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From: Commanding Officer, USS STERETT (CG 31)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-098H)

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 1990 Chronology
(3) 1990 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 1990 is submitted.

T. E. BLOUNT JR.

USS STERETT (CG 31)

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **Mission.** USS STERETT (CG 31) is a Belknap 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 T. E. Blount Jr. STERETT's homeport is Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

1990 CHRONOLOGY

USS STERETT (CG 31)

01 JAN - 22 JAN	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
23 JAN - 28 JAN	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS, NGFS
28 JAN - 04 FEB	INPORT SUBIC BAY, PR, MTT
05 FEB - 09 FEB	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS, POTANDI
10 FEB - 20 FEB	INPORT SUBIC BAY, PR
21 FEB - 22 FEB	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
23 FEB - 27 FEB	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
28 FEB - 02 MAR	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
03 MAR - 05 MAR	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
06 MAR - 14 MAR	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
15 MAR - 18 MAR	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
19 MAR - 24 MAR	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS, BATTLEGROUP C
25 MAR - 26 MAR	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
27 MAR	OFFLOAD NABASAN
28 MAR - 01 APR	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
02 APR - 31 MAY	SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY
01 JUN - 04 JUN	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
05 JUN - 06 JUN	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
07 JUN - 14 JUN	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
15 JUN	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
16 JUN - 18 JUN	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
19 JUN - 21 JUN	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
22 JUN - 24 JUN	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
25 JUN - 28 JUN	UNDERWAY ENROUTE HONG KONG
29 JUN - 01 JUL	INPORT HONG KONG, EMBARK US MIDSHIPMEN
02 JUL - 03 JUL	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
04 JUL - 10 JUL	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
11 JUL	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP, OPPE
12 JUL - 13 JUL	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS, OPPE
14 JUL - 20 JUL	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
21 JUL - 25 JUL	UNDERWAY ENROUTE KURE, JAPAN
24 JUL	BRIEF STOP BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA
26 JUL - 28 JUL	INPORT KURE, JAPAN; JMSDF MIDSHIPMEN EMBARK
29 JUL - 31 JUL	UNDERWAY ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN; USN
JMSDF	MIDSHIPMEN EXERCISE
01 AUG - 02 AUG	INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
03 AUG - 12 AUG	INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN; TRAINING
AVAILABILITY	
13 AUG - 14 AUG	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
15 AUG - 17 AUG	UNDERWAY PHILIPPINE SEA; TYPHOON YANCY
EVASION	
18 AUG - 19 AUG	UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY
20 AUG - 11 SEP	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
10 SEP	CHANGE OF COMMAND
12 SEP - 14 SEP	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
15 SEP - 18 SEP	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
19 SEP - 23 SEP	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
24 SEP - 30 SEP	INPORT, SUBIC BAY, RP
01 OCT	INPORT MTT
02 OCT - 05 OCT	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS

06 OCT - 09 OCT	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
10 OCT - 12 OCT	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
13 OCT - 14 OCT	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
15 OCT - 17 OCT	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
18 OCT - 23 OCT	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
26 OCT - 07 NOV	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
08 NOV - 09 NOV	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS
10 NOV - 12 NOV	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
13 NOV - 16 NOV	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS; RECONNEX
17 NOV - 27 NOV	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP
28 NOV - 29 NOV	UNDERWAY ENROUTE HONG KONG, CTF 75
EMBARKED	
30 NOV - 05 DEC	INPORT HONG KONG, DEBARK CTF 75
06 DEC - 07 DEC	INROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP
08 DEC - 11 DEC	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS; MISSILE EXERCISE
15 DEC	UNDERWAY DEPENDENTS CRUISE
16 DEC - 31 DEC	INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP; HOLIDAY LEAVE AND
UPKEEP	

USS STERETT (CG 31)
COMMAND HISTORY 1990 NARRATIVE

STERETT began the new year in its homeport of Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines with a three-week period of leave and upkeep. From 23-28 January STERETT operated in the South China Sea to conduct a Naval Gun Fire Support exercise at the Tabones range. On 28 January, STERETT began an Engineering Mobile Training Team in preparation for an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE). She departed Subic Bay on 05 February for a Pre-Overhaul Test and Inspection (POT and I) in anticipation of the ship's 1991 overhaul. From 10 February-18 March, STERETT operated alternately inport Subic Bay and underway in the South China Sea to tune the propulsion plant for the upcoming OPPE. She operated with Battlegroup CHARLIE in the South China Sea from 19-24 March, performing planeguard and picket services.

On 02 April, STERETT began a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at Subic Bay's Ship Repair Facility to undergo general maintenance and upkeep. She completed the SRA on 04 June, and from 05-24 June she operated alternately inport Subic Bay and underway in the South China Sea verifying equipment repairs and continuing preparations for OPPE. On 25 June, STERETT took time out of her OPPE preparations with a four-day port visit to Hong Kong, during which STERETT helped the American Club of Hong Kong celebrate its sixty-fifth birthday and 25 First Class Midshipmen were embarked for their summer training.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 04 July to make final OPPE preparations. The Propulsion Examining Board administered the OPPE 11-13 July, after which the Board noted deficiencies in the ship's propulsion plant and recommended a second OPPE to ensure that the plant met the Board's high standards.

STERETT remained in port until 20 July, and then sailed to Kure, Japan on 21 July (stopping briefly in Okinawa enroute) to begin an American-Japanese Midshipmen training exercise. The 25 U. S. Midshipmen embarked 3 JMSDF destroyers and twenty-five Japanese Midshipmen and 3 JMSDF Officers embarked in STERETT to participate in joint operations enroute Yokosuka, Japan. These exercises introduced them to life on ships of different navies and provided them with an opportunity to practice shiphandling skills.

On 01 August, STERETT pulled into Yokosuka, Japan where the Midshipmen disembarked and where, on 03 August, STERETT began a training availability which lasted until 12 August. During the availability, the crew attended various schools including firefighting and Damage Control and Combat Information Center team trainers.

STERETT departed Yokosuka on 13 August enroute Subic Bay but was forced to divert eastward to pass behind the track of Typhoon Yancy. Significant high winds (50-60 knots) and heavy seas (15-25 ft) were encountered before turning west towards the San Bernardino

Straits. STERETT completed the difficult transit on 20 August, arriving at Subic Bay to make repairs and continue preparations for her second OPPE.

On 10 September, Captain Thomas E. Blount Jr. relieved Captain Barry M. Plott, becoming STERETT's fifteenth Commanding Officer. With the change of command, the officers and crew pursued Operational Propulsion Plant Reexamination preparations with renewed vigor and greeted the second Propulsion Examining Board with a significantly improved propulsion plant. The three-day OPPE began on 23 October and ended on 25 October, after which the Board commended all personnel for a successful examination. The Board was particularly impressed with the ship's demonstration of a main space fire drill which involved over one hundred highly trained and motivated personnel.

On 13 November, STERETT began operations for a reconnaissance exercise with the United States Marine Corps. STERETT embarked 25 Marines from Company B, Third Marine Division for a three-day exercise which included one night insertion and several day and night shipboard launches and recoveries of Zodiac small boats. This exercise demonstrated the capability for Marine Reconnaissance personnel to operate from a CG 27 class cruiser by use of the torpedo recovery winch and davit. STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 17 November and remained in port until 29 November when she departed for a six-day port visit to Hong Kong, after embarking CTF 75 and staff. The embarkation and transit were extremely successful, with all goals met.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 08 December to prepare for a missile exercise in the South China Sea. She departed on 12 December for the exercise which was scheduled to include firing two missiles. STERETT launched the first missile, a standard, non-dedicated extended-range missile (SM-1 ER), against a low-altitude, high-speed drone simulating an anti-ship missile. The SM-1 ER launch and intercept were evaluated as successful. STERETT was to launch the second missile, a standard, dedicated, extended-range missile (SM-2 ER), against a low-altitude, high-speed drone in a low-angle firing exercise, but the launch aircraft was unable to launch the drone.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 14 December and embarked dependents for a dependents cruise in the South China Sea on 15 December. Over four hundred dependents enjoyed the one-day event which included a fantail barbecue, firing of the PHALANX Close In Weapons System, the five-inch, fifty-four-caliber, dual-purpose gun, 50 caliber machine guns and demonstration of a man overboard recovery.

STERETT then commenced a two-week period of holiday leave and upkeep. She finished the year inport continuing to make preparations for the 1991 change of homeport and overhaul.

CAPTAIN THOMAS E. BLOUNT, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Thomas E. Blount, Jr., was born in Melbourne, Florida, the son of Commander and Mrs. Thomas E. Blount, USN (Ret.) He attended Walter Johnson High School, in Rockville Maryland and the Columbian Preparatory School in Washington, DC prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1962.

After graduation and a commission as Ensign in June 1966, Captain Blount reported to USS BIGELOW (DD-942), where he served as First Lieutenant and ASW Officer from August 1966 to April 1968. He next served in PBRs as a Patrol Officer in River Division 573 and as Assistant Plans Officer for the River Patrol Force (CTF 116) in the Republic of Vietnam, from June 1968 to June 1969. From August 1969 to August 1971 Captain Blount pursued graduated studies in Ocean Engineering at the University of Miami, Florida.

After attendance at the Destroyer School Department head course in Newport, Rhode Island, Captain Blount reported to USS TOWERS (DDG 9) where he served as Weapons Officer from June 1972 to April 1974. In May 1974, he reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel where he served as Head, AAW/ASW Rating Assignment Section and subsequently, Head, Technical Rating Assignment Branch.

From June 1977 to May 1980 he served as Commissioning Executive Officer in USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD 974). Captain Blount was next assigned duties as Aide and Flag Secretary to Commander Seventh Fleet, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, from June 1980 to March 1982. From November 1982 to February 1985, Captain Blount served as Commanding Officer, USS O'BRIEN (DD 975). He then attended the College of Naval Warfare at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating with distinction in March 1986. From April 1986 to May 1988, Captain Blount was assigned as Aide and Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Education and Training, Pensacola, Florida. Captain Blount next served as Commanding Officer, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center Pacific, San Diego, from July 1988 to June 1990. Captain Blount assumed command of USS STERETT (CG 31) on 10 September 1990.

Captain Blount's personal awards include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star in Lieu of second award, Bronze Star with Combat "V", Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star in lieu of second award, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V", Combat Action Ribbon, and various service medal and unit awards.

Captain Blount is married to the former Robin Halley of Melbourne, Australia.