

USS STERETT (CG-31)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1975

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From: **Commanding Officer, USS STERETT (CG-31)**

To: **Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)**

Subj: **OPNAV Report 5750-1; forwarding of**

Ref: (a) **OPNAVINST 5750.12B**

Encl: (1) **Command History (OPNAV report 5750-1; USS STERETT (CG-31)  
1 January - 31 December 1975)**

1. **Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).**



C. S. FARNHAM

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Director of Naval History  
CINCPACFLT  
COMTHIRDFLT  
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COMCRUDESGRU ONE

**COMMAND HISTORY**

**USS STERETT (CG-31)**

**1 January --- 31 December 1975**

**OPNAV Report 5750-1**

## PART I

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1-7 JAN	Inport, San Diego, Holiday Upkeep
7-12 JAN	Inport, San Diego, Regular Upkeep
13-15 JAN	Weapons Loadout, Seal Beach Type Training in Southern California Operating Areas
16 JAN	Arrive San Diego
17 JAN	Weapon System Acceptance Test (WSAT) Team Training
17-19 JAN	Inport, San Diego
20-24 JAN	Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Checks (FORACS) at San Clemente Island Range
24 JAN	Arrive, San Diego
24-26 JAN	Inport, San Diego
27-29 JAN	System Qualification Tests (SQT) in Southern California Operating Areas
29 JAN	Arrive, San Diego
30 JAN - 2 FEB	Inport, San Diego
3-6 FEB	NGFS Qualifications at San Clemente Island
6 FEB	Arrive, San Diego
7-12 FEB	Inport, San Diego
13 FEB	Training Readiness Examination (TRE) by Fleet Training Group, San Diego
14 FEB - 5 MAR	Inport, San Diego
6-7 MAR	Weapons Loadout, Seal Beach
8-9 MAR	Inport, San Diego
10-28 MAR	Refresher Training, San Diego/Southern California Operating Areas
29 MAR - 30 APR	Inport, San Diego

1-5 MAY	120 Opsi Mobil Training Team (MTT) in Southern California Operating Areas
6-18 MAY	Inport, San Diego
19-22 MAY	HARPOON Missile test firing at Port Hueneme/Southern California Operating Areas
23-26 MAY	Inport, San Diego
27-29 MAY	HARPOON/TERRIER Missile firing in Southern California Operating Areas
30 MAY - 16 JUN	Inport, San Diego
(9 JUN - 18 JUL)	Pacific Midshipman Training Squadron (PACMIDTRARON)I
17-27 JUN	FLEETEX 2-75 (Exercise Bell Box) Southern California Operating Areas
28 JUN - 2 JUL	Enroute, Seattle
3-6 JUL	Visit, Seattle
7 JUL	Enroute, Esquimalt, Canada
8-9 JUL	Visit Esquimalt, Canada
10-13 JUL	Enroute, San Diego
14-20 JUL	Inport, San Diego
21-25 JUL	Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT) San Diego
26-29 JUL	Inport, San Diego
30 JUL - 1 AUG	Command Inspection by Commander, Cruiser - Destroyer Group THREE
2-12 AUG	Inport, San Diego
12-15 AUG	1200psi Mobile Training Team (MTT) Phase II in Southern California Operating Areas
16-31 AUG	Inport, San Diego
1-2 SEP	Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) preparations, Southern California Operating Areas

3-5 SEP	Operational Propulsion Plant Examination OPPE, in Southern California Operating Areas
(6 SEP - 3 OCT)	Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM)
17-19 SEP	Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection (NWAI), San Diego
19-28 SEP	Inport, San Diego
29-30 SEP	Weapons Loadout, Seal Beach
1-3 OCT	Inport, San Diego
4 OCT	Underway enroute to WESTPAC, COMCRUDESGRU ONE Embarked, units of PHIBRON 7
4-10 OCT	Enroute Pearl Harbor
11-12 OCT	Inport, Pearl Harbor
12-22 OCT	Enroute Guam
22-24 OCT	Inport, Apra Harbor, Guam
25-29 OCT	Assume duties as CTF 75 Flagship Enroute Subic Bay (independently)
29 OCT - 6 NOV	Inport Subic Bay
7-17 NOV	Co-ordinated Anti-Submarine Warfare (CAST) Exercises in the South China Sea
18-19 NOV	Inport, Subic Bay
19-22 NOV	MULTIPLEX 1-76 (South China Sea)
23-25 NOV	MISSILEX 2-76 (South China Sea)
26 NOV - 8 DEC	Inport, Subic Bay
9-18 DEC	Escort with TG77.5 (USS ORISKANY CVA-34)
19-23 DEC	Enroute, Singapore
23-31 DEC	Inport Singapore, (Upkeep)

## PART II

### NARRATIVE HISTORY

Having just completed a ten month overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, STERETT was employed during the first quarter of 1975 in preparation for, and receiving various combat systems and engineering tests and inspections. Among these were included the missile battery System Qualification Tests (SQT), the Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check (FORACS) for CIC/Sonar, Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) qualification, and Weapons handling and firing exercises in the Southern California operating areas.

Following these tests and inspections, STERETT commenced preparations for deployment by completing Phase I of Refresher Training with the assistance of the Fleet Training Group, San Diego 10-28 March. All areas of STERETT's organization and training readiness were evaluated with satisfactory results. Following Refresher Training, an even more rigorous program of Engineering preparedness was begun for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) which was to be conducted September.

Assisting in this vigorous training phase were personnel from the 1200 PSI Mobile Training Team who visited STERETT 1-5 May, and again 12-15 August. Their training program examined and enhanced crew knowledge of engineering theory and watchstation performance in both regular steaming and casualty control procedures.

STERETT's most exciting moments of the year came in May when the results of several months of diligent work resulted in the operational test firing of several cannister launched HARPOON surface to surface missiles. This was the first such series of launches of the HARPOON missile from a major surface combatant. All firings were evaluated and recorded as hits, and STERETT's installation was viewed as a possible model for future such installations.

STERETT embarked 10 First class and 30 Third class midshipmen on 9 June for a six week cruise as part of PACMIDTRARON I, the West Coast midshipmen Training Squadron. While embarked, the midshipmen participated in a full range of training activities in preparation for their future commissioned service.

STERETT continued operational training with an intensive period of team trainers for combat systems personnel in May and June. This was culminated in STERETT's participation in Operation Bell Box (FLEETEX 2-75), during which more than 20 ships and dozens of aircraft practiced cold and hot war-at-sea tactics.

Following the FLEETEX, STERETT and other units of PACMIDTRARON I departed for port visits along the U.S. West Coast and Canada. STERETT visited Seattle, Washington for the fourth of July holiday and then proceeded to Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada, for a brief port visit.

Returning to San Diego 14 July, combat systems personnel immediately began the rigorous Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT). This week long inspection exercised STERETT's combat systems in every possible mode to determine any deficiencies which might exist.

Next came a complete Command Inspection of the ship by Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group THREE, commencing on 30 July. These two inspections closely examined and reviewed almost every operational and material facet of the personnel equipment, and organization of STERETT, and their successful completion marked a major milestone toward the preparedness for deployment.

September brought the last major pre-deployment inspections: the OPPE and the Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection (NWAI). After completing a final brief period of intense training 12-15 August under the guidance of the Mobile Training Team, STERETT passed the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination in early September with a Conditional Satisfactory grade assigned. From 17-19 September, STERETT completed the final milestone to deployment by meeting the demanding security and administrative requirements of the NWAI.

Following a brief stop for a final Weapons loadout at Seal Beach, STERETT deployed to the Western Pacific on 4 October. During the initial transit via Pearl Harbor and Guam, STERETT performed escort duties for units of Amphibious Squadron SEVEN, and also participated in the Heritage 200 Bicentennial Naval Review near Honolulu. On 9 October, Captain Charles G. FARNHAM relieved Captain Philip K. COLLINS during Change of Command Ceremonies at sea.

Upon arrival at Guam on 22 October, Rear Admiral Robert S. Smith, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE, embarked in STERETT, assumed duties as Commander Task Force 75, and STERETT assumed duties as CTF 75 flagship and CTU 75.0.1.

Arriving in Subic Bay 29 October, STERETT became immediately involved in the challenging WESTPAC Operational Employment. During November STERETT participated in 10 days of Coordinated Anti-Submarine training (CAST) with other Seventh Fleet surface, subsurface, and air units. She was also a major participant in both MULTIPLEX 1-76 and MISSILEX 2-76 in the South China Sea during November. These exercises tested the majority of Seventh Fleet units in the Philippine Area with cold and hot war tactical exercises.

Following another brief period of upkeep in Subic Bay, STERETT performed escort duties with Task Group 77.5 (USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)) in the South China Sea 9-18 December. During this time, STERETT performed the full range of duties including picket (PIRAZ), plane guard, and air intercept controlling.

STERETT was detached from USS ORISKANY 19 December and proceeded to Singapore for an upkeep period during the Christmas Holidays. She remained in Singapore at the Sembawang Shipyard through the end of the year.

COMMANDING OFFICER

USS STERETT (CG-31)

CAPTAIN CHARLES GORDON FARNHAM, U. S. NAVY

ASSUMED COMMAND 9 OCTOBER 1975