



THE CARRIER CORAL SEA RETURNS TO ALAMEDA, CALIF., FROM DUTY OFF VIETNAM.

Coral Sea Steams Under Golden Gate

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The Navy carrier Coral Sea returned home Monday to a dock-side greeting by an estimated 5,000 persons after seven months on duty off Vietnam.

“Your victories against the North Vietnamese air force and the highly efficient professional conduct of air strike missions at an unprecedented pace...” were praised in a statement read to the 4,000-man crew from Adm. B.A. Clarey, Pacific Fleet commander in chief.

Crewmen told newsmen that 13 to 15 combat planes were lost or missing in the Coral Sea’s 147 days off Vietnam.

Most crewmen will get 30-day

leaves while the Coral Sea receives an overhaul at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, a Navy spokesman said.

The Coral Sea’s place off Vietnam was taken by the USS America, assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet from her normal base at Norfolk, Va., after the spring offensive was launched by North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front armies, a Navy spokesman said.

The Coral Sea’s crew shivered in summer uniforms as the big ship made her way through the Golden Gate fog, saluting the carrier Enterprise outbound for sea trials after re-fitting.

7th Fleet Combat Logs

WASHINGTON — Here is a summary of 7th Fleet combat actions for the period beginning September 7, as compiled from public affairs "sitreps." Navy Times received no report for September 12.

SEPTEMBER 7

Pilots from carrier Saratoga roll in on the POL storage area one mile northwest of Haiphong, setting off three secondaries and two sustained fires. They also destroy a truck near Hanoi.

Carrier Midway's planes hit targets near Haiphong and Hanoi, destroying four boxcars and a truck.

Aircraft from carrier Hancock hit Thanh Hoa's Phu Quat railroad bridge, cutting 10 meters of track at both approaches. Other strikes, in that area and near Vinh, account for two trucks, three boxcars, one warehouse and a supply boat. A Hancock A-4 Skyhawk catches fire after being hit by fire from a four-site near Thanh Hoa but the pilot flies the burning aircraft to a point three miles off the coast where he ejects. As a search and rescue helicopter moves in, both the downed pilot and chopper are taken under fire from the Tien Truong coastal defense site. Five other Hancock jets slam the site as the pilot is safely rescued.

South of the DMZ, carrier America's jets pound enemy targets around Dong Ha, Quang Tri City and Pleiku, destroying one artillery piece, a 51-caliber machine gun and four emplacements.

SEPTEMBER 8

Hancock's pilots concentrate on targets near Vinh and Thanh Hoa, destroying a highway bridge, a 57mm AA gun and two trucks and damaging two highway bridges and four trucks.

Midway's planes hit widespread targets around Hanoi, Haiphong, Vinh and Thanh Hoa, tallying six supply boats, two 37mm AA machine guns, one 57mm AA gun, a highway bridge, two railroad bridges, four trucks and cause three secondaries and a sustained fire at a POL pipeline depot.

Saratoga pilots in A-7s and F-4s blast military targets near Vinh and Thanh Hoa, knocking out two highway bridges, two supply storage buildings, 18 trucks and an AA position on Hon Me Island.

Pilots from the carrier America strike north and south of the DMZ. Near Vinh and Dong Hoi, they ignite two POL fires at a peach supply area and level a bunker. Around Quang Tri, Dong Ha and Pleiku, they get 12 emplacements, a tank, a 130mm artillery piece, a 51-caliber machine gun and a large supply boat.

SEPTEMBER 9

Saratoga's fighter-bombers thunder in on targets around Vinh and Thanh Hoa, getting three bridges, 12 trucks and two barges. An F-4 Phantom pilot, pulling out of a run that flattens six trucks, takes hits from AAA guns. He and the radar intercept officer nurse the burning jet back to the Saratoga but can't get its speed low enough for either an arrested or barricade landing. They fly a few miles ahead of the carrier and eject. Both are picked up by chopper and returned to the ship uninjured.

North of the DMZ, America pilots hit a highway bridge, a storage building and eight floating bundles of supplies near Dong Hoi. Down south, they level an emplacement and two bunkers near Quang Tri and Kontum.

Midway pilots destroy two AA guns: one 37mm AA machine gun on Dao Cat Ba Island and a weapon of unidentified caliber near Vinh.

Hancock aircraft hit the Vinh and Thanh Hoa areas, destroying a 37mm AA machine gun and two storage buildings and damaging two barges and a large concrete supply bunker.

SEPTEMBER 10

North Vietnam's military targets near Dong Hoi and Vinh take a beating as jets from the Hancock destroy a POL pumping station, a 130mm artillery piece, 30 bundles of supplies and a highway bridge and damage three supply boats, two highway bridges and a supply cache. Raids on enemy positions in the South also take a toll, as the carrier's planes account for 11 emplacements and a 57mm AA gun.

Pilots from the America slam the Vinh area, detonating a secondary at the Yen Dai POL storage area that is 800 feet in diameter. They also cause heavy damage to the Phu Gua POL pumping station and destroy the Phu Quat railroad bridge and the Phu Dien and Phuc Thiem highway bridges. Other targets, including three near Hanoi and Dong Hoi, yield a PT-76 tank, ten supply boats, four trucks and a supply building.

Midway's planes hit targets near Hanoi, Thanh Hoa and Vinh, destroying ten supply buildings, four boxcars, a pontoon bridge, a warehouse and two supply boats. They also damage three bridges.

SEPTEMBER 11

North Vietnam's defenses are blasted by Hancock's pilots as they hit positions at Hanoi, Haiphong, Thanh Hoa and Vinh. The day's tally is four coastal defense guns (secondaries and sustained fires at three other sites); four 37mm AA machine guns, an artillery piece, three supply buildings, four stacks of supplies, a pontoon bridge, a barge and a supply truck.

Ten supply boats are sunk 22 miles north

of Vinh as America jets pound targets near that city, Hanoi, Haiphong and Thanh Hoa. The day's total includes four bridges, two trucks and a railroad ferry.

Saratoga's planes hit three bridges, a railroad ferry, three coastal defense sites and a SAM site, all near Thanh Hoa. Other targets include two AA guns, four POL tanks, two supply boats and a truck.

Midway's jets destroy Dong Hoi's Ngau Son highway bridge, 30 bundles of supplies and two trucks.

SEPTEMBER 13

A-6s, A-7s and F-4s from the Saratoga scream in on Hanoi's Kep railroad yards, completely destroying "the northern half of the target." The strike's tally included nine boxcars. Other strikes near Thanh Hoa and Vinh account for two railroad bridges, two highway bridges, a highway bypass bridge, a locomotive and cause numerous fires and secondaries after raids on supply areas and trucks.

Hancock's planes drop spans of two of Thanh Hoa's railroad and highway bridges and destroy a Thanh Hoa railroad bridge. A

strike on Haiphong's Cay Queo POL storage area detonates 11 secondaries, starts a huge sustained fire and destroys a pump house. Other raids in the Haiphong area set off "numerous" secondaries at the Cap Mai AAA storage and repair area and 10 secondaries and 10 sustained fires at the Tru Ly Song coastal defense site. Targets near Vinh yield two boxcars, one supply truck, a large dump truck, two supply boats and a supply cache.

Strikes in the Haiphong area by America aircraft account for two SAMs and three SAM boosters and set off four secondaries in a truck convoy. Near Thanh Hoa, three supply boats are destroyed and three are damaged.

A task unit made up of guided missile destroyer Lawrence and destroyers Wiltzie and Eversole blasts the Dong Hoi area igniting 10 secondaries and five sustained fires at a supply storage area and damaging three trucks.

Slamming enemy targets north and south of the DMZ, Oriskany's pilots hit two supply barges, a supply cache, an ammunition storage area and a highway bridge in the

Thanh Hoa, Vinh and Dong Hoi areas. Near Quang Tri, Dong Ha and Danang, they hit a tank, nine emplacements, a 130mm artillery piece, three trucks and a supply boat.

Off the southern coast, destroyer Henry W. Tucker flittens an enemy tank and destroyer escort Hewes zeroes in on an active 130mm artillery piece.

SEPTEMBER 14

During a strike on the Thanh Hoa railroad and highway bridge, Hancock pilots destroy 60 meters of railroad and highway bed. Other attacks destroy two of Vinh's bridges and damage one northeast of Haiphong. A-4 pilots receive seven SAMs as they make a high speed pass on the Phu Ly transshipment point 30 miles south of Hanoi. On target ordnance detonates 18 secondaries and starts a POL fire that sends smoke 600 feet over the area. Other strikes near Vinh, Thanh Hoa and Haiphong total six storage buildings, five warehouses, three ammo bunkers, two supply caches, a 37mm AA gun and two supply boats.

Raids by America aircraft on the Vanh Danh barracks and Vanh Danh open storage area destroy four stacks of supplies, set off four secondaries and start 15 sustained fires. Near Thanh Hoa, they destroy the Phong Bai railroad bridge and, near Dong Hoi, they sink two supply boats.

Saratoga pilots take a toll of the North's bridges as their accurate bombing knocks out three near Vinh, two near Thanh Hoa and one in the Dong Hoi vicinity. Other attacks in those areas tally 11 trucks. A mission 22 miles east of Haiphong accounts for an AAA gun.

An A-7 is hit by AA fire during a run on a truck park but the pilot is picked up by the destroyer Wiltzie in the Gulf of Tonkin only 20 minutes after he ejects from the burning jet.

Flying missions north and south of the DMZ, Oriskany pilots knock out a tracked vehicle and destroy 20 floating bags of supplies near Dong Hoi. Around Hue, Dong Ha, Quang Tri and Qui Nhon, they destroy 15 POL drums, 26 bunkers, two emplacements, an ammo storage area, a truck and set off 20 secondaries during a strike on a troop concentration.

From positions off-shore, destroyer Shelton wipes out 13 emplacements. Six bunkers and an 87mm mortar, all four miles north of Quang Tri City. Other support ships account for five emplacements and 15 bunkers.



Attempt
about 30 war protesters to interfere with the carrier America's departure for Vietnam failed with many of the protesters eventually in need of rescue by Coast Guard.

America left her pier at Norfolk Naval Station on scheduled loaded ammunition at a nearby anchorage and then sailed for reported Southeast Asia deployment.

Demonstrators had sought to interfere with a token "Peace Blockade" of canoes and small boats.

The Coast Guard allowed the boats to move close to the carrier's bow but, about 30 minutes before America sailed, cutters moved in to remove them.

Several canoes capsized as cutters tried to take them in tow and at least one was swamped by the wake of a passing Navy tug.

Many sailors aboard America cheered the protesters. Others bombarded them with garbage from the flight deck.

Eventually, 31 demonstrators, including several women, were fished from the water by the Coast Guard and taken ashore. They were released without charge.

Coast Guard vessels involved in the action included the Point Area, Point Brown, Point Huron and Point...

Combat Log

WASHINGTON — Here is a summary of 7th Fleet combat actions for the period beginning August 5, as compiled from public affairs "sitreps."

August 5

Pilots from the carrier Saratoga slam targets near Vinh and Dong Hoi, damaging two bridges and the Canh Duong Xa Coastal defense site. They also hit four trucks; a POL storage area, destroying 15 drums of petroleum, a supply cache, two buildings, a supply boat and an AA site.

Aircraft from carrier Hancock hit enemy positions at Dong Hoi and Ha Tinh, destroying eight buildings at the Canh Duong Xa coastal defense site; sinking four supply boats, and knocking out three bridges.

Near Vinh, CVW-5 planes sink a barge and three supply boats and damage two boats and six trucks. North of Dong Hoi, they destroy eight supply boats and a coastal defense gun.

Carrier Kitty Hawk's jets hit targets near Hue and Quang Tri City, getting two trucks, one bunker and an emplacement.

Off the northern shore, heavy cruiser Newport News hits a coastal defense radar site near Hon La anchorage, causing six secondaries.

Fourteen ships fire in support of RVN troops around Quang Tri City. Destroyer Rupertus zeros in on 26 emplacements while destroyer escort Sample accounts for 16. Other ships hit 10 enemy emplacements.

August 6

Saratoga's pilots make the first strike on Hanoi's Van Dien vehicle depot in six years, setting off two large secondaries. Near Haiphong, they destroy a pier and near Vinh they get five trucks.

Hancock's jets hit enemy positions in both North and South Vietnam, destroying 10 reinforced emplacements, a bridge, two 23mm machine guns and two bunkers. They also damaged a POL pumping station and cut one of its pipelines.

CVW-5 planes damaged Dong Hoi's Son Con Tri and Xom Dong Than highway bridges and, in the same vicinity, wipe out a 37mm coastal defense site. They also hit two supply boats and two barges.

Supporting RVN troops, Sample levels 11 emplacements five miles from Dong Ha. Guided missile cruiser Providence knocks out two artillery positions near Quang Tri City and destroyer Shelton gets four emplacements. Destroyer escorts Holt and Badger account for six emplacements, a machine gun position and a bunker.

CVW-5 pilots roll in on military targets near Haiphong, igniting seven secondaries at the Van Dong storage area; scoring a direct hit on the Mong Duong highway bridge, and destroying a truck.

Saratoga's aircraft drop Thanh Hoa's Phu Bat railroad bypass bridge and, near Vinh, destroy a supply boat and six trucks.

Planes from Hancock sink two supply boats near Dong Hoi, then move south of the DMZ to destroy a 51-caliber machine gun, four emplacements and two bunkers near Danang and Phu Cat.

August 8

Saratoga pilots concentrate on the Vinh-Thanh Hoa areas, knocking out three bridges with guided bombs and six other bridges with conventional ordnance. They also destroy 18 trucks and a warehouse and damage a radar site.

CVW-5's F-4 Phantoms and A-6 Intruders hit targets near Vinh and Dong Hoi, destroying two buildings at a POL storage area; damaging two bridges, and knocking out seven boxcars.

South of the DMZ, Hancock's pilots hit enemy positions near Quang Tri, Danang and Kontum, accounting for 16 bunkers, seven reinforced emplacements and a mortar site.

Fifteen support ships pound the same areas, getting 14 emplacements.

August 9

Enemy positions in South Vietnam

continue to take a beating as Sample, Shelton and destroyer escort Davidson tally 74 emplacements in the Quang Tri area. Near Qui Nhon, guided missile destroyer Buchanan zeros in on four artillery positions, 12 emplacements, five bunkers and 50 meters of trenchline. Other ships account for an emplacement and a vehicle.

Aircraft from the Hancock hit troop positions around Quang Tri and Qui Nhon, wiping out 29 emplacements, 13 bunkers, two artillery positions and a tank. They also hit an enemy storage area three miles from Dong Ha, triggering 50 secondaries.

Saratoga pilots touch off three large secondaries at Haiphong's Hon Gai ship repair yard, damaging the new building construction. They also sink three self-propelled supply barges and a pier during a raid on Dao Cat Ba Island. Near Vinh and Thanh Hoa, they destroy 17 trucks and a warehouse.

CVW-5 planes pound Dong Hoi and Vinh, destroying a gun position, a warehouse, seven trucks, three barracks and two buildings. They also damage a highway bridge.

August 10

Aircraft from Saratoga drop the northern span of Thanh Hoa's Qui Vinh railroad bridge. In the same area, they hit a barge and a tug, a petroleum supply area and a warehouse. Near Vinh, they knock out the Xom Hoai highway bridge and destroy three trucks.

CVW-5 jets slam the Vinh petroleum pumping station triggering a secondary that sends a fireball 500 feet above the target area. In the same vicinity, they destroy a coastal defense site and the Lap Phuc railroad bridge. They damage a 23mm gun position, four boxcars, a highway bridge, four buildings and two coastal defense sites.

South of the DMZ, Hancock pilots hit enemy positions around Quang Tri City, destroying an 82mm mortar, a 57mm recoilless gun, three other gun sites, 15 bunkers, 30 crates of enemy supplies, six supply boats and a barge.

Off the southern coast, 14 ships fire in support of RVN troops. Destroyer Eversole levels 12 emplacements and destroyer escort Davidson flattens five bunkers. Sample destroys a truck and 17 emplacements and Providence hits fifteen structures in a supply area and knocks out an AA site.

August 12

An F-4 Phantom from the Saratoga intercepts a MIG 21 and gets a probable kill. Other Saratoga aircraft hit targets around Dong Hoi and Vinh, accounting for 19 supply boats, eight trucks and a building and touching off six secondaries in a supply area.

Aircraft pilots strike south of the DMZ, damaging a tank and closing a supply storage cave.

Firing support missions from their stations off shore, Providence hits 10 emplacements near Dong Ha; Shelton gets 11 near Quang Tri City, and destroyer escort Holt knocks out two trucks and an artillery piece near the Cua Viet River. Destroyers Henry W. Tucker and Hanson are credited with 12 emplacements and guided missile destroyer Benjamin Stoddert gets nine emplacements and three bunkers.

August 13

CVW-5 jets scream in on a SAM site south of Vinh and detonate four missiles mounted on vehicle transporters. Other missions account for six boxcars, 18 trucks and two buildings.

Hancock's pilots hit bridges near Hanoi, Haiphong and Vinh damaging three and destroying one. In the Vinh area, they also destroy a supply boat and a truck.

Aircraft hit enemy positions around Quang Tri and Hue, destroying three bunkers and a mortar emplacement and damaging two trucks and an armored personnel carrier.

Nine support ships hit targets around Quang Tri and Hue, destroying 12 emplacements and an active artillery site.

7th Fleet Combat Logs

WASHINGTON — Here is a summary of the 7th Fleet combat actions for the period between September 15 and September 20, as compiled from public affairs "sitreps."

SEPTEMBER 15

A Marine Corps pilot and radar intercept officer flying an F-4 from the America engage two MIG-21s three miles north of Hanoi. The Phantom destroys one of the enemy jets with a missile and the other leaves the fight. Seconds later the MIG returns and makes a run on the Phantom's wingman, who hits it with a missile, sending it back toward home. Meanwhile, the Phantom is burning after taking a SAM hit during the air battle. The pilot and RIO take it out over the Gulf, eject and are picked up by a Navy SAR helicopter. Neither man is injured.

Cobra helicopters flying from the amphibious transport dock Cleveland destroy 395 bags of rice floating off Hon La Island.

Oriskany's planes damage seven supply buildings and set five sustained fires at the Thanh Hoa army barracks.

America pilots knock out an AA gun near Haiphong and a highway bridge north of Dong Hoi.

Aircraft from the Saratoga damage two of Vinh's bridges and destroy a bypass bridge south of Thanh Hoa. Attacks north-northwest of Dong Hoi destroy 50 bundles of floating supplies and set off 20 secondaries in an underground storage area. Near Haiphong, they blow up a supply boat carrying magnesium and destroy an AA gun.

In South Vietnam, Hancock pilots blast enemy positions around Quang Tri, Hue and Qui Nhon, getting five trucks, a 23mm AA machine gun and eight emplacements.

Off-shore, 10 support ships concentrate on the enemy near Quang Tri City. They destroy 33 bunkers, an 82mm artillery piece and 26 emplacements and cause two large secondaries in an enemy rocket storage area.

September 16

Haiphong's Vang Danh supply storage and barracks areas take a beating from the America's pilots for the second time in three days. They also hit six bridges — four near Vinh, one near Haiphong and one south of Thanh Hon — and 15 supply

boats. A strike on a Haiphong SAM site causes three secondaries and one near Dong Hoi knocks out an AA artillery gun. Other missions account for two barges and five trucks.

Saratoga's jets blast Hanoi's Bac Giang transshipment point, destroying two supply boats and 19 boxcars, causing four secondaries, and making two rail cuts. One mile northeast of that point, they zero in on the Bac Giang POL storage area, detonating two secondaries which send smoke 3500 feet over the target. A strike at the Yen Tinh power plant, one mile from Vinh, leaves a diesel generator in flames. Strikes near Dong Hoi and Haiphong get five bundles of supplies, five trucks, two barges and a warehouse.

Carrier Kitty Hawk begins her sixth line period of her sixth combat cruise with the 7th Fleet. Her planes hit targets near Vinh and Dong Hoi, tallying five warehouses, two barges and floating supplies covering an area 15 by 80 feet.

Oriskany's aircraft concentrate on Dong Hoi, getting three warehouses, two bridges, a supply building, one supply cache, two stacks of supplies, three trucks and a barge.

September 17

Saratoga pilots hit three bridges near Thanh Hoa and two near Vinh. Other missions in those areas set off four secondaries in one POL storage area and five in another and destroy 20 boxes of supplies and six trucks. A strike 39 miles south-southeast of Hanoi destroys four boxcars, makes four rail cuts and sets off four secondaries.

Raids on Hanoi's and Haiphong's supply storage areas level six warehouses and damage 12 others. A strike on a Haiphong SAM site ignites a secondary and fire which belches flame and smoke to more than 3000 feet. Another mission in that area accounts for four supply boats.

Dong Hoi's Hanoi Le coastal defense site takes a pounding from Oriskany aircraft. Other missions in that area and near Vinh rack up eight trucks, nine barges, six supply boats, two warehouses and a supply building.

Two Air Force pilots are rescued by the guided missile frigate Preble shortly after they are forced to eject from their disabled F-4. Neither man is injured.

September 18

Cobra helicopters flying from the amphibious transport dock Cleveland destroy 77 floatings bags of supplies and silence a 50-caliber machine gun 29 miles north-northwest of Dong Hoi.

Three highway bridges, two near Thanh Hoa and one north of Vinh, are dropped by Kitty Hawk's aircraft. Other missions, in those areas and near Dong Hoi, get 22 warehouses, seven trucks, 50 bundles of supplies, two boxcars and a barge.

Saratoga jets sweep in on an open storage area near Haiphong, igniting 19 secondaries and four sustained fires. They

also hit four bridges, two near Thanh Hoa and two close to Vinh; sink 13 supply boat and damage a barge.

Striking north and south of the DMZ Oriskany's pilots blow up six 5000-gallon POL tanks near Dong Hoi and, in the same area, level eight warehouses and five buildings. Near Qui Nhon, they flatten six enemy emplacements.

America pilots roll in on enemy positions two miles south of Mo Duc, destroying two mortar positions and touching off 11 secondaries. Slamming targets around Dong Hoi, they hit 35 boxes of supplies, a 130mm artillery piece, an AAA site (causing three secondaries and two fires), a supply boat and a truck. They also drop one spar of a Thanh Hoa highway bridge.

Nine support ships shell enemy positions in the south's coastal region and the delta destroying 15 bunkers, two trucks and an 82mm mortar.

September 19

An AA site on Hon Me Island loses a dual with four Kitty Hawk F-4s. Other pilots from that carrier slam areas around Vinh Thanh Hoa and Dong Hoi, destroying six bridges and damaging one other; leveling 13 warehouses; sinking five supply boats; and damaging eight others, and hitting two trucks.

America pilots knock out five bridges — three near Vinh and two near Thanh Hoa. Other targets around those two cities yield two boxcars, two barges and four trucks.

Striking north and south of the DMZ Saratoga jets flatten seven warehouses near Dong Hoi and hit a highway bridge, boxcar and three supply boats near Vinh. Around Quang Tri City, they account for 12 emplacements, a 51-caliber machine gun and a 57mm AA gun.

Oriskany's planes hit two trucks, a supply cache and a warehouse near Vinh. Turning to South Vietnam, they level 32 emplacements five miles from Mo Duc; hit four south of Da Nang, and seven north of Qui Nhon.

September 20

Vinh's bridges are blasted by the America's pilots as their bombs destroy four of them and damage four others. In that same vicinity, they hit 13 supply boats, eight trucks and an AA gun. North of Dong Hoi, they get still another bridge.

The bridge system around Vinh continues to take a pounding from Kitty Hawk jets. Their raids in that area tally five bridges, five warehouses, two trucks and a 37mm AA machine gun.

Cobras flying from the Cleveland destroy two supply caches north-northwest of Dong Hoi.

In South Vietnam, Saratoga pilots hit the enemy at Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Mo Duc and Qui Nhon. The day's bag is one tank, 20 emplacements, three bunkers, a supply cache and a truck.

A rescue chopper from guided missile frigate Jouett recovers the pilot of a downed A-7 minutes after he punched out.

Colbert for Bland

CHERRY POINT, N.C. — Capt. Brian R. Colbert has taken over as Navy supply officer at the Marine Corps Air Station, relieving retiring Capt. Herbert L. Bland.

America to Join Carrier Force In Tonkin Gulf

WASHINGTON — With evidence mounting that North Vietnam is beginning to feel the pinch of the blockade and interdiction of supplies, the U.S. Navy gave sailing orders to yet another carrier.

The America threaded her way through the canoes and small boats of war protesters in Norfolk harbor on June 5 to begin the journey to the Gulf of Tonkin. It's anticipated that the carrier won't be the eighth such ship off Vietnam, but may replace one of the "vets" who've been here some time, such as the Constellation.

Meantime, the ASW carrier Ticonderoga has joined the 7th Fleet. She won't take part in offensive strikes but, rather, provide antisubmarine protection to the offshore armada.

That the seaport mining and supply route busting was beginning to work was evidenced in a number of news reports last week.

No ships have run the mine-line and one Russian ship even thanked the destroyer escort McMorris for a warning. Using a Russian-speaking American, McMorris told the spy ship Izmeritell that she was heading for the minefield.

Before turning away, the Soviets ran up signal flags saying, "Thank you for your cooperation and have a pleasant journey."

A June 6 report said that China was beginning to let Russian ships offload in China, but fewer than a dozen had. Practically all bridges from China to North Vietnam are down, anyhow, so small boat traffic is the primary means of getting supplies south.

Navy pilots are sinking more and more barges, with Coral Sea pilots sinking or damaging 69 in one raid alone.

The best evidence of a North Vietnamese logistics drain came from the Defense Department, which said that SAM firings had decreased from 317 in one April week to 39 in a recent week. And that the shelling

An Loc, as an example of an offensive tail-off, had been cut down from about 7000 rounds a day to fewer than 300 rounds.

Observers say that war supplies filtering into the panhandle just above the DMZ have been slashed from about 300 tons a day to 100 tons