

U.S.S. BIDDLE DLG-34
FLEET POST OFFICE
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DLG34/52:CGP:dmw
5750
Ser: 1121

CONFIDENTIAL (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (2)) 18 MAY 1973

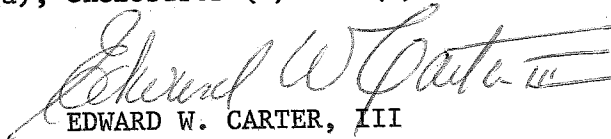
From: Commanding Officer, USS BIDDLE (DLG-34)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History - OPNAV Report 5750-1

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) 1972 Command History, USS BIDDLE (DLG-34)
(2) Confirmed MIG kills during third WESTPAC Deployment

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.


EDWARD W. CARTER, III

Copy to: COMCRUDESANT

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18 MAY 1973

USS BIDDLE (DLG-34)
1972 COMMAND HISTORY
PART I BASIC HISTORY

A. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

William O. McDANIEL, CAPT, USN	Commanding Officer 26 June 1971-3 July 1972
Edward W. CARTER, III, CAPT, USN	Commanding Officer 3 July-present
Richard W. RUSSELL, CDR, USN	Executive Officer 26 February 1971-18 May 1972
Clair E. HECKATHORN, CDR, USN	Executive Officer 18 May 1972-present

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B. Summary of Operations

During two underway periods in January (10-14 & 17-20) BIDDLE conducted a technical evaluation of the Navy's prototype ECM system, SHORTSTOP. The evaluation was conducted in the Virginia Capes Operation Area (VACAPES) by ship's force and factory representatives from ITT Avionics.

The operational evaluation commenced immediately afterward. Tests were conducted during the weeks of 24-28 January, 31 January - 4 February, and 14-18 February in the VACAPES OP AREA. The final operational tests were conducted in the Jacksonville (Florida) Operation Area, 22-25 February and 28 February-3 March. (On 9 February during a week inport for maintenance the ship held its annual Ship's Party celebrating the fifth anniversary of BIDDLE's commissioning.) The weekend of 26-27 February was spent in Port Everglades, Florida.

BIDDLE was assigned Restricted Availability to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in March for modification to accept the Navy's Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS). All work was done at the D&S Piers by shipyard workers in an around-the-clock schedule. Work on LAMPS modification was completed in early April.

On April 8th the ship was ordered made ready for immediate deployment to the Southeast Asia combat zone. On Wednesday, April 12th, BIDDLE got underway from D&S Piers with USS MULLINNIX (DD-944) for its deployment. The two ships were joined on April 14th by USS GLENNON (DD-840) from Charleston, South Carolina and USS SANSFIELD (DD-839) from Mayport, Florida. (The OTC of the Transit Group was CAPT T. HUGHES, Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-TWO, embarked in MULLINNIX.) The group transited the Panama Canal on April 16th and began the Pacific crossing after a fuel stop at the U.S. Naval Station, Rodman, Canal Zone that same day. On April 26th the Transit Group stopped overnight in Pearl Harbor for fuel and supplies at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaii. One firing was rated a success and the other was undetermined. BIDDLE rejoined the group on April 30th off Midway Island. The group proceeded via Guam, for fuel stop on May 7th, and arrived Subic Bay, Phillipines on 11 May. BIDDLE spent three days inport Subic Bay unloading combat supplies and equipment and got underway for the combat zone on 14 May. On 15 May BIDDLE entered the combat zone and became a part of Task Force 77 in the Gulf of Tonkin. The ship arrived at the Northern Search and Rescue Station (NSAR) on 16 May to relieve USS STERETT (DLG-31). BIDDLE operated from this station until late June as Air AAW and Search and Rescue (SAR) picket ship and as an ELINT collection ship. BIDDLE returned to Subic Bay on 26 June for maintenance and crew liberty.

On July 3rd Captain Edward W. CARTER, III relieved Captain William O. McDANIEL as Commanding Officer in a ceremony onboard the ship in Subic Bay. On July 4th BIDDLE left Subic Bay to return to the combat zone relieving USS ENGLAND (DLG-22) on NSAR (6 July). On 13 BIDDLE was relieved by USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) and in turn relieved USS STERETT as Positive Identification and Radar Advisory Zone (PIRAZ) ship. BIDDLE's roles on PIRAZ station were strike control ship for USN and USAF air strikes against North Vietnam, AAW and SAR picket ship, and ELINT collection ship.

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BIDDLE was attacked on the night of 19 July by five MIG aircraft in two raids. BIDDLE destroyed one MIG from the first raid with Terrier missiles and possibly one from the second raid with five-inch and Three-inch gun fire. The other MIGs were driven off and BIDDLE received no damage. On 29 July BIDDLE assumed the additional role of SAR Coordinator for all forces in the Gulf of Tonkin. On August 29th USS LONG BEACH relieved BIDDLE as PIRAZ ship and BIDDLE departed the Gulf for three days in Hong Kong (12-15 August) and two days in Subic Bay (17-19 August). BIDDLE left Subic Bay on 20 August for NSAR station to relieve USS ENGLAND on 22 August. On 27 August USS TRUXTUN (DLGN-35) relieved BIDDLE on NSAR and BIDDLE, in turn, relieved USS LONG BEACH on PIRAZ on 29 August.

On 1 September, Task Force 77 evacuated its station in the Gulf of Tonkin to avoid Typhoon Elsie. On 3 September BIDDLE relieved COMDESRON 19, embarked in LONG BEACH, as SAR Coordinator. On 4 September TF 77 returned to stations and normal operations were resumed in the Gulf. BIDDLE was relieved as PIRAZ ship by USS LONG BEACH on 17 September for return to Subic Bay to off-load equipment (20-24 September).

During its three line periods in the Gulf of Tonkin, totaling 105 days in the combat zone, BIDDLE directed 102 Navy and 56 Air Force strikes over North Vietnam. BIDDLE's air intercept controllers directed the destruction of 13 enemy MIG's, 7 by U.S. Navy Fighters and 6 by U.S.A.F. fighters. One additional MIG was destroyed by ship's missiles. BIDDLE directed and/or conducted Combat Search and Rescue Operations which were responsible for the rescue of 5 Navy, 8 Air Force and 4 Marine pilots downed on combat missions. The ship's LAMPS Detachment (HSL-30 Det 4 from NAS Lakehurst, N.J.) flew a total of 711.6 flight hours on ESM/ASMD patrols and CSAR missions during the deployment. During these flights the LAMPS helo conducted extensive electronics surveillance of the North Vietnamese coast, and made the first combat SAR rescue by an SH-2 LAMPS helo on the night of 11 September.

BIDDLE departed Subic Bay on 25 September for Norfolk without the Commanding Officer, who had been ordered to Pearl Harbor to brief CINCPAC, CINCPACFLT and CINCPACAF on Navy--Air Force operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. BIDDLE made a fuel stop in Guam on 28 September and continued on to Pearl Harbor arriving on 4 October. Captain CARTER rejoined the ship and BIDDLE was underway from Pearl Harbor on 6 October with RADM J. E. RICE, COMNAVELEX, onboard as far as San Diego to observe SHORTSTOP tests which were conducted 6-8 October in the Hawaii OPAREA. On 9 October BIDDLE rendezvoused with MULLINNIX, GLENNON, and SARSFIELD for the transit back to the East Coast by way of San Diego (inport 13-15 October) and the Panama Canal (22 October). BIDDLE arrived in Norfolk on 26 October and went into standown during the following three weeks.

BIDDLE spent the remainder of the year at D&S Piers in Norfolk. During 15-17 November the ship completed Naval Technical Proficiency Inspection training and successfully completed the inspection during 11-12 December. During 20-27 December BIDDLE was assigned as East Coast Ready Duty Ship but was not required to leave port.

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Ser: 021

C. Special Topics.

Underway Replenishments

BIDDLE conducted underway refuelings with the following ships in 1972.

DATE	SHIP/HULL NO.
19 April	USS PASSUMSIC (AO-107)
22 April	USS PASSUMSIC (AO-107)
18 May	USS CALIENTE (AO-53)
23 May	USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
	USS GUADLUPE (AO-32)
28 May	USS GUADLUPE (AO-32)
2 June	USS SAVANNAH (AOR-4)
4 June	USS MARS (AFS-1)
7 June	USS SAVANNAH (AOR-4)
11 June	USS SAVANNAH (AOR-4)
12 June	USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
16 June	USS ASTABULA (AO-51)
21 June	USS MARS (AFS-1)
	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR-3)
6 July	USS GUADLUPE (AO-32)
10 July	USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
14 July	USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3)
15 July	USS PASSUMSIC (AO-107)
21 July	USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)
22 July	USS MARS (AFS-2)
27 July	USS ASHTABULA (AO-51)
3 August	USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3)
8 August	USS KANSAS CITY (AOR-3)
	USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)
26 August	USS SHIPOLA (AO-63)
29 August	USS MARS (AFS-1)
5 September	USS SACRANEMTO
7 September	USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3)
	USS CACAPON (AO-52)
12 September	USS MISPELLION (AO-105)

Ammunition expended for training purposes in 1972.

- 3" projectiles - 428
- ASROC - NONE
- 5" projectiles - 491
- Missiles - 2 Standards
- CHAFFROC - 4

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DLG34/52:CGP:sms
5750
Ser: 021

Ammunition expended in combat during 1972.

3" projectiles - 28 rds
ASROC - NONE
5" projectiles - 30 rds
Missiles - 4 Standards
CHAFFROC - NONE

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The following personnel visited BIDDLE during 1972.

- 25 February - RADM M. D. CARMODY, Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force visited BIDDLE while underway in the Jacksonville Operations Area conducting SHORTSTOP tests with the Air Wing of the USS SARATOGA (CVA-62). RADM CARMODY witnessed the day's tests of the SHORTSTOP system and departed by helo in the afternoon.
- 12 April RADM J. B. HILDRETH, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla FOUR visited BIDDLE and wished the crew well upon departure for Southeast Asia.
- 16 July CAPT C. S. BRADLEY, USN, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 20 embarked BIDDLE as CTU 77.0.0, GOT SAR Coordinator with his staff. He departed BIDDLE on 29 July.
- 23 July COL W. L. KIRK, USAF arrived onboard BIDDLE on PIRAZ station to discuss Air Force-Navy strike operations over North Vietnam. COL KIRK remained over night and departed the 24th.
- 27 July RADM D. W. COOPER, Commander, Attack Carrier Striking Force 7th Fleet (CTF-77) arrived onboard for a one hour visit with the CO to discuss strike control procedures.
- 23 August ADM E. R. ZUMWALT, JR., Chief of Naval Operations and VADM J. L. HOLLOWAY III, Commander, Seventh Fleet arrived onboard while BIDDLE was NSAR ship for a one hour tour and discussion with members of the crew.
- 8 September COL COFFIN, USAF and COL EGGINTON, USAF arrived while BIDDLE was PIRAZ ship for 3 day visit to discuss Air Force-Navy PIRAZ procedures.
- 14 September COL BAKER, USAF and MAJ WARD, USAF arrived while BIDDLE was PIRAZ ship to observe Navy coordination with Air Force LINEBACKER

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Operations against North Vietnam.

- 16 September VADM F. H. MICHAELIS, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic arrived while BIDDLE was PIRAZ ship to observe PIRAZ procedures and to discuss LAMPS operations.
- 28 September RADM G. S. MORRISON, Commander, Naval Forces Marianas visited BIDDLE for a tour of the ship and departed one hour later.
- 6 October RADM J. E. RICE (OP-36) embarked BIDDLE to ride the ship to San Diego. He observed the ship's SHORTSTOP tests off Hawaii and toured various areas of the ship while enroute. He departed the ship upon arrival in San Diego on 13 October.
- 1 December RADM T. R. WESCHLER, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Force Atlantic and RADM R. O. WELANDER, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla EIGHT visited BIDDLE for lunch with the Commanding Officer and Wardroom and departed after lunch.
- 4 December RADM R. O. WELANDER, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla EIGHT broke his flag in BIDDLE until 29 December.
- 11 December RADM ANDERSON, Commander, Service Force Atlantic visited COMCRUDESFLOT EIGHT embarked on BIDDLE

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