



CDR Congdon gives 173RD Brigade C.O. a ship's plaque



XO welcomes Major Tram, Vietnamese District Chief.



XO makes our visitors honorary members of BUCHANAN's crew



Visitors from the 173RD Airborne Brigade assemble for a picture just prior to their departure.

A. Following Presrel submitted for clearance and release

1. 2 July 1969. After firing her 5"/54 caliber guns on suspected enemy positions and infiltration routes in the vicinity of Qui Nhon, USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14) played host to a contingent of officers and enlisted men from the 173rd Airborne Brigade for whom she was conducting naval gunfire support missions. The group was served excellent hot meals from BUCHANAN's mess and were treated to a showing of the Navy's film "Who needs you Buchanan?". Those who remained overnight enjoyed a full night's sleep with clean linen for the first time in quite a while. Upon their departure it seemed the Navy almost had a few new recruits. One Army officer was overheard to say, "When I joined the Army I thought it had advantages over the Navy. Now I can't think of them."

2. Joining this group for lunch and a tour of this San Diego based guided missile destroyer was Colonel Bletz, USA, Deputy Commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, LT Colonel

Berke, Executive Officer, and Major Tram, ARVN, District Chief of Phu Mi district. Besides having an enjoyable afternoon playing hosts to the Army, the officers and men of the BUCHANAN learned first hand how their gunfire support could be best utilized.

3. The visitors were given a full tour of the ship, the highlight of which was watching the operation of the 5"/54 rapid fire guns. While on board, Colonel Bletz and Major Tram were presented ship's plaques and all of the visitors were made honorary crew members by CDR R.N. Congdon, USN, BUCHANAN's commanding officer.

B. For FHTNC: Upon clearance, request apply to my hold file No. 04680

C. This unit scheduled for Hong Kong visit 18 July 1969

GP-4

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