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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

NARRATIVE

A week after the arrival at Iroquois Point all aviation rates were sent to Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, on verbal authority from ComAirPac.¹ Most general rates remained at Iroquois Point from which place the administration of the unit as a whole was carried out. Shortly thereafter, two (2) officers and fifty (50) men qualified in PV aircraft from CASU-17 on Tarawa, and three (3) officers and 100 men qualified in PB4Y aircraft from CASU-34 on Eniwetok, and specially qualified additional personnel from Hedron 2 were assigned to the unit for duty. At Kaneohe Bay a comprehensive training program was put into effect in order that all personnel might become familiar with land based Navy patrol planes. The men stationed at Kaneohe were broken down into two (2) separate groups in accordance with the operational plan for Navy search groups to be located on Tinian. The plan was based on the operation of two (2) fields on Tinian; one (1) field to be used by PB4Y planes and the other field to be used by PV planes. It was therefore necessary to divide the CASU in order that a service group would be located at each field. Lieutenant Commander Richard H. Lachman, (A)L, USNR, was delegated as Officer in Charge of the PV detachment, while Lieutenant Commander Purnell remained as Commanding Officer of both units with direct administration over the PB4Y detachment.² On 29 April 1944 the unit was assigned to ACORN-35 for duty, and on 24 June 1944 a PV detachment from the CASU was ordered to report to the Commanding Officer ACORN-39 for duty.

The experience gained at Kaneohe Bay was invaluable. Personnel assigned to Structures, Engines, Shops, Radio, Ordnance and Operations worked with the per-

1 See Appendix, Encl. 32 - CO MEMO re. training at Kaneohe Bay of 5-4-44.
2 See Appendix, Encl. 16 - Orders from CO CASU-44 to Lt.Cdr. Lachman of 6-24-44, and End-1 of CO ACORN-39 of 6-24-44.