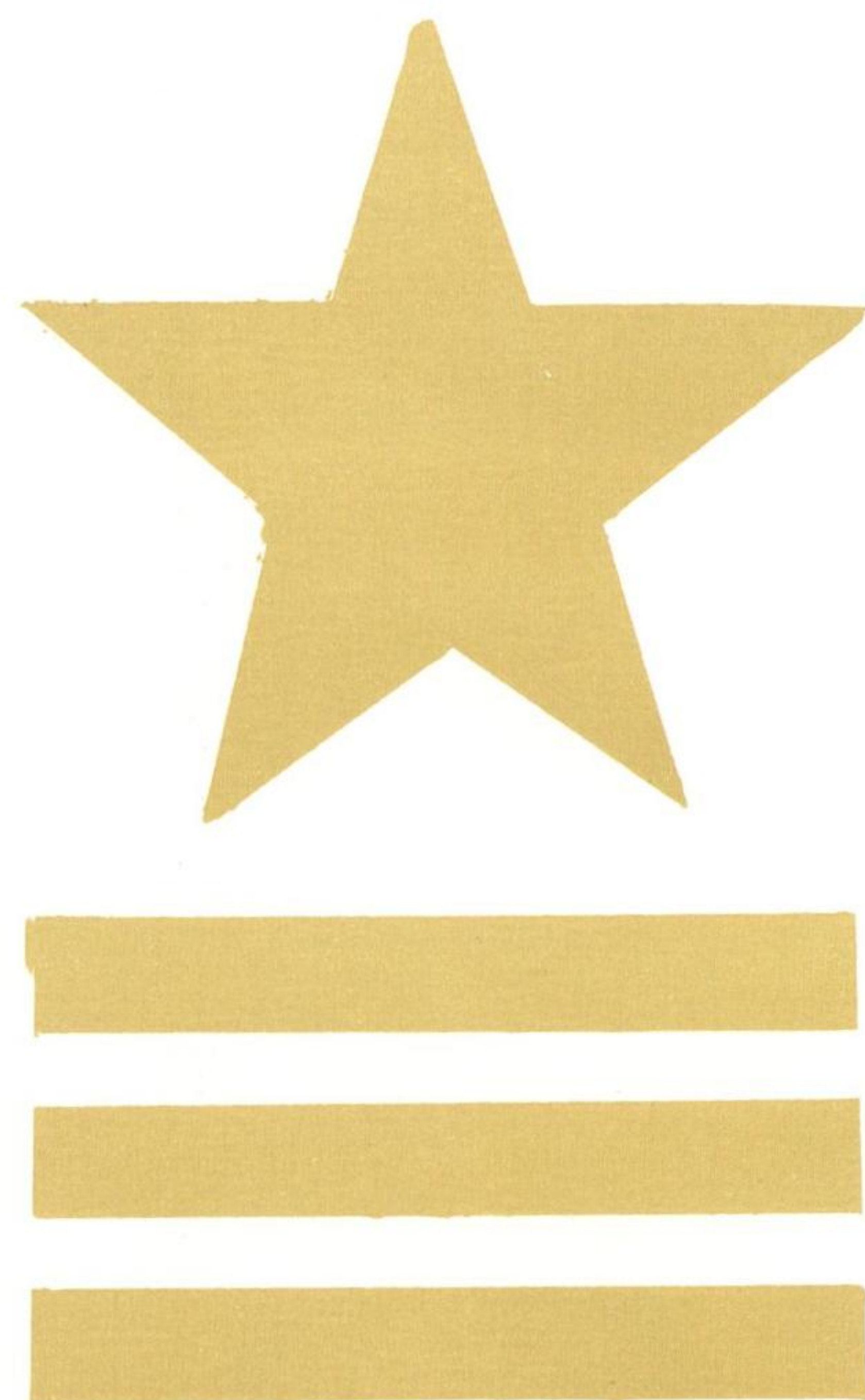




COMMANDER MERICE T. NELLES, U.S. NAVY
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Commander NELLES received his commission through the NROTC (Regular) program, on the 5th of August, 1954. As an Ensign, he became Deck Division Officer aboard the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. RANDOLPH.

Shortly thereafter he was sent to the Naval Explosive Ordnance School, Indian Head, Maryland, where he was graduated as a Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expert and qualified Diver. He then became Mine Counter-Measures Officer and Ordnance Disposal Officer in U.S.S. PRESTIGE.

Following duty as Operations Officer in U.S.S. COWELL, he was transferred to U.S. Naval Facility, Yokosuka, Japan as Underwater Ordnance Officer, and then to duty in U.S.S. MISPELLION as First Lieutenant.

Following this, he was the Operations Officer of Landing Ship Flotilla One, operating in Viet Nam, from which he was assigned temporary duty as a Staff Member, SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE COMMAND, where he participated in the establishment of the Naval Support Activity, Danang.

Commander NELLES was then assigned as Commanding Officer, U.S.S. SURFBIRD in September 1966. He participated in magnetic defense operations in the Republic of Viet Nam, before coming to U.S.S. PIEDMONT in February 1968, as Executive Officer, where he served until relieved by Commander RYAN in August 1969.