

USS MULLINNIX (DD944)
FP) New York 09501

17 JUN 1972

MULLINNIX FAMILY GRAM 4-72

Dear MULLINNIX families:

The experience of over a month in a combat environment, conducting gunfire support missions day and night, conducting underway replenishments of ammunition, fuel and food, and working very long hours side by side has left its imprint on each of us in MUX. We all feel a quiet confidence in one another, and a sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing we did our job well this first gunline operation off the coast of South Vietnam. We are enroute to Subic Bay as I write this letter and we hope to complete our scheduled maintenance quickly to rejoin our sister ships out here helping and hoping to bring the Vietnam conflict to a meaningful end.

The most satisfying thing to me is the change I have witnessed in the crew of MULLINNIX since we arrived on the gunline over a month ago. The men are professionals now and they know it. They are deeply loyal to their shipmates and a kind of comradeship has developed that only dependence on one another under combat can bring about. There is an invisible bond of esteem that each has for the other because each has carried his share of the responsibilities in keeping MUX at peak combat readiness when it was needed. We fired over 500 projectiles the first few hours after arriving on the gunline and the day we departed we exceeded that performance. I am confident our next operational line tour will be as productive as this one because we are determined to take maximum advantage of our time in Subic to complete all maintenance.

In between gunfire missions we have somehow found the time to reenlist 10 men during brief ceremonies. They are:

TN Hardo C. David
PH1 Andrew L. Freeman
BT2 Bennie L. Cerka
EM3 Rustico A. De Jesus
BTCS John N. Smith

MMCS James P. Schooley
ETP3 Benjamin F. Hellet
SK3 Virgilio P. Zulueta
MM2 Robert C. Houghton
CS3 Jerry W. Boastad

Since arriving on the gunline 16 of the MIX team have joined us and we are grateful to have them to help share the many jobs necessary to accomplish our assignment. They are:

GMG3 Bud E. Blackburn
CS1 William H. Johnson
MM1 Billy Mc Curry
BT3 Johnny L. Santmyer
RDC Russell M. Jennings
RM3 Hackley F. Ashby
SHSA Thomas Metzger
RMI Ruben C. Correa

FA Jerry W. Burton
RDSA James A. Brunelle
BT3 Philip A. Welsh
BT2 Bennie L. Cerka
TN Edgardo P. Adriano
EM2 Donald L. Sheets
SM1 Ted C. Smith
GMG2 Russell L. Davidson

Also reporting during this period was LTJG Dennis McHugh who is serving as Disbursing and Ship's Store Officer.

Another bright note of the previous month has been the new advancements in rate as follows:

SA Robert A. Kuzmaul
FN Terry R. Dannels
QMSN Dennis P. Schmidt
BTFN Richard A. Wade
SN Roger J. Thornton
SN Ronald S. Brodie
SN Donald C. Moore

MMFN Stephen C. Pearam
EMFN Kurt W. Camm
BTFN Gregory A. Bohmert
BTFN Kenneth A. Glover
SN Russell C. Wilson
SN Michael C. Kuykendall
BM2 William C. Cecil

The real story though is the accuracy and effectiveness of our guns. Over 8000 5 inch 54 caliber projectiles were fired in this 30 day line period. When the dust settled after the daylight shooting the airborne spotters were able to account for considerable damage resulting from our firepower. The damage included:

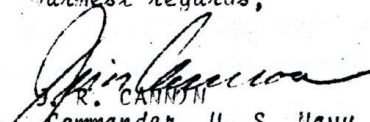
(1.) 114 Missions

a. 41 killed in action.

- b. 10 probable killed in action.
- c. 69 military structures destroyed.
- d. 30 military structures damaged.
- e. 27 enemy surface craft destroyed.
- f. 2 costal defense sites destroyed.
- g. 2 mortar emplacements destroyed.
- h. 12 bunkers destroyed.
- i. 2 tanks destroyed.
- j. 1 anti-aircraft gun destroyed.
- k. 43 secondary explosions.

Everyone is well and content although anxious for our return home. We will probably know when that will be when the schedule for July, August and September is published. Take care.

Warmest regards,


J. R. CANNON
Commander, U. S. Navy