



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS STERETT (CG 31)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96678-1154

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From: Commanding Officer, USS STERETT (CG 31)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 1989 Chronology
(3) 1989 Command History
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography
(5) Commanding Officer's Photograph
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for 1989 is submitted.


B. M. PLOTT

USS STERETT (CG 31)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Mission. USS STERETT (CG 31) is a Josephus Daniels Class Guided Missile Cruiser whose primary missions are anti-aircraft, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare.

2. Organization. STERETT is assigned to Commander Naval Surface Group Western Pacific. The Commanding Officer is Captain Barry M. Plott. STERETT'S home port is Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

1989 CHRONOLOGY

USS STERETT (CG 31)

01 JAN	- 09 JAN	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
10 JAN	- 14 JAN	U/W LOCAL OPS
10 JAN		MOOR NABASAN PIER FOR AMMO ONLOAD
14 JAN		MISSILEX 89-1
15 JAN	- 23 JAN	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
24 JAN		U/W LOCAL OPS, REFTRA PREPS
25 JAN		IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
26 JAN	- 06 FEB	INTERIM REFRESHER TRAINING
07 FEB	- 08 FEB	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
09 FEB	- 10 FEB	U/W LOCAL OPS, NGFSEX 89-4
11 FEB	- 13 FEB	U/W LOCAL OPS, BATTLE GROUP "A"
14 FEB	- 17 FEB	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
18 FEB	- 21 FEB	U/W ENROUTE PUSAN, KOREA
22 FEB	- 26 FEB	IN PORT PUSAN, KOREA
27 FEB	- 06 MAR	U/W TEAM SPIRIT '89
07 MAR	- 09 MAR	IN PORT POHANG, KOREA
10 MAR	- 21 MAR	U/W TEAM SPIRIT '89
22 MAR	- 27 MAR	U/W ENROUTE HONG KONG
28 MAR	- 02 APR	IN PORT HONG KONG
03 APR	- 04 APR	U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
05 APR	- 06 MAY	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
14 APR		COMMAND PERSONNEL INSPECTION
28 APR		U/W SEA TRIALS
07 MAY	- 08 MAY	U/W ENROUTE HONG KONG
09 MAY	- 15 MAY	IN PORT HONG KONG
16 MAY	- 18 MAY	U/W ENROUTE SHANGHAI, CHINA
19 MAY	- 21 MAY	IN PORT SHANGHAI, CHINA
22 MAY	- 25 MAY	U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
26 MAY		IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
27 MAY	- 28 MAY	U/W LOCAL OPS
28 MAY		MISSILEX 89-2
29 MAY	- 01 JUN	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
02 JUN	- 13 JUN	U/W LOCAL OPS, BATTLEGROUP 'A'
14 JUN	- 18 JUN	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
19 JUN	- 29 JUN	U/W ENROUTE PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND BATTLEGROUP 'A'
30 JUN	- 04 JUL	IN PORT PHATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND
05 JUL	- 11 JUL	U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP, 89 US ASW OPS
07 JUL		RESCUED 48 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
12 JUL	- 14 JUL	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
15 JUL	- 19 JUL	U/W ENROUTE ETA JIMA, JAPAN, TYPHOON GORDON EVASION, MIDSHIPMEN TRAINING
20 JUL	- 21 JUL	IN PORT ETA JIMA, JAPAN, EXCHANGE JAPANESE AND US MIDSHIPMEN
22 JUL	- 25 JUL	U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, MIDSHIPMEN TRAINING
26 JUL	- 28 JUL	IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JA
29 JUL	- 02 AUG	U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
03 AUG	- 14 AUG	IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP

15 AUG - 20 AUG U/W LOCAL OPS
 21 AUG - 22 AUG IN PORT SUBIC BAY RP
 23 AUG - 02 SEP U/W THALAY THAI EXERCISE
 03 SEP - 23 SEP IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
 13 SEP NEY INSPECTION
 16 SEP - 22 SEP BEARING GUARD EXERCISE
 23 SEP - 28 SEP U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, URG ESCORT
 COMMANDER
 29 SEP IN PORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
 30 SEP COMCORTFLOT 3 JMSDF EMBARKS, DESRON 15 EMBARKS
 02 OCT RENDEZVOUS WITH BATTLEGROUP 'F'
 05 OCT COMSEVENTHFLT VISITS
 07 OCT COMCORTFLOT 3 DEPARTS
 10 OCT COMCRUDESGRU 1 EMBARKS
 22 OCT COMDESRON 15 CHANGE OF COMMAND
 23 OCT COMDESRON 15 AND COMCRUDESGRU 1 DEPART INPORT PUSAN, KOREA
 26 OCT ASSUME NORTHERN PICKET FOR TRANSIT TO SUBIC BAY
 31 OCT - 04 NOV IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
 05 NOV - 10 NOV U/W LOCAL OPS, BATTLEGROUP 'F'
 11 NOV - 20 NOV IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP
 21 NOV - 22 NOV U/W ENROUTE RENDEZVOUS BATTLEGROUP 'R'
 23 NOV RENDEZVOUS WITH BATTLEGROUP 'R', TRANSIT MALACCA
 STRAITS
 21 NOV - 23 DEC UNDERWAY BATTLEGROUP OPERATIONS WITH
 BATTLE GROUP 'R'
 24 NOV - 30 NOV U/W ENROUTE NORTH ARABIAN SEA
 01 DEC - 13 DEC NAS/GOO/PG OPERATIONS. BATTLEGROUP 'R'
 10 DEC - 11 DEC INPORT BAHRAIN
 11 DEC - 13 DEC U/W PERSIAN GULF OPERATIONS
 15 DEC - 23 DEC U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY,
 20 DEC BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL, SINGAPORE
 21 DEC CROSSED AND RE-CROSSED EQUATOR
 24 DEC - 31 DEC IN PORT SUBIC BAY, RP

USS STERETT (CG 31)

COMMAND HISTORY 1989

USS STERETT began the new year in its home port of Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, with a period of holiday leave and general upkeep. STERETT then spent four days at sea verifying repair work and fine-tuning its weapon systems for the annual missile training exercise. The weapons systems responded well, as STERETT successfully fired one SM-1 ER missile against a high-speed, high-altitude drone.

Next, the crew prepared for refresher training, paying particular attention to damage control. During REFIRA, from 26 January to 6 February, STERETT tested the skills for which she had trained. Daily General Quarters drills and material inspections highlighted areas of strengths and weaknesses and helped hone the crew's skills.

STERETT then joined the MIDWAY Carrier Battle Group for work-ups in anticipation of Exercise Team Spirit '89. The Battle Group spent three days at sea conducting exercises designed to enhance its coordination and effectiveness. After the work-ups, STERETT spent three days in Subic Bay with the Battle Group, making final preparations for Team Spirit.

On 18 February, Battle Group Alfa departed Subic Bay northward. On the 20th, STERETT detached from the battle group and proceeded to a port visit in Pusan, Korea. Departing Pusan on 27 February, STERETT joined Battle Group Alfa and the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). After a brief visit to Pohang, Korea, for pre-exercise conferences, STERETT assumed duties as advance force commander and anti-air warfare commander for the amphibious operating area off the coast of Korea. Operating near land, STERETT and the ships under her control successfully defended the ARG against daily saturation raids from Orange forces based in Korea.

Upon completion of Team Spirit, STERETT proceeded south with Battle Group Alfa to Hong Kong for a week of rest and relaxation. Returning to Subic Bay on 5 April, the ship began a month long Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) in preparation for its next assignment. On 7 May, STERETT returned to Hong Kong for a rendezvous with the SEVENTH FLEET Flagship, USS BLUE RIDGE, and USS RODNEY M. DAVIS.

STERETT, BLUE RIDGE, and DAVIS set sail from Hong Kong on 16 May for a historic visit to Shanghai, China. The three-day port visit, the first of its kind for U.S. warships in forty years, included a picnic held at the American Consulate, receptions held aboard USS BLUE RIDGE and STERETT and reciprocal ship

visits. Against the background of burgeoning pro-democracy demonstrations, the crew took advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the Chinese people and explore the city of Shanghai.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 26 May. On 27 May she departed for the South China Sea to conduct local operations, including a second missile exercise.

After a brief period back in Subic, the ship once again joined the MIDWAY Battle Group to conduct local operations in the South China Sea. These operations included anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine exercises designed to improve the effectiveness of the Battle Group. Following a brief visit to Subic Bay, Battle Group Alfa transited to Phattaya Beach, Thailand. The STERETT crew enjoyed a five-day port visit in Thailand over the Fourth of July holidays.

Returning to Subic Bay, STERETT spotted and rescued forty-eight Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea. The refugees spent five days on board receiving clothes, food, and medical care. On 12 July, STERETT arrived in Subic Bay. On 15 July, 28 U.S. midshipmen stepped on board to begin their summer training cruise. The midshipmen learned the basics of shipboard life and gained an appreciation of the jobs they would undertake as commissioned officers. Placed in charge of the US-Japanese midshipmen exchange cruise this year and arriving in Eta Jima, Japan, on 20 July, STERETT exchanged its U.S. midshipmen for 17 midshipmen from the Japanese Navy. For four days, the Japanese midshipmen performed the same duties aboard as their American counterparts. The exchange also provided an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between the navies of the United States and Japan. The Japanese midshipmen disembarked in Yokosuka, Japan, on 26 July, after which the STERETT crew enjoyed two days of liberty and functions with the Japanese before steaming back to Subic Bay.

At the end of August, STERETT rejoined Battle Group Alfa for local operations and, subsequently, exercises off Thailand. Two Thai junior officers spent the next several weeks on board STERETT as part of an exchange program. On the way back home to Subic, we rescued another group of Vietnamese refugees, six men and a woman adrift and without water.

In port Subic from 3 to 23 September, STERETT participated in the annual Bearing Guard exercise, an exercise designed to test the security measures of the U.S. facilities in the Philippines.

On 23 September, STERETT steamed for Japan, acting as escort commander for the underway replenishment group bound for Pacific Exercise '89. Two staffs, DESRON 15 and Japan's COMCORTFLOT 3, embarked in Yokosuka, Japan, as the STERETT served as their

flagship for ANNUALEX '89. After this exercise, COMCORTFLT 3 departed and COMCRUDESGRU 1 embarked for the Valiant Blitz Exercise with the Republic of Korea.

Returning to Subic Bay on 31 October, STERETT enjoyed a few days at home before once again putting to sea. On 5 November, STERETT participated in work-ups with the Enterprise Battle Group (Foxtrot) in preparation for that Battle Group's Indian Ocean deployment. These work-ups proved to be very beneficial, inasmuch as STERETT was tasked to rendezvous with the New Jersey Battle Group (Romeo) on 23 November for Indian Ocean operations.

STERETT joined Battle Group Romeo in the Straits of Malacca and accompanied it on its transit to the North Arabian Sea. There, STERETT escorted the New Jersey into the Persian Gulf. After an overnight stay in Bahrain, STERETT and NEW JERSEY steamed through the Straits of Hormuz and began the voyage back to Subic Bay. STERETT detached from the battle group and was authorized to proceed independently at higher speed in order to get home to Subic Bay on Christmas Eve. The ship refueled in Singapore on 20 December and dropped below the Equator on 21 December to enable all pollywogs to become shellbacks. Arriving in Subic the morning of 24 December, STERETT received a heartwarming homecoming for the holidays.



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**CAPTAIN BARRY MERRILL PLOTT
UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER, USS STERETT (CG 31)**

Captain Plott entered the U.S. Naval Academy from Long Beach, California, and graduated with distinction in June 1964. Awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, he studied Latin American politics and government at Salvador University, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for an academic year prior to reporting to USS CORRY (DD 817) as 1st Division Officer. Upon detachment from CORRY, Captain Plott commenced studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, from which he was awarded the degree of PHD in International Relations in June 1969.

From August 1969 to January 1971, Captain Plott served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer aboard USS BERKELEY (DDG 15). He then attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School and was subsequently assigned to the commissioning crew of USS CALIFORNIA (CGN 36) as Operations Officer. After a 3 1/2-year tour as a department head aboard CALIFORNIA, Captain Plott was assigned to the Politico-Military Policy Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D. C., where he served as Assistant Head, Western Hemisphere Branch, and as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Inter-American Defense Board.

In August 1977, Captain Plott reported to USS MACDONOUGH (DDG 39) as Executive Officer. In May 1979, he received a second assignment to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where he served until December 1981 as a member of the Strategy and Concepts Branch. In 1982 Captain Plott was assigned to the staff of the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, as an assistant to the Force Combat Systems Officer.

Captain Plott assumed command of USS BROOKE (FFG 1) in February 1983. Under his command, BROOKE deployed twice to the Western Pacific and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for her participation in the Korean Airlines Flight 007 search and salvage operations in the Northern Sea of Japan. Departing BROOKE in June 1985, Captain Plott was selected as a Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York for the 1985-1986 academic year. Captain Plott reported to the Joint Staff in June 1986, where he served until June 1988, first as Chief, South America Branch, and subsequently as Assistant Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy, J-5. He took command of USS STERETT (CG 31) in August, 1988.

Captain Plott has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (twice), and various campaign and service ribbons.

Captain Plott is married to the former Karen Jumper of Long Beach, California. They have one child, Susan.