

USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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In reply refer to:
OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG383/JJN:jjn
05750
Ser: 040
26 February 1969

CONFIDENTIAL (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure 3)

From: Commanding Officer, USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP9883)

Subj: USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383) Command History from 1 January 1968
through 31 December 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Personnel roster as of 31 December 1968
(2) Commanding Officer's biography

NIF (3) Letters of Commendation

1. (U) Chronology of Highlights

- (a) 4-15 March - made first deployment to the combat area.
- (b) 17-21 March - earned sixth meritorious conduct ashore award in Hong Kong, BCC during a port visit.
- (c) 28 March-4 April - participated in Fleet Service Mine Test 1-58.
- (d) 5-7 April - assisted in search and rescue mission for a downed aircraft in the Okinawa area.
- (e) 13-18 May - made second deployment to the combat area.
- (f) 28 June-22 July - made third deployment to the combat area.
- (g) 6-18 December - made fourth deployment to the combat area.

2. (U) Basic Narrative

a. USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383), under the administrative command of Commander Mine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the operational command of Commander Seventh Fleet, is attached to Commander Mine Flotilla ONE. The ship is homeported in Sasebo, Japan, and was commanded during 1968 by Lieutenant Commander Edward Morgan WILLIAMS, U.S. Navy.

b. The mission of the ship is to provide limited mobile degaussing facilities and services with the designed tasks of establishing and operating degaussing ranges in forward areas, providing facilities and services for inspection, calibration and adjustment of shipboard degaussing equipment, providing facilities and services for depersing of steel hull ships and submarines and to be capable of limited self-defense.

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OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG383/JJN:jjn
05750
26 February 1969

c. The first of January found the ship in Sasebo, Japan providing degaussing services to TG 70.5 and the Japanese Maritime Self-defense Force (JMSDF). She sailed on 19 February and after a brief fuel stop at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on 25 February, arrived at Sangley Point, Republic of the Philippines on the same day. From 26-29 February, the ship provided degaussing services to units of Mine Division 71. On 1 March, the ship got underway for Cam Rahn Bay, South Vietnam arriving on 4 March. Degaussing services were provided there for 8 MSB's until 9 March, when the ship left for Danang, South Vietnam arriving 10 March, after providing degaussing services for another 3 MSB's at Danang, the ship departed on 15 March for a port visit to Hong Kong, BCC. During this visit from 17-22 March, the ship earned the meritorious conduct ashore award for having no shore patrol violations by the crew during the visit. This was the sixth consecutive award earned. On 23 March the ship got underway for Tsoying, Taiwan arriving on 23 March. At Tsoying, degaussing services were provided to the Republic of China Navy until 26 March, when the ship left for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. At Buckner Bay, the ship participated in Fleet Service Mine Test 1-68 until 5 April and also received her Operational Readiness Inspection from Commander Mine Flotilla ONE during the period. On 5 April, the ship got underway for position 27-10 North 150-05 East to assist in a search and rescue mission for a downed Navy F-3 Orion. The area was departed on 7 April after two days of search with negative results. Arriving in Sasebo on 8 April, degaussing services were provided for units of TG 70.5 and JMSDF until 8 May, when the ship departed for Danang, arriving on 13 May. After providing degaussing services for 8 MSL's from USS EPPING FOREST (MCS-1) at Danang until 16 May, the ship returned to Sasebo, arriving on 20 May. Degaussing services were again provided for TG 70.5 and JMSDF until 3 June, when the ship departed for Chinhae, Korea, arriving on 4 June. Degaussing and deperming services were provided to the Republic of Korea Navy until 8 June, when the ship returned to Sasebo, arriving the same day. Until 12 June, the ship remained in upkeep in Sasebo and then sailed for Danang arriving 18 June. Degaussing services were provided for the MSB's until 25 June, when the ship left for Cam Rahn Bay, arriving the next day. After providing degaussing services to the MSB's at Cam Rahn Bay until 1 July, the ship left for Vung Tau, South Vietnam arriving the same day. Degaussing services for MSB's and other indigenous craft were provided until 22 July, when the ship departed for Sattahip, Thailand, arriving on 24 July. Degaussing services were provided there for the Royal Thailand Navy and units of Mine Division 94 until 11 August, when the ship departed for Bangkok arriving the same day. After a three day port visit, the ship departed Bangkok on 14 August for Sangley Point arriving on 19

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
 ADG383/JJN:jjn
 05750
 26 February 1969

August. There, degaussing services were provided for a unit of TG 70.5 and some units of the U.S. Coast Guard until 29 August, when the ship sailed for Sasebo, arriving on 2 September. Upkeep and degaussing services were provided there for units of TG 70.5 and TG 70.8 until 11 November, when the ship departed for Chinwa, arriving the next day. After providing degaussing and deperming services to the Republic of Korea Navy until 17 November, the ship left for Sasebo, arriving the next day. From 18 to 30 November, the ship remained in Sasebo for upkeep and to provide degaussing services to units of TG 70.5 and TG 73.5. She then departed for Danang arriving on 6 December where degaussing services were provided for the MSB's until 8 December, when the ship sailed to Vung Tau. Arriving on 10 December, degaussing services were provided for 7 MSB's until 15 December, when the ship departed for Sasebo, arriving on 23 December after a fuel stop at Cam Rahn Bay on 16 December. From 23 to 31 December, the ship remained in Sasebo providing degaussing services to units of TG 70.5 and a unit of TG 73.5.

d. During the month of October, the ship received an armament conversion with the addition of two 20mm twin mounts. One was located on the main deck forward and the other on the 01 level aft.


e. Command attention was given to the ship's messing level during the year, and a recommended change to the enlisted distribution plan level, peacetime allowance and wartime complement was submitted on 31 October. This change was designed to best fit the ship's requirements for the effective conduct of operations.

f. ARFBIRD spent 299 days in port during the year, 131 on which degaussing or deperming operations were conducted. The ship spent 168 days out of home port traveling 17,977 miles in transit.

g. A total of 141 ships were ranged during the year using the portable degaussing range carried on board or the permanently installed facilities in Sasebo. A total of 4 ships were also depermed using the equipment carried on board. A breakdown by country of these totals is as follows:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>RANGED</u>	<u>DEPERMED</u>
United States	117	0
Japan	2	0
Republic of China	7	0
Republic of Korea	9	1
Republic of Thailand	6	0
Republic of South Vietnam	5	0

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG383/JJN:jjn
05750
26 February 1969


EDWARD M. WILLIAMS

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OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG383/JJN:jjn
05750
26 February 1969

PERSONNEL ROSTER AS OF 31 DECEMBER

OFFICERS (6)

LCDR Edward M. WILLIAMS, USN, 632370
LT Jerrold J. NEGIN, USN, 678451
LTJG Dolland E. KIDDER, USNR, 720484
ENS Anthony A. KARNAS, USNR, 733375
WO-1 Don R. HARDIN, USN, 711428
WO-1 John W. VACCARO, USN, 711469

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS (5)

LMCS Herman A. MITCHELL, USN, 444 61 42
HMC Joseph T. KURATOR, USN, 456 45 37
EMC (SB) William P. ALLEY, USN, 555 53 10
EMC Bennie T. JONES, USN, 451 54 00
EMC (SB) Dale E. BRITCHELT, USN, 435 96 94

FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (7)

CS1 Donald L. FLEENER, USN, 420 66 57
CM1 Gary P. BORD, USN, 588 66 56
EM1 (n) Edwin (n) BALDWIN, USN, 476 90 34
ST1 Willie R. WIGGINS, USN, 480 52 71
SM1 Charles H. WIERLING, USN, 502 09 67
ET1 George C. BELTZ, Jr., USN, 666 16 09
EM1 David L. PASSIG, USN, 475 83 62

SECOND CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (11)

SK1 James L. URQUHART, USN, 475 83 62
YN1 Isaac A. RICHARDSON, USN, 546 71 56
IC1 Robert G. SAUNDERS, USN, 481 70 25
RM1 Donald F. ANDERSON, USN, 686 98 83
SD1 John D. ABAD, USN, 544 15 27
RD1 William D. LINDSEY, USN, 775 19 43
BM2 Mitchell H. DANFORTH, USN, 349 89 95
BM1 Robert G. SCHLINS, USN 771 74 14
DC1 Ralph S. STELTER, USNR, 772 76 91
AD1 Harold "J" COOK, USN, 432 46 46
EK1 Melvin C. HARLAN, USN, 997 14 91

THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (16)

GN18 Gary E. REID, USN, 881 87 01
EN1 William J. WHITMAN, USN, 989 94 01

Enclosure 1

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG383/JJN:jjn
05750
26 February 1969

THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (CONT)

RM3 Angel M. URTIZ, USN, 310 76 58
SM3 Robert (n) KINCAID, USN, B78 04 77
BM3 John E. CHILDERS, USN, 388 96 66
EN3 Charles R. SCHEER, USN, 311 33 61
EN3 Richard L. KING, USN, 076 57 82
EM3 Rodney H. HOLMES, USN, B10 56 78
EN3 Edwin C. JENFER, USN, 861 48 73
EM3 Reid E. McNEELY, USN, B31 93 92
CS3 James G. DICKLEY, USNR, B88 91 71
SFM3 George H. SPAHN Jr., USN, B81 54 72
EM3 James R. SUTHERLIN Jr., USN, B81 04 57
BM3 Steven C. MASON, USN, B10 56 19
QM3 William R. WERR, USN, 920 08 51
EM3 Danny R. CROWN, USN, B81 12 76

SEAMAN FIREMEN (15)

SN Jon M. KING, USNR, B99 09 21
SN Jack F. WORTON, USN, B11 63 46
SN John O. FORD, USN, B13 56 46
SN John A. SCHWETTMANN, USN, 873,51 60
SN Bruce A. STEVENS, USNR, B88 34 15
PNSN Roy C. MAIDEN, USNR, 796 65 02
SN Daniel H. CRITZ, USN, B84 28 72
SN Duane E. PHELAN, USN, B72 27 99
FN Keith O. CARTWRIGHT, USN, B43 99 95
ENFN Larry D. McMASTERS, USN, B43 72 11
FN Jimmy A. MOYA, USN, B81 59 69
SN Mills C. BEARDEN, USN, B81 62 82
SN Michael A. LEMLER, USNR, B88 02 55
SN Robert (n) STOKLUSKS, USNR, B59 09 14
SN Wayne F. WHEELER, USN, B11 76 25
SN David L. JONES, USN, B51 94 64

SEAMAN APPRENTICE/FIREMEN APPRENTICE/STEWARDSMATE APPRENTICE (?)

FA Ray A. WEEKS, USN, B30 32 41
TA Leonardo R. PACHECO, USN, B96 32 86
SA James A. HUCKSTEP, USN, B63 64 93
SA Frederick E. WRAMER, USN, B54 15 58
FA Albert E. CRUZ, USN, B85 27 56

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1
ADG361/JJN:jjn
05750
26 February 1969

SEAMEN APPRENTICE/FIREMEN APPRENTICE/STEWARDSMATE APPRENTICE (CONT)

SA Marvin E. NUCHTI, USN B62 57 04
FA James E. JONES, USN, B85 12 47

FIREMAN RECRUIT (1)

FR Gary R. TIMMERMAN, USN, B02 44 85