



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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1990

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following command history for the period 1 January 1990 through 31 December 1990 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: Commanding Officer: Captain Joseph K. Henderson from 20 November 1989 to present.

b. Summary of Operations: USS BLUE RIDGE, in her role as flagship for Commander Seventh Fleet, celebrated the new year of 1990 undergoing SRA-17 in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. On 10 January, BLUE RIDGE got underway for post SRA sea trials, returning to Yokosuka on 12 January. ON 27 January, BLUE RIDGE set sail for Subic Bay, Philippines. While enroute, BLUE RIDGE conducted engineering and general quarters drills. Prior to mooring in Subic Bay on 1 February, Commander Naval Surface Group Western Pacific and staff personnel embarked onboard BLUE RIDGE to conduct a navigation check ride for which BLUE RIDGE received a grade of 96%, the highest grade recorded to date. Enroute to homeport, on 6 February, BLUE RIDGE performed a successful Med-Moor to Leyte Wharf in Subic Bay. On 11 February, BLUE RIDGE moored in Yokosuka, Japan. On 21 February, the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Richard Cheney, arrived onboard for flag level meetings with COMSEVENTHFLT.

On 25 February BLUE RIDGE deployed from homeport and set sail for Buckner Bay, Okinawa conducting ECC and general quarters drills enroute. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Buckner Bay for a brief stop on 28 February to embark Commander Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet and Commander Landing Force Seventh Fleet. BLUE RIDGE set sail on the evening of 28 February for Pohang, S. Korea in company with Task Group 700.3 and Task Force 760. On 3 March BLUE RIDGE moored in Pohang, S. Korea to conduct pre-exercise briefings. BLUE RIDGE got underway on 7 March enroute Tok Sok Ri for the start of Team Spirit '90. During Team Spirit '90, BLUE RIDGE conducted numerous ECC and general quarter drills along with refueling at sea with the USS Wabash and USNS Spica on 11 March and with USNS Ponchatoola on 20 March.

BLUE RIDGE concluded Team Spirit '90 on 21 March and headed south for Hong Kong, via the Formosa Straits. BLUE RIDGE moored to buoy A-50 in Hong Kong harbor on 25 March. While inport, a Fleet

Conference was held onboard the USS Midway. Upon completing a 5 day port visit, BLUE RIDGE set sail for Subic Bay, Philippines on 30 March arriving on 31 March. BLUE RIDGE set sail on 5 April and arrived in the Republic of Singapore on 10 April.

BLUE RIDGE departed Singapore on 15 April enroute to Australia for the Coral Sea Week Celebration. Receiving a hearty welcome, BLUE RIDGE moored in Fremantle, Perth on 21 April. During the stay in Fremantle, BLUE RIDGE held visit ship with several hundred visitors daily. BLUE RIDGE departed Fremantle on 24 April enroute to Hobart, Tasmania conducting ECC drills as she sailed easterly across the Southern Ocean. BLUE RIDGE moored in Hobart on 1 May. While in Hobart, BLUE RIDGE again had a visit ship and received thousands of visitors onboard. A reception for local dignitaries was held onboard BLUE RIDGE hosted by COMSEVENTHFLT. On 3 May, BLUE RIDGE departed Hobart enroute to Sydney, Australia conducting ECC and general quarter drills. BLUE RIDGE moored in Sydney harbor on 5 May. While inport, BLUE RIDGE MWR hosted an off ship enlisted men party. The party was a tremendous success and was proclaimed by many of the crew as the best ships party in their naval experience. Also during the port visit, COMSEVENTHFLT hosted a reception onboard with dignitaries from Canada, Belgium, Lebanon, Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany and the United States as well as the Commander of Australia Maritime Forces and various other local dignitaries in attendance. The HMAS Perth was host ship while inport and invited the BLUE RIDGE wardroom onboard for a luncheon with the officers of the HMAS Perth. General visiting was made available to the public daily with several thousand visitors receiving a tour of the ship. The Commanding Officer of BLUE RIDGE was involved in wreath laying ceremonies in Newcastle, and in Sydney to commemorate the loss of American and Australian sailors during the Battles of Coral Sea. On 9 May, BLUE RIDGE set sail enroute to Brisbane and arrived on the evening of 10 May. While inport Brisbane, COMSEVENTHFLT hosted a reception onboard with the Consuls from the United Kingdom and Italy and several hundred dignitaries and guests in attendance. On 14 May completing Coral Sea Week festivities, BLUE RIDGE set sail for Yokosuka, Japan.

While enroute Yokosuka, BLUE RIDGE embarked MTT phase III personnel and conducted daily ECC, general quarters and man overboard drills. On 25 May BLUE RIDGE arrived in Yokosuka receiving a warm welcome from family and friends. On 1 June, BLUE RIDGE set sail for a local oparea to conduct OPPE. After completing all requirements for OPPE and receiving a score of "above average" in all graded categories, BLUE RIDGE returned to Yokosuka on 3 June where she started SRA-18. During SRA-18, the entire Enlisted Dining Facility was completely renovated including the Enlisted Galley, providing the enlisted personnel with a mess deck that is modern and enjoyable to dine in. The Annual Sistership picnic for JDS Shirane and BLUE RIDGE families was held on 4 July in Yokosuka providing an intercultural experience for all involved.

On 11 July, BLUE RIDGE, in company with JDS Shirane, began the annual Sistership Cruise enroute to Otaru, Japan. While enroute, BLUE RIDGE and Shirane conducted tactical maneuvering exercises, manila highline transfer, communications training and daily personnel helicopter transfers. BLUE RIDGE along with the Shirane moored on 20 July in Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan. While inport, the officers of the BLUE RIDGE and the JDS Shirane were invited downtown for a reception hosted by the city of Otaru. BLUE RIDGE hosted a reception onboard in support of COMSEVENTHFLT, inviting local dignitaries and guests. On 23 July, BLUE RIDGE and Shirane set sail for Maizuru, Honshu, Japan, mooring on 25 July. Inport Maizuru, BLUE RIDGE hosted a reception onboard inviting numerous local dignitaries. Also while inport Maizuru, enlisted personnel were hosted to a Japanese style party and feast onboard the JDS Shirane which was one of many highlights during the port visit. The annual Sistership Cruise was an outstanding success and ended on 27 July when BLUE RIDGE and Shirane departed Maizuru. BLUE RIDGE set sail for Sasebo, Japan arriving on 28 July.

Departing Sasebo on 30 July, BLUE RIDGE set sail for Yokosuka arriving on 3 August for what was to be a brief upkeep in preparation for scheduled port visit to Vladivostok, USSR. The schedule was changed abruptly on 12 August when BLUE RIDGE received deployment orders to get underway when ready for sea in support of Operation Desert Shield. BLUE RIDGE sailors conducted a massive, round the clock, load out in preparation for the deployment. On 14 August BLUE RIDGE set sail for the Persian Gulf, arriving in Subic Bay, Philippines on 18 August for a brief stop to onload stores and complete some needed repairs. BLUE RIDGE departed Subic Bay on 20 August. While enroute to the Persian Gulf, BLUE RIDGE conducted extensive ECC, general quarters and CBR training in anticipation of potential hostilities with Iraq. On August 31, for the first time in her history, BLUE RIDGE entered the Persian Gulf and moored on 1 September in Manama, Bahrain, where she assumed duties as flagship for Commander, United States Naval Forces Central Command, with Vice Admiral Mauz commanding.

On 1 September, the USS Barbey, moored outboard the flagship. Upon Barbey's departure, BLUE RIDGE successfully supported numerous other naval units alongside. On 2 September, BLUE RIDGE was visited by various members of Congress representing various states. They included Don Murtha (D-PA), Norman Dicks (D-WA), Bill Hefner (D-NC), Les Aucoin (D-OR), Julian Dixon (D-CA), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Joe McDade (R-PA), Chance Miller (R-OH), Bill Young (R-FL), Bob Livingston (R-LA), Bill Lowery (R-CA). On 9 September, COMUSNAVCENT hosted a reception onboard BLUE RIDGE which included various military representatives from eleven allied naval forces, the ambassadors from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, France, United Kingdom, Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Commander for Bahrain Defense Forces, Charge d'Affaires for the Federal Republic of Germany and Sultan of Oman, consular general from Turkey, consular agents from Greece, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Norway. On 13 September,

General Colin Powell, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff arrived onboard. On 14 September, General Powell met with crew members and presented awards. Authorization to receive Imminent Danger Pay was implemented on 19 September. On 24 September, General Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, arrived onboard to address the crew. On 25 September a Special Assistant to Director and Joint Staff Assessment Team arrived onboard for flag level meetings with COMUSNAVCENT.

BLUE RIDGE set sail on 15 October for Dubai, United Arab Emirates, arriving on 16 October. During the port visit, the BLUE RIDGE wardroom was hosted by Mr. Y. Poupon, General Manager of the Dubai Inter-Continental Hotel, for a luncheon in the hotel. BLUE RIDGE departed Dubai on 21 October and returned to Manama, Bahrain on 22 October.

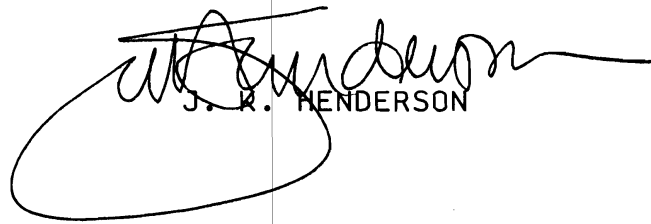
On 5 November the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Mr. Lawrence H. Garrett III, arrived onboard for flag level meetings with COMUSNAVCENT.

On 8 November, BLUE RIDGE set sail for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. While enroute to Abu Dhabi, BLUE RIDGE conducted an unrep with HMCS Protectuer. BLUE RIDGE moored in Abu Dhabi on 10 November. While inport Abu Dhabi BLUE RIDGE held a reception onboard hosted by COMUSNAVCENT. Attendess included ambassadors from: Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Egypt, Japan and the United States. Also in attendance were various military representatives from United Arab Emirates, France, Italy, United Kingdom and the United States. BLUE RIDGE departed Abu Dhabi on 13 November for Manama, Bahrain. While enroute to Bahrain, BLUE RIDGE rescued a sailor from the HMS Cattistock, who had fallen overboard approximately 22 hours prior to recovery. The man was in good health and joked about BLUE RIDGE not having any beer onboard. BLUE RIDGE moored in Manama, Bahrain on 14 November.

On 15 November the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral C. Trost, arrived onboard for flag level meetings with COMUSNAVCENT. On 16 November, prior to departing, the CNO addressed the crew of BLUE RIDGE. On 22 November, Thanksgiving Day, an entertainment troupe led by Marie Osmond visited the crew and dined in the wardroom. On 23 November, BLUE RIDGE hosted the American television program "Good Morning America" onboard with personnel from all ships present in Bahrain participating. On 25 November, comedian Jay Leno and wife crossed over to the USS Iwo Jima for an all hands show. Both "Good Morning America" and the Jay Leno show were positive moral boosters and the crew enjoyed themselves. On 1 December, Vice Admiral S.R. Arthur relieved Vice Admiral H. Mauz as Commander United States Naval Forces Central Command, during a change of command ceremony onboard BLUE RIDGE. General H. Norman Schwartzkopf, USA, Commander-in-Chief Central Command was guest

speaker. On 13 December Senators Ted Stevens (D-AK) and Daniel Inouye (D-HI) arrived onbaord for discussions with VADM Arthur and to address the crew.

On 29 December, BLUE RIDGE departed Manama, Bahrain enroute to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Mooring on 30 December, BLUE RIDGE crew members celebrated the new year inport Dubai.



J. R. HENDERSON