

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS MOBILE BAY IS HOMEPORTED IN MAYPORT, FL AND FALLS UNDER THE IMMEDIATE COMMAND OF COMMANDER, CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP TWELVE, REAR ADMIRAL R.G. GUILBAULT. HELICOPTER ANTISUBMARINE SQUADRON LIGHT 44 (HSL-44) DETACHMENT SEVEN IS ASSIGNED AS MOBILE BAY'S SH-60B LAMPS MK III HELICOPTER SQUADRON. TAIL CODES OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO DETACHMENT SEVEN WERE MAGNUM 442 AND 446.

SHIP'S HISTORY CHRONOLOGY 1988

DATE	EVENT
01 JAN	INPORT MAYPORT
10 JAN	UNDERWAY FOR PASCAGOULA, MS
15 JAN	MOBILE BAY AT INGALLS SHIPYARD PASCAGOULA FOR POST-SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY.
12 MAR	DEPART PASCAGOULA ENR WPNSTA CHASN
16 MAR	ARR WPNSTA CHASN FOR ONLOAD-DEPART FOR MAYPORT
17 MAR	ARR MAYPORT
17 APR	DEPART FOR REFTRA GTMO BAY CUBA, EMBARK HSL-44 DET 7 W/ 1 SH-60B HELICOPTER (MAGNUM 442)
14 MAY	DEPART FOR MAYPORT
15 MAY	MOBILE BAY WINS CAPTAIN EDWARD FRANCIS NEY AWARD FOR FOOD SERVICE EXCELLENCE
17 MAY	ARRIVE MAYPORT, DEBARK HSL-44 DET 7
15 JUN	DEPART ENROUTE FLEETEX 2-88, EMBARK HSL-44 DET 7 W/ 2 SH-60B HELICOPTERS (MAGNUM 442, 446)
17 JUN	MOBILE BAY WINS COMNAVSURFLANT FLEET ANTI-AIR WARFARE AWARD
30 JUN	ARRIVE MAYPORT, DEBARK HSL-44 DET 7
12 JUL	COMMENCE POM
15 JUL	CAPT DAVID SPENCER BILL III ASSUMES COMMAND

11 AUG MOBILE BAY'S MEF DEPLOYMENT CANCELED TO SHOW SUPPORT
FOR PROPOSED IRAN/IRAQ CEASE FIRE SKED 20 AUG 88

24 AUG MOBILE BAY DEPARTS ON NATO EXERCISE TEAMWORK-88, EMBARK
HSL-44 DET 7 W/ 2 SH-60B HELICOPTERS (MAGNUM 442, 446)

25 SEP ARRIVE FOR PORT VISIT KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

29 SEP UNDERWAY ENR MAYPORT

12 OCT ARRIVE MAYPORT--DELAYED BY TWO DAYS DUE TO STORM EVASION,
DEBARK HSL-44 DET 7

04 NOV UNDERWAY FOR FLEETEX 2-89 BASIC, EMBARK HSL-44 DET 7 W/ 1
SH-60B HELICOPTER (MAGNUM 442)

15 NOV INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS PR FOR PORT VISIT

19 NOV UNDERWAY FOR MAYPORT

23 NOV ARRIVE MYPT, DEBARK HSL-44 DET 7

07 DEC U/W FOR OPPE

09 DEC ARRIVE MAYPORT AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING OPPE

15 DEC MOBILE BAY WINS CINCLANTFLT GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN PERSONNEL RETENTION. THIS IS THE SHIP'S
SECOND CONSECUTIVE AWARD.

16 DEC COMMENCE HOLIDAY LEAVE AND STANDOWN THROUGH END OF YEAR

USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)
1988 SHIP'S HISTORY NARRATIVE

1. INTRODUCTION:

USS MOBILE BAY'S EMPLOYMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1988 CAN BE DIVIDED INTO SEVEN DISTINCT MAJOR EVOLUTIONS:

- POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY
- REFRESHER TRAINING IN GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
- FLEET EXERCISE 2-88
- CHANGE OF COMMAND
- NATO EXERCISE TEAMWORK-88
- FLEET EXERCISE 2-89
- OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION

2. THE FOLLOWING NARRATIVE WILL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN EACH OF THESE SEVEN EVOLUTIONS:

A. POST SHAKEDOWN AVAILABILITY (PSA):

PSA TOOK PLACE FROM 15 JANUARY TO 12 MARCH AT INGALLS SHIPBUILDING IN PASCAGOULA MISSISSIPPI. SHIP'S FORCE AND SHIPYARD PERSONNEL COMPLETED OVER 400 JOBS DESIGNED TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES NOTED DURING THE SHIP'S FINAL CONTRACT TRIALS AND THROUGHOUT HER FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION. MODIFICATIONS WERE ALSO MADE TO THE SHIP'S ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO MAKE THE COMBAT SYSTEM MORE SURVIVABLE IN A WARFARE ENVIRONMENT.

B. REFRESHER TRAINING (REFTRA):

REFTRA COMMENCED ON 20 APRIL AND ENTAILED A RIGOROUS THREE WEEK SCHEDULE AT FLEET TRAINING CENTER (FTC), GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA (GTMO). THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF THIS PARTICULAR REFTRA

WAS TO TRAIN MOBILE BAY CREW MEMBERS IN THE AREAS OF COMBAT SYSTEMS AND DAMAGE CONTROL READINESS IN PREPARATION FOR HER UPCOMING MIDDLE EAST FORCE DEPLOYMENT.

C. FLEET EXERCISE 2-88:

THIS EXERCISE WAS MOBILE BAY'S FIRST FLEET OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE. TO DATE, THE SHIP HAD ONLY OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY AND AS SUCH, FLEETEX 2-88 PROVIDED INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN BATTLE GROUP OPERATIONS. THIS EXERCISE INCLUDED TWO SUCCESSFUL MISSILE FIRINGS FOR THE SHIP'S AEGIS COMBAT SYSTEM.

D. CHANGE OF COMMAND:

ON JULY 15, CAPTAIN DAVID SPENCER BILL III, (LINEAL NR 2036-30), RELIEVED CAPTAIN F.R. WHALEN AS COMMANDING OFFICER. THE SHIP BEGINS IMMEDIATE PREPARATIONS FOR AN ACCELERATED MIDDLE EAST FORCE DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULED FOR 12 AUGUST. ON 11 AUGUST, MOBILE BAY RECEIVES WORD THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE DECIDED TO CANCEL MOBILE BAY'S DEPLOYMENT TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE IRAN/IRAQ CEASE FIRE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 20.

E. NATO EXERCISE TEAMWORK-88

WITH ONLY TWO DAYS NOTICE, THE SHIP IS UNDERWAY FOR TEAMWORK-88, A MAJOR NATO EXERCISE DESIGNED TO TEST THE ABILITY TO DEFEND THE NORTHERN FLANK OF SCANDINAVIA AND EUROPE WITH A MARITIME FORCE. OVER 200 SHIPS AND SUBMARINES FROM SEVEN DIFFERENT NATIONS TOOK PART IN THIS INTENSE SEVEN WEEK EXERCISE. AFTER THE EXERCISE, THE SHIP ARRIVED AT KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY FOR A FIVE DAY PORT VISIT. THE VISIT SAW CREWMEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT

SPORTING EVENTS, LUNCHEONS, FORMAL RECEPTIONS, AND A TWO DAY OPEN HOUSE IN WHICH OVER 1000 GUESTS TOURED THE SHIP.

F. FLEET EXERCISE 2-89:

FLEETEX 2-89 WAS DESIGNED TO TRAIN SHIP'S COMPANY IN OPERATIONS PERTINENT TO MOBILE BAY'S RESCHEDULED DEPLOYMENT WITH THE USS AMERICA BATTLE GROUP IN MAY OF 1989. OPERATIONS INCLUDED WAR AT SEA STRIKES, WEAPONS FIRINGS, AND MOBILE BAY'S INITIAL ASSIGNMENT AS THE BATTLE GROUP'S ANTI-AIR WARFARE COMMANDER (AW).

G. OPERATIONAL PROPULSION PLANT EXAMINATION (OPPE)

THE LAST IN A SERIES OF MAJOR EVENTS IN 1988, OPPE WAS CONDUCTED BY THE ATLANTIC FLEET PROPULSION EXAMINING BOARD. THE INSPECTION WAS SUCCESSFUL AND WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL BEING EVALUATED AS "THE BEST EVER SEEN" BY THE EXAMINERS.

3. THIS CONCLUDES USS MOBILE BAY'S SHIP HISTORY FOR CY 88.

THE POINT OF CONTACT IS LT. [REDACTED]