

U.S.S. TUTUILA (ARG-4)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

ARG-4/OL:wfs  
5750  
Serial - 173

16 MAR 1970

From: Commanding Officer, USS TUTUILA (ARG-4)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: 1969 Command History, submission of (OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of Highlights  
(2) Narrative  
(3) Documentary Highlights (14)

1. In compliance with reference (a), the 1969 TUTUILA command history, enclosures (1) through (3), is submitted.

*F. K. Feagin*  
F. K. FEAGIN

Copy to (Less Enclosure (3), Annexes 10-14):  
COMSERVPAC  
COMSERVGRU THREE

# CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

1 January Undergoing overhaul in shipyard at Yokosuka, Japan

12 March Received Meritorious Unit Commendation for superior performance in Vietnam (Annex 1)

21 March Underway for Sea Trials and Refresher Training

8 April Twenty Fifth Anniversary of TUTUILA

27 April Underway for Republic of Vietnam with enroute stop at Hong Kong

14 May Arrived at Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam, in support of U. S. and allied naval forces ships and small craft in the area in accordance with COMSEVENTHFLT Quarterly Employment Schedule

1 June Completed two week TAV of USS BRULE (AKL-28) for which TUTUILA was commended by Annex 2

12 June Underway for An Thoi, Republic of Vietnam, in accordance with COMNAVSUPACT, Saigon, message 090344Z JUN 1969

14 June Arrived An Thoi, Republic of Vietnam, and commenced support of U. S. and allied naval forces including Vietnamese and U. S. PCF, YFU craft, APL 21 and various LST's operating in the area under various commands

17 June Completed USS ST FRANCIS RIVER (LSMR-525) RAV for which TUTUILA was commended by Annex 3

26 July Received fourth consecutive Combat Battle Efficiency "E" (Annex 4)

1 October Commended by Republic of Korea Forces, Vietnam, for assistance in support of combat missions during period July thru September 1969 (Annex 5)

31 October Received descriptive OUTSTANDING and numerical grade of 95.1% on Fiscal Year 1970 Annual Supply Inspection

8 November Change of Command. Commander Frederick K. FEAGIN, reporting from USS OKANOGAN (APA-220), relieved Commander Leo P. BAUERLEIN as Commanding Officer, TUTUILA (Annex 6)

23 November Completed USS TERRELL COUNTY (LST-1157) RAV including 5 GASCORS completed, 57 work requests, training of 8 TERRELL COUNTY personnel in PMS and the repair of #1 generator for which TUTUILA was commended (Annex 8)

Enclosure (1)



NARRATIVE

On 1 January 1969 the USS TUTUILA was undergoing overhaul in the shipyard in Yokosuka, Japan. Extensive habitability and environmental improvements were well underway as were overhauls of the main engine, auxiliary pumps and the three main generators. All furnaces were re-bricked and tubes repaired or replaced. Fresh and feed water tubes and fuel tanks had been cleaned, and work had begun on a much needed exterior face lifting of an almost twenty-five year old ship of the sea. The Chief Petty Officer's Mess, Wardroom and First Class Mess were completely renovated, paneled, and outfitted with comfortable furniture, new carpeting and new tile. The hull was sandblasted and painted out, and, the Supply Department underwent a complete SCAP of electric, electronic and repair parts storerooms. In addition, the chart house and CIC were renovated, re-insulated and painted out.

As final touches were added, training began, and, on 21 March the new TUTUILA was underway for sea trials and refresher training. The final week of refresher training was completed on 22 April and TUTUILA came out with flying colors on her final battle problem. During this period TUTUILA scored 100% in all gunnery exercises. She was ready for sea again.

The completion of the overhaul and a complete face-lifting, which took four months to complete, was a fitting birthday present for a great lady of twenty-five years on 8 April 1969.

On 27 April TUTUILA was underway for Vietnam with a five day visit to Hong Kong enroute. Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam, was sighted on the horizon at 0700 hours on 14 May and the crew was ready to resume the difficult tasks of repair and support of local ships and craft. The Repair Department completed a TAV of USS BRULE (AKL-28) before 1 June and 36 work requests on USS MARK (AKL-12) and local YFR craft and the Republic of Korea LSM 610.

On 12 June TUTUILA's mission was changed and she was underway for An Thoi, Republic of Vietnam, where her vast talents and repair services were needed by U. S. and allied naval forces in support of Market Time. Seafloat and Sealord operations for maintenance of PCF and YFU craft, the APL-21 and several IST's operating in the area.

During the months of June and July, seventeen Vietnamese PCF's were repaired and 36 Vietnamese trainees trained in diesel engine overhaul. The USS SAINT FRANCIS RIVER (LSMR-525) underwent two weeks RAV and expressed her appreciation by message on 17 June.

On 26 July TUTUILA received her fourth consecutive Combat Battle Efficiency "E" and was heartily commended by Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and Commander Service Group THREE for the distinction.

Enclosure (2)

During July and August TUTUILA personnel instructed Vietnamese trainees in PCF hull and diesel engine repair. In addition several teams of men were sent to the USS SANCTUARY (AH-17), USS REPOSE (AH-16), LST's in Vung Tan and at Seafloat and the USS KRISHNA (ARL-38) to instruct in the new Maintenance and Material Management System.

The number of U. S. PCF and YFU craft operating in the area increased significantly during August and September. TUTUILA met every challenge and was heartily congratulated by Commander, Coastal Division ELEVEN, and Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon, for her repair capabilities and services. On the first of October the Commanding Officer of Republic of Korea Naval Forces, Vietnam, commended TUTUILA for her outstanding efforts in support of the Republic of Korea operational commitments and combat missions during the preceding three months.

On 31 October the Supply Department in TUTUILA received a descriptive OUTSTANDING (numerical 95.1%) on their Fiscal Year 1970 Annual Supply inspection conducted by Commander Service Group THREE.

The eighth of November brought a change of command to USS TUTUILA when Commander Frederick K. FEAGIN relieved Commander Leo P. BAUERLEIN as Commanding Officer.

The successful completion of five CASCORS, 57 work requests, repair of the #1 generator and the training of eight personnel in FMS procedures for the USS TERRELL COUNTY (LST-1157) in late November brought TUTUILA yet another commendatory message.

During the course of a year TUTUILA completed 3,358 work requests with an unprecedented figure of 207,333 man-hours expended. Eighteen Vietnamese PCF's were lifted onto pontoons alongside and completely overhauled. The following statistics apply to the services TUTUILA rendered in support of U. S. PCF's between 14 June and 31 December while situated in An Thoi:

371	Boats repaired
115	Boats skidded
98	12V71 Engines rebuilt
174	Props repaired/changed
73	Rudders repaired
86	Shafts straightened
92	Shafts changed
106	Transmissions repaired