

CINCPAC*

by John Stonesifer

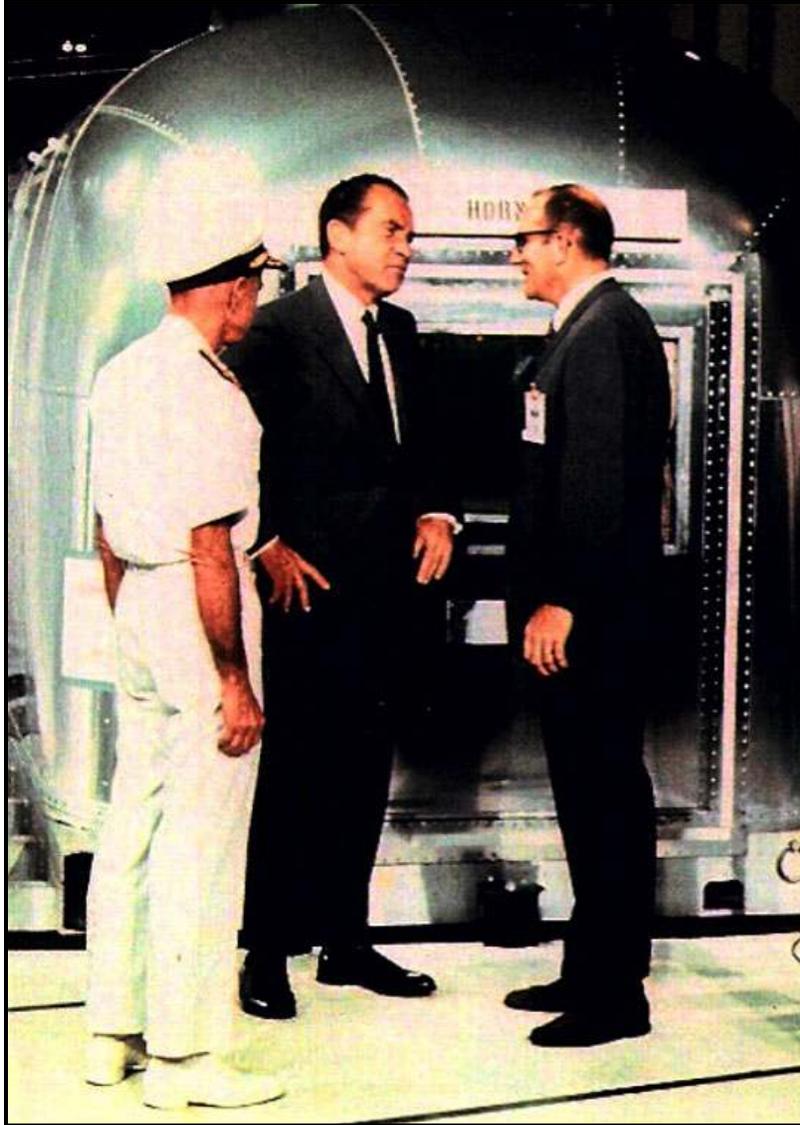
CINCPAC Admiral John McCain was extremely significant related to all our Pacific recoveries during Apollo. He was CINCPAC (1968-1972) in charge of all support in the Pacific which included Vietnam. It is important that most of the NASA ship support was drawn from Vietnam assignments.

My favorite story is as we approached Apollo 8 scheduled over Christmas in 1968, Chris Kraft and the USAF generals of DDMS (Department of Defense Manned Space Flight Support Office – USAF, 2 Star General) were concerned about asking for support in the Pacific as relieved ships would be scheduled for leave over Christmas. Chris was asked by DDMS for Kraft to brief CINCPAC – Navy, 4 Star Admiral. He flew to Hawaii, briefed Admiral McCain and his audience of admirals and generals about our requirements. McCain turns to the attendees and says, “great briefing, give this man what he wants.” It is so typical of the great and willing support we received from the DOD throughout our programs.

August 20, 2018

* CINCPAC – US Commander in Chief Pacific

Footnote: Chris Kraft confirms this story in his 2001 book, “Flight, My Life in Mission Control”, on pages 295-296.



John Stonesifer briefs President Nixon and CINPAC Admiral John McCain in front of the MQF onboard the USS Hornet during Apollo 11 in July 1969. (Photo Credit: Screen shot of NASA film footage)