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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) 1991 Chronology  
(3) 1991 Command History  
(4) Commanding Officer's Biography  
(5) Commanding Officer's Photograph  
(6) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(7) Farewell Ceremony Pamphlet

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for 1991 is submitted.

T. E. BLOUNT JR.

**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. During the first half of the year, STERETT was assigned to Commander Naval Surface Group Western Pacific. The Commanding Officer is Captain T. E. Blount Jr. On 04 June 1992 STERETT changed homeports from Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines to San Diego, California and she subsequently was assigned to Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE.

**1991 CHRONOLOGY  
USS STERETT (CG 31)**

01 JAN - 03 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
03 JAN - 07 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE SINGAPORE WITH  
BATTLEGROUP E  
07 JAN - 10 JAN INPORT SINGAPORE  
10 JAN - 14 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND  
11 JAN CROSSED THE EQUATOR  
14 JAN - 18 JAN INPORT PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND  
18 JAN - 22 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP  
22 JAN - 25 JAN INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
25 JAN UNDERWAY MISSILE EXERCISE 91-2  
26 JAN - 27 JAN UNDERWAY ENROUTE BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA  
27 JAN - 30 JAN UNDERWAY LINKEX  
30 JAN - 01 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE HONG KONG  
01 FEB - 06 FEB INPORT HONG KONG  
06 FEB - 08 FEB UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP  
08 FEB - 27 FEB INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
27 FEB - 02 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE OKINAWA  
02 MAR - 03 MAR INPORT OKINAWA  
03 MAR - 06 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE POHANG, KOREA  
06 MAR - 07 MAR INPORT POHANG, KOREA  
07 MAR - 16 MAR UNDERWAY TEAM SPIRIT - 91  
17 MAR - 19 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE SASEBO, JAPAN  
19 MAR - 22 MAR INPORT SASEBO, JAPAN  
22 MAR - 26 MAR UNDERWAY ENROUTE SUBIC  
26 MAR - 08 APR INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
08 APR - 10 APR UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS  
09 APR MISSILE EXERCISE 91-2  
10 APR - 16 APR INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
16 APR - 18 APR UNDERWAY LOCAL OPS  
16 APR - 17 APR NGFS EXERCISE  
17 APR MISSILE EXERCISE 91-3  
18 APR - 10 MAY INPORT SUBIC BAY, RP  
10 MAY - 14 MAY UNDERWAY ENROUTE GUAM VIA SUBUYAN SEA AND  
SAN BERNARDINO STRAITS  
14 MAY - 15 MAY INPORT GUAM  
15 MAY - 24 MAY UNDERWAY ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII  
21 MAY CROSSED INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE  
23 MAY SWIM CALL  
24 MAY - 28 MAY INPORT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII; TIGERS EMBARK  
28 MAY - 04 JUN UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA;  
TIGER CRUISE  
01 JUN PASSEX WITH USS LINCOLN (CVN-72)  
04 JUN - 05 JUN INPORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
05 JUN - 06 JUN UNDERWAY ENROUTE SEAL BEACH  
06 JUN - 07 JUN INPORT SEAL BEACH, WEAPONS OFFLOAD  
07 JUN - 08 JUN UNDERWAY ENROUTE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
08 JUN - 12 AUG INPORT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
12 AUG UNDERWAY ENROUTE ROH AT SOUTHWEST MARINE  
SHIPYARD SAN DIEGO  
12 AUG INPORT SOUTHWEST MARINE SHIPYARD  
13 OCT DRYDOCKING

13 OCT - 31 DEC  
DIEGO,

DRYDOCK, SOUTHWEST MARINE SHIPYARD, SAN  
CALIFORNIA

**USS STERETT (CG 31)  
COMMAND HISTORY 1991 NARRATIVE**

STERETT began the new year in its homeport of Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines after a three-week period of holiday leave and upkeep. She departed Subic Bay on 03 January with Battlegroup E, conducting valuable training enroute Singapore. STERETT detached from the battlegroup 07 January and anchored off of Singapore for a four day port visit. From Singapore, she sailed to Pattaya Beach, Thailand on 10 January, crossing the equator enroute on 12 January at 160 degrees West longitude. She arrived at Pattaya Beach on 14 January and remained inport for liberty until 18 January. While inport at Pattaya, U.S. armed forces launched air strikes against Iraqi forces in the Persian Gulf, marking the beginning of Operation Desert Storm.

STERETT set sail from Pattaya Beach on 18 January for Subic Bay. She returned to Subic Bay on 22 January and remained in port for four days, departing on 25 January for Missile Exercise 91-1. Proceeding to Poro Point Missile Range in the Republic of the Philippines, STERETT fired an SM-2 semi-active missile.

After the missile shot, STERETT continued on to Buckner Bay, Okinawa for LINEX 91, an exercise which involved STERETT and Marine Air Control and Coordination Station Four in testing the capability to establish and maintain a clear data link. STERETT concluded the link exercise on 30 January and proceeded directly to Hong Kong, where she arrived inport on 01 February for five days of liberty.

STERETT departed Hong Kong on 06 February enroute to Subic Bay, arriving on 08 February. She remained inport for ten days preparing for Team Spirit 91. On 27 February, she departed Subic Bay for Korea and Team Spirit 91, an annual U.S.-Republic of Korea exercise.

STERETT arrived at Okinawa on 02 March for a planning conference of U.S. Forces, and proceeded on 03 March to Pohang, Korea for the joint planning conference. She arrived at Pohang on 06 March and departed on 07 March to begin the exercise off the coast of Pohang. Participants included eight U.S. Navy surface ships, one U.S. Navy submarine, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Air Force aircraft, eleven R.O.K. surface ships, and R.O.K. and U.S. Marines. Due to Operation Desert Storm, Team Spirit 91 included a smaller U.S. contingent, but the exercise remained a vigorous test for U.S. and Korean forces in all warfare areas. STERETT played an important role as the exercise's major surface combatant, acting as the data link coordinator and as the AAWC,

ASUWC AND EWC.

STERETT and other surface combatants, together with assigned air assets and U.S. Marines, operated as "orange" forces which were tasked with attacking the "blue" forces on the beach. Additionally she conducted live-fire gunnery exercises against towed surface and air targets on 15 and 16 March. At the conclusion of the exercise on 17 March STERETT received praise from the Amphibious Task Force Commander and other participants for her proficiency and professionalism.

STERETT sailed for Sasebo, Japan on 17 March and arrived on 19 March. She spent four days inport before departing for Subic Bay on 22 March. She joined USNS KAWISHIWI (TAO 146) on 23 March for mutual training enroute Subic. She arrived at Subic Bay on 26 March and spent fourteen days inport prior to conducting MISSILEX 91-2 on 08 April during which she conducted an SM-1 semi-active missile shot against a subsonic drone.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 10 April for seven days before again putting to sea on 16 April. She sailed to Tabones Range to conduct a Naval Gunfire Support exercise, and then continued on to Poro Point for MISSILEX 91-3. STERETT's third missile exercise of the year again featured an SM-1 semi-active missile shot against a subsonic drone.

STERETT returned to Subic Bay on 18 April and remained inport until 10 May continuing final preparations for change of homeport to San Diego, California. After a farewell ceremony at Alava pier, which was attended by VADM Arthur, Commander, SEVENTH FLEET, RADM Tobin, Commander, TASK FORCE SEVEN THREE, Mayor Gordon of Olongapo, news media, family and friends, STERETT departed Subic Bay for the last time on 10 May, sailing east for Guam. STERETT stopped in Guam on 14 May for refueling and a brief liberty call, marking the first time she visited U.S. territory since 1987. She departed Guam on 15 May and set sail for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, pausing briefly on 23 May for a swim call in over seven thousand feet of water. She arrived at Pearl Harbor on 24 May and spent five days inport. On 28 May she embarked ten midshipmen and forty-two "tigers" and set sail for San Diego, conducting a passing exercise with USS LINCOLN (CVN-72) and USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) on 01 June which included an impressive air power demonstration from CVW-11. On 03 June rendezvous with USNS NAVASOTA (TAO-106) to conduct underway replenishment.

After ten years away from the continental U.S. and trailing a four hundred foot homecoming pennant, STERETT arrived at San Diego on 04 June. On 05 June, she departed San Diego for Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California where she spent two days off-loading ordnance. She returned to San Diego on 08 June and remained inport until she conducted a dead-stick transit to Southwest Marine Shipyard on 12 August to begin a thirteen month new threat upgrade overhaul.

STERETT made an immediate impact in San Diego and on the waterfront. She competed in the Surface Line Week events of 26-31 August, finishing in a tie for first place in the athletic competition and second place in the professional competition (both in the large ship category). Additionally, she had a Command Inspection from Commander, CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP FIVE from 04 November to 06 November, during which she was evaluated as outstanding for her skill and competence in virtually every area of administration. STERETT also developed significant ties with the community by participating in the Partnership in Education Program with Mead Elementary School and by participating in several community relations projects.

The early phases of the overhaul touched every part of the ship, but concentrated primarily on the New Threat Upgrade of her Combat Systems suite. The SPS-48C and SPS-40 radars, Mark 10 mod 7 missile launcher, and CIC suite were removed in preparation for replacement by advanced systems. Engineering and habitability spaces received special attention, including a complex upgrade and overhaul of installed systems including the enginerooms and fireroom.

STERETT entered drydock on 13 September to work on the hull, SQS-26 sonar system, propellers, shafts, rudders, and major sea valves. She ended the year in drydock, continuing the overhaul after which she will emerge as the most capable NTU cruiser in the fleet.

**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 PBR's 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 graduate 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.