

[1972]

U.S.S. SAFEGUARD (ARS-25)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

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ARS25:JBL:gth
5750
Ser: 07
28 February 1973

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upon removal of enclosures 2, 3, and 4)

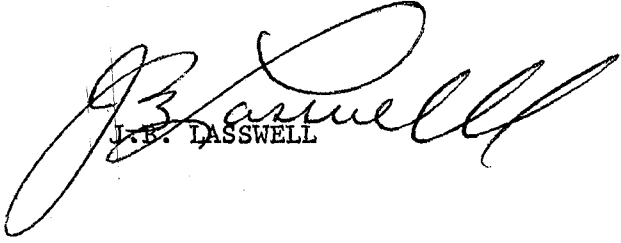
From: Commanding Officer, USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington D.C. 20390

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

- Encl: (1) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) Command History 1 MAR 72 to 28 FEB 73
- (2) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) SALVOPS from 9 NOV 72 to 22 DEC 72
- (3) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) SALVOPS from 24-25 DEC 72 and 13 JAN 73
- (4) USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) SALVOPS from 22 JAN 73 to 4 FEB 73

1. In compliance with reference (a) enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.


J.B. DASSWELL

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Subject to general declassification schedule
of Executive Order 11652
Declassified on 31 December 1979

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[1972]

COMMAND HISTORY

From 1 to 5 March 1972 USS SAFEGUARD was in a standby salvage status in Pearl Harbor, her homeport. During this period SAFEGUARD assisted USS POGY (SSN-647) in torpedo recovery. From 5 to 17 March SAFEGUARD was involved in testing the ability of ARS type ships to use the "Fly-Away Kit" in the rescue of of submarines. A successful simulated rescue was performed on ex-USS BLUEGILL at Lahaina, Maui. From 18 March through 6 April SAFEGUARD was again standby salvage ship in Pearl Harbor.

From 7 Through 12 April found SAFEGUARD engaged in special operations in the MIDPAC area as satellite recovery back-up ship. Fortunately such back-up services were not necessary. 12 through 20 April was an upkeep period but time was made available to support the deep diving bathyscape Trieste II.

21 April through 21 May was again devoted to standby salvage and upkeep. On 19 May LCDR George BRINING was relieved by LCDR James B. LASSWELL as Commanding Officer, USS SAFEGUARD.

22 May through 12 June was devoted to individual ship exercises and upkeep in the Pearl Harbor area. Between 13 and 22 June SAFEGUARD was treated to a much needed restricted availability at Pacific Marine and Supply Co., Ltd, Honolulu. Much necessary work was accomplished including the installation of a new ship's boiler and two new evaporators.

23 June through 13 October was a busy and productive period encompassing post availability sea trials, interim refresher training, administrative inspection, pre-deployment inspection, and intensive salvage training. The last two weeks were utilized for a welcome pre-deployment stand down.

On 14 October SAFEGUARD deployed for WestPac, commencing her deployment by towing the YFNB-6 from Pearl Harbor to Midway Island for MSC, Honolulu. The tow was delivered to Midway on 18 October without incident.

SAFEGUARD continued across the Pacific playing tag with typhoons Nancy, Olga, and Pamela via the San Bernardino Straits to Subic Bay, R.P. for a brief fuel and liberty stop. On 26 October SAFEGUARD chopped to Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

SAFEGUARD thence proceeded to assume standby salvage duty in Danang, RVN, entering the hostile fire zone on 8 November and assuming CTU 73.4.1 on 9 November. This duty continued through 22 December. A complete report of employment while in Danang is included as enclosures (2), (3), and (4).

From the 22nd to the 27th of December SAFEGUARD was enroute from Danang, RVN, to Singapore Island with a stopover on Christmas Day and 26 December at latitude 09°-01.2'N, longitude 104°-27.2'E where we unsuccessfully dragged the lower reaches of the Gulf of Thailand for an anchor and chain lost by USNS Taluga some days before. With SAFEGUARD'S departure from Danang, CTU 73.4.1 was passed to USS GRAPPLE (ARS-7)

enclosure (1)

The period 27 December through 10 January was gainfully spent at ANZUK Naval Basin, Singapore, where the USS. Navy Office Singapore administered an especially productive restricted availability.

From 10 to 15 January SAFEGUARD was enroute to Bangkok, Thailand with a second unsuccessful attempt at Taluga's anchor. The R&R stopover at Bangkok was very welcome and again much shopping was accomplished.

20 through 24 January found SAFEGUARD returning to Danang, RVN, for her old duty as standby salvage ship. CTU 73.4.1 was assumed the night of 23 January.

On SAFEGUARD'S first morning, back in Danang, President Nixon announced the cease fire; a momentous day! However, the standby salvage duty continued until 5 February. A report of SAFEGUARD'S employment for this period is included in enclosures (3) and (4).

SAFEGUARD departed for Hong Kong on 5 February and, at that time, dissolved CTU 73.4.1.

7 through 14 February was spent in Hong Kong providing mooring support to USS QUEENFISH (SSN-651).

Departing Hong Kong 14 February and arriving in Kaohsiung 16 February, the remainder of the reporting period was spent in upkeep.

Commanding Officers of SAFEGUARD since commissioning on 30 September 1944 have been:

30 SEP 44	-	14 FEB 46	-	LCDR Jesse F. SIMMONS, USN
14 FEB 46	-	19 AUG 47	-	LT Bill HAZELBAKER, USN
19 AUG 47	-	2 OCT 47	-	LCDR Robert V. THURMAN, USN
2 OCT 47	-	12 DEC 47	-	LCDR Avery V. SWARTHOUT, USN
12 DEC 47	-	13 FEB 52	-	Decommissioned
13 FEB 52	-	23 NOV 53	-	LT Irvin BOTZ, USN
23 NOV 53	-	3 MAR 56	-	LCDR Franklin W. ROGERS, USN
3 MAR 56	-	1 FEB 58	-	LCDR Walter E. BAKER, USN
1 FEB 58	-	31 DEC 59	-	LCDR John C. McINTIRE, USN
31 DEC 59	-	11 SEP 61	-	LCDR William F. HARRIS, USN
1 SEP 61	-	4 JAN 64	-	LCDR Garland R. READ, USN
4 JAN 64	-	19 MAR 66	-	LCDR Louis A. DOWNEY, USN
19 MAR 66	-	12 SEP 67	-	LCDR Woodie A. STEGALL, USN
12 SEP 67	-	31 OCT 69	-	LCDR Charles H. BILLINGS, USN
31 OCT 69	-	19 MAY 72	-	LCDR George BRINING, USN
19 MAY 72	-	Present	-	LCDR James B. LASSWELL, USN

enclosure (1)