

OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1

Command Serial Number: DDG 84

Date Submitted: 1 March 15

Classification (when filled in): UNCLASSIFIED

Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. See instructions appendices for assistance in compiling and on submitting this form and any attachments.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format.

1. Command Data (Boxes will expand as information is typed)

Name of your Command or Organization: USS BULKELEY (DDG 84)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 22992

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Espe First: Jesse M.I.: G. Rank: O5/Commander, USN

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2014-05-15

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Deployed to FIFTH FLEET and SIXTH FLEET Areas of Operation during the First Quarter of the 2014, returning to homeport on 18 April 2014.

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Norfolk, VA.

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Commander, Carrier Strike Group EIGHT

Administrative: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): Deployed with the HARRY S TRUMAN CSG during the first quarter of 2014, returning to homeport on 18 APR 14.

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): None.

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: Two HSM 74 Detachment 4 helicopters.

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): HSM 74 Detachment 4 embarked onboard during deployment.

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 33, Enlisted: 257, Civilian: None

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): Commander, Henry J. Allen, USN

Job Title/Office Code: Executive Officer

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: Unit 100319 Box 4, FPO AE 09565

2. Commander's Assessment

USS BULKELEY (DDG 84) contributed significantly to national defense missions in 2014, which included the completion of a nine-month deployment to the FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility as a part of the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN Carrier Strike Group (CCSG-8). BULKELEY's overall deployment length was 270 days, which included numerous Theater Security Cooperation Missions, Coalition and Multinational Exercises, and National Tasking.

Following return from deployment, BULKELEY transferred from Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO to Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT during a realignment of destroyer squadrons. Shortly thereafter, a Change of Command ceremony was held onboard USS BULKELEY, where CDR Jesse

G. Espe relieved CDR Matthew Phillips. Following the change of command, BULKELEY entered a Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) for the completion of repairs and alterations that would enable her to begin preparations for the next deployment. The transition associated with the Change of Command, transfer of destroyer squadrons, and transition from sustainment phase to maintenance phase was conducted smoothly, with no significant issues.

BULKELEY completed the maintenance phase on schedule, but significant effort was required to overcome deficiencies associated with poor availability planning. Most notably, the availability execution was hampered by the lack of an overall, integrated maintenance plan. Due to the short duration of the SRA (112-days), BULKELEY also had to contend with a large Afloat Training Group (ATG) presence onboard, as they were onboard conducting training events while BULKELEY was still at BAE Systems shipyard.

BULKELEY completed Light-off Assessment (LOA), Dock Trials, Fast Cruise, Contractor Sea Trials, and Type Commander Sea Trials in rapid succession. The crew performed superbly in meeting each challenge. Following Type Commander Sea Trials, BULKELEY entered the Basic Phase, which included a significant number of concurrent ATG events that overlapped one another on a week-to-week basis. Planning for these events required weekly de-confliction meetings by Department Heads and Departmental Leading Chief Petty Officers, where "Sailor-to-Task" de-confliction had to take place in order to ensure that each event could be executed with the right Sailors in place.

By year's end, BULKELEY had achieved a number of Basic Phase certifications and was well prepared for the achievement of more certifications in the early months of 2015. Overall the pace was very frenetic, but the planning efforts enable the crew to achieve the milestones necessary to continue Basic Phase progression.

3. Chronology

1-3 Jan:	Deployed to FIFTH FLEET AOR, conducting exercises in Arabian Sea.
4 Jan:	Transited the Strait of Hormuz, entering the Arabian Gulf.
5-8 Jan:	Inport Jebel Ali, UAE.
9-24 Jan:	Conducted operations in the Arabian Gulf.
25 Jan:	Transited the Strait of Hormuz, entering the Arabian Sea.
26 Jan-14 Feb:	Conducted operations in the Arabian Sea.
15 Feb:	Transited the Strait of Hormuz, entering the Arabian Gulf.
16 Feb:	Conducted operations in the Arabian Gulf.
17-20 Feb:	Inport Manama, Bahrain.
21 Feb:	Transited the Strait of Hormuz, entering the Arabian Sea.
22-28 Feb:	Conducted operations in the Arabian Sea.
1-2 Mar:	Conducted operations in the Gulf of Aden.
3 Mar:	Transited the Bab Al-Mandeb (BAM) Strait, entering the Red Sea.
4 Mar:	Conducted operations in the Red Sea.
5 Mar:	Transited the BAM Strait, entering the Gulf of Aden.

6-17 Mar: Conducted operations in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea.
18-21 Mar: Inport Salalah, Oman.
22-23 Mar: Conducted transit of Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden.
24 Mar: Transited the BAM Strait, entering the Red Sea.
25-27 Mar: Transited the Red Sea.
28 Mar: Transited the Suez Canal, entering the Mediterranean Sea, CHOP to SIXTH FLEET.
29-30 Mar: Transited the Mediterranean Sea.
31 Mar-4 Apr: Inport Civitavecchia, Italy.
1 Apr: Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) visit to BULKELEY.
5-7 Apr: Transited the Mediterranean Sea.
8 Apr: Transited the Strait of Gibraltar.
9-17 Apr: Transited the Atlantic Ocean.
18 Apr: Returned to homeport in Norfolk, VA.
19 Apr-13 May: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk, Post-Deployment Leave and Upkeep.
21 Apr-16 May: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk, CMAV A4A1.
15 May: Change of Command Ceremony held. CDR Jesse G. Espe relieved CDR Matthew Phillips onboard BULKELEY.
19 May: Transited to NWS Yorktown for Ammo Offload.
20-22 May: Inport NWS Yorktown.
23 May: Transited from NWS Yorktown to NAVSTA Norfolk.
24-26 May: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk.
27-28 May: Underway in VACAPES for READ-E2.
28-30 May: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk, conducted TSRA 2.
3 Jun: Underway (Dead Stick) transit to BAE Norfolk for SRA.
3 Jun-25 Aug: Inport at BAE Norfolk for SRA.
26 Aug: Underway (Dead Stick) transit to NAVSTA Norfolk for remainder of SRA.
26 Aug-22 Sep: NAVSTA Norfolk for SRA.
2-3 Sep: Crew Certification conducted.
15-18 Sep: Light Off Assessment conducted.
19 Sep: Dock Trials completed.
20 Sep: Fast Cruise completed.
23-24 Sep: Underway VACAPES for Contractor Sea Trials.
25 Sep-17 Oct: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk for CMAV.
20-24 Oct: Underway VACAPES for TYCOM Sea Trials.
27-31 Oct: Completed AVCERT.
10 Nov: Transited to NWS Yorktown for Ammo Onload.
11-13 Nov: Inport NWS Yorktown
14-21 Nov: Underway VACAPES for ATG 1.3A events.
22 Nov-9 Dec: Inport NAVSTA Norfolk.
10-12 Dec: Underway VACAPES for ATG 1.3B events.
15-31 Dec: Maintenance Window of Opportunity (WOO) conducted.
20-31 Dec: Conducted Holiday Stand Down for the crew.

Narrative

USS BULKELEY (DDG 84) conducted deployment operations in the FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility (AOR) throughout the first quarter of calendar year 2014, which included a visit by the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Honorable Ray Mabus, during BULKELEY's last port visit on deployment (Civitavecchia, Italy). BULKELEY returned to homeport (Norfolk, VA) on 18 April and commenced a post-deployment leave and stand down period in conjunction with a Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV).

A Change of Command Ceremony was held onboard BULKELEY on 15 May, where CDR Jesse G. Espe relieved CDR Matthew Phillips and became the ninth Commanding Officer of USS BULKELEY.

Following an ammunition offload at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and a post-deployment Readiness Assessment (RE-2) conducted by the Type Commander, BUL entered BAE Shipyard on 3 June to commence a CNO Availability (Selected Restricted Availability, SRA) that would last approximately three and a half months. Major work items completed during this availability included repairs to Machinery Space Bilge Drain Wells, Fuel Oil Tank and Contaminated Oil Tank repairs, 05 Level Deck repairs, Gas Turbine Exhaust Dust Collector repairs, Weather Deck Drain and Trough modifications, and Berthing Habitability/Sanitary Habitability renovations of Berthing Compartments 2, 4, and 5. Additionally, a number of program ("K" Ship) alterations were completed, including GCCS-M Genser 4.X(V)4, NAVSSI BLK 4.2.1, AN/SQR-4, ADV DIG ANT PROD (ADAP), and Joint Tactical Terminal (JTT) upgrade.

Following completion of the SRA, BULKELEY completed Light-off Assessment (LOA), Contractor Sea Trials, and Type Commander Sea Trials in rapid succession, all while progressing through a plethora of Afloat Training Group (ATG) basic phase events across all warfare certification areas. At year's end, BULKELEY had achieved a number of Basic Phase Certifications, including Aviation Certification, Navigation Certification, and CCC (Communications) Certification, and had made significant progress in preparing for other certifications that would be achieved early in 2015.

On 19 December BULKELEY commenced a Holiday Stand Down that would last through the remainder of the year, giving the crew a well-deserved break.

4. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

None.

5. Published Documents

- Welcome Aboard materials.
- Change of Command materials.
- Cruise Book for the 2013-2014 Deployment.

- Command Website: <http://www.bulkeley.navy.mil>.
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6. Photographs

- Commanding Officer photograph
 - Executive Officer photograph
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