

PART I

Remarks by Commanding Officer

Admiral SOONG, General TAYLOR, distinguished guests, officers and men of USS MARK. I have been privileged to command USS MARK for just over one year now. I've had a fine crew every mile of the way. Together we have visited five countries and steamed thousands of miles. But most important, we carried over nine thousand measurement tons of cargo in a combat zone. This was MARK's mission.

Now, on 1 July 1971, we part company; from each other, and from USS MARK who today becomes a member of the Chinese Navy.

Under the capable leadership of her new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander PENG, I am sure that MARK will faithfully serve the Chinese Navy, just as she has the United States Navy, for many years to come. As we depart, we all will remember the hospitality of the Chinese Naval personnel who made our stay here most memorable.

I wish every crewmember continued success in his future endeavors.

And, finally, I wish Captain PENG the traditional "fair wind and following seas".

PART II

USS MARK (AKL-12)
Decommissioning Directive

From: Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: Lease of USS MARK (AKL-12) to the Chinese Navy

The Secretary of the Navy has approved the lease of USS MARK (AKL-12) to the Chinese Navy in Taiwan on 1 July 1971.

The Commanding Officer is hereby directed to decommission USS MARK (AKL-12) immediately prior to turning the ship over to the Chinese Navy on 1 July 1971.

PART III

Commanding Officer's Orders

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: LT William B. ROBINSON JR., United States Navy
Subj: Change of Station Orders

When directed about 1 July 1971, detached upon decommissioning of USS MARK (AKL-12). Proceed and report to Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet at Norfolk, Virginia, for temporary duty. Upon completion of temporary duty proceed to Commander, United States Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, for duty.

Signed:

D. H. GUINN
Vice Admiral
United States Navy

HISTORY OF THE USS MARK (AKL-12)

The USS MARK (AKL-12) was built by the Avondale Shipyard, Avondale, Louisiana in 1943 for the U. S. ARMY. She saw action in WWII, rendering her services of resupply to various units engaged in the Pacific Island Campaigns. After the war, MARK remained in the Philippine Islands area as an Army logistic support vessel until 1950 when she was turned over to the Navy and re-designated an AKL and placed in commissioned service.

During the period from 1956 to 1965, AKL-12 was placed "Out of Commission-In Service" and was used to shuttle supplies and passengers between Subic Bay and Sangly Point, Philippines. In November 1965, MARK, the only AKL in its class, was placed back into commission and shifted its area of operations from the Philippines to Vietnam.

Upon arrival in Vietnam MARK immediately demonstrated her ability to meet and carry out her commitments in providing food, spare parts, ordnance and ammunition to the far flung field activities of the United States Naval Forces, Vietnam.

As a result of sounding and bottom surveys conducted in the Dinh River by MARK, a 1950 survey by the French Government was verified and the decision was made to establish a naval base on this river at Cat Lo for the maintenance of River Patrol Boats (PHR's) and United States Coast Guard Patrol Craft (WPB's). Similarly, MARK conducted the survey of the Dong Nai River, providing the feasibility of using the anchorage of Cat Lai, near Saigon, for deep draft ammunition ships.

In July 1966 MARK stood out of the mouth of the Mekong Delta's Bassac River, thereby successfully navigating through uncharted waters previously considered so treacherous that the Mekong-Bassac pilot's association had not piloted a ship through this area since 1951. This survey by MARK and the opening of the Bassac River to ship travel enabled considerable steaming time to be saved in the area of logistic resupply. At the same time it enabled the Navy to establish additional bases throughout the Mekong Delta while guaranteeing the ability of MARK and similar ships to resupply them. MARK's resupply trips were not limited just to the rivers of the Mekong Delta. In addition, MARK carried her logistic support to Naval Coastal Installations on the Gulf of Thailand side of South Vietnam. For her significant accomplishments in a multitude of areas MARK received a letter of commendation from the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam in November 1966.

25 MAR 71 As a part of the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon from 16 March 1966 to 1 January 1968, MARK was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for her significant contribution to the overall excellence and achievement of the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon.

In the execution of her resupply mission MARK frequently came under attack by fire from the Viet Cong. MARK received her Purple Heart on 29 February 1968 when on a resupply mission on the Mekong River, she sustained a Viet Cong rocket hit amidships, wounding twelve personnel, none critically.

From 1 January 1968 to 1 July 1970 MARK has steamed through 80,000 miles of rivers and coastal waters of the Mekong River Delta while delivering over 21,230,000 pounds of vital cargo, including ammunition, to United States and Allied Naval Bases.