

## **USS JARRETT (FFG-33) Command History 2003**

New Year's Day 2003 found the crew of JARRETT well rested, and in the midst of a much needed and well-deserved holiday stand down with family and friends. A mere two weeks later, as San Diego prepared for the coming of the Super Bowl, JARRETT set sail to serve as the opposition force (OPFOR) for the NIMITZ Battle Group and prepare for the coming of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training II (CART II). February marked the beginning of a compressed training cycle with Initial Assessment and CART II. The weeks following were dedicated to maintenance and preparations for JARRETT's Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA), which monopolized most of March and April. Mid-March was also the beginning of a rigorous force protection training schedule.

As TSTA wrapped up in the first half of April, JARRETT was underway for a week of preparations for the Underway Demonstration--JARRETT's engineering certification. The following week, the Underway Demonstration was very successful with a grade of Above Average. All watch teams performed flawlessly and Engineering Department's material readiness had peaked at the right time. One week later, JARRETT was underway again, this time for the culmination of the basic phase, the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). Once again, JARRETT's Sailors came through with an evaluation of Above Average.

Following FEP, the ship began the third phase of force protection training as well as the 3M Certification. With the basic phase complete, JARRETT was underway in May for ESGEX, the first of several pre-deployment workups for the PELELIU Expeditionary Strike Group (PELESG) deployment with Expeditionary Strike Group ONE (ESG-1) and Amphibious Squadron THREE at the helm. This was the inaugural underway for the PELESG, which was comprised of an Amphibious Readiness Group, the THIRTEENTH Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), three CRUDES warships, and one fast attack submarine. The 13th MEU, USS PELELIU (LHA-5), USS OGDEN (LPD-5), USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42), USS PORT ROYAL (CG-73), USS DECATUR (DDG-73), USS GREENEVILLE (SSN-772), SEAL Team SEVEN, and, of course, USS JARRETT ushered in a new era of war-fighting as they trained to face the challenges of the global war on terrorism. The underway period concluded with a brief stop in Seal Beach Weapons Naval Station for an ammunition onload on 23 May.

After three short weeks in port, JARRETT was, once again, underway with the PELESG for the group's Comprehensive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). The underway period wrapped up with a Family and Friends Day Cruise on 20 June. Family and friends were invited to embark on JARRETT for a day filled with gun shoots, static displays, a flight demonstration, a shiphandling demonstration, and a steel beach picnic.

Due to the accelerated pre-deployment schedule, JARRETT's pre-overseas movement (POM) period fell during the last week of June and the first three weeks of July. On 02 July, JARRETT's crew commemorated the ship's 20th birthday with a simple, but fitting celebration and picnic on the pier. On 9 July, VADM LaFleur, Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific, visited JARRETT to farewell the crew for the upcoming deployment.

Upon returning from stand down, the crew geared up for PELESG's Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX)--the final exercise for the PELESG before it embarked on its inaugural deployment at the end of August. During JTFEX, JARRETT demonstrated its mettle for the upcoming deployment as the ship and HSL-49 Air Detachment THREE became a cohesive war-fighting element. For two weeks following JTFEX, crewmembers enjoyed another stand down as the planned eight-month deployment rapidly approached.

On the morning of 22 August, JARRETT deployed with the PELESG for its inaugural deployment to the Western Pacific, Arabian Gulf, and Horn of Africa. As they waved farewell to family members, JARRETT was fully combat ready, poised, and committed to the success of the PELESG and its missions overseas. On 29 August, JARRETT and company made a brief stop in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for a well-deserved liberty port. Fortunately, due to the approach of Hurricane Jimena off the coast, the PELESG's port visit was extended a few extra days, allowing crewmembers to take advantage of all that the beautiful island had to offer.

Underway and heading west once again, JARRETT continued a demanding training schedule both inside and outside the lifelines. JARRETT sailed past Guam and through the Philippine Islands before another stop in Singapore on 20 September. This stop, though brief, allowed JARRETT Sailors to experience the diverse and welcome cultures of Singapore.

Following Singapore, JARRETT completed a successful transit of the Strait of Malacca as well as the first combat replenishment at sea (RAS) of jet fuel from USS PELELIU. JARRETT chopped into the FIFTH Fleet and headed to the Horn of Africa where it worked in conjunction with coalition forces in conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations for Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) under the leadership of Admiral Mazars of the French Navy. JARRETT's mission tasking in the Horn of Africa (HOA) and Gulf of Aden (GOA) was in direct support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In the HOA, JARRETT conducted one Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) boarding and numerous query operations in the fight to prevent illegal personnel, arms, and drug shipments in the Horn of Africa.

In late October 2003, JARRETT transited the Strait of Hormuz en route Bahrain for a port visit from 21 to 26 October. During the port call, JARRETT conducted its first extensive voyage repair period. Upon departing Bahrain, JARRETT headed to the North Arabian Gulf for mission tasking in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. JARRETT reported for guard ship duty for MABOT and KAAOT, two prominent Iraqi oil terminals financially vital to the development of the new Iraq under the Coalition Provisional Authority. Additionally, JARRETT conducted numerous VBSS operations as well as assisting with the rescue of eight crewmembers aboard a sinking tug with the embarked helicopter RED STINGER.

JARRETT then headed south to the Central Arabian Gulf to participate in MIREM 27 with USS MEMPHIS, the PELESG EOD Detachment, Submarine Warfare Development Group TWELVE, and MCMRON 31. Upon the completion of the experimental stage of MIREM 27, JARRETT conduct ASW exercises with USS MEMPHIS. Lastly, JARRETT conducted groundbreaking work with the PELESG EOD in the testing of a new unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV)

JARRETT then transited out of the Arabian Gulf for a port visit in Muscat, Oman from 17-21 November. Following the Muscat port visit, JARRETT returned to the HOA/GOA and resumed its mission tasking under CTF 150. JARRETT celebrated its Thanksgiving with a bountiful feast prepared by its Mess Management Specialists. During the Thanksgiving Holiday, JARRETT was tasked with a real-world operation in which JARRETT was the Expeditionary Action Group Commander. The operation encompassed the JARRETT, GERMANTOWN, a platoon from SEAL Team TEN, United States Army Special Forces, and two Marine MH-53E helicopters from Joint Task Force Horn of Africa (JTF-HOA). This operation validated JARRETT's ability to respond to short-term tasking and develop a concept of operations for a short-fused reconnaissance and SEAL VBSS operation. During this period, JARRETT also vigilantly patrolled the approaches to the Bab al Mandeb and conducted escort duties for HMS TRIUMPH as well as other vessels in the Red Sea. Additionally, demonstrating its anti-submarine warfare prowess once again, JARRETT conducted another ASW exercise, this time with the TRIUMPH.

In mid-December, JARRETT departed the Gulf of Aden and began its transit to the African island nation of Mauritius. En route Mauritius, JARRETT cleansed itself of slimy pollywogs with its Crossing the Line Ceremony on 20 December. In port Mauritius, JARRETT hosted a reception for numerous foreign dignitaries and embassy staff members. Guests of honor included the Prime Minister of Mauritius and the American Embassy Charge d'Affaires. JARRETT Sailors celebrated Christmas in beautiful Mauritius taking advantage of the warm weather, stunning beaches, and the Mauritians' warm hospitality.

On 26 December, JARRETT departed Mauritius and headed north to yet another island paradise. On 29 December, JARRETT pulled into Seychelles in order to refuel and enjoy a few more days of liberty. On New Year's Eve, JARRETT hosted a festive ship's party where Sailors were able to celebrate yet another successful year in JARRETT's history and look forward to the New Year and a joyous homecoming in a few more months.