

COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT 2008
USS BULKELEY (DDG 84)

Homeport: Norfolk, VA
Commissioned: 8 DEC 2001
UIC: 22992

Command Composition and Organization

Immediate Supervisor:

Commander, AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON 6
CDRE Lineberry
01 JAN 08 -

Commanding Officer:

CDR Richard J. Cheeseman, Jr., USN
01 JAN 08 - 31 DEC 08

Executive Officer:

LCDR Alexis T. Walker, USN
01 JAN 08 - 31 DEC 08

Combat Systems Officer:

LCDR [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 08 -

Weapons Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
MAR 08 -

LT [REDACTED], USN

Operations Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 08 -

LT [REDACTED], USN
MAR 08 -

Chief Engineer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 08 - 31 DEC 08

Supply Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 08

LT [REDACTED], USN

Navigator:

LT [REDACTED]
01 JAN 08

January 2008

01-08 JAN	Holiday Stand down
09 JAN	SMC Inspection, Air Defense Syndicate NASSG
10 JAN	USW TSTA
11 JAN	NASSG Fast Cruise
15-18 JAN	FADWC
16-17 JAN	SLAMEX
22 JAN	SLAMEX, U/w en route AU TEC, ULM-4 Range
22-23 JAN	Sonar Self Noise
22-27 JAN	USW TSTA
23-24 JAN	SLAMEX
24-25 JAN	AU TEC
27 JAN	Return to Norfolk Naval Station
29 JAN	Berth Shift, C2X Debrief
30 JAN	Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)
31 JAN	Fuel on load (Pier side, NOB, NORVA)

January was the last push before BULKELEY's 2008 deployment. The month started with the holiday stand down, and quickly moved into several inspections. January was an ASW intensive month as BULKELEY completed several major hurdles before its final ASW certification. BULKELEY was underway during the third week of January en route to the AUTEK range, and upon return BULKELEY completed her Final Evaluation Problem that helped certify her fully combat ready for the 2008 deployment.

February 2008

01-15 FEB	POM Stand down
01 FEB	USNORTHCOM Visit
04-07 FEB	SDRW Radiographic Sonar Inspection
04-08 FEB	Hull Cleaning
04-15 FEB	CMAV
06-07 FEB	VBSS Certification (Admin Review/Boarding)
07 FEB	Pre-deployment Stores On Load
08 FEB	Ammunition movement (Torpedoes/VLA/ESSM)
11 FEB	AUX Steam/shore power repairs, Return of ACCOM ladder
12 FEB	USW/COMMS/GCCS/LINK MITE
14-15 FEB	Boat Davit Weight Test
15 FEB	All hands return from POM Stand down, NORFOLK Navy League/VFW visit with BULKELEY Commanding Officer to present "Deployment Dollars"
20 FEB	NASSG deploys, ULM-4 Range
21-22 FEB	SLAMEX/LINKEX
23 FEB	NIXIE Stream
25 FEB	NASSG PHOTOEX
27 FEB	CDRE Lineberry visits BULKELEY
29 FEB	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT

February marked the beginning of BULKELEY's 2008 deployment. Sailors started with a brief POM period and a quick availability in the short days before getting underway. BULKELEY completed its final VBSS certification and completed a weapons load out that finalized the ship as fully combat ready for the 2008 Cruise. On February 20th USS BULKELEY shoved off with the NASSAU Strike Group to support the Global War on Terror. The Strike Group immediately began the open ocean transit, and established a continual training cycle across the Atlantic Ocean. At the end of the month BULKELEY was visited by NASSG CDRE Lineberry. During his visit he witnessed BULKELEY's dedication to proficiency by observing engineering drills, drills, and completed his visit by addressing the Wardroom on the NASSG's operational tasking.

March 2008

01-06 MAR	Underway in support of NASSG
02 MAR	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
03 MAR	Straits of Gibraltar Transit
05 MAR	M14/M16 Gun Shoot
06 MAR	E-6 Advancement Exam
06-10 MAR	In Port Naples Italy
10 MAR	Ice Cream Social - MWR
10-16 MAR	Underway in support of NASSG and East Med Operations
16 MAR	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
16-18 MAR	In Port Souda Bay, Crete
17 MAR	St. Patrick's Day Celebration, "Guitar Hero Tournament (MWR)"
18-31 MAR	Underway in support of NASSG and East Med Operations
24 MAR	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
26 MAR	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
29 MAR	Suez Transit/INCHOP 5 th Fleet
31 MAR	SLAMEX

March was a busy month for BULKELEY as she steamed into theater on her 2008 deployment. BULKELEY spent the majority of this month in the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), and made two port visits. The first stop was in Naples, Italy where the ship was "Med Moored." While in this port BULKELEY Sailors had a handful of days to visit the cities of Naples and Rome. The next port visit was in Souda Bay, Crete and the reason for this visit was primarily maintenance. While in 6th Fleet BULKELEY was tasked with Eastern Mediterranean Operations while the world watched tensions rise between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. At the end of the month BULKELEY transitioned to the 5th Fleet AOR and has continued her tasking for the NASSG.

April 2008

01 APR Navy Chief's Birthday, Birthday Bash on mess deck's, SLAMEX

02 APR Helo PAX Transfer

03 APR Torpedo Banding Exercise, BULKELEY stops for vessel in distress

04 APR Ice Cream Social/BINGO, BULKELEY gives distressed vessel gas,

05 APR TACCON under Task Force 58, Le Ponnant, SLAMEX

06 APR UNREP/VERTREP w/ USNS KANAWHA

08 APR Turnover with USS OSCAR AUSTIN (HOA 3), Two SLAMEXs

09 APR ITT Scenario, Two SLAMEXs

12 APR SLAMEX, Steel Beach Picnic

13 APR UNREP w/ USNS KANAWHA

19 APR URNEP w/ USNS SACAJAWEA

20 APR Two SLAMEXs

The month of April was driven by Fifth Fleet Operational tasking and tactical training scenarios in preparation for an impending ULTRA-S. Much of BULKELEY's operational tasking has been classified, but it can be said that BULKELEY has set the operational standard for surface ships in the Fifth Fleet AOR. BULKELEY Sailors did aid a distressed boat in international waters just north of Somalia early in the month. The two members of the distressed vessel had been at sea for three days with minimal food and water. Shortly after assisting the distressed vessel BULEKLEY was quickly tasked to support operations under Task Force 58.

May 2008

04 MAY	"Hump Day" Celebration
08 MAY	UNREP w/ USNS KANAWHA
12 MAY	Turnover with USS MOMSEN (DDG 92)
13 MAY	UNREP w/ USNS PECOS
14 MAY	Crossed the Equator
16-23 MAY	In Port, Seychelles
19-20 MAY	COMREL Project with Seychelles Physical Rehabilitation Center
21 MAY	Basketball game with Seychelles semi-pro District One
25 MAY	UNREP w/ USNS Pecos

May was a month of transition for BULKELEY. Early in the month the crew marked their half way point for the deployment. After nearly two months on station near the Horn of Africa (HOA) BUKLELEY turned over with the USS MOMSEN (DDG 92). Shortly thereafter BULKELEY made way for Port Victoria, Seychelles. When transiting the crew crossed the Equator and became newly dubbed "Shellbacks." Seychelles was a long and much needed port visit for BULKELEY after spending nearly 60 days at sea. While in Port Victoria, Sailors of BULKELEY contributed their time and effort the island's only physical rehabilitation center over a two day period. Sailors helped plant trees, clean up the establishment, and refurbish much of their therapy equipment to include repainting their physical therapy pool. After all of the hard work Sailors came together to play one of the island's semi-pro basketball teams.

June 2008

01 JUNE	Suez Canal Transit Northbound
05-10 JUNE	I/P Souda Bay, Crete
05 JUNE	Pier side refueling
10 JUNE	U/W Eastern Mediterranean Operations
13 JUNE	Intercepted and inspected M/V ANTARES I
23 JUNE	UNREP w/ USNS BIG HORN
24 JUNE	Straits of Gibraltar Transit
25-28 JUNE	I/P Lisbon, Portugal
26 JUNE	COMREL Project, Banco Alimentar

BULKELEY left the Fifth Fleet AOR in the beginning of June to support Eastern Mediterranean operations. After transiting the Suez Canal the ship made way to Souda Bay for the second time on the 2008 deployment. Following the port visit BULKELEY conducted boarding operations on Motor Vessel ANTARES I. Upon successful completion of the East Med Ops, BULKELEY transited the Straits of Gibraltar and commenced its final port call in Lisbon, Portugal. While in port Lisbon members of the crew graciously donated their time and liberty to assisting members of the Banco Alimentar. This local food bank is the largest of its kind in western Europe and provided goods for families in need throughout Portugal and Spain.

July 2008

3 JULY	INCHOP Second Fleet AOR
4 JULY	4 th of July Celebration, 5"/CSW Gun Shoot
5 JULY	PHIBRON SIX visit, Awards Ceremony, NASSG Photo Exercise
7 JULY	UNREP w/ USNS JOHN LENTHAL
9-11 JULY	U/w Tiger Cruise
9 JULY	I/P Mayport, FL, HSL Homecoming, Tigers embark
11 JULY	HOMEcomings, Tigers debark, Begin POM Period
31 JULY	SECNAV visits BULKELEY with family of Cpl. Jason Dunham, USMC

July brought BULKELEY's 2008 deployment to a close. The first two weeks brought the return to the Second Fleet AOR and a great Fourth of July Celebration. In the final days of the deployment BULKELEY off loaded the Helicopter Detachment and embarked friends and family for a Tiger Cruise. On July 11th BULKELEY made its official return to Norfolk where Sailors were greeted by loved ones from all over the country. The ensuing POM period stretched into the month of August. Secretary of the Navy called on BULKELEY to host the family of Cpl. Jason Dunham, USMC. Cpl Dunham is the recipient of the Medal of Honor and will have one of the newest DDG's named in his honor.

August 2008

08 AUG	End of POM period, All Hands return
17 AUG	Berth shift ISO VLA off load
18-22 AUG	U/w VACAPES OPAREA ISO ULTRA-S preparations
20 AUG	NIXIE Stream
21 AUG	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXANT
22 AUG	INPT NOB

August was a quiet month in which BULKELEY transitioned from a post deployment leave period into a new "up keep" period. During this time BULKELEY has also been tasked with a surge ready status that spanned into the month of September. During the mid month the ship off loaded Vertically Launched Anti-Submarine Rockets, and quickly got underway to support ULTRA-S preparations.

September 2008

1-4 SEP	CMAV
15-19 SEP	U/w ISO SOCOM Operations
18 SEP	UNREP w/ USNS SACAJAWEA
29-30 SEP	U/w Yorktown Naval Weapons Station

September was marked with a quick availability period and a week long underway to support Special Operation Command training. This underway was largely geared towards preparing the newest generation of Special Operatives for maritime security operations. In the slight off time the ship continued its focus on the next big training cycle hurdle, ULTRA-S. As September came to a close BULKELEY transited to Yorktown Naval Weapons Station to offload Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles, and realign gas management modules in the vertical Launching System.

October 2008

01 OCT	INPT Yorktown Naval Weapons Station
01 OCT	U/w en route NOB, Family Day Cruise
08-10 OCT	U/w VCOA ISO ULTRA-S rehearsal
14-17 OCT	CITADEL PROTECT
15-31 OCT	CMAV

After the completion of a long weapons offload, BULKELEY returned carrying just short of 100 friends and family members of the crew. Children were given the opportunity to complete a Kids Surface Warfare qualification, and were presented with awards by Executive Officer, Alexis Walker.

While Underway, BULKELEY's events included a man overboard drill, crash and smash drills, a CSTT scenario, an USW scenario, a Ship's Training Team drill, and engineering drills.

November 2008

6-7 November

PASSEX W/HNLMS DE ZEVEN PROVINCIE

13-21 November

ULTRA-S

November events included a very successful PASSEX with the Dutch Navy. Events included an ADEX, a COMMS EX, a LINK EX, a PUB EX, an EW EX, and an ASW scenario. BULKELEY also participated in an UNREP with USNS KANAWHA. The highlight of the underway was during PUB EX when, it eventually turned into a game of who knew more about the other person's country. When BULKLEY lost, the Dutch Navy asked our CIC watch team to sing, "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer." BULKLELEY's sailors did an outstanding job!

During her second underway, BULKELY flawlessly went through ULTRA-S. Events included an IET drill, a USW event, a Man Overboard drill, ENCOUNTEREX, BOARDX, AA FIREEX, SURFIREX, EMATTEX, ADEX, Narrow Channel Tasking Order, DLQ's with HSC, a Mine Strike exercise, TGX 08-4, and Seamanship training.

December 2008

2-10 December

Port Visit to Philadelphia

19-31 December

Holiday Standown

Early December saw BULKELEY making a port visit to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the Army Navy football game. Her crew enjoyed all the city had to offer in the way of tourist attractions and local food specialties while also lending helping hands at various local high schools and the Veterans Hospital Nursing Home. Soon after returning, the crew enjoyed time off during the Holiday Stand-down period.