

Homeward Bound (Departing Vietnam)

By Captain Ace Trask, USN, (Ret)

We got a new Commodore for the squadron just before we went back on the “Gun-Line” for the last time. He had not been to sea in quite some time but seemed to be quite sharp. The squadron (4 DD’s) formed up, got fueled by a tanker and headed east! We had been on the Gun-Line (off and on) for six months and were now headed for our homeport, Norfolk, VA. It would take the better part of six weeks to get there. During our time on the line we had thirteen wounded and one KIA.

After arriving in Norfolk, we had thirty days in port before the next Fleet Exercise which the new Commodore asked me to stay for until he got his “Sea Legs.” I had been at sea for more than five years and was due for shore duty. I was assigned, eventually, to Fleet Weather Center Norfolk for a two-year tour. My wife informed me that in the last three years I had been home **less than 30 days!** Thirteen months later I got orders to Vietnam, again! So, I called the Bureau and said “been there and done that! Their answer was “But you were not in-country!” to which I said, “read the awards I got for working with the Marines at the DMZ, in country!” Needless to say, one month later I reported to MAC V in Saigon, Vietnam, working with the U.S. Army for twelve months!

P.S. After Vietnam, my next assignment was C.O. of the USS Holder (DD-819) out of Norfolk.

