



CAPTAIN BILLIE C. SPELL, U.S. NAVY

Captain Billie C. SPELL entered the United States Navy in June of 1942. He went to pre-flight and flight training and was commissioned an Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator on 8 June 1943. During World War II Captain SPELL participated in the campaigns of Luzon, Leyte, and Iwo Jima. Captain SPELL survived the sinking of the USS BISMARCK SEA at Iwo Jima.

Captain SPELL was one of the few persons to witness the raising of the Flag on Mount SURIBACHI at Iwo Jima. Because of this it seems fitting that he assumed command of the USS SURIBACHI (AE-21) on 24 March 1967.

Captain SPELL's former assignments have been Commanding Officer Fighter Squadron 114 and Fighter Squadron 112, both based at Naval Air Station, Miramar, California. Captain SPELL served as Commanding Officer of the USS SURIBACHI for the first half of her Cruise to the MED in 1968.

After being relieved as Commanding Officer of SURIBACHI on 25 April 1968 by Captain M. O. MUNICE, Captain SPELL and his family moved to his new command with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.

COMMANDER W. F. SAUBERS, U.S. NAVY

Commander SAUBERS joined the USS SURIBACHI in July of 1965. His former duty assignments have been with the USS O'BRIEN (DD-725), Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier, Destroyer Flotilla Five, Operations Officer on the USS REGULUS, and the United States Naval Academy where he served as an instructor in Physical Education.

On 21 July 1965, LCDR SAUBERS took command of the SURIBACHI during her recommissioning period and was relieved by Captain HARRIS in August of 1965, after which time he assumed the position of Executive Officer. Lieutenant Commander SAUBERS was promoted to Commander before leaving the SURIBACHI in February 1968.

After being relieved of his duties as Executive Officer on SURIBACHI by Lieutenant Commander FLEURY, Commander SAUBERS with his wife and two children moved to Bangkok, Thailand where he is now serving under the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Command.

