

# ORIGINAL

USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

MSC289/ADA  
5750  
Ser: 11  
24 January

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1


From: Commanding Officer, USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) Command History - 1966; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) Command History - 1966

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is herewith submitted.

  
F. J. BARNES, III

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMSVENTHFLT (PAO)  
COMINPAC  
COMINRON THREE

Enclosure (1)

USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) COMMAND HISTORY - 1966

1. CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

- a. 14 January - 21 February 1966: Assigned as a MARKET TIME patrol unit under the operational control of Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam.
- b. 21 March - 29 March 1966: Interim Drydocking, Sasebo, Japan
- c. 4 April - 15 April 1966: Mine Countermeasures Refresher Training conducted by Commander Mine Flotilla ONE at Sasebo, Japan.
- d. 23 April - 27 April 1966: ROK/US MINEX 4-66 at Chinhae Maz, Korea with combined units of Mine Squadron THIRTY-ONE, ROKN and Mine Flotilla ONE, USN.
- e. 29 April - 3 May 1966: Port visit, Kure, Japan with COMINFL ONE embarked.
- f. 29 May - 9 July 1966: Assigned as a MARKET TIME patrol unit under the operational control of Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam.
- g. 12 July - 16 July 1966: Port visit, Singapore.
- h. 22 July - 25 July 1966: Port visit, Hong Kong, B.C.C,
- i. 27 September - 7 November 1966: Assigned as a MARKET TIME patrol unit under the operational control of Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam.
- j. 19 December - 21 December 1966: Annual Management and Maintenance Inspection and NEY Food Service Inspection administered by Commander Mine Squadron THREE.

Enclosure

k. 29 December - 31 December 1966: Enroute to Coastal Surveillance Patrol, Vietnam.

2. BASIC NARRATIVE:

a. Command Organization and Relations:

(1) Commanding Officer, 1 January - 31 December 1966 - LT Fletcher James BARNES, III, 634485/1100, USN.

(2) Homeport - Sasebo, Japan

(3) Mission and Function -

(a) To maintain a high state of training and material readiness in the area of minecountermeasures.

(b) To function as a patrol unit of Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam eliminating North Vietnamese infiltration of men, arms, and supplies into South Vietnam by sea.

(4) Composition of Command -

(a) As of 31 December 1966 there were five (5) officers and thirty-five (35) enlisted on board ALBATROSS. A detailed roster of personnel is attached.

b. Operations and Activities during 1966:

Upon completion of a six week leave and upkeep period in Sasebo, Japan, ALBATROSS; sailed independently on 5 January 1966 for the first of three MARKET TIME deployments during the calendar year. Pausing briefly for fuel and provisions in Kaohsiung, Taiwan on 9 January, she reached her patrol station south of Vung Tau, RVN on the South Vietnamese coast on the fourteenth of the month. The first patrol was highlighted by the loss of 1B Main Engine which remained inoperative until repairs could be effected by SRD Sasebo in March and heavy winds and sea

Enclosure (1)

resulting from the prevailing Northeast monsoon.

ALBATROSS, with USS WARBLER (MSC 206) in company, changed operational control from Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam to Commander Seventh Fleet on 22 February and departed for homeport via a twenty-four hour stop in Kaohsiung. Arriving in Sasebo on 5 March, the remainder of the month was designated an Upkeep Period, with the 21st to 29th spent resting on Keshblocks in U. S. Navy Dry-Dock #2 during Interim Drydocking.

April could be termed "Mine Countermeasures Month 1966" for ALBATROSS for it afforded the sole opportunity for the ship to train for her primary mission. Commander Mine Flotilla ONE dispatched an inspection party of one officer and two enlisted personnel to administer MCM Refresher Training on board. For two weeks, 4-15 April, various minesweeping and minehunting evolutions were conducted. The results are to be found in the final grade of GOOD (80.75) and in the invaluable experience gained by all hands.

On 21 April, ALBATROSS sailed with USS EPPING FOREST (MCS 7) (COMINFLOT ONE embarked), USS WARBLER (MSC 206) and USS PLACOCK (MSC 198) for Chinhae, Korea and the ROK/US MINEX 4-66. The 22nd was spent in Chinhae with the day being devoted to pre-exercise conferences and liberty. The following day the U.S. units were underway with mine-countermeasures ships of Mine Squadron THIRTY-ONE, ROKN for a mutually beneficial five day exercise.

ALBATROSS and WARBLER were detached on 27 April and spent the next thirty-six hours transiting Shimonoseki Straits and the scenic Japanese Inland Sea enroute to a four day port visit to Yure, Japan.

Enclosure (1)

Upon arrival on the 29th of April, COMINFLOT ONE broke his pennant in ALBATROSS. General visiting was conducted on 30 April and local Boy and Girl Scouts toured on the 1st of May. The Scouts reciprocated with a band concert on the pier. Special services tours were conducted for personnel to Hiroshima and Miyajima. Crewmembers donated to the Hiroshima Flood Bank. Commanding Officer, USS ALBATROSS (LSC 289) made official calls on Kure Regional Commandant, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and Commander Mine Flotilla ONE, JMSDF. The official calls were returned on board ALBATROSS.

Pre-deployment preparations were the center of activity during the 4-19 May upkeep period in Sasebo. On 20 May ALBATROSS, with WARBLE once again in company, left home for another South China Sea patrol. After stopping in Kaohsiung for the required refueling on the 24th, she came under the operational control of COMCOSURFORV on 29 May. For her second MARKET TIME deployment of the year, ALBATROSS was assigned a station off the tip of the Ca Mau peninsula. The waters were calmer than those previously encountered, but the local junk traffic was sparse. Major efforts were expended acquiring pertinent information from merchant vessels transiting the area.

After being relieved of her surveillance patrol duties on 9 July, ALBATROSS sailed due south for a port visit to the new island country of Singapore. The 12-16 July visit to a land not oft-frequented by WESTPAC vessels was a welcome break for all as the officers and men of HMS DARTINGTON excelled in the role of genial hosts. The long trans-

Enclosure (1)

back to Sasebo was broken by a brief stay, 22-25 July in everybody's favorite Liberty port, Hong Kong.

The inport Sasebo period from 30 July to 18 September was highlighted by the extended visit of four technical representatives from Naval Ships Engineering Command, Philadelphia Division. Upwards of a month was devoted to mathematical computations and on board instrumentation culminating in underway engine overload tests conducted on the 1st and 3rd of September. Independent type training was conducted the only time during the year on 7-9 September in the Sasebo area. The three days were utilized to stream and megger the magnetic tail, adjust the Ortopesa minesweeping gear, exercise the crew at general drills, and swing ship.

The nineteenth of September arrived and ALBATROSS, with USS WARBELER (MSC 206) and USS PLACOCK (MSC 198) in company, departed Sasebo for her third deployment of the year under the operational control of Commander Coastal Surveillance Force, Vietnam. A few hours on 23 September were allotted to refueling and provisions in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Upon final confirmation of area assignment, ALBATROSS assumed her patrol station in the vicinity of the Phu Quoc islands. Through her efforts in the investigation, boarding, and search of local junk traffic, justification was established for the permanent assignment of a surveillance unit in this coastal section of the Gulf of Thailand. The newly installed air conditioning system was an asset to crew morale during this cruise.

ALBATROSS was relieved by USS WHIPPOORWILL (MSC 207) on 7 November. Enroute to her homeport she remained in Kaohsiung 13-14

Enclosure (1)

November to effect repairs on the inoperative air compressor system which had hindered maneuverability throughout a greater portion of the deployment.

Soon after ALBATROSS' return home on 18 November, word was received that the annual Management and Maintenance Inspection would be conducted less than a month hence. Satisfactory degaussing check ranging on 22 November was followed by a concerted shipwide effort to ready the command's material and internal administrative appearance. The results reflected these efforts. COMINRON THREE awarded ALBATROSS a grade of EXCELLENT (91.55) at the conclusion of his 19-21 December M&M. The annual surprise KEY Food Service Inspection was administered on 20 December.

An abbreviated holiday season was enjoyed by the crew from 22 to 28 December. On the afternoon of 29 December 1966, numerous dependents, friends and MINRON THREE contemporaries assembled at Berth No. 9, India Basin, Fleet Activities, Sasebo, Japan to view USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) as she cast off her lines enroute for the fourth time in 1966 to coastal surveillance patrol in the South China Sea.

c. Special Topics:

(1) Operational Statistics 1966 -

(a) Days Underway: 191.9

(b) Days under OPCON Commander Coastal Surveillance For Vietnam: 123.0

(c) Underway Replenishments: 36

Enclosure (1)

(d) Junks Detected, OPGON COMCOSURFORV: 823

(e) Junks Boarded, OPGON COMCOSURFORV: 289

(2) Communications -

The excessive volume of communications traffic was handled in a professional manner as two radioman strikers became qualified to copy the one operator CW broadcast. However, completion of the proposed automated communications installation will expedite message handling and serve to alleviate remaining communication problem areas.

(3) Supply and Logistics -

Approximately sixty (60) days were spent in a CASREPT status in Sasebo due to lack of engineering supply support. Lead time for repair parts, on a requisition priority scale, ran as follows, with the majority of items requiring near the maximum amount of time noted to reach ALBATROSS.

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
02	2 weeks	7 mont
05	3 weeks	6 mont
12	2 months	12 mon

(4) Personnel -

(a) Reenlistments:

FIRST TERM - 7 eligible; 3 reenlisted on board;  
forty-three percent (43%)

CAREER - 3 eligible; 3 reenlisted on board; one  
hundred percent (100%)

TOTALS - 10 eligible; 6 reenlisted on board; sixty  
percent (60%)



Enclosure (1)

(b) Commanding Officer's Non-Judicial Punishment:

RATED OFFENDERS - Seven (7)

NON-RATED OFFENDERS - Nine (9)

TOTAL CO'S EAST CASES - Sixteen (16)

(c) Enlisted Advancements:

FEBRUARY 1966 NAVY-WIDE ADVANCEMENT EXAMINATIONS

Candidates: Sixteen (16); Passing Grades: Twelve (12); Advanced: Ten (10)

AUGUST 1966 NAVY-WIDE ADVANCEMENT EXAMINATIONS -

Candidates: Eight (8); Passing Grades: Four (4); Advanced: Three (3)

1966 SHIPBOARD ADMINISTERED EXAMINATIONS FOR ADVANCEMENT TO PAY GRADE E-3 -

Candidates: Four (4); Passing Grades: Four (4); Advanced: Four (4)

1966 ADVANCEMENT TOTALS - Candidates: Twenty-eight

Advanced: Seventeen (17); Sixty-one per cent (61%)

(5) Awards and Commendations -

(a) COMNAVFORV ltr 1650 ser 696 of 18 June 1966 commended

Commanding Officer, USS ALBATROSS (MSC 289) for performance of duty on MARKET TIME patrol during the period 14 January 1966 to 21 February 1966

Extracts of this letter were made the nucleus of commendatory remarks placed in the service record of all personnel assigned to ALBATROSS during subject period.

(b) In November 1966, ALBATROSS was authorized to display the Republic of Viet-Nam Campaign Ribbon Bar with Device (60- ) for her supporting operations in Viet-Nam. This brought to a total of three campaign ribbons worn by ALBATROSS. The others correspond to the National Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

3. LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The nonavailability of engineering supply support continues to impair ALBATROSS' condition of operational readiness. Continued pursuit of basic problem remedies by all echelons of command, as well as repeated follow-ups on individual requisitions by ALBATROSS remain as required actions for the future.

b. Every opportunity for on-the-job mine countermeasures training must be utilized, consistent with operational commitments and crew fatigue.

4. DOCUMENTARY ANNEX.

a. A copy of the muster roll and roster of officers as of 31 Decem 1966 is attached.