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BRIGHT PENNY

April - June 2022

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

It's Corpus Christi for the 2023 Reunion!

Director's Update

As the covid-19 pandemic appears to be subsiding in the U.S., world tensions have ratcheted up with Russia's invasion of the Ukraine. We can only hope peace is soon restored and 2022 can be viewed as an improvement over the past two years.

Now for a bit of good news, our 2023 reunion city has been selected thanks to a good turnout at the poll. Corpus Christi, Texas has been selected, and reunion planning will commence in the next few weeks. We intend to announce the host hotel and reunion dates in the July 2022 newsletter.

The 2022 USS Berkeley master roster will be sent to 2022 paid association members in the early May time frame. If you have not yet paid 2022 dues, it's not too late. Simply send a check or money order for \$40 made out to the USS Berkeley Association to the following address:

USS Berkeley Association
c/o Gerry Hansen
6318 S. 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

We also encourage you to update your contact information if it has changed in the past year or two.

An ongoing association goal has been to get more active members from the 1980's and early 1990's crews. We had a few more in attendance at our Portland reunion, and hope to see more of our former 80's and 90's shipmates at the Corpus Christi reunion next year.



The Year In Review - 1969

Through 1969 the USS Berkeley was administratively assigned to Destroyer Division 192, a division of Destroyer Squadron Nineteen, attached to Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Seven. From January 1st until March 27th, Berkeley was under the operational control of Commander First Fleet. During the period from March 27th through October 26th while the Berkeley was in the Long Beach Naval shipyard for overhaul, operational control was exercised by Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. From October 27th until December 10th, Commander Training Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet operationally controlled Berkeley for Refresher Training. Commander First Fleet then reassumed operational control through the end of the year.

Berkeley spent the first seven months of the year under the leadership of her Captain, Commander Thomas M. Ward, Jr., who was succeeded by Commander John F. Frost, III. As of December 31st there were 275 enlisted and 19 officers assigned, plus the embarked staff of 5 officers and 4 enlisted personnel.

Berkeley started the year in Long Beach, her assigned home port, during a period of regular upkeep and holiday leave for a deserving crew. By the end of the month, it was underway and out to sea again enroute to the Southern California Operations Area for four days of anti-submarine warfare exercises. After returning to Long Beach

for the first part of February, Berkeley again departed to the SOCAL Ops Area for several days of plane guard duty with the aircraft carriers of the Pacific Fleet.

On February 22nd, an annual dependents' cruise was conducted. The day at sea was highly successful at bringing the Navy closer to the dependents of the Berkeley sailors.

The final day of February was spent on the Pacific Missile Range for annual missile firing exercises. Berkeley turned in an excellent performance with an undisputed success on the first shot with a faulty missile preventing a clean sweep on the second launch.

Final stages of preparation for an extended yard period began in March as the ship transitted to Seal Beach in order to offload the remaining ammunition before commencing Regular Overhaul. The exhilarating events of the previous year faded quickly into the challenging, hardworking routine typical of an extended shipyard period. For all of April, May, and June Berkeley was a captive of the industrial might of the Navy as old equipment were removed or modified; new more modern systems installed; and a general rehabilitation of all spaces undertaken to keep Berkeley technologically equal to the modern ships of the fleet. On July 24th, fires were lighted under 1A and 2B boilers and Berkeley sailed into international waters for the first time in almost five

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Ship's History April

50 Years Ago, 1972

- 01 - 09 Inport Long Beach
- 10 - 15 Enroute Pearl Harbor
- 16 Inport Pearl Harbor - fuel stop
- 17 - 24 Enroute Guam
- 23 In chop 7th Fleet
- 25 Inport Guam - fuel stop
- 26 - 28 Enroute Subic Bay
- 29 - 30 Inport Subic Bay

40 Years Ago, 1982

- 01 - 26 Regular Overhaul
- 27 - 30 Dry Dock NR 2 Long Beach Naval Shipyard

30 Years Ago, 1992

- 01 - 30 Preparing ship for turnover to the Hellenic Navy of Greece

20 Years Ago, 2002

The Hellenic Navy of Greece decommissioned the H.S. Themistokles in February 2002

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months for a day of sea trials.

On August 4th, Commander John F. Frost, III assumed command of the newly overhauled Berkeley and inherited responsibility of her re-molding the ship and its crew into an effective fighting unit. With the exception of another two days of sea trials on the 13th and 26th, the rest of the month was spent in Long Beach.

On September 26th, after a complete weapons load at Seal Beach, Berkeley was underway to the Socal Op Area for Ship's Qualification Trials (SQT). During this period the newly installed Standard Missile System was tested with a series of missile firings on the Pacific Missile Range. The targets ranged from high speed aircraft to surface ships simulating enemy missile launching patrol craft.

Berkeley returned to Long Beach on October 18th to begin preparations for the next phase of the road back to operational readiness, Refresher Training (REFTRA). On October 24th, Berkeley transited to San Diego and on the 27th, changed operational control to COMTRAPAC for the period of REFTRA.

REFTRA was an exhausting, demanding period dedicated to tempering the ship and crew to the keen edge of readiness requisite for joining the battle in the Western reaches of the Pacific. The time was fraught with long hours, little sleep and sometimes short tempers, but on December 10th, Berkeley completed training.

From December 13th until the close of the year, the crew of the Berkeley enjoyed a well-earned holiday leave period in Long Beach.

2022 U.S. Defense/Navy Budget

Congress passed a budget just in time to avoid the previous continuing resolution deadline of March 11th. After some disagreements, the omnibus bill passed both chambers and

was headed to President Biden for signature. The Defense Topline is approximately \$782 billion (this is defense and intelligence) with about \$728.32 billion for defense alone. \$26.7 billion is for 13 battle force ships including the following:

- 2 Virginia class submarines
- 2 Arleigh Burke destroyers
- 1 Constellation class frigate
- 1 Expeditionary Sea Base
- 2 Expeditionary Fast Transports, including one medical variant
- 2 TAO fleet oilers
- 2 T-ATS fleet tugs
- 1 T-AGOS surveillance ship

Another \$564 million for the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan.

On the air side: 37 F-35 Lightning II strike fighters for the Navy and Marine Corps, as well as 12 FA-18 Super Hornet strike fighters.

The Navy wants to scrap 24 ships this coming year as part of its latest budget proposal, a move designed to give military planners enough money to modernize the rest of the fleet. The sea service explained that its ongoing commitment to both the Ford-class aircraft carriers and the upcoming Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine created a "pressurization", forcing the Navy to decommission the large number of ships. Under the new budget, the Navy is prohibited from decommissioning more than 5 Ticonderoga-class cruisers; the Navy planned to decommission the whole class.

Basically, an important point is that the Navy is underfunded in almost every area; they plan to decommission more ships than are being built.

Input for this article provided by Bill Fogerty, Ret. USN Captain and military.com

2022 Master Roster Updates

The 2022 USS Berkeley master roster is being updated and will be distributed to 2022 active members in early May. Please ensure you have updated any changes to your info.