COMMANDING OFFICER
CAPTAIN J. ALDRICH USN

Captain Aldrich was born in Savannah, Georgia on September 25, 1920. In June 1940 he entered the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated three years later.

Captain Aldrich's first sea duty was aboard the USS AMMEN (DD-527) where he served for eighteen months and saw action in the Pacific Theatre.

In July 1952, having completed a tour in the Guided Missiles Division of the Chief of Naval Operations Captain Aldrich was transferred to the USS MACON (CA-132), where he served as Gunnery Officer. In the latter part of 1954 he reported to China Lake, California for duty as Assistant Experimental Officer with the Naval Ordnance Test Station. In August 1956, Captain Aldrich again returned to sea, serving as Executive Officer aboard the USS MURRAY (DDE-576), and in February 1958, he took command of the USS BASILONE (DDE-824).

In August 1959, Captain Aldrich attended the Armed Forces Staff College. Early in 1960 he reported to the Bureau of Naval Weapons as Assistant Director of the Military Personnel Division, and later as Head of the Polaris Missile Production and Fleet Readiness Section of the Special Projects Office. In September 1963, he reported to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico as Commander of the Caribbean Detachment, Operational Test and Evaluation Force.

In January 1966, he became Head of the Cruiser-Destroyer and Underway Replenishment Ship Warfare Branch, Strike Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. On December 8, 1967 Captain Aldrich assumed command of USS BELKNAP (DLG-26).