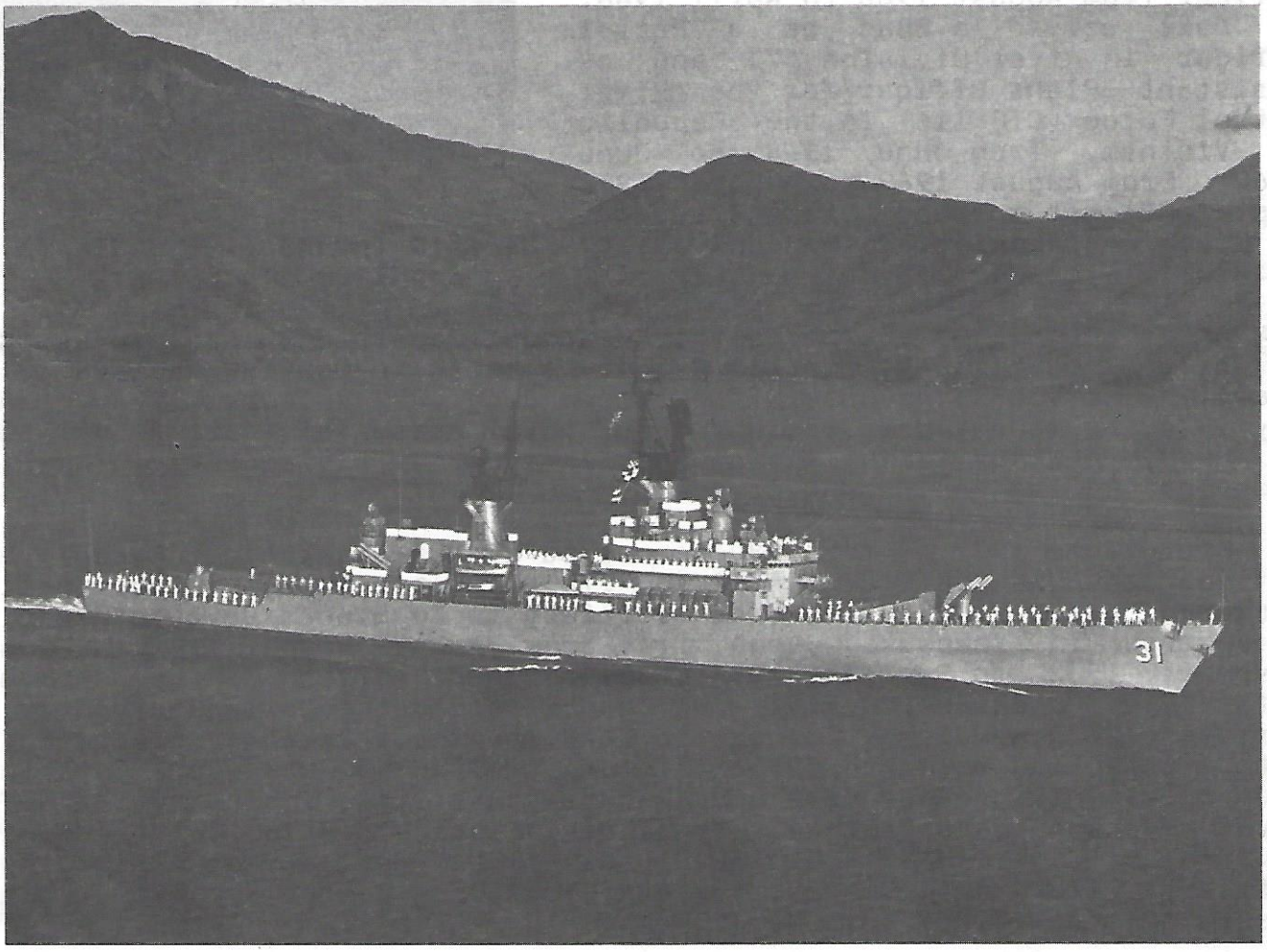
USS STERETT (CG-31)

FAMILYGRAM

September-October 1990 *Serving Family and Friends of Sterett* Vol.4 No.4



USS STERETT UNDERWAY

THE FIRST TEAM

WELCOME ABOARD

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.

CAPTAIN THOMAS E. BLOUNT, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY

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 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. Prior to assuming command of USS STERETT (CG 31), Captain Blount served as Commanding Officer, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center Pacific, San Diego, from July 1988 to June 1990.

Captain Blount's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, 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 medals and unit awards.

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

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

6 November 1990

Dear STERETT Families and Friends,

On 10 September 1990 it was my great privilege to assume command of STERETT. I am delighted to be back at sea once again, to return to the Western Pacific and particularly to have been given the opportunity to command this highly capable cruiser.

Our tempo of operations has been extremely high over the past seven weeks, with many changes to our schedule and many challenges presented to us. During this period I have been extremely impressed with the energy, talent and dedication of the men of STERETT. Energy, talent and dedication that lead to our successfully passing the very demanding Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) 23-25 October. I'd like to share with you some of my words to the crew about that accomplishment.

"Well done to all of you who worked so hard to meet this challenge. To the engineers, your intense efforts over the past several months did not go either unnoticed or unrewarded. You studied hard, trained hard and worked hard, long hours. The result was that not only did we pass OPPE but that the PEB remarked in their message to CINCPACFLT that 'it was apparent throughout this exam that STERETT had put forth a tremendous effort.' To the other departments who supported the engineers in many different ways, your contributions made a significant difference. The team work displayed by all was readily apparent particularly in the main space fire drill - where the board was highly impressed with both our professionalism and enthusiasm - so much so that the senior inspector remarked to me that our drill was one of the very best he had ever seen. I thank each and every one of you for your superb efforts and for a job very <u>well done</u>. I am proud to be your Commanding Officer and look forward to continued success in all that 'The First Team' undertakes."

The other major event of which many of you are already aware is that our schedule has changed significantly. We are not going to rejoin the Midway Battle Group in the North Arabian Sea. Although schedules are always subject to change due to world events, for the next few months it looks like we will remain operating in the Western Pacific area.

In closing, Robin and I would like to thank all of you whom we've met for your warm welcome. The STERETT family is certainly a hospitable one. We look forward to meeting the rest of you soon, hopefully on our upcoming Dependents' Cruise. We'll have more information on that in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

T. E. BLOUNT JR.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1990

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SERVING THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF USS STERETT.

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	STG3 JOHN MCGOVERN, USN
	STG3 CHRIS LENHAM, USN
DRAWINGS	RM2 CORNELL WATERS, USN

STERETT FAMILYGRAM IS PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

A time comes when each member of the STERETT Family moves off to new duty stations, new friends, and new adventures. PAALAM.

****

Captain Barry Plott along with his wife, Karen, and daughter, Susan transferred to Naval Personnel Command, Washington, D.C.

****

Lieutenant Richard T. Robinson along with his wife, Helen and two daughters, Katherine and Margaret transferred to Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

****

Lieutenant Mark Rahmes transferred to Treasure Island for separation from the Navy.

****

Lieutenant Junior Grade Darryl Breitenstein transferred to Treasure Island for separation from the Navy.

****

Boatswain's Mate First Class Dimas Manglona transferred to Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam.

****

Boiler Technician Second Class Mark Phenis along with his wife, Teresita, and their two daughters, Jennifer and Catherine transferred to Naval Recruiting District, Indianapolis, IN.

****

Boiler Technician Third Class Christ Miller along with his wife, Linda transferred to USS HORNE (CG 30).

****

Boiler Technician Fireman Jaime Vazquez transferred to Naval Legal Services Office, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

****

Data Systems Technician Mark Raasio transferred to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Naval Air Station, Pearl Harbor, HI.

****

Electrician's Mate Second Class Reese Carpenter transferred to USS PROTEUS (AS 19).

****

Electrician's Mate Third Class Eddieberto Hernandez transferred to USS OGDEN (LPD 5).

****

Electronic Technician Chief Ray Miller along with his wife, Emmy transferred to Mobile Training Team Shore Command, San Diego, CA.

****

Electronic Warfare Technician Chief Daniel Dykes along with his wife, Francisca, their daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Daniel transferred to Fleet Training Group Western Pacific, Yokosuka, Japan.

****

****

Electronic Warfare Technician Seaman Ronnette L. Frazier transferred to Naval Station, Jacksonville, FL for separation from the Navy.

****

Engineman Third Class Patrick Stallworth with his wife, Fedelita, their four sons Harren, Dunhill, Brian, Jim and daughter, Patrice transferred to Gulfport, MS for separation from the Navy.

****

Fire Controlman Second Class Gary Shaw transferred to Naval Recruiting District, Nashville, TN.

****

Fire Controlman Third Class William Roberts transferred to USS KING (DDG 41).

****

Gunner's Mate Third Class Curtis Carr transferred to USS HORNE (CG 30).

****

Gunner's Mate Second Class Todd Becker transferred to Transient Personnel Unit, Treasure Island, CA for separation from the Navy.

****

Hull Technician Second Class Victor Castro transferred to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Naval Air Station, San Diego, CA.

****

Machinist's Mate First Class Neal F. Slatterly transferred to Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

****

Machinist's Mate Third Class Reginald Robinson transferred to USS PELELIU (LHA-5).

****

Machinist's Mate Third Class Ray Nelson transferred to Service School Command, Great Lakes, IL.

****

Machinist's Mate Fireman Thomas Bartashus transferred to USS MAUNA KEA (AE-22).

****

Machinist's Mate Fireman Patrick McGuirk transferred to USS DENVER (LPD-9).

****

Mess Management Specialist Master Chief Cesar Herrera transferred to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

****

Mess Management Specialist Chief Jose Gobaleza along with his wife, Emma, and their three sons, Erwin, Jay, and Mark transferred to Naval Training Station, San Diego, CA.

****

Mess Management Specialist Second Class Darrell J. Peterson transferred to Naval Hospital, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

****

****

Mess Management Specialist Second Class Raltrick R. Hall along with his wife, Rony transferred to Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS.

****

Mess Management Specialist Second Class Julian Batson along with his wife, Divina transferred to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

****

Navy Career Counselor Senior Chief Leonard Alexander transferred to Naval Station, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

****

Operations Specialist Seaman Paul Decker transferred to USS PRAIRIE (AD 15).

****

Operations Specialist Third Class Terrence Burnwatt transferred to USS FIFE (DD 991).

****

Personnelman Third Class Ronald Chandler transferred to Personnel Support Detachment, Milton, FL.

****

Radioman Chief Roger Pierce transferred to Operations Center-Joint Chiefs Of Staff, Washington, D.C.

****

Radioman First Class Louis G. Balius transferred to Naval Hospital, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

****

Radioman Seaman Timothy Raber transferred to Naval Facility, Whidbey Island, CA.

****

Seaman James M. Jennings transferred to USS SPRUANCE (DD 963).

****

Sonar Technician William G. Hightdudis along with his wife, Gina, transferred to Naval Recruiting District, Milwaukee, WI.

****

Sonar Technician Second Class Andrew Hahn transferred to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Naval Air Station, Mayport, FL.

****

Sonar Technician Third Class Joseph Vandenberg transferred to USS WADSWORTH (FF 69).

****

Signalman Senior Chief Michael Lewis transferred to USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55).

****

Signalman Seaman Apprentice Aaron Young transferred to USS BOLSTER (ARS 38).

****

Yeoman Third Class Michael Neeley transferred to Helicopter Training Squadron 8, Milton, FL.

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MABUHAY! WELCOME ABOARD

The STERETT Family is constantly changing with new faces arriving each month. STERETT extends a Mabuhay to the newest members of the crew that have arrived since September - October 1990 since the last Familygram was published.

Captain Thomas E. Blount Jr. reported from Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center Pacific, San Diego, CA.

****

Lieutenant Commander Gerald W. Corbitt reported from USS O'BANNON (DD 987).

****

Lieutenant J. Michael Scukas reported from USS BUCHANAN (DG 14).

****

Ensign Nathan Beltz reported from Surface Warfare School Command, Coronado, San Diego, CA.

****

Boiler Technician Second Class Larry Robinson reported from the WILLIAM STANDLEY (CG 32).

****

Boiler Technician Third Class Manuel A. Adasa reported from USS SAN JOSE (AFS 7).

****

Boiler Technician Third Class William J. Stafford reported from USS NIAGRA FALLS (AFS 3).

****

Data Systems Technician Second Class Christopher Slabchuck reported from USS REEVES (CG 24).

****

Data Systems Technician Third Class Gregg Welch reported from Fleet Training Center, San Diego, CA.

****

Electronic Technician Third Class Jason Shaw reported from Fleet Training Center, San Diego, CA.

****

Electronic Technician Third Class Chris Deleon reported from Advanced Electronics School, San Diego, CA.

****

Fire Controlman Chief William Wyatt reported from US Naval Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, Japan.

****

Gunner's Mate Seaman Charles A. Braeback reported from Service School Command, Great Lakes, IL.

****

Mess Management Specialist Chief Angel Antonio reported from Naval Recruiting Unit, New York, NY.

****

Mess Management Specialist Seaman Recruit Joel Howard reported from Mess Management "A" School, San Diego, CA.

****

Sonar Technician Senior Chief Donald Weldon reported from Naval Surface Force Group Western Pacific Fleet, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

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****

Seaman Recruit John Crabb reported from Fleet Training Center, San Diego, CA.

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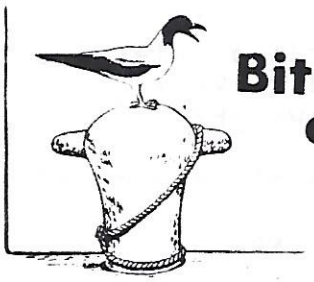

Bitts and Pieces

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ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to the following crew members who were advanced to their present rank:

E-3 AND BELOW ADVANCEMENTS

DKSA Christopher Rorie
STGSA James Givens
FA Robert Enlow
RMSA Keith Newman
SA Freddie Hartley
SA Brian Hall
SA Marvel Mason
SN Jason Christopher
SMSN Aaron Young
FN Michael Allen
FN David Brooks
OSSN Sean Bailey
SN Wayne Mathews
SN Eric Finch

FROCKING

Frocking recognizes that a crew member has been selected for promotion with all the benefits of his new rank except pay, until a latter date. Congratulations to:

LCDR James D. Puttler
CWO4 Doug Eaves
OS3 Terry Duncan

****

****

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following personnel who received awards for outstanding performance and excellence during these past two months:

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

AWARDED THE:

FIRST TIME TO:

LTJG Shawn Colson
FN Mark Saxton
MSSN Martin Thomas
MMFN Eric Wahl
FN Percival Quiray
STG3 Christopher Lenham
OSSN Timothy Graves
STG3 Michael Cummings
MMFN James Johnson

SECOND TIME TO:

BT3 Chris Miller
DS2 Thomas Begley
OS3 Terrence Burnwatt
STG3 Kirk Wagoner

THIRD TIME TO:

SH3 Howard Carr
DS2 Mark Raasio

FOURTH TIME TO:

EM1 Kevin Wilcoxson

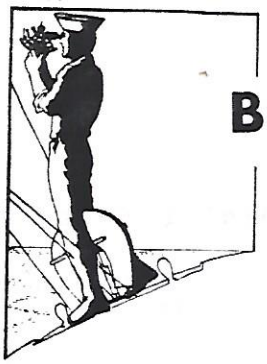
FIFTH TIME TO:

EM1 Ramon Edquilang
MM2 Ramoncito Grepo

SIXTH TIME TO:

OSC Kevin Aylesworth

****



Bitts and Pieces

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GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS

AWARDED THE:

FIRST TIME TO:

FC2 Jeffrey Caldwell
IC2 Jeffrey Elliott
RM3 Craig Pendergrass
QM3 Noel Romero
FC3 Larry Mahoney
BM3 Marlin Isaacs
OS2 Robert Hull
IC2 Barry McNutt
SK3 Gary Brown
RM2 Steven Potter
SK2 Bradley Rietz

SECOND TIME TO:

OS1 William Avery

THIRD TIME TO:

SK1 Brian Holthouser

FOURTH TIME TO:

SKCS(SW) Brian Werring
MM1 Loren Kuyper

****

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

JUNIOR

RM3 Dwayne Sumlin

SENIOR

MM1(SW) Loren Kuyper

****

****

ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to the new Chief Petty Officers:

ETC(SW) Tyrone Hawes
MMC(SW) Monty Trimble
EMC(SW) Bernardino Celestino
DSC(SW) Harold Pickens
OSC(SW) James Wright

****

AWARDS

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MSC Angel Antonio
PNC(AW) Douglas Brown

****

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

QM1(SW) Stewart VanVliet

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

LTJG Brian Goldfuss
PNC(AW) Douglas Brown

FC1 Frederick Williams
IS1 Randy Clapp
MM1 Loren Kuyper
MR1 Scott Buzzell
BM2 Edward Moore
BT2 James Silhavy
BT2 Ireneo Barnachea
EM2 Balbino Mercadal
FC2 Jeffrey Caldwell
HM2 Romel Caburian
BT3 Jose Montemayor
BT3 Gaetano Critelli
EN3 Jose Gomez
MM3 Christopher Reynolds
OS3 William Couser
FN Fernando Canez
MMFN James Johnson
SN Gustavo Alvarez
SN Baudelio Alegria
MRFA Myles Reukema
YNSA Demetrice Henderson
SR James Quatrine

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

RMSN Vincenet Cauley

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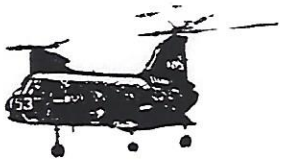

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REENLISTMENTS

Congratulations to the following crew members for their reenlistment in the United States Navy:

BM1 Dimas Manglona
reenlisted for 4 years.

DS1 Benjamin Henderson
reenlisted for 6 years.

ENCS(SW) Antolin Canoningo
reenlisted for 3 years.

EN1 Larry Wright
reenlisted for 5 years.

STG1 William Hightdudis
reenlisted for 6 years.

DS2 Mark Rassio
reenlisted for 4 years.

FC2 Timothy Robinson
reenlisted for 6 yaers.

MM2 Florencio Obillo
reenlisted for 6 years.

STG2 Andrew Hahn
reenlisted for 3 years.

OS2 Robert Hull
reenlisted for 6 years.

EM3 Eddie Hernandez
reenlisted for 5 years.

PN3 Ronald Chandler
reenlisted for 4 years.

SK3 Alejandro Rillera
reenlisted for 4 years.

YN3 Michael Neeley
reenlisted for 4 years.

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Congratulations to the entire crew for their hard work and professionalism in receiving the Chief of Naval Operations Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) Ship Safety award for the year 1989.

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following couples for the birth of their new born child:

LTJG Randy and Ágnes Martin for the birth of Dlorah Martin, 5 lbs 7 oz. on 11 September 1990.

DK1 Mareus and Bernadette Andrada for the birth of Ralph Benedict Andrada, 7 lbs 8 oz on 14 September 1990.

FN Joseph and Gilda Smith for the birth of Philip Joseph Smith, 6lbs 13 oz on 27 September 1990.

LT Ben and Maria Torreon for the birth of Rachel Elise Torreon, 6 lbs 14 1/2 oz on 30 30 September 1990.

OS3 Jon Bowers and Maritess M. Ibanez for the birth of Nicolas Andrew Bowers, 9 lbs on 04 October 1990.

DS3 Rex and Beverly Thoman for the birth of Robert Lewis Thoman, 4 lbs 10 oz on 07 October 1990.

OS2 Joseph and Marie Lantz for the birth of Sheila Marie Lantzy, 6 lbs 7 1/2 oz on 13 October 1990.

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BAPTISMS AND DEDICATIONS

Those Baptised or Dedicated this past year are:

Dean Whaley	17 MAR 90
Christina Eaves	31 AUG 90
Maranda Morton	09 SEP 90
OS3 Terry Burnwatt	09 SEP 90
Porsha T'Erra Smith	16 SEP 90
Kathy Rasmussen	14 OCT 90
Dlorah Martin	07 OCT 90
Rachel Torreon	21 OCT 90

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A Day in the Life of OW

Division

It is a day like any other day in the Persian Gulf, far from routine. For the Electronic Warfare Technicians in OW division the day began at 0300 local time or 0000 Zulu time. All is quiet at this time of the morning with the exception of the beeps and buzzes that emanate from the suite of electronic equipment that comprises the Combat Information Center.

EW3 Davis has just relieved EW2 Mitchell and has assumed the watch, paying close attention to the information being displayed on screen of the AN/SLQ-32 (V)3. As the sun begins to rise, EW3 Davis detects an enemy radar and conveys the information to EW2 Martinez, his watch supervisor. EW2 Martinez quickly scans the screen of the NTDS console. He correlates the radar to an assigned radar track number and passes this information to the tactical action officer and to Ensign Mearig, the Electronic Warfare Officer. "Unknown contact bears 345 degrees at a range of 2500 yards." The Officer of the Deck and the Bridge Lookouts are passed the relative bearing of the contact from the USS STERETT.

The Lookouts spot the unknown contact. The Officer of the Deck has the word passed "Away the Snoopy Team, away! Target of interest Off the Port Bow." IS1 Clapp and EW3 Springer rush to the Signal Bridge and assemble the rest of the Snoopy Team. The ship's sighting team visually identifies the contact as a patrol boat flying Iraqi colors and reports this to the OOD, TAO and CIC Watch Officer. The contact turns abruptly to avoid the mighty warship STERETT and disappears over the horizon.

EWC Dykes, while monitoring the event, notices a problem with the AN/SLQ-32 (V)3. He calls EW2 Smith and EW3 Dougherty to troubleshoot the system and find the faulty circuit. EW2 Mitchell fills out the supply requisition forms and rushes to Supply Support to pick up the part. EW3 Dougherty installs the part and EW2 Smith calibrates the system. With the AN/SLQ-/32 (V)3 back to full operational capability, EW3 Davis continues his diligent search for any additional hostile contacts that may be in the area.

Navy's 215th birthday inspires nostalgic comparisons

When our Navy began 215 years ago, the first person on a ship to spot another ship was likely to be an ordinary seaman perched in the crow's nest. Today, the first person to know of an approaching craft -- be it above, under or on the sea -- is often a junior sailor who spots a blip on a screen.

Sailors in the 18th century received a daily allowance of a half-pint of rum, and wages ranged from $6.57 for seamen to $32 for captains -- per month. Motivation and leadership in the Navy were also in their infant stages. Instead of counseling sessions and "caring about your people" by "explaining why" and "doing the right thing," disobedient sailors could be whipped up to a maximum of 12 lashes at a time. Sailors using obscene language could be forced to wear wooden collars around their necks.

These naval regulations were drafted by John Adams, who would later become the second president of the United States. Adams was one of three members of the original Naval Committee formed by the Continental Congress in the early days of the Revolutionary War.

The opening battles of the war -- Lexington, Concord and Breed's Hill (more commonly, although mistakenly, known as Bunker Hill) -- had been fought. The 13 original colonies were entering an eight-year period of war with England, the second longest period of war in U.S. history. Only our involvement in Vietnam lasted longer.

If the Revolutionary-era sailor (we'll call him Johnny Yank) were to step through a time warp into today's Navy, he'd be overwhelmed by technology -- nuclear propulsion, whirring computers and machines that fly on and off carriers hundreds of times bigger than the greatest warships of his time. He might be able to save his sanity if he were assigned to the deck department, where some things are still done as they were 200 years ago. Sure, Yank would learn plenty of new tricks from contemporary boatswain's mates, but he'd know what to do if he were aboard a battleship and was told by a BM3 to holystone the teak decks.

When Yank joined the Navy, it may have been as a member of a privateer recruited by George Washington to fight King George's Royal Navy of 270 ships, then the world's most powerful fleet. On Oct. 13, 1775, Yank's status became somewhat more official when the second Continental Congress authorized outfitting two ships, the 24-gun brigantines Andrew Doria and Cabot, to intercept two British transport ships. In December 1775, the U.S. Navy was ready to do battle with its force of four warships and four escort vessels.

"The first beginning of our Navy," John Paul Jones wrote, "was, as navies rank, so singularly small that I am of the opinion that it has no precedence in history."

Yank would be amazed that the Navy today has more than half a million people serving on active duty and more than 200,000 Reserves. He also might find it incredible that today's Navy has more than 500 active ships. When told that 4 million people served during World War II, he'd be flabbergasted.

Yank, remembering hardtack and salted beef, would be overjoyed to eat in the crew's mess of a modern ship, where sailors eat better than the royalty of his own days. But if our Revolutionary sailor liked a nip of demon rum, he might be disappointed to discover that it went the way of flogging.

Women in the Navy, much less at sea, would also surprise Yank. The nearest thing he'd remember of women in the Navy would be the sloop Katy, later renamed Providence, which became John Paul Jones' first naval command. Although Yank wouldn't consider it odd to have sailors of various racial backgrounds working together, he would find it strange to see black officers.

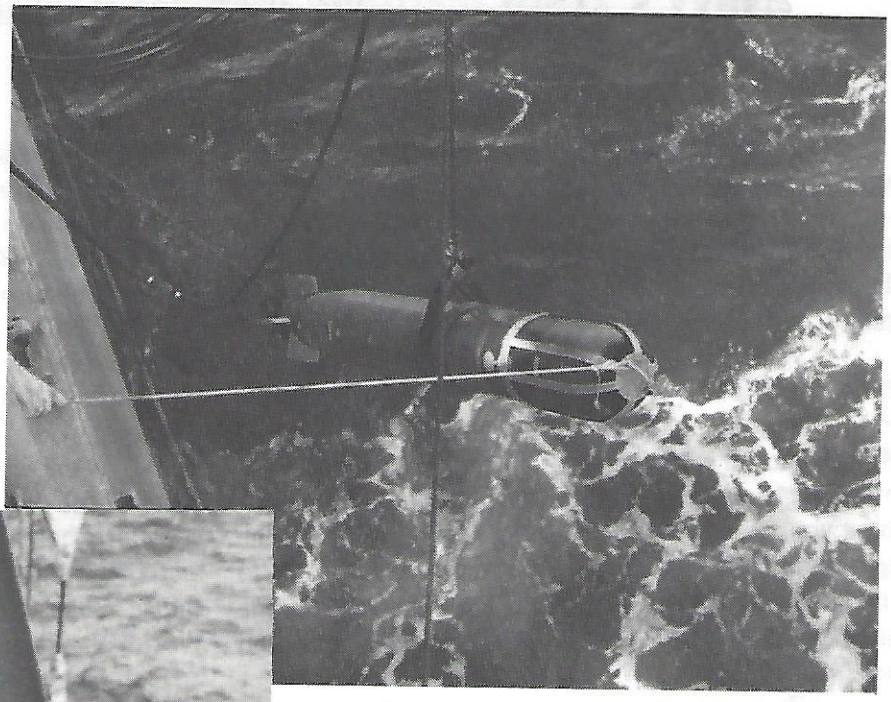
The idea of the U.S. Navy having dozens of installations in foreign countries would also be a mind-blower for Yank. He'd probably think he was in the Royal Navy. One thing Yank probably wouldn't find surprising is that many people come into the Navy today for some of the same reasons -- patriotism and adventure -- as he did.

What would a contemporary sailor find in the U.S. Navy of 2190? Consider Yank's amazement when introduced to today's Navy, then use your imagination. But one of the best things about our Navy which is a good bet to survive far into the future is the friendship and camaraderie of professionals working together on a winning team.

Happy birthday, U.S. Navy, and many happy returns!

TORPEX

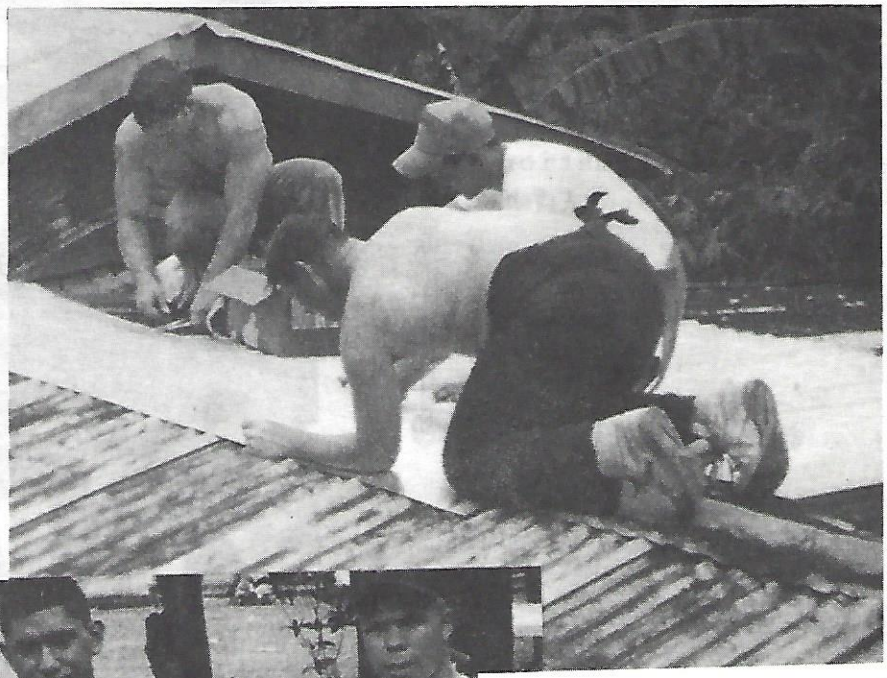
During our recent under way period, STERETT conducted a Torpedo Exercise. A practice torpedo was launched and acquired its target.



Here, STG2 Fulmer, STG3 Drake and STG3 Cummings watch with Senior Chief Canonigo as the torpedo is recovered.

BM2 Moore pilots the gig as LT Hamilton directs. SN Berg, SMSN Young and EN3 Korte assists in the professonally conducted exercise.

Matain Elementary School



On 31 August and again on 13 October STERETT volunteers made good friends with the students and teachers at Matain Elementary School in Subic City. Repairs were made on the roof and major preservation work conducted on the large building.

MM3 Reynolds, BT2 Silhavy, and HT1 Buzzell replaced needed roofing sheets.

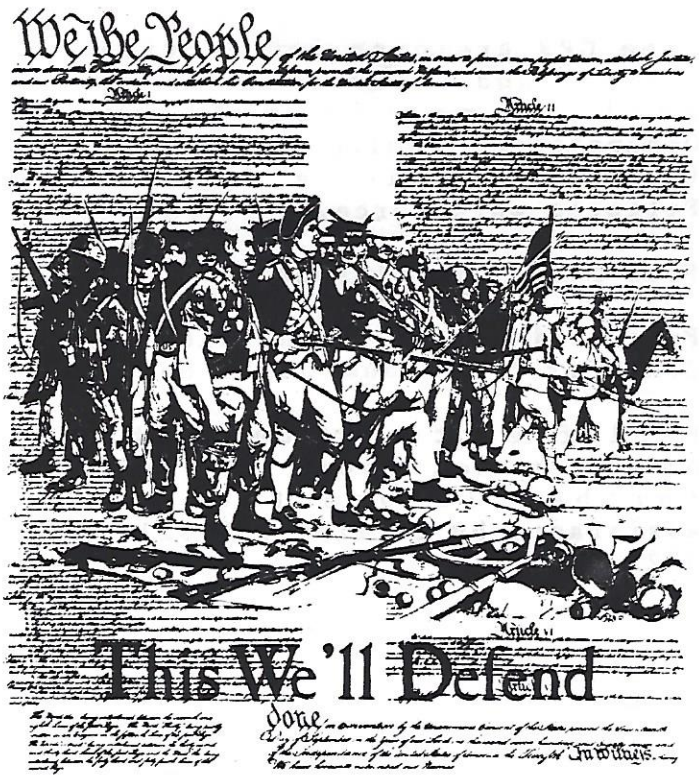
30 gallons of white, 10 gallons of trim covered the 6 class room building.

STERETT ACTIVITIES

Captain Blount conducts Captain's Call on the helo flight deck. Important information for the entire crew is passed.

On 23 September STERETT celebrated Constitution Week with an oath re-affirmation celebration on the flight deck.

More friends from Matain Elementary School, Subic City.



Constitution Week 1990

September 17 - 23

by LTJG Randall H. Martin, USN

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America."

Remember the preamble of the Constitution from your ninth grade Civics class? Well, for most Americans it may be just a memory, but for all members of the armed forces, including those on STERETT, who formally swear (or affirm) that they will "support and defend" this magnificent document, "against all enemies, foreign and domestic," it is a lively reality. Through our service in the Navy, we must obviously "bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution and the country whose course it directs."

In celebration of Constitution Week 1990, on Sunday, September 23 many STERETT officers and crew participated in an Oath Reaffirmation Ceremony led by the Commanding Officer. Followed by a short history of the Constitution, the amendments, and some important dates, Captain Blount read the Confirmation of Enlistment/ Reenlistment to enlisted members, and to the officers, the Oath of Office.

The objective of the Oath Reaffirmation Ceremony and Constitution Week is to educate the men of STERETT and their families about the Constitution of the United States, which embodies the freedoms we defend, and to highlight the role of the armed forces as guardian of the Constitution itself, a mission clearly established in the preamble above.

American Red Cross

Subic Bay,

Republic of the Philippines

by Ray L. Schindell
Station Manager

The programs and services your local Red Cross brings to the members of the Subic - Cubi - San Miguel communities are many, varied and all **free.** They include:

Twenty - four hour-a-day coverage, seven days a week, to insure the prompt delivery of emergency messages. Over 20,000 wires were sent or received by our office last year.

Over $ 85,000.00 in financial assistance was provided to service members and their dependents in the Subic area last year.

Over 700 U.S. Service members, or their dependents, received some form of Red Cross assistance each month from the Subic Red Cross Office.

Free and rapid transmittal of funds to/from CONUS in emergency situations.

Free swimming lessons for all ages at all levels with special classes during the summer months for our out-of-school youth.

Free preparation for Parenthood classes.

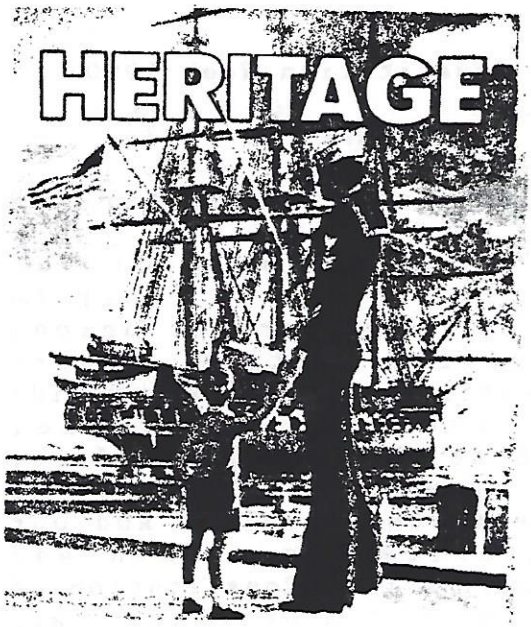
Free Blood pressure Screenings

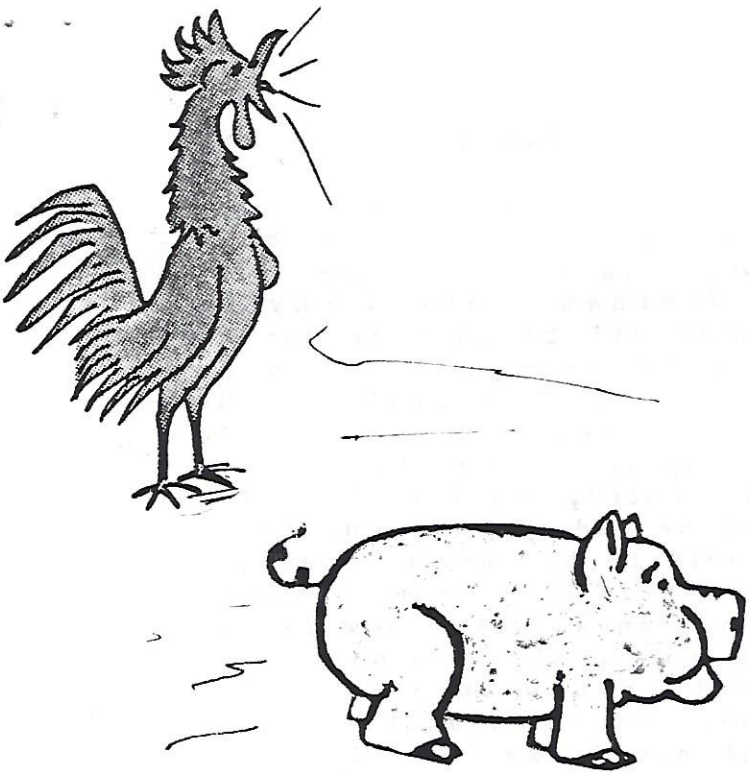
Free CPR training for Service members and their families as well as required Naval Occupational Health and Safety (NAVOHSA) training for the Filipino work force.

Free First Aid Classes.

Free training for Domestics in CPR, First Aid and Child care.

Feel free to contact the American Red Cross for any further information or assistance by calling 384-3275/ 3822.





Chaplain's Corner

One of my favorite stories about commitment has been attributed to Aesop's fables. It seems that Farmer John asked Ms. Hen and Mr. Pig to breakfast one morning. The menu was rather simple: scrambled eggs and ham. Mr. Pig was a little hesitant to participate and Ms. Hen was curious to know why. Mr. Pig turned to Ms. Hen and replied, "It may be fine for you to attend breakfast with Farmer John, you're just making a contribution, but if I attend, it'll be a real commitment."

Jesus, in one of his greatest one line responses about commitment, said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

If you think about that statement, Jesus doesn't leave too much left over for oneself. Give to Caesar what he requires AND give to God what He requires. Each of us in the Navy has made a commitment to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States. We have in many cases given up a lot in the commitment we voluntarily made. As citizens, we certainly have the responsibility to pay taxes, to be involved in the political system, and to obey the laws of the place where we live.

I would suspect though, that at times we'd like to be rid of that responsibility. A number of years ago Flip Wilson did a comedy piece as The Rev Leroy of the "Church of What's Happening Now." In a stirring sermon he called out to the people, "What this congregation needs is: it needs to crawl!" To which the people replied, "Make us crawl Rev, make us crawl."

In a louder voice, The Rev beckoned, "And after that, this congregation needs to get up and walk!" And the people said, "Make us walk, Rev, make us walk!"

With even more agitation, Rev Leroy, shouted, "And after that, this congregation's gotta run!" "Make us run, Rev, make us run!"

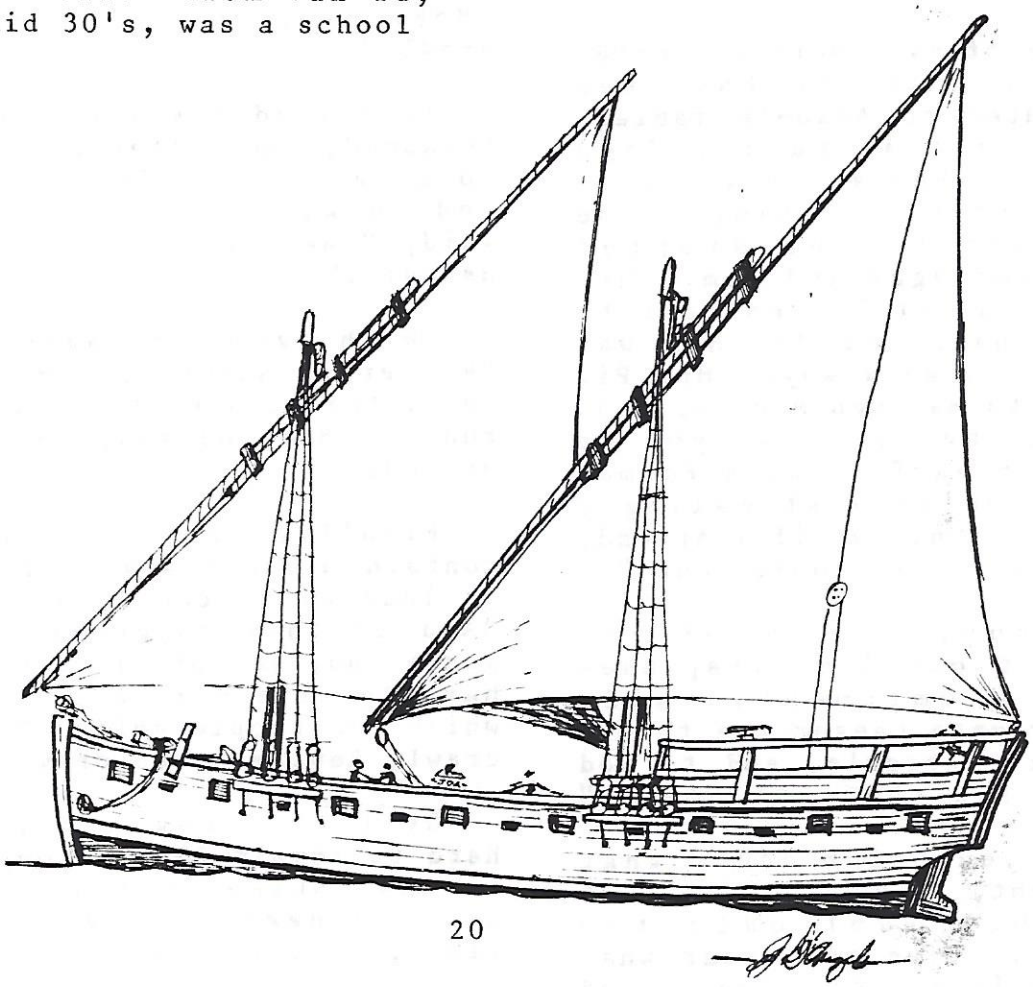
Finally, The Rev couldn't contain himself any longer and as loud as he could, screamed, "And if this congregation is gonna run, you people are gonna have to give more money!" To which the people said, "Make us crawl, Rev, make us crawl!"

Over the long haul, it's hard to remain loyal, committed to that which is required of us. We need to dig down at times, and examine what

motivates us to serve our country. We need to remember why we're here:to give life and meaning to our society's values and to protect that wonderful way of life for ourselves and for our children to enjoy.

More than a year ago, USS STERETT was returning through the South China Sea from exercises with the Thai Navy. In the early morning hours, the Officer of the Deck spotted a small boat floundering off the port bow. Several of the occupants waved their arms frantically, as the STERETT slowed, and stopped to retrieve them from the unforgiving waters. Seven Vietnam refugees struggled aboard, each with a story to tell. Tram Van Tu, in his mid 30's, was a school teacher in Cam Ranh Bay. He was able to speak very little English. He remembered when Americans were in his home town. His four sons are still in Vietnam. Asked why he risked all to journey out to sea, he said, "Freedom is better than security." He made a real commitment: to give up all he had, his family, his country, his friends; for a land he had never seen, for a society he had never lived in, to ask for help from strangers he had never met. Now is the time to remember his commitment and to renew our own: "to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

Chaplain Puttler



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS STERETT (CG-31)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96678-1154

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