

ORIGINAL

1969

U.S.S. SURFBIRD (ADG-383)  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California 96601

In reply refer to:  
OPNAV REPORT 5750-1  
ADG383/JJN:ear  
5000  
Ser: 9  
6 January 1970

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. SURFBIRD (ADG-383)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0989)  
Subj: U.S.S. SURFBIRD (ADG-383) Command History from  
1 January 1969 through 31 December 1969; submission of  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12  
Encl: (1) Personnel roster as of 31 December 1969  
(2) Commanding Officer's biographies and change of  
command program  
(3) Letters of commendation  
(4) Commander SEVENTH Fleet unit commendation letter

1. CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS:

- a. 4-12 January - was OTC for surface unit phase of Fleet Service Mine Test 3-69 at Buckner Bay, Okinawa.
- b. 27 January-1 February - earned seventh Meritorious Conduct Ashore Award at Hong Kong, BCC.
- c. 8-28 March - made first deployment to the combat area.
- d. 24 April - received Commander SEVENTH Fleet Unit Commendation.
- e. 5-23 May - underwent refresher training at Yokosuka, Japan.
- f. 16 August-10 September - made second deployment to the combat area.
- g. 2-26 October - made third deployment to the combat area.
- h. 7 November - Lieutenant Commander Neal Owen MILLS relieved Lieutenant Commander Edward Morgan WILLIAMS as Commanding Officer.
- i. 25 November - celebrated 25th anniversary of commissioning.

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## 2. 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 from 1 January to 6 November 1969 by Lieutenant Commander Edward Morgan WILLIAMS and from 7 November to 31 December 1969 by Lieutenant Commander Neal Owen MILLS, 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, adjustment and repair of shipboard degaussing equipment, providing facilities and services for deperming of steel hull ships and submarines and to be capable of limited self-defense.

c. The first of January found the ship in Sasebo, Japan. She sailed on the second in company with USS PEACOCK (MSC-198), USS PHOENIX (MSC-199), USS WOODPECKER (MSC-207) and USS WHIPPOORNILL (MSC-209). The task unit arrived at Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 4 January. From then until 12 January the task unit participated in Fleet Service Mine Test 3-69 with CO, USS SURFBIRD as OTC of the surface phases. On 12 January the ship sailed for Tsoying, Republic of China arriving on the 14th. Degaussing training was accomplished for the Republic of China Navy and degaussing services provided for units of TG 70.5 until 25 January when the ship departed for Hong Kong, BCC for a port visit. While in Hong Kong from 27 January until 1 February, SURFBIRD received her seventh Meritorious Conduct Ashore Award. The ship sailed for Sasebo, Japan on 1 February arriving on the 7th and remaining until the 20th. During this period of upkeep, the ship received its command inspection from Commander Mine Flotilla ONE. On 20 February the ship departed for Sangley Point, Republic of the Philippines, where she provided degaussing services for units of TG 70.5 from 25 February to 1 March and then proceeded to Subic Bay, Republic of Philippines for upkeep from 1-5 March. On 5 March SURFBIRD departed Subic Bay for her first tour in the combat zone providing degaussing services for MSB's at Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam from 8-10 March, at Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam from 11-18 March and at Danang, Republic of Vietnam from 19-28 March. Degaussing services were also performed for units of

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CTF 73 at Danang. Departing Danang on 28 March, the ship sailed to Sasebo, Japan arriving on 3 April. She provided degaussing services for units of TG 70.5 and TG 70.8 from then until 1 May when she sailed to Yokosuka, Japan for three weeks of refresher training. On 24 April in Sasebo, Commander Mine Flotilla ONE presented the ship with a unit citation on behalf of Commander SEVENTH Fleet. After completion of refresher training on 23 May, SURFBIRD provided deperming services for a unit of Landing Ship Squadron ONE and then returned to Sasebo to provide degaussing services for units of TG 70.5 and 70.8 from 31 May to 1 July. Sailing on 1 July for Chinhao, Republic of Korea, the ship provided deperming services and degaussing ranging training to Republic of Korea Naval Units and personnel from 2-16 July. Returning to Sasebo on 17 July, the ship underwent upkeep and provided degaussing services to units of TG 70.5 until 4 August when she sailed for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Degaussing services were provided for units of TG 70.5 at Subic Bay from 8-13 August, when SURFBIRD departed for her second tour in the combat area. Degaussing services were provided for MSB's at Danang, Republic of Vietnam from 16-22 August, Qui Nhon, Republic of Vietnam from 23-27 August and Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam from 28 August to 10 September. Departing for Sattahip, Kingdom of Thailand the ship provided degaussing ranging training for Royal Thai Naval Personnel from 13-24 September. After a port visit to Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand from 25-29 September, the ship returned to Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam for her third tour in the combat area. Degaussing services were performed for MSB's at Vung Tau from 2-26 October, when the ship sailed for Sasebo, with a brief fuel stop at Kachsiung, Republic of China on 30 October. Arriving at Sasebo, Japan on 3 November, SURFBIRD underwent upkeep and provided degaussing services for units of TG 70.5 and TG 70.8 until 27 December. On 7 November, Lieutenant Commander Neal Owen MILLS relieved Lieutenant Commander Edward Morgan WILLIAMS as Commanding Officer. Sailing on 27 December, the close of 1969 found SURFBIRD at sea at Position 17-15 North and 118-14 East enroute to Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam.

d. Four out of nine eligible personnel were re-enlisted on board during the year for a 44.6 percent average. 10 percent of the crew received GED high school equivalency certificates during the year. On 27 October, the ship was notified that she had been nominated by Commander Mine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet for the OUR NAVY Magazine "Ship of the Year" Award. On 25 November SURFBIRD celebrated the 25th Anniversary of her commissioning.

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e. SURFIBRD spent 301 days in port during the year, 98 on which degaussing or deperming operations were conducted. The ship spent 218 days out of homeport traveling 15,675 miles in transits.

f. A total of 82 ships were ranged during the year using the portable degaussing range carried on board or the permanently installed facilities at Sasebo, Japan. A total of 3 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	80	1
REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2	0
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	0	2

*N. D. Mills*  
N. D. MILLS

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMINCPAC  
COMINEPLOT ONE  
COMNOL (CODE 72)

PERSONNEL ROSTER AS OF 31 DECEMBER

OFFICERS (7)

LCDR Neal O. MILLS, USN, 617039  
LT Jerrold J. WEGIN, USN, 678451  
LTJG Anthony A. KARNAS, USNR, 733375  
LTJG James E. CRUMRINE, USN, 732852  
LTJG Joe R. BROWN, USNR, 742337  
CWO-2 Don R. HARDIN, USN, 711428  
CWO-2 John W. VACCARO, USN, 711469

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS (3)

ENC(SS) William P. ALLEY, USN, 555 53 10  
BMC Charles F. DOOLEY Jr., USN, 499 81 23  
EMC(SS) Dale E. PRITCHETT, USN, 438 96 94

FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (4)

QM1 Gary P. FORD, USN, 588 66 56  
SK1 Reynaldo D. CHICO, USN, 476 30 95  
SM1 Charles F. NIERLING, USN, 542 00 67  
DC1 Paul J. PETERSON, USN, 695 55 92

SECOND CLASS PETTY OFFICERS (14)

SD2 Jose S. ABAD, USN, 544 15 27  
RM2 Raymond P. ANDERSON, USN, 686 98 83  
EM2 Danny R. CRONN, USN, 881 12 76  
EM2 Buddi C. PARLAN, USN, 997 14 91  
HM2 Ronald E. HILL, USN, 686 50 97  
EM2 Rodney H. HOLMES, USN, B10 56 78  
EM2 Frank L. KINCAID, USN, B80 99 55  
RD2 William D. LINDSEY, USN, 775 19 43  
BM2 Steven C. MASON, USN, B10 56 15  
EM2 Franklin D. MESEC, USN, B40 19 13  
IC2 Robert G. SAUNDERS, USN, 481 76 25  
SFM2 George H. SPAHN, USN, B81 43 72  
EM2 James R. SUTHERLIN, USN, B81 04 57  
ETN2 David H. VIZENA, USN, 915 60 75

PETTY OFFICERS THIRD CLASS (11)

PM3 Oscar D. BURKHART, USN, B21 06 45  
EN3 Keith O. CARTWRIGHT, USN, B43 99 95  
PN3 Daniel H. CRITZ, USN, B84 28 72  
QM3 Charles T. DAILEY, USN, B52 32 69  
CS3 Donald L. PLENER, USN, 430 66 87

PETTY OFFICERS THIRD CLASS (CONT'D)

CMG3 Dennis J. KNIGHT, USN, B81 34 32  
CS3 Thomas F. LARSON, USN, 692 38 24  
EN3 Larry D. MC MASTER, USN, B43 72 11  
IM3 Angel M. ORTIZ, USN, B10 76 58  
YN3 Eric A. RICHARDSON, USN 548 72 65  
EN3 Danny E. TALCOTT, USN, 793 55 18

FIREMEN/SEAMEN/STEWARDSMEN (18)

PNSN Thomas T. BALUN, USN, B56 48 98  
FN Frank P. BOCCUTI, USN, B48 70 60  
SN Brian I. CASE, USNR, B58 72 56  
SN William T. CHESNUTT, USN, B38 64 94  
SN Dannie W. FLOYD, USN, B82 50 87  
FN Roy A. HAMMEL, USN, B48 55 24  
FN James E. JONES, USN, B85 12 47  
SN Frederick E. KRAMER, USN, B54 16 58  
SN John F. NORTON Jr., USN, B11 53 46  
TN Leonardo R. PACHECO, USN, B96 32 86  
SN Duane E. PHELAN, USN, B72 27 99  
SN Marvin E. RUCCHI, USN, B62 57 07  
ENFN Waynon H. SANDERS, USN, B55 09 58  
SN John O. SANFORD Jr., USN, B73 58 46  
SN John A. SCHNETTMAN, USN, B73 15 80  
RDSN George L. SIMPSON, USN, B72 90 41  
SKSN Robert (n) STOKLUSKA, USNR, B59 09 14  
FN Patrick (n) WHELAN, USN, B68 04 45

FIREMEN APPRENTICE/SEAMEN APPRENTICE (16)

SA Harold E. BUFORD, USN, B64 87 08  
SA Louis P. BULLAN, USN, B87 05 12  
FA Albert E. CRUZ, USN, B85 27 56  
RMSA Keith M. DAVIS, USN, B74 09 56  
SA Richard A. DELUCA, USN, B86 73 08  
SA Thomas J. DIEILING, USN, B65 01 98  
SA Ambrose M. HARRIS, USN, B22 83 92  
SA James A. HUCKSTEP, USN, B63 64 93  
SA James W. KINCAID, USN, B65 02 47  
SA Terry E. KOVARIK, USN, B56 43 90  
SA David C. LANIER, USN, B75 00 71  
SA David W. LUTHER, USN, B75 38 69  
SA George W. MAHLER, USN, B64 86 47  
SA Sylvester L. MASON, USN, B56 23 43  
FA Michael R. SCHAFFENBERGER, USN, B65 27 91  
FA Ronald S. WANGLER, USN, B86 58 58