

Don Gillispie

From: edwillia1@gmail.com on behalf of Edward Williams [e-williams@att.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 12:33 PM
To: Jane Babcock
Subject: Re: Fw: Ship summaries USS Surfbird 1966 - 1967 and Info About 1968 to 1970
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Vietnam Deployment Dates Jan 1968 -1970.pdf; Command History 1968 CHR1968.pdf; Command History 1969 CHR1968.pdf; Command History 1970 CHR1968.pdf

Dear Jane Babcock,
Cty Veterans Service Officer
Manitowoc County

Your assistance in tracking down copies of USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383) Log Book Entries for Vietnam Service years 1966 through 1967 is a tremendous help for personnel who were stationed on board the ship during the periods covered by the log entries. I want to thank you again for your help. But our Vietnam storey needs a few more pieces to help make closure.

To help close the circle your further assistance and the resources of your good office are respectfully requested for the purpose of obtaining copies of USS SURFBIRD Log Book Entries for Vietnam deployments during 1968, 1969, and 1970. These log book entries will help sailors who were on the USS SURFBIRD during those Vietnam deployments in substantiating their Vietnam deployment claims should they ever need them.

Several months ago I said I would provide a consolidated summary of Vietnam port deployments for the years 1968 and 1969 - the years I was the ship's commanding officer - and 1970 - the year that my predecessor was in command but who unfortunately is now deceased.

The summary is attached to this email along with copies of the official annual command history reports which form the basis of this Vietnam deployment summary....the command history reports are posted on www.surfbird383.org website and were obtain from there.

As you well know VA assistance to those who need help because of special problems that maybe emanating from Vietnam exposure is important. And since USS SURFBIRD did deploy to Vietnam where the ship was either extremely close to shore or alongside piers - in any event personnel were permitted to go ashore - copies of the log book entries should provide the appropriate proof of where the ship was located while deployed in close to Vietnam littoral waters.

Once copies of the log book entries are obtained please forward them to Don Gillispie dongi@frontier.com, as you did for previous years, for posting on the SURFBIRD website.

It would be nice to think that all the evidence covering the years 1966 through 1970 showing that USS SURFBIRD was a "Blue Water Ship" operating in "Vietnam Waters" would be sufficient to have the ship listed accordingly in the appropriate documents used by the VA for verification purposes. Whether that will happen I don't know but it would be very helpful to have it listed as such so that future SURFBIRD sailors now located in various parts of the U.S.A. can refer to it. In the meantime, copies of these log book entries should provide appropriate documentation to those past sailors accessing the SURFBIRD website.

Thank you again for your help in this matter and though I have no way of knowing who will be helped I am certain whoever it may be will be forever grateful of your support in providing these useful documents.

Yours most sincerely,

Edward M. Williams, CDR, USN (Retired)
Previous Commanding Officer as LT/LCDR,
USS SURFBIRD (ADG 383)
5 Dec 1967 - 6 Nov 1969
(Fortunately I am still around to write this letter)

On Wed, Jan 4, 2012 at 1:01 PM, Jane Babcock <JaneBabcock@co.manitowoc.wi.us> wrote:

Ed I wanted to let you know I got the ship logs showing her anchored/moored in several S Vietnam places. I am sending them to be posted on the Surfbird website. The Webmaster will put them under the history menu in the official documents area. www.surfbird383.org

Jane Babcock
Cty Veterans Service Officer
Manitowoc County
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From: Jane Babcock/MCOC/MTW
To: Edward Williams <e-williams@att.net>
Date: 12/15/2011 05:30 PM
Subject: Re: Ship summaries USS Surfbird 1966 - 1967 and Info About 1968 to 1970

Sir,

Thank you for your wonderful letter and your words of encouragement. I will of course keep up the effort to take proper care of my troops. I jokingly tell my Veterans that I went from Platoon Sgt (SFC) in-charge of 57 to Command Sergeant Major of the County in-charge of 7000.

If you are looking for names of your crew in Dec 1967 look at the last page of the 67 report. It lists the crew as of December 67.

God bless you and yours!

Jane Babcock
Cty Veterans Service Officer
Manitowoc County
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