

## **White Paint**

In 1967 I was Chief of Staff of DESRON 22 off the coast of Vietnam where we ran the "gun line" for South Vietnam (14 to 18 DDs). The South Vietnam military had compromised the ship-to-shore communications therefore our gunfire support for the Marines was resulting in almost no V.C. kills. It was decided that I would go "in country" and plan the operations with the Marines, then return to the ship and execute the pre-planned attacks. This resulted in many V.C. kills/casualties.

But in order to do the planning it would require that I would spend 2 to 5 days in country "daisy chaining" to various bases by whatever means of transportation that was available. Between DaNang and the D.M.Z. was a small U.S. Marine base at Hue and I often spent the nite there. I asked the "Gunny Sergeant" (base senior enlisted sergeant why the small movie screen was painted light green. I told him within a week he would have white paint. The next week I handed him 2 gal. of white paint from the USS Dupont, where the DESRON staff was assigned. For the next 4-5 months, I always got a good place to sleep when I was in Hue.

P.S. "a good place to sleep" (a canvas cot, a blanket, pillow but no pillow case, in a "HOOCH" with wood floor and canvas sides).

## **Catsup**

We were enroute to the Med. from Norfolk; I was the Chief of Staff of DESRON 22 and Capt. Al Blaire was the Commodore and a very smart man. But he liked catsup on just about everything he ate. The task group consisted of 6 DDs, 1 AO, an aircraft carrier and one cruiser, which we were onboard (USS Albany).

Enroute, as we were approaching the Straits of Gibraltar we received a message about the USAF dropping an unarmed "A bomb" near the south coast of Spain. The Albany was to depart ASAP to manage the recovery of the bomb along with the vessels to assist in the recovery.

Therefore we had to be "hi-lined" to a DD, as the flag was in charge of the DDs to protect the AO and aircraft carrier. Al was hi-lined first. Next were two cases of catsup. The important items had been transferred first. Next the atomic codes had to be transferred; which are two-man controlled codes. The communications officer was hi-lined next so he and I could always see the safe the codes were in. Next, the codes were hi-lined, followed by myself, so the codes always stayed in the two-man control status.

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