

From: Commanding Officer
To: All Hands Concerned
Subj: Letter of Appreciation

1650
14 March 1969

1. As we conclude this eleven month WESTPAC Deployment with Squadron Three, I wish to acknowledge the fine efforts of every officer and crew member for his contribution to a successful accomplishment of the ship's mission and to the United States' effort in Vietnam.
2. These efforts began with pre-deployment preparations consisting of an arduous two month Yard Availability period and a gruelling three week refresher training session at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
3. During the fast operating pace of Market Time patrols covering a seven month period, from 10 August 1968 to 6 March 1969, each of you has willingly contributed to the following missions:
 - a. Logistical support (fuel, commissary provisions, berthing and messing, repair assistance and medical aid) for 86 Navy "Swift" boats and 47 Coast Guard Patrol Boats operating inshore along the Vietnam coast.
 - b. Visit and search operations consisting of 2,596 junk detections, 178 actual boardings and 2,341 inspections, all of which exceed the results of any Squadron Three cutter thus far.
 - c. Seventeen (17) Naval Gunfire Support Missions in which 1,330 rounds of ammunition were expended. Ground damage assessment included several enemy killed in action plus damage or destruction to numerous enemy supply routes, bunkers and other military structures.
 - d. Nearly fifty trouble free underway replenishments executed under a wide range of weather conditions and which necessitated transfer of 16 personnel, 617,786 gallons of fuel, 40 tons of freight, 468 bags of mail, and 1,500 rounds of ammunition.
 - e. A highly successful three week assignment as Hong Kong Station Ship during which logistics, communications, administrative services, and Shore Patrol security were provided to visiting Seventh Fleet ships.
 - f. Four work-filled upkeep and emergency dry dock availabilities in the heat and difficult conditions of Subie Bay.
4. You have met the difficult challenge of adjustment to new operating procedures, a different climate, a frequent call for long work hours, the loneliness and boredom due to family separation, and the many disruptions of daily routine.
5. You have set an excellent example of personal conduct ashore in foreign ports.
6. You have achieved noteworthy proficiency in tasks different from the Coast Guard's normal peacetime activities.
7. And finally, through tireless efforts, you have effected extraordinary improvements in the OWASCO's material condition and operating procedures -- a process that demanded perseverance, cooperation and diligence.
8. Congratulations and WELL DONE.

William R. Fearn

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