

Keep 4/30/00
v/o disk

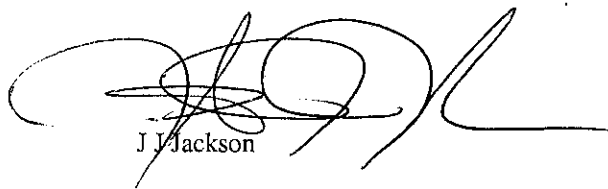
10 FEBRUARY 2000

From: LTJG [REDACTED], Command Historian, FFG-49
To: Director, Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1999

Encl: (1) Chronology/Narrative
(2) Ship's Information Booklet
(3) Ship's Picture

1. Command History for USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG-49) is submitted as requested.



J. J. Jackson

1. Command Composition and Organization. The mission of USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY 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 actions. ROBERT G. BRADLEY can also contribute to carrier battle group or SAG defense. Immediate senior in command of the ROBERT G. BRADLEY is Captain David Weppler, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Fourteen. Commanding Officer of ROBERT G. BRADLEY is Commander Mark A. Baulch. The ROBERT G. BRADLEY's current homeport is Mayport, FL.

2. 1999 Chronology.

01Jan-04Jan	Inport Mayport,FL/Holiday Leave Period
04Jan-01Feb	Inport Mayport,FL
04Jan-08Jan	HORSE
11Jan-15Jan	LMA (Logistics Management Assessment)
19Jan-22Jan	CART II(Command Assessment of Readiness and Training)
01Feb-03Feb	Underway BECCES/DLQ'S (Basic Engineering Casualty Control Excercises/Deck Landing Qualifications)
03Feb-12Feb	Inport Mayport,FL
08Feb-12Feb	ECART (Engineering Command Assessment of Readiness and Training)
12Feb-01Mar	Underway CHASNOPAREA (Charleston Operating Area)/OPFOR
02Mar-07Mar	Inport Mayport,FL
08Mar-10Mar	Underway JAXOPAREA (Jacksonville Operating Area).
10Mar-15Mar	Inport Mayport,FL
16Mar-18Mar	Underway JAXOPAREA/ECERT (Engineering Certification)
19Mar-21Mar	Inport Mayport,FL
22Mar-24Mar	Underway JAXOPAREA
25Mar-02Apr	IMAV (Intermediate Maintenance Availability)
25Mar-04Apr	Inport Mayport,FL
29Mar-02Apr	CMTQ (Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification)
05Apr-07Apr	FEP (Final Evaluation Period) Preparations
07Apr-11Apr	Inport Mayport,FL
12Apr-14Apr	FEP
14Apr-28Apr	Inport, Mayport,FL
28Apr-29Apr	Underway, JAXOPAREA
30Apr	Change of Command Ceremony
01May-02May	Inport, Mayport,FL
03May	Underway for DECO (Destroyer Escort Commanding Officer's) Reunion
04May-19May	Inport, Mayport,FL
17May-19May	LMA Assist
20May-21May	Underway, JAXOPAREA
21May-21Jun	Inport, Mayport,FL
24May-04Jun	TARGET/ CSRR (Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase I)

22Jun-24Jun	Underway, JAXOPAREA/Midshipman Training
24Jun-27Jun	Inport, Mayport FL.
28Jun-22Jul	JFK OPFOR/INDEX 99-2
28Jun-02Jul	Transit Caribbean OPAREA
03Jul-05Jul	Anchored, ST. Johns, U.S.V.I.
06Jul	Inport, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads
07Jul-14Jul	Underway Caribbean OPAREA
14Jul-17Jul	Inport, ST. Croix, U.S.V.I.
17Jul-19Jul	Underway Caribbean OPAREA
19Jul-20Jul	Inport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti/Community Relations Project.
21Jul-22Jul	Transit to Mayport, FL
22Jul-24Aug	Inport, Mayport, FL
22Jul-20Aug	Pre-Overseas Movement
24Aug	Deployment-Counter Drug Operations
24Aug-29Aug	Transit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
29Aug-30Aug	Inport, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
31Aug-06Sep	Underway, Caribbean OPAREA
07Aug-10Sep	Curacao, NA
10Sep-15Sep	Underway, Caribbean OPAREA
16Sep-19Sep	Inport, Aruba
19Sep-27Sep	Underway, Caribbean OPAREA
27Sep	BSF (Brief Stop for Fuel) Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
27Sep-03Oct	Underway, Caribbean OPAREA
03Oct	Transit of the Panama Canal
04Oct-06Oct	Inport, Rodman, PM
06Oct-15Oct	Underway, Eastern Pacific OPAREA
15Oct-17Oct	Inport, Rodman, PM
19Oct	Crossing the Line Ceremony
17Oct-29Oct	Underway, Eastern Pacific OPAREA
29Oct-31Oct	Inport, Punta Renas, CS
31Oct-08Nov	Underway, Eastern Pacific OPAREA
08Nov	Inport, Rodman, PM/Transit of the Panama Canal
09Nov-13Nov	Transit to Mayport, FL
13Nov-22Nov	Inport, Mayport, FL/IMAV
22Nov	Transit to Caribbean OPAREA
24Nov-30Nov	Caribbean OPAREA
30Nov-03Dec	Anchored, Cartagena, CO
04Dec	BSF, Colon, PM
05Dec-24Dec	Underway, OPERATION DAGGER
17Dec	BSF, Colon, PM
24Dec-27Dec	Inport, Roosevelt Roads, PR
27Dec-30Dec	Transit to Barbados
30Dec-31Dec	Inport, Bridgetown, Barbados

3. Narrative.

ROBERT G. BRADLEY started the year 1999 in the middle of its Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC), a very demanding and crucial period where the ship is evaluated for its readiness for deployment. The crewmembers of the ROBERT G. BRADLEY proved to

be well trained and passed CART II, ECART, and the underway Engineering Certification with flying colors. The Final Evaluation Period was the last step in the IDTC process and took place from 12 April to 14 April. The ship was evaluated on comprehensive battle scenarios that stressed teamwork and a knowledgeable shipboard training team and crew.

Following the the Final Evaluation Period came a change of the guard. Commander Richard W. Bump was relieved by Commander Mark A. Baulch on 30 April. Commander Baulch is a graduate of Texas A&M and came to the BRADLEY after serving as a political military analyst in the Secretary of the Navy's Staff Office of Program Appraisal. Commander Bump headed to the Mediterranean where he will serve as Commanding Officer of a Maritime Pre-positioning Squadron.

On May 3, ROBERT G. BRADLEY had the pleasure of hosting the Destroyer Escort Commanding Officer's Reunion. Among the many distinguished members in attendance was Commander John Williamson (ret.), inventor of the Williamson turn and a mastermind of anti-submarine tactics during World War II. Crewmembers of the BRADLEY greatly appreciated the opportunity to exchange sea stories with respected war veterans and to learn more of their naval heritage.

In June, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG-49) and HSL-46 Detachment 10, along with fellow Western Hemisphere Group ships USS ESTOCIN (FFG-15) and USS YORKTOWN (CG-48), participated in OPFOR/INDEX 99-2 in the Caribbean OPAREA. The operation was designed to not only test the ships of Western Hemisphere Group, but to provide opposition forces to train and hone the combat abilities of the USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV-67) Carrier Battle Group. BRADLEY, ESTOCIN, and YORKTOWN portrayed maritime forces associated with a hostile, fictional country. The task of the OPFOR forces was to gradually increase the levels of hostilities in the area where the JOHN F KENNEDY Battle Group were operating. BRADLEY and her sister ships gradually became more belligerent, testing the patience and resolve of the U.S. forces in the area. This is done to provide the JFK Battle Group with realistic training to prepare them for their upcoming Mediterranean deployment. In the last stages of the operation, BRADLEY, YORKTOWN and ESTOCIN became involved in a 'shooting war' to force the KENNEDY Battle Group and its various air, surface, and subsurface arms to deal with possible threats.

BRADLEY did not spend the entire OPFOR/INDEX being the 'bad guy.' A major part of this operation was for the three ships to conclude their Inter-Deployment Training Cycle and prove that they were ready for deployment. In addition to the usual warfare area tests, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY conducted a series of United States Coast Guard training sessions focusing on the aspect of law enforcement and Counter Drug Operations, which will be the objective of BRADLEY's next deployment.

In her Anti-Submarine role, BRADLEY successfully tracked and prosecuted a submarine contact, culminating in the launch of

Enclosure (1)

two shipboard torpedoes and two air-dropped torpedoes from BRADLEY's embarked SH-60B helicopter. On the surface, BRADLEY excelled in her 76mm gun shoots and 50-caliber machine gun drills. In addition, she was able to flex her Visitation Boarding Search and Seizure teams in mock boardings with YORKTOWN and ESTOCIN, receiving high praise from Coast Guard observers on board. In the final part of the operation, BRADLEY, YORKTOWN and ESTOCIN launched missiles against airborne drones to receive their missile firing qualifications.

With the OPFOR/INDEX completed, ROBERT G. BRADLEY headed to Haiti for a community relations project in support of the ongoing United Nations humanitarian efforts in that region. Forty-seven BRADLEY sailors volunteered to go ashore and assist the United States Support Group-Haiti (USSPGH) with a project designed to improve the material condition of a local private school, the Ecole Nationale de Descloches. The USSPGH, a joint command comprised of personnel from all four military services and the U.S. Coast Guard, provide critical resources, coordinating responsibilities, and security for U.S. humanitarian projects in Haiti. After being bussed to the site, the crew quickly took up their paintbrushes and rollers and set about to the job at hand. Under the supervision of Navy construction experts, BRADLEY crew members repainted the exterior and interior of the school, adding to the preservation of the building as well as making the building more habitable and conducive to fostering a learning environment. Several members of the ship's crew also observed and assisted Army combat engineers in the repair of the school's well, restoring the water supply for the school and surrounding community.

Following the work, the crew was presented a letter of commendation from the commander of the USSPGH, Colonel Walton H Walker II, USA, for their fine performance and diligent work that they put into the school's renovation. It was only a few short weeks before that two sailors from the Jacksonville area who had volunteered to work at the site were killed in an automobile accident while enroute. Colonel Walker thought it appropriate that sailors from Jacksonville should be the ones to finally see the project through to its finish in memory of those who had died.

On August 24, the ROBERT G. BRADLEY set sail for its COUNTER DRUG OPERATIONS Deployment. The BRADLEY operated in the Caribbean Ocean in conjunction with other U.S. military assets, the Coast Guard, multiple Federal law enforcement agencies, and the maritime forces of several Caribbean nations in an effort to interdict the flow of drugs from South America to the United States. Navy ships operate with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments aboard in order to increase the number of Coast Guard assets available in the Caribbean to conduct boardings and seizures of illegal drug shipments. The crewmembers had high hopes and expectations about the BRADLEY's mission of stemming the flow of drugs from the Caribbean to the United States. With

Enclosure (1)

less than a month out of homeport, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG-49) achieved her first success of the Counter Drug Deployment. A Coast Guard C-130 aircraft on routine patrol in the Caribbean spotted what appeared to be a speed boat. When the C-130 flew in for a closer look, the speed boat took off at full speed, dumping their contraband as they went. The BRADLEY responded immediately by launching her helicopter and heading towards the area of the speed boat. The helicopter was able to recover three bundles that had been thrown from the speed boat. Testing later confirmed that the bundles contained 230 pounds of cocaine. Although the speed boat had long departed the area, the Jamaican Defense Force authorities eventually captured the speed boat and apprehended the smugglers.

On October 3rd, BRADLEY transited one of the great engineering marvels of the modern world, the Panama Canal. The transit from the Atlantic side near Colon, Panama, to the Pacific side exit near Panama City took approximately eleven hours. After a successful night transit of the Panama Canal, BRADLEY pulled into Rodman Naval Station for a brief port visit and provisioning before heading out to take station in the Pacific.

The Panama Canal transit was only the first bonus for the BRADLEYMEN. Operating in the Eastern Pacific gave them an opportunity that few sailors in the US Navy get the chance to do. On the 19th of October, at 0912 ROBERT G BRADLEY and her crew crossed the Equator at 085 28.3 W, officially making them eligible for entry into King Neptune's mythical realm. At the time, only a small number of BRADLEYMEN had ever crossed the Equator and thus held the honored title of 'Trusty Shellback.' Those few took extra special care and planning to ensure that their 200-odd shipmates were given the proper initiation into the honored ranks of the 'Shellbacks.'

Finally, ROBERT G BRADLEY was given the task of reestablishing relations with one of our Central American neighbors. On the 29th of October, ROBERT G BRADLEY became the first US Navy ship to visit Puntarenas, Costa Rica, in over five years. As ambassadors of the United States, the BRADLEYMEN opened the ship for tours and celebrated with the locals during their All Saints Day Celebration. CDR Mark A. Baulch, Commanding Officer, hosted Costa Rican Congressmen Belisario Solano and his family to a grand tour of the ROBERT G BRADLEY on the night of the 30th. Many members of the ship's company took the Costa Rica visit as an opportunity to see things rarely open to them, including the Costa Rican National Rainforests, a chance to see an active volcano, and visit many of the picturesque beaches that Costa Rica has to offer.

While enjoyable, the visit had to end, and BRADLEY resumed her patrol duties in the Eastern Pacific on 31 October. BRADLEY transited the Panama Canal once again on the 8th of November before on its transit back to Mayport, Florida for mid-deployment IMAV. Although the IMAV in Mayport was too short for

Enclosure (1)

most of the crewmembers, it did give them a chance to visit their loved ones before continuing their mission in the Caribbean.

On the December 5th, the BRADLEY had the opportunity to work with the Columbian submarine ARC Tyrona along with other US Navy and Coast Guard assets in OPERATION DAGGER. The purpose of operation dagger was to evaluate the methods of tracking drug traffickers and to experiment with multinational operations. Although no busts were made, OPERATION DAGGER proved to be a valuable learning experience.

The BRADLEY finished the year 1999 by spending Christmas in Puerto Rico and New's Year's Eve in Barbados. The BRADLEY finished her Counter Drug Operation Deployment on February 2, 2000. BRADLEY'S next deployment will be in July of 2001, when it deploys for SFNL (Standing Forces Northern Atlantic) with NATO forces.