



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

LTJG RILEY

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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 5750.12D

- Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) 1988 Chronology
(3) 1988 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 1988 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.

1988 CHRONOLOGY
USS STERETT (CG 31)

01 JAN - 03 JAN U/W GULF OF OMAN/PERSIAN GULF, ASSIGNED CTG 880.1, COMMANDER,
JOINT TASK FORCE MIDDLE EAST EMBARKED
02 JAN TRANSIT INBOUND HORMUZ STRAITS
04 JAN - 07 JAN INPORT BAHRAIN, BGEN RECORD AND DEPUTY CHIEF JTFME EMBARK
05 JAN VADM HOWE, RADM BERNSEN, COMDESRON 23, SENATOR STEVENS, SENATOR
D'AMATO VISIT
06 JAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CARLUCCI VISIT
07 JAN VADM HOWE EMBARKS, DEPART BAHRAIN
08 JAN U/W, TRANSIT OUTBOUND HORMUZ STRAITS. JTFME, STAFF, VADM HOWE
AND RADM BROOKS DEPART
09 JAN - 27 JAN U/W OPERATIONS WITH BATTLE GROUP "A", NAS
13 JAN - 16 JAN STEAM ASSESSMENT
15 JAN TOW AND BE TOWED WITH USS DEYO
23 JAN - 26 JAN ANCHORED WITH USS CAPE COD NAS MASSIRAH
27 JAN - 30 JAN U/W OPERATIONS NAS
31 JAN - 09 FEB AVAILABILITY WITH USS CAPE COD
10 FEB - 11 FEB U/W OPERATIONS NAS
12 FEB - 15 FEB ASSIGNED CTG 70.1, U/W NAS
13 FEB ENCOUNTEREX WITH BATTLE GROUP "E"
15 FEB TURNOVER WITH BATTLE GROUP "E"
16 FEB - 22 FEB ENROUTE PHATAYA BEACH, THAILAND
23 FEB - 27 FEB PORT VISIT PHATAYA BEACH, THAILAND
28 FEB - 03 MAR U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P.
04 MAR - 12 MAR INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
07 MAR AVIATION ASSIST VISIT
09 MAR - 11 MAR ISIC ENGINEERING READINESS ASSESSMENT
13 MAR - 20 MAR U/W WITH BATTLE GROUP "A", TEAM SPIRIT '88 OPS
21 MAR - 22 MAR INPORT PUSAN, KOREA
23 MAR - 31 MAR U/W TEAM SPIRIT '88 OPS
01 APR - 06 APR U/W SURVEILLANCE OPS, SEA OF JAPAN
07 APR - 08 APR PORT VISIT SASEBO, JAPAN
08 APR - 11 APR M T T
09 APR - 13 APR U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P.
14 APR - ASSIGNED TF 75
14 APR - 13 MAY INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
14 MAY - 17 MAY U/W LOCAL OPS
18 MAY - 23 MAY INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
24 MAY - 26 MAY U/W O.P.P.E
27 MAY - 13 JUN INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
14 JUN - 16 JUN U/W LOCAL OPS
17 JUN - 19 JUN INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
20 JUN - 24 JUN U/W INSURV
25 JUN - 10 JUL INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
11 JUL - 12 JUL U/W LOCAL OPS, NGFSEX, TORPEX
13 JUL - 15 JUL U/W ENROUTE HONG KONG
16 JUL - 18 JUL INPORT HONG KONG
19 JUL - 20 JUL U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P.
21 JUL - 13 OCT INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P. SRA - 6
19 AUG USS STERETT CHANGE OF COMMAND
14 OCT U/W LOCAL OPS
15 OCT - 20 OCT INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

01 OCT - 25 OCT U/W LOCAL OPS
06 OCT - 31 OCT INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
01 NOV - 02 NOV U/W LOCAL OPS
03 NOV - 20 NOV INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.
21 NOV - 25 NOV U/W ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
26 NOV - 15 DEC INPORT YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY
16 DEC - 20 DEC U/W ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, R.P.
21 DEC - 31 DEC INPORT SUBIC BAY, R.P.

USS STERETT (CG 31)
COMMAND HISTORY 1988

USS STERETT began the new year in the North Arabian Sea supporting reflagged tanker operations, with the Commander of Task Force Middle East embarked. After transiting through the Hormuz Straits into the Persian Gulf for an inspection tour, the ship arrived in Bahrain for a three-day port visit. The ship entertained visits from Senators Kennedy, Stevens, Rudman, D'Amato, and Secretary of Defense Carlucci, as well as several flag officers involved in the politico-military situation in the Middle East.

Upon departing Bahrain, STERETT exited the Persian Gulf and resumed duties as northern picket for Battle Group "A" in the North Arabian Sea. During a short availability with the Destroyer Tender USS CAPE COD, crewmembers of both ships, as well as those of USS FRANCIS HAMMOND, enjoyed a USO show by the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders on board STERETT's flight deck.

Battle Group "A" turned over duties to Battle Group "E" on 15 February and commenced the transit out of the Indian Ocean towards a long-awaited port visit to Phataya Beach, Thailand. STERETT spent five days anchored off Phataya Beach and then made the four-day transit to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. During a brief upkeep, the ship completed several inspections and an Aviation Assist Visit. The ship then departed home waters once again to participate in Team Spirit '88.

After a short port visit to Pusan, Korea, STERETT began her duties as northern picket for Battle Group "A" and the amphibious readiness group off the coast of Korea. As Team Spirit drew to a close, several units of the Soviet Navy departed Vladivostok; and STERETT was assigned to shadow those units. The ship followed the movements of the Soviet ship NOVOROSYSK off the Soviet coast for approximately one week before being detached.

Arriving in Sasebo, Japan, the ship enjoyed two days of liberty before departing with the WESTPAC Mobile Training Team, beginning preparations for OPPE. Upon successful completion of training, the MTT was transferred by small boat to Guam and the ship proceeded to Subic Bay, arriving on the 14th of April. The ship spent the next month in port making repairs and preparing for the upcoming OPPE and INSURV inspections. STERETT successfully completed OPPE on 26 May, and the crew then focused its attention on INSURV, which was successfully completed on 24 June.

STERETT was again underway for naval gunfire support and torpedo exercises on the 11th of July. Receiving outstanding scores on both exercises, the ship made a two-day transit to the port of Hong Kong for rest and relaxation. Unfortunately the stay was cut short due to an approaching typhoon, and the ship was underway on 19 July for the return to Subic Bay.

On 21 July the ship began SRA-6. Thousands of man-hours were invested over the next three months to ensure the ship was at a peak level of combat readiness. Captain Barry M. Plott relieved Captain Richard P. Genet in a ceremony held on board on the 19th of August. Four days later, STERETT was the site of the COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC change of command, in which RADM G. L. Chesbrough relieved RADM D. C. Richardson. COMSEVENTHFLT, VADM P. D. Miller, was the principal speaker. On 20 September, STERETT was proud to host a visit aboard by VADM R. K. U. Kihune, the new COMNAVSURFPAC. Following successful sea trials, the ship completed SRA-6 on time on 19 October and began her work-up to full operational status.

Over the next four weeks, STERETT had two unscheduled underway periods to evade Typhoons Ruby and Skip. During Typhoon Ruby, STERETT responded to a distress call by the Panamanian log carrier MV Sea Sprite, which was taking on water with cargo broken free and bulwarks gone. STERETT stood by Sea Sprite while she effected emergency repairs and escorted her safely into Manila.

In mid-November STERETT successfully completed a Combat Systems Readiness Test and Aviation Readiness Evaluation. An Aviation Assist Visit was also upgraded to a successful recertification inspection.

On 21 November the ship left port for Yokosuka, Japan, to participate in a training and maintenance availability and pre-REFTRA Training Readiness Evaluation. The ship passed the Training Readiness Evaluation in all mission areas. After spending almost a month in Japan, the ship returned to Subic Bay on the 21st of December to spend Christmas and New Year's with family and friends. During this period the ship learned that it had been awarded the Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Silver Anchor for retention excellence in fiscal year 1988 and honorable mention in the Ney competition for demonstrated excellence in food service.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS STERETT (CG 31)

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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.