



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG-49)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AE 09565-1503

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From: Commanding Officer, USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1996

Ref: (a) CNO ltr Ser 5757 dtd 10 Sep 97

Encl: (1) Command History  
(2) 1996 Welcome Aboard Pamphlet  
(3) Change of Command Pamphlet  
(4) Mission Area Excellence Award

1. Enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. W. Bump".

R. W. BUMP

## 1996 USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY COMMAND HISTORY

1. Command Composition and Organization. The mission of the USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) is to provide local area protection to underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against subsurface, air, and surface threats, as well as AAW, ASUW, and ASW self defense. ROBERT G. BRADLEY can also contribute to carrier battle group or surface action group (SAG) defense. Immediate senior command in 1996 is COMDESRON TWO ZERO. Commander Elliott Powell, Jr. served as Commanding Officer from 01 Jan 1996 to 25 Apr 1996 when Commander Mark A. Stearns assumed command. Permanent duty station for 1996 was Norfolk, VA.

### 2. 1996 Chronology.

- 01-09 Jan	Nauticus visit, Norfolk, VA
- 09-27 Jan	Inport Norfolk, VA
- 28 Jan-02 Feb	TSTA II (CSTG) VaCapes
- 03-04 Feb	Inport Norfolk
- 05-10 Feb	TSTA III VaCapes
- 11-13 Feb	Inport Norfolk
- 14-16 Feb	Inport Yorktown, VA
- 15 Feb	Onload Yorktown
- 17-19 Feb	Inport Norfolk
- 20 Feb-20 Mar	COMPTUEX 96 with ENTBATGRU
- 05-08 Mar	Port visit St. John, USVI
- 21 Mar-27 Apr	Inport Norfolk (Logistics Management Assessment)
- 25 Apr	Change of Command
- 28 Apr-23 May	JTFEX 96 with ENTBATGRU
- 24 May-28 Jun	Inport Norfolk
- 28 Jun	Depart for MED 2-96 with ENTBATGRU
- 28 Jun-15 Jul	TRANSLANT with ENTBATGRU
- 16-18 Jul	Port visit Dunkerque, France
- 19 Jul	Port visit Oostende, Belgium
- 20-23 Jul	Port visit Zeebrugge, Belgium
- 24-26 Jul	Transit to Rota, Spain
- 27-30 Jul	Port visit Rota, Spain
- 31 Jul-04 Aug	Transit to Kos, Greece
- 05-08 Aug	Port visit Kos, Greece
- 07-17 Aug	CDS-20 Embarked
- 09 Aug	Turkish Straits Passage
- 10-13 Aug	Port visit Bourgas, Bulgaria
- 10-16 Aug	BRIZ 96
- 14-16 Aug	Port visit Varna, Bulgaria
- 17-21 Aug	Port visit Constantza, Romania
- 22 Aug	Turkish Straits Passage
- 23 Aug	East Med operations
- 25-27 Aug	SHARKHUNT
- 28-30 Aug	Adriatic Sea
- 30 Aug	SNFM turnover with USS KLAKRING

Enclosure (1)

- 01 Sep Strait of Messina passage
- 02-08 Sep Port visit Naples, Italy
- 05 Sep STANVFORMED Change of Command
- 08-09 Sep STANVFORMED
- 08-12 Sep SNFM Basic Combat Enhancement Training (CET)
- 13-17 Sep Port visit Casablanca, Morocco
- 18-20 Sep SNFM Basic CET/SUW with Italian Corvettes
- 21 Sep Dynamic Mix 96 Brief
- 22-26 Sep SHAREM/DYNAMIC MIX 96
- 26 Sep-06 Oct DYNAMIC MIX 96
- 07-18 Oct Port visit Messina, Sicily
- 19-22 Oct SNFM Intermediate CET/SUW/USW with Italian forces
- 23-28 Oct Port visit Palermo, Sicily
- 29 Oct-02 Nov SNFM Intermediate CET/SUW/USW with Italian forces
- 03-08 Nov Port visit Alexandria, Egypt
- 09-19 Nov SNFM Advanced CET SUW with Turkish Forces AW with Hellenic Air Forces
- 20 Nov-02 Dec Port visit Taranto, Italy
- 03-06 Dec SNFM Direct Support SSN/SSK Training
- 07-08 Dec Port visit Rota, Spain
- 08 Dec Turnover SNFM duties to USS HAWES
- 09-18 Dec Transit with ENTBATGRU
- 18-20 Dec Transit/Tiger Cruise with ENTBATGRU from Bermuda
- 21-31 Dec Inport Norfolk

3. Narrative. 1996 saw USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) conducting her mission during a major Battle Group deployment to the Mediterranean Sea the latter half of the year.

Leading up to the deployment, BRADLEY joined the ENTERPRISE Battle Group in several workup exercises. The first major exercise was COMPTUEX in March. This involved flexing the ship's weapons platforms including the MK13 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS) and the MK75 76MM Gun. AAW-11-SF was successfully completed. A torpedo firing exercise was conducted 09 Mar against a MK 30 target resulting in five attacks, two with MK 46/Mod 5 Extorp and three with MK 46 Rextorp. Three launched by SVTT all received a score of "HIT". RGB successfully conducted live NSFS firing runs at Vieques scoring an 96% during the exercise. These live fire exercises were conducted in Puerto Rican waters in the vicinity of St John, Virgin Islands.

RGB Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification remained current in 1996, successfully completed on 17-18 Apr 96.

A Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) was conducted on 15-19 Apr 96 and was evaluated as SAT.

In May 1996, the next major exercise was Combined Joint Tactical Fleet EX or JTFex. Conducted off the eastern seaboard of the United States, this exercise involved not only American forces but also other major NATO navies including the British, French, and Germans. ROBERT G. BRADLEY took part as an integral unit of the ENTERPRISE Battle Group. RGB worked routinely with the HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Battle Group conducting AW, SUW, USW, and Maritime Interdiction Operations. RGB became the first Atlantic Fleet FFG to refuel a PC-1 Class unit at sea, refueling the USS CHINOOK, USS FIREBOLT, and USS THUNDERBOLT.

RGB deployed with ENTBATGRU on June 28, transiting the Atlantic detaching prior to the Strait of Gibraltar to go north and visit France and Belgium. After detaching, a merchant ship made a distress call for a stricken sailor onboard. RGB launched CUTLASS 463 and airlifted the sailor. RGB closed the shoreline at 30 knots and transported the sailor to a French hospital where he fully recovered. The rapid response and superior efforts of the RGB and CUTLASS crew saved the sailor's life.

While in Belgium, RGB participated in a Pass in Review for the King of Belgium. Directly following the ceremony, RGB pulled in to Zeebrugge, Belgium for the Belgium Navy Day celebration. RGB transited south, entered the Mediterranean Sea, and conducted a successful TDU shoot off the coast of Sicily. COMDESRON TWO ZERO embarked in Kos, Greece as RGB headed to the Black Sea to participate in BRIZ-96.

RGB joined NATO and Partnership for Peace Navies at anchor in Bourgas, Bulgaria for the Bulgarian exercise BRIZ-96 planning conference. The exercise consisted of numerous serials including an assistance at sea exercise. RGB sent a rescue and assistance detail to FF-11, the Bulgarian flagship. While onboard, the team displayed fire fighting tactics and rendered medical assistance with the Bulgarian CNO observing. A highly successful towing exercise was completed with a Hellenic FF (ex-USS TRIPPE). BRIZ-96 ended with a post exercise debrief held in Varna, Bulgaria. The Bulgarian CNO stated at the debrief that he was pleased with the exercise and was truly grateful to all the nations which participated.

Sailing out of the Black Sea, RGB rendezvoused with ENTBATGRU for SHARKHUNT 96, a USW exercise. RGB had tail contact through the entire exercise. Coordination between the ship and embarked LAMPS MK III was outstanding, tracking and reporting the submarine contact for over 48 hours.

Turnover of SNFM duties with USS KLAKRING occurred in the Adriatic Sea and RGB rendezvoused with STANAVFORMED in Naples, Italy in time to participate in the Change of Command ceremony. Underway from Naples enroute Casablanca with STANAVFORMED units, exercises were conducted concentrating on communications and coordination. Many lessons were learned from the simulated USW and SUW exercises conducted. A multitude of exercises were completed in all warfare areas while operating with SNFM. Italian, Hellenic, and Turkish forces were utilized as OPFOR units creating very realistic scenarios.

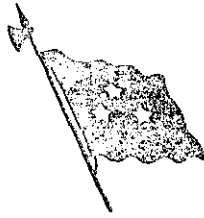
Exercise DYNAMIC MIX-96 was an outstanding exercise for SNFM to demonstrate the diverse capabilities of all the ships and utilize as a group during sustained operations at sea. Following the brief in Augusta Bay, Sicily, RGB along with the FGS BRANDENBURG, HMS NOTTINGHAM, ITS GRECALE, USNS PATHFINDER, and FGS U-24 got underway to conduct the SHAREM portion of DYNAMIC MIX. The SHAREM was positioned in the Malta Channel, verifying data collected during Rapid Response. The exercise was extremely successful. RGB's efforts earned her the Sixth Fleet Hook 'Em Award. Directly following the SHAREM, SNFM units dispersed throughout the northern and western Ionian Sea in preparation for the rendezvous with the HMS INVINCIBLE Battle Group. RGB was assigned the southernmost area to conduct USW searches of the rendezvous area. SNFM units screened high value units throughout the Force-on-Force phase. RGB was assigned to numerous SAG's and SAU's, engaging OPFOR surface and submarine forces. All objectives were surpassed, the HVU's were never approached by any OPFOR units, the screen procedure and SAG/SAU's were extremely effective against the threat.

SNFM continued to conduct difficult exercises in multiple threat environments after DYNAMIC MIX's conclusion. Often combining all three warfare areas into one exercise using Italian, Hellenic, or Turkish assets for OPFOR. Multiple threat exercises were conducted throughout the SNFM Practice Program (SOE). Using surface vessels, air forces, and submarines from Italy, Greece, and Turkey to provide experienced and professional OPFOR to flex STANAVFORMED capabilities. The exercises with diesel submarines from Turkey and Italy were the most beneficial. Allowing the

force to operate in littoral environments against quality adversaries, gaining vast experience as a group and individually. Warfare in the littorals has been practiced and exercised over and over again while operating with SNFM. Contributions to SNFM and other units by RGB has greatly increased their capabilities in the close-to-shore environment. Contact reporting and LINK 11 cohesion was drastically improved after suggestions from RGB were implemented, allowing watchstanders to make decisions based on real time data.

With a brief stop in Rota, Spain to turn over SNFM duties to the USS HAWES, BRADLEY made a southerly Atlantic crossing in 2 weeks aimed for Bermuda. During the crossing, RGB conducted a Mid-cycle assessment. At anchorage in Bermuda, the ENTERPRISE Battle Group, including the BRADLEY, picked up dependents for a Tiger cruise from Bermuda to Norfolk, BRADLEY's homeport. BRADLEY returned from her Mediterranean deployment on 20 DEC 96.

Awards presented to RGB during 1996 calendar year included the Logistics Management Excellence Award (Blue E) sixth award and Sixth Fleet Hook 'Em award, Sea Service ribbon, Armed Forces Service medal, and NATO medal.



Commander Naval Surface Force

United States Atlantic Fleet

takes pleasure in presenting

MISSION AREA EXCELLENCE AWARD to

USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49)

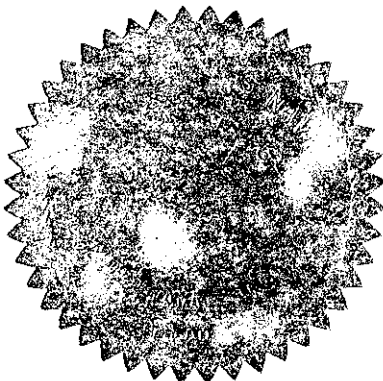
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For outstanding professional achievement as the winner of a Mission Area Excellence Award. During the competitive cycle ending 31 December 1996, USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) met the most stringent standards of battle readiness, earning the Logistics Management Excellence Award. This achievement was the result of a tremendous level of teamwork and perseverance. The exceptional professionalism, initiative and loyal devotion to duty demonstrated by the officers and crew of USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY reflected great credit upon themselves and the Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and were in keeping with the highest tradition of United States Naval Service.

D. J. KATZ

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander, Naval Surface Force  
U.S. Atlantic Fleet



Enclosure (4)