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COMMAND HISTORY  
USS STERETT (DLG-31)  
1 JAN 1972 - 31 DEC 1972  
OPNAV Report 5750-1

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CHRONOLOGY

1 JAN - 6 JAN	Inport San Diego
7 JAN - 28 JAN	Enroute WESTPAC
13 JAN - 15 JAN	Visit Pearl Harbor
22 JAN	Overflowed by Bear Aircraft
25 JAN	Refuel at Guam
29 JAN - 6 FEB	Inport Subic Bay, P. I.
7 FEB - 9 FEB	Enroute Gulf of Tonkin
10 FEB - 3 MAR	Assigned CTU 77.0.2
21 FEB	Downed one MIG 21
3 MAR - 6 MAR	Enroute Subic Bay, P. I.
6 MAR	Change of Command
6 MAR - 19 MAR	Inport Subic Bay, P. I.
20 MAR - 21 MAR	Enroute Gulf of Tonkin
22 MAR - 8 APR	Assigned CTU 77.0.2
30 MAR	Downed two MIG 21's
9 APR - 14 APR	Assigned CTU 77.0.3
15 APR - 16 APR	Assigned CTU 77.0.2
17 APR - 27 APR	NGF Freedom Train Ops
19 APR	Dong Hoi Action
23 APR	SAR Incident
28 APR	Assigned CTU 77.0.2
4 MAY	Assigned CTU 77.0.1
9 MAY	Helo crash with ADM ROBINSON

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11 MAY	ADM RODGERS assumed CTG 70.8
16 MAY	Assigned CTU 77.0.3
22 MAY	Arrived Subic Bay
22 MAY	CINCPACFLT visit
28 MAY	Departed Subic Bay for GOT
29 MAY	Assumed South TALOS and back up for USS LONG BEACH - PIRAZ
12 JUN	Enroute Hong Kong
14 JUN	Arrived Hong Kong
20 JUN	Departed Hong Kong
21 JUN	Assumed PIRAZ (CTU 77.0.2)
8 JUL	Assisted in destruction of 2 MIG-21's by USAF
16 JUL	Enroute Subic
18 JUL	Arrived Subic
20 JUL	Enroute Guam
24 JUL	Fuel stop in Guam, Enroute Pearl Harbor
31 JUL	Arrived Pacific Missile Range for ASWEX
1 AUG	Arrive Pearl Harbor
2 AUG	Depart Pearl Harbor enroute San Diego
8 AUG	Arrive San Diego
9 AUG - 9 SEP	Post Deployment stand-down
16 - 19 OCT	PMR Range operations
31 OCT	Departed San Diego for UPTIDE 3-B

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8 NOV	PMR Range Operations
9 NOV	Arrive San Diego
4 - 8 DEC	SOCAL for local ops
11 - 15 DEC	Conducted Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT)
20 DEC - 31 DEC	Holiday stand-down

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NARRATIVE

During the first two months of 1972 STERETT was commanded by Captain Jack HILTON, USN. Captain HILTON had taken STERETT through much preparation for the upcoming deployment. When she stood out of San Diego Harbor on 7 January, STERETT was indeed ready for sea.

The period from 7 JAN to 29 JAN was spent transiting to WESTPAC in company with USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19) and USS MAHAN (DLG 11). Several events highlighted the passage, the first of which was a port visit in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

STERETT stood into Pearl Harbor on 13 JAN and departed 15 JAN. While in port the crew underwent extensive briefings by CINCPACFLT Staff on what to expect in the Gulf of Tonkin.

The transit from Pearl to Guam was marked by an overflight consisting of three Soviet Bear aircraft. The account of this incident is contained in enclosure (1).

STERETT spent the morning of 25 JAN in Apra Harbor, Guam taking on fuel. While there the crew enjoyed a brief respite from the routine of the transit. Standing out of port that afternoon, STERETT set a course for the San Bernadino Straights and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

On 29 JAN, STERETT arrived in Subic Bay and began comprehensive preparations for duties as CTU 77.0.2 in the Gulf (An account of the specific duties of all administrative breakdowns in the Gulf of Tonkin is contained in the Command History of 1970). Included in the preparation was the installation of 50 caliber machine guns on the 04 level and SEE SAW II gear in CIC. The stay in Subic was not without it's lighter periods however, and the crew enjoyed picnicing on Grande Island.

On 7 FEB STERETT was underway at last for patrol in the Gulf of Tonkin. Enroute, full advantage was taken of the SHOBOM facilities at Tabone Inlet. STERETT arrived on PIRAZ station 10 FEB and was briefed on current operations by USS CHICAGO (CG-11), then assumed duties as CTU 77.0.2. After relieving CHICAGO, STERETT remained CTU 77.0.2 until relieved by USS CHICAGO on 3 March.

While STERETT was relieving CHICAGO as CTU 77.0.2, COMDESRON 15, Commodore KLINE, was relieving CRUDESFLOT 3 as CTU 77.0.0. Commodore KLINE carried his flag on STERETT until 5 MAR and the close relations of his staff and the wardroom were evidenced by his message 081150Z MAR 72, enclosure (2).

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As stated above, STERETT aided CTU 77.0.0 in coordination and execution of the 3 MAR SAR effort which resulted in the pickup of two F-4 pilots.

On the morning of 21 FEB Captain H. E. REICHERT, USN arrived onboard by helicopter and reported as prospective relief for Captain HILTON as Commanding Officer of STERETT.

Perhaps the highpoint of this first line period of the deployment occurred late on the evening of 21 FEB. RD1 Bill BUNCH, a seasoned AICS, was controlling a section of two Air Force MIG CAP over Laos when a confirmed hostile track headed directly at his F-4's. BUNCH responded by vectoring his CAP for the bogey. The intercept continued routinely until BUNCH noticed a piece of video appear behind his section. He immediately broke the current intercept attempt and vectored the F-4's for the new contact. The MIG's had been attempting to trap the section with the first easy target as bait. However BUNCH's experience combined with the superb airmanship of the Air Force Pilots resulted in a notable shootdown of a MIG-21. The full account of the event is contained in enclosure (3).

It should be noted that STERETT's shootdown of 21 FEB was the first Air Force MIG kill by a Navy controller. Also of note is the fact that it was the first successful Air Force night intercept of the Vietnam conflict.

The shootdown had far-reaching results as evidenced by enclosure (4). Not the least of these was the fact that a briefing team was sent from STERETT and CTG 70.8 to UDORN ARB Thailand to conduct cross-training with the 432nd WING and the session was marked by the fact that it offered a rare opportunity for pilots and controller to meet face to face.

Enroute Subic Bay STERETT transferred COMDESRON 15 and staff to another ship and also participated in ASW exercises with USS SCULPIN off the coast of LUZON. This was one of the valuable and all too rare opportunities to use and evaluate the new LAMPS tactics. As mentioned in the 1971 Command History, STERETT deployed with the LAMPS helo and it's complement of officers and men. The LAMPS platform has shown much potential in many varied areas, and STERETT has exercised every opportunity to explore new avenues of operations.

STERETT stood into Subic Bay again on 5 MAR and preparations were made for the change of command ceremony to take place the next day. The evening of the 5th a wardroom mess night was held at the Naval Station Officers Club in honor of Captain HILTON and a memorable time was had by all.

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On the morning of 6 MAR Captain H. E. REICHERT relieved Captain Jack HILTON as the fourth Commanding Officer of USS STERETT. The relieving ceremony was followed by a reception in the wardroom. Upon completion of the reception Captain HILTON was piped over the side with sideboys consisting of wardroom members. Enclosure (5) is a program from the change of command ceremony.

STERETT's stay in Subic Bay was prolonged until 19 MAR due to the discovery of scale buildup in all boilers. A scale removal project was undertaken immediately and a normal six week job was completed in twelve days. The dedication and hard work of the engineers and shipyard workers was gratifying.

COMDESRON NINE, Captain CASPER, broke his flag in STERETT on 7 MAR. He remained on board until relieved by Captain PACE on 6 APR in ceremonies on board while on PIRAZ station. Both Commodores and the COMDESRON NINE staff found STERETT an extremely able platform for their duties as CTU 77.0.0 as did COMDESRON 15.

STERETT departed Subic Bay again for the Gulf of Tonkin on 19 MAR and relieved USS CHICAGO as CTU 77.0.2 on 21 MAR. This time on the line STERETT was responsible for one SAR pickup of an A-7 pilot and helped search for a man from USS CRAIG who was reported missing and presumed to have been lost overboard. In this instance STERETT's LAMPS helo contributed significantly to the search effort. Enclosure (6) addresses this tragic incident. It should be noted here that STERETT's LAMPS helo found several occasions to bolster the SAR posture in the Gulf.

Again on her second line period of 1972 STERETT downed MIG aircraft. This time it was two MIG 21's on the night of 30 MAR. The controller was RDC HENDRIX. Chief HENDRIX vectored F-4 CAP again from the 432nd WING in for a clear shot at first MIG. The second of the MIG's survived six missile shots only to be trapped over Vinh airfield and run out of fuel. These MIG downings are referred to in enclosure (7) and brought STERETT's total to three, a record shared at that time by only two other ships.

Since the North Vietnamese began their invasion of thirty MAR it became very evident there was an ever increasing tempo not only in the operations of friendly forces but also an increase in enemy activity as discussed in enclosure (8). On 19 APR, the action came to its peak for the men in STERETT. The following is a scenario of the Battle of Dong Hoi Gulf.

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USS STERETT (DLG 31) in company with Task Unit 77.1.2 consisting of USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5), USS HIGBEE (DD-806) and USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD-714), was proceeding to conduct shore bombardment against Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. OKLAHOMA CITY followed by HIGBEE and THOMAS were approximately 5 miles off shore, two thousand yards apart. THOMAS was controlling STERETT's LAMPS helo in a coordinated shore bombardment/helo spotter effort. STERETT was in a holding position 12 miles from the target area at 5 knots maneuvering on various courses toward the shore in order to keep her missile battery unmasked, keeping her bow toward the target in anticipation of a possible air attack.

At the outset of the shore bombardment, STERETT held positive identification of at least two hostile aircraft flying at approximately 3000 feet in the hills and mountain area of Dong Hoi. After one false start, an enemy aircraft closed the formation at an elevation of about 50 feet and STERETT fired a salvo of missiles scoring a direct hit with the second missile seconds after the hostile aircraft had attacked and bombed the HIGBEE, destroying her after gun mount. STERETT then picked up indications of at least two additional hostile aircraft in the air over Dong Hoi and as the remainder of the formation departed the area, STERETT remained behind and engaged a second aircraft with a second salvo of missiles. The aircraft turned and fled between the mountains causing the missiles to intercept out of visual range. Information from other sources indicate high probability of a kill of a second MIG.

During the same period, up to seventeen unidentified fast-moving surface contacts were reported and observed on radar, all closing STERETT and the departing formation.

Because the surface contacts were the primary threat at that moment and enemy aircraft were being engaged by STERETT controlled F-4 MIG CAP, STERETT opted to act as a buffer for the damaged HIGBEE and stood fast, ready to launch missiles against any surface or air target forward of the beam. In this position the ship could also change course by 60 - 90 degrees and bring her missiles to bear if the MIG's decided to leave their mountain sanctuary. A simultaneous precisely-timed attack from this area would obviously have been most difficult to defeat. Several false targets were reported by various ship's CIC's and a state of mild confusion remained until STERETT locked on one of the surface targets about ten miles away with MFCS and observed an air target separating from it which closed the ship at 500 yards per second. The ship took this target under fire immediately with a two Terrier salvo and an intercept was noted at 7400 yards. All indications lead to the evaluation of the target as an enemy missile, possibly an SS-N-2 STYX launched from a boat.

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Later in the engagement of that day, STERETT held two high speed contacts dead astern at 8 miles closing the ship at 40 knots. THOMAS and HIGBEE were in a position dead ahead at three miles, closing STERETT on reciprocal courses with a CPA at 2000 yards to port and starboard. STERETT took the high speed contacts under fire with her 5"/54 gun, ran between THOMAS and HIGBEE, and turned to the right astern of HIGBEE in an effort to close the contacts. During this maneuver, however, the 5"/54 gun battery was masked by HIGBEE and it might have been necessary to fire a missile if immediate defense were needed and a lock-on could have been achieved at such a low elevation. Fortunately, all indications pointed to the fact that the PT boats had been sunk; cease fire was ordered and all units continued the retirement without further incident.

Because STERETT was the first surface ship of the U. S. Navy to successfully engage enemy aircraft with her Terrier missile battery many other accounts of the Dong Hoi Gulf battle have been written such as the one in enclosure (9). STERETT received congratulations from CNO, CINCPACFLT and other commands as noted in enclosures (10) thru (14).

STERETT was not only first to shoot down an enemy NVN MIG 17 aircraft with Terrier Missiles, but she was also first to use her LAMPS helo in Navy Gunfire Operations as an airborne spotter to direct not only her surface guns on to strategic targets but also those of the USS HIGBEE with the USS OKLAHOMA CITY relaying the spotting information. STERETT's LAMPS also provided spotting information for the big six inch guns of the OKLAHOMA CITY, as discussed in enclosure (15).

After having repeatedly demonstrated her expert qualifications USS STERETT in the next month was called upon to undertake many more increasingly challenging tasks. The use of STERETT's LAMPS in a search and rescue incident on 23 MAY which saved the life of an F-4 pilot and her involvement in protecting the units which were involved in the mining of Hai Phong Harbor on 9 MAY and then being available when the tragic helo crash later that day took the lives of ADM ROBINSON, his Chief of Staff and Operations Officer. The leadership was quickly assumed on 11 MAY by RADM ROGERS who took command of CTG 70.8.

On 17 MAY once again STERETT was there to answer the call of CDR WILKINSON when he safely bailed out of his plane into the Gulf to be picked up by Big Mother 64 from the USS CONSTELLATION under the control of STERETT controllers. The SAR effort is described in enclosure (16).

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Then on 19 MAY STERETT headed for Subic Bay for a very well deserved rest and upkeep period, this marked the end of a sixty-three day continuous line period which, although long for any ship, became even more demanding and grueling because of the battle engagements and other operations STERETT had participated in.

On 22 MAY STERETT was host for CINCPACFLT ADM B. A. CLAREY, who came onboard to personally congratulate STERETT personnel on the recent victories. On 28 MAY STERETT again departed Subic Bay with COMDESRON 31 embarked to assume CTU 70.0.0 and STERETT to assume South Talos station (CTU 77.0.4) when they reached the Gulf on 29 MAY. On 30 MAY STERETT assisted in controlling three "A" strikes over NVN.

Even though STERETT has demonstrated her ability to meet any situation which arose, it is necessary to keep training in order to meet new demands when they arise. Thus, STERETT as CTU 77.0.4 and her "shotgun" USS BADGER conducted additional training from 5 JUN to 10 JUN which included leapfrog drills to ensure junior officers have the experience necessary to take the ship along side another. Also Z-13-CC, basic ship handling, and station taking drills were conducted. These exercises included course and speed adjustments, corpens and turns and other maneuvers which give the junior officers the experience needed to become good ship handlers. These same evolutions were conducted at every opportunity with each of STERETT's "shotguns" in the Gulf of Tonkin.

On 11 JUN COMDESRON 31 was transferred to the USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14) and on 12 JUN STERETT received COMDESRON 9 from USS STODDERT.

On 14 JUN STERETT arrived in Hong Kong which for many was the highlight of the entire deployment because many of the wives had flown in from the United States to greet their husbands and to spend a brief holiday before duty called them back to the Gulf. For many, if not all, the stay in Hong Kong was too short, for the 20th of JUN STERETT once again departed Hong Kong enroute the Gulf, this time to assume PIRAZ duties. USS STERETT relieved USS LONG BEACH as PIRAZ on 21 JUN.

On 8 JUL RDCS REIDER controlled a section of Air Force F-4's which shot down two more MIG-21 aircraft over NVN. The entire incident is in enclosure (17).

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On 16 JUL STERETT was relieved as PIRAZ, departed the Gulf for the last time and headed for Subic Bay for a short rest and upkeep period before heading home. The ship arrived in Subic on the 18th and left on the 20th in company with the MAHAN (DLG-11) for a brief stop in Guam enroute home. On the 24th STERETT entered and left Guam after refueling. It was a tired but proud crew which headed for Pearl Harbor. The job STERETT had done in the Gulf was not only realized by her own crew, but also by those whose messages are included as enclosures (18) through (21). STERETT's record speaks for itself: 6 MIG-21's, 2 MIG-17's, a possible surface to surface missile and 2 PT boats.

On 27 JUL STERETT changed from the operational control of COMSEVENTHFLT to COMFIRSTFLT as she kept her bow pointed toward San Diego, California, her home port. On 1 AUG, STERETT arrived in Pearl Harbor for a short visit and fuel stop, before continuing on to arrive in San Diego on 8 AUG. During the visit Rear Admirals BASS and DELARGY presented many of the crew members of STERETT with personal awards for their actions during the deployment.

From 9 AUG to 9 SEP STERETT was in Post Deployment stand-down and then resumed normal EASTPAC operations which included upkeep, fleet and individual ship exercises, leave, and liberty.

While in San Diego STERETT participated in many inport exercises such as Electronic Warfare (EWEX-8) and NTDS.

To keep abreast of the never ending need for training STERETT put to sea on 16 - 19 OCT to go to the Pacific Missile Range where she exercised her telemetering adapted Terrier Missiles successfully against airborne drones and a surface hulk.

STERETT was called upon to get underway on 31 OCT to join the fleet exercise UPTIDE 3-B to evaluate widely dispersed surface units in tactical formation to increase the survival time of high value units against simulated hostile submarine forces.

~~ON~~ ON 9 NOV STERETT arrived in San Diego, with a stop on 8 NOV at the Pacific Missile Range to once again fire Terrier Missiles. To ensure a high degree of readiness STERETT put to sea on 4 DEC to conduct local operational exercises in the Southern California operating area and returned on 8 DEC after having completed basic engineering casualty control drills, test firing the guns, CHAFFROC and some ASW exercises climaxing with an ASROC firing and an over the side torpedo firing.

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STERETT was given a combat systems readiness test (CSRT) 11-15 DEC which was a complete systems check of the Material readiness of all of STERETT's combat systems, in preparation for the next WESTPAC deployment.

The year ended (20 DEC through 31 DEC) with a maximum leave and liberty stand-down period to enjoy the holidays before a maximum effort was put into preparations for the next deployment in February 1973.

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# 12 Commands Receive NUCs, 6 Earn MUCs

WASHINGTON — Twelve Navy commands have been awarded Navy Unit Commendations and six others have received Meritorious Unit Commendations.

A complete listing of all primary and subordinate units, along with effective dates, can be found in the latest BuPers-Note of the 1650 series.

Here are partial summaries of the NUC citations followed by a listing of the commands that received MUCs:

The carrier *Saratoga* and her Air Wing 3, from May 18, 1972, to Jan. 8, 1973, for participating in "the most intensive air support and interdiction campaign ever required in the Vietnam conflict."

Carrier *Kitty Hawk* and Air Wing 11, from March 9 to Nov. 4, 1972, when they "launched major strikes on extremely important targets in North Vietnam" despite "exceptionally heavy enemy opposition."

Cruiser *Newport News*, from May 2 to Dec. 1, 1972, when she, among other feats, helped deter three torpedo boats by sinking one and damaging the others.

GUIDED MISSILE cruiser *Oklahoma City*, from April 5 to Dec. 4, 1972, when she "planned and led many daring strikes against enemy storage areas, supply routes and emplacements in North Vietnam."

Guided missile cruiser *Providence*, from April 20 to Dec. 1, 1972, for "time and again providing the firepower when and where it was needed by the forces ashore" when the South

Vietnamese counterattacked the invasion from the north.

Destroyer *Rupertus*, between July 16, 1972, and Jan. 21, 1973, for "conducting a variety of destroyer combat support operations" off both North and South Vietnam.

Destroyer *Hamner*, from Feb. 24 to Sept. 13, 1972, which includes one 19-day span in which she "averaged three strikes per day."

GUIDED MISSILE destroyer *Robison*, between May 30 and Dec. 4, 1972, when she, among other missions, "led a daring daylight strike ... destroying over 100,000 rounds of large caliber ammunition, a tanker boat, two high-speed patrol craft and a coastal defense site."

Guided missile frigate *Sterett*, from Jan. 23 to July 24, 1972, when she primarily was a radar-control ship and helped destroy eight Migs as well as shooting down one herself with surface-to-air missiles.

Fast combat support ship *Camden*, between Feb. 14 and Sept. 7, 1972, for "transferring numerous amounts of fuel, ammunition, provisions and water during 351 underway replenishments and 91 consolidation evolutions."

Ammunition ship *Pyro*, from Jan. 21 to Nov. 12, 1972, when she transferred "over 36,136 tons of aviation and conventional gun ordnance during 365 underway replenishments."

Naval Support Activity, Saigon, between March 18, 1966, and April 30, 1972. This actually is an extension of an earlier NUC, to include many new units.

THE MUC recipients, with effective dates, were:

Guided missile destroyer *John S. McCain*, April 21 to Oct. 23, 1972.

Oiler *Kansas City*, April 25 to Dec. 12, 1972.

Salvage ship *Reclaimer*, Feb. 5 to Aug. 10, 1972.

Naval Security Group, Bremerhaven; July 16, 1968, to Sept. 26, 1972.

Military Sealift Command Office, Vietnam; Jan. 1, 1971, to Jan. 28, 1973.

Naval Magazine, Guam; March 16, 1972 to Jan. 28, 1973.

## OPERATIONS OFF VIETNAM

## DDs Mark 70th Year 'On the

THE VIETNAM War "heated up" during the 70th year of destroyers, as Pacific Fleet DDs hit back at the enemy in Vietnam.

The piers were almost deserted in San Diego and other home ports during the anniversary year, as the destroyers pounded North Vietnamese and Viet Cong positions in retaliation for a new assault on South Vietnam.

Naval gunfire operations in North Vietnam resumed this spring, after a four-year layoff. The raid on April 6 came hours after President Nixon announced to a nationwide television audience that stronger measures were being taken to curb North Vietnamese aggression across the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Vietnams.

The actions included continuing Naval strikes against military targets in North Vietnam.

**VIRTUALLY EVERY** destroyer not in training or overhaul in the Pacific Fleet and many from the Atlantic Fleet were plying the waters of the Tonkin Gulf during the rest of the anniversary year, striking gun emplacements, supply-laden targets and other military targets.

Destroyers also were busily engaged in search and rescue of downed pilots, and provided cover fire for the mining of harbors and waterways by Navy and Air Force aircraft.

Destroyers operating in the combat zone were augmented by accelerated rotation of DDs from their home ports throughout the year.

One such ship was the new destroyer escort Maryn Shields, which amply demonstrated her "Can Do" motto by sailing for the war zone with four days' notice. Quick departure became routine for many other destroyers as well.

The intensified aggression of North Vietnamese has required expeditious augmentation of Yankee Station forces to protect U.S. lives in South Vietnam," said Adm. Elmo H. Zumwalt Jr., Chief of Naval Operations.

The enemy has increased the level of hostilities and has

embarked on a campaign designed to disrupt Vietnamization efforts. It is our job to hold the line," he added.

**AND HOLD THE** line they did, but not without casualties. By late 1972, 15 destroyers had been damaged by hostile action.

The Navy's first admiral to be lost in the Vietnam War, Rear Adm. Rembrandt C. Robinson, died in a helicopter crash in the Tonkin Gulf May 8. Adm. Robinson was Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 11 and Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group, 7th Fleet.

A North Vietnamese MIG-17 dropped a 250-pound bomb onto the deck of the destroyer Higbee, wounding four men and destroying a gun mount that housed two 5-inch guns.

Higbee had completed 18 missions against North Vietnam during the preceding 10 days, pounding surface-to-air missile sites, coastal defense positions, a naval base and a military airfield.

Higbee received about 300 rounds of hostile fire in addition to the MIG attack. Her artful dodging when receiving hostile fire earned her the nickname "Nimble Dancer" from her sister ships.

**VICE ADM.** William P. Mack, 7th Fleet Commander, radioed the ship:

"The men of the Higbee just don't know what it means to quit. The unparalleled courage and bravery you displayed in containing the battle damage and guiding your ship to port was truly an inspiration to all your teammates on the gunline."

From Adm. Bernard A. Clarey, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet.

"We admire your spirit. It is in the great tradition of destroyer-men. You are writing another courageous chapter in the history of destroyer achievement. Well done."

The Higbee, with her battle damage repaired at Subic Bay, returned to the gunline the first week of June to blast North Vietnamese positions near Quang Tri.

**THE MIG THAT HIT** the

Higbee didn't get away. As the aircraft turned after attacking the ship, the guided missile frigate Sterett fired two of her Terrier missiles, and Sterett bridge personnel watched as the enemy plane was intercepted and destroyed.

Sterett then turned her fire-control radar toward a second MIG over the beach near Dong Hoi, firing two more Terrier missiles with unknown results.

Clarey called the 24-hour surface and air battle "one of the most significant naval engagements of the Vietnam War."

In the brief engagement, Sterett took under fire two high-speed surface contacts, in addition to the two MIGs. The vessels, identified as North Vietnamese torpedo boats, disappeared from radar and were destroyed.

Sterett's total score for the deployment, which ended with her return to San Diego August 8, included six MIG-21s, two MIG-17s and two PT boats.

**THE MIG-21** silhouettes on the ship's bridge wing represent downed North Vietnamese aircraft for which Sterett shares credit with the Air Force.

On three occasions, Sterett's air intercept controllers directed Air Force fighters to successful engagements with the MIGs over North Vietnam.

Sterett also demonstrated her versatility by participating in

search and rescue of Nav pilots.

"Big Mother" H-3 helos from Helicopter Squadron 7 launched and controlled by Sterett, were responsible for recovering six downed Nav pilots in dangerous coastal waters.

Two other destroyers, the Floyd Parks and Towers, were cited by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird for their part in the rescue of B-52 airmen during typhoon.

Five crewmen were recovered July 9, and Laird extended his personal congratulations to all who took part in the daring rescue off Guam.

**IN ANOTHER** dramatic rescue, the Hammer steamed into the mouth of Haiphong Harbor to pick up Cmdr. D.L. Moss, who had "punched out" of his A-7E aircraft.

The Hammer entered the dangerous waters of the harbor with all guns blazing at enemy shore batteries and escaped safely.

Other destroyers took part in countless other rescues and operations. Messages and press releases from the war zone routinely reported gunfire support missions, rescues and damage from shore batteries.

Despite the hostile atmosphere, the destroyer escort McMorris generated an aura of cooperation when she warned a Soviet surveillance trawler that she was approaching a mined

Don't reject the idea of going into  
for yourself when you get

**Western Auto know  
good military career  
to a good retailing**

# USS STERETT DLG-31

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 1972

Sunrise: 0633

Julian Date: 111

Sunset: 1915

ALL HANDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PLAN OF THE DAY. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AND IS NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE SHIP.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY: OFFICERS & CPO'S - Tropical Khaki Long  
OTHER ENLISTED - Clean T-shirt with blue ball cap

Duty Division - E&R

Duty MAA: FTG1 MEADOWS

Movie - LOLA

Carry out the daily underway routine with the following additions:

0730 - Muster on station  
1100 - Flight Quarters  
1125 - YADM MACK, COMSEVENTHFLT, arrives  
1330 - COMSEVENTHFLT departs  
1400 - JCS Exams for Officers

## UNDERWAY WATCH BILL

### EVAL

00-04 LCDR CORNFORTH  
04-08 LCDR ABRAMS  
08-12 LT PECK  
12-16 LCDR STRIFFLER  
16-20 LCDR CORNFORTH  
20-24 LCDR ABRAMS

### SWC

ENS MELTON  
CWO2 RUTH/LT SILER  
LTJG HENRY  
LT O'CONNOR  
ENS MELTON  
CWO2 RUTH/LT SILER

### OOD

LTJG SULLIVAN  
LT EWING  
LT HICKS  
LT TAYLOR  
LTJG SULLIVAN  
LT EWING

### JOOD

00-04 SMC DUPERRY/YNC KEYSER  
04-08 LTJG ZIELINSKI  
08-12 BMC COWAN  
12-16 EMCM TJARKS  
16-20 QMCS CASSON/SMC DUPERRY  
20-24 YNC KEYSER

### CICWO

STC KOLBY  
ENS ALEXANDER/LTJG RANNELLS  
ENS THORPE/ENS NEWNAM  
LTJG HAGER  
LTJG SMITH  
STC KOLBY

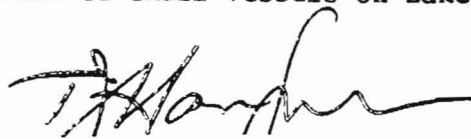
## QUOTE FOR THE DAY - MIG SPLASH

"We got a direct hit - the first Terrier kill" -- CWO2 RUTH, USN, on board USS STERETT (DLG 31) in the Tonkin Gulf on 19 April 1972, immediately after he observed a direct hit with STERETT's Terrier Missile on a NVN MIG - 17 and ran into CIC to announce the good news.

NOTES:



... commanded a fleet of small vessels on Lake Zurich,  
in operations against the French.



# USS STERETT DLG-31

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR FRIDAY, 21 APRIL 1972

SUNRISE: 0633

JULIAN DATE: 112

SUNSET: 1916

QUOTE FOR THE DAY: WAR AT SEA

"Nothing is so exhilarating as being shot at with no effect." Sir Winston Churchill.

1. NO ZONE INSPECTION TODAY

The zone inspection scheduled for today has been cancelled until next Thursday, 27 April, due to the uncertainty of operations and the need to remain alert for action. In the mean time, keep your spaces clean, and clear the decks for action!

2. MESSAGE FROM THE FIGHTING HIGBEE

All hands may not realize it but USS HIGBEE (DD 806) has probably seen more close-order action in the last two weeks than most ships see in a lifetime. Last week she was attacked by six torpedo boats near the coast of NVN: she sank one and chased the others away with gunfire. On Sunday morning, 16 April 1972, HIGBEE was shotgun for USS WORDEN (DLG 18), when she took several incoming from PT boats; HIGBEE was not hit. Then, of course, yesterday HIGBEE became the first U.S. ship (to our knowledge) to be attacked by NVN aircraft and she was hit and damaged.

Now in Danang for voyage repairs, HIGBEE has send the following message of thanks to the members of Task Unit 77.1.2 for their assistance:

1. "All your collective assistance in HIGBEE's hour of need deeply appreciated. Particular thanks to the daring helo pilots from COMSEVENTHFLT and TRIPOLI who worked admirably under the most adverse conditions. To doctor MICHELS and corpman MC CRERY whose quick response and professionalism were commendable. LLOYD THOMAS aggressiveness and fighting sprit was a comforting sight as she patrolled near by. To STERETT and her Terriers, you will always have an honored spot close to our hearts. You were magnificent and the sight of you. Terriers making the kill was a tremendous boost to our morale. To all, words never will be able to express the feelings of pride we feel to have been a member of Freedom Train Strike Group. Bravo. Don't wipe them all out, save some for us - we'll be back."

# USS STERETT DLG-31

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR SATURDAY, 22 APRIL 1972

SUNRISE: 0632

JULIAN DATE: 113

SUNSET: 1916

ALL HANDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PLAN OF THE DAY. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY AND IS NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE SHIP.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY: OFFICERS & CPO'S - TROPICAL KHAKI LONG  
OTHER ENLISTED - CLEAN T-SHIRT W/BLEU BALL CAP

DUTY DIVISION - OI

DUTY MAA: ST1 ZALOUDEK

MOVIE: BLOODY MAMA

Carry out the daily underway routine with the following additions:

0730 - Muster on station

1300 - Planning Board for Training in the Wardroom

1800 - Bingo on the Mess Decks - Free Coke and Popcorn

## UNDERWAY WATCH BILL

### EVAL

00-04 LCDR CORNFORTH  
04-08 LCDR ABRAMS  
08-12 LT PECK  
12-16 LCDR STRIFFLER  
16-18 LCDR CORNFORTH  
18-20 LCDR ABRAMS  
20-24 LT PECK

### OOD

LTJG SULLIVAN  
LT EWING  
LT HICKS  
LT TAYLOR  
LTJG SULLIVAN  
LT EWING  
LT HICKS

### SWC

ENS MELTON  
CWO2 RUTH/LT SILER  
LTJG HENRY  
LT O'CONNOR  
ENS MELTON  
CWO2 RUTH/LT SILER  
LTJG HENRY

### JOOD

00-04 BMC COWAN  
04-08 EMCM TJARKS  
08-12 QMCS CASSON  
12-16 SMC DUPERRY  
16-18 YNC KEYSER  
18-20 LTJG ZIELINSKI  
20-24 BMC COWAN

### CICWO

00-04 LTJG HAGER  
04-08 LTJG SMITH  
08-12 STC KOLBY  
12-16 ENS ALEXANDER/LTJG RANNELLS  
16-20 ENS THORPE/ENS NEWMAN  
20-24 LTJG HAGER

## QUOTE FOR THE DAY - DUTY

"Thank God I have done my duty" - Nelson: while lying mortally wounded in the cockpit, HMS Victory, Trafalgar, 21 October 1805.

## NOTES:

### 1. MESSAGE FROM STERETT TO HIGBEE - IN REPLY TO HIGBEE'S MESSAGE

Your message was much appreciated. The sight of HIGBEE barreling through the formation with Mount 52 ablaze will long be remembered by these destroyermen. When the mount blew we thought you were agone but obviously call was well under control. STERETT is indeed proud to have served with the gallant HIGBEE and anxiously awaits your return. Good luck.

5 Copies To CC

MXNNLWXGNZCZCSZ2797PTTUZYUW RUENAAACGWPIQ QQQWERIAUUUW--RUHGPLA.O

PZNR UUUUU

P 202314Z APR 72

FM CHINFO

TO RUHKBRA/CINCPACLT

INFO RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUWPKMA/BNOMF IRSTFLT

RUADAJA/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUHGOSA/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT ZERO

RUYNWCA/CTF SEVEN THREE

RUMFRIA/CTG 15& 3;3, "349 05 38& 3

47..4-/CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT ONE

RUMFRBA/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUMFRIA/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT ONE

RUYRSCA/CTF SEVEN TWO

RHMP SKK/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

RUMWUA/CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT EIGHT

RUYNWPA/USS WORDEN

RUMFUGA/USS HANCOCK

RUMFREA/USS KITTYHAWK

RUMFRIA/USS LONG BEACH

RUHGOJA/USS CONSTELLATION

TOR 210347Z/6M / 1 FEB 70  
6A

UNCLAS

PAGE 2 RUENAAA2081 UNCLAS //N057' 0//

RUHGPNA/USS CORAL SEA

RUMFUGA/USS CHICAGO

RUHGPBA/USS OKLAHOMA CITY

RUWZ000/USS NEWPORT NEWJJCERUMFRIA/USS BUCHANAN

RUHGOJA/USS MIDWAY

RUTWJRS/USS SARATOGA

RUTMPLA/USS STERETT

RHMP SKK/USS HIGBEE

RHMP SKK/USS HAMNER

BT

UNCLAS //N05720//0

NEWS REPORT FOR 20 APRIL 1972

1. THE FOLLOWING NEWS SUMMARY HAS BEEN COMPILED IN WASHINGTON FROM NATIONAL MEDIA:

A. CBS NEWS LAST NIGHT AIRED FILM FROM DAMMFG OF <sup>BUCHANAN'S</sup> DRAGONAITHXS COMBAT DAMAGE AND AN INTERVIEW WITH BUCHANAN'S CAPTAIN, CDR JAMES THEARLE. THE COMMANDER SAID REPAIRS WOULD BE COMPLETED QUICKLY AND THAT ABOUT 60 ROUNDS HAD BEEN FIRED AT HIS SHIP. MEANWHILE, ALL MEDIA FOCUSED ON LPT-107'S DOWNING OF ONE MIG AND SINKING OF TWO

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PAGY3 RUENAAA2081 UNCLAS // NZUWEMX

PATROL BOATS. THE NEW YORK TIMES FEATURES A HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY ARTICLE ON STERETT DESCRIBING HER AS "ONE OF THE LITTLE WORKHORSES OF THE SEVENTH FLEET" AND DESCRIBING HER VERSATILE ROLE IN THE "GED-EYED NAVY."

B. MORNING NEWS REPORTS SAY THE U.S. COMMAND HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIGBEE WAS DAMAGED BY A BOMB FROM ONE OF THE ATTACKING MIGS.

WIRE COPY INDICATES THE 250-LB BOMB HIT THE "REAR DECK OF HIGBEE" WOUNDING FOUR SAILORS AND DESTROYING A FIVE INCH GUN MOUNT. THE STORY ALSO INDICATED OKLAHOMA CITY HAD RECEIVED "MINOR DAMAGE" FROM A HIT BY SHRAPNEL FROM SHORE FIRE.

C. HAMNER HAS BEEN CREDITED IN THE NEWS FROM SAIGON THIS MORNING WITH THE POSSIBLE SINKING OF A COMMUNIST PATROL BOAT IN AN INCIDENT LAST MONDAY.

D. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS IN WASHINGTON ON 18 APRIL:

"TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, USS HAMNER DD 718  
FROM: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN R. LAIRD

THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HIS APPRECIATION AND PLEASURE WITH THE GALLANT RESCUE OF CDR MOSS BY THE HAMNER DURING TASK UNIT 77.1.15 ACTION LAST NIGHT. I JOIN THE PRESIDENT IN

PAGE 4 RUENAAA2081 UNCLAS //N05720//

EXTENDING A WELL DONE TO YOU AND YOUR MAGNIFICENT CREW FOR YOUR QUICK REACTION IN RECOVERING CDR MOSS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME KEEPING YOUR GUNS FIRING AGAINST THE ENEMY. WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF THE USS HAMNER. SIGNED MELVIN R. LAIRD.

BT

2081

UNCLAS

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5-10-72  
ZNY CCCCC  
R 210702Z APR 72  
FM COMSEVENTHFLT  
TO USS STERETT  
INFO COMDESRON NINE  
CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
COMCRUDESPAC

BT

UNCLAS//N000000//

1. THE SUPERB SHOOTDOWN OF A MIG INTERCEPTOR COMBINED WITH THE SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT OF TWO HIGH SPEED SKUNKS HAVE ONCE AGAIN PROVEN THAT THE MEN OF STERETT MEAN BUSINESS. YOUR AGGRESSIVE AND SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF ALL SIDES OF A MULTI-THREAT ENVIRONMENT CLEARLY MARKS STERETT AS ONE OF SEVENTH FLEET'S MOST VALUABLE ASSETS. GOOD SHOOTING AND KEEP UP THE OUTSTANDING WORK, VADM

W. P. MACK, USN.

BT

MAIL

UNCLAS



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PTTUZYUW RUHHBGA3384 1191934-UUUU--RUHGPLA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 221934Z APR 72

FM CINCPACFLT

TO RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMPSA/CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT ONE

RUWJAIA/COMCRUDESAC

RUWGSA/NAVBASE LOSA-LBEACH

RUENAAA/CHINFO

INFO RUHGPLA/USS STERETT

RHMOGOA/USS HIGBEE

RUHGPR/USO OKLAHOMA CITYH

RHMP SKX/USS LLOYD THOMAS

RUMFPA/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUMFPA/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RHMOGOA/CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT EIGHT

RUENAAA/CNO

BT

UNCLAS//N05728//

PRESS RELEASE

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR RELEASE.  
WIDE DISTRIBUTION IS REQUESTED.

PAGE 2 RUHHBRA 384 UNCLAS

QUOTE. THE GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE USS STERETT (DLG 31) HAS BEEN  
COMMENDED BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET,  
ADMIRAL B. A. CLAREY, FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN A TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR  
SURFACE AND AIR BATTLE OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM WHICH THE ADMIRAL  
CALLED ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NAVAL ENGAGEMENTS OF THE VIETNAM  
WAR.

IN THE BRIEF ENGAGEMENT, STERETT SHOT DOWN THE FIRST MIG TO EVER  
ATTACK A U. S. NAVY SHIP IN THE TONKIN GULF AND IT

LOK UNDER FIRE TWO  
HIGH SPEED SURFACE CONTACTS, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE  
TORPEDO BOATS, WHICH DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR AND ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE  
BEEN DESTROYED.

THE ACTION, WHICH ADMIRAL CLAREY LATER SAID REQUIRED A HIGH  
STATE OF TRAINING, SUPERB WEAPONS SYSTEMS READINESS AND COOL PRO-  
FESSORIALISM...WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, BEGAN OFF THE COAST OF  
NORTH VIETNAM A FEW MINUTES BEFORE FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON ON WEDNES-  
DAY, APRIL 19, AS STERETT PROVIDED ANTI-AIR COVER AND SPOTTING SER-  
VICES FOR THREE SHIPS FIRING AGAINST TARGETS NEAR DONG HOI.

AS THE GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER OKLAHOMA CITY AND THE DESTROYERS  
HIGBEE AND LLOYD THOMAS BEGAN FIRING ON ASSIGNED TARGETS, STERETT  
BEGAN TRACKING THREE HOSTILE PLANES IN THE AIR NEAR DONG HOI.

PAGE 3 RUHHBRA 3384 UNCLAS

JUST AFTER THE THREE SHIPS BEGAN THEIR WITHDRAWAL IN A BARRAGE OF ENEMY GUNFIRE FROM THE BEACH, ONE OF THE ENEMY PLANES - A MIG 17 - TURNED TOWARD THEM AND BEGAN AN ATTACK WHILE FLYING ONLY 50 FEET ABOVE THE WATER.

STERETT LOCKED HER MISSILE CONTROL RADAR ON THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT. BEFORE SHE WAS ABLE TO FIRE, HOWEVER, THE MIG SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED USS HIGBEE, DAMAGING THE DESTROYER'S AFTER GUN MOUNT WITH A BOMB AND WOUNDING FOUR OF HIGBEE'S CREWMEN.

AS THE MIG TURNED AFTER ATTACKING HIGBEE, STERETT FIRED TWO TERRIER MISSILES, AND PERSONNEL ON HER BRIDGE WATCHED AS THE ENEMY PLANE WAS INTERCEPTED AND DESTROYED BY ONE OF THE MISSILES.

STERETT THEN TURNED HER FIRE CONTROL RADAR TOWARD A SECOND MIG OVER THE BEACH NEAR DONG HOI. AFTER THE RADAR WAS LOCKED ON, THE SHIP FIRED TWO MORE TERRIER MISSILES WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS.

ABOUT NINETY MINUTES LATER AS STERETT STEAMED NORTH SHE DETECTED TWO HIGH SPEED SURFACE CONTACTS ON RADAR ABOUT NINE MILES AWAY. THEY WERE PARALLELING HER COURSE AND EQUALING HER SPEED OF 32 KNOTS. AFTER TRACKING THESE CONTACTS BY RADAR FOR HALF AN HOUR, SHE TOOK THEM UNDER FIRE WITH HER FIVE-INCH/54 CALIBER GUNS AND THEY DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR.

PAGE 4 RUHHBRA 3384 UNCLAS

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR ACTION OUT THERE SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING, ADMIRAL CLAREY MESSAGED FROM HIS PEARL HARBOR HEADQUARTERS TO STERETT'S OFFICERS AND MEN, AND I AM TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR QUICK RESPONSE IN THE MULTI-THREAT ENVIRONMENT.

ADMIRAL CLAREY PRAISED THE SHIP FOR FEATS OF WHICH YOUR MISSILEFERS CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD. HE SAID, THE LOW ALTITUDE MIG IS WELL KNOWN TO BE ONE OF OUR MOST DIFFICULT TARGETS.

THE DESTROYER HIGBEE, HIT BY THE FIRST MIG 17, ALSO HAD SOME WORDS OF PRAISE FOR STERETT. HIGBEE MESSAGED: TO STERETT AND HER TERRIERS, YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE AN HONORED SPOT CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS. YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT, AND THE SIGHT OF YOUR TERRIERS MAKING THE KILL WAS A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO OUR MORALE. WORDS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THE FEELINGS OF PRIDE WE FEEL.... UNQUOTE.

BT

3384

ZCZCSZ00683RTTEZYUW RUENAAA0512 1261443-EEEE--RUHGPLA.

ZNY EEEEE

R 051335Z MAY 72

FM CNO

TO RUHGPLA/USS STERETT

INFO RUHG0AA/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUHMBRA/CINCPACFLT

RUHJAIA/COMCRUDESPAC

PUMFUNA/COMCRUDESFLOT ELEVEN

RUHG0SA/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT ZERO

RUHFRYA/CTG SEVENT SEVEN PT ONE

RUHFRTA/CTU SEVEN SEVEN PT ONE PT ZERO

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N05060//

ACTION IN DONG NOI GULF

1. THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF STERETT'S SEVENTHFLT OPERATIONS WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY YOUR OUTSTANDING COMBAT ACTION OF 19 APR IN A MULTI-THREAT ENVIRONMENT.

2. YOUR ABILITY TO EXPEDITIOUSLY ENGAGE AND SUPPRESS THE ENEMY DEMONSTRATES HIGH INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONALISM AND TEAM COORDINATION THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SURPASS.

3. I TAKE PRIDE IN EXTENDING A HEARTY WELL DONE TO ALL STERETT

PAGE 2 RUENAAA0512 UNCLAS E F T O //N05060//

CREWMEMBERS. E. R. ZUMWALT, JR. ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

BT

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MAT TO STERRETT  
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FM COMSEVENTHFLT  
TO RUMGPLA/USS STERETT  
INFO RUMFUNA/COMCRUDESFLT ONE ONE  
BT

UNCLAS//NO1613//  
SAYONARA

1. STERETT MEN HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF AS YOU SAIL FOR SAN DIEGO AND A MUCH-DESERVED REUNION WITH LOVED ONES. LOGGING ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED COMBAT RECORDS OF THE VIET-NAMESE CONFLICT, IN ONE DAY ALONE YOU SINGLEHANDLEDLY MAILED THE ENEMY IN A MULTITHREAT ENGAGEMENT. YOUR EFFORTS ON PIRAZ AND AAW IN THE TONKIN GULF WERE EQUALLY AS VITAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF SEVENTH FLEET'S MISSION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. TAKE HOME WITH YOU OUR PROFOUND ADMIRATION FOR YOUR UNMISTAKABLY HIGH DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND A LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE SECOND TO NONE. VADM J.L. HOLLOWAY III,

JSN

BT

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*TOR: 20.2/20 2/01/724*

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NNNN

RESUMING NORMAL TRAFFIC  
NNNNFNSC NR 00508RTTEZYUW RUHMBRA3000 2150451-EEEE--.

ZNY EEEEE

R 020451Z AUG 72

FM CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

TO RHWZS00/USS STERETT

INFO ZEN2/COMSEVENTHFLT

ZEN2/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUWJAIA/COMCRUDES PAC SDIEGO CA

RUWJHBA/COMCRUDES FLOT NINE

RUWJUNA/COMCRUDES FLOT ELEVEN

BT

UNCLAS E F T O//N05720//

WELL DONE

AS YOU PROCEED HOME AFTER A MOST SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT, I SALUTE THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF USS STERETT FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE TONKIN GULF. DURING THIS DEPLOYMENT, YOUR PERSONNEL HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY THEIR COMBAT PERFORMANCE. YOU HAVE HURT THE ENEMY BADLY, AND YOU HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING A GREAT MANY FRIENDLY LIVES. IN EACH ASSIGNED TASK OR MISSION, STERETT HAS PERFORMED SUPERBLY. THE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF YOUR OFFICERS, CHIEFS, AND LEADING PETTY OFFICERS IS EVIDENT, AND THE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM OF YOUR FINE CREW ELICITS MY TOTAL

PAGE 2 RUHMBRA 000 UNCLAS E F T O

ADMIRATION.

WELL DONE.

ADMIRAL B. A. CLAREY, USN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, U. S. PACIFIC FLEET

BT

3000

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

USS STERETT (DLG-31)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

DLG31/DJO:dmv  
5750  
Ser: C5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

28 FEB 1974

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure)

From: Commanding Officer, USS STERETT (DLG-31)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B of 20 MAY 1971

Encl: (1) Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1; USS STERETT  
(DLG-31) 1 January - 31 December 1973)

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

*H. E. Reichert*  
H. E. REICHERT

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMCRUDESAC

CLASSIFIED BY: CO USS STERETT (DLG-31)  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652,  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT 6 YEAR  
INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 80

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

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Reg & 28 X (3-6)

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01 JAN - 16 JAN	Inport San Diego
16 JAN - 19 JAN	Underway SOCAL OPS, ORI, Transit to Seal Beach
19 JAN	Inport Seal Beach
19 JAN - 20 JAN	Transit to San Diego
20 JAN - 09 FEB	Inport San Diego
06 FEB	Received MSG delaying WESTPAC Deployment
09 FEB - 10 FEB	Public visit ship at Broadway Pier
10 FEB - 09 MAR	Inport San Diego
07 MAR	LAMPS Detachment arrived onboard
09 MAR	Underway for WESTPAC, assigned CTU 37.1.2 with USS CORAL SEA, USS REASONER, and USS CAMDEN
10 MAR	RDVU with USS CORAL SEA, and USS CAMDEN
14 MAR	Moored Bravo Pier, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
15 MAR - 26 MAR	Underway from Pearl Harbor enroute Subic Bay assigned CTU 70.0.8 with USS CORAL SEA and USS REASONER
25 MAR	LAMPS Helo crashed, crew rescued
26 MAR - 02 APR	Inport Subic Bay, R.P.
02 APR - 30 MAY	Assigned CTU 77.1.0/CTU 77.1.1, assigned CTU 78.0.6, assigned CTU 77.0.2/CTU 77.0.0
30 MAY - 12 JUN	Inport Sasebo, Japan
12 JUN - 15 JUN	Enroute Keelung, Taiwan
15 JUN - 19 JUN	Visit Keelung, Taiwan. Assumed duties as SOPA.
19 JUN - 17 JUL	Assigned CTU 77.0.2/CTU 77.0.0
07 JUL	Typhoon evasion

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ENCLOSURE (1)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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**DECLASSIFIED**

18 JUL - 23 JUL	Visit Hong Kong
23 JUL - 24 JUL	Enroute Subic Bay, R. P.
24 JUL - 02 AUG	Inport Subic Bay, R. P.
02 AUG - 16 AUG	Assigned CTU 77.0. /CTU 77.0.0
16 AUG - 21 AUG	Enroute YOKO, Japan
21 AUG - 24 AUG	Visit Yoko, Japan
24 AUG - 31 AUG	Enroute Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Assigned CTU 70.0.5/CTU 35.9.1
31 AUG	Missile fire, torpedo fire, ASROC fire, ASW exercises
31 AUG - 01 SEP	Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
01 SEP - 06 SEP	Transit to San Diego, CA
06 SEP	Arrived San Diego
06 SEP - 06 NOV	Inport San Diego
06 NOV - 08 NOV	Off load ammo, Seal Beach
08 NOV - 12 DEC	Inport San Diego
12 DEC	Underway, ENG school ship, Junior Officer Ship handling competition, RADM TESH aboard
12 DEC - 31 DEC	Inport San Diego

**DECLASSIFIED**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE (1)