



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101)
FPO AP 96866-1210

5750
Ser 00/033


From: Commanding Officer, USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101)
To: Director, Naval History and Heritage Command (OP-09BH)

Subj: USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2012

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12K

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) CO / XO Photographs

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted as USS GRIDLEY'S 2012 command history.


By direction

COMMAND DATA

Name of command / organization: USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101)

Unit identification code: 23151

Name and rank of commanding officer: CDR Benjamin J. Allbritton / CDR
Gadala E. Kratzer

Date assumed command: March 15, 2011 / September 4, 2012

Mission / command employment / operations: GRIDLEY'S primary mission is to provide air defense in a carrier strike group. GRIDLEY can also coordinate and execute operations in anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, maritime interdiction, strike warfare, and a variety of other warfare areas. GRIDLEY has the capability to embark two SH-60 Seahawk helicopters. The crew trains underway primarily off the coast of San Diego, CA. When deployed, GRIDLEY operates in the THIRD, SEVENTH and FIFTH Fleet areas of operations.

Homeport: San Diego, CA

Immediate superior in command:

Operational: Commander, Destroyer Squadron ONE

Administrative: Commander, Destroyer Squadron ONE

Task force assigned: USS GRIDLEY is assigned to CTG-35.5, Commander Carrier Strike Group ONE.

Units assigned under operational control: GRIDLEY embarked Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FOUR NINE Detachment SIX for a Western Pacific deployment.

Types of aircraft embarked: Two SH-60B Seahawks

Number of personnel assigned:

Officers: 35

Enlisted: 253

Civilian: 0

Command point of contact

Name: LTJG [REDACTED]

Title: Navigator

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Phone number: Quarterdeck: [REDACTED]

Command mailing address: USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101), FPO AP 96666-1210

Enclosure (1)

2012 CHRONOLOGY:

JANUARY

- 01 JAN: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
- 17 JAN: Departed Naval Station San Diego for PIA 2 in the
SOCAL OPAREA.
- 18 JAN: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

FEBRUARY

- 01 FEB: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
- 06 FEB: Departed Naval Station San Diego for TYCOM material
inspection in the SOCAL OPAREA.
- 06 FEB: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

MARCH

- 01 MAR: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
- 06 MAR: Departed Naval Station San Diego for INSURV preps in
the SOCAL OPAREA.
- 09 MAR: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.
- 19 MAR: Departed Naval Station San Diego for INSURV in the
SOCAL OPAREA.
- 19 MAR: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

APRIL

- 01 APR: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
- 09 APR: Departed Naval Station San Diego for underway in the
SOCAL OPAREA.
- 13 APR: In port Naval Base Coronado Bravo pier for AMMO
onload, returned to Naval Station San Diego.
- 16 APR: Departed Naval Station San Diego for underway in the
SOCAL OPAREA.
- 20 APR: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

MAY

01 MAY: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
02 MAY: Departed Naval Station San Diego for certification validation in the SOCAL OPAREA.
04 MAY: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.
21 MAY: Departed Naval Station San Diego for deck landing qualifications with HSL-49, DET 6.
25 MAY: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

JUNE

01 JUN: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
11 JUN: Departed Naval Station San Diego. Arrived Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach for AMMO onload.
15 JUN: Departed Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. Returned to Naval Station San Diego.
18 JUN: Departed Naval Station San Diego for week one work ups with HSL 49, DET 6 in the SOCAL OPAREA.
22 JUN: Returned to Naval Station San Diego.

JULY

01 JUL: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
05 JUL: Departed Naval Station San Diego for a sustainment exercise (SUSTEX) with the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) STRIKE GROUP.
18 JUL: Arrived Naval Base Coronado Bravo pier for AMMO onload.
18 JUL: Arrived Naval Station San Diego, CA and commenced pre-deployment leave and upkeep period.

AUGUST

01 AUG: In port Naval Station San Diego, CA.
06 AUG: Departed Naval Station San Diego, CA for a six-month Western Pacific deployment.
13 AUG: Arrived Naval Station Pearl Harbor, HI.

- 15 AUG: Departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor enroute to Naval Base Apra Harbor, Guam.
- 19 AUG: Crossed the international dateline. INCHOP Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.
- 28 AUG: Arrived Naval Base Apra Harbor, Guam to conduct a brief stop for fuel (BSF). GRIDLEY departed the same day enroute to Changi Naval Base Singapore.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 SEP: Underway in the South China Sea enroute to Changi Naval Base Singapore.
- 02 SEP: Arrived Changi Naval Base, Singapore.
- 04 SEP: CDR Benjamin J. Allbritton was properly relieved as commanding officer, USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) by CDR Gadala E. Kratzer during a ceremony on the ship's forecastle.
- 06 SEP: Departed Changi Naval Base, Singapore enroute to Marmagao, India.
- 13 OCT: Arrived Marmagao, India for a port visit.
- 16 OCT: Departed Marmagao, India enroute to commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet.
- 17 OCT: INCHOP commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet.

OCTOBER

- 01 OCT: Underway in the Arabian Gulf.
- 08 OCT: Arrived Khalifa Bin Salman, Bahrain for a port visit.
- 12 OCT: Departed Khalifa Bin Salman, Bahrain enroute to commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.
- 31 OCT: INCHOP commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.

NOVEMBER

- 01 NOV: Underway in the Indian Ocean.
- 19 NOV: Arrived Manila, Philippines for a port visit.
- 23 NOV: Departed Manila, Philippines.

DECEMBER

- 01 DEC: Underway in the South China Sea.
- 05 DEC: Arrived Commander Fleet Activity Sasebo, Japan for voyage repairs.
- 09 DEC: Departed Commander Fleet Activity Sasebo, Japan.
- 30 DEC: Arrived at anchorage Cebu, Philippines.
- 31 DEC: Celebrated the New Year at anchor Cebu.

2012 NARRATIVE

USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) began the year on a holiday stand down in port Naval Station San Diego, California. Following a much deserved stand down, the crew returned to GRIDLEY and continued to ready the ship for the board of inspection and survey (INSURV) material inspection. She departed San Diego for a Pre-INSURV rehearsal on 17 January 2012 returning on the 18th to Naval Station. She continued with her INSURV preparations getting underway on the 1st of February for INSURV rehearsals and again on the 19th for a type commander (TYCOM) material inspection (TMI). Her preparations for INSURV carried her into March with final INSURV rehearsals underway on the 7th and conducted the weeklong INSURV inspection from 19 March 2012 to 23 March 2012. USS GRIDLEY successfully passed INSURV with a score 94 percent, the highest score for any West Coast combatant in over ten years.

Following her incredible success with INSURV, GRIDLEY was notified of her mission to deploy in August 2012 vice the initial date of January 2013. GRIDLEY and her crew immediately began the process for deployment getting underway on 09 April 2012 for the SOCAL OPAREA conducting certification validation preparations ending with a visit to Naval Base Coronado Bravo pier to begin the process of ammo onload. The certification validation focused underway on the 16th through the 20th of April enabled GRIDLEY to succeed during the validation assessment conducted on the 2nd of May through the 5th. With GRIDLEY certified to deploy in her critical mission areas, she set her sights on her ammo loadout, embarking the helicopter detachment and readying the crew to deploy. Her underway from homeport from 21-25 May 2012 began her SH-60B deck landing qualifications with the Trojans of HSL-49, Detachment 6 assigned to deploy with GRIDLEY.

Departing Naval Station San Diego on 11 June 2012, she arrived at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California, the same day to begin her ammo onload in support of the upcoming deployment. With her initial loadout complete, GRIDLEY departed Seal Beach on the 15th and returned to Naval Station the same day. Following a weekend in port, she again got underway to support week one work ups (WOWU) with her partners of HSL-49 from 18-22 June. During the week long underway, the HSL-49 personnel and GRIDLEY crew certified their employment of the SH-60B and was now ready to embark the crews.

On 5 July 2012, GRIDLEY got underway from homeport in order to support the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) STRIKE GROUP sustainment exercise. During the two week long underway, GRIDLEY conducted air/surface/subsurface familiarization and tactics, group strait transit exercises, CVN plane guard operations and strike mission scenarios. Ending with a surface exercise with GRIDLEY and USS DECATUR (DDG-73) assigned as OPFOR against the

STRIKE GROUP, GRIDLEY was detached and returned to San Diego with a brief stop at Naval Base Coronado Bravo pier before returning to her berth at Naval Station on the 18th of July where she began her pre-deployment stand down and continuous maintenance availability (CMAV).

On August 6th, 2012 USS GRIDLEY independently deployed from her homeport of Naval Station San Diego, California, to the Western Pacific. Following her departure, she embarked two SH-60B helicopters, Red Stinger 101 and 106 from HSL-49 and began her journey to Naval Station Pearl Harbor arriving on the 13th of August.

Following her brief stay in Pearl Harbor, GRIDLEY departed for Apra Harbor Guam, crossing the international dateline and shifting tactical control from commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet and DESRON ONE to commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet and DESRON FIFTEEN. Enroute to Guam, GRIDLEY was tasked to conduct XBT drops IVO Guam finally arriving on the 28th of August, stopping only for fuel. After several hours in port, GRIDLEY departed Guam and began her transit to Singapore. Utilizing the Surigao and Balabac straits, GRIDLEY made her way to the South China Sea and conducted a Spratly Island transit in support of COMDESRON FIFTEEN tasking. Following her tasking, she arrived in port Singapore Naval Base Changi for her scheduled change of command ceremony. On September 4th 2012, commanding officer commander Benjamin J. Allbritton, USN, was properly relieved by former executive officer commander Gadala E. Kratzer, USN, as commanding officer in a ceremony on the ship's forecandle in front of the crew and invited guests. On 6 September 2012, commander Kratzer newly in command sailed GRIDLEY from Singapore towards Marmagao, India, for a scheduled commander SEVENTH Fleet assigned port visit arriving on the 16 of September.

While in port Marmagao, India, the GRIDLEY crew interacted and made several official exchanges with the Indian Navy to include hosting a flight deck reception for commander of Naval Area Goa. The GRIDLEY wardroom was reciprocated with an event at the Indian Navy's wardroom in Marmagao. It was this port call that GRIDLEY also welcomed ten newly inducted chief petty officers to the chief's mess during a pinning ceremony conducted on the forecandle on the 14th of September. With the success of the India port visit behind, the GRIDLEY crew chopped to commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet area of responsibility shifting TACON to COMDESRON FIFTY on 17 October 2012.

Under tactical control (TACON) of DESRON FIFTY, GRIDLEY began her transit to the Arabian Gulf making her initial transit through the Strait of Hormuz on the 24th of October. Once inside the Gulf, she participated in the first international mine countermeasure exercise (MCMEX) emphasizing the importance of multi-national minesweeping and protection. Following the

successful exercise, she was assigned several Strait of Hormuz escort duties to include USNS BRUCE C. HEEZEN (TAGS-64), USS NEW YORK (LPD-21) and USS DECATUR (DDG 73). Her time in the Arabian Gulf also supported her port visit to Khalifa Bin Salman, Kingdom of Bahrain from the 8th to the 12th of October. This was her only port visit while assigned to Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet. Shortly after her employment in the Arabian Gulf, she was recalled to the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet. Making her last of eight Strait of Hormuz

transit, USS GRIDLEY arrived to the U.S. SEVENTH Fleet area of responsibility on the 31st of October and continued with her 20kts SOA through the area of responsibility arriving in the vicinity of Okinawa on the 10th of November to conduct exercise KEEN SWORD, stopping briefly to conduct a PASSEX with the Russian Navy warship in the vicinity of Okinawa, Japan. The PASSEX included flag hoist drills and a gift exchange onboard GRIDLEY. Arriving in the vicinity of Okinawa on the 11th of November, GRIDLEY was assigned to Commander, Task Force 76 to conduct multi-national anti-submarine operations and high value unit escort duties with the Japanese Navy in support of exercise KEEN SWORD detaching on the 16th.

Her participation in KEEN SWORD was followed by a port visit to Manila, Republic of the Philippines on the 19th of November for crew liberty. Departing Manila on the 23rd, GRIDLEY was assigned while again under TACON to DESRON FIFTEEN to conduct several South China Sea focused operations before her arrival to fleet activities Sasebo, Japan, for voyage repairs from 5 December 2012 - 9 December 2012.

Following much needed voyage repairs, she made for the Yellow Sea rendezvousing with several vessels from the Republic of Korea Navy to conduct a fleet exercise. Following the success of the Fleet Exercise, GRIDLEY was assigned to commander, Task Force 70 and COMDESRON FIFTEEN to continue South China Sea operations relieving the Yokosuka, Japan based forward deployers of COMDESRON FIFTEEN for their much needed time with their families. GRIDLEY maintained a vigilant watch while underway during Christmas until her liberty port visit to Cebu, Philippines, where she anchored on 30 December 2013. USS GRIDLEY and her crew finished the year 2012 and welcomed the New Year while at anchor on liberty in Cebu.

2012 PHOTOGRAPHS

Commanding Officer

Commander Gadala E. Kratzer, USN



Executive Officer

Commander Mark S. Nieswiadomy, USN



Enclosure (4)