

**COMMANDER U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM
AND
CHIEF NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP, MACV**

Change of Command



Monday, 30 September 1968
U. S. S. GARRETT COUNTY (LST-786)
Vietnamese Shipyard (Pier BRAVO)
Saigon, Vietnam
9:00 A. M.

PROGRAM



MUSIC BY USARV BAND

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

**Republic of Vietnam and United States of America
National Anthems**

USARV BAND

INVOCATION

**Captain J. S. FERRIS, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy
NAVFORV CHAPLAIN**

REMARKS AND ORDERS

**Rear Admiral K. L. VETH, U. S. Navy
COMNAVFORV and CHNAVADVGRP, MACV**

HONORS

Haul down Rear Admiral VETH's Flag

ORDERS

**Vice Admiral E. R. ZUMWALT, Jr., U.S. Navy
Break Vice Admiral ZUMWALT's Flag**

HONORS

REMARKS

**Vice Admiral E. R. ZUMWALT, Jr., U.S. Navy
COMNAVFORV and CHNAVADVGRP, MACV**

BENEDICTION

Lieutenant Commander M. A. ELLER, Chaplain Corps, U. S. Navy

REAR ADMIRAL KENNETH LEROY VETH

UNITED STATES NAVY

Rear Admiral Kenneth LeRoy Veth was born in Minot, North Dakota, 29 September 1911. He was graduated from the Naval Academy and commissioned an Ensign on 6 June 1935.

Upon graduation he was assigned to the battleship, USS PENNSYLVANIA. In June 1937 he joined the staff of Commander Battleship Division TWO and from September 1938 until June 1940 had duty as Gunnery Officer in USS PHOENIX. He transferred to the minelayer USS RAMSEY and served as her Mining Officer until April 1941.

On duty as Assistant U. S. Naval Attache at the American Embassy, London, England, when the United States entered World War II, December 7, 1941, he remained there until June 1942. After an assignment in connection with mine warfare in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., he reported in April 1943 as Assistant Gunnery Officer on the staff of Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

In November 1943 he joined the staff of Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, R. N., Supreme Allied Commander, Southeast Asia to serve as Intelligence and Liaison Officer with the U. S. Army Air Forces and British Eastern Fleet.

Between June 1945 and October 1947 he had duty in connection with mine warfare in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, after which he served afloat as Operations Officer on board USS LITTLE ROCK. Detached from the cruiser in April 1949, he next had command of the destroyer USS EVERETT P. LARSON. In August 1950 he was assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C., where he remained until August 1952 and after instruction in strategy and tactics at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, reported in August 1953 as Commander Mine Division TWO, his pennant in USS SHANNON.

He was Commanding Officer of USS MONONGAHELA from July 1954 until June 1955, after which he was assigned to the National Security Agency, Washington, D. C. In May 1958 he joined the staff of Commander Carrier Division TWENTY and in May 1959 reported for fitting-out duty in USS PROVIDENCE which was converted to a guided missile cruiser at the Naval Shipyard, Boston, Massachusetts. He assumed command of that vessel upon her recommissioning, September 17, 1959. From September 1960 to September 1961 he was Commander Destroyer Flotilla SEVEN. It was while serving in this command that he was promoted to Rear Admiral in July 1961.

He served as Commander Mine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, with additional duty as Commander, Naval Base, Los Angeles, Long Beach California. On March 26, 1964, he assumed command of Anti-Submarine Warfare Group THREE on board USS YORKTOWN and on June 30, 1965 became Chief of Legislative Affairs, Navy Department.

On April 27, 1967 on board USS GARRETT COUNTY, Rear Admiral Veth assumed command as Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam/Chief, Naval Advisory Group, MACV.

Rear Admiral Veth has been decorated by all three Services : Distinguished Service Medal (Navy), Legion of Merit (Navy), the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Legion of Merit (Army), the Bronze Star Medal (Air Force), and the Air Medal (Air Force).

Rear Admiral Veth is married to the former Mrs. Dorothy Steffner of Palos Verdes Estates, California.

VICE ADMIRAL ELMO RUSSELL ZUMWALT JR.

UNITED STATES NAVY

Vice Admiral Elmo Russell Zumwalt Jr. was born in San Francisco, California, November 29, 1920. He was graduated from the Naval Academy and commissioned an Ensign in June, 1942.

Upon graduation, he was assigned to the USS PHELPS and in November, 1943 detached for instruction in the Operational Training Command, Pacific, at San Francisco. In January, 1944, he reported to the USS ROBINSON. While aboard, he earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for service in action against Japanese battleships during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, October 25, 1944.

Succeeding posts included "prize crew officer" of the HIJMS ATAKA, a Japanese river gunboat; Executive Officer of the USS SAUFLEY; Executive Officer and Navigator of the USS ZELLARS and, after a tour with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit of the University of North Carolina; Commanding Officer of the USS TILLS.

During the Korean Conflict, he was navigator of the battleship USS WISCONSIN. Detached from the WISCONSIN in July, 1952, he attended the Naval War College, Newport, R. I. and in June, 1953 reported as Head of the Shore and Overseas Bases Section, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C. He also served as Officer and Enlisted Requirements Officer and as Action Officer on Medicare Legislation.

Another sea tour followed, this time as Commanding Officer of the USS ARNOLD J. ISBELL, during which he was commended for that ship's winning the Battle Efficiency Competition and receiving excellence awards in Engineering, Gunnery, ASW and Operations.

Another tour at the Bureau of Naval Personnel followed. In January, 1958, he was transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Personnel and Reserve Forces) and served as Special Assistant for Naval Personnel until November, 1958, then as Executive Assistant and Senior Aide.

In July, 1959, he took command of the USS DEWEY and gained recognition by leading her to excellence awards in Engineering, Supply and Weapons. From June, 1961 until June, 1962 he was a student at the National War College in Washington and was then assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), where he served first as Desk Officer for France, Spain, Portugal, and later as Director of Arms Control and Contingency Planning for Cuba. From December, 1963, until June, 1965, he served as Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Secretary of the Navy. For this tour he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In July, 1965, after his selection for promotion to Rear Admiral at the age of 44, he became Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla SEVEN. "For exceptionally meritorious service..." in this capacity, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. In June, 1966 he was ordered to duty as Director of the Chief of Naval Operations' Systems Analysis Group in Washington.

Following two years at this post, he was chosen to be Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam and promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral. He assumed command September 30, 1968.

Vice Admiral Zumwalt is married to the former Mouza Coutelais-du-Roche of Harbin, Manchuria. They have two sons, Elmo R. III and James G., and two daughters, Ann F. and Mouza C. The family resides at Clark Air Force Base, Republic of the Philippines.

HISTORY OF NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP/U. S. NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

The U. S. Navy's advisory effort in Vietnam began in 1950. In October of that year, a staff of eight officers and enlisted men established the Navy Section of the U. S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG). The primary mission of the Navy Section was to provide aid that would help strengthen the coastal and river security of Vietnam.

Throughout the 1950's and the early 1960's, the advisory effort increased gradually as the Navy Section supervised the transfer of craft and equipment to the Vietnamese Navy and furnished advisors to the various training centers, in the Saigon shipyard and aboard coastal and river patrol units. Assistance was also provided to the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

In 1962, the expanding American effort led to the establishment of the U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). The MAAG, however, continued to administer the functional aspects of the military aid program until 1964. The end of 1962 brought the arrival of the first Seabee Technical Assistance Teams, highly-skilled groups destined to play a key role in the field of military civic action.

By 1963, there were over 700 U. S. personnel in the Navy Sections; many of these men were assigned to the Headquarters Support Activity, a Navy command that provided logistical support for most of the U.S. forces in South Vietnam. In May 1964, the title of the Navy Section was changed to Naval Advisory Group. On 10 May 1965, Rear Admiral Norvell G. WARD, USN, assumed the duties of Chief, Naval Advisory Group.

In July, 1965, U. S. Seventh Fleet units engaged in coastal patrols (Operation MARKET TIME) were placed under the operational control of Chief, Naval Advisory Group, and the Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) was activated. Fast patrol craft (PCFs) and Coast Guard Cutters (WPBs) eventually become the backbone of the sea surveillance effort as TF 115 continued to grow in late 1965 and early 1966.

In March 1966, the first river patrol boats (PBRs) arrived in South Vietnam as the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116), established in December 1965, moved to counter enemy activity in the Mekong Delta (Operation GAME WARDEN). At the same time, minesweepers began operations in the Long Tau channel in order to keep that vital shipping lane open from the South China Sea to Saigon.

The need to unify the burgeoning U. S. Navy commitment under a single component commander directly responsible to COMUSMACV led to the establishment in April of a major Navy command, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV). On 1 April Rear Admiral WARD assumed the additional duty of Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

In addition to Task Force 115 and Task Force 116, the new command included operational control of the Naval Support Activity, Danang, the Naval Support Activity, Saigon (the U.S. Army had assumed the Headquarters Support Activity functions), and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. In June, the activities of all Seabee units in South Vietnam were consolidated with the recommissioning of the Third Naval Construction Brigade, under the operational control of COMNAVFORV.

During 1966, COMNAVFORV's widely deployed forces helped improve the posture of the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, reduced sea infiltration, disrupted enemy lines of communications, constructed facilities valued at 28 million dollars and supported 100,000 combat forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone, as well as Naval Forces throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

In February 1967, a new component of NAVFORV, the Riverine Assault Force (Task Force 117), was activated under the operational control of COMNAVFORV. The mission of the new force included riverine assault operations in support of U. S. Army forces in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

In September 1968, the numerical strength of U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam exceeded 35,000 officers and enlisted men.