

CAPTAIN JAMES M. ARRISON, III

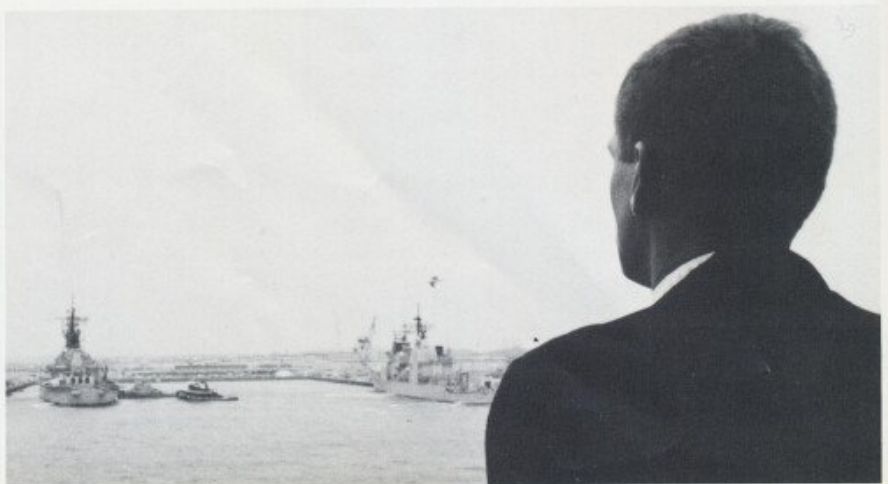
Commanding Officer

The **TICONDEROGA** men pictured in this book formed a magnificent fighting team. The photographs and the captions tell a story filled with pride and success. Just as the **TICONDEROGA** men that fought in the early days of our republic, during World War II in the Pacific, over Korea and Vietnam, and off Beirut and Libya, the men in this book were prepared to use force at great personal risk to defend freedom. Our mission demanded coordination, skill, innovation and dedication. We are proud to have been selected as the first Atlantic Fleet **AEGIS** cruiser sent to the Middle East.

We are proud of our performance. But principally, we are proud our efforts are appreciated and supported by the citizens of the United States.

In this handsome cruisebook so skillfully put together by QM2 Gai and his shipmates you will see a story of a ship and it's crew —

- ☆ that departed Norfolk on 10 September 1987 for a 10-week cruise in the Mediterranean and returned 6 months (and over 44,400 miles) later after having crossed the Arctic Circle and the Equator after having been twice through the Suez Canal and six times through the Strait of Hormuz and after having tracked the Soviets in the Bosphorus, off the fjords of Norway and in the hostile areas of the North Arabian Sea.
- ☆ that made significant material readiness improvements in engineering and combat systems with only a single intermediate maintenance period on seven days.
- ☆ that passed a difficult maintenance material management (3M) inspection and an OPPE immediately following 82 consecutive days at sea.
- ☆ that flawlessly fired its missiles, guns and CIWS mounts, flew over 600 safe Lamps hours, created an effective and dedicated ESWS qualification program, and established a striker program to reward **TICO** best seaman/firemen.
- ☆ that repainted and relighted itself while spending 90 percent of its 183 days at sea: established its first combat system training team, hosted Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group - Two for several months, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders for a few hours, and countless senior military, civilian and media dignitaries.



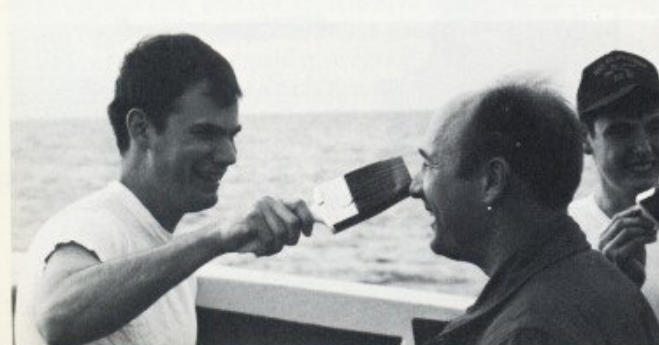
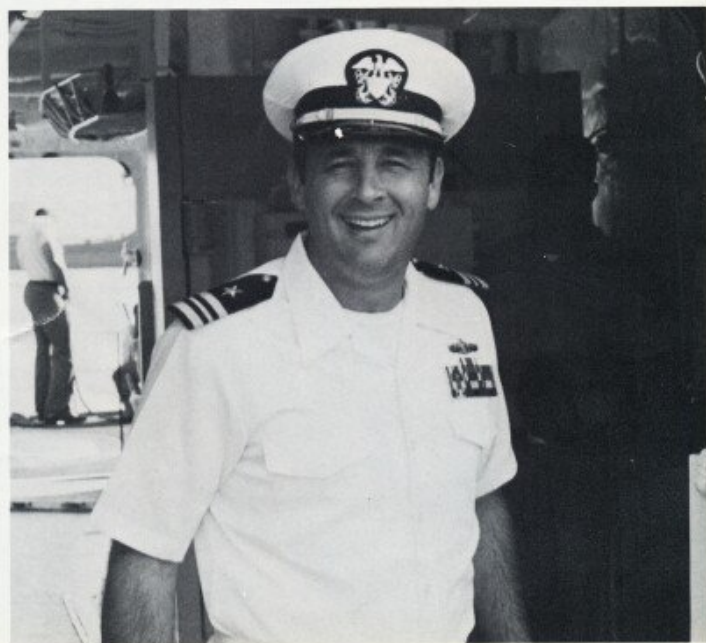


The broad success of **TICONDEROGA'S** deployment was possible only with the hard work and sacrifice of its crew, by the understanding and faithful support of the **TI-CONDEROGA** wives, children and families, and by the many friends of **TICONDEROGA**. No group was more supportive, however, than the citizens of Ticonderoga, New York. They embody the reason for our being, the strength of our countenance and the singleness of our resolve to keep America free. This book is about the crew of **USS TICONDEROGA** but it is dedicated to those who supported us generously. I am proud and honored to have been a part of this most unique deployment.



LCDR. FRED S. BERTSCH, III

Executive Officer





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