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Ser 00/038

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

Subj: USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) COMMAND OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR 2014

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 (Series)

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Commanding Officer's Assessment
(3) Chronology
(4) Narrative
(5) Change of Command Pamphlet
(6) Welcome aboard Pamphlet
(7) Images from 2014

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted as USS GRIDLEY'S 2014 command history.

M. S. NIESWIADOMY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

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

Unit identification code: 23151

Name and rank of commanding officer: CDR Mark S. Nieswiadomy

Date Assumed Command: March 28, 2014

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 MH-60R 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 operation.

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 Commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE.

Units assigned under operational control: GRIDLEY embarked Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron SEVENTY THREE Detachment CE-3.

Types of aircraft embarked: Two MH-60R helicopters

Number of personnel assigned:

Officers: 36

Enlisted: 292

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

CO'S ASSESSMENT

For the crew of USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101), 2014 proved to be a challenging year culminating in a successful deployment to the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet areas of operations as part of the CARL VINSON Carrier Strike Group.

Having returned from a successful FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet deployment in February 2013, GRIDLEY's challenge was to complete a compressed basic and integrated training cycle in order to deploy with CARL VINSON strike group in August 2014. To meet this goal, each week the dedicated and Sailors of GRIDLEY prepared, trained and drilled across a myriad of warfare training areas including: Air warfare, Anti-submarine warfare, Surface warfare, Strike (TLAM), Electronic warfare, Medical, Logistics, Damage Control and Engineering. Assisting in this task were the professional trainers from Afloat Training Group Pacific who worked hand-in-hand with the GRIDLEY crew towards successful certification in every warfare area.

In addition to the training requirement for deployment, much effort was dedicated towards the material readiness of the ship ensuring all equipment and systems were fully ready to support a robust strike group deployment. Key inspections of GRIDLEY's material readiness were the successful 3M Certification and TYCOM Mid-cycle Inspection (MCI).

GRIDLEY continued to hone her war fighting skills during integrated training with the CARL VINSON strike group during JTFEX and COMPTUEX off the southern California coast. All of the training conducted during these events would soon be put to the test as GRIDLEY "chopped" to SEVENTH and FIFTH Fleets areas of operations.

Throughout 2014 a special emphasis was placed on GRIDLEY's ASW mission area. Equipped with the SQQ-89A(V)-15 sonar suite, the ASW team of GRIDLEY was put through a rigorous training regime which included ASW Certification, PARR, NUTAC and USWEX-14.

After deploying in August 2014, GRIDLEY participated in exercise VALIANT SHIELD-14 with ships and aircraft from both the GEORGE WASHINGTON Carrier Strike Group and CARL VINSON Carrier Strike Group. Highlights of this exercise

included GRIDLEY's participation in a combined live-fire missile event.

Upon arriving in FIFTH Fleet area of operation, GRIDLEY's dedicated efforts in training and material readiness were put to great affect in supporting CARL VINSON Carrier Strike Group's support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

2014 CHRONOLOGY:

JANUARY

01 JAN: Celebrated New Years in port San Diego.
Holiday POM continues from 2013.

06-10 JAN: POM Period ends
STW 2.2A
MOB-D 1.3
COMMS 1.1R

13-17 JAN: COMMS 1.2
AW/SW 2.1 (Week 2)
Intel 2.1
C4I/SPY SAGT (Week 2)
Start SMC 1.2

17 JAN: END 4A1 CMAV

21-24 JAN: Underway San Diego, in support of MOB-E 1.3,
FSOM 1.3 and MOB-N 1.4
MOB-E 1.3
FSOM 1.3
MOB-N 1.4

24 JAN: RAS with USNS GUADALUPE

27-31 JAN: STW 2.3A
AS/SW 2.2

FEBRUARY

03-07 FEB: Underway San Diego, in support of MOB-E 1.3,
MOB-S 1.4 and COMMS 1.3
MOB-E 1.3
MOB-S 1.4
COMMS 1.3

05 FEB: RAS with USNS GUADALUPE

10-14 FEB: USW 2.1
3M 1.3

18-21 FEB: Underway San Diego, in support of MOB-E 1.4 and
FSO-M 1.4
MOB-E 1.4
FSO-M 1.4

24 FEB: Start 4A2 CMAV

24-28 FEB: MOB-D 1.3
INT 2.2

COMMS 1.4
EXPSAF 1.3
STW 2.4A
NUWTAC Phase 1

25 FEB: Start CCAT

MARCH

03 MAR: Start CVINSG FST-M

03-07 MAR: MOB-D 1.4
SMC 1.3
CRY 2.1
NSFS MTT
STW 2.3B
NUWTAC Phase 2

10-28 MAR: READ-E6

10-14 MAR: AT 1.2
VBSS 2.1
NFCS MTT
STW 2.3B

14 MAR: End 4A2 CMAV

17-21 MAR: USW 2.1R
AT 1.3

21 MAR: End CVINSG FST-M

24-28 MAR: EW 2.2
CRY 2.2
USW 2.2
VBSS 2.2
EXPSAF 1.4 SESI

28 MAR: Change of Command

31 MAR - 04 APR: USW 2.2 (Week 2)
EW 2.2 (Week 2)
CRY 2.2 (Week 2)
VBSS 2.3

APRIL

07-11 APR: PRT Week
INT 2.3
AS 2.3
SW 2.3

EW 2.3
CRY 2.3
USW 2.2

14-18 APR: CRY
INT 2.4
FST-U
AW 2.4B
SW 2.4B
EW 2.4B
SUPPLY 1.4

21-25 APR: Underway San Diego, in support of USW 2.4
USW 2.4 Certification

25 APR: RAS with USNS YUKON

28 APR: AT 1.4A/B

29 APR - 02 MAY: Underway San Diego, in support of AW 2.4B, SW
2.4B, STW 2.4B, NSFS and USW 2.4

MAY

01 MAY: RAS with USNS YUKON

05-06 MAY: Underway San Diego, in support of MCI

07 MAY: VBSS 2.4

08 MAY: CVINSG FPEX

09 MAY: Underway San Diego, in support of C2X and JTFX

09 MAY - 09 JUN: C2X

10 MAY: RAS with USNS CARL BRASHEAR

15 MAY: RAS with USNS YUKON

18 MAY - 09 JUN: NUWTAC Phase 3

21 MAY: RAS with USNS CARL BRASHEAR

28 MAY: RAS with USNS YUKON

JUNE

04-10 JUN: JTFX

03 JUN: RAS with USNS YUKON

10 JUN: Moored, San Diego
16 JUN: Underway San Diego enroute to Seal Beach, CA
Moored, Seal Beach, CA
16-20 JUN: Ammo on load at Seal Beach, CA
20 JUN: Underway Seal Beach enroute to San Diego
Moored, San Diego
21 JUN: Start 4A3 CMAV
23-30 JUN: SAR 1.4
30 JUN - 03 JUL: AWT Phase 3

JULY

07-09 JUL: 3M 1.4
07-18 JUL: TSRA 1 & 5
17 JUL: End 4A3 CMAV
22 JUL - 04 AUG: Pre-deployment leave period 1

AUGUST

06-19 AUG: Pre-deployment leave period 2
20 AUG: Transit to Bravo pier in support of ammo on load
Return from Bravo pier
Moored, San Diego
22 AUG: Underway San Diego for deployment
24 AUG: RAS with USNS GUADALUPE
30 AUG: RAS with USNS CARL BRASHEAR and USNS GUADALUPE
31 AUG - 04 SEP: USWEX 14-1

SEPTEMBER

03 SEP: Moored, Pearl Harbor in support of emergent depot
level repairs
04 SEP: Underway Pearl Harbor
RAS with USNS GUADALUPE
SESEF Range

05 SEP: Moored, Pearl Harbor in support emergent depot level repairs
Underway Pearl Harbor

08 SEP: RAS with USNS RAINIER

09 SEP: SEVENTH FLEET operations

14 SEP: RAS with USNS RAINIER and USNS TIPPECANOE

15-23 SEP: Exercise VALIANT SHIELD 2014

19 SEP: RAS with USNS RICHARD E. BYRD and USNS JOHN ERICSSON

24 SEP: RAS with USNS JOHN ERICSSON

30 SEP: RAS with USNS RAPPAHANNOCK

OCTOBER

01 OCT: RAS with USNS CARL BRASHEAR

02 OCT: Moored Changi Naval Base, Singapore

07 OCT: Underway Changi Naval Base, Singapore

14 OCT: RAS with USNS TIPPECANOE

16 OCT: FIFTH FLEET operations

19 OCT: RAS with USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS

26 OCT: RAS with USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS

27 OCT - 11 NOV: INTERNATIONAL MINE COUNTER MEASURE EXERCISE 2014

NOVEMBER

05 NOV: Anchored IVO Djibouti, Djibouti

07 NOV: RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL

11 NOV: Rendezvous with HMS BULWARK for VBSS and DIVTACS exercises

14 NOV: RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL

23 NOV: RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL

DECEMBER

02 DEC: VERTREP with USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS

05 DEC: Moored, Muscat, Oman

09 DEC: Underway, Muscat, Oman
RAS with RFA WAVE RULER

15 DEC: RAS with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL

21 DEC: RAS with RFA WAVE RULER
VERTREP with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL

31 DEC: RAS with RFA WAVE RULER
Celebrated New Years underway in FIFTH FLEET area
of operations.

NARRATIVE

USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) began the New Year by continuing its second holiday leave period in port, San Diego, CA. After the crew returned to the ship from holiday leave on January 6th, GRIDLEY continued to qualify in all warfare areas as a part of a condensed training cycle with the Afloat Training Group. The following warfare areas were assessed from January 6th to July 9th: STW, COMMS, AW, SW, Intel, FSOM, MOB-E, MOB-D, MOB-N, C4I, EXPSAF, CRY, NSFS, AT, VBSS, USW and 3M. On January 17th, GRIDLEY ended its 4A1 CMAV. From January 21st to January 24th, GRIDLEY was underway from San Diego to support FSOM 1.3, MOB-E 1.3, and MOB-N 1.4. While underway, GRIDLEY replenished with USNS GUADALUPE.

From February 3rd to February 7th, GRIDLEY was underway from San Diego to support MOB-E 1.3, MOB-S 1.4 and COMMS 1.3. While underway, GRIDLEY replenished with USNS GUADALUPE. The following week, GRIDLEY was assessed by Afloat Training Group on USW 2.1 and 3M 1.3. From February 18th to February 21st, GRIDLEY was underway from San Diego to support MOB-E 1.4 and FSOM 1.4. On February 24th, GRIDLEY started her A4A2 CMAV while starting numerous 1.3, 1.4, 2.2 and 2.4 events including MOB-D, Intel, COMMS, EXPSAF and STW.

On March 3rd, GRIDLEY commenced the CARL VINSON Strike Group FST-M exercise. While conducting FST-M, GRIDLEY was assessed by Afloat Training Group for numerous 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 events such as MOB-D, SMC, CRY, STW, AT, VBSS, USW, EW, and EXPSAF. On March 10th, GRIDLEY started READ-E6. On March 14th, GRIDLEY finished her 4A2 CMAV and also finished FST-M exercise on March 21st. On March 28th, GRIDLEY conducted her change of command ceremony at pier 3, Naval Base San Diego, in which Commander Gadala E. Kratzer (see image 1-1) was relieved by Commander Mark S. Nieswiadomy (see image 1-2). Commander Marc D. Crawford (see image 1-3) also assumed responsibilities as Executive Officer.

In April, GRIDLEY continued to be assessed in numerous warfare areas such as USW, EW, CRY, VBSS, AS, SW, Supply and Intel. From April 7th to April 11th, GRIDLEY conducted her PRT week. From April 21st to April 25th, GRIDLEY was underway from San Diego to support USW 2.3. While underway, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with USNS YUKON. GRIDLEY returned to sea the week of April 29th and certified in the following warfare areas: AW, SW, STW, NSFS and USW. While underway, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with USNS YUKON.

In May, GRIDLEY conducted her Mid Cycle Inspection (MCI) with CNSP/INSURV inspectors onboard from May 5th to May 6th for the underway portion of the inspection. Upon completion of MCI, GRIDLEY certified VBSS on May 8th. On the 8th, GRIDLEY also participated in the CARL VINSON Strike Group's Force Protection Exercise. On May 9th, GRIDLEY was underway from San Diego until June 10th in support of C2X as well as JTFX. C2X and JTFX were accomplished in company with USS CARL

VINSON (CVN 70), USS DEWEY (DDG 105), USS STERETT (DDG 104), and USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52). While underway, GRIDLEY replenished at sea twice each with USNS CARL BRASHEAR and USNS YUKON.

After returning from C2X and JTFX, GRIDLEY prepared for her upcoming 3M 1.4 event before getting underway on June 16th to transit to Seal Beach, CA. After mooring in Seal Beach, GRIDLEY conducted ammo onload through June 19th. GRIDLEY got underway from Seal Beach, and returned to San Diego June 20th. Upon return to home port, GRIDLEY commenced her 4A3 CMAV. On June 30th, GRIDLEY certified SAR as well as started AWT phase three.

From July 7th to July 9th, GRIDLEY conducted and successfully completed 3M 1.4 certification. After the assessment, GRIDLEY continued to prepare her upcoming deployment with depot level work being conducted onboard until the end of 4A3 CMAV. From July 22nd to August 4th, GRIDLEY Sailors started their first of two much deserved pre-deployment leave periods. After a turnover day on August 5th, GRIDLEY Sailors started their second pre-deployment leave period, which ended August 19th. On August 20th, GRIDLEY transited to BRAVO Pier at North Island Naval Air Station in support of ammo onload. After completion of ammo onload, GRIDLEY returned to San Diego Naval Base where she stayed until officially deploying on August 22nd (see image 1-5). GRIDLEY replenished with USNS GUADALUPE and USS CARL BRASHEAR during the last week of August.

On August 22nd, GRIDLEY deployed as part of Carrier Strike Group ONE (CSG-1) and Destroyer Squadron ONE (DESRON ONE) with USS CARL VINSON, USS BUNKER HILL, USS DEWEY and USS STERETT to Hawaii OPAREA in support of Under Sea Warfare Exercise (USWEX) 2014 from August 31st to September 4th. After damaging her flight deck nets on September 2nd, GRIDLEY moored at Naval Station Pearl Harbor in support of emergent repairs on September 3rd. On September 4th, GRIDLEY left Pearl Harbor in support of SESEF testing on the Hawaii OPAREA SESEF range. On September 5th, GRIDLEY returned to Pearl Harbor to complete repairs and departed the same day. Upon leaving Pearl Harbor, GRIDLEY transited west to rejoin the strike Group.

On September 9th, GRIDLEY and the strike group chopped into SEVENTH FLEET and continued to transit west toward Guam. After reaching Guam OPAREA on September 15th, GRIDLEY took part in exercise VALIANT SHIELD 2014 (VS-14) along with numerous other ships from 7th fleet including USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73). Participants of VS-14 conducted strike group tactics and training, finishing with a PHOTO-EX to officially finish on September 23rd (see image 1-8). After completion of VS-14, GRIDLEY continued transiting west with the strike group toward Singapore. While enroute Singapore, the strike group transited through the Balabac Straits and the Philippine Sea. During the month of September, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with numerous oilers, including: USNS RAINIER, USNS JOHN ERICSSON, USNS RAPPAHANNOCK, USNS GUADALUPE and USNS RICHARD E. BYRD.

On October 2nd, GRIDLEY moored at Changi Naval Base, Singapore. After five days of outstanding liberty, GRIDLEY departed Changi October 7th and transited through the Strait of Malacca. After leaving the strait, the strike group continued west and chopped into FIFTH Fleet. While operating in the Arabian Gulf with the strike group GRIDLEY supported the CARL VINSON with numerous evolutions, including horizon reference unit (HRU), shotgun duties, Sector Area Defense Coordinator and pattern of life observations. GRIDLEY continued operating with the CARL VINSON until October 30th when she transited outbound SOH and continued to Djibouti OPAREA in support of International Countermeasure Mine Exercise (IMCMEX) 2014. During the month of October, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with USNS CARL BRASHEAR, USNS TIPPECANOE and USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS.

On November 5th, GRIDLEY anchored for one day in vicinity of Djibouti, in order to facilitate VBSS training with the Djiboutian Navy as well as personnel transfers and stores onload. In addition, the Commanding Officer met with Djibouti Navy Chief of Navy, Colonel Aden Cher. After completing evolutions in Djibouti, GRIDLEY transited northeast in vicinity of Salalah, Oman to conduct VBSS exercise and divisional tactics with HMS BULWARK on November 11th (see image 1-9). GRIDLEY then returned to the Arabian Gulf to support CARL VINSON in the NAG. GRIDLEY celebrated Thanksgiving underway in the Gulf of Oman. During the month of November, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with USNS WALTER S. DIEHL three times.

On December 5th GRIDLEY moored pierside in Muscat, Oman for a port visit (see image 1-10). After four days of liberty, GRIDLEY departed Muscat on December 9th and proceeded to transit to the Arabian Gulf, where she supported CARL VINSON. On December 16th GRIDLEY transited outbound SOH in support of ASW operations in the Arabian Sea. During the month of December, GRIDLEY replenished at sea with USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS, USNS WALTER S. DIEHL and RFA WAVE RULER (see image 1-11). GRIDLEY sailors celebrated the holidays and bringing in the New Year while underway in the Gulf of Oman.