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BRIGHT PENNY

October - December 2023

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

Another Enjoyable Reunion!

Director's Update



Our September 13-17 reunion in Corpus Christi provided us another opportunity to reunite with our Berkeley shipmates and enjoy a good time and rekindle sea stories! A total of sixty, shipmates and their guests, were in attendance. Unfortunately, seven people who were registered to attend had last minute cancellations and we hope they are doing well.

At our biennial business meeting, Tim Soule became the association's new Assistant Director and Elray Boudreaux volunteered to become a member of the Advisory Staff. We also nominated four cities to become the next host city for our 2025 reunion in the Northwest sector. The cities nominated are Jackson Hole, WY; Bremerton, WA; Missoula, MT; and Boise, ID. Voting for the 2025 host city will commence by December 1st and will conclude on February 29, 2024. You may vote for a 1st and second choice city, but please do not forget to include your name and only submit one ballot. Voting will be available on our web site.

We were really pleased to see a significant increase in association membership and attendance at the Corpus Christi reunion by the 1980s crew members. Sadly, we have lost many of our plank owners and sixties crew members and the seventies and eighties crew members are the future of the association. I announced at the business meeting that the 2025

reunion will be my last as the association's Director and we will welcome the next Director at the 2025 business meeting.

We were experiencing problems with the association's web site over the past couple of months. The problem arose after a recent software update and some new plugins (or drivers) needed to be purchased to restore the web site to its normal state. This issue reinforced the need to document the association's procedures relating to the web site, publishing of the Bright Penny newsletter, maintaining an accurate master roster, etc. Our association's goals for 2023/2024, as discussed at our recent business meeting, include documenting all our procedures and ensuring that this information is in the possession of at least two association officers.

The Year In Review - 1975

The first day of 1975 found Berkeley making final preparations for leaving Subic Bay Naval Base, Philippines under the command of Captain Jonathan T. Howe, USN. On January 6th, Captain Richard B. MacFie, Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, relieved CAPT Howe as Commanding Officer. For the duration of the month, CAPT MacFie served as Commanding Officer for the Berkeley as well as Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen.

Berkeley left Subic Bay on January 8th enroute to San Diego. Outchopping from the Seventh Fleet on January 18th, Berkeley arrived in her home

port of San Diego on January 28th, ending a 7 1/2 month WESTPAC deployment.

On January 31st, Berkeley witnessed a second change of command when Commander Clifford F. Homan relieved CAPT MacFie as Commanding Officer. The Berkeley spent the major portion of February and March in a post deployment/up-keep status and in late March began preparations for an Underway Material Inspection by the Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey, Pacific.

The Underway Material Inspection/INSURV commenced on March 31st, and after critical evaluations of Berkeley's material condition, she was recommended for continued service. The UMI/INSURV progressed to the Training Readiness Evaluation on April 15th with extensive training evaluations of damage control, first aid, and general quarters drills. COMFLTRAGRU San Diego assessed the ship operationally ready for refresher training.

On April 28th, a Technical Standardization Inspection was held by a joint services team. The Nuclear Weapons Inspection they held rated the Berkeley excellent in every area of nuclear weapons safety and security. Additionally, supply support was lauded as outstanding with no discrepancies.

May saw the Berkeley inport San Diego until the 13th before sailing on a mid-month independent steaming

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exercise in the Southern California operating areas. The ship offloaded missiles on the 16th at Seal Beach, California, just prior to a brief inport period before steaming out to sea again for two weeks of Interim Refresher Training. May's events were concluded by successfully completing the battle problems assigned throughout Interim REFTRA.

After another brief inport period during the first week of June, Berkeley put to sea again to begin the first of a two-phased engineering Mobile Training Team effort in preparation for the Operational Propulsion Plant Exam. The 1200 PSI MTT exercises in casualty control and watch station procedures were followed two weeks later by the arrival of the Propulsion Plant Examining Board, Pacific, on July 11th. The PEB Team debarked on July 17th adjudging the Berkeley as conditionally satisfactory.

After returning to San Diego on July 18th, the Berkeley remained in port until mid-August for upkeep. August 9th saw the embarkation of three first-class and twelve third-class midshipmen for their summer training cruise. On August 11th, the Berkeley was designated Engineering School Ship for the Fleet Training Center and served in that capacity until August 15th when she sailed for a Seal Beach ammunition loadout.

The ten-day READIEX 1-76 exercise commenced August 18th, during which Berkeley successfully fired a Tartar missile at a BQM-345 drone and completed various training requirements for the Weapons, Operations and Engineering departments. Berkeley detached on August 26th when the war-at-sea phase concluded and steamed into San Diego to begin a two-week upkeep period.

The later half of September was

dominated by the ASW exercise SHAREM XX in which Berkeley participated in company with the Canadian warships Restigouche, Terra Nova and Provider. During this exercise, Berkeley exchanged a contingent of officers and enlisted men with a similar group from Terra Nova.

In port for a week after SHAREM XX, Berkeley again put to sea on September 29th for COMPUTEX 2-76. The ship fired a missile at an incoming drone and also completed various training requirements. Another week of upkeep in port followed the conclusion of COMPUTEX, and was followed by the start of READIEX 2-76 on October 11th.

The major events in November were the Training and Alignment Verification and LOGSAT. The Berkeley was the first DDG in the Pacific Fleet to undergo a STAV. Representatives from Mobile Technical Unit 5, in company with ship's force, reviewed every piece of shipboard equipment utilizing bearing information and ensured proper alignment. The STAV proved to be a useful tool in preparation for FORACS. Other inspections held in November were the HALO Certification on the 20th where Berkeley became the first ship to qualify under the new certification rules; the Semi Annual Supply Inspection which rated the ship's Supply department as satisfactory; and the Type Commander's 3-M Inspection on November 24th.

December saw a two-week in-port period followed by brief sea trials before the FORACS tests on the 18th and 19th when combat systems were aligned and sensor accuracy check settings were made. After FORACS, the ship returned to port on December 20th to finish out 1975 in a leave and upkeep status and begin preparations for her 1976 deployment.

Ship's History: October 2023

60 Years Ago, 1963

Dates not specified in Command History log.

50 Years Ago, 1973

- 01 - 15 Inport, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
- 16 Weapons and Engineering Sea Trials
- 17 - 22 Inport, PSNS
- 23 Engineering Sea Trials
- 24 Inport, PSNS
- 25 - 27 Weapons and Engineering Sea Trials
- 27 - 31 Inport, PSNS

40 Years Ago, 1983

- 01 - 12 Underway, READIEX 83-7
- 13 - 16 Visit San Francisco Fleet Week
- 17 Enroute Concord Weapons Station
- 18 Onload Concord/Enroute San Diego
- 19 U/W, Enroute San Diego
- 20 U/W, SSRNM SOCAL
- 21 - 31 Inport, San Diego

30 Years Ago, 1993

In service with the Hellenic Navy.



Our Reunion Attendees





Director's Banquet Welcome



2-Bell Ceremony



Ladies Social (20 ladies attended)

NOTE: More photos, including couples and individuals, will be posted on the web site in the near future!
The top two photos are from the Banquet and bottom two from the Ladies Social event.