handling room crews, whose efforts contributed substantially to fast and efficient gunfire missions in every instance.