

USS BROOKE (DEG-1)
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 1968

Carry out the daily routine at sea as prescribed by Article 1402 of the Ship's Organization and Regulation Manual, except as modified below:

Sunrise: Duty MAA: FTM SNELL
 Sunset: Duty Division: 3rd

0615 Sweepers, Cooks, mess cooks and compartment cleaners lay aft and dump trash
 0715 Quarters for Muster and Instruction
 0750 Officer's call
 0800 Turn to. Commence ship's work
 1115 Sweepers
 1830 Cooks, mess cooks, and compartment cleaners lay aft and dump trash.
 1900 Night oblock reports

NOTES:

1. BROOKE and YORKTOWN expect to refuel today from an AO, TALUGA at about 1500.
2. PAY DAY will be held tomorrow morning, Friday 15 March.
3. Today we arrive in the Tonkin Gulf and begin support of Fleet Operations in the Viet Nam area. We will be in company with YORKTOWN. YORKTOWN and her aircraft will be responsible for conducting surface and subsurface surveillance of the Gulf to prevent the attack of units of the Seventh Fleet Task Carrier Striking Force by enemy submarines or surface craft. In addition helicopters from YORKTOWN will conduct search and rescue operations and will provide logistic support to the task force. BROOKE's mission is the defense of YORKTOWN against air, surface, or submarine attack.
4. The ship will go to condition III at 1200 today. From today until we depart the Gulf exceptional vigilance and alertness is required of all watchstanders. Our operating area is a small one in relatively close proximity to enemy territory. Little to no warning can be expected of attack, and alert and timely action will be required to avert damage or loss to the ship and any unit under our escort. The enemy has the capability to attack with aircraft, small high speed surface units, or submarines. At the same time the great number of friendly forces in the area make it essential that all contacts radar, sonar, RCM, or visual be promptly and accurately identified.
5. For BROOKE, as for any escort, there is one and only one measure of success, the continued ability of units under her care to carry out their assigned mission. This is equally true if because of our presence the enemy does not attack or if he attacks and is repulsed by our gunfire and missiles.

Each day that YORKTOWN is free to conduct her assigned operations without enemy interference, BROOKE has succeeded in the conduct of her own.

6. Due to our failure to exercise economy in its use, fresh water is in short supply on board. It is imperative that each of us use care and economy in the expenditure of fresh water, for both personal and ship's use.

7. The commanding officer is expected to be lifted to YORKTOWN by helo at 0950 and returned at 1300.

8. COMBAT ZONE TAX EXCLUSION - A 1965 Executive Order invoked a section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 in establishing a zone in which Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in combat. The code provides certain tax exclusions for members who serve any portion of a month in the designated zone. For enlisted, all military pay for the month is non-taxable. Officers are entitled to an exclusion of \$500.00 per month of military pay and taxable income in excess of \$500.00 per month is subject to income tax in the normal manner. The withholding procedure is the same for all pay grades. No income tax is withheld from a member's pay for any month he is eligible for the combat zone exclusion. Therefore, Disbursing will include $\frac{1}{2}$ month of Income Tax in your pay each payday following entitlement beginning 15 March 1966. Disbursing expects to include your March Income Tax in the 15 March pay day. Note, Your pay is still subject to FICA (Social Security) Tax. For your information, the combat zone will be outlined on the Mess Decks chart. Today we are in the Zone, hence March is a tax exemption month.

The hostile fire area is a subsector of the combat zone. Basically, the hostile fire perimeter follows the combat zone perimeter to the southern part of the Gulf of Tonkin. Thereafter, the hostile fire boundary juts landward and follows along the Viet Nam coast at a distance of 12 miles. (The hostile fire area is also drawn on the Mess Decks Chart). To be eligible for hostile fire pay, BROOKE must be present in a designated hostile fire area and perform assigned duties in such area for any period of each of six days within a calendar month. Upon entitlement, a lump sum of \$65.00 will be credited on the last payday of the month for which you are eligible. March will be a hostile fire pay month. It is probable that April, May, and June will be also.

Extra dollars from combat zone exclusion and hostile fire pay adds up to a considerable amount of money after a couple of months in the Gulf. A Seaman over two, single, with one exemption, draws an additional \$82.50 a month. A single Second Class over three, drawing P-2 pay, is entitled to \$112.00 more a month.

1. For the remainder of the cruise, the money list posted on the mess decks will contain three columns. Column 1 will show the total amount due you. Column 2 will show your normal bi-monthly pay. Column 3 will show the currently earned combat extras. If you wish to keep this extra combat money on the books, merely fill out your pay chit in the amount of your normal pay. It can be drawn at a later pay day.

2. Deposits are still being accepted into the 10% Savings Program. \$100.00 a month for a few months at 10% quickly adds up to sure savings at good interest.

3. If you would like your income tax to be withheld while in the combat zone, you must file a new W-4 form at the Disbursing Office. The earliest this action would take effect is 1 April. You may file this W-4 any time next week.

9. BROOKE today becomes eligible for free mail privileges and for the mailing of \$50.00 Bona Fide Gifts free of customs. The ship will remain eligible for so long as we remain on YANKEE Station. Before taking advantage of these privileges carefully read and comply fully with the following regulations. If you have questions check with the postal clerk.

Also the regulations governing duty free Bona Fide Gifts not exceeding \$10.00 in value and the postal rates to KAOHSIUNG are published for your convenience. Personnel having need or use of the latter are directed to be cautious in any letters to insure that no classified information is divulged.

FREE MAIL PRIVILEGE

The privilege of "Free" mail is extended to members of the Armed Forces of the United States on duty in authorized areas. The post office department will provide free mail the same transportation that is provided air mail over U. S. domestic routes.

1. In order to be entitled to the free mail privilege, mail must meet the following conditions:

a. For mail addressed for delivery in the United States, territories and possessions of the United States, and to U. S. Army, Air Force, or Navy Post Offices:

(1) Consist only of first-class letter mail, including postal cards and post cards and sound recorded communications having the character of personal correspondence, pictures, clippings, and similar items which are strictly incidental to the message of the letter sent may be enclosed therein.

Note: The use of envelopes of distinctive "AIR MAIL" design for DOMESTIC FREE MAIL is not authorized. Only PLAIN type envelopes will be accepted. Also DO NOT stamp or write "AIR MAIL" on the letter or post card.

(2) Bear in the upper corner (right hand side) of the address side in the hand writing of the sender the word "Free". DO NOT PRINT.

(3) Bear in the upper corner (left hand side) of the address side, the name of sender, his service number, grade and complete mailing address including zip code.

b. For mail addressed to foreign countries:

(1) Same as (1) above, except Air Mail letters may be included. It should be noted that should the sender desire Air Mail services for this International FREE mail, the air mail design envelopes must be used.

(2) Letters will not be marked "Free" as prescribed in (2) above for domestic free mail but in lieu thereof the words "POSTAGE PAID" and the French language equivalent "PORT PAYE" must appear in the upper right hand corner. This notation must be mechanically printed or applied

by rubber stamp. Hand printed, handwritten or typewritten marking is not authorized.

The post office has the required stamp and all foreign mail should be presented for mailing at the post office.

(3) Same as (3) above.

In order to be entitled to the FREE MAILING PRIVILEGE, mail must meet the above conditions. This notice is posted outside the post office with samples of the correct ways of addressing envelopes for free mailing.

BONA FIDE GIFT FROM A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U. S. SERVING IN A COMBAT ZONE.

A. Bona Fide Gifts from members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in a combat zone, or contiguous waters thereof or if evidence is submitted showing that the sender of the package from an area other than Viet Nam was in the area temporarily on rest and recreation from Viet Nam, or hospitalized as the result of service in Viet Nam, shall be offered entry free of duty provided that:

(1) Articles in the country of shipment must not exceed \$50.00 in value in that said country. When the value of a shipment exceeds such \$50.00 limitation, duty shall be assessed on the portion of the shipment which exceeds \$50.00 in value.

(2) The articles were purchased in or through authorized agencies of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(3) The articles do not include alcoholic beverages, or tax paid American cigarettes, or other non-mailable articles. (i.e. Taiwan books, records, and art work).

BRNKEE personnel may mail these bona-fide gifts with the \$50.00 exemption anytime from a period of one to seven days after entering our first port, upon return from our tour in the combat zone.

After 7 days in port the below listed Bona Fide Gift Value not exceeding \$10.00 will take affect vice the \$50.00 exemption.

Bona Fide Gifts not exceeding \$10.00 in value; definition of

A Bona Fide Gift is an article formerly owned by a donor who gave it outright in its entirety to a donee without compensation or promise of compensation. Both military and civilian personnel authorized to use the Military postal service may mail from Navy post offices located outside the customs territory of the United States Bona Fide gifts not exceeding \$10.00 in value, free of duty and internal revenue tax to donees (addressees located in the United States).

Note: The law states that no one person may receive ten dollars or more gifts in any one day without being charged duty on the whole amount.

POSTAGE RATES TO KAHSIUNG

(Letter Mail)

Air Rates: Letters, 25 cents per half ounce or fraction thereof;
Surface Rates: 13 cents first ounce, 8 cents each additional ounce
or fraction thereof.

Any mail being sent to a final destination being a foreign country,
for example, KAHSIUNG, TAIWAN, while we are in the combat zone is free.



F. J. BARNES, III
Executive Officer