

CHAPTER SEVEN

ADMINISTRATION

1. Pre-deployment Preparations

Once again the BURTON ISLAND fell heir to all the problems caused by a short in-port and a massive turnover of personnel. This time the situation was exacerbated by a two week training assist period in San Diego immediately prior to a home port change from Long Beach to Oakland.

During the Long Beach in-port period, the BURTON ISLAND had a change in command from CAPT J. M. FOURNIER to CDR Robert FARMER. Five new officers came on board, along with fourteen Chief Petty Officers (the entire Chief's Mess), and ninety other enlisted members. The ship's office had four different Chief Yeomen in as many months, and a two week period during which there was no YNC on board at all; a distinct loss of continuity.

Among the new arrivals, sixty persons reported aboard with incomplete or without proper physical examinations. This problem was resolved through the expert and efficient help of the Medical Department at TRACEN Alameda. Medical problems caused last minute transfers of several persons.

Approximately fifty percent of the new enlisted personnel had not received semi-annual evaluation marks prior to transfer. Correction of this situation lasted well into the voyage.

Throughout the transition period, the ship's office received remarkable cooperation from the MK and SS Headquarter's detailers. The Twelfth District also provided excellent support.

2. Personnel Status and Changes

BURTON ISLAND departed Oakland, California with a permanent party of 15 officers, 12 chief petty officers and 145 enlisted men. In addition, 23 TAD personnel were assigned, including 15 members in Aviation Detachment 65, a medical officer (PYA) from Base Kodiak, and personnel filling various other billets. Also on board were two U. S. Naval Sea Cadets and a civilian guest who was assigned to duties with the cadets. The number of TAD personnel was comparatively small on this voyage; TAD turnover should not be a great problem in preparing for the next trip.

One officer was stricken with emergency medical problems and evacuated immediately following departure from Juneau. Another officer left the vessel in Nome for transfer to Postgraduate Training. Several enlisted personnel left during the voyage for assignment to class "A" resident schools.