MISSING THE SHIP – Hong Kong is a great liberty port; time there is precious to all sailors. LT Jim Lasswell, Weapons Department, arranged with "Mary Sue", a local Hong Kong entrepreneur to paint ship's hull allowing the hard working First Division some extra liberty days. A couple of days later an inbound typhoon forced the task force, including USS CORAL SEA, to get underway early to ride out the storm at sea. Officers and crew were quickly notified to return "immediately" to their ships. The departure time was set and FRANK KNOX would get underway missing their 1st LT, LTjg Bruce McDonald. McDonald barely caught the ship using a civilian water taxi to board the underway ship and immediately joined his boss, LT Lasswell for an unpleasant interview with the Captain. Later that night, as we rolled and pitched toward the coast of North Vietnam, LT Denny Conley and I were on watch when we noticed sheets of something coming from the bow of the ship. The 'sheets" were paint peeling from our recent "Mary Sue" paint job. LT Conley quickly phoned LT Lasswell so he could get ahead of the problem. (LTjg McDonald passed away from lung cancer in San Diego in 1990's after establishing a successful Engineering practice. He organized the first officer's reunion from the 1967 cruise.) ED