



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER ✓

USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96628-3300

IN REPLY REFER TO

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From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy
Yard, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (series)

1986

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1986 through 31 December 1986 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: Captain John H. Heidt from 19 November 1985 to present.

b. Summary of Operations: BLUE RIDGE, in the role as Flagship for Commander, SEVENTH Fleet, began the New Year in homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. On 8 January 1986, BLUE RIDGE was underway for sea trials after work completed during Ship Repair Alteration 86-9. Upon completion of sea trails in Sagami Wan, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka on 9 January. After completion of Ship Repair Alteration 86-9 on 11 January, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Manila, Republic of the Philippines. Arriving in Manila on 16 January, BLUE RIDGE moored at Pier 15, South Harbor, for a three day port visit. While in Manila, BLUE RIDGE hosted a reception on board for local dignitaries. On 19 January, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Subic Bay, with Philippine, U.S. civilian, and military guests aboard. During the short transit to Subic Bay, a "Steel Beach" picnic was held on the main deck with entertainment provided by the SEVENTH Fleet Band other local entertainers. BLUE RIDGE moored that same afternoon at Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay for an eleven day upkeep period. During this period BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-86 third quarter scheduling conference. On 1 February, BLUE RIDGE was underway for the Subic Operation Area to conduct engineering drills. On 2 February, BLUE RIDGE moored at Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay. On 3 February, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan and conducted an underway replenishment with USNS KILAUEA (TAE-26). On 9 February, BLUE RIDGE arrived at Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. During this period Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet staff was embarked to conduct a three day Marine Amphibious Force Command Post Exercise which exercised all areas of the ship's command and control capabilities and served as a command post exercise for the larger Exercise Team Spirit '86. On 12 February, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Inchon, Korea. On 15 February, BLUE RIDGE anchored at Inchon for a four day port visit. On 19 February, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan. On 22 February, BLUE RIDGE moored at Berth Eight, U.S. Naval Station, Yokosuka, Japan.

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On 4 March, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Arriving in Buckner Bay on 7 March, BLUE RIDGE embarked Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet and their respective staff for Exercise Team Spirit '86, a major amphibious exercise conducted in the vicinity of Pohang, Republic of Korea. On 9 March, BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USS CIMMARRON (AO-177). On 12 March, BLUE RIDGE and various U.S. and Republic of Korea Navy ships moored in Pohang, Korea to conduct a Pre-sail Conference. On 13 March, all ships were underway for the operating area near Tok Soc Ri, Republic of Korea. During the period of 13 thru 20 March all units conducted numerous drills exercising men and equipment. On 16 March, BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS PONCHATULA (TAO-148). On 20 March, BLUE RIDGE anchored off the coast of Tok Soc Ri and conducted the command and control function for the remainder of the amphibious exercise. On 25 March, BLUE RIDGE was underway. On 27 March, BLUE RIDGE moored at Pohang, Republic of Korea. On 28 March, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. On 30 March, BLUE RIDGE moored at Buckner Bay. After disembarking Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet staffs, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan. On 1 April, BLUE RIDGE moored in her homeport of Yokosuka for a twenty-five day upkeep period. While in Yokosuka, BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-86 fourth quarter scheduling conference. On 26 April, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan and arrived at Buckner Bay on 29 April. After embarking Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and staff, BLUE RIDGE was underway the same day for Pattaya Beach, Thailand. On 5 May, BLUE RIDGE anchored off Pattaya Beach for a four day port visit. On 9 May, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Hong Kong, B.C.C. for a six day port visit. While in Hong Kong, BLUE RIDGE hosted a reception on board for local dignitaries. On 19 May, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Subic Bay, RP. On 21 May, BLUE RIDGE moored at Alava Pier, U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay for a fifteen day upkeep period. On 5 June, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan. On 9 June, BLUE RIDGE moored in Yokosuka for Ship Repair Alteration 86-10. On 24 June, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Yokosuka Operation Area to conduct engineering drills. On 1 July, BLUE RIDGE was underway for the local operation's to conduct propulsion examination board engineering drills. On 2 July, BLUE RIDGE moored at Yokosuka for continuation of Ship Repair Alteration 86-10. During this inport period BLUE RIDGE hosted the SEVENTH Fleet FY-87 first quarter scheduling conference. On 31 July, BLUE RIDGE was underway with Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force officers and cadets, plus U.S. midshipmen embarked for the annual JMSDF/USN Sister-ship Cruise with JDS SHIRANE (DDH-143). On 2 August, BLUE RIDGE

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anchored in Ohminato, Japan for a two day visit. On 4 August, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Aomori, Japan. Arriving in Aomori that same afternoon, BLUE RIDGE anchored for a two day visit. On 6 August, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Otaru, Japan. BLUE RIDGE moored in Otaru on 7 August for a two day port visit. While in Otaru BLUE RIDGE hosted a reception on board for Japanese dignitaries. On 9 August, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Yokosuka, Japan with dependents sons and male guests ("Tigers") embarked. On 11 August, BLUE RIDGE moored in Yokosuka and was underway again that same afternoon having been tasked to conduct surveillance operations against Soviet Naval Units operating in the the Sea of Okhotsk. BLUE RIDGE steamed northeast toward the vicinity of the Kuril Islands. On 14 August, BLUE RIDGE transited to Etsrofu Kaiko Straits and entered the Sea of Okhotsk to conduct surveillance operations. On 16 August, BLUE RIDGE was enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. On 18 August BLUE RIDGE moored at Yokosuka. on 3 September, BLUE RIDGE was underway in Tokyo Wan for sea trials and a dependents' cruise. BLUE RIDGE moored in Yokosuka that same afternoon, debarking dependents. On 6 September, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Chinhae, Korea. On 8 September, BLUE RIDGE conducted underway replenishment with USNS KILAUEA (TAE-26). On 9 September, BLUE RIDGE moored at Chinhae, Korea for a one day port visit. BLUE RIDGE got underway on 10 September enroute to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan and arrived in Buckner Bay on 12 September. On the morning of 13 September, BLUE RIDGE hosted the Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet Change of Command. BLUE RIDGE was underway that afternoon enroute to Sydney, Australia. On 15 September, BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4). On 17 September, BLUE RIDGE anchored in Apra Harbor, Guam to receive barge and crane services. BLUE RIDGE was underway again the afternoon of the same day enroute to Sydney, Australia. On 22 September, BLUE RIDGE conducted memorial services at Iron Bottom Sound in honor of those who lost their lives there in World War II. On 28 September, BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with HMAS OLEMEDA. On 29 September, after firing a National 21 gun salute to Australia, BLUE RIDGE entered Sydney Harbor and moored at Woolloomooloo Pier. While in Sydney, Commander, SEVENTH Fleet and USS BLUE RIDGE personnel participated in numerous military, civic and social events in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy. Such events included a parade through the city and Naval Review honoring the Prince of Wales. On 7 October, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Melbourne, Australia. On 9 October, BLUE RIDGE moored in Melbourne for a five day port visit. On 14 October, BLUE RIDGE was underway enroute to Fremantle, Australia. On 19 October, BLUE RIDGE moored in Fremantle for a six day port visit.

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On 25 October, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Darwin, Australia. On 30 October, BLUE RIDGE anchored in Darwin for a three day port visit. On 2 November, BLUE RIDGE concluded her visit to Australia and was underway for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. On 7 November, BLUE RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS HASSAYAMPA (TAO-145). On 8 November, BLUE RIDGE moored at Alava Pier in Subic Bay for upkeep. On 8 November, Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and staff embarked BLUE RIDGE. While in Subic Bay, BLUE RIDGE host the Commander SEVENTH Fleet second quarter scheduling conference. On 17 November, BLUE RIDGE was enroute to Hong Kong, B.C.C. On 19 November, BLUE RIDGE moored at HMS TAMAR in Hong Kong for a six day port visit. On 25 November, BLUE RIDGE was underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Arriving in Buckner Bay on 27 November, Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and staff disembarked and BLUE RIDGE was underway that afternoon enroute Yokosuka, Japan. On 29 November, BLUE RIDGE arrived in Yokosuka and moored at Berth Eight for selected restricted availability. On 17 December, VADM P. D. Miller relieved VADM P. F. McCarthy as Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.



A. J. LASKA
By direction