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USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

DDG16/MWV:jbf
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[REDACTED] (Unclassified when enclosure (1) is removed)

From: Commanding Officer, USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D.C. 20390

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Ship's History, Parts I, II, and III (Chronology, Narrative,
Documentary Annexes)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is herein submitted.

Lawrence Layman
LAWRENCE LAYMAN

Copy to:
COMNAVFLT
COMCRUDESPAC
COMDESFLOT FIVE
COMDESRON ELEVEN

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR
INTERVALS: DECLASSIFIED AFTER
12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10

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REPORT OF SHIP'S HISTORY

PART I

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

1 JAN - 1 FEB Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for completion of regular overhaul.

6 FEB Completed supply overhaul availability.

14 - 19 FEB Enroute to Southern California.

20 FEB - 7 MAR Missile Systems qualifications test operations out of San Diego, climaxing in Tartar firings on Pacific Missile Range.

8 - 10 MAR Inport San Francisco.

11 - 16 MAR Enroute to Pearl Harbor.

18 MAR Training readiness evaluation.

19 MAR Embarked Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management Honorable Mr. Bowsher. Underway for gun shoot.

25 MAR Commenced Refresher Training with Initial Battle Problem.

20 APR Ship celebrated fifth birthday.

3 MAY Final Battle Problem.

6 MAY Tartar firing on Barking Sands Missile Range.

8 - 9 MAY Completed Shore Bombardment Qualifications.

10 - 24 MAY Tender Availability alongside USS ISLE ROYALE (AD-29)

27 - 28 MAY Annual Supply Inspection.

3 - 5 JUN ASW Exercises.

6 - 7 Administrative, Overseas Movement, and Medical Inspection by COMDESRON ELEVEN.

12 JUN Dependent's Cruise.

14 - 19 JUN Enroute to Southern California for Strikex 2-68, "Operation Bearer Burden", as a member of T.G. 170.8.

24 JUN Joined Operation Bearer Burden.

1 JUL Assigned as Flagship of Destroyer Squadron ELEVEN.

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2 - 4 JUL Inport Santa Monica, California, for port visit.

17 JUL Returned to Pearl Harbor.

11 AUG Joined the Seventh Fleet and T.G. 70.8.

14 - 19 AUG Inport Yokosuka, Japan, for upkeep.

15 AUG Laundry Field Service Team Visit.

23 - 27 AUG Inport Subic Bay, R.P. to onload SLQ-19, 81MM Mortar, 50 cal. machine guns.

29 AUG - 4 OCT Operated as a member of Task Group 77.1, Operation Sea Dragon, off the North Vietnamese Coast.

5 - 7 OCT Conducted Elint Sweep of Chinese coastline while enroute to Pusan, Korea.

9 - 10 OCT Inport Pusan, Republic of Korea.

11 - 16 OCT Inport Sasebo, Japan, for upkeep.

20 OCT - 3 NOV Assigned as plane guard for USS CORAL SEA in T.G. 77.6 and USS INTREPID in T.G. 77.4, members of the Fast Attack Carrier Striking Force.

3 - 15 NOV Assigned to T.U. 70.8.9 for Naval gunfire support, IV Corps Tactical Zone, South Vietnam, COMDESDIV 362 embarked.

17 - 23 NOV Inport Subic Bay, R.P. for upkeep alongside USS PRARIE (AD-14).

30 NOV - 15 DEC Assigned to T.U. 70.8.9 for Naval gunfire support, IV Corps Tactical Zone, South Vietnam.

17 DEC COMDESDIV 362 embarked in USS R. L. WILSON (DD-847)

20 - 25 DEC Inport Kaoshiung, Taiwan for upkeep alongside USS PRARIE (AD-14)

20 - 31 DEC Assigned to T.U. 70.8.9 for Naval gunfire support, I Corps Tactical Zone.

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REPORT OF SHIP'S HISTORY

PART II

BASIC NARRATIVE

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONS

A. Commander Lawrence Layman, USN, commanded USS JOSEPH STRAUSS for the entire year of 1968.

B. During 1968 USS JOSEPH STRAUSS was home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

C. At the end of 1968, USS JOSEPH STRAUSS had on board 22 officers and 306 enlisted as ship's company.

D. On 1 July 1968 administrative organization was changed from Destroyer Squadron 25 to Destroyer Squadron 11.

2. OPERATIONS

USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) began 1968 in the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard undergoing a regular overhaul (ROH). Affecting weapons systems and communications the greatest, the overhaul provided JOSEPH STRAUSS with the improved 51C missile radar and the Standard Missile capabilities as well as the most modern and extensive communications facility in the destroyer Navy. Completed on 1 February, the overhaul was followed by a two-week repair availability to complete work begun in the shipyard. The Supply Overhaul Availability, conducted along with the overhaul, was completed on 6 February.

A Missile Systems Qualifications Test (MSQT) followed, beginning on 5 February and lasting until 8 March. During this time, every aspect of the ship's missile systems and associated equipment was checked out and operated. Most of the MSQT was conducted in Southern California operating areas, the first time JOSEPH STRAUSS had been that far east since 17 June, 1964. The ship left Pearl Harbor on 14 February, spent five days in transit and the next two weeks in local operations out of San Diego. The periods of 22-26 February and 1-3 March were spent in port at San Diego. The culmination of the MSQT was the firing of five TARTAR Retrofit missiles on the Pacific Missile Range from 5 to 7 March. Of the 5 missiles fired, 4 were unqualified successes, and the fifth was a defective bird. The high degree of competence attained during MSQT was exemplified on the last day of the test, when JOSEPH STRAUSS took over the missile range, fired two successful shots, and surrendered the range, all in a twenty-four minute period.

This West Coast visit ended with a port visit to San Francisco, where JOSEPH STRAUSS was berthed at the Embarcadero from 8 to 10 March. During the visit approximately 4,000 San Franciscans toured the ship. Upon her return to Pearl

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Harbor on 17 March, JOSEPH STRAUSS set about preparing for Refresher Training. On 18 March a Training Readiness Evaluation was conducted to gauge the ship's preparedness for Refresher Training. Results showed JOSEPH STRAUSS to be ready for training.

JOSEPH STRAUSS hosted a SECNAV guest cruise on 19 March when the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management, the Honorable Charles A. Bowsher, broke his flag on board. The ship went to sea for the day to conduct a gunnery demonstration followed by a wardroom luncheon.

On 25 March JOSEPH STRAUSS joined Task Unit 54.3.1, Fleet Training Group, Pearl Harbor, for seven weeks of refresher training. A training battle problem was held the first day to determine the areas of weakness which would receive particular attention during the ensuing weeks.

On April 20, JOSEPH STRAUSS celebrated her fifth birthday with a party in the crew's mess. Guests included Mrs. William A. Greene, wife of the first Commanding Officer of JOSEPH STRAUSS, and a returned plank owner, Chief Petty Officer William E. German, USN.

By the time of the final battle problem on 3 May, JOSEPH STRAUSS was able to demonstrate her readiness to join the operating forces with an overall rating of good and a score of 85.5. Refresher training ended the next week with the firing of three TARTAR Retrofit missiles on 6 May at Barking Sands Missile Range and two days of shore bombardment at Kahoolawe on 8 and 9 May.

From 10 May to 24 May, JOSEPH STRAUSS was in a tender availability alongside USS ISLE ROYALE (AD-29). During this period, preparations were made for the [REDACTED], Supply, Administration, and Preparation for Overseas Movement inspections. The Annual Supply Inspection was conducted on May 27 and 28 with a grade of Excellent, and a [REDACTED] was satisfactorily conducted on 28 and 29 May.

From 31 May until 2 June the ship underwent deperming operations. On 3 June, JOSEPH STRAUSS began three days of ASW exercises with USS CARBONERO (SS-337), during which an exercise ASROC torpedo was launched and scored as a hit by the submarine.

Culminating a period of intensive preparations the ship was given the ADMIN and PCM inspections by Commander Destroyer Squadron ELEVEN on 6 and 7 June, in which JOSEPH STRAUSS was determined to be ready in all respects for overseas movement.

After a dependents' cruise on 12 June and an ammunition loadout on 13 June, the ship departed on 14 June for San Diego as a member of TG 15.9, with Commander Destroyer Squadron ELEVEN embarked and three ships of DESRON ELEVEN in company: USS WALKER (DD-517), USS JENKINS (DD-447), and USS CARPENTER (DD-825).

Upon arrival in San Diego, JOSEPH STRAUSS prepared to join TG 170.8 and participate in Operation Bearer Burden, a First Fleet strike exercise designed to prepare the ship and her crew for conditions prevailing in Southeast Asia and throughout the Western Pacific. From 24 June to 2 July, JOSEPH STRAUSS conducted practice [REDACTED]

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shore bombardment, coastal surveillance, surface gunnery, ASW exercises, including an ASROC firing, and a missile shoot. The AAW missile exercise portion of Operation Bearer Burden was especially significant in that the environment was extremely realistic, and no artificial restrictions were placed upon the firing ships. JOSEPH STRAUSS fired 6 missiles in the AAW environment, scoring four successes, one failure, and one no-test. During the Bearer Burden exercise, JOSEPH STRAUSS also scored a direct hit on a DE target hull in her first surface-to-surface missile firing.

JOSEPH STRAUSS visited the city of Santa Monica, California, from 2 to 4 July for the holiday celebration, hosting over 3,000 visitors while at anchor in Santa Monica Bay. The visit was well received by the entire city, and brought JOSEPH STRAUSS a "well done" from COMFIRSTFLT.

The period from 5 July to 11 July was spent in port at Long Beach, California, conducting upkeep. Returning to Pearl Harbor on 17 July, JOSEPH STRAUSS spent the following two weeks making final preparations for her upcoming WestPac deployment.

On August 5, 1968, JOSEPH STRAUSS departed Pearl Harbor for her first deployment to the Western Pacific since her yard period. During the transit, JOSEPH STRAUSS was a member of Task Group 15.8, and was accompanied by USS WALKER, USS TAYLOR, and USS JENKINS. COMDESRON ELEVEN, Captain William J. Doyle, CTG 15.8, was embarked in JOSEPH STRAUSS. Following a fuel stop at Midway Island, JOSEPH STRAUSS and JENKINS continued independently to Yokosuka, Japan for a four day upkeep period. Underway from Yokosuka on 20 August, JOSEPH STRAUSS proceeded south to Subic Bay, R.P. via the San Bernardino Straits, skirting a typhoon then centered near the northwest of the Philippines. Arriving at Subic Bay on 23 August, the ship received her allotment of pooled combat equipment, including an SLQ-19 ECM hut, during the next four days. The time in Subic was cut short by a full day when JOSEPH STRAUSS received a message ordering her to get underway on four hours notice for the combat zone on 27 August.

On 29 August, JOSEPH STRAUSS commenced combat operations by reporting for duty with Task Group 77.1 off the coast of North Vietnam. During the next forty-five days, JOSEPH STRAUSS bombarded a variety of shore installations, including highway bridges and ferry crossings on North Vietnam's Coastal Highway, coastal defense sites, supply depots, and a coastal radar site. Her mission was to interdict the flow of supplies and communications along the coast, and many waterborne logistics craft (WBLC) presented themselves as targets of opportunity while she patrolled the coastline. The only interruption of this line period came on 9 September when JOSEPH STRAUSS had to return to Subic Bay for 14 hours to receive repairs to her after gun mount, but she was back on station on 12 September.

The ship was subjected to enemy hostile fire four times during the period, but no damage or injuries were received in any of the actions. While patrolling at night in an area near the city of Vinh on 27 September, JOSEPH STRAUSS was accidentally attacked by an A-6 aircraft from the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64). No major damage was received, although shrapnel was found on the main deck after the attack, and the AN/SP-72 radar antenna received shrapnel damage.

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On 5 October, JOSEPH STRAUSS departed the SEA DRAGON area and proceeded North along the Chinese coast enroute to Pusan, Republic of Korea. While enroute, the ship conducted a special Elint collection mission.

After two days in port at Pusan, JOSEPH STRAUSS got underway on 11 October for Sasebo, Japan, for four days of upkeep. While enroute she conducted an AAW exercise with U.S. Air Force jets based in Korea.

JOSEPH STRAUSS departed Sasebo on 17 October, and proceeded back to the Tonkin Gulf, where she joined Task Force 77, the Fast Attack Carrier Striking Force. JOSEPH STRAUSS operated as plane guard for USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) in TG 77.6 and for USS INTREPID (CVA-11) in TG 77.4 until 3 November.

On 3 November, Commander Destroyer Squadron ELEVEN debarked, and Commander Destroyer Division Three Six Two shifted his flag from USS HUGH PURVIS (DD-709) to JOSEPH STRAUSS. The ship then proceeded to IV Corps area, South Vietnam, as a member of TU 70.8.9 to conduct Naval Gunfire Support for the Seventh and Ninth Divisions, Army of Republic of Vietnam. The period until 14 November was spent in the vicinity of the Mekong Delta, firing all-day spotted missions and night harassment missions into Viet Cong territory near the coastline.

The period from 17 to 23 November was spent in a tender availability alongside USS PRAIRIE (AD-14) in Subic Bay, R.P.

JOSEPH STRAUSS left Subic Bay on 25 November and proceeded again to the IV Corps area where she resumed her gunfire support activities with TU 70.8.9. On 17 December, JOSEPH STRAUSS headed for Kaohsiung, Taiwan, for another availability alongside PRAIRIE. Underway again on 26 December, JOSEPH STRAUSS proceeded to I Corps area, South Vietnam, where she conducted naval gunfire support for a Brigade of Marines from the Republic of Korea, based just south of Danang Harbor, the 101st Airborne Division, and the U.S. Third Marine Division. The year ended with JOSEPH STRAUSS on duty with Task Unit 70.8.9 conducting NGFS near the Demilitarized zone of Vietnam.

SPECIAL TOPICS

A. OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

1. GUNFIRE MISSIONS:	<u>Air Spot</u>	<u>Ship Spot</u>	<u>H & I</u>	<u>Suppression</u>	<u>Total</u>
SEA DRAGON	52	21	51	16	140
NGFS	34	0	30	0	64

2. AMMUNITION EXPENDED:

Exercises: 1160 NGFS: 4611 Sea Dragon: 3389 Total: 9160

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3. GUN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Rice	500 lb	---
Caves	5	3
Bunkers	11	41
Structures	63	135
Automatic Weapons Positions	3	1
Sampans	2	7
Earthen dams	-	2
Storage sites	-	10
Viet Cong	11 (KIA)	8 probable
WBLC	52 destroyed or damaged	
Bridges	21 destroyed or damaged	
Treeline	40 meters destroyed	
Trenchline	90 meters opened	
Secondary explosions:	8	
Sustained fires:	4	

B. ENGINEERING PERFORMANCE

JOSEPH STRAUSS completed her first regular overhaul on 1 February 1968. The overhaul made significant changes in the ship's weapon systems and communication facilities. With most of the overhaul funding devoted to military improvements in the weapons and communications area, engineering overhaul work was devoted to maintenance and minor repairs.

Despite two tube failures in the superheater second pass bank and the lack of any significant engineering work during the regular overhaul, a very high degree of engineering readiness was achieved during the WESTPAC deployment. The ship was underway 80% of the deployment and met all mobility requirements. This excellent record was achieved even though only two tender availabilities were scheduled during the period August through December 1968.

C. WEAPONS PERFORMANCE

During 1968 the JOSEPH STRAUSS' weapons systems were in a high state of readiness. The Tartar missile launcher provided outstanding reliability under both test and actual launch conditions. The launcher was ready for use at all times during the year. Missile firing success for the year was excellent. During 1968, 14 missile firings were evaluated resulting in 11 successes and 3 failures for a 79% success rate.

The missile results were, to a large extent, due to the reliability of the fire control systems. Although nine CASREPT8s were submitted during 1968 on fire control equipment, eight of which were on missile fire control equipment, none of them significantly affected the employment of the ship's systems. The dual radar and computer system capability in the missile fire control equipment provided a flexibility such that the ship was always ready for defensive or offensive action.

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The ship's 5"/54 rapid fire gun mounts, which became so important in the latter part of the year during the WESTPAC deployment, were plagued with numerous casualties as the ship returned to operational status following the yard overhaul. Switches out of adjustment, metal fatigue and problems later corrected by ORDALTS were the big offenders. During the WESTPAC deployment the mounts were used for shore bombardment, NGFS, night harassment firing, and AA exercises. With the exception of one extraordinary casualty, the breaking of all eight train circle locks in one gun mount, the ship's 5" armament was available at all times to complete assigned missions. The guns did require a great deal of small repairs and many man-hours of work.

The ship's ASW weapons systems were very reliable throughout the year, and were utilized twice during ASW exercise periods.

D. INTELLIGENCE COLLECTIONS

JOSEPH STRAUSS, as one of its responsibilities when operating off the North Vietnam coast with Sea Dragon forces, was delegated the task of collecting ELINT information on the North Vietnamese Electronic Order of Battle (EOB). This collection effort began when the ship arrived on station 29 August 1968 and continued until STRAUSS departed station 5 October 1968 enroute to Pusan, Korea. In the subsequent evaluation of our collection effort, PACOM ELINT Central praised the quality of the material submitted.

Leaving Sea Dragon mission did not complete the ship's efforts in ELINT collection. The USS JOSEPH STRAUSS conducted an ELINT sweep along the CHICOM coast as the ship proceeded to Pusan. The sweep began 5 October 1968 and was completed 8 October 1968. Communications Technician Chief McCawley, TAD from CINCPACFLT, provided technical assistance during this sweep. The results of the ELINT sweep were submitted to PACOM ELINT Center and again a commendation was received by JOSEPH STRAUSS.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

JOSEPH STRAUSS began the communications year in February, departing Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard after her first ROH since commissioning. The overhaul included a complete rebuilding of Radio Central based on principles learned during Operation Baseline II and the concepts formulated by the Communications Afloat Work Study Group. Equipment was located to aid in rapid message processing, and an extensive quality control/assurance console was installed which enabled STRAUSS communicators to maintain their equipment within the rigid frequency tolerances required in the fleet. The month of March was used to familiarize shipboard personnel with all aspects of radio operations in order that use of the newly installed equipment might be exploited fully. April and May were devoted to refresher training, during which JOSEPH STRAUSS evaluated a new COMCRUDESPEC Communications exercise designed to incorporate the concepts of the Communications Afloat Work Study Group. This was followed by the fleet exercise "Bearer Burden" and WESTPAC deployment. During Sea Dragon operations traffic volume peaked to 400 messages per day for the ship and embarked staff. This volume finally settled out to about 150 messages per day while providing Naval Gunfire Support and planeguarding. The outstanding design

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of Radio Central, coupled with modern and improved equipment forestalled any potential problem areas. Direct termination with various WESTPAC NAVCOMMSTA's, as well as with the USS ARLINGTON attest to the high level of proficiency which can be obtained with JOSEPH STRAUSS' communications equipment.

F. SUPPLY

During the course of the Supply Overhaul (SOAP), completed during 1968, 11,139 line items of 29,543 carried were found to be stocked in quantities over those required for normal operations - the dollar value of these excesses was \$363,600.86. 11,580 items were deficient in the amount of \$280,600.64. COMCRUDESPEC funded \$72,061.43 of TYCOM deficiencies providing range and usage coverage for all items. An additional \$39,940.08, required to fund range and depth of deficient items, was not provided by the Type Commander because of the austere funding policy in effect at that time. As of 6 February 1968, the completion of (SOAP), 3,220 line items of 9,712 deficient repair parts ordered had been received and stored in the appropriate location. 6,492 outstanding requisitions remained to be received and sorted within the limited confines of the ship's receiving area.

A grade of EXCELLENT (89.0) was assigned JOSEPH STRAUSS by COMCRUDESPEC for the Fiscal Year 1968 Annual Supply Inspection conducted 27-28 May 1968.

G. PERSONNEL

JOSEPH STRAUSS on an average for the year 1968 was manned at 97%. The ship's current manning level is 319 enlisted, 18 officers. Percentage of re-enlistments on JOSEPH STRAUSS was 22.5%. Of 40 personnel eligible, 9 re-enlisted. 165 persons took advancement exams in 1968, out of whom 131 passed the exams, for a 77% passing ratio.

H. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

During 1968, JOSEPH STRAUSS evaluated a communications research and development project called General Address Reading Device (GARD). The GARD is a small, special-purpose, stored-program computer for automatically guarding and screening multiple fleet broadcast channels. It comprises three electronic chassis in an enclosure measuring, for the first unit, 33" wide, 35" deep, 27" high, and weighing 250 pounds. Subsequent units will measure less than 19" wide, 24" deep, and 18" high and weigh less than 200 pounds. The GARD connects into broadcast channels (up to eight) between the cryptographic equipment and the receiving teletypewriters, which it controls. The equipment has been developed and first test units are being fabricated at NELC at a cost of about \$50,000 each, plus a one-time cost of \$70,000 to generate the operating program. Production units are estimated to cost between \$9,000 and \$12,000 each.

The operating program is read from punched paper (teletypewriter) tape into a small internal core memory from which subsequent operations are controlled. The guard list, consisting of as many as 90 addressees and originators of local interest, is similarly stored and can be changed from the keyboard of a control teletypewriter.

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In operation, the GARD "reads" heading elements of incoming messages, including originators and addressees, and compares them with the guard list. The GARD then allows the receiving teletypewriters to print in full only those messages for which a match is found, plus all FLASH messages.

As a protective measure both manual and automatic bypass operations are provided. A switch shunts all channels around GARD whenever printout of all messages is desired. This bypass is activated automatically in case of a power failure within GARD.

A single-channel developmental GARD unit has been tested extensively ashore, using live broadcast traffic. A one-week trial of this unit was conducted successfully aboard USS PREBLE (DLG-15) in cooperation with COMCRUDESPAC. There have been no other investigations, tests or evaluations of GARD prior to its installation in JOSEPH STRAUSS.

The first GARD equipment was delivered, with documentaries and spare parts, to the USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during May 1968. Preparations for mounting and for providing power to the equipment were made during the ship's recent overhaul. Installation required about two days and was performed by NELC representatives and ship's force.

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