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USS STERETT (CG 31)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96678

CG31/ERW:msm 5750

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From: Commanding Officer, USS STERETT (CG 31)

Director of Naval History (OP-09BH) To:

Washington Navy Yard Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1; forwarding of

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Encl: (1) Command History (OPNAV report 5750-1; USS STERETT (CG 31)

1 January 1983 - 31 December 1983

1. Enclosure (1) is hereby forwarded in accordance with reference

(a).

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Command History
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JANUARY

From 1 January to 14 January, STERETT was inport Subic Bay, R.P. STERETT got underway 15 January in order to participate in the first exercise of the year "ASUWEX 83-1." This exercise included air gunnery shoots, war-at-sea exercises, submarine tracking, and NGFS. After completion of the exercise, STERETT paid a port visit to Sasebo, Japan from 21 January to 25 January. STERETT got underway on the 26th to participate in ASWEX 83-1J in the East China Sea which concluded on 30 January.

FEBRUARY

1 February - 4 February saw STERETT conduct MTT PHASE II in the East and South China Seas. STERETT was import Subic 5-9 February. The ship got underway 10 February to participate in exercise NEWBOY 83-1, returning to Subic Bay on 12 February for 10 days of upkeep. STERETT was underway again on 22 February to participate with the U.S. Air Force in exercise "COPE THUNDER" 83-4. On 26 February, STERETT entered Chinhae, Korea for a port visit.

MARCH

STERETT got underway on 2 March to participate in TAE KWON DO and ASWEX 83-2K exercises with the Republic of Korea Navy which concluded on 5 March. STERETT then participated in exercise TEAM SPIRIT 83 conducted in the Sea of Japan and East China Sea. STERETT then entered Pusan, Republic of Korea on 18 March for a two day port visit. The ship transited to Sasebo, Japan on 23 March for upkeep and was again underway on 30 March to participate in FLEETEX 83-1 in the Northern Pacific.

APRIL

STERETT's participation in FLEETEX 83-1 continued until 25 April and was followed by a port visit to Sasebo, Japan for upkeep. STERETT remained in Sasebo until the 30th, and then got underway to take part in READEX 83-1.

MAY

READEX 83-1 concluded 4 May and the STERETT proceeded to Subic Bay, R.P. arriving on 8 May. The ship went through an upkeep period in Subic Bay until 30 May. On the 31st, STERETT got underway for Singapore.

JUNE

STERETT entered Singapore on 4 June for a three day port visit. The ship departed on 7 June and proceeded to Phattaya Beach, Thailand on 9 June. The ship left Thailand on the 14th and proceeded to Hong Kong, arriving on June 18th. STERETT left the Crown Colony on 22 June and arrived in Subic Bay on 23 June for another upkeep period. 27 June saw STERETT underway for OPPRE, which was successfully completed. STERETT returned to port 28 June and began preparations to host the COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC Change of Command Ceremony, which was conducted on 2 July when Commodore P.D. Butcher relieved Rear Admiral D. P. Roane.





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JULY

Following the change of command ceremony, STERETT conducted a Dependent's Cruise to Manila on 3 July. STERETT remained in Manila until the morning of 6 July and then got underway to participate with the USS NEW JERSEY Battle Group in Battle Week 83-2. STERETT returned to Subic Bay on the evening of 11 July. The ship got underway on 18 July for Phattaya Beach, Thailand. On the 20th and the 21st of July, STERETT rescued 262 Vietnamese refugees who were adrift off the Southern Coast of Vietnam. The ship arrived in Thailand on 22 July and turned over the refugees to Thai authorities. STERETT received her second Humanitarian Service Award for the rescue. The ship visited Phattaya for three days and got underway on 25 July to conduct operations with the USS MIDWAY in the Sea of Japan.

AUGUST

STERETT conducted operations with MIDWAY until 8 August when severe weather forced the ship to take shelter in Sasebo. The ship waited out the storm and got underway for Subic on 17 August and arrived on 20 August. The ship then went through another upkeep period.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

The ship remained in Subic Bay until 8 September, when it was tasked as flagship for CTF-71 who commanded the search and salvage forces in the KAL 007 Airline Salvage operations. The ship stopped at Yokosuka, Japan for eight hours on 12 September for fuel and then proceeded to the scene of the disaster; Moneron Island. From 14 September until 5 November, STERETT conducted escort duties for the salvage/search ships of the KAL 007 SALVOPS force. STERETT was confronted with numerous Soviet combatants, AGI's, patrol boats and fishing vessels who conducted operations that impeded the U.S. search effort. During this time, STERETT conducted some 70 VERTREPS and numerous small boat operations. Of all the units that participated in the SALVOPS, STERETT had the longest continuous at sea time: 55 days.

NOVEMBER

KAL 007 SALVOPS was terminated on 5 November and STERETT arrived in Pusan, Korea on 9 November for a port visit. After a brief stay, the ship got underway on 11 November and arrived in Subic on 13 November. The ship remained inport Subic until the evening of 28 November when it got underway to join the MIDWAY Battle Group for workups for the upcoming I.O. deployment in January 1984.

DECEMBER

On December 7th, while at sea, STERETT was visited by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral James Watkins. STERETT returned to Subic on 11 December. The ship began a surprise Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection on 13 December. STERETT entered drydock for underwater hull maintenance and repairs. STERETT remained inport through the Christmas holidays until the 31st of December.

