



U. S. S. PRIME (MSO-466)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

MSO-466/SJP:et
5000
Ser 337
20 December 1965

From: Commanding Officer, USS PRIME (MSO-466)
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Ship's History 1 January 1965 to 31 December 1965; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7
(b) CINCPACFLT INST 5440.3A

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the history of USS PRIME (MSO-466) for the period 1 January 1965 to 31 December 1965 is submitted:

1 January 1965 found the PRIME in Long Beach, California, preparing for a deployment to WESTPAC. PRIME left Long Beach with Mine Division SEVENTY-TWO on 15 January 1965 for a routine deployment with the U.S. Seventh Fleet. She stopped at Pearl Harbor and Kwajalein for fuel and at Guam for fuel and voyage repairs. She made her first West Pacific port of call at Yokosuka, Japan, the first part of March. The ship spent five days there before departing for Sasebo for her interim drydocking.

The interim drydocking was cut short by three days, when the Vietnam anti-infiltration patrol was established, and the division sailed South. The beginning of April found PRIME in Keelung, Taiwan, for a port visit before going to Kaohsiung via the Taiwan Straits for a combined U.S./ Republic of China Mine Counter-measures exercise. PRIME took tactical command of the five-day exercise in which USS REAPER (MSO-465) and two Chinese MSC participated.

After the MINEX ended on 10 April, PRIME sailed for South Vietnam where she spent the majority of the next four months as a surface patrol unit in the Coastal Surveillance Operation. Her main task involved patrol of the coast in order to detect and stop possible Viet Cong infiltrators and suppliers. These patrol duties were broken up by a four day visit to Hong Kong in late April and two one week periods in Subic Bay in June and July.

PRIME left Subic Bay on 6 August for a week of repairs and maintenance in Guam before starting home.

PRIME returned to Long Beach on 17 September 1965, ending a deployment of eight months, one month longer than originally scheduled. During that time she and her company earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for their part in the Surveillance work off the coast of South Vietnam. Also, upon arrival at Long Beach it was learned that the ship had been awarded the White "M" for mine countermeasures excellence for the 1965 competitive year.

37392

MS0466/BJP:et
5000

LCDR G. T. HULL was relieved by LT C. T. O'NEILL as Commanding Officer of PRILE on 23 September 1965. The remainder of September and most of October were spent in port. The first week of November PRILE participated in ESMT 2-66 which was followed by another week of minesweeping as a part of Operation RANGE BUSH.

Upon completion of this underway time, PRILE returned to port in Long Beach to finish the year in an upkeep, holiday leave and yard preparation period.


C. T. O'NEILL

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT (2)