USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

[redacted]
AFS-4/11B/1DB:dk
5750
Ser 01

DECLASSIFIED

18 March 1970

[redacted] - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure

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

Subj: USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) USS WHITE PLAINS Command History 1969

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

R. H. GORMLEY

Copy to:
COMSERVRON SEVEN (enclosure (1) less appendices)

DECLASSIFIED
OP09B11 1/30/77

DECLASSIFIED
[redacted]

COMMAND HISTORY

USS WHITE PLAINS

NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY

USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS 1969

5 January -- 6 January	WHITE PLAINS at Naval Supply Center, Oakland, California for her first major Fleet Issue Load List and loadout.
10 February -- 28 February	Special Qualification Trials with USS PYRO (AE-24), under the direction on Naval Systems Engineering Center, Port Hueneme, California. WHITE PLAINS' first underway replenishment.
17 March -- 23 March	Final Contract Trials in Southern California waters.
7 April -- 2 May	Shakedown Training.
12 May -- 19 June	Post-Shakedown Availability at San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard (Mare Island Division).
7 July	SECNAV visit.
8 July -- 16 July	Exercise "BEAGLE BARON." This was the first fleet exercise for WHITE PLAINS.
17 July -- 31 July	In port Naval Supply Center, Oakland. Final preparations for first WESTPAC deployment. Annual Admin and Pre-deployment Inspections.
20 August	Departed CONUS for maiden deployment.
31 August	Reported to Seventh Fleet for duty.
11 September	First WESTPAC replenishment--Sasebo, Japan.
22 September -- 6 October	First replenishment swing through YANKEE STATION and MARKET TIME areas.
28 October -- 14 November	Second replenishment swing through YANKEE STATION and MARKET TIME areas.
10 December	Captain R. H. GORMLEY relieved Captain T. B. BRENNER as Commanding Officer.
22 December --	Third replenishment swing through YANKEE STATION and MARKET TIME areas.

BASIC NARRATIVE

1. Command Organization and Relations

a. Commanding Officers and dates of command:

CAPTAIN Thomas B. BRENNER, USN, 28 November 1968 - 10 December 1969

CAPTAIN Robert H. GORMLEY, USN, 10 December 1969 -

b. Homeport:

San Francisco, California

c. Primary mission:

A unit of the Mobile Logistics Support Force for the delivery of refrigerated stores, dry provisions, technical repair parts, and general stores material to underway Fleet units.

d. Composition of command:

Ship's Company

28 Officers

421 Enlisted

HELSUPPRON THREE DET 101

5 Officers

20 Enlisted

Ship's Roster

(Appendix I)

2. Operations and Activities

WHITE PLAINS' 1969 operational activities commenced in San Diego, California. Upon completion of the holiday leave and upkeep period on 3 January, the ship departed for Naval Supply Center (NSC) Oakland, California for the initial loadout of fleet issue material. Loadout operations commenced upon arrival on 5 January. Through the combined efforts of WHITE PLAINS and NSC Oakland, 3,280 measurement tons of material were received and placed in shipboard stowage locations in seventeen working days. Load-out operations were completed on 5 February.

Special Qualification Trials under the direction of Naval Ship Systems Engineering Center, Port Hueneme, California were conducted during the period 10 - 28 February in company with USS PYRO (AE-24). The trials

constituted the ship's first underway operational experience in replenishment and involved CONREP and VERTREP exercises.

Final Contract Trials were held 17 - 23 March by the Sub-Board Inspection and Survey, Pacific. The incompatibility of the APS (Automated Propulsion System) and the ACC (Automatic Combustion Control System), having been noted since the ship first got underway in 1968, was again demonstrated and reported by the Board. Assurances were received from the builder and the General Electric Corporation that the difficulties would be corrected.

During the period 7 April through 2 May, WHITE PLAINS engaged in intensive shakedown training under the direction of the Fleet Training Group, San Diego. Upon completion of the final battle problem on 2 May, WHITE PLAINS was deemed ready in all respects to take her place as an integral unit of the Pacific Fleet.

A Post Shakedown Availability was assigned at San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard (Mare Island Division) from 12 May through 19 June to correct discrepancies in propulsion and replenishment equipments reported by the Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific.

On 6 July, Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John J. CHAFFEY visited WHITE PLAINS. A thorough briefing and a tour of spaces were conducted for the Secretary. In addition, the Secretary observed a demonstration of high-line techniques and was highlined from WHITE PLAINS to PYRO.

WHITE PLAINS participated in Exercise BEAGLE BARON during the period 8 - 16 July. This marked her first fleet exercise and served as a very useful benchmark to measure her readiness for fleet operations.

The tempo of operations increased as the deployment date approached. Final loadout of material and preparations for deployment were completed during the period 18 July - 7 August at NSC Oakland. Additionally, the Pre-Deployment Inspection was held 23 - 24 July with a grade of Excellent attained. On 24 - 25 July, the Annual Administrative Inspection was conducted and a grade of Outstanding (96.02) assigned.

WHITE PLAINS' scheduled deployment on 11 August was delayed when the lower case cargo refrigeration systems failed twenty-four hours after completion of the frozen and chill provisions loadout. The nature of the casualty necessitated the offload of all frozen and chill products in order to effect repairs and to test the systems. Through the dedicated efforts of WHITE PLAINS personnel, 34,000 cases of provisions were offloaded in forty-four hours with only negligible handling losses. Rapid repairs were effected by the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard (Mare Island Division). Subsequent to the repairs and systems test, 35,250 cases of frozen and chill products were reloaded in sixty-four hours. WHITE PLAINS deployed on her maiden voyage on 20 August.

Although the APS/ACC had been in use since commissioning on 23 November 1968, intensive training under the supervision of a General Electric

Corporation technical representative was conducted during the transit from CONUS to WESTPAC. All engineering plant personnel were requalified in systems operating procedures to ensure the highest degree of readiness possbile.

WHITE PLAINS joined the SEVENTH Fleet on 31 August and arrived at her first foreign port-of-call, Yokosuka, Japan, on 3 September. Following a brief familiarization period in Sasebo, WHITE PLAINS became a working member of the SEVENTH Fleet by VERTREPing material to USS MISPILLION (AO 105) on 11 September.

Final preparations for the first operational tests of WHITE PLAINS' underway replenishment capabilities were conducted from 16 - 21 September during transit from Sasebo; final topoff of the provisions load was made at Subic Bay. Supply support procedures, which were to stand the ship in good stead throughout the deployment, were agreed upon with Naval Supply Depot (NSD) Subic Bay for resupply.

On 22 September, WHITE PLAINS was underway for YANKEE STATION and the initiation of her first north to south twelve - fourteen day replenishment swing by AFS type ships. A line swing began in the vicinity of YANKEE STATION where WHITE PLAINS replenished three attack carrier groups in a four to five day period. In addition, units on PIRAZ STATION in the Gulf of Tonkin were replenished. The remainder of the line swing involved replenishment of Amphibious Ready Groups along the DMZ and south, INREPing in the ports of DANANG, CAM RAHN BAY, VUNG TAU, AN THOI, and replenishment of MARKET TIME units. WHITE PLAINS' first line swing terminated on 7 October upon arrival at Subic Bay. During the line swing, 14,627 line items aggregating 766,274 units and 1208 short tons were issued to SEVENTH Fleet units and activities. A comprehensive report is contained in Appendix III.

WHITE PLAINS' second operational period commenced 8 October in Subic Bay with the simultaneous INREP of Fleet units and the onload of fleet issue material. WHITE PLAINS departed on 12 October for Hong Kong for a brief period of rest and relaxation. On 20 October while enroute to Subic Bay WHITE PLAINS' conducted a major CONSOL with USS REGULUS (AF 57). A total of 555 pallets of provisions were received during a continuous alongside time of nearly nine hours. WHITE PLAINS departed Subic Bay on 29 October for YANKEE STATION for her second line swing. The line swing was uneventful throughout and terminated at Subic Bay on 11 November. A total of 12,692 line items aggregating 411,865 units and 1,047 short tons were issued to SEVENTH Fleet units and activities. (See Appendix III).

WHITE PLAINS' third operational period commenced 15 November at Subic Bay with the onload of 1,060 measurement tons of provisions and fleet issue material. On 22 November, WHITE PLAINS departed for Sasebo, Japan, for a ten day upkeep and issue period. While enroute USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) and her escorts were replenished under very adverse weather conditions. Replenishment operations had to be broken off prior to completion because of the weather. The ten day upkeep and issue period in Sasebo was completed without significant event. WHITE PLAINS then transited to KAOHSUING for the

onload of indigenous fresh produce. While in transit, CAPTAIN Robert H. GORMLEY, USN relieved CAPTAIN Thomas B. BRENNER, USN as Commanding Officer. WHITE PLAINS completed her loadout of material at Subic Bay and departed on her third line swing on 21 December. The largest transfer of material (382 M/T) to a single ship by WHITE PLAINS was effected to USS CONSTELLATION (CVA 63). The remainder of the line swing was uneventful except for numerous schedule changes. 31 December found WHITE PLAINS replenishing MARKET TIME units.

3. Special Topics

a. Operational Statistics during WESTPAC deployment 20 August - 31 December:

(1) Total number of ships and activities replenished	341
(2) Total tonnage delivered by CONREP, INREP, and BOATREPS	1,521
(3) Total tonnage delivered by VERTREP	2,096
(4) Total tonnage delivered	3,617
(5) Helicopter Statistics:	
(a) Number of hours flown (VERTREP)	129.5
(b) Number of VERTREP flights	115
(c) Number of lifts	2,272

(6) Overall Supply Effectiveness (percentage of supplies requested supplied)

(a) First line swing	97.0%
(b) Second line swing	96.0%

b. Suitability of New Equipment

(1) Performance reports on General Electric Corporation APS/ACCS Systems (Appendix II).

c. Message Traffic

(1) Incoming	12,800
(2) Outgoing	2,821

d. Summary of Supply Logistics Functions during WESTPAC Deployment Appendix III.