



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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COMMANDING OFFICER
USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96628-3300

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
Ser 30/119
17 Feb 89

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)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1988

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1988 through 31 December 1988 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Michael D. Barker from 1 December 1987 to present.

b. Summary of operations: BLUE RIDGE, in her role as Flagship for Commander SEVENTH Fleet, celebrated the new year of 1988 in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan by firing a 21-gun salute. On 13 January, BLUE RIDGE got underway for sea trials, to test work completed during Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) 13. When sea trials were completed on 15 January, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka. After completion of SRA 13 on 27 January, BLUE RIDGE departed for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. While enroute the ship conducted various Engineering Casualty Control drills and exercised the crew at General Quarters. BLUE RIDGE called at Subic Bay on 1 February to embark Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet. Following a six-day port visit BLUE RIDGE sailed for Singapore. Arriving on 10 February, the ship completed a five day protocol visit and sailed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. There BLUE RIDGE embarked Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet on 21 February. BLUE RIDGE was underway that same afternoon to conduct Team Spirit Command Post Exercise '88. On 22 February, the Honorable William Ball, Under Secretary of the Navy, visited BLUE RIDGE while she was at sea. BLUE RIDGE returned to Buckner Bay the same day to debark Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet. Sailing again a few hours later, BLUE RIDGE headed for her homeport of Yokosuka and arrived on 26 February. On 28 February BLUE RIDGE commenced a successful nine-day Combat Systems Readiness Test (CSRT). Upon completion of the CSRT on 7 March, BLUE RIDGE conducted an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination which ended on 9 March. During the subsequent five-day homeport visit BLUE RIDGE was visited by the Honorable Frank Carlucci, Secretary of Defense, on 11 March. On 14 March BLUE RIDGE departed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, arriving on 16 March to embark Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet. The following day BLUE RIDGE sailed to Pohang, Korea, embarking TACRON 11 on 21 March. While inport Pohang on 22 March BLUE RIDGE also conducted a troop onload. After a two-day port visit BLUE RIDGE was underway enroute to the Tok Sok Ri and Ha Sa Ri Sea Echelon Areas. Arriving on 27 March, BLUE RIDGE participated in Team Spirit 88, a major combined amphibious exercise with the navy of the Republic of Korea.

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On 4 April BLUE RIDGE departed the area for Pusan, Korea and arrived on 5 April. Upon completion of a two-day port visit, BLUE RIDGE got underway for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. After debarking Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet and their staffs on 9 April, BLUE RIDGE again headed for her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, arriving on 11 April. BLUE RIDGE was inport Yokosuka until 11 May. During this time, BLUE RIDGE hosted the First Quarter SEVENTH Fleet Scheduling Conference from 27 through 29 April. On 11 May BLUE RIDGE became the first American warship to visit Tokyo in over twenty years. A reception for Japanese civilian and Maritime Self-Defense Force officials was held onboard. The next morning, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka for one day, 13 May, after which BLUE RIDGE sailed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, arriving on 15 May. BLUE RIDGE stayed for one day to embark Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet, and Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet and their staffs. While enroute to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, BLUE RIDGE participated in a successful live firing exercise of both of her CIWS guns and a successful missile war shot from a BPDMS Launcher. Arriving in Subic Bay on 19 May, BLUE RIDGE remained inport for five-days and embarked nine-midshipmen, departing on 24 May for Hong Kong. Underway for two-days, BLUE RIDGE pulled into Hong Kong on 26 May for a four-day protocol visit. Leaving Hong Kong on 30 May, BLUE RIDGE headed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa, arriving on 2 June. After a short stay to debark Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet and Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet and their staffs, BLUE RIDGE sailed for home and arrived in Yokosuka on 4 June. During an inport period from 4 June to 3 August, BLUE RIDGE conducted SRA 15. On 19 June the nine midshipmen debarked BLUE RIDGE. BLUE RIDGE fired a 21-gun salute in honor of Independence Day on 4 July. On 11 July BLUE RIDGE commenced the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise which lasted until 22 July. On 19 July nine new midshipmen embarked and on 25 July, three midshipmen and one escort officer of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force embarked BLUE RIDGE. On 31 July all work was completed for SRA 14 and on 3 August BLUE RIDGE left Yokosuka enroute to Sasebo, Japan. BLUE RIDGE was inport Sasebo from 5 August to 8 August. Then BLUE RIDGE was underway from Sasebo with JDS KURAMA for an annual JMSDF/USN Sistership Cruise. While enroute to Kure, Japan both ships exercised their crews at General Quarters and did leap frog exercises. BLUE RIDGE, along with JDS KURAMA, called at Kure, Japan on 10 August for a two-day protocol visit. On 12 August, BLUE RIDGE departed Kure, Japan and headed for Yokosuka. After debarking the midshipmen, BLUE RIDGE got underway on 29 August for Interim Refresher Training. Returning to Yokosuka on 2 September, BLUE RIDGE stayed inport for four days, then got underway again on 6 September to finish Refresher Training. After staying underway for three-days conducting various drills and exercising the crew at General Quarters, BLUE RIDGE entered Yokosuka on 9 September, staying inport for a 10-day upkeep period and to hold the Third

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Quarter SEVENTH Fleet Scheduling Conference. BLUE RIDGE then got underway, on 19 September, for Subic Bay, arriving on 24 September. BLUE RIDGE was inport for four days, sailing again on 28 September for Phuket, Thailand, anchoring in Patong Bay. Weighing anchor on 7 October, BLUE RIDGE anchored again in Penang, Malaysia on 8 October and stayed until 11 October. BLUE RIDGE steamed overnight and entered Singapore Harbor on 12 October for a four-day protocol visit. Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet and his staff embarked during this inport period. Leaving the port of Singapore on 16 October, BLUE RIDGE sailed for Jakarta, Indonesia. On 17 October, Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet embarked BLUE RIDGE, which then made the port of Jakarta on 18 October for a three-day protocol visit. BLUE RIDGE was underway from Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 October and headed for Buckner Bay, Okinawa. On 21 October, while underway, BLUE RIDGE held a Change of Command Ceremony for Commander SEVENTH Fleet. At 1530, VADM Paul D. Miller was relieved by VADM Henry H. MAUZ, Jr. On 25 October, BLUE RIDGE conducted a 24-hour search and rescue mission for the crew of the Philippine merchant ship "JET ANN 5." BLUE RIDGE rescued five survivors, who were brought onboard for emergency medical attention. On 27 October, the five survivors were flown by helo to Leyte Island, Republic of the Philippines, and turned over to the proper authorities for further medical attention. BLUE RIDGE then proceeded on with her mission, pulling into Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 29 October for a one-day troop onload. Staying inport overnight, BLUE RIDGE got underway the following morning and headed for Pohang, Korea. On 31 October, TACRON 12 and Amphibious Squadron THREE and their staffs embarked on BLUE RIDGE. On 1 November, BLUE RIDGE anchored in Pohang, Korea. On 2 November, BLUE RIDGE was underway for the Tok Sok Ri Sea Echelon Area to conduct Exercise Valiant Blitz 88. On 7 November, Commander, Landing Force, SEVENTH Fleet, Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet, TACRON 12, Amphibious Squadron Three and their staffs debarked by helo. On 8 November, BLUE RIDGE steamed again for her homeport of Yokosuka and arrived home on 11 November. On 16 November BLUE RIDGE was underway for two-days to conduct a successful Operational Propulsion Plant Re-Examination. Mooring again in Yokosuka on 18 November, BLUE RIDGE commenced SRA 15 which continued through the end of the year.


M. D. BARKER