

USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

ADG383/REA:td
5750
Ser: 255
5 December 1970

From: Commanding Officer, USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 0889)
Subj: USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383) Command History from 1 January
1970 through 5 December 1970; submission of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12
Encl: (1) Change of Command Program with personnel roster

1. Chronology of highlights.

- a. 1 - 4 January - Deployed to Vietnam
- b. 1 March - 14 May - Regular overhaul in Ship's Repair Facility, Sasebo, Japan.
- c. 29 May - 2 June - Visited Kobe, Japan and Expo '70.
- d. 5 June - 27 June - Refresher Training in Yokosuka, Japan.
- e. 14 July - 21 July - Second deployment to Vietnam.
- f. 5 August - Notification of decommissioning.
- g. 13 August - "Homeward bound"
- h. 5 October - Commenced inactivation at NISAF Bremerton, Wash.
- i. 16 October - Change of Command.
- j. 18 December - Decommissioning of USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383).

2. Basic narrative.

a. USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383) under the administrative command of Commander Mine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was attached to Commander Mine Flotilla One. The ship was homeported in Sasebo, Japan, but was decommissioned in Bremerton, Washington on 18 December 1970.

b. The mission of ship was to provide limited mobile decaussine facilities and services with the designed tasks of establishing and operating decaussing ranges in forward areas, providing facilities and services for inspection, calibration

and adjustment 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 initial bell of 1970 was struck in the USS SURFBIRD (ADC-383) as she steamed through the South China Sea enroute to one of her Vietnam operation areas. The seas she steamed through were familiar having nine times before been deployed to the area.

Arriving at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 4 January the ship immediately began the required search for a suitable degaussing range laying area. Taking her standard four point moor the ship shortly thereafter lay her range and began check and calibration ranging of units of Mine Division 112. The operation at Vung Tau completed on 28 January; SURFBIRD departed for Cam Ranh Bay.

On 29 January the ship moored alongside at Cam Ranh and two days later she began her operation there, completing her required ranging on 2 February. 4 February saw the ship enter Da Nang where in three days she completed her mission and departed for Sasebo, Japan, her home port.

During this deployment LT Raymond E. ANDERSON, USN late of Recruiting Office, Cleveland, relieved LT Jerrald J. NEGIN, USN as Executive Officer. LTJG James E. CRUMRINE, USN also relieved LTJG Anthony A. KARNAS, USNR as Operations Officer.

Early on 14 February the SURFBIRD moored in her familiar berth at Sasebo, Japan. Preparations immediately began to check and calibrate the MSL's attached to the USS CATSMILL (MCS-1) which was performed at the mouth of Sasebo harbor. During this period several MSC's of Mine Flotilla One were ranged.

1 March found the SURFBIRD in the care of Ships Repair Facility, Sasebo for an extensive overhaul. The repairs completed included an extensive dry docking and modification to the electronics (both radio and radar) systems.

14 May found SURFBIRD with a fresh coat of paint leaving the shipyard and resuming her task with several Mine Flotilla One MSCs and MSLs being ranged. The former were accomplished with the ships installed Mobile Degaussing Range Facility while the latter were ranged with the Portable Degaussing Range. This dual range capability was possible through the separate deployment of teams under CWO2 John W. VACCARO, USN and EMCM R.C. BAUMBACH, USN the ship's degaussing analysts.

On 29 May the ship visited Kobe, Japan allowing all hands the opportunity to visit Expo '70 in nearby Osaka.

Recreation over, the SURFBIRD began her Refresher Training under the direction of Fleet Training Group, Western Pacific, Yokosuka, Japan on 5 June. Within three weeks a much improved ship's company had established an exceptional rapport with

training. Departing Yokosuka on 26 June a well trained crew in a recently overhauled ship was exceptionally prepared for future deployments.

Returning briefly to Sasebo on 28 June the ship again engaged in operations with MSC's stationed in the Sasebo area until 14 July when she again deployed to Vietnam.

Prior to this deployment LTJG M.A. GROFF, USNR relieved LTJG J. R. BROWN, USNR as First Lieutenant and Supply Officer.

Proceeding south on 14 July the ship rendezvoused with the USS CATSKILL off Taiwan in order that the Commanding Officer might briefly confer with Commander Mine Flotilla One prior to the ship's final deployment.

The familiar boundaries of Vung Tau harbor came into sight on 21 July and shortly thereafter the final reaping of Mine Division 112 MSBs began, to be completed on 9 August. 5 August saw the SURFBIRD undergoing technical assistance to the Royal Thailand Navy at Sattahip, Thailand. Here it was that final word was received of the ship's deactivation.

On 13 August the ship proceeded home to Sasebo for final farewells. After a brief stop at Keelung, Taiwan for fuel SURFBIRD arrived on 21 August.

Necessary arrangements completed on 7 September the ship with a 56 foot, 26 starred Homeward Bound pennant began her journey to the United States. After brief stops, over in Guam on 12 September and Hawaii on 24 September the ship enshrouded in fog arrived at Inactivation Facility Bremerton, Washington on 3 October.

On 16 October LT Raymond E. ANDERSON, USN relieved LCDR Neal O. MILLS, USN as Commanding Officer in a brief ceremony on board. LT James E. CRUMRINE assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

On a cold, damp 18th of December 1970 the commissioning pennant was struck for the final time and the USS SURFBIRD (ADG-383) completed her second commissioning. She has at the close of 1970 completed 243 months of commissioned service as an AI, NSF and ADG.


R. E. ANDERSON

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