Commanding Officer

U. S. S. Constellation (CVA-64)

Welcome aboard USS CONSTELLATION. I think you will find her an amazing arsenal of defense.

Our ship is part of a system—a system which includes not only her hull and its facilities, but also nearly 2700 officers and men who are at all times part of the ship’s company, and 1400 who form the air wing which flies and maintains the assigned aircraft.

The trademarks of the system are mobility, flexibility, and versatility. CONSTELLATION can range over 700 miles in 24 hours. She can wage conventional or, if necessary nuclear warfare. She can simply “show the flag” as a deterrent influence in far-off troubled areas of the world. All of these things we can do at any one time...any of these things we can do at all times, in defense of basic freedom.

You will find our officers and men happy to assist you during your visit. When it comes time for you to depart I hope you will have begun to share our pride in CONSTELLATION. Once more let me say, “Welcome Aboard.”

G. H. MAHLER
Captain, U.S. Navy
Our ship is named after the U. S. Frigate CONSTELLATION, the first ship of our Navy, the first to win a major victory for America (in 1799), and the only vessel remaining of those which fought in the Civil War. After 160 years of brave and faithful service, the splendid old ship was finally decommissioned in 1955, and is now being renovated as a national shrine in Baltimore, Maryland.

The frigate herself was named after a national symbol of central importance—the circle of stars in the original American Flag. "Resolved," stated the Continental Congress in 1777, "that the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 Stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation..."
HER MISSION

Her mission is “to support and operate aircraft, to engage in sustained operations against the enemy.”

Her trademarks are mobility, flexibility and versatility. The ability to project United States military forces overseas — unrestricted by foreign landlords or influence since she operates outside territorial waters — is as important as her ability to move seven hundred miles daily across the vast ocean areas of the world.

Flexibility and versatility play an important role in her life in that she is not limited to a single purpose. She can peacefully show the flag, perform armed reconnaissance or launch deft attacks in large or small scale assaults with conventional or nuclear weapons. Her tentacles reach out and embrace the sea, its shores and most of the world’s large land targets.
All spaces on CONSTELLATION have a four group number and letter designation to assist in locating them. The deck is indicated by one or two numbers preceding the first dash. Decks have decreasing numbers from the bottom of the ship (8-7-6 etc.) to hangar deck (1) where they are then preceded by a “0” and increase (01, 02, 03, etc.) to the highest level (011).

The center group of numbers indicates the bulkheads (walls) and they have increasing numbers from bow to stern (1 to 245). There are about 4 feet between each bulkhead. The side of the ship in which the space is located is indicated by the last digit: even numbers to port; odd numbers to starboard. The letter indicates the use of the space.
On July 12, 1962, Constellation departed New York to sail around Cape Horn to reach her new home port in San Diego, California.

On September 11, 1962, while off Acapulco, Mexico, the Air Group performed an Air Firepower Demonstration for a large group of ALUSNA, Mexico guests, and on September 13, the ship departed on her final leg of her journey towards her new home port. The next day the Air Group performed its second Air Firepower Demonstration of the cruise.

On September 17, 1962, 67 days after departing New York City, Constellation arrived in San Diego, California.

Constellation departed on her first Western Pacific deployment February 21, 1963.

July 25, 1963, President and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek of the Republic of China came aboard for a one day visit, accompanied by Vice Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.

August 16, 1963, Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Fred Korth visited Constellation.

Constellation returned to San Diego on September 19, 1963. Newly appointed Secretary of the Navy, Paul Nitze visited Constellation on December 17, 1963.
ELLATION'S HISTORY

——— World famous evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham spoke to nearly 3,000 Navymen gathered on the flight deck of Constellation on May 3, 1964.

——— May 5, 1964, Constellation departed on her second Western Pacific deployment.

——— June 6, 1964, Constellation's aircraft began flying low-level photo reconnaissance flights with armed escorts over the Plaine des Jarres in Laos.

——— August 4, 1964, aircraft from Constellation and Ticonderoga went to the defense of an American destroyer under attack in the Gulf of Tonkin.

——— August 5, 1964, aircraft from Constellation and Ticonderoga were launched for air counterstrikes on patrol boat bases and supporting facilities in communist North Viet Nam. This was a retaliatory move by the United States for unprovoked attacks by North Vietnamese patrol boats on two U.S. destroyers in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin.

——— November 27, 1964, crewmembers of Constellation were officially awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for participating in the Gulf of Tonkin operations.


——— February 1, 1965, Constellation returned to San Diego, California after her second Western Pacific deployment and the longest cruise in her history.
OUR SHIP

Was

commissioned on October 27, 1961 in New York City.
named after the United States Frigate CONSTELLATION.
built by the New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York.

the largest conventionally-powered ship in the world.
an Attack Aircraft Carrier of the FORRESTAL class.
five blocks long, 25 stories high, and 252 feet wide.
75,000 tons in overall weight.
provided her fighting punch by 90 jet and propeller-driven aircraft.
defended by two Terrier Missile twin-launchers.
manned by 2700 ship’s company and 1400 pilots and men from the Air Wing.

Is

city conveniences: tailor shop, cobbler shop, ship’s stores, soda fountains, and barber shops.
food aboard for 13,000 meals daily.
a hospital with an 84-man ward, operating room, pharmacy, dental clinic, dressing room,
psychiatric consultation room, and an eye, ear, nose examining room.
a 2,300 telephone system which connects 3,000 compartments into a small city afloat.

Has

Will Be

always ready for any task assigned her, in peace or in war.
THE INSIGNE

The insignia the CONSTELLATION proudly wears is symbolic of the continuing history of the Navy in the service and defense of the United States of America.

It links the two Navy ships which have borne the name—the frigate Constellation, commissioned in 1797, and the modern missile-firing attack aircraft carrier Constellation (CVA-64), commissioned in 1961.

The original Constellation is pictured under full sail, an apt representation of the first ship commissioned in the United States Navy, the first to fight and win a naval battle under the colors of the young nation, a ship which served her country for nearly 160 years before her final decommissioning in 1955.

The new Constellation is shown underway with missiles launched and jet planes aloft, combat-ready to preserve the peace—or, if need be, to fight a war.

These two proud ships are further framed in this symbolic insignia by a circlet of stars, representing the first thirteen states of the Union. This constellation from which both ships derived their name was a part of the first flag of the United States of America.
A Rededication

We are responsible for controlling the sea and through that control of the sea, extending the strength of the United States to every corner of the world. We are today the United States’ most mobile power for peace. If war should come, it is our job to ensure that the war is fought overseas, not over the United States.

Serving the cause of peace for the United States and the free world, we support and inspire other free nations, discourage aggression, prevent the spread of war and, when called to action, we will do our share in winning.

Without control of the sea, we in the United States would be alone and isolated. Our economy would be shaken to its roots as would be the economies of our allies.

Mobility, dispersal and offensive power are our cornerstones. Our strength lies in our strong belief in the future, in continued dedication to our tasks, and in the inspiration of our heritage. Never have our opportunities and our responsibilities been greater. Never has the Navy been more ready.