

USS SURFBIRD (ADG383)  
FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96601

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

ADG383:RDR:sb  
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CONFIDENTIAL (Unclassified upon removal of Annexes 1 & 4) NIF

From: Commanding Officer, USS SURFBIRD (ADG383)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) History from 1 January 1966 through 31 December 1966

1. Chronology of USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) during calander year 1966:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1-2 JAN	Moored Sasebo, Japan.
3-5 JAN	Enroute Tsoying, Taiwan.
6-10 JAN	Provided ranging services to Republic of China Navy (ROCN) Tsoying, Taiwan.
11-13 JAN	Enroute Chinhae, South Korea.
14-15 JAN	Provided ranging services to Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) Chinhae, Korea.
16 JAN	Enroute Sasebo, Japan.
17 JAN-1 FEB	Upkeep Sasebo, Japan
2 FEB-2 MAR	Provided ranging services to Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) and units of Task Group 70.5.
3-6 MAR	Enroute Tsoying, Taiwan with USS DYNAMIC (MSO432) and USS PHOEBE (MSC199) as TU 70.5.6 for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64, CO, DYNAMIC OTC.
7-8 MAR	Ranged MSC199 and MSO432 Tsoying, Taiwan for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64.
9-10 MAR	Enroute independently Subic Bay, P.I.

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11-12 MAR Moored Subic Bay, P.I. for stores and fuel.

13 MAR Enroute independently and at Sangley Pt., P.I.

14-18 MAR Ranged MSC199, MSO432 and HMS FISKERTON for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64 at Sangley Pt., P.I.

19-20 MAR Enroute independently Kudat, North Borneo.

21-23 MAR Ranged MSC199, MSO432 and HMS FISKERTON, for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64 at Kudat, North Borneo.

24-27 MAR Enroute Singapore with TU 70.5.6.

27 MAR Crossed Equator at Long. 107°-15.0E (initiated 53 polywogs).

28 MAR-3APR Ranged MSC199, MSO432 and HMS FISKERTON, for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64 at Singapore.

4-8 APR Enroute independently Sangley Pt., P.I.

9-11 APR Ranged MSC199 and MSO432 for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64.

12 APR Enroute and at Subic Bay, P.I. with TU 70.5.6.

13 APR Received stores and fuel Subic Bay, P.I.

14-18 APR Enroute Sasebo, Japan with TU 70.5.6.

19 APR Arrived Sasebo, Japan. TU 70.5.6 dissolved.

20-27 APR In upkeep Sasebo, Japan.

28 APR Enroute Pusan, South Korea.

29 APR-2 MAY Rendered salvage assistance to SS WASHINGTON MAIL at Pusan, South Korea.

3 MAY Enroute and at Sasebo, Japan.

4-25 MAY In upkeep Sasebo, Japan.

26-28 MAY Enroute Tsoying, Taiwan.

29 MAY 0800 arrived Tsoying. 1800 underway to evade Typhoon Judy.

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30 MAY Evaded Typhoon Judy.

31 MAY-2 JUN Provided ranging services to ROCN at Tsoying, Taiwan.

3-5 JUN Enroute Chinhae, Korea.

6-8 JUN Provided ranging services to ROKN at Chinhae, South Korea.

9 JUN Enroute and at Sasebo, Japan.

10-19 JUN Provided ranging services to TG 70.5 and JMSDF at Sasebo, Japan.

20 JUL-4 JUL In upkeep Sasebo, Japan.

5-17 JUL Provided ranging services to TG 70.5 and JMSDF at Sasebo, Japan. 13 & 14 July received INSURV Inspection.

18-26 JUL In upkeep Sasebo, Japan.

27 JUL-1 AUG Enroute Vung Tau, South Vietnam.

1 AUG Administrative Control changed from COMSERVPAC to COMINPAC.

2 AUG Anchored Vung Tau, South Vietnam.

3 AUG Patrolled in Market Time Area 8B off South Vietnam.

21-27 AUG Enroute Sasebo, Japan.

28 AUG-3 SEP In upkeep Sasebo, Japan.

4 SEP Enroute Chinhae, South Korea.

5-7 SEP Provided ranging services to ROKN at Chinhae, South Korea.

8-10 SEP Enroute Makung, Pescadores Islands.

11 SEP 0730 arrived Makung, Pescadores Islands. 0900 enroute Tsoying, Taiwan. 1430 arrived Tsoying, Taiwan.

12 SEP Provided ranging services to ROCN at Tsoying, Taiwan.

13 SEP Enroute and at Kaohsiung, Taiwan. 1630 underway to evade Typhoon Elsie.

14-16 SEP Evaded Typhoon Elsie while enroute Op-area 1B off coast South Vietnam.

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- 17-24 SEP Patrolled in Market Time Area 1B off South Vietnam.
- 25 SEP Enroute Op-area 7B off South Vietnam.
- 26-27 SEP Patrolled in Market Time Area 7B off South Vietnam.
- 28-29 SEP Anchored Vung Tau, South Vietnam.
- 30 SEP Anchored Long Hai, South Vietnam.
- 1 OCT Prepared for ranging of Vietnamese small craft at Lat. 10°-22.'6N, Long. 107°-11.'8E near Vung Tau.
- 2-7 OCT Conducted magnetic ranging of Vietnamese small craft.
- 8-12 OCT Enroute Sasebo Japan.
- 13 OCT-1 NOV Provided ranging services to TG 70.5 and JMSDF at Sasebo, Japan. Received Maintenance and Management Inspection from MINFLOT ONE Staff, 20, 21 and 24 October.
- 2 NOV Enroute Chinhai, South Korea.
- 3-5 NOV Provided ranging services to ROKN at Chinhai, Korea.
- 6 NOV Enroute and at Sasebo, Japan
- 7 NOV Conducted pre-yard overhaul sea trials.
- 8-27 NOV Pre-yard overhaul upkeep Sasebo, Japan.
- 28 NOV-31 DEC In overhaul at Sasebo, Japan (5 December drydocked; 29 December undocked).

2. USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) began 1966 moored in Sasebo, Japan. Departing Sasebo 3 January she arrived in Tsoying, Taiwan 3 days later and provided degaussing ranging services to the Republic of China Navy (ROCN), and then after three more days enroute the same services to the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) at Chinhai, Korea.

Mid-January through February was spent in upkeep and providing ranging services for the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and units of task group 70.5

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On 3 March TU 70.5.6 composed of USS DYNAMIC (MSO432), USS PHOEBE (MSC199) and USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) departed Sasebo. Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) was CO, DYNAMIC. SURFBIRD embarked a civilian technician/representative from the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory White Oak, Md. The mission of TU 70.5.6 was to accomplish BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64 which entailed determining magnetic changes a ship undergoes at various magnetic latitudes and collection of other data. (See Annex 1).

The ensuing two months saw SURFBIRD conducting check ranging operations on MSO 432 and MSC 199 for T/S 41 FY64 at the following geographical locations: Sasebo, Japan (before departure); Tsoying, Taiwan; Sangley Pt., Philippine Islands; Kudat, North Borneo; and Singapore. HMS FISKERTON, a British coastal minesweeper also ranged with MSO 432 and MSC 199 at Sangley Pt., Kudat and Singapore. Two highlights of the cruise were parties given for the officers and men of TU 70.5.6, by civilians at Kudat, North Borneo and by the British Fleet at Singapore, which were promptly returned. Perhaps an even more memorable event occurred between Kudat and Singapore, when TU 70.5.6 crossed the Equator at Longitude 107°-15. 'OE on 27 March. All lowly Polywogs having dared to enter the royal domain of Neptunus Rex were promptly initiated into the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep.

On the return trip north, ranging operations were again conducted at Sangley Pt. before fueling and provisioning at U.S. Naval Base, Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, and returning to Sasebo, Japan on 19 April.

After a week of upkeep, during which a final ranging of DYNAMIC was completed for BUSHIPS project T/S 41 FY64, SURFBIRD was underway for Pusan, South Korea on short notice. Arriving in Pusan, the ship's crew spent five days assisting Ship Repair Department, Fleet Activities, Sasebo personnel

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effect dewatering, hull repair/underwater inspection to SS WASHINGTON MAIL which had been involved in a collision at sea. (See Annex 2)

Most of the month of May was spent in upkeep in SURFBIRD's homeport Sasebo, Japan. After a quick trip to Tsoying and Chinhae in late May and early June, in which ranging services were provided to the ROCN and ROKN, SURFBIRD spent the rest of June and most of July providing ranging/déperming services to JMSDF and TG 70.5 at Sasebo. During this period the ship received an INSURV Inspection 13-14 July conducted by Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey, Pearl Harbor.

On 27 July SURFBIRD was underway for Market Time Op-area 8B off the coast of South Vietnam. One day later she switched to Op-area 9B for patrol duty. During the period 1-20 August SURFBIRD was under the operational control of CTF 115 vice COMSEVENTHFLT, and also, although she didn't find out till later her administrative control was changed from Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet to Commander Mine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. (See Annex 3)

The ship returned to Sasebo for a week of upkeep and then departed for Chinhae, Korea on 4 September. After providing ranging services to ROKN SURFBIRD attempted ranging services ROCN in Makung, Pescadores Islands but the attempt was aborted due to poor weather conditions. The same day, 11 September, SURFBIRD moored in Tsoying, Taiwan for ranging services to ROCN.

The ship's quarterly schedule was interrupted after a day in Tsoying when orders were received to proceed to Vietnam via Kachsiung, Taiwan for fuel. After evading Typhoon Elsie, SURFBIRD patrolled for two weeks in Op-area 1B just south of the DMZ off South Vietnam and then for two days in Op-area 7B.

SURFBIRD with COMINFLOT ONE who embarked on 27 September, anchored near Vung Tau the next day. On 1 October the ship set its range on the

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coastal bottom near the village of Long Hai, South Vietnam, and CAPT. G.R. Quanstrom, COMINFLOT ONE, departed the ship aboard a swift boat. Special ranging of 25 Vietnames coastal junks was conducted between 2 and 7 October and the data collected was forwarded to U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory. (See Annex 4 & 5)

After completing the special ranging project, and with her PCO embarked, SURFBIRD returned to Sasebo in mid October and provided ranging services to JMSDF and units of TG 70.5 through the end of the month. On 18 October LCDR Merice T. NELLES, USN, relieved LCDR John E. WHITE, USN as commanding Officer in a traditional ceremony. (See Annex 6)

After providing ranging services to the ROKN at Chinhae, South Korea, the ship returned to Sasebo and went into pre-overhaul routine on 7 November.

The overhaul period commenced 28 November and the ship entered drydock #5 Sasebo Heavy Industries (SSK) 5 December. SURFBIRD cleared drydock on 29 December without its main propulsion and auxiliary machinery which had been removed to the shops of SSK. SURFBIRD, thus ended 1966 in overhaul status.

3. A total of 154 ships and boats were ranged during 1966 using the portable degaussing equipment carried on-board or the permanently installed facilities at Sasebo; and also, 4 ships were depermed in 1966. A breakdown by country of these totals follows:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>RANGED</u>	<u>DEPERMED</u>
United States	55	1
Republic of China	28	
Republic of Korea	26	1
Republic of Vietnam	24	
Japan	18	2

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<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>RANGED</u>	<u>DEPERMED</u>
Republic of Philippines	2	
United Kingdom	1	

SURFBIRD provided medium depth ranging facilities in Sasebo, Japan during overhaul. Prior to entering overhaul the portable range was laid on the bottom in Juliett Basin, Sasebo, and the range cables hauled by boat and Norwegian steem to a vacant building nearby. The ship's degaussing instruments were placed in the building and ranging services commenced immediately. This is considered a lesson learned in that sessile ranging services can be provided while SURFBIRD undergoes overhaul.

4. A brief discription of the annexes mentioned in the narrative and enclosed follows:

Annex 1 - Chief, Bureau of Ships ltr ser 660M-09B of 13 October 1964.

Subj: Project plan for Technical Evaluation T/S 41 FY64

"Conduct Technical Evaluation of MSO and MSG Minesweeper Magnetic Defense"

Annex 2a- Picture of USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) rendering salvage assistance to SS WASHINGTON MAIL

2b- Two pictures of part of the damage done to the SS WASHINGTON MAIL

Annex 3 - Chief of Naval Operations ltr ser 1132P30 of 27 July 1966.

Subj: Administrative assignment of USS SURFBIRD (ADG383)

Annex 4 - Enclosure (1) to Commander, U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak ltr ser 00561 of 8 August 1966. Subj: Magnetic Ranging of Vietnamese small craft.

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Annex 5a- Picture of two Vietnamese Junks waiting alongside starboard quarter USS SURFBIRD (ADG383) for ranging.

5b- Picture of fishing junk alongside and SURFBIRD officer and men conducting check for magnetic material.

5c- SURFBIRD officers and men check Vietnamese coastal junk for magnetic materials prior to ranging.

Annex 6a- Change of Command Ceremony with brief Navy history of last and present Commanding Officers.

6b- Invitation to Change of Command

Annex 7 - Roster of officers and enlisted assigned to SURFBIRD on 31 December 1966.



M. T. NELLES

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMINPAC  
COMSEVENTHFLT (w/o encl)  
COMNOL (Code HK) (w/o encl)  
COMINFLOT ONE (w/o encl)  
NAVSEC (Code 6) (w/o encl)