



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending

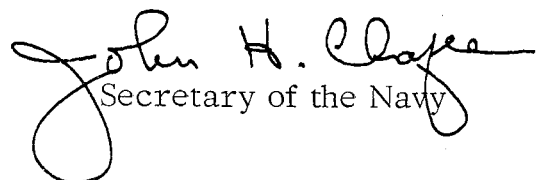
DESTROYER SQUADRON NINE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious service during the period 15 June 1966 to 6 September 1968 in the conduct of sustained combat operations against enemy aggressor forces in Southeast Asia. Displaying outstanding professional competence, resourcefulness, and endurance, the ships of Destroyer Squadron NINE were committed to continuous combat-support operations in support of Free World ground forces in the Republic of Vietnam, and in offensive operations against North Vietnam. During this period of more than two years, the Squadron expended over 148,000 rounds of ammunition while inflicting major damage and casualties on the enemy. In combat operations against the territory of North Vietnam, the Squadron's ships destroyed 385 waterborne logistics craft, suppressed 90 coastal defense artillery positions, disrupted the enemy's main land lines of communications, and were engaged in direct combat with North Vietnamese artillery units on 50 occasions. While providing support for United States air operations against North Vietnam, the Squadron participated directly in the rescue of twenty-six aircrew members downed in the Gulf of Tonkin. Destroyer Squadron NINE's outstanding contributions during extended service were of exceptional significance to the prosecution of the war against communist forces in Southeast Asia, and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

All personnel attached to and serving with Destroyer Squadron NINE during the above-designated period, or any part thereof, are hereby authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

  
Secretary of the Navy