



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) ✓  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96628-3300

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5750  
Ser 20/261  
29 Feb 88

From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374-0571  
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST REPORT 5750-1) 1987  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1987 through 31 December 1987 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain John H. Heidt from 19 November 1985 to 30 November 1987. Captain Michael D. Barker from 1 December 1987 to present.

b. Summary of Operations: BLUE RIDGE began the New Year in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, finishing up a Selected Restricted Availability. The SEVENTH Fleet scheduling conference for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year '88 was held onboard BLUE RIDGE from 20 to 22 January. BLUE RIDGE got underway on 11 February enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The ship conducted various Engineering Casualty Control Drills and gun shoots as training exercises before arriving at Subic Bay on 16 February to embark Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet. Following the port visit, BLUE RIDGE was underway on 23 February enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan. Commander, Naval Surface Group Western Pacific conducted a navigation check ride while departing Subic Bay and the ship did Engineering Casualty Control Drills before mooring at Buckner Bay on 26 February to embark Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet. The ship was underway that same afternoon to anchor for the TEAM SPIRIT '87 Command Post Exercise. BLUE RIDGE weighed anchor on the morning of 1 March and returned to Buckner Bay to disembark Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet. The ship got underway that afternoon enroute to Yokosuka, Japan and moored at Yokosuka on 4 March to commence a short upkeep period. On 16 March, BLUE RIDGE was underway enroute anchorage A-12 for an ammunition onload and weighed anchor several hours later enroute exercise TEAM SPIRIT '87. The crew was exercised at general quarters and conducted various gunnery and weapons exercises before mooring at Buckner Bay on 19 March to embark Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and the NINTH Marine Amphibious Brigade. The ship joined the Amphibious Task Force on 20 March enroute to Orawan for an amphibious rehearsal. On 21 March the Amphibious Task Force rendezvoused with the USS RANGER Battle Group and the Republic of Korea Naval forces. During the transit to Pohang, Korea, BLUE

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RIDGE conducted an underway replenishment with USNS MISPELLION (TAO-105) and moored on 21 March in Pohang for a troop onload. The amphibious task force departed Pohang on 26 March and operated near Tok Sok Ri and Ha Sa Ri. On 28 March, the ship conducted an underway replenishment with USNS MISPELLION and another on 5 April for stores with USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3). The ship anchored several times off the coast of Tok Sok Ri and conducted numerous, flight operations at anchor and underway. Exercise TEAM SPIRIT 87 ended on 7 April and BLUE RIDGE moored in Pusan, Korea to off load personnel. During the three day inport period, a civic action project for a local orphanage was held by volunteers from the ship. The ship was underway again for Buckner Bay on 10 April to disembark Commander, Amphibious Forces SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet. Engineering Casualty Control drills were conducted during the transit. BLUE RIDGE moored at Buckner Bay on 12 April and was underway for Yokosuka, Japan the same afternoon. The crew was exercised at general quarters at various times during the transit. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Yokosuka on 15 April and commenced the second upkeep period for the year. The SEVENTH Fleet Scheduling Conference for Third Quarter Fiscal Year '87 was held onboard ship from 22 to 24 April. The ship then got underway on 30 April for one day of engineering drills. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy visited the ship on 5 May and held a discussion with the crew on the main deck concerning Navy policies. Following a successful upkeep, BLUE RIDGE got underway on 9 May for Subic Bay. During the transit, the ship conducted engineering casualty control drills and exercised the crew at general quarters. BLUE RIDGE moored in Subic Bay on 13 May before getting underway on 14 May for Pattaya Beach, Thailand. General Quarters drills were conducted during the transit. The ship anchored at Pattaya Beach on 17 May. Commander, SEVENTH Fleet Staff held talks with the Royal Thai Navy on 19 May and Commander, SEVENTH Fleet hosted a reception aboard ship for the Commander of the Royal Thai Navy. BLUE RIDGE weighed anchor the morning of 22 May enroute Hong Kong, British Crown Colonies. The Commanding Officer held an all hands personnel inspection during the transit. The ship rendered a national 21 gun salute on 27 May and the ship moored at HMAS TAMAR. On 28 May, Commander, SEVENTH Fleet hosted a reception for the Governor of Hong Kong. After a six day protocol visit, BLUE RIDGE commenced a transit north to Sasebo, Japan to embark the dependent sons and male guests of crew members for a Tiger Cruise. The ship moored at Sasebo on 3 June, embarked the guests, and returned to Yokosuka on 10 June to commence a Selected Restricted Availability. Commander, Naval Surface Western Pacific embarked upon arrival to conduct a successful Command Inspection. The ship fired a 21 gun salute in honor of Independence Day on 4 July. Vice Admiral Takasaki, Vice Admiral Teria and Vice Admiral Matsumoto of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces visited BLUE RIDGE on 13 July. The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable James Webb, Jr., visited the ship on 15 July. The ship conducted

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a one day dependent's cruise on 1 August. BLUE RIDGE departed Yokosuka on 3 August enroute Inchon, Korea. Engineering Casualty Control drills and General Quarters drills were conducted in transit. After mooring on 6 August, the ship sponsored a Civic Action Project for a local orphanage in Inchon. Following the port visit, BLUE RIDGE weighed anchor on 10 August enroute Yokosuka. Several sets of Engineering Casualty Control drills and a CIWS shot were conducted enroute. The ship moored at Yokosuka on 13 August for her third upkeep period, during which the ULCHI FOCUS LENS command post exercise was conducted. A personnel exchange was conducted between BLUE RIDGE and JDS SHIRANE (DDH-143) in preparation for the annual USN/JMSDF sistership cruise. Both ships got underway on the afternoon of 1 September enroute Hachinohe, Japan. During the two day transit, personnel exchange highline, Anti-aircraft Warfare Reporting, Anti-submarine Warfare, Flag Hoist and Leap Frog drills were conducted, as well as helo cross deck landings by USN and JMSDF helicopters. Both ships moored in Hachinohe on 3 September for a two day protocol visit. During the inport period, a reception was held on JDS SHIRANE (DDH-143) by Commander, Fleet Escort Force. On 5 September the cruise continued with the ships conducting exercises enroute Maizuru, Japan. The ships moored on 7 September at Maizuru for a three day protocol port visit. During the inport period, JDS SHIRANE hosted a party for the crew of BLUE RIDGE. Both ships departed Maizuru on independent operations on 10 September. BLUE RIDGE moored at Yokosuka on 13 September for another upkeep period and commenced her final trip of the year on 28 September by getting underway for Buckner Bay. General Quarters and CIWS firing exercises were conducted prior to entering port on 30 September to embark Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet. BLUE RIDGE was underway two hours later to conduct an air tracking event while transiting South enroute Subic Bay. Engineering Casualty Control drills, CIWS and 3"50 firings, and a missile shoot were held before the ship moored on 5 October. Commander, SEVENTH Fleet held the scheduling conference for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year '88 onboard from 7 to 9 September. BLUE RIDGE was underway on 10 October and conducted a full power trial and a boiler flex test. On 12 October, BLUE RIDGE moored in Hong Kong for a five day protocol port visit. BLUE RIDGE was underway again on 17 October enroute Buckner Bay and moored on 20 October to embark Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet for exercise VALIANT BLITZ '87. BLUE RIDGE rendezvoused with the Amphibious Task Force on 21 October for transit exercises enroute Pohang, Korea. On 24 October, the ship moored at Pohang to embark troops. BLUE RIDGE and the Amphibious Task Force departed Pohang on 27 October, enroute Ha Sa Ri for an amphibious rehearsal which was followed by the ship anchoring at Tok Sok Ri on 31 October to conduct air operations and anti-aircraft warfare exercises. On 3 November, the ship weighed anchor and conducted underway replenishments with USNS NAVASOTA (TAO-146) and USNS HALEAKALA (AE-25). The ship anchored off Tok Sok Ri again the same evening to act as command

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and control platform for the exercise. BLUE RIDGE weighed anchor and steamed for Pusan at the conclusion of the exercise, mooring on 5 November for backloading operations. The ship was underway again on 8 November enroute Buckner Bay to disembark Commander, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet, and continued on to Yokosuka after disembarkation, mooring on 12 November to begin another selected restricted availability. On 1 December, Captain Michael D. Barker relieved Captain John H. Heidt as Commanding Officer at a Change of Command Ceremony held on the main deck. Commander, Naval Surface Group Western Pacific was the guest speaker. A successful 3-M Inspection was held onboard from 7 to 11 December. BLUE RIDGE rounded out the year with a Christmas Party for the crew on 5 December, and a children's Christmas Party on 12 December for dependents of the crew.



M. D. BARKER