

1976

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS BROOKE (FFG-1)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS BROOKE (FFG-1)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations OP-05D2

Subj: USS BROOKE (FFG-1) Command History

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Encl: (1) USS BROOKE (FFG-1) Command History for 1976

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
R. G. ZELLER

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

COMMAND HISTORY  
OF  
USS BROOKE (FFG-1)  
1976  
(OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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I. COMMANDING OFFICERS DURING 1976

01 JAN - 09 NOV ROBERT L. FREEHILL, CDR, USN

09 NOV - 31 DEC STANLEY J. PRYZBY, LCDR, USN

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1976

01 JAN - 03 JAN-----INPORT KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN  
04 JAN - 06 JAN-----ENROUTE KAOHSIUNG TO GUAM, M.I.  
07 JAN - 13 JAN-----INPORT GUAM  
14 JAN - 27 JAN-----U/W SPECIAL OPS  
28 JAN - 15 FEB-----INPORT GUAM  
16 FEB - 25 FEB-----ENROUTE GUAM TO PEARL HARBOR, HI.  
25 FEB - 26 FEB-----INPORT PEARL HARBOR  
26 FEB - 02 MAR-----ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR TO SAN DIEGO, CA.  
03 MAR - 01 APR-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
02 APR - 04 APR-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (PLANE GUARD USS ENTERPRISE)  
05 APR - 06 APR-----INPORT SEAL BEACH, CA.  
          06 APR-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (ISE)  
07 APR - 02 AUG-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
03 AUG - 04 AUG-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (ISE)  
05 AUG - 06 AUG-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
          07 AUG-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (ISE)  
08 AUG - 23 SEP-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
          24 SEP-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (ISE)  
25 SEP - 04 OCT-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
05 OCT - 06 OCT-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (ASAC SS)  
          07 OCT-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
08 OCT - 10 OCT-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (PLANE GUARD USS RANGER)  
          11 OCT-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
12 OCT - 14 OCT-----U/W SOCIAL OPAREAS (PLANE GUARD USS CONSTELLATION)  
14 OCT - 15 OCT-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.  
15 OCT - 22 OCT-----U/W SOCIAL (READIEX 1-77)  
  
22 OCT - 31 DEC-----INPORT SAN DIEGO, CA.

Summary of Operations:

The first day of the New Year was spent inport in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in the sixth month of a WESTPAC deployment. After a brief respite here for the holidays BROOKE was again underway independently bound for Guam, Mariana Islands and arrived there on 6 January 1976. A week was spent inport Guam making preparations for special operations and BROOKE was underway on the 14th with COMSUBRON 15 embarked and the USS L. F. MASON (DD-852) in company. During this period BROOKE crossed the equator and amid the traditional Pomp and Splendor, Davey Jones held court and initiated a new gaggle of slimy polliwogs into the ancient rites and mysteries of the shellback order.

BROOKE returned to Guam after these operations and remained inport until 15 February, making preparations for the long voyage home as the 7 month deployment neared its end. BROOKE and MASON departed Guam on the 16th and rendezvoused with TASK GROUP 77.5, which included the USS ORISKANY (CV-34), the USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148), the USS BAGLEY (FF-1069), and the USS ROARK (FF-1053).

Task Group 77.5 transited through strong gales and heavy seas until the time of outchop from 7th fleet and inchop to 3rd Fleet as Task Group 37.4 on the 21st. Daily unreps and a sonar tracking exercise helped to pass the transit.

The early morning of the 25th found BROOKE and the rest of Task Group 37.4 making landfall on MT. Waialeale and entering Pearl Harbor in early afternoon for refueling, customs clearance and embarkation of "Operation Tiger" personnel - the male friends and relatives of BROOKE personnel who were able to make the transit back to CONUS.

After one short day in Pearl, BROOKE and TG 37.4 were again underway, this time leaving the Ponchatoula in Hawaii and picking up the USS KILAUEA (AE-26) for the transit to San Diego. On the 27th of February BROOKE and her squadron-mates BAGLEY and ROARK detached from TG 37.4 as Task Unit 37.4.2 with COMDESRON 31 as CTU 37.4.2. embarked on BAGLEY. The morning of March 3rd found BROOKE and TU 37.4.2 making landfall on San Clemente Island then steaming proudly into homeport after a seven months' deployment.

After a post deployment standdown of four week's duration, BROOKE was again underway, this time in the SOCAL OPAREAS plane-guarding for the USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN-65). When detached by ENTERPRISE, BROOKE proceeded to the Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach and off-loaded ASW weapons.

The 6th of April found BROOKE underway, independently steaming in the SOCAL OPAREAS and entering San Diego for an unexpected, lengthy stay.

What started out as a planned restricted availability until 30 June stretched much longer as a result of a main engine casualty. The planned restricted availability ended on 30 June and repairs extended through an additional month. During July, how-

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ever, BROOKE successfully completed a Combat Systems Readiness Test and completed a Nuclear Weapons Assistance Team (NWAT) assist in preparation for an August Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI). On August 3rd main engine repairs were completed and BROOKE was ready to return to sea.

While underway in the SOCAL OPAREAS on August 3rd a jammed throttle casualty was experienced. The fourth, fifth and sixth of August were dedicated to repairing the jammed throttle casualty.

Saturday, August 7th found BROOKE steaming out of San Diego, repairs complete. That afternoon a fire broke out atop 1B Boiler, sending the crew to General Quarters and Repair V into the fireroom. The fire was extinguished with no personnel casualties resulting.

The period 8 August to September 3rd was spent inport San Diego while repairs were made to the fire damaged fireroom and a warped steam chest cover. During this time BROOKE successfully passed the exhaustive NTPI with results above fleet standards. Sea trials on the twenty-fourth pronounced BROOKE fit for duty and the period 25 September to 4 October was spent inport making minor repairs and adjustments to make her fully ready for steaming.

BROOKE served as Anti-Submarine Air Controller School Ship during the period 5-6 October. The seventh of October found the BROOKE back inport making hurried preparations to return to sea to meet planeguard commitments.

October 8, 9 and 10 were spent planeguarding for the USS RANGER (CV-61) in the SOCAL OPAREAS. A quick trip inport to San Diego was followed by a turn around and late-night independent steaming before a second planeguard assignment, this time with the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64). During this period a LAMPS SH2F from Helicopter Squadron Anti-Submarine, Light 33 (HSL-33) embarked for the upcoming READIEX-1-77.

BROOKE spent the afternoon of the 14th and early 15th inport. The period 15-22 October was spent at sea participating in READIEX 1-77. BROOKE remained inport from 22 October until the end of the year repairing various equipments and preparing for OPPE.

On November 9th due to the unexpected departure of the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer assumed command. 1976 ended with BROOKE pierside at the Naval Station San Diego, eagerly awaiting 1977 and preparing for at sea operations, INSURV, OPPE and deployment.