

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U. S. S. OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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are removed.

From: Commanding Officer, USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command History, USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5); submission
of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 series
(b) CINCPACFLTINST 5750.2 series
(c) CO OKLAHOMA CITY ltr ser 0107 of 7 Sep 69

Encl: (1) USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5) Command History

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the Command History for USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5) for the period 1 July through 31 December 1969 is submitted as enclosure (1).

2. The last Command History report submitted by reference (c) was based on a Fiscal Year ending 30 June. In order that OKLAHOMA CITY's history is compiled in accordance with the provisions of reference (a) based upon the calendar year, it is necessary to submit a report covering only the above period.

J. S. HOWELL

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMCRUDESPEC
COMCRUDESFLOR NINE

USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5)



COMMAND HISTORY

1 JULY 1969 - 31 DECEMBER 1969

(REPORT SYMBOL - OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JULY 1969

1-6 Inport Yokosuka for routine upkeep
7 Underway from Yokosuka for special operations
8-10 Enroute Vietnam
11-22 Conducted Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam, providing gunfire support
23 Departed combat zone for Otaru, Japan
24--27 Enroute Otaru, Japan
28-30 Port visit Japanese city of Otaru
31 Departed Otaru for Yokosuka, Japan

AUGUST 1969

1 Arrived Yokosuka, Japan
2-20 Restricted availability, Yokosuka, Japan
21 Departed Yokosuka for Special Operations
22-25 Enroute Vietnam
26-31 Conducted Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support

SEPTEMBER 1969

1-6 Conducted Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support
7 Departed combat zone, enroute Sasebo, Japan
8-11 Enroute Sasebo, Japan
12-15 Port Visit Sasebo, Japan
16 Departed Sasebo, Japan
17 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
18 Arrived Yokosuka, Japan

SEPTEMBER 1969

19-30 Inport Yokosuka, Japan (29 Sep 69 - Change of Command)

OCTOBER 1969

1 Inport Yokosuka, Japan
2 Underway for Special Operations
3- 6 Enroute Vietnam
7-20 Conducted Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support
21 Departed combat zone, enroute for Hong Kong, B.C.C.
22 Enroute Hong Kong, B.C.C.
23-27 Port Visit Hong Kong, B.C.C.
28 Departed Hong Kong, enroute Yokosuka, Japan
29-30 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
31 Upkeep Yokosuka, Japan

NOVEMBER 1969

1-17 Upkeep Yokosuka, Japan
18 Underway for Keelung, Taiwan, Republic of China
19-20 Enroute Keelung, Taiwan, Republic of China
21-23 Port visit Keelung, Taiwan, Republic of China
24 Depart Keelung, enroute Vietnam
25 Enroute Vietnam
26-30 Conducted Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support

DECEMBER 1969

1- 9 Conducted Special Operations off Vietnam providing gunfire support
10 Departed combat zone, enroute Manila, Republic of the Philippines

DECEMBER 1969

11 Enroute Manila
12-14 Port visit Manila, Republic of the Philippines
15 Underway, enroute Yokosuka, Japan
16-18 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
19 Arrive Yokosuka, Japan
20-31 Upkeep Yokosuka, Japan

PART II

COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONSHIP

The present Commanding Officer of USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5) is Captain Jay Stanley HOWELL, U.S. Navy. He assumed command of the OKLAHOMA CITY on 29 September 1969, relieving Captain Wayne Douglas SURFACE, U.S. Navy. The ship's Executive Officer is Captain John Farwell DANIS, U.S. Navy.

OKLAHOMA CITY is under the Administrative control of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla NINE. Both Commanders have headquarters in San Diego, California.

OKLAHOMA CITY is Flagship and under the operational control of Commander SEVENTH Fleet. Also, while in the Western Pacific, OKLAHOMA CITY reports to Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group SEVENTH Fleet for administrative purposes.

As Flagship for Commander SEVENTH Fleet, OKLAHOMA CITY is designated Flagship Group TG 70.1 with the Commanding Officer as Commander of the Group. OKLAHOMA CITY additionally serves as a unit of TG 70.8.9 while involved in Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support.

OKLAHOMA CITY is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

Internally, OKLAHOMA CITY is organized into NINE Departments as follows:

- Executive
- Weapons
- Supply
- Operations
- Engineering
- Navigation
- Medical
- Dental
- Communications

PART III

OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The first week of July 1969 found OKLAHOMA CITY in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan for routine upkeep. During this period she was visited by VADM KITAMURA, Commander Fleet Escort Force, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force who came to make a call on VADM BRINGLE, Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

Independence Day, 4 July was observed on board and the ship was opened for general visiting.

On 7 July the ship got underway for extended Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam. While enroute, several exercises were conducted including anti-ship missile training and air control exercises. On 10 July the ship conducted evasion procedures in order to avoid typhoon TESS. OKLAHOMA CITY entered the combat zone of Vietnam on Friday, 11 July. The following day she refueled from USS TAPPAHANNOCK (AO-43) and on Sunday 13 July, she arrived at Vung Tau, III Corps Tactical Zone Vietnam where she was visited by BGEN PEARSON RAA, Commander First Australian Task Force and BGEN L. D. KINNARU, USA, CG II Field Force Artillery. Both generals came aboard for a briefing regarding gunfire support for the First Australian Task Force.

On 15 July, OKLAHOMA CITY interrupted her gunfire support for First Australian Task Force in order to conduct helo operations with Vung Tau and to refuel from USS KENNEBEC (AO-36). After refueling OKLAHOMA CITY returned to the vicinity of Vung Tau to continue her gunfire support mission. She remained in the vicinity of Vung Tau providing gunfire support until 18 July when she got underway enroute to Danang. During her five day gunfire support mission in support of the First Australian Task Force, OKLAHOMA CITY expended hundreds of rounds of 5"/38 and 6"/47 ammunition and had to rearm twice from USS MAZAMA (AE-9) during the period.

18 July she got underway enroute to Danang. While enroute she rendezvoused with HMAS BRISBANE for helo operations. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived Danang July 19th, where she conducted helo operations and commenced Naval gunfire support for the First U.S. Marines and ROK Marines. Also during the same day, she conducted vertical replenishment with USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3)

Gunfire support continued in the vicinity of Danang until 21 July when she got underway for Yankee Station. Enroute Yankee Station she refueled from USS ASHTABULA (AO-51).

On Tuesday, 22 July OKLAHOMA CITY arrived Yankee Station where she conducted helo operations and rearmed from USS HALIAKALA (AE-25). Upon completion of rearming she got underway for Otaru, Japan. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in Otaru, Japan, Monday, 28 July and moored starboard side to berth 13, pier 3. The ship was visited upon arrival, by Mr. Kirby L. SMITH, U.S. Consul, Otaru and Mr. Tasuku INAGAKI, Mayor of Otaru, who came to call on VADM BRINGLE. Other distinguished visitors during the day included:

LTGEN Masakatsu HASHIMOTO, Commanding General Northern Army

Mr. Takesai ITAGAKI, Vice Mayor of Sapporo

Mr. Kingo MACHIMURA, Governor of Hokkaido

On 29 July, the ship was opened to general visiting. More than 6,000 Japanese toured the ship. Fifty orphans from two Sapporo orphanages were invited to tour the ship and lunch on the mess decks, after which toys were distributed to the children.

"Handclasp" material was delivered, twenty-one crew members participated in painting a day nursery in Otaru, and six English speaking classes composed of University and high school level students were furnished volunteer instructors from the ship.

There were also bus tours for the crew and dinners hosted by local Japanese families. Sporting events in which OKLAHOMA CITY teams competed with Japanese teams were part of the highlights of the goodwill visit.

On 30 July, OKLAHOMA CITY hosted a fantail reception for the guests of Commander SEVENTH Fleet. Guests included Japanese military and civilian dignitaries as well as members of the business community from Otaru and neighboring Sapporo. An orderly anti-U.S. demonstration was conducted on the pier alongside the ship during the reception.

OKLAHOMA CITY departed Otaru, Japan on 31 July enroute to Yokosuka. While enroute Yokosuka, Japan, OKLAHOMA CITY hosted a Father-Son Cruise, 10 youngsters ranging from ages 12 through 15 took part in learning the "way of life" of a sailor.

During the month of July, the ship's four boilers were steamed a total of 1,318.5 hours. The ship burned 1,127,739 gallons and received 817,574 gallons of fuel oil.

Arriving in Yokosuka late in the evening of 1 August, OKLAHOMA CITY was berthed in Drydock #6. Her crew commenced preparation for docking. Dry docking was completed the following day, after which the ship commenced repair availability with Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka. In addition to docking, the 6"/47 caliber guns were replaced, anchor equipment overhauled, and extensive work done on the ship's boats, boilers and air conditioning system.

On 3 August nine OKLAHOMA CITY crew members were participants in confrontations with shore patrol in the city of Yokosuka resulting in damages to government and private properties. Prompt and judicious action was taken on those apprehended and found guilty of participating in the affair.

On 5 August the ship was honored with a visit by RADM BONNER, USN, Commander Naval Support Activities, Danang and BGEN CARNEY, USMC, Commanding General) NINTH Marine Amphibious Brigade who arrived on board to visit VADM BRINGLE.

OKLAHOMA CITY was undocked on 18 August and on 21 August again got underway for extended Special Operations off the coast of Vietnam. While enroute the ship conducted various exercises.

On 26 August OKLAHOMA CITY entered the Vietnamese combat zone area. She also refueled from USS KENNEBEC (AO-36) and was visited by RADM ANDERSON) Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group SEVENTH Fleet) who came aboard by helo.

On 27 August, OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in the vicinity of Danang where she commenced gunfire support in support of SEVENTH Marine Regiment.

On 31 August OKLAHOMA CITY took a brief time out from her gunfire support mission to be honored by a visit from Admiral Thomas MOORER, Chief of Naval Operations.

The Ship's boilers were steamed a total of 1,496.5 hours during the month of August, using a total of 604,868 gallons of fuel oil.

The gas turbine generator remained CASREPT all month due to the lack of repair parts.

In the early morning of 1 September OKLAHOMA CITY was again in the vicinity of Danang providing NGFS in support of the 7th Marine Regiment and 26 Marine Regiment. Later during

the day OKLAHOMA CITY departed the vicinity of Danang to rearm from USS MAUNAKEA (AE-22) and to evade tropical storm DORIS. While enroute South she experienced a casualty to the No. 2 medium pressure air compressor.

On 2 September OKLAHOMA CITY returned to the Danang area and continued NGFS in support of the 7th Marine Regiment. Later during the day she refueled from USS CHIPOLA (AO-63). After refueling she returned to the vicinity of Danang to continue NGFS. The following day she conducted a VERTREP with USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-4), receiving 35,000 pounds of stores. After the VERTREP she rearmed from USS MAZAMA (AE-9).

On 5 September, OKLAHOMA CITY was honored by a brief visit by BGEN R. D. CARNEY, USMC, Commanding General, NINTH Marine Amphibious Brigade. He came aboard by helo to call on COMSEVENTHFLT and departed by helo.

OKLAHOMA CITY departed Danang on 6 September and for the ship's crew the long hard days on the gunline came to a halt, at least for a period of one month. Prior to departing Danang, the ship was visited by RADM ROSENBERG, Commander Amphibious Group, THREE and RADM VORIS, Pacific Fleet Medical Officer. While enroute Yankee Station OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS PARICUTIN (AE-18) and USS MAUNAKEA (AE-22).

Upon arrival at Yankee Station, OKLAHOMA CITY conducted helo operations. She also refueled from USS ASHTABULA (AO-5) and was visited by RADM ISAMAN, Commander Carrier Division SEVEN and RADM McCLENDON, Commander Carrier Division NINE.

Enroute to OKINAWA, OKLAHOMA CITY experienced a drop in chemical readings in number 4 boiler caused by a leak in tube Y-36. Upon arrival Okinawa, the ship conducted Exercise Z-31-GM, short range TALOS missile firing exercise, in Okinawa operating area W-173. The ship conducted Z-17-AA, Target Acquisition exercise and Z-2-CI air intercept exercise. Services for the above exercises were provided by Fleet Composite Squadron FIVE. The ship departed Okinawa late in the afternoon, enroute Sasebo, Japan. While enroute Sasebo the ship conducted General Quarters and Engineering Watch Section drills.

The morning of 12 September saw OKLAHOMA CITY steaming into the quiet harbor of Sasebo, Japan for a four day port visit to give the crew a chance for rest and relaxation. Dignitaries who visited the ship upon her arrival included MGEN Shisei YASUMOTO, Commanding General, Ainoura Training

Command, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force: Mr. Ichizo ISUJI, Mayor of the city of Sasebo and VADM Hidesumi MIZUTANI Sasebo Regional District Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force:

At 0326 hours on 14 September flooding was reported in the Personnel Office, (B-201-L). The flooding was caused by a 3/4 inch steel pipe plug in a salt water air conditioning system which corroded and blew out. The flooding was stopped by 0328 and damage was minor.

On 16 September, OKLAHOMA CITY got underway for Yokosuka, Japan, her home port. The four day port visit to Sasebo was a great success. Many of the ship's crew participated in sporting events, including softball, volleyball, golf, etc. At the same time many took advantage of the tourist attractions which included a visit to Nagasaki, site of the dropping of the A bomb during World War II.

Enroute to Yokosuka, the ship conducted a 25 knot engineering economy trial and electronic warfare jamming exercise. Arriving in Yokosuka on Wednesday, 17 September, she moored to berth 12, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka. Repair work was initiated on the following equipment: No. 3 main engine nozzles, No. 4 fire and bilge pump and Nos. 1 and 2 ship's service turbo generators.

On 20 September, Captain Jay S. HOWELL, prospective Commanding Officer reported aboard for duty and on 23 September General Quarters was held in order to afford Captain HOWELL the chance to observe the crew and ship in a readiness condition.

On 24 September, No. 1 low pressure air compressor was CASREPT due to a stripped coupling on the motor shaft. Ship Repair Facility commenced manufacturing a new coupling. An inspection by the COMCRUDESPEC boiler inspector revealed suspected cracks in tubes RA8, 12, 23, 24 and 26 and RB7, 9 and 24 in No.4 boiler. No.2 fire pump motor was removed from the forward fireroom to correct low insulation readings. A MOTU-7 technical representative began assisting the ship in repairing the NC2 plotting system.

The ship's force completed rebricking No. 1 boiler saturated furnace deck and slopes on 25 September.

On 26 September the Captain conducted a personnel inspection of the crew. Both the Commanding Officer, (Captain Wayne D. SURFACE) and Prospective Commanding Officer (Captain Jay S. HOWELL) inspected the crew. Also on the same day, work was

completed on No.3 ship's service turbo generator lube oil pump. Ship Repair Facility repaired the cracks in the main deck and satisfactorily tested them for watertightness.

Monday, 29 September was a significant day for the OKLAHOMA CITY. At 1400 on this day, Captain Wayne D. SURFACE was relieved of command of USS OKLAHOMA CITY by Captain Jay S. HOWELL. Guests during the change of command included: VADM BRINGLE, COMSEVENTHFLT, RADM SMITH, COMNAVFORJAPAN and RADM MOORE, COMSTS Far East.

On 30 September, repairs to the degaussing system were completed, No. 2 fire pump motor repairs were completed and the gas turbine generator synchronizing monitor was placed in proper operating condition. Water washing was started on the firesides of No. 2 boiler. Also an overhaul of No. 6 chilled-water air conditioner unit compressor and the overhaul of the officer's motor boat engine was completed.

During the month of September the ship's four boilers were steamed a total of 1,129 hours. The ship burned 801,396 gallons and received 903,782 of Navy Standard Fuel Oil. Also during the month nine enlisted and five officers were transferred. Fifty-one enlisted and five officers were received on board for duty.

After a brief visit by RADM SMITH, Commander Naval Forces, Japan, who came on board to call on VADM BRINGLE on the morning of 2 October, OKLAHOMA CITY got underway for another extended Special Operation. Enroute OKLAHOMA CITY experienced a casualty on both the Solar Gas Turbine Generator and the Ship's Dry Cleaning Plant. Both were put out of operation pending receipt of repair parts.

Various exercises were conducted while the ship was enroute Vietnam. Upon arrival in the vicinity of Danang Republic of Vietnam, on 7 October, OKLAHOMA CITY again commenced her gunfire support mission in support of the 1st Marine Division. On 8 October, OKLAHOMA CITY broke away from her gunfire support mission for several hours in order to refuel from USS CHIPOLA (AO-63).

On 11 October, OKLAHOMA CITY departed the vicinity of Danang and proceeded north towards the DMZ. She remained in the vicinity of the DMZ providing gunfire support for the 3rd Marine Division until 21 October. During this period OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS VIRGO (AE-30) and USS RAINER (AE-5); refueled from USS MANATEE (AO-58) and USS CHEMUNG (AO-30) and conducted a vertical replenishment from the USS MARS (AF-1).

Amidst the heavy schedule, OKLAHOMA CITY was honored by a visit from RADM COOPER, Bureau of Naval Personnel Representative, who came aboard on 30 October and Admiral J. J. HYLAND, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet who came aboard on 15 October. 15 October was also a significant day for the ship's Executive Officer, John F. DANIS, who officially received his promotion to the rank of Captain, effective 1 September 1969.

At approximately 0300, 18 October, at latitude 16° 57.6' N, and longitude 107° 14.6' E, approximately three miles from the coast line of the Northern section of the Republic of South Vietnam GMG3 Peter Emmanuel GUTLOFF, USN, 118 63 55, accidentally fell overboard. In spite of excellent search conditions with unlimited visibility and calm seas, GUTLOFF's body could not be found. A helicopter, two PCF's (swift boats); three LCM's, USS LOYALTY and USCGC PT GAMMON rendered search assistance. All hopes were abandoned and the search terminated at 1800, on 18 October. GMG3 GUTLOFF was assumed dead by drowning.

On 21 October OKLAHOMA CITY left the vicinity of the DMZ enroute to Yankee Station. She refueled from USS GUADALUPE (AO-32) on the same day. Upon arrival at Yankee Station, OKLAHOMA CITY conducted helo operations after which she got underway enroute Hong Kong.

OKLAHOMA CITY arrived Hong Kong on 23 October marking her second visit to the British Crown Colony during the year. OKLAHOMA CITY was visited, on her arrival, by Captain GORE, U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, Hong Kong, and Commodore P. R. HIGHAM, RN Commodore Hong Kong. In the afternoon OKLAHOMA CITY was honored by a visit of the Chief Justice Hong Kong, The Honorable Sir Michael HOGAN.

On 28 October, OKLAHOMA CITY got underway from Hong Kong enroute Yokosuka, Japan. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived Yokosuka on 31 October and commenced two weeks of upkeep.

During the month of October the ship steamed a total of 1,242 hours and burned 968,921 gallons of fuel oil. 52,480 gallons were stripped and a total of 1,033,426 gallons was received.

On 1 November, the ship was full dressed in honor of the Japanese Self Defense Force Anniversary.

During the period 1 thru 12 November OKLAHOMA CITY was honored with a visit by the following VIP's:

RADM F. J. HARLFINGER II, USN, Assistant CNO for Intelligence
RADM H. H. ANDERSON, USN, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla ELEVEN
VADM J. V. SMITH, Commander Amphibious Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
RADM E. M. ROSENBERG, Commander Amphibious Group THREE
RADM W. T. RAPP, Commander Taiwan Patrol Force
RADM V. G. LAMBERT, Commander Naval Base Subic
RADM ALBRITTAIN, Chief, Bureau of Medicine & Surgery
RADM MCDEVITT, Judge Advocate General of the Navy
All the above officers came to make a brief call on VADM BRINGLE.

After routine upkeep, OKLAHOMA CITY got underway at 1100, 18 November enroute Keelung, Taiwan. The ship arrived in Keelung on 21 November and was moored to pier E-2. OKLAHOMA CITY was visited upon arrival by RADM HU PAO-CHIEN, Commandant THIRD Naval District, Chinese Navy and VADM Tsui CHIH-TAO, Deputy CINC, Chinese Navy.

On November 22 and 23 OKLAHOMA CITY was opened for general visiting. Over 15,000 eager visitors came to tour the ship despite a continuous torrential downpour.

The three day good will visit to Keelung was highly successful, and OKLAHOMA CITY departed the area on 24 November with another "people-to-people" accomplishment.

On 25 November, enroute Yankee Station, OKLAHOMA CITY received an urgent message from USS DUBUQUE (LPD-8) requesting medical assistance. A course change was made in order to intercept the DUBUQUE.

At 2021 CDR JOHNSON (MC), Senior Medical Doctor on board and HM3 JURY were lifted off by helo and flown to USS DUBUQUE. A man on board DUBUQUE had a ruptured appendix, but was successfully operated on by CDR JOHNSON.

On 26 November, OKLAHOMA CITY arrived Yankee Station. She conducted helo operations and also refueled from USS CAMDEN (AOE-2).

After completion of refueling, OKLAHOMA CITY got underway enroute Danang, arriving in Danang on Thanksgiving Day, 27 November. OKLAHOMA CITY conducted helo operations in Danang Harbor after which she departed Danang enroute CHU LAI. She conducted NGFS in the vicinity of CHU LAI in support of the U.S. Army Americal Division. OKLAHOMA CITY guns inflicted heavy damage, including 17 structures destroyed, 8 structures heavily damaged, 4 bunkers destroyed, 1 secondary fire and 1 secondary explosion. The secondary explosion was caused by a direct hit on a building which blew up leaving a hole 50 yards in diameter.

Despite the heavy schedule during the day, OKLAHOMA CITY found time to observe Thanksgiving Day in the traditional manner; turkey with all the trimmings was served for the crew.

On 28 November MGEN RAMSEY, Commanding General of the Americal Division visited the ship. He came on board by helo to make a brief call on VADM BRINGLE. During the afternoon OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS PYRO (AE-24).

On 29 November OKLAHOMA CITY returned to Danang Harbor to conduct helo operations. After completion of helo operations she left Danang Harbor enroute CHU LAI to continue her gunfire support mission.

On 1 December OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS HALEAKALA (AE-25) and refueled from USS PLATTE (AO-24). On 2 December OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS RAINIER (AE-5) then proceeded to Danang Harbor for helo operations. After completion of helo operations OKLAHOMA CITY again returned to CHU LAI for gunfire support missions. During the period 2 thru 4 December OKLAHOMA CITY was honored with visits by the following VIPs:

LTGEN NICKERSON Commanding General, THIRD Marine Amphibious Force
MGEN SIMPSON Commanding General, FIRST Marine Division
RADM ROSENBERG, Commander Amphibious Group THREE
BGEN POWELL, Deputy Commanding General, Americal Division

On 4 December OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS PYRO (AE-24) and on 6 December she refueled from USS CHIPOLA (AO-63). Upon completion of refueling OKLAHOMA CITY proceeded to the vicinity of Danang Harbor where she commenced gunfire support for the FIRST Marine Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment. OKLAHOMA CITY fired at staging areas and harbor sites commonly used by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units, neutralizing several fighting and staging areas. In addition approximately 200 rounds were directed at target points for harassment of enemy activity in the Danang area and to suppress possible rocket attacks.

MGEN THRASH, Commanding General, FIRST Marine Air Wing and BGEN BOWEN, Commanding General, SECOND Marine Amphibious Force visited the ship on 6 December.

On 7 December OKLAHOMA CITY rearmed from USS RAINIER (AE-5). After rearming she returned to the vicinity of Danang and continued her gunfire support mission until 9 December when she got underway enroute Yankee Station. While enroute Yankee Station OKLAHOMA CITY conducted vertical replenishment with USS MARS (AFS-1) bringing aboard 41 loads of dry stores and miscellaneous supplies weighing 120,000 pounds.

On 10 December OKLAHOMA CITY arrived at Yankee Station. She refueled from USS KAWISHIWI (AO-146) and conducted helo operations, then got underway enroute Manila, Republic of the Philippines. Air intercept controller exercises were conducted while enroute Manila.

The morning of 12 December saw OKLAHOMA CITY steaming into the majestic harbor of Manila marking her second visit during the year to this famous city. VIPS who visited the ship on her day of arrival included:

Vice President LOPEZ, Republic of the Philippines
BGEN SINGSON, Commanding General, Philippine Air Force
Commodore De Papa, Acting Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy
GEN YAN, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines
BGEN PESTANNA, Deputy Armed Forces of the Philippines
Ambassador BYROADE, American Ambassador to the Republic of the
Philippines
COLLANTES, Foreign Affairs Under Secretary, Republic of the
Philippines
RADM KAUFMAN, Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Philippines

OKLAHOMA CITY got underway on 15 December enroute Yokosuka, exercises were conducted. Also the Commanding Officer conducted Material (Zone) Inspection.

The ship arrived Yokosuka, Japan on 19 December and commenced routine upkeep with Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka.

On 22 and 23 December, OKLAHOMA CITY celebrated her 25th Anniversary. A great majority of the ship's officers and enlisted men and their ladies attended the gala event which included a buffet dinner and floor show. Also, door prizes, a \$50 and \$100 Savings Bond, were awarded for each of the two nights of celebration.

On 23 December, MGEN JONES, Commanding General, FIRST Marine Expeditionary Forces visited the ship.

OKLAHOMA CITY celebrated Christmas Eve in Yokosuka for the second consecutive year since her deployment to WESTPAC in November 1968.

An inspection party from Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet conducted an annual inspection on the ship's #1 boiler and a grade of satisfactory was given.

On 30 December, the ship was honored with a visit by Cardinal COOKE, Vicar of the U. S. Roman Catholic Church who came on board for a brief call on VADM BRINGLE.

During the month of December, the ship's four boilers were steamed a total of 922.7 hours, burning 707,905 gallons of NSFO. A total of 694,396 gallons of NSFO were received.

During the period 1 July - 31 December 1969 two major inspections were conducted on board: Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) conducted by COMDESRON THREE 14-15 November and on-site audit inspection of pay records conducted by OIC Navy Finance Office, Yokosuka 4-13 November. No major discrepancies were noted in either inspection and in particular COMDESRON THREE during the NTPI noted that "... technical operations were conducted in an excellent manner," and "Command attention was very evident throughout the inspection."

OKLAHOMA CITY delivered a total of 180 advancements and 156 awards. These are broken down as follows:

Advancements to:	POC 1
	PO1 6
	PO2 25
	PO3 95

Awards:	Navy Commendation Medal	7
	Navy Achievement Medal	8
	Navy Unit Commendation	38
	Navy Meritorious Unit	3
	Combat Action Ribbon	67
	Good Conduct Medal	18
	Letter of Commendation	6
	Sailor of the Quarter	2
	Petty Officer of the Qtr	2

The last half of 1969 was indeed a notable period for the OKLAHOMA CITY. She has met and accomplished all scheduled commitments both as a Flagship for Commander SEVENTH Fleet and as a combatant ship providing gunfire support for U.S. and allied forces in Vietnam.