



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49)

FLEET POST OFFICE

AA 34090-1503

5750

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14 Apr 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49)

To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49) COMMAND HISTORY FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F Command Histories

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer

1. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission. The mission of USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49), UIC 21201, is to provide local area protection to Aircraft Carrier Battlegroups, underway replenishment groups, amphibious groups, and other military shipping against air, surface and subsurface threats. ROBERT G BRADLEY can also act as a Surface Action Group and/or a Search Attack Unit Commander.

b. Commanding Officer. CDR Michael A. Strano, USN.

c. Immediate Superior in Command. Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN: Captain Bernard L. Jackson, USN.

d. Permanent Homeport. Mayport, FL.

2. 2002 Chronology.

29 DEC-10JAN 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Leave Period  
11 JAN-14JAN Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
14 JAN Post-deployment Brief (CDS-14 HQ)  
15 JAN-16JAN Underway for Training in JAX OPAREA  
15 JAN-28JAN Intermediate Maintenance Availability, NS MAYPORT,  
FL  
17 JAN-28JAN Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
21 JAN-26JAN Pre-AVCERT Tech Assist  
22 JAN-23JAN INSURV Meeting NS NORFOLK, VA  
24 JAN Missile Offload NS MAYPORT, FL  
25 JAN Post-deployment Brief (CNSG-2)  
28 JAN Ordnance Crossdeck to USS SIMPSON NS MAYPORT, FL  
29 JAN-01FEB Underway for INSURV Preps and USS KLAKRING PCO Ship  
ride

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02 FEB-10FEB Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
04 FEB-08FEB Underwater Hull Cleaning/Inspection  
05 FEB Safety Survey/AT-FPO Conference NORFOLK, VA  
06 FEB Offload Material/Equipment for EDSRA  
11 FEB-15FEB INSURV  
12 FEB Underway for INSURV UMI in JAX OPAREA  
13 FEB-18FEB Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
15 FEB RADM Hunter, COMNAVSURFGRU TWO, visited to present the ship with the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation (Operational) for performance during Counter Narcotics Deployment.  
19 FEB-20FEB Underway for Training in JAX OPAREA  
21 FEB-27FEB Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
21 FEB Ordnance Offload NS MAYPORT, FL  
28 FEB Underway "Deadstick" to Atlantic Dry Dock  
Commence EDSRA Package  
01 MAR-22APR Atlantic Dry Dock  
04 MAR-08MAR Ship Handling Complex NORFOLK, VA  
14 MAR ORM Refresher Training  
18 MAR-19MAR ATG Engineering Admin Review  
02 APR JIATF-E Post-deployment Brief KEY WEST, FL  
04 APR EDSRA 50% Conference  
08 APR-09APR ATG SFSA LTT  
09 APR-10APR CDS-14 Safe For Sea Assessment (SFSA) Prep  
17 APR PCD/Space Turnover  
19 APR Undocking Conference  
23 APR-29APR Pierside Atlantic Dry Dock  
23 APR-24APR CNSG-2 Commander's Conference  
25 APR ATG SFTM Brief  
26 APR Dockside Avail Departure Conference  
29 APR Fast Cruise/Dock Trials  
30 APR Underway "Deadstick" to NS MAYPORT, FL  
01 MAY-03MAY Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
01 MAY-02MAY CDS-14 Ready For Sea Assessment (RFSA)  
03 MAY EDSRA CNO End Date  
04 MAY Underway for Sea Trials in JAX OPAREA  
05 MAY-16JUL Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
06 MAY-15JUL Intermediate Maintenance Availability, NS MAYPORT, FL  
06 MAY Topside Avail Arrival Conference  
06 MAY-17MAY SEMAT I  
07 MAY-08MAY Combat Systems LTT (CSOSS/CSTT)  
15 MAY ATG Admin LTT  
20 MAY CTRA  
28 MAY ATG MATT LTT  
03 JUN-04JUN PATG Visit  
11 JUN-12JUN ATG MATT LTT  
13 JUN Topside Avail 50% Conference  
18 JUN Surface Strike Tactics Seminar  
19 JUN-21JUN ATG Shipboard Training Team  
20 JUN Supply Management Assist  
01 JUL-03JUL ATG Mock Light Off Assessment

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08 JUL-12JUL Supply Management Assist  
11 JUL-12JUL CDS-14 Pre-LOA Look  
15 JUL-16JUL ISIC Ready For Sea Assessment (RFSA)  
15 JUL-19JUL Aviation Certification Tech Assist  
16 JUL Fast Cruise/Dock Trials  
17 JUL-18JUL Underway for Sea Trials in JAX OPAREA  
19 JUL EDSRA CNO End Date  
22 JUL-16AUG LANTRAMID Phase III  
24 JUL-26JUL CDS-14 Light Off Assessment  
30 JUL-31JUL SAR LTT/Link-11 Long Look  
01 AUG-02AUG Ordnance Onload NS MAYPORT, FL  
01 AUG-31AUG SEMAT III  
06 AUG-08AUG Underway for Training JAX OPAREA  
09 AUG TSTA Planning Conference  
12 AUG-16AUG Aviation Certification/ARQ  
20 AUG-21AUG Dockside UNREP Simulator  
22 AUG-23AUG Advance Ship Handling Training NS NORFOLK, VA  
30 AUG PCO Arrive  
03 SEP-03SEP Underway for Training/PCO Ride JAX OPAREA  
04 SEP-16SEP Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
06 SEP Change of Command Ceremony  
09 SEP-10SEP NAV Admin LTT  
09 SEP-13SEP Supply Management Inspection  
09 SEP-22SEP Intermediate Maintenance Availability, NS MAYPORT,  
FL  
11 SEP-12SEP CDS-14 Initial Assessment Pre-Look  
16 SEP-17SEP Underway for CART II/Initial Assessment Preps JAX  
OPAREA  
17 SEP-30SEP Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
18 SEP-20SEP FPTT LTT  
Aviation Certification  
23 SEP-24SEP Medical LTT  
24 SEP-25SEP SAR Certification  
24 SEP-26SEP ATG N43 Engineering Initial Assessment  
27 SEP RADM Curtis, CNSG-2 and RADM Smith, COMUSNAVSO  
(former CO of ROBERT G BRADLEY) visited for  
for breakfast.  
30 SEP-04OCT Underway for CART II Preps/NAV Assessment JAX  
OPAREA  
04 OCT-10OCT Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
07 OCT-11OCT CART II  
10 OCT-11OCT Underway for CART II Scenario/CDS-14 NAV Assessment  
11 OCT-18OCT Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
15 OCT-16OCT AW-1/USW-1 LTT  
17 OCT Intermediate Maintenance Availability Conference,  
NS MAYPORT, FL  
18 OCT-25OCT Underway for SEA/NAV/EW/DC LTTs VACAPES OPAREA  
PASSEX with the Canadian Task Group  
21 OCT Advanced Coordinated Anti-Submarine Exercise  
(CASEX) with Canadian Task Group, USS MCFAUL (DDG  
74) and USS MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL (SSN 708)  
Electronic Warfare/Air Detection Exercise (EW/ADEX)

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22 OCT MIO Hailing/Warning Shots Exercise ENCOUNTER/Low  
Slow Flyer Exercise  
23 OCT Tow-be-Towed/VBSS Exercise with USS MCFAUL (DDG 74)  
UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189)  
25 OCT-04NOV Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
28 OCT-01NOV ATG 3M Baseline Assessment upgraded to  
Certification  
29 OCT-31OCT SUW-1/NAV-2 LTT  
04 NOV-12NOV Underway for ENG/AIR/USW-1 LTT JAX OPAREA  
12 NOV-19NOV Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
12 NOV-13NOV SEA-2 LTT  
13 NOV-14NOV MED-3 LTT  
13 NOV-15NOV SUW-2 LTT  
18 NOV Intermediate Maintenance Availability Conference,  
NS MAYPORT, FL  
19 NOV-21NOV Underway for ATG N43 Demo Preps JAX OPAREA  
21 NOV-03DEC Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
25 NOV-26NOV MED-4 LTT  
25 NOV-27NOV ATFP LTT  
03 DEC-04DEC Underway for ATG N43 Underway Demonstration  
preps JAX OPAREA  
05 DEC Underway, ATG N43 Underway Demonstration  
06 DEC Underway, training JAXOA  
07 DEC-10DEC Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
10 DEC-12DEC Underway for ITT LTT Certification JAX OPAREA  
12 DEC-16JAN Inport NS MAYPORT, FL  
14 DEC-27DEC 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Leave Period  
27 DEC-09JAN 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Leave Period

3. Narrative. ROBERT G BRADLEY began the year 2002 moored at homeport, NS MAYPORT, FL, with a portion of the crew home on Christmas leave after completing a challenging, yet highly successful Counter Narcotics and UNITAS Deployment. All crewmembers returned on 11JAN and the ship began pier-side maintenance preparations for INSURV. Additionally, during this period, ROBERT G BRADLEY was making preparations to commence a five-month EDSRA. ROBERT G BRADLEY hosted a 20B5 Combat Systems Trainer the first week of February in support of USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS (FFG 58) Combat System's watchstanders. On 5 February, representatives from the Naval Safety Center came aboard to conduct a day long Safety Survey. Six days later, ROBERT G BRADLEY commenced INSURV. This week long inspection was a success and the senior members of the board stated the following in their Quicklook Report: "The ship was well

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prepared for the inspection and had documented a significant number of discrepancies prior to the board's arrival".

Following the completion of INSURV, the ship received a formal visit by RADM Hunter (COMNAVSURFGRU TWO). RADM Hunter presented ROBERT G BRADLEY with the U. S. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation (Operational) for its performance during the recently completed Counter Narcotics deployment. For the next week and a half, the crew continued to make significant preparations for entering drydock. At 0800 27 February, which marked the beginning of EDSRA, ROBERT G BRADLEY was underway for a deadstick move to Atlantic Drydock. At 0945, the ship crossed the sill of the drydock. The ship remained in Dry Dock for 54 days and had the following major work accomplished: Ship's hull/sides painted, stern flap installed, zinc anodes replaced, main propulsion shafting, controllable pitch propeller, preservation of potable water tanks/ballast tanks/bilges/hull, O2 Level Deck, Boat Davit/Winch, RAST Track System, MK 13 pierside overhaul, MK 32 SVTT pierside overhaul, and women at sea officer washroom modification. The ship took full advantage of this extensive yard period to implement a methodical integrated training program. Great emphasis was put on off-ship school training to ensure that personnel received proper formal training and attended all required schools in accordance with the new Surface Force Training Manual and the Atlantic Fleet, Fleet Training Strategy.

On 22 April, ROBERT G BRADLEY slid off the blocks and went pierside for refueling at Atlantic Drydock. A week later, the ship was underway for a deadstick move back to her homeport, NS MAYPORT, FL. On 4 May, the ship conducted a one-day sea trial. Following return from sea trials, the ship commenced the Topside Availability Phase of the EDSRA. ROBERT G BRADLEY remained pierside until completion of EDSRA on 19 July, while the crew attended and/or participated in various Courses of Instruction (COI), Limited Team Trainers (LTT), Shipboard Training Team (SBTT), and conducted a Light-off Assessment (LOA), and an Aviation Certification (AVCERT).

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On 6 September, Commander Michael A. Strano, USN relieved Commander David K. Wright, USN as Commanding Officer, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49). Commander Strano is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and reported to the ROBERT G BRADLEY after serving as the Surface Operations Officer for Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWELVE. Commander Wright detached and proceeded to Washington, DC to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the J8 Directorate.

In addition to making preparations for an upcoming Command Assessment of Readiness and Training Phase II (CART II), the remainder of September was marked with the successful completion of a Supply Management Inspection, an early Search and Rescue Certification, an outstanding Aviation Certification, and an Afloat Training Group (N43) Engineering Initial Assessment. The ship was well prepared for the Initial Assessment and achieved results above fleet averages. On 27 September, ROBERT G BRADLEY had the distinct honor and pleasure of hosting RADM Vinson E. Smith (Commander, U.S. Naval Forces South and former Commanding Officer of ROBERT G. BRADLEY) onboard for breakfast with the Wardroom and a tour of the ship while visiting Mayport. The ship was also honored to have in attendance RADM Derwood C. Curtis (CNSG-2) and CAPT Bernard L. Jackson (COMDESRON 14). After an enjoyable and well-deserved weekend, ROBERT G BRADLEY got underway to continue training her crew for the following week's scheduled CART II.

The month of October was very demanding for ROBERT G BRADLEY starting with CART II early in the morning on 7 October. Seven days later, following completion of CART II, the ship departed Mayport and proceeded to the Virginia Capes Operation Area to complete a variety of exercises in accordance with ROBERT G BRADLEY'S Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) schedule. The ship also participated in a highly intensive PASSEX with a Canadian Task Group and the USS McFAUL (DDG 74). During this eight-day underway period with Afloat Training Group Mayport embarked, ROBERT G BRADLEY participated in the following exercises with the Canadian Task Group: an Electronic Warfare/Air Detection Exercise, an Advanced Coordinated Anti-Submarine Exercise

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(CASEX) with the Canadian Task Group and USS MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL (SSN 708), a live firing Maritime Interdiction Operation (MIO) Exercise, maneuvering Division Tactics, Photo Exercise, and an Encounter Exercise in which ROBERT G BRADLEY was designated Surface Action Group Commander. Prior to departing the Virginia Capes Operation Area, ROBERT G. BRADLEY was also given the opportunity to conduct a tow and be towed and a Visit Board Search and Seizure exercise with USS McFAUL and an Underway Replenishment with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (T-AO 189).

While off the coast of South Carolina on the return transit to Mayport, ROBERT G BRADLEY overheard a Bridge-to-Bridge channel 16 Coast Guard report of a fishing vessel in distress approximately thirty-two nautical miles away along RGB's track. A Marine Corps KC-130 was circling overhead to mark the vessel's position and act as a communications relay platform. A Coast Guard cutter was enroute to the vessel's position as well. Upon arrival, ROBERT G BRADLEY established communications with the vessel and offered assistance. The vessel desired to wait for the Coast Guard cutter from its homeport who arrived approximately one hour later. ROBERT G BRADLEY remained on scene until the Coast Guard arrived. Once detached, ROBERT G BRADLEY continued on her transit to Mayport on 25 October.

After completing a valuable week of extensive training and exercises, ROBERT G BRADLEY quickly shifted gears for a five day Afloat Training Group 3M Baseline Assessment, which ended with outstanding results. The Baseline Assessment was turned into a full 3M Certification in just a day and a half. The ship earned a 96.9% on the 3M Certification. During the month of November, the crew continued with Limited Team Trainers, which included some underway time in preparation for the Engineering Underway Demonstration.

On 3 December, the ship departed Mayport enroute to Jacksonville Operations Area to prepare for the Atlantic Afloat Training Group (N43) Engineering Underway Demonstration. The actual inspection occurred on 5

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December. ROBERT G BRADLEY received an overall score of "above average". This was the only "above average" awarded to ships in the Mayport basin in anyone's memory. The ship returned to port on Friday afternoon, 6 December. On 10 December, ROBERT G BRADLEY was again underway with Afloat Training Group Mayport embarked to evaluate and certify the ship's Integrated Training Team. On the evening of 12 December, ROBERT G BRADLEY proudly pulled into Mayport after a challenging week of Integrated Training Scenarios where the Integrated Training Team was certified to train seven weeks ahead of schedule. A well-deserved holiday leave and upkeep period closed out what was a highly successful year for ROBERT G BRADLEY. 2003 promises to be even a better year as the ship prepares to deploy for six months.

4. Command Awards.

- a. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation  
(Operational)
- b. COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Survivability Red "E"  
(fifth consecutive award)
- c. COMNAVSURFLANT Command and Control Excellence Green  
"E" (fourth consecutive award)
- d. Unit Wellness Green "H" (second consecutive award)

  
M. A. STRANO



**COMMANDER  
MICHAEL A. STRANO  
U.S. NAVY**

Commander Michael A. Strano was born in [REDACTED]. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Hammonton, NJ in 1979. After graduating from the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas in 1980, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he received his commission and Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography in 1984.

Commander Strano's first fleet assignment was onboard USS FARRAGUT (DDG 37) where he served as Communications Officer and later Main Propulsion Officer from March 1985 to October 1987. In March 1986, FARRAGUT deployed to the Mediterranean Sea participating in Operations Displayed Determination and El Dorado Canyon against Libya. In October 1987, Commander Strano reported to the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO serving as the staff Administrative Officer.

Commander Strano attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA graduating with distinction in December 1990 with a Masters of Science degree in Management and a subspecialty in Manpower, Personnel, Training Analysis.

Upon completion of Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School, Commander Strano reported to USS SPRUANCE (DD 963) where he served as Combat Systems Officer from December 1991 to May 1993. During his tour, SPRUANCE was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E". In July 1993, Commander Strano reported to USS WASP (LHD 1) as First Lieutenant. During his tour, WASP participated in Operations Restore and Continue Hope in Somalia, and in 1994 was the flagship for the Navy Component Commander during Operations Support and Restore Democracy in Haiti, earning the Battle Efficiency "E".

In January 1995, Commander Strano reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel serving as the Head of the Bonus Programs Branch (Pers-204) until August 1996, when he was assigned to the Secretary of the Navy's staff as Special Assistant for Military Compensation, POM and Budgeting.

In December 1998, Commander Strano assumed command of USS ORIOLE (MHC 55). During his tour, ORIOLE participated in the search and salvage operations of EgyptAir Flight 990 which crashed off Nantucket, Massachusetts. ORIOLE earned the Battle Efficiency "E." In June 2001, Commander Strano graduated from the U.S. Army Senior War College in Carlisle, PA, earning a Masters degree in National Strategic Studies.

In July 2001, Commander Strano reported to Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWELVE, while embarked in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), where he served as the Surface Operations Officer during her Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf deployment conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations and air strikes into southern Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch.

Commander Strano's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards). He is married to the former [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. They have two children, [REDACTED], age 15, and [REDACTED], age 8.