

WELCOME ABOARD





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CAPTAIN, U.S. NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER



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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## *greetings*

Welcome aboard USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5).

As you look over OKLAHOMA CITY, try to visualize her as she might be employed at sea. You should not forget that this is a seagoing ship and that going to sea is still a fascinating and challenging life. We hope you will capture some of this feeling as you tour this guided missile light cruiser.

While you are on board, you will see many parts of the ship and meet some of the men whose skills have enabled OKLAHOMA CITY to carry out her assignments so effectively.

We are delighted to have this opportunity to be your host.

## *ship's history*

The story of the USS OKLAHOMA CITY begins with the laying of her keel in Philadelphia on 8 December 1942. There, at the shipyard of William Cramp and Sons, pre-launch work was completed in a little over 14 months.

On 22 December 1944 the light cruiser was commissioned and designated CL-91. After a shakedown cruise she passed through the Panama Canal enroute for duty with the Pacific Fleet.

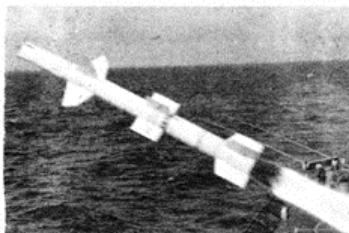
Crossing the date line for the first time on 25 May 1945, the OKLAHOMA CITY joined her task force. During World War II she served as a screen ship for carriers, participated in the Okinawan Campaign, and bombarded the Japanese Islands. OKLAHOMA CITY steamed into Tokyo Bay on 10 September 1945.

She returned to San Francisco on 14 February, was decommissioned in June of 1947, and joined the Reserve Fleet. After almost a decade in mothballs the OKLAHOMA CITY was taken to the Bethlehem Steel Company, San Francisco, California for conversion to a guided missile light cruiser.

After three years in the yard she was markedly different. There was little to remind one of her former configuration with the exception of one 5" mount and one 6" turret forward. The OK CITY gained complete accommodations for a fleet flagship and a Talos missile system.

Recommissioned as CLG-5 on 7 December 1960, the OKLAHOMA CITY again joined the Pacific Fleet and departed her home port of Long Beach late in 1961 for her first Western Pacific cruise since 1946. She arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on 20 December 1961 and relieved the USS ST. PAUL (CA-73) as the Seventh Fleet flagship. While flagship, the OK CITY gained Battle Efficiency "E" awards for her missilery and 6" gunnery. On 26 May 1962 she was relieved of her flagship duties by the USS PROVIDENCE (CLG-6).

## *weapons*



The Weapons Department maintains and operates OKLAHOMA CITY's sophisticated big guns and missiles.

Weapons works closely with the Combat Information Center, which detects air and surface targets, evaluates the threats posed by these contacts and then displays the evaluated information to Weapons teams. With target information, Weapons tracks and, using Talos missiles or gunfire, destroys the air or surface targets.

Weapons, because of its highly complex control system and rapid reaction time, demands precise knowledge and close teamwork.

## *engineering*



Staffed by men in the ratings of Machinist Mate, Boilerman, Enginemen, I.C. Electricians, and Electrician's Mates, the Engineering Department operates the ship's main propulsion plant and the systems that furnish the ship with heat, fresh water, and electrical power. Shipfitters perform steel metal work and Damage Controlmen correct and guard against safety hazards.

OKLAHOMA CITY's four boilers generate steam supplying four main engines, rated at 25,000 horsepower per shaft, which propel the vessel in excess of 30 knots. There are four 750 kw turbine generators supplying the ship with its electrical power. This power can readily accommodate the ordinary electrical needs of a community of 17,000 people.

Four sets of evaporators convert salt water into fresh every day. This fresh water is fed to the ship's propulsion machinery and for various needs such as the galley, showers, and the crew's drinking water.

## *administration*



The OKLAHOMA CITY's Administrative Department is comprised of Yeomen, Personnelmen, and Journalists. Photographer's Mates and Lithographers assist the division in the production of operation orders, instructions ship's newspaper, etc. Postal Clerks maintain OKLAHOMA CITY's Post Office, operating in every way a shore-based postal station would.

Service records are kept in the Personnel Office. Admin also handles a great variety of paperwork, including leave, re-enlistment, and advancement papers. The Training and Education Office provides educational and advancement services, including procurement of correspondence courses.

Officers' records are maintained in the Captain's Office. News releases, port visit brochures, and the OKLAHOMA CITY's newspapers are produced in the Public Affairs Office, staffed by the ship's Journalists.

## *operations*

The Operations Department is one of the busiest in OKLAHOMA CITY. It plans, coordinates, schedules, and executes the movements and operational commitments of the ship. The responsibility for operational and tactical information and intelligence rests with this department.

Operations is manned by Radarmen, Electronics Technicians and Lookouts (from OL Division). Radarmen operate the ship's radar equipment while the Electronics technicians repair and maintain both the radio and radar equipment. The visual Lookouts stand watches throughout the day and night.

Operations Department is the eyes and ears of OKLAHOMA CITY. The heart of the Department is the Combat Information Center (CIC), which, with the use of its radars and radio gear collects, displays, evaluates and disseminates information for the tactical employment of the ship and her weapons.



## *communications*

Because it transmits and receives all of the Fleet Commander's messages, the Communications Department is known as "the Voice of the Ship."

It is equipped with the latest in equipment, including the Message Processing and Distribution System. We are the first ship in the Fleet to have MPDS.

The Communication Department's Radiomen operate OKLAHOMA CITY's radio equipment. Communications Yeomen handle the administrative and clerical aspects and Signalmen maintain visual ship-to-ship contact with flashing light and with semaphore.



## *supply*

OKLAHOMA CITY's Supply Department feeds, clothes, and pays the men of the flagship. It also satisfies the material needs of other divisions and departments in the ship.

Supply is staffed by Commissarymen who prepare and serve nearly a ton of food daily for the crew's consumption; Storekeepers who care for over 50,000 general stores items--articles ranging from a half-ounce screw to a 300-pound piece of machinery. Disbursing clerks maintain the crew's pay records and disburse some 80,000 dollars in pay every two weeks. The ship's barbers, laundrymen and clerks provide personal service to each man for his miscellaneous daily needs in the same manner that the many small businessmen provide in a city ashore.



In June of 1962 the OK CITY arrived in her new homeport of Long Beach for repairs. Following her yard period, which resulted in an extensive overhaul, she went through Refresher Training and began preparation for another WESTPAC deployment. During her stay in the United States she gained "E" for her superior anti-air warfare performance and internal organization.

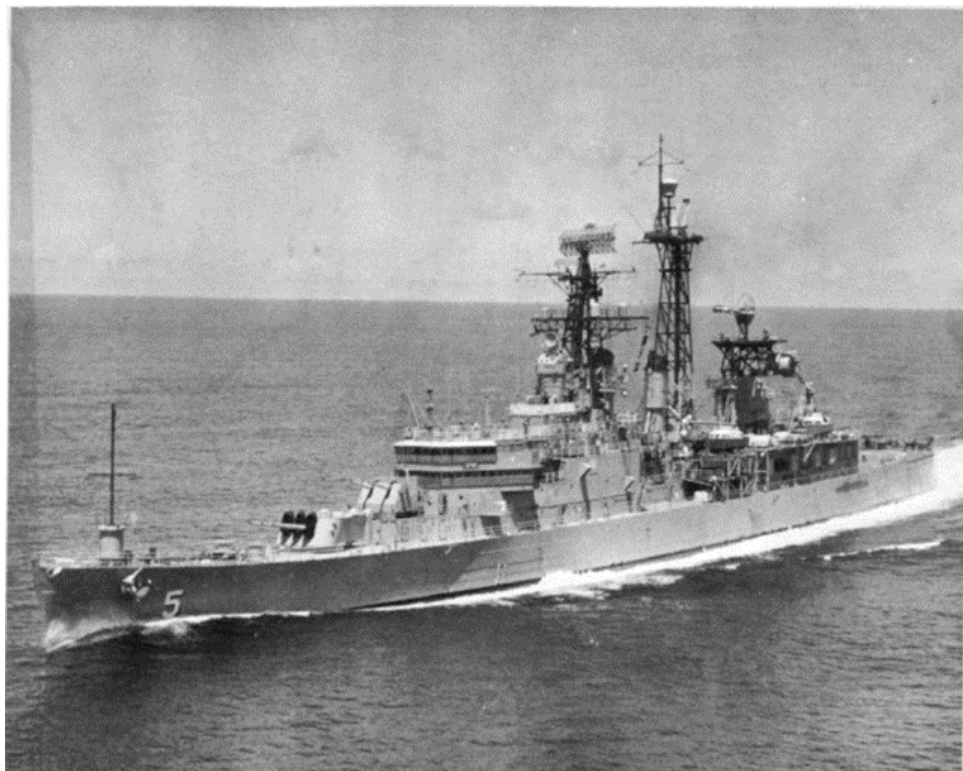
The OK CITY departed Long Beach in June of 1964 and arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on 9 July. She then relieved USS PROVIDENCE as flagship for Commander Seventh Fleet. A short time later, in August, she was patrolling the Gulf of Tonkin following the attacks upon two U.S. destroyers by North Vietnamese gunboats.

Following visits to several Far Eastern ports, OKLAHOMA CITY participated in gunfire support missions off Vietnam in June of 1965. In September the ship participated in an amphibious assault in South Vietnam called Operation Piranha. Increasing hostilities caused OK CITY to spend more and more time in the South China Sea, frequently as a Gunfire Support Ship. Included in her activities were Operation Double Eagle, Deckhouse IV, and Hastings II. As a result of the role she played in that segment of the Vietnam Conflict, the OKLAHOMA CITY gained the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After serving 2 1/2 years in the Far East the OK CITY was again relieved as Seventh Fleet flagship by the USS PROVIDENCE. She set sail for San Francisco in December of 1966 and arrived at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard on 15 December for major overhaul.

During the seven-month overhaul many internal changes and modifications were made. Of particular note was the installation of the Message Processing and Distribution System (MPDS). This complex computer-operated system is the latest in communication equipment which no other ship in the fleet as yet possesses. In July 1967 the OK CITY arrived at her new homeport of San Diego, California where she went through an intensive, eight-week refresher training program. She then relieved the USS CHICAGO (CG-11) on 26 September 1967 as flagship for Commander First Fleet.





As First Fleet flagship, OKLAHOMA CITY was an active participant in all Fleet exercises held on the Pacific Coast. Each exercise involved a large number of ships and had the objective of preparing our forces for combat in the Far East. During these periods extensive evaluations of new equipment and tactics were made. Periodically OK CITY was afforded the opportunity to visit such West Coast ports as San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and Esquimalt and Vancouver, B.C.

On the morning of 7 November 1968 the OK CITY departed San Diego destination Yokosuka, Japan. After a day and one-half at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ship arrived in Yokosuka November 22nd. The morning of 26 November 1968 OKLAHOMA CITY relieved USS PROVIDENCE (CLG-6) as flagship for Commander Seventh Fleet.

