

4 July 1969
At Sea, Off the Coast
Of South Vietnam

MUXPACGRAM NUMBER 6

Dear Folks, Friends and Family,

Here we are once again! We are again at sea in deep blue water.

I must brack-track again to bring you up-to-date. On 4 June the MUX steamed into the Gulf of Tonkin to refuel and by virtue of sailing into the gulf, all hands become members of the "TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB" and thus are entitled to all the rights and priviliges, such as they are, of the said organization.

As the month of June draws to a close, life for the men of the MUX completes another gunline cycle. After spending the first four days of the month shelling enemy positions from off the coast of Vietnam, the "Mighty MUX" steamed north for six days of R&R in Hong Kong. This port, the most beautiful in the Orient, was an instant hit with the MUX sailors. With extended liberty hours, the crew found time to shop in her world famous shops and enjoy all-day tours through this British Crown Colony.

The tours took us to such places as Victoria Peak, with its beautiful panoramic view of the city of Hong Kong, its scenic harbor and the city of Kowloon across the harbor; the floating village of Aberdeen, a village of boat people (the boat population of the colony numbers over 100,000) that spend their entire lives of work and play on boats, and with the floating restaurants where you can pick your fish swimming in a tank and see it cooked before your eyes - a most tasty meal, I can assure you; Tiger Balm Gardens - the Disneyland of the Orient; and a view of the Red Chinese Border from the Lok-ma-chau Police Post, with the city of Canton, Red China only 70 miles distant across the valley and over a range of mountains - the Sham Chu River is the official border with a 15 mile buffer no-man's-land on either side.

The rehabilitation of the crew after the second gunline patrol was made much easier and pleasant by such wonderful sights. A lot of the crew, including this Captain, bought some fine clothes also here, along with many presents for the dear ones at home.

After four days of sailing the MUX arrived in Sasebo harbor for 14 days of upkeep, to routinely repair the ship, and continue our rest and recuperation. Sasebo, a quiet Japanese city, offered her guests a chance to refurbish the ship and rest up for their final gunline tour. Numerous divisional picnics were scheduled in the fleet park. All day tours to Nagasaki (the A-Bomb site) and Unzen National Forest afforded sightseers and shutterbugs a chance to put our feet on dry land and see the country. On Friday, June 21st a ship's party was held in downtown Sasebo.

Meanwhile work aboard ship proceeded smoothly and efficiently, so that on 30 June, the MUX sailed out into the Sea of Japan on her way

back to Vietnam and her final patrol on the gunline for this cruise. We go again to do the job we've learned in defense of democracy.

I would like to say a special hello to the wives and families of BM1 Franklin Gentry of Horsham, Pennsylvania, MM2 Burt Spencer of Morgantown, West Virginia and CS2 Joseph Anzalone of Bronx, New York, new members of our MUX Family. Welcome aboard, you're now part of the MULLINNIX Family.

We have also transferred a number of our old MUX'ERS and we say Sayonara to SN Richard Burkhouse of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, BT2 Stan Huikko of Litchfield, Minnesota, RM3 Mike Steele of Westallis, Wisconsin, QM1 "R" J. Ankerberg of Big Rapids, Michigan, LTJG Michael Larkin of Norfolk, Virginia, CS2 Dough Morris of San Antonio, Texas, RD2 Robert B. Brown of New Orleans, Louisiana and EM3 Heroico M. Sanchez of Uvalde, Texas. We will continue sending the MUXPACGRAM to you all.

We have just learned of the death of our Shipmate, friend and buddy Tom Elliott in an auto accident at home after discharge from the U. S. Navy. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family, to Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Duffie who notified his many friends aboard the MUX.

The Navy Relief Society is the naval service's own organization for the relief of distress among its own "family". Its purpose is to give help to active or retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their dependents in time of need or distress. It provides financial aid by an outright grant, a loan without interest or a combination of the two, depending on the circumstances in each case; layettes made by volunteers for new babies are provided for those who need them; thrift shops are operated, where articles of clothing and essentials may be purchased at low prices; and visiting nurses and social workers are employed in larger Navy towns. Each year a drive is held to provide for contributions for the Navy Relief Society. Since we deployed on 16 January, nine of our MULLINNIX family dependents have been helped directly during this cruise due to needed emergency, short term assistance. These members of our "family" have been helped immediately in each case. I want each of you to know that we appreciate that help and, in turn, are helping it by our contributions. The following message was sent to our superiors as an expression of our help:

From: USS MULLINNIX
To: COMDESRON 14
Info: COMDESRON 32, COMCRUDESFLOT 4, COMCRUDESANT

Navy Relief Drive

1. Report \$2,345.00 donated for Navy Relief. 200% participation by 286 chargers for \$8.20 average per man.
2. Required letter reports in mail, copy to all concerned.

*We'll be
home soon!!*

With warmest personal regards,

D. W. Knutson, Sr.
D. W. KNUTSON, Sr.
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding, The MUX

P.S. Attached are some messages sent to this command in recognition of the splendid work your men are doing in this command as dedicated, highly professional sailors.

1. From: CG III MAF DNG RVN (Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force)
To: USS MULLINNIX
Info: CTU 70.8.9
CTG: 70.8
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMCRUDESLANT
CINCPACFLT
BT

Appreciation

1. As you leave the I CTZ gunline for a well deserved R & R visit to Hong Kong, I want to express my appreciation for your outstanding NGFS. Readiness is your apparent motto as you have never failed to deliver swift and accurate Naval Gunfire Support during your assignments in I CTZ. In the estimation of those who work with you, your fine shooting is surpassed by none.
2. To all officers and men aboard the MULLINNIX a well done.

Lieutenant General NICKERSON

2. From: CTG 70.8
To: RUEGSII/USS MULLINNIX
Info: RUEGSII/COMDESRON 14
BT

Appreciation

CG III MAF DNG RVN 301056Z MAY 69

1. MULLINNIX has once again demonstrated her outstanding ability as stated by reference (a).
2. Keep it up. Well done. Admiral RUDDEN.

3. From: CG Third Marine Division
To: USS MULLINNIX (DD944)
Info: CTG 70.8
CTU: 70.8.9
COMDESRON FOURTEEN
BT

Subj: Message of Appreciation

1. The USS MULLINNIX has been on station on 6 separate occasions in support of the ground forces of the 3rd Marine Division in the I Corps target area of responsibility commencing on 3 March 1969.
2. She has performed exemplary service in support of the 3rd Marine Division in each of these instances. The performance of the USS MULLINNIX has elicited comments of the commendatory nature from all units supported by her. She has been particularly noteworthy in spontaneity of response to calls for support; accuracy of fire; and eagerness to pursue each objective, on occasion requiring maneuvering in restricted waters, close to shore.
3. The teamwork and can do spirit of the USS MULLINNIX is outstanding and is appreciated by all hands of the 3rd Marine Division.
4. Well done. Major General JONES sends.

4. From: Commander Task Group 70.8
To: RUMGSII/USS MULLINIX
Info: RUMGSII/COMDESKON 14
BT

Message of Appreciation

Ref: Commanding General 3rd Marine Division 021130Z June 1969

1. The performance of MUX, commended in Ref (a), is again noted with great pleasure. Well done. Admiral RUDDEN

5. From: Officer in Charge Sub Unit in the Republic of Vietnam One
First Anglico Saigon (in charge of shore spotters except
First Marine Division and Third Marine Division, their
messages quoted above)

To: USS MULLINIX

Info: COMSEVENTHFLT

CTG 70.8

CTU 70.8.9

COMUSMACV Saigon

CG III MAF Da Nang

CG I FFORCEV NHA TRANG

CG II FFORCEV LONG BINH

CG DMAC CAN THO

BT

Top Gun Award (for all Destroyers operating in the Republic of Vietnam)

1. Congratulations upon being voted the outstanding gunline Destroyer for the period 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969 by the officers and enlisted spotters of Sub Unit One, First Anglico.

2. Your rapid response, cooperativeness, accuracy and reliability were key factors in selecting you for this honor. Your accurate and timely fires employed in support of ground forces have proved to be an effective weapon against hostile forces in Republic of Vietnam and have rightly earned you the title "Top Gun".

3. From the officers and men of Sub Unit One a sincere well done.

"In deserving recognition of the rest of the "Mighty MUX" teams, this message was sent by the Captain:"

6. From: USS MULLINIX
To: Officer in Charge Sub Unit First Anglico Saigon
Info: CCI SEVENTHFLT
CINCPACFLT
CTG 70.8
ZEN/COMDESRON 14
COMDESRON 32
CG III MAF Da Nang
CG I FFORCEV NHA TRANG
CG II FFORCEV LONG BINH
COMCRUDESFLT 4
COMCRUDESFLT
COMNAVBASE SUBIC

COMNAVBASE Subic not addee pass to COMDESRON 14 for info Destroyer "Top Gun" award, Republic of Vietnam, FY 69.

Ref: Your 301338Z June 69 PASEP

1. The Captain and crew of "Mighty MUX" accept your coveted award with great pride and humbleness.
2. Our performance which resulted in this award has been made possible by those highly professional NGIC's and spotters who quickly and accurately designated the targets for our fire support. All of these NGIC units have our deep personal admiration for constant efficiency and greater daily risk.
3. The continuing advice of our Atlantic Fleet Administrative seniors and the Pacific Fleet operational commanders to "Keep Charging" has been a constant source of inspiration and has been backed up in every instance with solid support. The wise and timely counsel of CTG 70.8 Rear Admiral RUDDEN and CDS FOURTEEN, Capt. S. L. RUSK, USN have been particularly valuable.