



USS Providence (CL82-CLG6) Association Newsletter

“A Tradition of Honor”

<http://www.ussp Providence.org>

January 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the presence of the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 in contiguous waters of South and North Vietnam in the performance of combat duties, as assigned by the U. S. Seventh Fleet and the Department of the Navy.

Veterans of the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 are presumed to be exposed to herbicide Agent Orange through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. In addition, the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6, according to 38 CFR 3.307 (a)(6)(iii) was presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange while involved in “duty” or “visitation” in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 as follows:

- USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964.
- USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 operated on Song Huong (Perfume River) during February 15 1968.
- USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 operated on Cua Viet River during August 1972.

The USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 was homeported in Yokosuka, Japan from November 1966 to November 1968 and reported to the Vietnam continuous waters to provide Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) for all or a portion of each month during the time period, and confirmed by official Naval deck logs.

Official Naval records and deck logs reference 1,575 gunfire missions on 7189 targets during the above referenced time period from Cam Ranh Bay to the area north of the DMZ. The ship expended 24,164 rounds of 5”/38 ammunition and 26,207 rounds of 6”/47 ammunition in support of U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, South Vietnamese Army, and the ROK Marines. The majority of the NGFS missions were in the Danang, Danang Harbor, Hoi An, Hue and the DMZ operating areas. Additional support was for the First MARDIV, Third MARDIV, 101 Airborne/1st CAV, 27th MARREG/2nd Brigade, 26th MARREF/2nd Brigade, and the ROK Marines. During that two-year time, USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 came under enemy shore battery fire on numerous occasions, as noted in the official Naval deck logs, with one direct hit in May 1967, about 2 miles off shore at Cap Lay, near the DMZ, when the SPS8 radar was damaged.

During 1972 the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 operated in contiguous waters of South and North Vietnam, as directed by the U.S. Seventh Fleet and the Department of the Navy from April 29, 1972 until November 19, 1972. During that time the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 was engaged in assigned NGFS from the Danang area in South Vietnam to Haiphong Harbor in North Vietnam, expending over 44,000 rounds of 5"/38 and 6"/47 ammunition.

On May 10, 1972 USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 was assigned to TU 77.1.2 (Linebacker Strike Unit) for an NGFS mission on the Haiphong Port Complex in North Vietnam. During that time USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 came under heavy enemy shore battery fire (over 150 rounds), with no direct hits on the ship.

On August 27, 1972 USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 was assigned to another raid on the Haiphong Port Complex in North Vietnam. During that raid USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 received 75 rounds of enemy shore battery fire with no direct hits on the ship. In addition, the ships in the strike force, came under attack by four, North Vietnamese patrol boats. Two of the four boats were destroyed by the strike groups and the two remaining boats were destroyed by Naval air tactical support.

On September 10-11, 1972 USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 joined the "Linebacker Strike Group" and attacked targets in the VINH area. During that time USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 received 50 rounds of hostile fire, with no hits.

Typical range of the 5"/38 Naval gun is about 9 miles.

Typical range of the 6"/47 Naval gun is about 14 miles.

Both of the above ranges depend upon the type of ammunition used for the NGFS mission.

Official Naval records, from which the above info was derived, proves beyond a reasonable doubt, that the USS PROVIDENCE CLG-6 operated continuously within the 10-mile coastal limit of South and North Vietnam from December 1966 to November 1968 and again in 1972.

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