

U.S.S. HORNET (CVS 12)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1969

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[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon removal of Annex A)

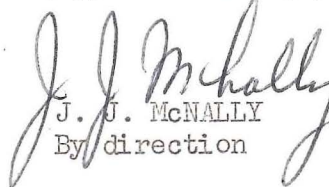
From: Commanding Officer, USS HORNET (CVS-12)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750.1: Command History for calendar year 1969

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) 1969 Historical Summary, USS HORNET (CVS-12)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


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By direction

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1969 HISTORICAL SUMMARY
USS HORNET (CVS-12)

1. Chronology of Outstanding Events.

HORNET remained deployed with the U. S. Seventh Fleet through April. The ship operated in the Tonkin Gulf in support of Commander Task Force 77 from 6 January until 15 April and, in the Sea of Japan in support of Commander Task Force 71 from 19 April until 27 April. After returning to the United States on 13 May, HORNET was designated Primary Recovery Ship (PRS) for the APOLLO 11 Manned Lunar Landing Mission. The ship, operating in support of Commander Task Force 130, was engaged in recovery training operations and finally the actual recovery of astronauts and Command Module during the period 12 June through 26 July. HORNET participated in an advanced ASW Exercise, Project UPTIDE II-B from 22 September through 2 October. The ship was again employed as PRS for the APOLLO 12 Manned Lunar Landing Mission and participated in training exercises and actual recovery operations from 6 November through 29 November.

2. Basic Narrative.

a. On 23 May Captain Carl J. SELBERLICH relieved Captain Jackson A. STOCKTON on board HORNET at U. S. Naval Station, Long Beach, California. The guest speaker at the change of command was RADM C. A. KARABERIS, Commander Fleet Air, San Diego. HORNET served as Flagship for RADM E. G. FAIRFAX, Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Group FIVE, until 20 June when he was relieved by RADM H. J. TRUM. On 29 August RADM N. C. GILLETTE, Jr., Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Group THREE, broke his flag on board HORNET.

b. Commander Antisubmarine Air Group 57 with VS-35, VS-37, HS-2 and VAW-111 DET 12 was embarked in HORNET from 30 September 1968 to 13 May 1969. Commander Antisubmarine Air Group 59 with VS-33, VS-38, HS-4 and VAW-111 DET 20 was embarked in HORNET during the period 3 September to 8 September and 22 September to 2 October, for Antisubmarine Warfare exercises.

c. During the APOLLO 11 Recovery Mission a modified Air Group composed of HS-4, VAW-111 DET 12, VC-1 DET A, and VR-30 DET 12 was embarked. The Air Group for APOLLO 12 consisted of HS-4, VAW-111 DET 34, and VR-30 DET 12.

d. HORNET commenced 1969 in an upkeep status in Sasebo, Japan. On 2 January, HORNET departed Sasebo, Japan enroute to Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf and conducted operations there, in support of Commander Task Force 77, from 6 through 20 January. From 22 to 25 January, HORNET operated in the South China Sea and participated in Beacon Lamp 1-69, an ASW exercise involving naval and air units of the United States and Australia. On 27 January, HORNET entered Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for an upkeep period. After departing Subic Bay, on 4 February, HORNET steamed to the Tonkin Gulf for further operations with Commander Task Force 77 on Yankee Station. On 20 February, HORNET commenced a transit to Singapore,

Enclosure (1)

arriving on the 24th. HORNET left Singapore on 4 March and returned to Yankee Station for operations from 7 to 21 March. HORNET again entered Subic Bay on 24 March for an upkeep period, and on 1 April departed for Yankee Station, and operations with Commander Task Force 77 from 3 to 15 April. On 15 April the ship departed Yankee Station to join Task Force 71 for operations in the Sea of Japan during the period 19 to 27 April. For these operations, HORNET was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea). HORNET departed the Sea of Japan for Yokosuka, Japan and arrived on the 29th to effect a Seventh Fleet Operational "Turnover" with the USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33). The ship departed Yokosuka on 1 May enroute to CONUS, arriving at San Diego early on 13 May. After off-loading the Air Group, HORNET departed for Long Beach, and arrived later the same day. HORNET was presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation on 12 December for service with the U. S. Seventh Fleet during the period 24 October 1968 through 2 May 1969. The ship commenced a four week period of restricted availability and post-deployment leave upon arrival at Long Beach. Annex A contains a detailed account of the ship's Operations during the 1968-69 WestPac Cruise. On 1 June, HORNET was designated Primary Recovery Ship (PRS) for APOLLO 11. On 16 June, the ship departed Long Beach enroute to San Diego for refresher training. A Training Readiness Evaluation was conducted on 17 June followed by a foreshortened refresher training period at sea, from the 18th to the 20th, in order to enable the ship to return to Long Beach for final equipment installation before departing for Pearl Harbor on 27 June. On 2 July, HORNET chopped to Commander Task Force 130 and commenced training in Hawaiian waters for the APOLLO 11 recovery operations. The ship departed Pearl Harbor for the recovery area on 12 July, continuing recovery training while enroute. At 0512X on 24 July, President Richard M. NIXON arrived on board to observe the APOLLO 11 recovery operations. Astronauts, Neil ARMSTRONG, Michael COLLINS, and Edwin ALDRIN were recovered aboard and welcomed by the President. The Command Module "Splash Down" position was 13-14. 9N/169-10.1W. Annex B is a detailed report of the APOLLO 11 mission. After delivering the astronauts, to Pearl Harbor on 26 July, HORNET left the same day enroute to Long Beach, arriving on 1 August. The ship was inport Long Beach for upkeep from 1 August until 3 September except for a carrier qualification cruise in the Southern California Operating Area from 18 to 21 August. HORNET departed Long Beach on 3 September and participated in an ASW exercise, HUKASWEX 9-69, returning to San Diego on 8 September. The ship departed San Diego the next day to conduct carrier qualification exercises, returning to Long Beach on 12 September. On 22 September the ship departed Long Beach to participate in HUKASWEX 11-69 (UPTIDE II-B), a major exercise designed to test and apply the latest concepts in Antisubmarine Warfare. HORNET returned to Long Beach on 2 October and remained in port until 27 October, except for a carrier qualification period from 14 to 18 October. On 27 October, HORNET departed Long Beach enroute to Pearl Harbor to participate in the APOLLO 12 recovery mission. On 31 October, HORNET again came under the operational control of Commander Task Force 130 and commenced recovery training in Hawaiian waters. The ship departed Pearl Harbor for the contingency recovery area on 10 November and arrived on station in the Primary Recovery Area on 23 November. On 24 November, with

ADM J. S. McCAIN, Commander in Chief Pacific, observing, the APOLLO 12 Astronauts Charles CONRAD, Richard GORDON, and Alan BEAN and the command module were recovered. The command module position at "splashdown" was 15-46.6S/165-09.0W. Annex C is a detailed report of APOLLO 12 operations. During the APOLLO 12 deployment, a frequency propagation study using the UPR-2 Ionospheric Sounder was conducted for Commander, Naval Communications command. The ship departed Pearl Harbor on 29 November and arrived in Long Beach on 4 December. HORNET completed the year at Long Beach in a holiday leave status.

e. During the year, 8,825 landings were made on board HORNET. Of these, 5,176 were made by propeller driven aircraft, 3,324 were helicopters, and 325 were jet landings. The port catapult was used 3,104 times and the starboard catapult 1,457 times for a total of 4,561 launches. The ship issued 1,464,333 gallons of aviation gasoline and 1,276,487 gallons of JP-5 jet fuel during the year. HORNET logged 70,640 engine miles during the year, consumed 1,746,368 gallons of NSFO while in port and 12,029,495 gallons while underway for a total of 13,775,863 gallons. Additionally, HORNET pumped 2,561,268 gallons of NSFO to replenish accompanying units.

f. HORNET was honored to have a large number of distinguished visitors aboard in 1969. In February, the ship was visited by VADM W. F. BRINGLE, COMSEVENTHFLT, VADM A. M. SHINN, COMNAVAIRPAC, and RADM L. R. GEIS, CHINFO. On 23 May, RADM C. A. KARABERIS was the guest speaker at the change of command ceremony. In July, during the APOLLO 11 recovery, HORNET hosted many distinguished visitors. Chief among them were President Richard M. NIXON, the Honorable William P. ROGERS, Secretary of State, ADM J. S. McCAIN, CINCPAC, RADM G. M. DAVIS, Commander Task Force 130, Dr. Thomas PAINE, NASA Administrator, and Mr. Henry KISSINGER, White House Advisor. RADM J. D. BULKELEY was aboard from 7-11 October as Chief Inspector for the HORNET INSURV (Inspection and Survey) Board. ADM J. J. HYLAND, CINCPACFLT, visited HORNET on 9 November just prior to the APOLLO 12 recovery and ADM McCAIN, and RADM DAVIS revisited the ship for the APOLLO 12 recovery.

ANNEX

- A - WestPac Cruise Report
- B - Apollo 11 Cruise Report
- C - Apollo 12 Cruise Report
- D - Photography of the Apollo 11 recovery
- E - Photography of the Apollo 12 recovery
- F - Muster Roll
- G - Roster of Officers
- H - Biographical sketch of CAPT Jackson A. STOCKTON
- I - Biographical sketch of CAPT Carl J. SEIBERLICH
- J - Apollo 11 Thanksgiving Prayer
- K - Citations and congratulatory messages
- L - Welcome Aboard pamphlet