

U.S.S. TUTUILA (ARG-4)

FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer USS TUTUILA (ARG4)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1); submission of

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Encl: (1) USS TUTUILA (ARG4) Chronology of 1968 highlights

(2) USS TUTUILA (ARG4) 1968 History

NIF (3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures 1 through 3 are forwarded herewith.

Leo P. Bauerlein
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USS TUTUILA (ARG4)
CHRONOLOGY OF 1968 HIGHLIGHTS

1 January to 9 April - Anchored in Vung Tau, Republic of Viet Nam; operated in support of Allied Units in Mekong Delta Area.

9 April to 12 April - Underway from Vung Tau to An Thoi, RVN.

12 April to 27 September - Provided support for units of Coastal Division Eleven, Coast Guard Division Eleven, and other Allied Units at An Thoi.

27 to 30 September - Returned to Vung Tau.

18 November - CDR L. P. Bauerlein, USN relieved CDR E. C. Castle, USN as Commanding Officer.

19 November to 6 December - Underway for Yokosuka, Japan.

6 to 31 December - In Yokosuka for shipyard overhaul.

31 December - Rear Admiral Long, Commander Service Group THREE presented TUTUILA (ARG4) with her third consecutive Battle Efficiency Award.

ENCLOSURE (1)

File Number
35 407 325

USS TUTUILA (ARG-4)
1968 HISTORY

1968 began with USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) anchored in Vung Tau Harbor, Vung Tau, RVN, which has been, for all practical purposes, her home port since arriving in Viet Nam in July of 1966. While at Vung Tau, TUTUILA operated as the primary repair facility for American and Allied units engaged in patrolling the coast and rivers in the Mekong Delta Area. In January 1968 TUTUILA received official notification that she had won the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 17 July 1966 - 1 September 1967.

TUTUILA had her first underway period for the year on 22nd and 23rd of January, with independent ship's exercises which included gunnery exercises, damage control and engineering casualty drills, and OOD maneuvering drills. The ship remained in Vung Tau until 9 April, 1968.

9 - 12 April was another I.S.E. period for TUTUILA, enroute from Vung Tau to An Thoi, RVN, where she provided vital support to Coastal Division 11 and Coast Guard Division 11. TUTUILA was particularly valuable in the area of Hull Repair on the PCF's, since it is the only ship in the area with a capability for lifting these boats. During her stay at An Thoi, TUTUILA also functioned as a modified "Training Command" - Training Vietnamese personnel in Repair and Operation of PCF's, four of which were transferred to the Republic of Viet Nam in August.

During 1968 TUTUILA has accomplished many tasks of which her crew is rightly proud. In the 9 month period from January through September 1969, TUTUILA's crew completed 3675 job orders and expended an impressive 17352.4 man days (121,466.8 man hours) in repair work for the units she supports. Some of the major accomplishments during this period included extensive upkeep of PCF's in Coastal Division 11, bringing them to their highest peak of combat readiness; the activation of 4 PCF's for the Republic of Viet Nam, including the training of RVN personnel in maintenance, enabling them to patrol sectors previously patrolled by American Forces; repairing of battle damage to various units; installation of 3 Ship's Service Generators in USS BENNEWAH (APB-35), an unprecedented feat; installation of Ship's Service Generator and the rewiring of the switchboard in APL-21; and the complete rebuilding of Ship's Service Generator engine for USS MARK (AKL-28). Additionally, TUTUILA personnel converted three quonset huts at An Thoi for use as EM Clubs. This job, done largely by volunteers on their own time, included complete installation of wiring, head and washroom facilities and septic tanks, a fresh water system, and the manufacture and installation of furniture.

Specific units on TUTUILA's "regular customers" list includes PFC Squadrons 11 and 13, Coast Guard Squadrons 11 and 13, Harbor Clearance Unit One, Harbor Patrol Element One, MSTS Ships, Naval Support Activity Saigon Units, Mine PAC Ships, Seventh Fleet Units, SERVPAC Ships, and

ENCLOSURE (2)

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25 407 325

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ENCLOSURE (2)

many others. In addition to the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships and Boats, she looks after the repair needs of units of the Vietnamese, Republic of South Korea, Thailand and Australian Navies engaged in the Viet Nam Conflict.

On 30 September 1968 TUTUILA returned to Vung Tau. On 18 November CDR L. P. Bauerlein, USN relieved CDR E. C. Castle, USN as Commanding Officer USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) in ceremonies at Vung Tau. On 19 November the ship got underway for Yokosuka, Japan for a long awaited shipyard overhaul. A proposed visit to Keelung, Taiwan was cancelled because of an encounter with Typhoon Mamie and several days of high winds, heavy seas, and little headway. After that, plus a few more anxious days of trying to stand clear of Typhoon Ora, the ship arrived in Yokosuka on 6 December to await the commencement of her overhaul.

1968 was a rewarding year for TUTUILA. It is fitting that the year should end as it did. On 31 December REAR ADMIRAL LONG, Commander Service Group THREE presented TUTUILA with the Battle Efficiency Plaque for Fiscal Year 1968. This award was the Third Consecutive "E" for TUTUILA and symbolizes the hardwork, dedication, and pride displayed by her crew.

ENCLOSURE (2)