



USS BLAKELY (FF-1072)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS BLAKELY (FF-1072)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20390

Subj: Command History (Report Symbol 5750-1); submission of (1976)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.1B of 20 May 1971
(b) Director of Naval History ltr Ser 09BH/1872 of 13 December 1971

Encl: (1) USS BLAKELY (FF-1072) Command History for 1976

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) enclosure (1) is submitted.

[REDACTED]
N. T. HILL

Copy to:
COMDESRON FOUR (w/o enclosure)

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USS BLAKELY (FF-1072)
Command History for 1976

Summary of Operations:

USS BLAKELY (FF-1072) was in Regular Overhaul (ROH) in Charleston Naval Shipyard (CNSY), Charleston, SC on 1 January. She remained there until sea trails 2-4 March and returned to CNSY to complete ROH on 30 March. The Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) administered a Light-off Examination on 23 February with SATISFACTORY results.

From 31 March to 11 April, BLAKELY was inport Charleston at the Naval Station in a Ready for Sea (RFS) status. On 12 April she commenced the inport phase of Ship's Qualification Trails (SQT) and remained inport until 19 April when she got underway for GUNNERY SQT in the Virginia Capes Operating Area (VACAPES OPAREA) returning to Charleston on 24 April. She remained in Charleston until 28 April when she got underway for Roosevelt Roads (Roos Rds), arriving 1 May. Spending the weekend of 1-2 May inport at the Naval Station, she got underway and was on the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range (AFWR) 3-4 May where she successfully fired a Standard Missile with the Interim Surface to Surface Missile Capability (ISSMC) System. BLAKELY returned to Roos Rds for the inport phase of Weapons Systems Accuracy Trials (WSAT) from 5-8 May. The WSAT underway phase was conducted on the FORACS range at St. Croix 9-12 May with port calls in Frederiksted the evenings of 10 and 11 May. On 13 May BLAKELY returned to Roos Rds. and embarked COMNAVFORCARIB, RADM FLANAGAN to be his flagship enroute and at Antigua for Sail Week '76. The ship arrived in St Johns, Antigua on 14 May and departed 17 May. The crew participated in and enjoyed the festivities associated with Sail Week '76 and competed in the "Non-mariners" race with BLAKELY's entry taking second place. A luncheon was hosted on board by the Commanding Officer and COMNAVFORCARIB for the following dignitaries:

His Excellency The Governor of Antigua, Sir Wilfred JACOBS, OBE, QC
The Premier of Antigua, Vere Cornwall BIRD, SNR
The Attorney-General, Antigua, Cosmos Roy PHILLIPS, QC
The Deputy British Government Representative to the Associated States of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis Anguilla, Richard Fraves GILLETT, OBE
Secretary of External Affairs and Defense, Eric CHALLENGER
Commander Miles David JOEL, RN, Defense Advisor
Commander Robert Kenneth DIBBLE, RN, Commanding Officer, HMS ESKIMO
LCDR Kenneth MARTIN, USN, Commanding Officer, NAVFAC, Antigua

On 17 May, COMNAVFORCARIB debarked and BLAKELY got underway from St. Johns, Antigua enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba arriving 21 May to commence Refresher Training (REFTRA) which terminated with the successful completion of an Operational Readiness Examination (ORE) on 24 June. During this period BLAKELY made a port call in Port-au-Prince, Haiti 11-13 June.

BLAKELY departed Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on 25 June enroute Roos Rds, arriving 27 June and remaining inport until 29 June. 29-30 June BLAKELY successfully completed Naval Gunfire Support Qualifications at Vieques. Upon completion, BLAKELY transited to Nassau as the Bicentennial Ship. On 3 July a "Birthday" party was attended by a large group of the officers and crew at the home of the U. S. Ambassador.

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BLAKELY departed Nassau on 6 July and arrived back in her homeport of Charleston, SC on 7 July. She remained inport Charleston conducting routine upkeep and making preparations for an Operational Propulsion plant Examination and INSURV inspection. 2-3 August was the inport phase of the 1200 psi Mobile Training Team (MTT) which was followed by an underway phase of MTT 4-6 August in the Charleston OPAREA. 7-17 August the ship continued preparation for the OPPE and INSURV while inport Charleston. A one day sea trials was held on 18 August and the ship remained inport Charleston 19-25 August. On 26 August the Atlantic Fleet Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) came aboard to administer the OPPE. The ship got underway pm on 26 August and returned the 27th. The OPPE grade was a conditioned SATISFACTORY with the OPPE being terminated prior to conducting Full Power and Boiler Flexibility Tests because of a casualty to 1A Boiler Automatic Feed Water Control Valve.

28 August - 19 September BLAKELY was in a tender availability with USS SIERRA (AD-18) followed by sea trials in the Charleston OPAREA 20-22 September. On 20 September, an OPPE re-exam was held and the ship successfully demonstrated Full Power and Boiler Flexibility Tests resulting in an overall grade of SATISFACTORY for the OPPE.

The ship was inport 23-26 September and got underway 27 September for an Underway Material Inspection (UMI) given by the Atlantic Sub-Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) followed by the inport phase of the INSURV inspection 28 September - 1 October.

BLAKELY remained inport Charleston 2 October - 3 November with a Combat Systems Readiness Review conducted 18-30 October. (b) (3) (A)

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and remained inport Charleston 6-9 November. A Dependent's Cruise was held in conjunction with scheduled sea trials on 10 November in the Charleston OPAREA. 11-14 November was a short upkeep period followed by BLAKELY's participation in a Composite Training Exercise 2-77 from 15-24 November in the Virginia Capes OPAREA. BLAKELY returned to homeport Charleston on 25 November and remained inport preparing for overseas movement through 31 December.

Enclosure (1)