



**TO THE WEST COAST . . .** The major communications relay ship USS Annapolis (AGMR-1) sails from Norfolk to her new homeport in Long Beach, Calif.

# Annapolis Leaves For West Coast

The Navy's first major communications relay ship, USS Annapolis (AGMR-1), has sailed for her new homeport in Long Beach, Calif.

For the past year, the Annapolis has been homeported in Norfolk under control of Commander Service Force, Atlantic Fleet.

The new assignment will place her under the control of Com-ServPac.

Converted from the World War II escort carrier Gilbert Islands, the new type ship is designed as a floating communications station. She was commissioned March 7, 1964 at the New York Naval Shipyard.

The Annapolis is equipped with

more than 24 radiotransmitters with low through ultra-high frequency, and a power output up to 10,000 watts. These transmitters are teamed with specially designed antenna systems that are constructed the length of the flight deck.

Specifically, the 22,300-ton ship's mission is to provide fleet broadcasts, inter-area relay circuits, and relay circuits for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications.

In carrying out her assigned tasks, the Annapolis can augment existing shore communication services as a temporary extension of vital naval communications in areas of special op-

eration, or as a substitute for communications which may be lost.

The ship, commanded by Captain John W. Newland, Jr., carries a crew of nearly 700 officers and men.

(Ed. Note: We have in the past been requested to use more pictures of people with the idea that their names and pictures make the news. Word just came in from the 10-year-old son of our PHC that he was tired of looking at people—he wanted more pictures of ships and planes. He wanted — he spoke — he got. How about you?)

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Note from Charlie Peasha: "I got this article out of one of the military newspapers at the time...I can't remember which one but it was when she headed out...I was on the USS Pawcatuck AO-108 at the time....I had shortly left the "A" at the time it was published."