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BRIGHT PENNY

July - September 2021

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15)

Reunion Time - October 14-17, 2021

Director's Update



Summer has arrived, and we are now able to return to more normal lives, visit with family and friends, and travel! Our Portland reunion this October will provide a perfect opportunity to travel to picturesque southern Maine and visit with former shipmates. The Portland reunion will take place October 14-17, at the Best Western Merry Manor Inn, and we hope to see you there! Reunion information is available at the web site and in this newsletter.

The 2021 USS Berkeley master roster was sent out in early May to 2021 association members. If you did not receive your copy, please call or text Al Meier at (408) 656-3879. Also, please review your personal listing to ensure all of the information is correct. Many email addresses and telephone numbers change frequently, and we do not list them on the website's roster. If your's has changed and to ensure the correct one is on file, please submit an update on the "Quarterdeck" page on the website.

A long-time association goal has been to add additional interesting and informative articles to the quarterly Bright Penny newsletters. We began a series of "The Year In Review - 19XX" articles in the January 2021 newsletter, and it certainly would be great if

we could resume the "In the Spotlight" series which featured former shipmates again soon. These articles told us about their time in the Navy, and some highlights of their lives after the Navy. We ran out of volunteers a few years ago, but we're sure there are some good candidates we can feature going forward. If you are willing to provide an article and Navy photo, please contact Al Meier at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com.

The Year In Review - 1966

The Command History Report for 1965 is missing from our files, and so we will proceed to the 1966 year in review.

The new year found the Berkeley assigned to the northern SAR station in the Gulf of Tonkin. COMDESRON 13 was embarked as OTC. This first patrol was relatively quiet since it occurred during the Christmas-New Year pause in air operations against North Vietnam. On January 31st, the Berkeley was relieved by the USS Waddell (DDG-24), and proceeded to Sasebo, Japan for upkeep and liberty.

On February 14th, the ship departed for Hong Kong, with a brief stop at Buckner Bay, Okinawa along the way. On February 24th, the Berkeley departed for the Gulf of Tonkin and her second assignment to the north-

ern SAR station. She relieved the USS Strauss (DDG-16) on station on February 26th.

On March 14th, an F4C crew ditched in the Gulf between Hon Me Island and the North Vietnam coast; Berkeley was presented with her first operational SAR problem. Enroute to the scene at maximum speed, the ship, under the direction of COMDESRON 13, began diverting rescue and protection vehicles to the scene. The subsequent loss of one of those vehicles, an Air Force HU-16 Albatross, to enemy ground fire added six more to be rescued and thus severely complicated the rescue effort. Upon Berkeley's arrival on the scene, rescue helicopters had successfully evacuated six aviators, but she and the USS Isbell (DD-869) immediately maneuvered to suppress enemy small arms fire in an attempt to pick up the remaining two. The fact that these two had died in the Albatross was shortly verified by the rescued survivors, but in the meantime, shore batteries (estimated as 75 millimeter) had opened fire on the two ships. Immediate counter-battery fire from the Berkeley silenced the enemy batteries in approximately 20 minutes, and the ship's damage was minimal and she resumed her normal station.

The USS Coontz (DLG-9) relieved
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USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

5052 Mertola Drive
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
408-656-3879



E Mail: ddg15@ussberkeley.com

Website: www.USSBerkeley.com

Annual Dues: \$40.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Francis Almeida

Southeast: Francis Sholly

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Vacant

Northwest: Vacant

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Ship's Store Mgr.: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor & Publisher: Al Meier

Webmaster: Gerald Hansen

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Agent Orange Update

In June, the VA announced two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia. The VA will begin implementing provisions of the "William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021", adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents (a.k.a. Agent Orange). The added conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism.

The VA will apply the provisions to court orders related to "Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs", which may result in an earlier date of entitlement to benefits for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

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ed Berkeley on April 1st, and the ship proceeded to Qui Nhon, RVN for shore bombardment assignment. Following a briefing on current troop operations, the ship was deployed just north of Qui Nhon so as to cover a suspected Vietcong rest camp and to be in position to interdict expected small craft supply convoys from the north. The ship answered call fire missions for ground and air-borne spotters in support of friendly troops in the area from April 2-7.

The ship departed for Subic Bay on April 8th where she spent nine days on upkeep in preparation for the Coral Sea Celebration. That cruise began on April 17th from Subic Bay, and on April 21st at 2300, the Berkeley crossed the equator. All polywogs were properly indoctrinated in the significance of the crossing.

Passing the inside of the Great Barrier Reef, the ship entered Sydney Harbor on April 29th. During the five day stay, seven thousand people toured the ship, and crew members were honored at social gatherings of various sizes.

On May 3rd, the ship departed Sydney for Adelaide, and moored at Port Adelaide on May 6th. Activities paralleled those in Sydney, but the enthusiasm of the local residents was even greater as more than ten thousand people visited the ship over four days. Berkeley left Adelaide on May 11th, and headed to Hobart, Tasmania. The ship arrived at Hobart on May 13th, and remained there for three days, departing for Auckland, New Zealand on May 16th. Berkeley moored at Queen's Wharf, Auckland on May 18th where she remained for five

days. On May 22nd, the ship departed Auckland for Suva, Fiji Islands, on the first leg of the trip back to Long Beach. The stop at Suva on May 24th was primarily for fuel. The ship departed on May 25th, and moored at Pearl Harbor on May 31st. After fueling, the ship was underway for Long Beach on June 1st. On June 6th, Berkeley moored at pier 16, Long Beach Naval Station, having been deployed for 201 days.

Subsequent to a leave and upkeep period, the ship entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a restricted availability on July 19th. This availability was incident to Berkeley's new assignment to CNO project DS-368 for ship-board evaluation of the project's newly developed Standard Missile Systems. The ship received component modification and new components to make its present system compatible for the testing and evaluation of the standard missile. On August 25th, the ship left the shipyard. Again underway on August 29th, she transited to San Francisco where she remained at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard from September 2nd to 6th. At that time the ship was again underway in company with the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) for carrier operations and transit back to Long Beach by September 10th. On September 12th, Berkeley commenced her test phase of the DS-368; during this period, she was underway for the most part each Monday morning and returned to Long Beach on Friday. The testing consisted of firings against standard air targets, low-evaluation targets, and surface targets. In all, thirteen missiles were fired during this phase which terminated on Dec-

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Ship's History: July 2021**50 Years Ago, 1971**

- 01 Inport Hong Kong
- 02 Enroute Yankee Station
- 03 Fuel stop, Subic Bay
- 03-05 Enroute Tonkin Gulf
- 05-10 NSAR Commander
- 11-14 Type Training
- 14-15 PIRAZ escort
- 15-17 NSAR Commander
- 18 Enroute Penang, Malaysia
- 19 Fuel stop, Subic Bay
- 19-22 Enroute Penang, Malaysia
- 22 Crossed the equator
- 23-26 Inport Penang, Malaysia
- 27 Enroute Singapore
- 28-31 Upkeep Singapore

40 Years Ago, 1981

- 01-04 OPS Indian Ocean with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group
- 04 Participated in Indian Ocean Weapons Week
- 05-17 OPS Indian Ocean with USS Kitty Hawk/enroute Australia
- 17-23 Inport Geraldton, Australia
- 24-26 Underway OPS with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group/enroute Singapore
- 27-30 Detached from USS Kitty Hawk /enroute Singapore
- 31 Inport Singapore, fuel stop, enroute Subic Bay

30 Years Ago, 1991

- 01 Inport San Diego
- 02 U/W SOCAL Op Area
- 03-04 Inport San Diego
- 05 Change of Command, CDR R.R. Peterman relieved by CDR F.J. Mallgrave III
- 06-07 Inport San Diego
- 08-18 Underway Eastern Pacific, Law Enforcement Ops
- 19-21 Inport San Diego
- 22-26 Inport San Diego, ISIC Command Inspection
- 27-31 Inport San Diego

20 Years Ago, 2001

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece as the H.S. Themistokles

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ember 15th. At that time the ship entered the shipyard for de-instrumentation and removal of the DS-368 installations. She remained there for the remainder of the year while preparing for the upcoming fleet exercise, Operation Snatchblock.

Portland Reunion Info

Our host hotel is the Best Western Merry Manor Inn located at 700 Main Street, South Portland, ME 04106. The reservation phone number is (207) 774-6151, and be sure to tell them you are with the USS Berkeley Association for your reunion rate of \$119 single/double plus tax. Included with your room reservation is a free full buffet breakfast served in our hospitality room each morning. The nearest airport is the Portland Jetport, and transportation from and to the Jetport is free compliments of the hotel. Simply ask your taxi driver for a receipt and present it to the desk when checking in. Call the desk at least an hour before checkout, and the hotel will prepay your return trip to the Jetport.

Our events will begin Thursday evening at 7 PM with a free one-hour reception compliments of the hotel. The Bull Session will begin in our hospitality room immediately following the reception, and will end at 11 PM. This is a popular event for all! We have a "Maine Maritime Museum and LL Bean Tour" scheduled for Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM at a cost of \$55 per person including transportation. Our Welcome Reception is Friday evening from 6 to 8:30 PM, and Hors D'oeuvres will be served. Our

Business Meeting will be on Saturday morning from 8 to 9:30 AM. The Ladies Tea will take place 1 to 3 PM Saturday afternoon. The Banquet is Saturday evening from 6 to 11 PM preceded by the cocktail hour which begins at 5 PM. Dinner will begin at approximately 6:15 PM. We will have a farewell breakfast Sunday morning from 6:30 to 9 AM.

You can contact Al Meier at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com with questions or for additional information.

Willie Bullock Obit

Willie A. Bullock, known to his friends as "Captain Willie", passed away on November 4, 2020 at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife Eleanora, daughter Darlene Bullock, three stepsons, 16 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

Master Chief Bullock served aboard the Berkeley from 1965 to 1967. He served aboard many ships including the USS Hampton (CC-1) where he met and spoke with President John F. Kennedy. The Berkeley was the best and most rewarding tour of duty of his naval career. While on the Berkeley, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his performance in controlling and coordinating aircraft during the "Hon Me" SAR mission in March 1966.

After retiring, Chief Bullock moved his family to Port Sulphur, LA where they had always planned to retire. However, his love of the sea once again called to him. Starting almost at the bottom again as an able-bodied seaman in the merchant

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Veterans and their survivors who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. The VA will send letters to impacted veterans and survivors.

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rule making, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on the VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence. The VA's review supports initiation of rule making to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for veterans who served in Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

The VA is initiating rule making to consider adding respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis, to the list of chronic disabilities based on association with military service in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict. The VA will conduct a broad outreach effort to reach impacted veterans.

For more information visit the website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health](#)

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marines, he soon got his ocean master license and worked for eight years as a Captain on offshore supply ships in the Gulf of Mexico. After leaving that job, he went into the commercial fishing business.

Biggest Navy Exercise In A Generation

Tens of thousands of sailors and marines will participate in the biggest U.S. naval exercise in a generation to test how the services will fight across vast distances as they prepare for possible conflict with China or Russia.

Aircraft carriers, submarines, planes, unmanned vessels, and about 25,000 personnel will participate in Large Scale Exercise 2021, which will begin in late summer. The exercise will span 17 time zones with sailors and marines in the U.S., Africa, Europe, and the Pacific joining. Live forces will participate in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans "LSE is more than just training, it is leveraging the integrated fighting power of multiple naval forces to share sensors, weapons, and platforms across all domains in contested environments globally," said Adm. Christopher Grady, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces. The exercise, he added, will be the first in a series "that will continue to push the envelope of what it means to be a superior maritime force."

The Navy and Marine Corps are working more closely after decades of missions focused on the Middle East. As competition for influence builds with China and Russia, the Department of the

Navy is shifting its focus from a largely land-based fight against terror groups to deterring aggression.

Three dozen units will participate in physical portions of the large-scale exercise, while more than 50 will join the exercise remotely. Participating units will include personnel from all three Marine expeditionary forces and sailors from the Navy's Second, Third, Seventh and Tenth fleets.

While the U.S. has held big naval exercises like Bold Alligator and Rim of the Pacific, the training events are growing in scope and complexity. The upcoming exercise is the biggest naval training event in a generation. That is because combining live and virtual participants will expand the playing field beyond what has ever been achieved in live-only exercises.

LSE 2021 will use technologies similar to what you see in virtual video gaming environments to expand the number of participants by linking commands and units around the world virtually, thereby increasing the number of players to better replicate the realistic scale of scenarios the Navy and Marine Corps team is likely to face in the future.

Sailors and marines participating will test several concepts they are likely to encounter in a possible conflict with China. Scenarios will test the sailors and marines' ability to conduct distributed operations; expeditionary advanced-base operations; littoral operations in a contested environment; and command and control in a contested environment.

Information for article found at www.military.com