



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)  
FPO AP 96628-3300

*Rec'd 3/2/02  
W/O disk*

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5750  
Ser 00/0046  
24 FEB 2002

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Director of Naval History, Washington Navy  
Yard, 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR  
2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Portrait of Andrew G. Sevald, CAPT, USN  
(2) Official Biography of Andrew G. Sevald, CAPT, USN  
(3) USS BLUE RIDGE Change of Command Brochure, 16  
June 2001  
(4) Copies of BLUE RIDGE INQUIRER for Calendar Year 2001  
(5) Copy of "Welcome Aboard" booklet  
(6) Command Composition and Organization  
(7) Chronological List of Significant Events, Calendar  
Year 2001  
(8) Ammunition Expended/Firing Exercises Calendar Year  
2001

1. Per reference (a), the command history for calendar year 2001 is submitted as enclosures (1) through (8).

A. G. SEVALD

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Command:

USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)  
FPO-AP 96628-3300  
PLA: BLUE RIDGE  
UIC: 05840  
Commanding Officer: Captain Andrew G. Sevald, USN  
Homeport: Yokosuka, Japan

Mission:

Forward deployed command ship for the COMSEVENTHFLT,  
COMPHIBFORSEVENTHFLT, and COMLANFORSEVENTHFLT.

Immediate Senior in Command:

COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS GROUP ONE  
Unit 25096  
FPO AP 96601-5800  
PLA: COMPHIBGRU ONE  
UIC: 55297  
Commander: Rear Admiral Paul S. Schultz

Aircraft assigned:

Type: UH-3H Sea King.  
Number assigned: One  
Tailcode: 152123  
Call sign: Blackbeard 02  
Mission: To provide Executive and DV transport for the  
Commander, SEVENTH FLEET and his guests.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, CALENDER YEAR 2001

01 - 30 January	-Upkeep and inport training, Yokosuka, Japan
09 January	-Military tribute to Ambassador Foley
31 January	-Underway for Sea Trials
01 February	-Upkeep and inport training, Yokosuka, Japan
02 February	-Underway for training, enroute to Tokyo, Japan
03 - 04 February	-Visit Tokyo, Japan
05 - 10 February	-Underway for training, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan
11 February - 19 March	-Upkeep and inport training, Yokosuka, Japan
20 March - 22 March	-Underway for training, enroute to Shanghai, China
23 March - 25 March	-Visit Shanghai, China
26 March - 01 April	-Underway for training, enroute to Phattaya Beach, Thailand
02 April - 05 April	-Visit Phattaya Beach, Thailand
06 April - 09 April	-Underway for training, enroute to Port Kelang, Malaysia
07 April - 08 April	-Transit Singapore Strait and Strait of Mallacca
09 April - 11 April	-Visit Port Kelang, Malaysia
12 April	-Underway for training, enroute to Singapore. Transit Strait of Malacca and Singapore Strait

13 April - 23 April	-Visit Singapore
24 April - 28 April	-Underway for training, enroute to Darwin, Australia
29 April - 02 May	-Visit Darwin, Australia
03 May - 06 May	-Underway for training, enroute to Cairns, Australia
04 May - 06 May	-Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef transit
07 May - 09 May	-Anchored Cairns, Australia
10 May - 14 May	-Visit Cairns, Australia
15 May - 27 May	-Participate exercise Tandem Thrust
15 May - 20 May	-Underway for exercise, enroute to Townsville, Australia
21 May - 23 May	-Anchored Townsville, Australia
24 May - 25 May	-Visit Townsville, Australia
26 May - 28 May	-Underway for training, enroute to Sydney, Australia
29 May - 03 June	-Visit Sydney, Australia
04 June - 13 June	-Underway for training, enroute to Saipan
14 June - 16 June	-Visit Saipan
16 June	-Change of Command. Captain Sevald relieved Captain D. Ziemba
17 June - 21 June	-Underway for training, enroute Yokosuka, Japan
22 June - 10 Aug	-Restricted availability/technical availability, upkeep, and inport training, Yokosuka

11 Aug - 14 Aug	-Underway for training, enroute Okinawa, Japan
14 Aug	-Brief stop for personnel Okinawa
14 Aug - 15 Aug	-Underway for training, enroute Chinhae, Republic of Korea
16 Aug	-Inport Chinhae, Republic of Korea in support of exercise ULCHI FOCUS LENS 01
17 Aug - 18 Aug	-Underway to evade Typhoon PABUK
19 Aug - 31 Aug	-Inport Chinhae, to continue UFL 01
01 Sep - 03 Sep	-Underway for training, enroute Okinawa, Japan
03 Sep	-Brief stop for personnel, Okinawa
03 Sep - 05 Sep	-Underway for training, enroute Yokosuka, Japan
06 Sep	-Upkeep and inport training, Yokosuka
10 Sept - 14 Sept	-CART II
11 Sept	-Terrorists strike World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon. Ship sets Force Protection Condition Delta and DEFCON III
15 Sept - 30 Sept	-SRA 38
01 Oct - 30 Nov	-SRA 39
27 Nov - 29 Nov	-ISIC observed Navigation Check Ride
28 Nov - 29 Nov	-Underway for Sea Trials
30 Nov - 04 Dec	-Underway for training, enroute to Hong Kong, China
03 Dec - 04 Dec	-Transit Taiwan Strait

05 Dec - 08 Dec

-Visit Hong Kong

09 Dec - 13 Dec

-Underway for TSTA I, enroute  
Yokosuka, Japan

09 Dec - 10 Dec

-Transit Taiwan Strait

14 Dec - 31 Dec

-Holiday upkeep and inport training  
Yokosuka, Japan

## Basic Historical Narrative

The year 2001 proved to be an extremely successful and pivotal year in the history of the USS BLUE RIDGE (BLR). Starting with a short cruise to Tokyo to strengthen the ties between the U. S. Navy and the host nation, Japan, and ending with a outstanding trip to Hong Kong under the new force protection procedures instigated by the September 11 terrorist attacks, BLR responded aggressively to every challenge that crossed her path.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, in support of the Commander, SEVENTH FLEET, Vice Admiral James Metzger, BLR hosted a special tribute to United States Ambassador to Japan, Thomas Foley. Ambassador Foley, former Speaker of the House, arrived on the ship with full naval honors.

After a successful relations building cruise up the Tokyo Wan to Tokyo from 03-04 February, BLR returned to Yokosuka to prepare for its annual South Pacific Forward Presence Deployment (Southern Swing).

BLUE RIDGE left home for a historic visit to Shanghai, China. After an arduous eight-hour Sea and Anchor detail, which included transit through the historic Yangtze River, BLR arrived to a fine Chinese reception. A well-blended contrast of ancient and modern architecture, Shanghai offered the crew an excellent opportunity for sight seeing, community relations projects, and friendship building. BLR hosted a "Big Top" in which numerous Chinese military and diplomatic dignitaries attended. The visit was considered an immense success and BLR departed on 26 March for Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Upon anchoring in Thailand on 02 April, the crew was placed on four-hour liberty recall due to the collision between Chinese fighter and an American EP-3.

One of the crew's most favorite liberty ports, Thailand offered the crew excellent shopping and a very entertaining night life. BLR left on 06 April for Port Kelang, Malaysia and transited the Strait of Malacca, considered the busiest sea lane in the world, on the 07-08 April at 20 knots.

BLUE RIDGE arrived in Port Kelang on 09 April to support continued relations building between the US and Malaysia. In response to the terrorist attack on the USS COLE in Yemen, BLR adopted the practice of deploying a small boat and posting armed pier sentries to increase force protection. Combined with the

floating barrier of barges provided by husbanding agent Mr. Francis Leonard of Glenn Marine Group, BLR was able to thwart a potential terrorist attack. A group of Malaysians attempted to attack BLR by a small boat loaded with explosives but were unable to because of the ring of barges. The group was arrested while robbing a bank in an attempt to gain more money for explosives.

Singapore was the next stop for BLR, arriving on 13 April and leaving on 23 April due to a casualty on the bearing on the Main Reduction Gear. BLR transited to Darwin and Cairns, Australia in support of the upcoming multi-national exercise TANDEM THRUST 01. The exercise was a great success between the U.S., Canadian, and Australian Navies taking place from 15-27 May. After the completion of the exercise, BLR visited Townsville and Sydney, Australia. In Sydney, BLR embarked 28 midshipmen in support of PACTRAMID PHASE I. On 04 June left Sydney for Saipan, arriving 14 June.

While in Saipan, BLR conducted a Change of Command ceremony at which CAPT David Ziemba was relieved by CAPT Andrew G. Sevald. BLR returned to Yokosuka on 22 June and began her restricted availability/technical availability, which lasted until 10 Aug.

BLR participated in exercise ULCHI FOCUS LENS 01 from 16 Aug - 31 Aug, in Chinhae, Republic of Korea and returned back to Yokosuka on 06 Sep. During this time the Dental Department took full advantage of the opportunity to bring the dental health of the ship up above Navy standards. By the end of the year, the Dental Dept would do \$281,000 worth of dentistry, to include over 1,000 exams, 800 cleanings, and 2,000 other procedures. This overall effort raised Dental Health from 37% to 63%, placing it consistently either #1 or #2 in the Pacific Fleet.

While BLR was conducting CART II from 10 Sep - 14 Sep, terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center buildings in New York City and heavily damaged the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. BLR responded by setting Force Protection Condition Delta, commencing an all-hands recall, and setting DEFCON III. During the next few weeks after the attacks, BLR provided over 60 personnel to support Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka force protection requirements. Despite the heightened security, BLR began SRA 38 on 15 Sept and SRA 39 on 01 Oct.

The two combined SRA's were no easy task for the ship, as a 10 day "Ready for Sea" posture had to be maintained despite the



was impressively large job list. Major work included 1A/1B/1C SSTG upgrades, 1A/1B Boiler 18 month routine inspection, Automatic Steam Controls upgrade, Chill Water pipe replacement, CHT pump replacement, mess deck renovation, and numerous 1600 amp breaker replacements. In addition, the "Rehab Team" prepared many spaces for new decking and refurbishment.

In October, the Supply Department was awarded its eighth consecutive Blue "E" for Supply Excellence. During November, the Medical Department participated in the first joint mass casualty exercise with the Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Yokosuka Fire Department, and Army personnel. The exercise was featured in the Seahawk newspaper and televised on the Yokosuka Report. BLR departed on 28 Nov to conduct Sea Trials and an ISIC observed Navigation Check ride. The check ride was passed and Sea Trials ended on 29 Nov. After a short day inport, BLR left for Hong Kong, its first deployment with the new increased force protection requirements in place. Also, CDR Mike Sweeney was relieved as Executive Officer by LCDR David Haas.

Hong Kong warmly greeted the BLR on 05 Dec for four days of shopping, sight seeing, and relations building between the Chinese and the United States. BLR departed on 09 Dec and commenced TSTA I enroute to Yokosuka. On 14 Dec BLR was back in Yokosuka, successfully completing TSTA I and its 2001 underway schedule. BLR finished out the year with holiday standown and continued force protection training.

The year 2001 witnessed the BLUE RIDGE greatly improve as a ship in regards to material condition and training. BLR set the tone and example for outstanding force protection procedures while in Hong Kong for the entire Pacific Fleet. Her Ship's Restricted Availabilities proved very beneficial as numerous communication and engineering modernizations and overhauls were conducted. The year ended on a high note as BLR prepared for her next deployment, South Pacific Forward Presence Deployment 02.

AMMUNITION EXPENDED/FIRING EXERCISES DURING CALENDAR YEAR  
2001 BY USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)

1. Ammunition expended:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
RF Seduction	3
Shotgun shells	340
7.62mm M-14	4,250
7.62mm M-60	600
9mm	14,620
.50 cal	3,600
20mm CIWS	1,400
25mm	680
40mm saluting	188
Shotline M-14	15
Small smoke float	11
Large smoke float	6

2. Firing exercises

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
CIWS PAC fire	7
.50 cal	1
M-14 FAM fire	2
9mm FAM fire	2
40mm salute	6