

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BROOKE (FFG-1)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

FFG1/RGZ:rpb

5720

Ser 63

24 March 1978

OPNAV Report 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS BROOKE (FFG-1)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: USS BROOKE (FFG-1) Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) USS BROOKE (FFG-1) Command History for 1977

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


R. G. ZELLER

COMMAND HISTORY
OF
USS BROOKE (FFG-1)

(OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I COMMANDING OFFICERS DURING 1977
- II CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1977
- III SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

I COMMANDING OFFICERS DURING 1977

01 - 09 Jan STANLEY J. PRYZBY, LCDR, USN (Acting)

10 - 31 Dec RAYMOND G. ZELLER, CDR, USN

II CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR 1977

01 Jan - 16 Jan Upkeep San Diego
17 Jan U/W Sea Trails
18 Jan - 24 Jan INSURV San Diego
25 Jan U/W Material Inspection - SOCAL
26 Jan - 28 Jan INSURV San Diego
28 Jan - 15 Feb Inport San Diego
16 Feb - 18 Feb Type Training - SOCAL MTT Phase I
19 Feb - 21 Feb Inport San Diego
22 Feb - 25 Feb MTT - OPPE - SOCAL Phase II
26 Feb - 06 Mar Inport San Diego
07 Mar - 10 Mar MTT - OPPE - SOCAL Phase II
11 Mar - 12 Mar Inport San Diego
13 Mar U/W Sea Trails
14 Mar - 16 Mar OPPE - SOCAL
17 Mar - 22 Mar Inport San Diego
23 Mar Type Training - SOCAL
24 Mar - 27 Mar Inport San Diego
28 Mar Independent Ship Exercises - SOCAL
29 Mar Inport Seal Beach
30 Mar - 31 Mar NGFS San Clemente Island
01 Apr - 07 Apr Inport San Diego
08 Apr NGFEX: San Clemente Island
09 Apr - 11 Apr Inport San Diego
12 Apr - 16 Apr MLTSL: Pearl Harbor HSL 33 Det 2 embarked
17 Apr - 18 Apr OPS: Mid-Pacific
19 Apr Inport Pearl Harbor
20 Apr - 05 May ESC: Philippine Sea
06 May - 15 May Inport (Upkeep) Subic Bay
16 May NGFEX: Tabones
17 May - 24 May ESC: South China Sea
17 May - 19 May ASWEX 6 - 77
20 May - 25 May Enroute Bangkok
26 May - 30 May Inport (Visit) Bangkok
31 May - 03 Jun ESC: South China Sea
04 Jun - 17 Jun Inport Subic Bay
18 Jun - 25 Jun ESC: South China Sea
26 Jun - 27 Jun Enroute MERLION IV
28 Jun - 29 Jun EXER: South China Sea
30 Jun Enroute Singapore
01 Jul - 05 Jul Inport Singapore
06 Jul - 12 Jul Transit Subic Bay R.P.
13 Jul - 26 Jul Upkeep Subic Bay R.P.
27 Jul - 09 Aug ESC: USS CONSTELLATION, Transit Hong Kong
10 Aug - 15 Aug Inport Hong Kong
16 Aug - 20 Aug Transit Subic Bay R.P.

21 Aug - 05 Sep	Upkeep Subic Bay R. P.
06 Sep - 24 Sep	ESC: USS CONSTELLATION
25 Sep - 29 Sep	MULTIPLEX 7 - 77
30 Sep	ESC: USS CONSTELLATION, Transit Pusan, Korea
01 Oct - 02 Oct	Transit Pusan, Korea
03 Oct - 06 Oct	Visit Pusan, Korea
07 Oct - 08 Oct	Transit Keelung, Taiwan
09 Oct - 12 Oct	Visit Keelung, Taiwan
13 Oct - 15 Oct	Transit Yokosuka, Japan
16 Oct - 24 Oct	Inport Yokosuka, Japan
25 Oct - 01 Nov	ASWEX J1-38, SOJ
02 Nov - 05 Nov	Inport Yokosuka, Japan
06 Nov - 21 Nov	Transit San Diego, CA
22 Nov - 31 Dec	Inport San Diego, CA HSL 33 Det 2 debarked

III SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

The New Year 1977 found BROOKE preparing for and eagerly awaiting INSURV, OPPE and an approaching WESTPAC deployment. The period of 1-16 January was highlighted by the relief of Acting Commanding Officer LCDR S. J. PRYZBY by CDR R. G. ZELLER on 10 January. LCDR PRYZBY remained onboard as Executive Officer. BROOKE got underway for sea trials in the Southern California (SOCAL) opareas on 17 Jan, returning to port that afternoon to complete last minute details for INSURV. The INSURV Board, headed by CAPT. J. D. BUTLER, USN, Senior Inspector boarded BROOKE 24 Jan. for the 5 day inspection. The final grade of satisfactory was achieved with several areas receiving outstanding evaluations, particularly combat systems. The total effort put forth by the crew and the results was termed "a minor miracle" by the inspection team. RADM SMITH, COMCRUDESGRU ONE, attended the final INSURV briefing and offered his congratulations to all concerned for a job well-done.

Following INSURV, preparations continued from 28 Jan - 15 Feb. for the crucial MTT and OPPE scheduled for later in February and March. MTT Phase I commenced on 16 Feb. and continued through the 18th checking engineering administration and general material condition of the ship followed by a short inport period in San Diego 19-21 Feb. From 22-25 Feb BROOKE was underway once again in the SOCAL opareas for Emergency Casualties Control (ECC) Drills as part of MTT Phase II, returning to port until March 7 preparing for another round of MTT Phase II which lasted through the 10th of the month. On 14-16 March the CINCPACFLT PEB Board headed by CAPT. MCGUINNESS, Senior Inspector, was onboard for OPPE in the SOCAL Opareas. The final score of conditional satisfactory (no re-exam required) was awarded. BROOKE then commenced an upkeep period for necessary repairs lasting through the 22nd. 23 March was dedicated to a brief type-training phase with other members of Destroyer Squadron 31 in SOCAL. This opportunity for training was utilized by BROOKE to fire the newly installed Rapid Blooming Overhead Chaff (RBOC) system. The test was a complete success greatly improving BROOKE's overall defensive capabilities. BROOKE returned to port the following day for continued upkeep and preparation for a scheduled ammunition on-load/off-load and NGFS evolutions. 28-29 March found us transiting to Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA for the ammunition transfer, immediately thereafter setting sail for the Naval Gunfire Range, San Clemente Island. The evening of the 29th was devoted to helicopter operations with the detachment from HSL-33 that would be embarked on BROOKE during the forthcoming Western Pacific deployment. 30-31 March was spent firing NGFS at San Clemente Island followed by a return to San Diego for a seven day period devoted to deployment preparations. On 8 March the ship returned to San Clemente for more gunnery exercises and a full power run to test the main propulsion system. All tested satisfactorily and BROOKE was deemed to be in excellent condition to deploy to WESTPAC.

BROOKE departed San Diego at 1045, 12 April, on the first leg of her deployment in company with USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64), USS BAGLEY (FF-1069) with COMDESRON THREE ONE embarked, USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14), USS J. S. MCCAIN (DDG-36) and USS ROARK (FF-1053). Joining

enroute were USS SHASTA (AE-33) and USS WITCHITA (AOR-1). The short transit to Pearl Harbor was busy and gave all concerned ample opportunity to regain their sea legs. Prior to arriving in Hawaii a successful ASCM firing exercise was completed at the Pacific Missile Test Range, Barking Sands, HI. This was BROOKE's first missile firing attempt in 15 months. After a short one day respite in Pearl Harbor, the Task Force set sail for Subic Bay, R. P. on 21 March. Once again the transit was extremely busy and full of various exercises, giving numerous opportunities to test the varied systems onboard, particularly the ASW and Gunnery systems. BROOKE took advantage of submarine services provided by USS PUFFER (SSN-652) to exercise every aspect of her ASW team - single ship attacks, dual ship attacks and coordinated attacks with ships, helos and VP Aircraft. In addition, BROOKE was afforded the opportunity to shoot three exercise weapons - one ASROC, one torpedo and one Lamps-dropped torpedo; all weapons were successfully fired. The gun crew was also busy, gaining proficiency in aerial and surface gunnery. Frequent UNREPS with the WICHITA and SHASTA enabled the UNREP and CONREP teams to gain expertise in handling their complicated and dangerous rigs. BROOKE completed her first VERTREP from USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3) on 4 May in preparation for entering Subic Bay on 6 May. The pace of life during this short inport period which ended 15 May was frantic for there was an enormous amount of work to be accomplished after the long transit. However, the crew and workers at the Naval Ship Repair Facility, Subic Bay, responded in an excellent fashion to BROOKE's needs, thus all repair work was completed prior to getting underway 16 May for NGFS exercises at the Naval Gunnery Range, Tabones, R. P. NGFS qualifications were realized on that day, evidence of the extremely hard work and effort expended by the gunnery crew. After completion of the day's efforts, BROOKE joined units of TF 77 for exercises in the South China Sea which included ASWEX 6-77 in which a training ASROC was successfully fired at a Mobile Mini Target (MMT). On 20 May BROOKE, CONSTELLATION and ROARK departed the area for a port visit to Thailand 26-30 May. Enroute the Airwing aboard CONNIE put on a spectacular air show for the group during which BROOKE played host to RADM GLINDEMAN, COMCARGRU FIVE. After days of dodging Thai fishermen and their nets, BROOKE steamed into Bangkok on 26 May with ROARK in company mooring at Buoy 1 while CONSTELLATION remained at Pattaya Beach, due to her deep draft. The visit was a fantastic success for all concerned with the crew sampling the unique atmosphere of that Asian city, taking advantage of numerous tours and bargaining with merchants for their various wares. Social events were the rule in Bangkok also, including lunch with the Prime Minister for the Commanding Officer and the Executive Officer while all officers attended a gala function at the United States Embassy hosted by Ambassador Whitehouse. On 31 May BROOKE, ROARK rejoined CONSTELLATION at Pattaya bound for a return to Subic Bay. The inport period of 4-17 June was again hectic, working hand in hand with workers of the NAVSHIPREPFAC and preparing for a command inspection by COMDESRON THREE ONE, Captain J. T. HOWE, scheduled for the 9th of the month; the inspection was subsequently satisfactorily passed. In addition, BROOKE was visited by RADM COLLINS, COMSERVGRUPAC and CAPT WILLIAMS, CO, NAVSTA SUBIC BAY first C. O. of BROOKE, on courtesy calls during the inport period.

On 18 June, BROOKE returned to the South China Sea as a component of TG 77.7 rendezvousing with TG 75.8 which included USS WORDEN (CG-18), USS REEVES (CG-24), USS PARSONS (DDG-33), USS FRANCIS HAMMOND and USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22) for a War-At-Sea Exercise (WASEX). The exercise was a valuable training experience for BROOKE which included a successful ASW weapons shoot, ASW ping time, operational deception tactics and numerous surface action encounters. Following the exercise, BROOKE, CONSTELLATION, WORDEN, and BAGLEY detached to participate in Operation Merlion IV with units of the Singapore Navy. V.I.P's Mr. Nathan - Director of Security and Intelligence and Brigadier General Winston CHOO WEE CHONG - Chairman of the Singapore Joint Chiefs of Staff were brought onboard via helo to watch the action first hand. The Singapore port visit provided a brief respite for the crew during the 4th of July, celebrating the holiday with the large contingent of American families living in the area. Immediately after departing Singapore, BROOKE crossed the equator at 105 degrees 25.5'E. After Davey Jones held court, in which 140 poly wogs were initiated into the Domain of NEPTUNAS REX, BROOKE returned to Subic Bay for an upkeep period 13-25 July. The weather was constantly a hindrance to work as the monsoon season had begun and BROOKE was constantly on the alert for threatening tropical storms, missing all of the heavy weather.

July 27 found BROOKE underway for local operations in the Philippine Opareas with other units of TG 77.7 prior to detaching for the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong with CONSTELLATION and BAGLEY on 8 August. While moored at buoy A-35 Hong Kong Harbor 10-15 August, the crew enjoyed six days of liberty sampling the various attractions of the city before getting underway for Subic Bay once again. Once in Subic Bay on 21 August BROOKE entered a 15 day availability with USS HECTOR (AR-7) for repair and upkeep in preparation for a full month of at-sea operations. During this time frame, BROOKE was visited by RADM ROWDEN, COMCRUDESFORSEVENTHFLT, RADM MCCLINTON, CTF 73 and RADM GLINDEMAN CTF 77.

On 5 September BROOKE made for Nabasan Wharf, Subic Bay, to onload weapons in expectation of a busy operating schedule. BROOKE, with CONSTELLATION, BUCHANAN, and BAGLEY steamed in the Subic operating areas until the 14th when orders were received to steam north to the Japan - Korea - Okinawa areas where we would remain until the completion of the cruise. We left Subic Bay with some remorse after all the good times there but looked forward to the change in scenery and the challenges that lay ahead. Numerous UNREPS were completed during the month of September with BROOKE receiving a number of accolades from delivery ships WICHITA and SHASTA for overall excellence and enthusiasm. In addition, "The Hallelujah Chorus" was instituted as the official "break-away" song on 15 Sept. The Tsushima and Van Dremem Straits came to be our base of operations during September while participating in Multiplex 7-77. The fast moving Fleet Exercise provided excellent training in all areas - aerial, surface and subsurface. Finally, the order was given to detach in order to transit to Pusan, S. Korea, thus ending the longest at-sea period of the deployment. The stay in Pusan was short, 4 days (3-6 Oct), but it was more than ample enough to venture into the plentiful factories

in search of bargains. After leaving Pusan, BROOKE completed a two day transit on 7-8 October, entering Keelung, Taiwan, the following day for a 96 hour period. Course was then laid for Yokosuka, Japan for a much-needed upkeep period from 16-24 October, in preparation for the final underway period before returning home to San Diego. Our last at-sea period was devoted to exercise J1-78 in the Sea of Japan which involved various U.S. Navy units and Japanese Defense Force destroyers Harusame (DD-109) and Marusame (DD-110). The exercise was primarily ASW - oriented, however a few gunnery firepower demonstrations were also scheduled. Apart from expected language difficulties, J1-78 provided the best-coordinated and concentrated ASW operation encountered during WESTPAC. Both Japanese and American crews, due to their cumulative experience and training were extremely professional and proficient. The feeling of satisfaction ran high throughout the ship due to completing a job well done. BROOKE then returned to Yokosuka on 2 November for the final time before departing WESTPAC. It was a time to complete last-minute repairs transit preparations and shopping.

On November 6 TG 77.7 consisting of BROOKE, BUCHANAN, MARVIN SHIELDS and BAGLEY was underway for the U.S. screening CONSTELLATION with WICHITA in company to provide fuel and stores. In an attempt to pass the time quickly, the homeward transit was chock-full of gunnery, maneuvering and tactical exercises but they did little to deter everyone's anxiousness to be home once again. TG 77.7 out-chopped from 7th Fleet on 12 November becoming TG 37.8, and continued to steam steadily eastward, detaching WICHITA on 19 Nov. to return to homeport, Alameda, CA. The Task Group Commander aboard CONSTELLATION then detached TU 37.8.2 with COMDESRON THREE ONE embarked on BAGLEY as CTU 37.8.2. The evening of 20 November found BROOKE making landfall on San Clemente Island, then proudly steaming into San Diego Harbor the following day, 21 Nov., after a successful seven and one-half month deployment. The crew then began a well-deserved six week standdown to enjoy the Holidays and become reacquainted with home, family and friends.

In summation, 1977 was a most productive year for BROOKE, a year in which she completed every operational commitment with flying colors which was clearly indicative of the hard work and endeavors put forth by all hands. An extremely successful WESTPAC deployment was completed in which BROOKE received wide spread notoriety as ever-ready and vigilant. Now back at home, we re-tell our many sea stories but continue to prepare for the many challenges ahead - underway exercises, MTT, OPPE, among others. We have set our sights forward in order to remain USS BROOKE (FFG-1) - PRIMA ET OPTIMA.