



With mixed emotions, the men of the MINNETONKA departed Long Beach on December 17, 1967. After a rough crossing, we arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where we spent Christmas. Following this brief stay, we sailed for Guam, the next stop in our journey. Enroute, the MINNETONKA crossed into the realm of the "Golden Dragon," the 180th Meridian, where King Neptune and his court greeted the "polywogs" in the time honored tradition. After departure from Guam, we headed toward our new homeport, Subic Bay in the Philippines, where we spent twelve days in January. During this period, we made final preparations for our first Operation Market Time patrol and we had our first formal Personnel Inspection by the Commander of Coast Guard Squadron Three, Commodore John Day.