

USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5)

Ship's History for 1975

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BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY 1975

- 01-05 Holiday Leave and upkeep at Yokosuka, Japan.
- 06-10 Enroute from Yokosuka, Japan to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines via Okinawa OPAREA.
- 11-19 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
- 20-26 Enroute from Subic Bay to Jakarta, Indonesia via Subic Bay OPAREA.
- 27-31 Inport Jakarta, Indonesia.

FEBRUARY 1975

- 01-02 Enroute from Jakarta,
- 03-06 Inport Singapore.
- 07-09 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
- 10 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.
- 11-14 Enroute and participation in READEX 1-75.
- 15-17 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.
- 18-28 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.

MARCH 1975

- 01-09 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
- 10-16 Enroute Guam and operations with Task Group 77.4.
- 17-20 Inport Guam, Mariana Islands.  
(Conducted guest cruise in waters adjacent to Guam)
- 21-24 Enroute Keelung, Taiwan, Republic of China.
- 25-28 Inport Keelung, Taiwan, Republic of China.
- 28-31 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.

APRIL 1975

01-14 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
15-18 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
19 Local operations, Subic OPAREAS.  
20-21 Enroute South China Sea.  
22-30 "FREQUENT WIND" Operations in South China Sea.  
(Evacuation of U. S. and Vietnamese Nationals).

MAY 1975

01-02 "FREQUENT WIND" Operations.  
03-06 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
07-15 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
16~18 Enroute/Inport Shimada, Japan.  
19-20 Enroute/Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
21-25 Enroute Manila, Republic of the Philippines (brief stop in  
Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines to embark guests).  
26-29 Inport Manila, Republic of the Philippines.  
30-31 Enroute/Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

JUNE 1975

01 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
02-03 Type Training.  
04-08 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
09-22 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
23-26 Enroute Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.  
27-30 Inport Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.

JULY 1975

01 Inport Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.  
02-03 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
03-06 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
07-11 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
12-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
(15-31) (First increment of Regular Overhaul).

AUGUST 1975

01-27 Inport Yokosuka, Japan (First increment of Regular Overhaul).  
28 Underway for Sea Trials in Yokosuka OPAREAS.  
29-31 Inport

SEPTEMBER 1975

01 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
02-05 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
06 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
07-10 Enroute Sattahip, Thailand.  
11-15 Inport Sattahip, Thailand.  
16-19 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
20-22 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
23-28 Enroute Inchon, Republic of Korea.  
29-30 Inport Inchon, Republic of Korea.

OCTOBER 1975

01-02 Inport Inchon, Republic of Korea.  
03-06 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
07-22 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.  
23-26 Enroute Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.  
27-31 Inport Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.

NOVEMBER 1975

01-02 Inport Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.  
03-05 Enroute Manila, Republic of the Philippines.  
06-09 Inport Manila, Republic of the Philippines.  
10-13 Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
14-17 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
18-25 Underway for Type Training/MULTIPLEX 1-76.  
26-28 Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.  
29-30 Enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.

DECEMBER 1975

01-03 Inport Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan.  
04-05 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan.  
06-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan (Holiday/Upkeep).

## COMMAND ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONSHIP

The Commanding Officer of the USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CG-5) is Captain Paul Donald BUTCHER, U. S. Navy. He was in command throughout the entire year. The ship's Executive Officer is Commander George Ross SKINNER, U. S. Navy. Commander SKINNER relieved Commander Ralph Farrington DOE, U. S. Navy on 3 December 1975.

OKLAHOMA CITY--redesignated from Light Guided Missile Cruiser (CLG) to Guided Missile Cruiser (CG) effective 30 June 1975 as a result of reclassification of naval ships--is under the administrative control of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE. However, as a ship of the SEVENTH Fleet, Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force SEVENTH Fleet serves as the immediate unit commander and schedules the command for its various annual assist visits and inspections due to remoteness of the immediate superior in the chain of command. OKLAHOMA CITY is the Command Ship for, and is under the operational control of, Commander SEVENTH Fleet. As Command Ship, OKLAHOMA CITY is designated SEVENTHFLT COMMAND SHIP GROUP, TG 70.1, with the Commanding Officer as Task Group Commander. When involved with Naval Gunfire Support Operations, the ship is assigned to Task Force 75--CRUISER-DESTROYER FORCE SEVENTH FLEET.

OKLAHOMA CITY is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

Internally, OKLAHOMA CITY is organized into nine departments as follows:

- Executive
- Navigation
- Operations
- Communications
- Weapons
- Engineering
- Supply
- Medical
- Dental

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

OKLAHOMA CITY began 1975 in its homeport of Yokosuka, Japan in a holiday leave and upkeep status. VADM G. P. STEELE, USN, Commander SEVENTH Fleet and his staff were embarked. On 6 January the ship departed homeport for Subic Bay. Tracking and air gunnery exercises were conducted in the Okinawa operating area, and underway rearming and refueling evolutions were conducted off the coast of Subic Bay before arrival on 11 January. The ship's annual OLYMPIAD began on 12 January and culminated on 17 January with the final play-offs in softball and football, and a picnic on Grande Island. CO-champions were the Wardroom and 4th/GM Divisions. On 20 January the ship departed Subic Bay enroute Jakarta, Indonesia via the Subic Bay operating areas where air and surface gunnery and Naval Gun Fire Support exercises were conducted. OKLAHOMA CITY crossed the equator on 25 January and KING NEPTUNE and his Royal Court arrived for the initiation of 443 slimey pollywogs. After the ceremonies the ship proceeded to and arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 27 January for a five-day protocol visit. During this time various dignitaries called on Commander SEVENTH Fleet and toured the ship: RADM SURATMIN, Commander, Third Naval District; ADM SUBYAKTO, Chief of Naval Operations; The Honorable David D. NEWSOM, American Ambassador to Indonesia and LTGEN SADIKIN, Governor of Jakarta. Civic action projects and sports events were also held and 5000 guests visited the ship.

OKLAHOMA CITY departed Jakarta, Indonesia on 1 February and arrived in Singapore on 3 February. The following dignitaries made calls on VADM STEELE: Dr. GOH KENG SWEE, Minister of Defense; The Honorable Edwin M. CRONK, American Ambassador to Singapore; Mr. PANG TEE POW, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Defense; Brigadier Michael KENNEDY, Commander New Zealand Forces Southeast Asia; COL WINGS TON CHOO, Director General Staff, Ministry of Defense; Captain T. C. CLACK, Royal Navy, Resident Naval Officer Singapore; Air Commodore M. S. H. GUNTON, RNZAF, Commander, New Zealand Force Southeast Asia; RADM W. L. HARRIS, Jr., USN, Prospective COMCARGRU SEVEN and LTCOL James AERIA, Commander Singapore Navy. The ship organized a picnic for 60 orphans at the Singapore Boy's Town and also participated in various sports events with local Singapore teams. On 7 February OKLAHOMA CITY departed Singapore, refueled USS LYNDE MCCORMICK (DDG-8) on 8 February and arrived in Subic Bay on 10 February for an overnight visit. The next day the ship was underway and was rearmed and refueled by USS FLINT (AE-32). During the period 12-14 February the ship participated in READEX 1-75 and conducted a successful missile firing exercise. OKLAHOMA CITY returned to Yokosuka 18 February and remained inport until 10 March. At that time the ship got underway and joined Task Group 77.4, and participated in various exercises before proceeding to Guam. The ship passed Iwo Jima on 14 March and held ceremonies honoring the men who died there during World War II. On 15 March the ship anchored off Saipan and held a cookout on the fantail. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in Guam on 17 March and was warmly welcomed by the local islanders. The dignitaries who made calls on Commander SEVENTH Fleet included: Mr. Peter

COLEMAN, Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; RADM G. S. MORRISON, USN, COMNAVMARIANAS; MGEN C. F. MINTER, Sr., USAF, Commander THIRD Air Division; His Excellency F. C. FLORES, Bishop of Diocese of Agana; The Honorable R. J. BORDALLO, Governor of Guam and The Honorable J. F. ADA, Thirteenth Guam Legislature. While in Guam the ship participated in sports events with other U. S. Navy teams, accepted invitations from local people to visit at their homes and held a half day guest cruise around the island on 19 March. The visit was also highlighted by a fiesta at the village of Umatac in which approximately 600 of the crewmembers participated.

OKLAHOMA CITY departed Guam on 21 March arriving in Keelung, Taiwan on 25 March. Dignitaries who visited the ship included: RADM CHI, Commandant, Third Naval District; RADM WANG, Superintendent, Third Naval Shipyard; RADM HO, Commander Patrol Squadron and SOPA Keelung; CAPT YANG, Chief, Training Section, Bureau of Operations; CAPT WU, Deputy Chief, Education Section, Bureau of Operations and MGEN CHANG, Chinese Army, Commanding General, 22nd Command Armed Forces Police. The ship also participated in various sports with local teams and the wardroom held a luncheon for the Taipei Jaycees. The visit was culminated by a Chinese Art show organized by MGEN YANG, Director of Foreign Affairs, Combined Service Forces, Republic of China, and Mr. HUANG, Chairman of the Friends of the Armed Forces Association. The ship was underway enroute Yokosuka on 28-30 March.

USS OKLAHOMA CITY began the second quarter of 1975 in its homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, completing an upkeep and liberty period. VADM Yoshitatsu SUDO, Commandant, Yokosuka District JMSDF called on VADM STEELE during this inport period.

The ship got underway on 15 April to proceed to the Subic Bay operating areas and to support South Vietnam evacuation efforts. Upon arrival in the Subic Bay operating areas, the ship conducted type training and qualified as NGFS support ship on the Tabones range. 20 April found OKLAHOMA CITY enroute to the South China Sea for support of the South Vietnam evacuation (Operation FREQUENT WIND). The time frame 21 April to 1 May was spent in readiness for evacuation operations and communications support of the evacuation forces.

The evacuation of South Vietnam (Operation FREQUENT WIND) was ordered on 30 April. The OKLAHOMA CITY participated to the fullest in the operation. Initially, designated to provide firepower for evacuation forces, this mission area was not necessary. With the suddenness of events and desperate attempts by South Vietnamese pilots to land their helicopters on the flight deck area of this ship, the SEVENTH Fleet Commander's helicopter was launched enroute to another ship in the vicinity. Subsequently, 12 helicopter loads of South Vietnamese and American refugees fleeing from the fall of Saigon landed during a six hour period. A total of 154 U. S. and South Vietnamese personnel were given refuge on board. Additionally, the ship participated

in the direction and control of several South Vietnamese helicopters carrying refugees out of Saigon to ships in the Tonkin Gulf and refueled from USS KAWISHIWI during the evening. On 1 May all evacuated personnel were transferred to USS BLUERIDGE (LCC-19) and SS GREENVILLE VICTORY, upon completion of which, the OKLAHOMA CITY set course for its homeport, Yokosuka, Japan.

The period 7-15 May was spent in Yokosuka, Japan. RADM W. A. MYER III, USN, COMCRUDESFORSEVENTHFLT/CTF 75 and Mr. Choka WAKAIYA, Mayor of Beppu City, Japan called on Commander SEVENTH Fleet during this inport period.

OKLAHOMA CITY got underway on 16 May for a port visit/guest cruise to Shimoda, Japan to participate in the annual Black Ship Festival held to commemorate the opening of trade between the United States and Japan. During that visit, the OKLAHOMA CITY hosted general and group visiting and a VIP dinner on board. Additionally, the ship participated in the festival parade with VADM STEELE and CAPT BUTCHER as honored dignitaries as well as providing three marching units to the parade.

The OKLAHOMA CITY returned to Yokosuka, Japan for a brief two-day stay on 19 May and departed on 21 May enroute Manila. A brief stop was made in Subic Bay on 26 May to embark dependents, dignitaries, and guests for a guest cruise to Manila.

The ship arrived in Manila on 26 May. While there, the OKLAHOMA CITY hosted general and group visiting, a wardroom luncheon for senior officers of the Philippine Armed Forces and participated in a civic action project at the Hospicio San Jose Orphanage. On 30 May the ship returned to Subic Bay with dependents, dignitaries, and guests once again on board for a three-day port visit.

OKLAHOMA CITY departed Subic Bay on 2 June for two days type training in the Subic operating areas. Various exercises were conducted, including underway replenishment, air control, air tracking, anti-aircraft firing, electronic warfare, and visual communications.

On 4 June the ship commenced its transit to Yokosuka, Japan arriving there on 8 June. ADM M. F. WEISNER, Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet called on VADM STEELE on 13 June.

VADM Thomas B. HAYWARD, USN, relieved VADM George P. STEELE, USN as Commander SEVENTH Fleet in ceremonies held on board on 14 June 1975. ADM M. F. WEISNER, USN was the principal speaker. Honored guests and dignitaries in attendance included the Honorable James D. HODGSON, American Ambassador to Japan, Mr. FUNADA, Japanese House of Representatives, and other military and civilian dignitaries.

OKLAHOMA CITY ended its 1975 Navy Relief drive on 16 June. An average \$12.76 per crewmember assigned was donated for a total contribution of \$11,073.26 for the command.

VADM NAKAMURA, Commander in Chief, Self Defense Force, and V ADM SUDO, Commandant Yokosuka District, JMSDF made official calls on VADM HAYWARD during this inport period.

The ship again got underway from its homeport on 23 June enroute to Hong Kong. Eligible dependent sons of the officers and crew of the ship and staff were aboard to participate in a Father-Son/Naval Indoctrination cruise. A total of 10 boys participated in this program. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in Hong Kong on 27 June. The ship was open to general and group visiting. Commodore Hong Kong called on VADM HAYWARD during this inport period.

OKLAHOMA CITY began the third quarter of 1975 in Hong Kong, concluding a five-day protocol visit to that city. The ship got underway for Subic Bay on 2 July in company with USS LANG and USS MEYERKORD. Mutual training was conducted during the transit including visual signaling, electronic warfare exercises and sonar source level and cavitation checks. Additionally, the ship refueled from USNS TALUGA on 3 July. OKLAHOMA CITY arrived at Subic Bay on the afternoon of 3 July and commenced a four-day liberty and upkeep period. On 7 July the ship got underway for its homeport of Yokosuka. Training conducted enroute included helicopter in-flight refueling, surface and air gunnery, engineering casualty control drills, air tracking and at-sea boat transfer operations with USS KAWISHIWI. Mutual training exercises were also conducted with HMAS DERWENT during night steaming. The ship refueled from USS KAWISHIWI on 7 July. OKLAHOMA CITY entered Yokosuka on 12 July to begin the first increment of its scheduled incremental overhaul. The ship remained in Yokosuka in an overhaul status until 27 August. Major tasks accomplished during the overhaul period included repair and replacement of the 6-inch turret wiring, overhauling of main communications patch panels and extensive overhaul of main and auxiliary engineering equipments. OKLAHOMA CITY got underway for sea trials on 28 August returning to port that evening. Honored guests and dignitaries making calls on VADM HAYWARD during this inport period included: VADM Y. SUDO, Commandant, Yokosuka District JMSDF; VADM T. NAKAMURA, Commander in Chief, Self Defense Fleet; RADM W. O. MILLER, JAGC, USN, Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy; MGEN O. C. LYNN, USA, Chief of Staff, U. S. Forces Japan; VADM R. B. BALDWIN, USN, COMNAVAIRPAC; RADM SHIMIZU, JMSDF; RADM EGAMI, JMSDF; RADM J. B. BERUDE, USN, CINCPACFLT Maintenance Officer; LTGEN J. N. MCLAUGHLIN, USMC, Commanding General, FMFPAC; and RADM S. H. MOORE, USN, Commander Military Sealift Command.

On 2 September the ship got underway enroute to Subic Bay. The ship refueled from USNS PASSUMPSIC on 6 September and then entered Subic Bay for a one-day port visit and then got underway en route Sattahip on 7 September. During the transit to Sattahip the ship was visited by the Nuclear Weapons Assist Team in preparation for the command's annual Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI). OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in Sattahip on 11 September commencing a five-day protocol visit to that country.

VADM HAYWARD was called upon by VADM SMUT Sahanavin, Commandant, Sattahip Royal Thai Naval Base during this visit. The ship was open to group visiting on 15 September during which the ship was visited by twenty representatives of the Royal Thai Navy. The ship got underway enroute to Subic Bay on 16 September. Training accomplished during the transit included: helicopter in-flight refueling, TACAN and low visibility approaches; engineering casualty control drills; helicopter replenishment from USS NIAGARA FALLS and at-sea refueling from USS WICHITA. The ship arrived at Subic Bay on 20 September for a two-day port visit. The ship got underway on 22 September enroute to Inchon. Training conducted included air gunnery, gun tracking; surface gunnery; air intercept control and missile tracking. The annual Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection was conducted during the transit with the OKLAHOMA CITY receiving a grade of SATISFACTORY. The ship arrived in Inchon on 29 September commencing a four-day port visit. RADM M. P. FRUDDEN, USN, COMNAVFORKOREA called on the Commander SEVENTH Fleet on 29 September.

OKLAHOMA CITY began the fourth quarter of 1975 in Inchon, concluding a four-day protocol visit to that city. The ship got underway for its homeport of Yokosuka, Japan on 3 October and arrived in Yokosuka on 7 October after a normal transit. During this inport period OKLAHOMA CITY underwent its Human Relations Availability and was visited by a staff delegation from the House Armed Services Committee who were assessing material readiness and the operational capabilities of Pacific Fleet units. On 10 October, CAPT James H. BENSON USMC, relieved CAPT George J. BOLDUC USMC, as Commanding Officer of the embarked Marine Detachment in ceremonies held on board.

The following distinguished visitors made calls on Commander SEVENTH Fleet during this inport period: ADM M. F. WEISNER, USN, CINCPACFLT; VADM R. C. GOODING, USN, COMNAVSEASYSOM; RADM R. S. SMITH, USN, COMCRUDESGRU ONE; RADM G. E. THOMAS, USN, COMCRUDESFORSEVENTHFLT/CTF 75; RADM W. L. HARRIS, USN, CTF 77; RADM W. M. MOORE, CHC, USN, PACFLT Chaplain; and RADM H. M. RUIZ, Flag Officer-in-Command, Philippine Navy.

The ship got underway on 23 October, enroute Hong Kong. Exercises conducted during the transit included exercising at general quavers, damage control packages, helicopter operations, and air intercept control. The ship conducted underway refueling/replenishment operations with USS NIAGARA FALLS on 26 October. Arriving in Hong Kong on 27 October, the ship commenced a seven-day protocol visit to that city. The ship was open to group visiting on 31 October and 1 November. Additionally, the ship was host to general visiting on 2 November. OKLAHOMA CITY got underway on 3 November enroute Manila. Training conducted enroute included exercises in NGFS procedures, general quarters, steering casualties, helicopter operations, small arms familiarization firing, and damage control.

OKLAHOMA CITY completed its 1975 Combined Federal Campaign drive with a total contribution of \$21,237.87 from the command--a per capita of \$24.02. The ship arrived in Manila on 6 November, commencing a five-day protocol visit to that city. The ship was open to general and group visiting. OKLAHOMA CITY returned to sea on 10 November for four days of operations prior to making a port call to Subic Bay. On 10 November the ship conducted Naval Gunfire Support operations at Tabones. OKLAHOMA CITY refueled from USS KILAUEA on 13 November and entered Subic Bay on 14 November.

The ship got underway on 18 November for participation in MULTIPLEX 1-76, MISSILEX 2-76, and type training. During the period 17-22 November 1975, CAPT L. J. BROWN, USN, COMDESRON THIRTY-ONE, and his staff were embarked as OCE of MULTIPLEX 1-76. OKLAHOMA CITY refueled from USS PONCHATOULA on 22 November and rearmed from USS KILAUEA on 25 November prior to entering Subic Bay. After a four-day port call in Subic Bay, the ship got underway enroute Buckner Bay, Okinawa, Japan, arriving 1 December. Mr. J. SYLVESTER, Jr., American Consul General, Okinawa, Japan, called on Commander SEVENTH Fleet on 2 December. OKLAHOMA CITY got underway on 3 December enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. Arriving in its homeport on 6 December, the ship commenced a thirty-day holiday standdown and upkeep period. Honored guests and dignitaries calling on Commander SEVENTH Fleet prior to the end of the year included: The Honorable J. William MIDDENDORF II, Secretary of the Navy; VADM R. P. COOGAN, USN, COMTHIRDFLT; RADM C. H. GRIFFITHS, USN, COMSUBPAC; and MGEN N. W. GOURLEY, USMC, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, SEVENTH Fleet.

During the Secretary of the Navy visit to OKLAHOMA CITY, the "Golden Snipe" certificate was presented denoting excellence in engineering practices and cleanliness of below deck spaces. The Secretary of the Navy also addressed the crew on closed circuit television (CCTV) and presented awards to certain members of COMSEVENTHFLT Staff and OKLAHOMA CITY.

December 22 marked the 31st anniversary of the OKLAHOMA CITY's commissioning. The occasion was celebrated at a joint Christmas/Birthday Party on 22/23 December held at the Club Alliance in Yokosuka, Japan. Honored guests included: the Chief of Staff, SEVENTH Fleet, CAPT P. A. LAUTERMILCH and his wife, and the ship's Commanding Officer, CAPT P. D. BUTCHER and his wife.

During calendar year 1975 the following awards and promotions were received by OKLAHOMA CITY's crewmembers:

Navy Commendation Medal	3
Navy Achievement Medal	8
RVN Navy Meritorious Medal	1
RVN Armed Forces Honor Medal, Second Class	1
Good Conduct Medal	82
Expert Pistol Award	2
Sharpshooter Pistol Award	3

Letter of Commendation	17
Letter of Appreciation	25
Chief of the Year Afloat Award (Yokosuka homeported units)	1
Surface Warfare Officer Designation	3
All-Navy WESTPAC Golf Champion	1
All-Navy West Coast Champion and All-Navy Light Heavy Weight Champion, Runners-up	1
All-Navy West Coast Chess Champion, fourth runner-up	1
CINCPACFLT Junior Officer Award for Excellence in Shiphandling	1

In addition, OKLAHOMA CITY was selected runner-up for the Golden Anchor Award in recognition of excellence in command career motivation programs for personnel retention.