



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

Rec'd 7/31/96

IN REPLY REFER TO

5750

Ser 30/695

125 JUN 1996

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 5740-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

1994

Encl: (1) Portrait of Captain E. H. Joy II, USN  
(2) Official biography of Captain E. H. Joy II, USN  
(3) COMSEVENTHFLT Change of Command Brochure, 28 July  
1994  
(4) Copies of Family Ties for Calendar Year 1994  
(5) Chronological List of Significant Events, Calendar  
Year 1994

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command history for  
1 January 1994 through 31 December 1994 is submitted:

a. Command Organization: USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) Commanding  
Officer: Captain E. H. Joy II from 4 September 1993 to present.

b. The mission of USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) is to support the  
staff of Commander SEVENTH Fleet. One specific support mission  
is to "show the flag" in ports of the SEVENTH Fleet Area of  
Responsibility. Additionally, the SEVENTH Fleet flagship is  
designed to serve many purposes, depending on the crises.  
Specifically, it is designed to be the flagship for C7F as a  
CJTF or CCNCC, to accommodate JFACC Afloat, to serve as a SACC for  
a MEF size landing, and to be a combined operations center.

c. Summary of Operations: USS BLUE RIDGE commenced 1994  
pierside in Yokosuka, Japan. The new year kicked off with the  
traditional poetic midwatch entry and blowing of the ship's  
whistle.

On January 7, BLUE RIDGE set sail for a brief visit  
to Beppu, Japan. BLUE RIDGE arrived in Beppu on January 10th.  
While in port the crew enjoyed the local hot springs and scenery  
that has made Beppu famous. On January 13, BLUE RIDGE left  
Beppu, Japan to head back to her homeport Yokosuka, Japan.  
During the underway period BLUE RIDGE conducted ECC drills and  
General Quarters. Upon arrival on January 15, the crew began  
making preparations for Selected Restricted Availability (SRA)  
24 that officially commenced on January 17. January 24-28, BLUE  
RIDGE successfully supported and completed exercise TEMPEST  
EXPRESS. For the remainder of the month, BLUE RIDGE participated  
in exercise KEEN EDGE from January 26 through February 4.  
Throughout the month of January BLUE RIDGE was visited by  
CINCSDFFLT, JMSDF and 43rd Refueling Squadron.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST REPORT 5740-1)

February and March were months of great accomplishment as SRA 24 continued in high speed. Several crew members took advantage of the inport period to take leave and attend Navy schools at Afloat Training Group (ATG) Western Pacific and other locations. Both BLUE RIDGE and Ships Repair Facility (SRF) continued to make work progress well ahead of schedule. BLUE RIDGE also continued all aspects of professional, damage control and physical training. The Damage Control Training Team began its comprehensive training cycle to prepare for Operational Propulsion Plant Examination by holding inport General Quarters drills. On March 30, BLUE RIDGE was visited by COMNAVFORJAPAN, JMSDF, COMDESRON FIFTEEN, MSC Far East, EODMU FIVE and NAVSPECWARUNIT ONE.

Exercise TEMPO BRAVE began April 6, two days before the end of Selected Restricted Availability 24. On April 11, BLUE RIDGE departed Yokosuka for Apra Harbor, Guam. Upon arrival in Guam, the Command Assessment of Readiness for Training team from ATG Westpac set up shop prior to commencement of CART II on April 20. Exercise TEMPO BRAVE was completed April 21, then BLUE RIDGE set sail for Okinawa, Japan with the CART team. CART II went well and was completed a day prior to BLUE RIDGE's arrival in Okinawa on April 26. In Okinawa, the BLUE RIDGE Community Relations (COMREL) Project Team painted orphanages and handed out reading material to the delight of many children. The month of April saw visits to C7F by SOCPAC, MURAKUMO, Kure District, SUBFORSEVENTHFT, Air Command Australia, Strike Reconnaissance Group Australia, 13th Air Wing, EIGHT TWO Wing, FOUR ONE Wing, NAVSTA GUAM, ATG WESTPAC, NAVSPECWARUNIT ONE, Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet, III MEF, 3rd MARDIV, 1st MAW, 3rd FSSG, LOG WEST PAC, NAVFORKOREA, NAVMARIANAS, SUBFORSEVENTHFLT, FAIRWESTPAC and Patrol and Reconnaissance Force SEVENTH Fleet.

On May 2, BLUE RIDGE departed Okinawa, Japan for homeport Yokosuka, Japan. While in transit, BLUE RIDGE conducted daily training in preparation for Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) phase I. TSTA I included harbor and navigation exercises, chemical and radiological self defense, and mainspace fire and ECC drills. On May 6, BLUE RIDGE returned to port for upkeep and inport training through May 17. On May 18, representatives from ATG WESTPAC embarked and commenced the assessment of BLUE RIDGE's ability to train. On May 25, BLUE RIDGE was assessed by ATG as being fully ready to begin TSTA Phase I, May 26-31 was spent acting on what had been learned during TSTA I. On May 16 COMSEVENTHFLT was visited by CINCSDFFLT Japan, Fleet Escort Force Japan, Fleet Submarine Force Japan, Fleet Air Force Japan, Fleet Training and Development Japan, NAVFORJAPAN, Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet, NCTAMS Westpac and NCTS Japan.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST REPORT 57-40-1)

The month of June continued the intensive training cycle, through the 17th when ATG WESTPAC embarked for TSTA II. After ATG embarked, TSTA II began and BLUE RIDGE cast off all lines, enroute to Hong Kong. ATG was impressed with progress that was made.

Beyond what was expected in the short time since TSTA I, halfway through TSTA II, June 23, BLUE RIDGE stopped in Hong Kong for a port visit. On June 26, TSTA II continued at sea as BLUE RIDGE was returning from Hong Kong enroute to Yokosuka.

On July 1, BLUE RIDGE completed TSTA II and pulled in to Yokosuka, Japan. From July 6-9, ATG WESTPAC conducted CART II. As expected, CART II was a success for BLUE RIDGE. Continuous validation, review and improvement kept BLUE RIDGE from dropping out of the training mode. Upkeep and training in all areas continued throughout the month. The new PT on the Pier program continued three mornings a week and showed positive results on a day to day basis.

Preparation began early in the month of July for the COMSEVENTHFLT change of command. On July 28, the COMSEVENTHFLT change of command ceremony took place on the main deck. Vice Admiral Timothy W. Wright completed his tour and Vice Admiral Archie R. Clemens assumed command. This event was attended by PACFLT, JSDF Joint Staff Council, MSDF Japan, CINCSDF Japan, Yokosuka District Japan, Fleet Escort Force Japan, NAVSURFPAC, NAVFORJAPAN, NAVAIRPAC, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force SEVENTH Fleet, Fair West Pac, HELTACWINGPAC and NAF Atsugi.

On August 3rd, BLUE RIDGE got underway for sea trials until August 5th. On August 6, BLUE RIDGE set sail for one day for a Family Day Cruise in Tokyo Wan. On August 17, BLUE RIDGE deployed for a two day transit to Chinhae, Republic of Korea to begin joint/multi-national exercises and ULCHI FOCUS LENS. ULCHI FOCUS LENS (UFL) kicked off on August 22nd and finished on September 3rd. Throughout the month of August and exercise UFL, BLUE RIDGE was visited by PACFLT, US Forces, Japan, US Ambassador, NAVFORJAPAN, US Navy, Task Group 70.4, CINCROKFLT, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet, Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet, LOGWESTPAC, Amphibious Force SEVENTH Fleet, NAVFORKOREA, MINEWARCOM, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force SEVENTHFLT, 1st ROK MARDIV, ROK Army, NAVSPECWARGRU One, ROK Naval Academy, ROK Navy, ROK Flotilla SEVEN, and ROK Flotilla EIGHT.

The beginning of the month of September brought BLUE RIDGE a 3M Assist visit on the 4th and back in Yokosuka on the 9th. The 3M Assist was completed with success on the 14th. For the rest of September, the crew continued with upkeep and training while spending time with their families. September saw the visits of Staff Japanese Self Defense Force and AIRPAC.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAVINST REPORT 5740-1)

On October 5th, BLUE RIDGE set sail for yet another sea trial to return on the 7th. COMPHIBGRU ONE rode with BLUE RIDGE enroute to Okinawa, Japan to conduct a Navigation Check Ride 10-11. After a brief stop in Okinawa, Japan, BLUE RIDGE continued to Sembawang, Singapore. BLUE RIDGE enjoyed liberty and upkeep prior to OPPE from the 21-28 inport Sembawang, Singapore. On the 29th, BLUE RIDGE departed Singapore to head up to Okinawa, Japan to pick up the Propulsion Examining Board. The Singapore portcall brought the visit of U.S. Ambassador Singapore.

On November 4, BLUE RIDGE arrived and departed Okinawa, Japan and commenced OPPE. Throughout 5-6 November, the BLUE RIDGE crew performed deftly in order to successfully complete OPPE. Upon arrival in Yokosuka on November 7, BLUE RIDGE began the on-going task of training and upkeep. On November 14, the Logistic Management Assessment commenced. On the 17th, BLUE RIDGE Inport Emergency Team successfully combatted an actual Class B fire in the paint locker. On November 27, BLUE RIDGE departed Yokosuka, heading for Apra Harbor, Guam, and commenced exercise TANDEM THRUST. BLUE RIDGE was able to conduct valuable training for ECC Drills, man overboards, abandon ship drills, General Quarters and an underway replenishment. On November 11, COMSEVENTHFLT was visited by Submarine Force SEVENTH Fleet, COMNAVFORJAPAN and the Under Secretary of Defense Policy. On 16-17, BLUE RIDGE was visited by Carrier Group ONE, Submarine Force SEVENTH Fleet, NAVFORKOREA, LOG WESTPAC, Staff Maritime Command Australia, Staff Patrol and Reconnaissance SEVENTH Fleet, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet, Battle Force SEVENTH Fleet, NAVMARIANAS, Self Defense Fleet Japan, ROK Fleet, NAVFORKOREA, NAVFORJAPAN, Task Group SEVEN ZERO POINT FOUR, 1st Brigade 6th Infantry Division and 13th Air Force.

After several days of drills while underway, BLUE RIDGE arrived in Guam on December 7 and completed exercise TANDEM THRUST. On the 8th, BLUE RIDGE set sail for home and arrived in Yokosuka on the 12th. BLUE RIDGE remained inport for the rest of December to enjoy the holiday season. The month of December saw the visits of SPECWARGRUONE, SEAL TEAM FIVE, SAU TEAM ONE, PACFLT ILO, CARGRU ONE, COM MAE, NAV MARIANAS, Landing Force SEVENTH Fleet, SOC PAC, 13th Air Force, Task Group SEVEN ZERO POINT FOUR, and DESRON SEVENTEEN.

  
P. LABRECQUE

Chronological List of Significant Events, Calendar Year 1994

- 1 - 6 January - Upkeep and Inport training, Yokosuka, Japan
- 7 - 9 January - Underway for Training, enroute to Beppu, Japan.
- 10 - 12 January - Visit Beppu, Japan.
- 13 - 14 January - Underway for Training, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 15 - 16 January - Upkeep and Inport Training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 17 January - Began Ship's Restricted Availability 24.
- 24 - 28 January - Tempest Express Exercise.
- 26 January - Began Exercise Keen Edge-94.
- 4 February - Completed Exercise Keen Edge-94.
- 6 April - Began Exercise Tempo Brave-94.
- 8 April - Completed Ship's Restricted Availability 24.
- 9 - 10 April - Upkeep and Inport training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 11 - 17 April - Underway for training, enroute to Guam.
- 18 - 21 April - Upkeep and inport training, Apra Harbor, Guam
- 20 April - Began Command Assessment of Readiness for Training, Level II.
- 21 April - Completed Exercise Tempo Brave-94.
- 22 - 25 April - Underway for Training, enroute to Okinawa, Japan.
- 25 April - Completed CART II.
- 26 April - Began Upkeep and Inport Training, Okinawa, Japan.
- 2 - 5 May - Underway for Training, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 6 - 17 May - Upkeep and Inport training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 18 - 25 May - Underway for Tailored Ship's Availability (TSTA), Phase 1.
- 25 May - Completed TSTA 1.
- 26 May - Began Upkeep and Inport training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 17 - 22 June - Underway for TSTA 2, enroute to Hong Kong.
- 23 - 26 June - Visit Hong Kong
- 27 June - Underway for TSTA 2, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 1 July - Completed TSTA 2.
- 2 - 26 July - Upkeep and Inport Training , Yokosuka, Japan.
- 6 July - Began CART II.
- 9 July - Completed CART II.
- 28 July - COMSEVENTHFLT Change of Command, Onboard.
- 3 - 5 August - Underway for Training.
- 6 August - Underway for Tokyo Wan Family Day Cruise.
- 7 - 16 August - Upkeep and Inport, Yokosuka, Japan.

### Chronological Events (con.)

- 17 - 19 August - Underway for Training, enroute to Chinhae, ROK.
- 20 August - Upkeep and Inport Training, Chinhae, ROK.
- 22 August - Began Joint/Muti-National Forces Exercises Ulchi Focus Lens-94.
- 3 September - Completed Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens-94
- 4 - 8 September - Underway for training, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 4 September - Began 3M Assist Visit.
- 9 September - Upkeep and Inport Training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 4 October - Completed Upkeep Yokosuka, Japan.
- 5 - 7 October - Conducted Underway sea trials.
- 8 - 10 October - Upkeep and Inport training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 10 - 11 October - PHIBGRU ONE conducted Navigation Check Ride.
- 11 - 15 October - Enroute to Okinawa, Japan.
- 15 - 22 October - Enroute to Sembawang, Singapore.
- 21 - 28 October - Upkeep Sembawang, Singapore.
- 29 October - Enroute to Okinawa, Japan.
- 4 November - Arrive Okinawa, Japan, commenced OPPE and departed Okinawa, Japan.
- 5 - 6 November - Enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 7 November - Arrived Yokosuka, Japan.
- 8 - 26 November - Upkeep and inport training, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 14 November - Commenced LMA exam.
- 27 November - Commenced Exercise TANDEM THRUST-94. Underway for Guam.
- 7 December - Inport Guam. Completed Exercise TANDEM THRUST- 94.
- 8 - 12 December - Underway, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
- 12 - 31 December - Upkeep and Inport Training, Yokosuka, Japan.