



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)  
FPO AE 09570-1175

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*W/c*

IN REPLY RE

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY, JAN 2001 - DEC 2001

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents  
(5) Updated Ship's Photo  
(6) Floppy Disk

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted.

*RC Ingram*  
R. CAMERON INGRAM

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)

LTG

UIC: 21388

MISSION:

To operate with aircraft carrier battle groups in extreme threat environments, providing primary anti-air protection for the Fleet. To detect, classify, and track hundreds of potential targets simultaneously in the air, on the surface, and under the sea. To destroy hostile targets using a variety of weapons: surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, land attack missiles, ship and air-launched torpedoes, deck guns, rapid fire close-in-weapons, and electronic jammers and decoys.

ISIC:

RADM Michael P. Fitzgerald, Commander, THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group

COMMANDING OFFICER:

01 JAN 01 - 14 MAR 01: CAPT William H. Dunn, JR. USN,  
54-5574/1110

14 MAR 01 - 31 DEC 01: CAPT R. Cameron Ingram, USN,

## **CHRONOLOGY**

|       |     |  |
|-------|-----|--|
| 1     | JAN | Inport Norfolk, VA   |
| 1-5   | JAN | End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leave Period/Stand Down   |
| 11    | JAN | SLAMEX 01-01<br>Mini-Warfare Commander Conference  |
| 12    | JAN | TRBATGRU Force Protection Exercise (Exercise<br>TABLE TOP)<br>TRBATGRU ISR Symposium (TACTRAGRULANT) |
| 17-19 | JAN | Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area<br>(VCOA)<br>Final Evaluation Period                          |
| 17-26 | JAN | Industrial Hygiene Survey  |
| 18    | JAN | AN/SLQ 32 Calibration - SESEF Range  |
| 19    | JAN | Inport Norfolk, VA   |
| 22    | JAN | Diving Operations  |
| 23    | JAN | LINK Long Look   |
| 24    | JAN | EHF ATO Training<br>C4I Fast Cruise  |
| 25    | JAN | SLAMEX 03-01   |
| 29-30 | JAN | Underway VCOA<br>Final Evaluation Period   |
| 31    | JAN | Inport Norfolk, VA<br>Final Evaluation Period  |
| 2     | FEB | NTCSS Optimized Install Out brief  |
| 6-11  | FEB | SISCAL   |
| 12-13 | FEB | EMS Install  |
| 12-22 | FEB | Hellfire Install   |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 12-23 FEB      | SCI-ADNS Install  |
| 12 FEB - 2 MAR | Shipboard Advanced Radar Target<br>Identification System Install                              |
| 13 FEB         | RADM Antanitus (SPAWAR Code 04) Visit   |
| 14 FEB         | SPY Install<br>C4I Fast Cruise  |
| 16 FEB         | TRBATGRU Strike Conference<br>COMCARGRU EIGHT Rules of Engagement Brief                       |
| 20-24 FEB      | FADC Training   |
| 20 FEB - 2 MAR | SSASW Training  |
| 21 FEB         | VIP Tours - Norfolk International Airport<br>Ambassadors<br>- Senate Appropriations Committee |
| 21-22 FEB      | EHF TRBATGRU Conference   |
| 22 FEB         | SLAMEX 07-01  |
| 24 FEB         | CHT SEMAT Visit   |
| 27 FEB         | MSI Training<br>C4I Fast Cruise<br>TRBATGRU Task Group ASW Team Trainer                       |
| 27 FEB - 2 MAR | Underwater Hull Cleaning<br>Baseline 2.10.2 Install   |
| 28 FEB         | LAMPS MK III Aviation PUK On-load   |
| 1 MAR          | HSL 42 OIC Visit<br>Regional Support Group Safety Program Review                              |
| 2 MAR          | ATRC Training - Air Defense Planning  |
| 6 MAR          | E-6 Advancement Examination<br>Crash and Salvage Team Training                                |

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| 8     | MAR | SLAMEX 09-01<br>Underway en-route Mayport, FL                                       |
| 9     | MAR | Inport Norfolk, VA  |
| 10    | MAR | CAPT R. Cameron Ingram Report Onboard   |
| 10-13 | MAR | CO Turnover   |
| 14    | MAR | HSL 42/2 On load<br>Change of Command   |
| 16-21 | MAR | Underway Jacksonville Operating Area (JAXOA)<br>WEEK ONE WORK-UPS                   |
| 16    | MAR | C5RA/SEMAT and INSURV Preparatory Briefs  |
| 20    | MAR | Underway VCOA<br>E-4 Advancement Examination  |
| 23    | MAR | COMCARGRU EIGHT Change of Command   |
| 27    | MAR | Underway for INSURV Rehearsal   |
| 28    | MAR | Inport Norfolk<br>Navy Safety Center Pre-INSURV Assessment                          |
| 3     | APR | BMTT  |
| 3-5   | APR | PATG Assessment   |
| 5     | APR | LEYTE GULF Family Night   |
| 3-13  | APR | C5RA/SEMAT  |
| 10-16 | APR | TRBATGRU BMTT   |
| 12    | APR | Underway VCOA<br>SESEF Range - AN/SLQ 32 Testing<br>TACTAS/NIXIE Operations/Testing |
| 13    | APR | Inport Norfolk, VA  |
| 17-20 | APR | INSURV  |

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|-------|-----|---|
| 17    | APR | Underway VCOA   |
| 18    | APR | Inport Norfolk, VA  |
| 18-19 | APR | TRBATGRU ASW Commander Course (TTGL)  |
| 24-30 | APR | HURREX-01   |
| 25    | APR | Underway to Yorktown, VA  |
| 25-27 | APR | Ammo On load  |
| 27    | APR | Underway to Norfolk, VA<br>SESEF Range - AN/SLQ 32 Calibration  |
| 1     | MAY | Underway AUTEC Range<br>AN/SQS 53 System Accuracy Test  |
| 3     | MAY | SLAMEX 18-01  |
| 2-4   | MAY | Underway JAXOA  |
| 5     | MAY | Inport Norfolk, VA  |
| 8-11  | MAY | AADC Training<br>Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Training<br>Host Ship - NRV Alliance   |
| 9     | MAY | MWR - Norfolk Tides Baseball Game w/ LTG<br>Color Guard   |
| 7-11  | MAY | Physical Readiness Test   |
| 15-16 | MAY | JTFEX FPC   |
| 15-18 | MAY | NSFS Qualification<br>C4I ISR Verification<br>C4I ILS Verification<br>AT/FP Exercise RAPTOR<br>Intelligence Planning Conference |
| 17    | MAY | Mexican Naval War College Visit   |

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| 18             | MAY | VANDALEX Final Planning Conference<br>Stream Raid Final Planning Conference<br>TRBATGRU Cryptology and Communications<br>Meeting |
| 22-25          | MAY | Maritime Interdiction Operations Training<br>Visit Board Search and Seizure Training<br>Warfare Commanders Conference            |
| 24             | MAY | SLAMEX 21-01   |
| 25             | MAY | Traffic Safety Stand Down  |
| 30             | MAY | Underway VCOA<br>Battle Group Training   |
| 31             | MAY | Underway Puerto Rico Operating Area (PROA)<br>VANDALEX Rehearsal   |
| 31 MAY - 1 JUL |     | COMPTUEX   |
| 1              | JUN | VANDALEX   |
| 3              | JUN | STRIKEX<br>ASW PT  |
| 4-6            | JUN | TRBATGRU SL  |
| 7              | JUN | SLAMEX 23-01   |
| 9-11           | JUN | Inport Naval Station Roosevelt Roads (NSRR),<br>Puerto Rico  |
| 12-14          | JUN | SARTIS OPEVAL  |
| 18             | JUN | BGSIT  |
| 22-23          | JUN | Underway for Battle Group Training   |
| 24             | JUN | Explosive Ordnance Disposal Drill  |
| 28-30          | JUN | Intermediate Training Assessment   |
| 1              | JUL | Underway en-route Norfolk, VA  |

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| 3-6             | JUL | Berthing Rehabilitation  |
| 3-27            | JUL | Upkeep/FMAV  |
| 9-12            | JUL | Maintenance Material Management Assist<br>RADM Kavanaugh (RET) Visit |
| 12              | JUL | Regional Support Group Maintenance Meeting                           |
| 17              | JUL | NTCSS  |
| 19              | JUL | Family Deployment Information Night                                  |
| 24-28           | JUL | Anti-Terrorism Exercise  |
| 25-26           | JUL | TLAMEX   |
| 25              | JUL | Multi-Tadil Group Interoperability Test<br>(TACTRAGRULANT)           |
| 1-18            | AUG | JTFEX  |
| 1-10            | AUG | Underway PROA  |
| 2-3             | AUG | NSFS Qualifications  |
| 4               | AUG | Inport NSRR, Puerto Rico   |
| 5               | AUG | Underway PROA  |
| 8               | AUG | Senior Officers Observing Team Visit                                 |
| 10-18           | AUG | Underway Cherry Point Operating Area (CPOA)                          |
| 21 AUG - 11 SEP |     | Pre-Overseas Movement<br>Port Davit Install (Ship Alt 622D)          |
| 21 AUG - 19 SEP |     | Pre-Deployment Maintenance Availability                              |
| 28-31           | AUG | NPC Career Decision Fair<br>Link 16 Long Look                        |
| 4               | SEP | Underway en-route Yorktown, VA                                       |



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| 5     | SEP | Inport Yorktown, VA<br>Ammo On load  |
| 6     | SEP | Inport Norfolk, VA   |
| 10    | SEP | Port Boat Davit Training   |
| 11    | SEP | COMSIXTHFLT Communications Assist<br>Pre-Deployment Brief NMITC, Damneck<br>World Trade Center/Pentagon Attacks<br>Personnel Recall/Sortie |
| 12-14 | SEP | Underway en-route New York City<br>U.S. Coastal Defense - Operation NOBLE EAGLE  |
| 15    | SEP | Inport Norfolk, VA   |
| 20    | SEP | Underway for Deployment  |
| 23    | SEP | Underway WESTLANT  |
| 24    | SEP | COMTRBATGRU Visit  |
| 25    | SEP | Underway ATLANTIC<br>Battle Group Training   |
| 30    | SEP | INCHOP SIXTH FLEET   |
| 1     | OCT | Underway West Mediterranean  |
| 1-3   | OCT | Exercise CAESAR SWORD 01-22  |
| 4     | OCT | Underway Central Mediterranean   |
| 11    | OCT | C6F TLAMEX   |
| 12-13 | OCT | Suez Canal Transit   |
| 15    | OCT | Underway Red Sea   |
| 17    | OCT | Underway Northern Arabian Sea  |
| 22    | OCT | C5F TLAMEX 01-40   |

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| 5     | NOV | C5F TLAMEX 01-41  |
| 6     | NOV | NEY Finalist Inspection for Food Service Division   |
| 7     | NOV | Master Chief Petty Officer Herdt, MCPON Visit   |
| 8     | NOV | C5F TLAMEX 01-42  |
| 10    | NOV | MIO Stand Down  |
| 13-14 | NOV | Straits of Hormuz Transit   |
| 14-16 | NOV | Inport Bahrain  |
| 17    | NOV | Underway en-route Northern Arabian Gulf   |
| 17    | NOV | Comiskey Guard Ship Turnover with USS ANZIO (CG 47)   |
| 18    | NOV | Merchant Vessel Smara Sinking<br>SAR Mission with USS PETERSON (DD 969)<br>Commence MIO Duties as Comiskey Guard Ship |
| 21    | NOV | C5F TLAMEX 01-43  |
| 27    | NOV | C5F TLAMEX 01-45  |
| 3-7   | DEC | Maintenance Material Management Stand Down  |
| 19    | DEC | Half Way Day<br>C5F TLAMEX 01-48  |
| 28    | DEC | C5F TLAMEX 01-50  |
| 29    | DEC | MIO Debrief   |

## **NARRATIVE**

### **JANUARY**

Mission: To successfully complete the Final Evaluation Period of the Intermediate Training Cycle, ensuring LEYTE GULF is certified to move to the Intermediate Training Phase.

Following an arduous CART II, LEYTE GULF successfully accomplished a thorough training cycle, culminating in an intense evaluation during the Final Evaluation Period. Commander SECOND FLEET called the integration of Force Protection into the FEP scenario the "new standard." The assessment was conducted while underway in the Virginia Capes Operating Area. Upon transit back to Norfolk, VA, while conducting the AN/SLQ 32 Calibration on the SESEF Range, LEYTE GULF ran soft aground with no damage to the bottom of the ship.

### **FEBRUARY**

Mission: To complete the installation of various critical administrative and combat systems programs, including NTCSS, EMS, SARTIS, SPY, SCI-ADNS, and complete mission-specific training for numerous evolutions in preparation for Week One Work-ups.

Preparations for Week One Work-Ups were ongoing for the ship's progression into its operational cycle. Various installations needed to be completed and were effectively done so during this time. The investigation into the January grounding was in progress.

### **MARCH**

Mission: To successfully prepare for the upcoming C5RA and SEMAT to assess the material condition and readiness of LEYTE GULF in order to better prepare for the upcoming INSURV inspection.

Due to the grounding incident in late January, LEYTE GULF's Change of Command was conducted nine months earlier than scheduled.

On 14 March 2001, Captain R. Cameron Ingram replaced Captain William H. Dunn as Commanding Officer of LEYTE GULF. Week One Work-Ups were effectively accomplished under the new command. LEYTE GULF also conducted an INSURV rehearsal to practice the display and demonstration of various ship's equipment for the upcoming inspection. The Navy Safety Center conducted a pre-INSURV review in order to better prepare LEYTE GULF for a successful INSURV.

#### APRIL

Mission: To accomplish a detailed review of the ship's systems and equipment through the implementation of C5RA and SEMAT, and to ensure the highest material readiness condition for the successful completion of an assessment by the Board of Inspection and Survey.

In order to conduct a better self-assessment in preparation for INSURV, C5RA and SEMAT were accomplished while discrepancies were documented and remedied. This led directly to the successful completion of a five-year evaluation of the ship's material readiness and condition by the Board of Inspection and Survey, achieving scores that far exceeded TRBATGRU expectations.

#### MAY

Mission: To finalize all preparations for completing a successful COMPTUEX.

Finalized all preparations to include equipment acquisition, training, and planning for Maritime Interdiction Operations, VANDALEX and STREAM RAID missile shoots, and NSFS Qualification preparations, in order to ensure a successful COMPTUEX. Conducted battle group training in the Virginia Capes Operating Area in preparation for COMPTUEX to take place in the Puerto Rico Operating Area.

#### JUNE

Mission: To conduct COMPTUEX in a safe, secure, and successful manner in support of TRBATGRU meeting all warfare mission area tasking.

COMPTUEX was successfully completed in the Puerto Rico Operating Area. Various training evolutions were accomplished, including VANDALEX and STREAM RAID missile shoots, Undersea Warfare Torpedo exercise, Naval Surface Fire Support, STRIKE Warfare exercise, Explosive Ordnance Disposal exercise, Towing, Maritime Interdiction Operations, and SARTIS operational evaluation.

#### JULY

Mission: To conduct a safe, secure and successful FMAV and fully prepare for JTFEX, while making sure every LEYTE GULF crewmember is personally and professionally prepared to deploy.

This FMAV was the last major maintenance period before deployment. All discrepancies found during C5RA, SEMAT, and INSURV were to be corrected.

#### AUGUST

Mission: To conduct JTFEX in a safe, secure, and successful manner meeting all TRBATGRU mission tasking.

LEYTE GULF embarked on a remarkable training event in company with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group, and other joint units. LEYTE GULF accomplished this integrated training period with great proficiency, proving her readiness to effectively and efficiently employ her weapons systems for sustained combat operations while accomplishing all mission tasking. Upon completion of JTFEX, LEYTE GULF returned to Norfolk, VA for her pre-deployment maintenance availability.

#### SEPTEMBER

Mission: To finalize deployment preparations, ensuring all hands are personally and professionally prepared to deploy and LEYTE GULF can meet all TRBATGRU mission tasking. To conduct a safe, secure, and successful deployment meeting all TRBATGRU mission tasking.

During the pre-deployment maintenance availability, LEYTE GULF underwent a major ship alteration to remove the port davit and Captain's gig, which were replaced by a hydraulic davit and second Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat, in support of future Maritime Interdiction Operations in the Arabian Gulf. LEYTE GULF's crewmembers made their last preparations for deployment, scheduled for 18 September 2001. After the attacks of 11 September 2001, LEYTE GULF was called upon to conduct coastal patrol and air defense off the coast of New York City, and was underway and on station with only 6 hours notice. She was underway by the 12<sup>th</sup> in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE, and returned to Norfolk on the 14<sup>th</sup> in order to complete preparations for deployment, rescheduled to begin on 20 September 2001.

#### OCTOBER

Mission: To establish LEYTE GULF as the premiere STRIKE platform in TRBATGRU and SIXTH FLEET through our performance in Exercise CAESAR SWORD 01-22. To establish LEYTE GULF as the premiere multi-mission platform in SIXTH FLEET by meeting all TRBATGRU tasking in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. To conduct safe, secure, and successful combat operations meeting all TRBATGRU and COMFIFTHFLEET mission tasking in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

LEYTE GULF conducted in-house training while transiting the Atlantic Ocean. Upon arriving in the Mediterranean she in-chopped to SIXTH FLEET as she continued her transit across the Mediterranean Sea. After a very successful performance during Strike Exercise CAESAR SWORD, she continued her journey in company with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT through the Suez Canal, Red Sea, and Northern Arabian Sea, where she then in-chopped to FIFTH FLEET. LEYTE GULF commenced her duties as air defense platform for USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, meeting all FIFTH FLEET and TRBATGRU mission tasking.

#### NOVEMBER

Mission: To provide complete force protection and air defense of the USS PELELIU Amphibious Readiness Group and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT while conducting direct combat operations in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

To complete a safe, secure, and successful transit of the Straits of Hormuz and port visit in Bahrain, coming out rearmed, refreshed, and refocused on our latest mission: Maritime Interdiction Operation duties in the Northern Arabian Gulf, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Operating with both USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and USS PELELIU as the primary air defense platform, LEYTE GULF also accomplished duties as REDCROWN and GREENCROWN. She activated XC and ran air defense for USS ENTERPRISE, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, and USS KITTY HAWK. She was then designated to continue on to the Arabian Gulf where she would conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations in conjunction with United Nations Forces. After the Straits of Hormuz transit, LEYTE GULF continued to Mina Sulman, Bahrain for a two day working port visit to on load TOMAHAWK Land Attack missiles. This was the first time an operation of this measure was conducted pier-side in Bahrain. LEYTE GULF then transited to the Northern Arabian Gulf where she assumed duties as COMISKEY Guard Ship after turning over with USS ANZIO. On 18 November, suspected Iraqi oil smuggler SMARA, capsized and sank in severe weather with a security team from USS PETERSON onboard. LEYTE GULF commenced a daring search and rescue mission by ship, helo, and small boat, saving the lives of 6 U.S. Sailors and 10 Iraqi nationals.

#### DECEMBER

Mission: To conduct safe, secure, and successful Maritime Interdiction Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

LEYTE GULF finished off the year conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf as COMISKEY Guard Ship. LEYTE GULF ensured diverted smugglers were detained in the designated area until preparations were made to remove all contraband and direct the vessels elsewhere. Over the course of two months as COMISKEY Guard Ship, LEYTE GULF conducted 140 Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure missions as well as 54 Health and Comfort visits.