

Congratulatory letters and reception on board



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

6 August 1971

Captain David S. Boyd, USN
PCO, DIXON (AS-37)
Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, Virginia 23709

Dear Captain Boyd,

Congratulations on your new command, and best wishes to you and to your crew on the commissioning of DIXON (AS-37).

To an ever-increasing degree the United States depends on its sea power to guarantee its freedom. As commanding officer of one of the finest ships of our new Navy, it will be your privilege to share in the vital task of maintaining the battle-readiness of the fleet. And in successfully fulfilling her mission, your ship, DIXON, will contribute most importantly to the preparedness of our submarine forces.

In designing new ships such as DIXON we have endeavored to continue to improve living conditions for the fine men who sail them. I know that you share this interest. Although improvements have been made over earlier designs, there is always a need for new ideas in this important area. I hope that you and your crew will continue to develop innovations in habitability improvement and forward your recommendations for consideration. I would like to receive an advance copy of any such submissions. Our men constitute our most vital asset. As we seek their finest performance their individual and collective welfare deserves our most active interest.

A navy is only as good as its ships, and a ship is only as good as her crew. To you then, and to your officers and petty officers, is given the demanding task of welding ship and crew into a working, fighting team. I am certain that you will meet this test.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Chafee
John H. Chafee

