CAPTAIN WARD S. MILLER

When Captain Ward S. Miller assumed command of the USSTICONDEROGA, 10 November 1966, he accepted the responsibility with a wide background of experience in both the destroyer and air branches of the U.S. Navy.

A native of Colorado, he began his career at the Naval Academy in 1938. Upon graduation in 1941, he reported for destroyer duty in the North Atlantic. He entered flight training, and received his wings in 1945.

From 1945 to 1953, he served as X.O. of Fighter Squadron 4; Aide to CinC Pacific Fleet, Personal Aide to the CNO; C.O. of Fighter Squadron 63; and Air Officer on the USS BADOENG STRAIT (CVE-105). In June 1952, while leading air strikes over North Korea, he was shot down by enemy ground fire.

After attending the Armed Forces Staff College in 1954, he served as Intelligence Officer for the SECOND Fleet. In 1956, he attended the Navy Test Pilot School and upon graduation, was made Head of the Carrier Suitability Branch, Flight Test, Patuxent River. He then took command of the F8U Replacement Fighter Squadron at Cecil Field, Florida.

In 1960 he attended the Senior Course Naval War College, and upon graduation served in the Strategic Plans Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations until late 1962 when he became Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Joint Chiefs of Staff matters. In late 1963, he took command of the USS HYADES (AF-28), serving in that capacity until January 1965 when he was ordered as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations to Commander SIXTH Fleet.

Captain Miller holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Secretary of the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and Purple Heart.