DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G Command Histories

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer

1. Command Composition and Organization.

a. Mission. The mission of the USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49), UIC 21201, is to provide local area protection to Aircraft Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, underway replenishment groups, and other military shipping against air, surface, and subsurface threats. ROBERT G BRADLEY can also act as a Surface Action Group and/or a Search Attack Unit Commander.

b. Commanding Officer. CDR Michael A. Strano, USN.

c. Immediate Superior in Command. Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN: CAPT Mark D. Klatt, USN.

d. Permanent Homeport. Mayport, FL.

2. 2003 Chronology.

27 DEC-09 JAN	2nd Christmas Leave Period
10 JAN-15 JAN	Moored NS MAYPORT, FL
16 JAN-17 JAN	Underway for Anti-terrorism/Force Protection training at anchor in JAX OPAREA
17 JAN-20 JAN	Moored NS MAYPORT, FL
21 JAN-22 JAN	Underway enroute Weapons Station YORKTOWN, VA
23 JAN	Moored Weapons Station YORKTOWN for ammo onload
24 JAN	Underway enroute Norfolk Naval Station
24 JAN-27 JAN	Moored, Pier 1 Norfolk Naval Station
27 JAN-31 JAN	Underway for Training in VACAPES/JAX OPAREA. Completed PCMS range run, 76mm gun and CIWS TDU Shoots/Detect to Engage sequence with Lear Jet
31 JAN-16 FEB	Inport NS MAYPORT, FL
03 FEB-16 FEB	Turbine Mid-frame Changeout for 1B GTE
03 FEB-05 FEB	Counter Narcotic Operations Summit Key West, FL
05 FEB-07 FEB	ATFP-SF-2 LTT
06 FEB-07 FEB	CCC-1 LTT

10 FEB-11 FEB	Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ)
10 FEB-14 FEB	Underwater Hull Cleaning
12 FEB	COMDESRON FOURTEEN Communications Readiness Certification
13 FEB-14 FEB	MED-4 LTT
17 FEB-21 FEB	20B5 Van training with ATG
22 FEB-24 FEB	Underway JAXOA for FEP preparations
24 FEB-28 FEB	White Cell Final Evaluation Period
27 FEB	Underway for FEP in JAX OPAREA
03 MAR-14 MAR	C5RA/HM&ERA
14 MAR	Surface Rescue Swimmer Screening
14 MAR	Commodore's Call with Commodore Bernard Jackson, Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN
17 MAR-21 MAR	Underway JAX OPAREA for Week One Workups with HSL 46 Detachment 6 and Cutlass 472
21 MAR	Moored NS Mayport,FL
24 MAR	Underway enroute Port Canaveral, FL for port visit
25 MAR-28 MAR	Moored Port Canaveral, FL for port visit
28 MAR	Underway and moored NS Mayport, FL
29 MAR	Atlantic Underwater Tracking and Evaluation Range Operations brief
31 MAR	SPS 55 Radar antenna replacement
01 APR-06 APR	Underway enroute to the Atlantic Underwater Tracking and Evaluation Range, Andros Island, Bahamas for Group Sail 03-2. Group Sail was lead by Commodore James Martin, Commander Destroyer Squadron SIX, embarked in USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47) and also included the British SSN HMS TORBAY. RGB ran the Ships' Self Radiated Noise Range at AUTEC to determine the ship's self noise, conducted USW with HMS TORBAY, and acted as Search Attack Unit Commander of U.S. forces consisting of RGB, TICONDEROGA, and their helicopters against the HMS TORBAY. RGB conducted two over-the-side exercise torpedo shots. During this exercise, RGB was the test ship for the new experimental British torpedo being tested by HMS TORBAY.
06 APR	Embarked Commodore James Martin to visit with RGB Sailors.
06 APR	Departed AUTEC with TICONDEROGA enroute to the Cherry Point Operations Area for Commander, Second Fleet Multi-National Maritime Exercise(MNME 03-1).
07 APR	Replenishment at Sea with USNS LARAMIE (T-AO 203)
08 APR-10 APR	Multi-National Maritime Exercise 03-1
10 APR	Night Replenishment at Sea with USNS LARAMIE

11 APR-15 APR	Underway training enroute Mayport
15 APR-22 APR	Moored NS Mayport, FL
22 APR-25 APR	Underway, JAXOA for Counter Narcotics training and VBSS Certification with USS STUMP (DD 978)
28 APR-30 APR	Underway to complete SUW-5 ATG roboski 76mm gunnery exercise and training JAX OPAREA.
01 MAY	LCDR Thomas McNerney III relieved LCDR James Greenburg as Executive Officer, USS ROBERT G BRADLEY (FFG 49)
02 MAY	Begin First POM Leave Period
12 MAY-16 MAY	Supply Management Assist Visit. Visit was converted into the Supply Management Inspection with all grades above 90% earning the Logistics Excellence Award.
14 MAY	Turnover for all hands. Second POM Leave Period begins
27 MAY	POM Leave Period ends
30 MAY	Family Day Cruise and pre-deployment shakedown in the JAX OPAREA. Rear Admiral Curtis, Commander, Naval Surface Group TWO, and his family embarked for the day.
02 JUN	ROBERT G BRADLEY deployed for six months to the SOUTHERN COMMAND Area of Responsibility. Enroute to the Caribbean Sea
02 JUN	Embark HSL-46, Detachment SIX SH-60B Helicopter CUTLASS 472 for Deployment
04 JUN-13 JUN	Conducting Counter Narcotics Operations in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Honduras and Colombia
07 JUN	Moored for Brief Stop for Fuel Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
13 JUN-16 JUN	Anchored for port visit Cartagena, Colombia
17 JUN	Anchored Colon, Panama awaiting transit time
17 JUN-18 JUN	Southbound transit of the Panama Canal
18 JUN	Moored in Vasco Núñez de Balboa (VNB) for fuel
18 JUN-27 JUN	Conducting Counter Narcotic Operations in the Eastern Pacific
28 JUN-01 JUL	Moored in Manta, Ecuador for port visit
01 JUL-12 JUL	Conducting Counter Narcotic Operations in the Eastern Pacific
11 JUL	Shellback Ceremony for Crossing the Equator
13 JUL-16 JUL	Moored in VNB Panama for port visit
17 JUL	Assigned as On-Scene Commander for a Search and Rescue Mission for Fishing Vessel FUFU CHEN's 9 crewmembers off the coast of Costa Rica

18 JUL	Three survivors transferred from Fishing Vessel COSTA DEL SOL to RGB for treatment and then to Costa Rican Coast Guard vessel
19 JUL	Fourth survivor recovered onboard Fishing Vessel ARELIS and transferred to RGB for treatment for further transfer to the Costa Rican Coast Guard
20 JUL-26 JUL	Continued Counter Narcotic Operations in Eastern Pacific
26 JUL-29 JUL	Port visit Vasco Núñez de Balboa Panama
29 JUL-12 AUG	Conducting Counter Narcotic Operations in the Eastern Pacific
08 AUG	Transferred 19 drug-smuggling prisoners from USS RENTZ (FFG 46) for further transfer to Panama
13 AUG	Anchored, Gulf of Panama for prisoner transfer
14 AUG	Prisoner transfer to U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency
15 AUG-18 AUG	Moored for PVST Vasco Núñez de Balboa Panama
18 AUG-28 AUG	Conducting Counter Narcotic Operations in the Eastern Pacific
25 AUG	Interrogate and board Fishing Vessel BACANO I
26 AUG	Interrogate Fishing Vessel LLANERO; flying Nicaraguan Flag without proper documentation
26 AUG	Board F/V LLANERO and discover false compartment in fuel tank; 1.85 tons of cocaine found. 8 prisoners transferred to RGB
27 AUG	F/V LLANERO found unfit for sea and sunk with 76mm gun, GAU 16 from CUTLASS 472, 40mm grenades, 25mm gun, and .50 cal guns. Vessel sank in position 06 degrees, 29.4 minutes North; 083 degrees, 12.6 minutes West
27 AUG	Underway, enroute the Panama Canal
28 AUG	Moored for BSF in Vasco Núñez de Balboa, Panama
28 AUG-29 AUG	Northbound transit of Panama Canal
30 AUG	RGB and CUTLASS 472 in conjunction with Coast Guard C-130 chased a "go fast" vessel in the Caribbean making a drug run from Colombia to Mexico. Vessel diverted into the Colombian waters of the Island de Providencia and beached itself on the island. The crew abandoned the vessel and escaped. The Colombian Coast Guard recovered 1.3 tons of cocaine and the vessel.
30 AUG-02 SEP	Enroute Naval Station Mayport, FL
02 SEP-13 SEP	Moored Mayport, FL for Mid-Deployment IMAV. 8 Prisoners and 1.8 tons of cocaine offloaded upon arrival to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency

13 SEP	Underway enroute the Panama Canal for Counter Narcotics Operations
14 SEP	Embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment in the vicinity of the Miami, FL sea buoy using small boat
17 SEP	Anchored Cristobal (Colon), Panama awaiting Canal transit
17 SEP-18 SEP	Southbound transit Panama Canal (1930 to 0400)
18 SEP	Moored for BSF Vasco Núñez de Balboa, Panama
18 SEP	Underway for Counter Narcotics Operations enroute to Valparaiso, Chile in the Eastern Pacific
26 SEP-04 OCT	Moored for port visit in Valparaiso, Chile
04 OCT	Underway enroute the Chilean Inland Waterways and the Strait of Magellan to Punta Arenas, Chile
06 OCT	Entered the Chilean Inland Waterways
07 OCT	Continued transit through waterways past the English Narrows
08 OCT	Sailed past Canal Gray and entered the Strait of Magellan enroute Punta Arenas, Chile
08 OCT-09 OCT	Moored for BSF and port visit Punta Arenas, Chile. Moored outboard of USS STUMP (DD 978) with Commodore Klatt, Commander Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN, embarked
09 OCT	Underway enroute Puerto Belgrano, Argentina for UNITAS 45-04 in company with USS STUMP (DD 978)
12 OCT	Moored at 1000 in Puerto Belgrano, Argentina for port visit and planning and briefings for UNITAS 45-04
13 OCT-16 OCT	Embarked Commodore Klatt, Commander Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN and his staff for inport phase of UNITAS
16 OCT-26 OCT	Underway, in the South Atlantic for UNITAS 45-04 Transferred Commodore Klatt and staff to USS STUMP (DD 978)
17 OCT	Underway Replenishment at Sea with ARA PATAGONIA from Argentina
18 OCT	Night Lightline transfer with SPS PATINO of Spain
19 OCT	Assumed duties as Undersea Warfare Commander for 4 ships and conducted Expendable underwater mini-mobile target trackings and exercise torpedo firings for training
19 OCT	Night Underway Replenishment at Sea with SPS PATINO
21 OCT	Conducted Gunnery exercises and helicopter

	transfer of COMDESRON FOURTEEN and staff to RGB. Night Underway Replenishment at Sea with SPS PATINO
22 OCT	RGB became Anti-Air Warfare Commander for drone exercise and launched and recovered drones from VC-6 for gunnery and missile firings. RGB fired her 76mm gun on two separate drone runs through the formation. After transferring COMDESRON FOURTEEN to USS STUMP, all ships fired on the Afloat Training Group roboski for the SUW-5 Exercise. RGB fired her 76mm gun at the roboski for a total of 71 rounds fired for the day.
22 OCT	UNITAS 45-04 Final Battle Problem begins. RGB assigned to the Orange Forces.
25 OCT	Rear Admiral Vinson Smith, Commander Naval Forces SOUTH, and former Commanding Officer of ROBERT G BRADLEY, embarked.
26 OCT	Strong winds delayed mooring until the afternoon at Naval Station Puerto Belgrano, Argentina for final UNITAS briefings and social events.
28 OCT	Underway enroute Montevideo, Uruguay
29 OCT	Moored for port visit Montevideo, Uruguay
01 NOV	Reception hosted by United States Ambassador to Uruguay for Ambassadors and Dignitaries onboard ROBERT G BRADLEY
02 NOV	Underway enroute Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in company with USS STUMP (DD 978)
05 NOV	Moored for port visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
06 NOV	Reception hosted by U.S. General Consul to Brazil for U.S. General Consuls and Dignitaries on ROBERT G BRADLEY
08 NOV	Underway enroute Fortaleza, Brazil
13 NOV	Moored for port visit Fortaleza, Brazil. Hosted VIP luncheon for Brazilian Senators and local dignitaries onboard ROBERT G BRADLEY
15 NOV	Underway enroute St. Thomas, USVI in company with USS STUMP (DD 978)
16 NOV	Conducted Crossing of the Equator Ceremony for ROBERT G BRADLEY and STUMP Sailors
19 NOV	Conducted Venezuelan PASSEX with Oiler and Frigate. Detached from USS STUMP upon completion
21 NOV	Moored for port visit St. Thomas, USVI
22 NOV	Underway to anchorage in St. Thomas, USVI
23 NOV	Underway enroute Mayport, FL

26 NOV	CUTLASS 472 fly-off and debarkation of HSL 46 Detachment 6 at 0730
26 NOV	Moored Mayport, FL at 1000, completing SOUTHCOM Deployment.
26 NOV-01 DEC	Post Deployment Standdown and Thanksgiving Holiday
01 DEC-04 DEC	Underwater Hull Cleaning
04 DEC-07 DEC	Robert G. Bradley's brother, Edward Bradley, arrives for visit from Albuquerque, New Mexico
04 DEC	Ship's Christmas Party at the Sea Turtle Inn in Atlantic Beach. Edward Bradley was Guest of Honor
05 DEC-22 DEC	1st Holiday Leave Period
22 DEC	Turnover Day for 1st and 2nd Holiday Leave Periods
22 DEC-05 JAN	2nd Holiday Leave Period

3. Narrative. ROBERT G BRADLEY began the year 2003 moored in homeport, NS MAYPORT, Florida with a portion of the crew on Christmas leave. There was uncertainty in the ship's schedule due to the fact that contingency plans were being developed for the invasion of Iraq. Due to RGB's outstanding Engineering Underway Demonstration in December of 2002 and well above average material condition, RGB was being considered for an accelerated Deployment either to Fifth Fleet in the Arabian Gulf or SOUTHCOM to allow another ship to deploy to the Arabian Gulf. This acceleration would have required all remaining inspections to be complete by the end of January with Deployment on the first of February, four months early.

By the time all crewmembers returned from leave on 9 January, the decision was made to keep RGB on the original Deployment schedule. The ship was underway for training in the JAX OPAREA and anchored for anti-terrorism, force protection small boat attack training. Later in the month, RGB transited to Naval Weapons Station YORKTOWN, VA for an ammunition onload. RGB encountered USS ARTHUR W. RADFORD (DD 968) and USS BARRY (DDG 52) coming home from their Deployment at the Norfolk sea buoy "CB" in a snow storm early on the morning of 23 January. Upon completion of ammunition offload, RGB transited to Norfolk Naval Station for a weekend port visit. After a brief stop, RGB conducted training in the VACAPES OPAREA and the JAX OPAREA on her way home to Mayport, Florida.

On 3 February, ROBERT G BRADLEY began the 1B Turbine Mid-frame change out which was completed on 16 February. CDR Strano, ROBERT G BRADLEY's Commanding Officer attended the Counter

Narcotics Operations Summit, hosted by Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX in Key West, Florida to discuss strategies in the upcoming Deployment to South America. February was a challenging month for the crew with the final inspections of the training cycle taking place. On 10-11 February, ROBERT G BRADLEY conducted and completed her Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ). On 12 February, RGB completed the COMDESRON FOURTEEN Communications Readiness Certification. After getting underway for some last minute polishing of the watch teams, ROBERT G. BRADLEY completed the basic phase of the training cycle with a unique White Cell Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) and Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Certification both inport Mayport and in the JAX OPAREA. This unique scenario was imposed on the ship by the Afloat Training Group and the crew had to respond as if the ship was actually under attack.

On 3 March, RGB commenced a C5RA/HM&ERA to evaluate combat systems and engineering equipment in preparation for Deployment. Many technicians from FTSCLANT Norfolk and Mayport came onboard and repaired, adjusted, and groomed many systems making RGB like new again. On 14 March, RGB hosted a Commodore's Call where Commodore Jackson came onboard to present awards and speak to the crew before Deployment. During the week of 17-21 March, RGB was underway in the JAX OPAREA conducting Week One Workups with her new helicopter detachment, HSL 46 det SIX, the Grandmasters. Several exercises and much needed training was conducted to ensure the ship could conduct safe helicopter operations. After returning to port for the weekend, the ship was underway on 24 March enroute to a port visit in Port Canaveral, FL. Many Sailors aboard used this opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center and enjoy the restaurants and tourist attractions in Port Canaveral and Cocoa Beach. RGB moored at Naval Station MAYPORT, on 28 March. On 31 March, the SPS-55 Surface Search Radar was replaced.

April 2003 was a busy month for ROBERT G BRADLEY. RGB sailed for the Atlantic Underwater Tracking and Evaluation Range, Andros Island, in the Bahamas for Group Sail 03-2 on Tuesday, April 1st. Group Sail was led by Commodore James Martin, Commander Destroyer Squadron SIX, embarked in USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47), and also included the British SSN HMS TORBAY. RGB ran the Ships' Self Radiated Noise Range at AUTEC to determine the ship's self noise, conducted USW operations with HMS TORBAY, and acted as Search Attack Unit Commander of U.S. forces consisting of RGB, TICONDEROGA, and their helicopters against the HMS TORBAY. RGB

conducted two over-the-side exercise torpedo shots. During this exercise, RGB was the test ship for the new experimental British torpedo being tested by HMS TORBAY. On 6 April, Commodore Martin embarked for the day as RGB and TICONDEROGA departed the Bahamas passing near Nassau enroute to the Cherry Point OPAREA for Commander, Second Fleet's Multi-National Maritime Exercise (MNME 03-1). This exercise allowed several NATO Navies to come together to learn about how their counterparts conduct operations as well as their capabilities. A day later ROBERT G BRADLEY safely and efficiently conducted a refueling at sea with USNS LARAMIE. On 8 April, RGB commenced the Multi-National Maritime Exercise (MNME 03-1) as a member of the ORANGE FORCES commanded by Commodore Martin. Following this exercise, ROBERT G BRADLEY conducted a night underway replenishment with USNS LARAMIE in a very large sea swell. Following this replenishment, ROBERT G BRADLEY headed back to homeport mooring 15 April.

RGB commenced the first Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM) leave period on 1 May giving the crew some rest and time with their families. A week later, the Supply Management Assist Visit began. The assist visit went so well with all Divisions of the Supply Department achieving above a 90% score that it was converted into the Supply Management Inspection which concluded on 16 May. On 27 May the POM leave period ended and on 30 May ROBERT G BRADLEY hosted a Family Day Cruise where crewmembers brought family members and friends aboard for a day underway. Rear Admiral Curtis, Commander Naval Surface Group TWO, embarked with his family for the day. In addition to a steel beach picnic on the flight deck, RGB's helo, CUTLASS 472, came out for an air demonstration, and the ship completed a CIWS and 76mm gun pacfire.

On 2 June, ROBERT G BRADLEY deployed to the SOUTHCOM AOR for a six-month Deployment. HSL-46 Detachment 6 embarked. The ship sailed at 0900 enroute to the Caribbean Sea for Counter Narcotics Operations. Initially, RGB was to pull into Cozumel, Mexico for a port visit, but that visit was cancelled so that ROBERT G BRADLEY could participate in a drug smuggling interdiction off the coast of Honduras. The weather was pretty rough and the go-fast run from Colombia to Mexico never materialized. The ship moored on 07 June at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for fuel and supplies. Getting underway later that afternoon, RGB then transited to the coast of Colombia looking for any go-fast boats that might be coming out at night. The ship arrived in Cartagena, Columbia for a port visit on Friday, 13 June. USS MUSTIN (DDG 89) arrived the

same day for a port visit as she was transiting from Pascagoula, Mississippi to San Diego CA, her new homeport. The wardrooms of the two ships went to dinner the first night inport in old town Cartagena. Tours and official courtesies were conducted on MUSTIN with the Commanding Officers of MUSTIN and ROBERT G BRADLEY with the Superintendent of the Colombian Naval Academy, and the Admiral in charge of the Caribbean Colombian Fleet.

After departing Cartagena, the ship sailed for Colon, Panama and anchored in Cristobal Harbor on the morning of the 17th of June awaiting a Panama Canal transit time. The ship got underway at 1930 for a Southbound transit of the Panama Canal arriving in Vasco Nunez de Balboa around 0600 in the morning for fuel, stores, and rest. The ship sailed later that day to begin her first Eastern Pacific patrol looking for drug smugglers. RGB moored in Manta, Ecuador from 28 June through 1 July for a port visit.

On 11 July crewmembers of the ROBERT G BRADLEY learned the ways of the Shellback for "Crossing the Line" or Equator. ROBERT G BRADLEY arrived in Panama for a port visit from 13-16 July. While transiting out to her Eastern Pacific patrol area after the port visit, RGB was assigned as On-Scene Commander for the Search and Rescue operation for fishing vessel FUFU CHEN crewmembers off the coast of Costa Rica on 17 July. The vessel had been missing for 22 days. On 17 July, three survivors were recovered from the fishing vessel COSTA DEL SOL, and were then transferred to RGB for medical treatment and food. The survivors were transferred to the Costa Rican Coast Guard for further transfer ashore. On 19 July, the fourth survivor was recovered onboard fishing vessel ARELIS and transferred to ROBERT G BRADLEY for further transfer to a Costa Rican patrol boat. On 20 July ROBERT G BRADLEY continued her Counter Drug patrol in the Eastern Pacific. RGB again moored in VNB for a port visit from 26-29 July. On 08 August, RGB transferred 19 prisoners and contraband from USS RENTZ (FFG 46) to RGB for further transfer to Panama. RGB arrived at anchor off Panama City for transfer of the prisoners on 13 August and proceeded into port for a port visit from 15-18 August.

On the afternoon of 25 August, ROBERT G BRADLEY was tasked to find the Fishing Vessel LLANERO which was thought to have drugs onboard. After sailing over 300 miles at 30 knots remaining undetected, RGB found the vessel at approximately 0200 with a decoy vessel. During the early morning hours, RGB's rhib was put

in the water and sent to visually identify if the vessel was in fact the LLANERO. Upon identification, it was found to be the decoy vessel F/V PAMELA ALEXANDER. Once LLANERO was found, RGB remained over the horizon monitoring its location. At approximately 1000 on 26 August, RGB was given authorization to pounce on the LLANERO. RGB sailed in at 30 knots and arrived alongside at about 100 yards. Catching them completely off guard, RGB interrogated the vessel Llanero, which flew the Nicaraguan flag without proper documentation of Nicaraguan decent. RGB was given authorization to board, and after 15 hours of searching, 1.85 tons of cocaine was located in a false compartment inside a fuel tank. The 8 crew members were taken as prisoner and the cocaine was removed using the rhib. LLANERO was found unfit for sea on the 27th of August and was sunk by 76mm gun, 25mm gun, 40mm grenades, and the GAU 16 from the helicopter. On 27 August, ROBERT G BRADLEY sailed for the Panama Canal enroute to NS MAYPORT, FL for a Mid-Deployment Availability. After refueling in VNB Panama, the ship transited Northbound through the Panama Canal on the evening of 28 August.

On 30 August, RGB received word from JIATF South that a go-fast boat was making a run from Colombia to Mexico with cocaine onboard and that we needed to intercept the vessel. RGB turned around and sailed at 30 knots to intercept. Flying CUTLASS 472 ahead and in conjunction with Coast Guard C-130, the go-fast vessel was intercepted. He changed course and started heading west towards Colombian island waters. CUTLASS 472 repeatedly attempted to force the vessel to change course or capsize, but he continued westward entering the territorial limits of the Island de Providencia. Once there, he jettisoned his bales of cocaine over the side and beached on the island. The crew abandoned the vessel and escaped. The Colombian Coast Guard recovered 1.3 tons of cocaine and the vessel.

RGB resumed her transit to Mayport Florida arriving on 02 September for a Mid-Deployment Availability (IMAV) from 02-13 September.

During the IMAV, CDR Strano, along with the Commanding Officers of other ships in Surface Group TWO, flew to Fallon, Nevada, just east of Reno, to attend Strike University at Naval Air Station Fallon. On 05 September, Commodore Jackson was relieved by Commodore Mark Klatt as Commander, Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN.

ROBERT G BRADLEY sailed on 13 September enroute to the Panama Canal to continue her patrols in the Eastern Pacific and continue South to circumnavigate South America and join other nations for the Atlantic phase of UNITAS. ROBERT G BRADLEY anchored in Cristobal Harbor, Panama awaiting a time for the Southbound transit of the Panama Canal. At 1930 on the evening of 17 September, RGB commenced her third transit of the canal. Arriving in Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama at 0400 hours for a brief stop for fuel and stores, RGB sailed at 1700 to the Eastern Pacific enroute to Valparaiso, Chile. From 26 September to 04 October, ROBERT G BRADLEY was moored in Valparaiso, Chile for a port visit. While there, all preparations on some 62 charts were made for the transit of the Chilean Inland Waterways and Strait of Magellan. RGB sailed for the inland waterways on 04 October.

On 06 October, ROBERT G BRADLEY entered the Chilean Inland Waterways enroute to the Strait of Magellan. On 07 October, RGB sailed past the English Narrows and on the morning of 08 October, sailed past Canal Gray and entered the Strait of Magellan arriving in Punta Arenas, Chile at 1600. Upon arrival, RGB moored outboard USS STUMP (DD 978) for fuel, stores, and a night of liberty. Embarked in USS STUMP was Commodore Klatt, COMDESRON FOURTEEN, and his staff. On 09 October, RGB and STUMP sailed through the remainder of the Strait of Magellan enroute to Puerto Belgrano, Argentina for UNITAS.

RGB arrived in Puerto Belgrano on 12 October at 1000 to participate in the briefings and social events kicking off UNITAS 45-04. Fifteen ships from six nations (Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Brazil, Spain, and the United States) participated in UNITAS. The following morning, Commodore Klatt, Commander Destroyer Squadron FOURTEEN embarked RGB with his staff. On 16 October ROBERT G BRADLEY sailed with the staff embarked and conducted an at sea helicopter transfer of everyone to USS STUMP for the exercise. On 17 October RGB conducted an UNREP with ARA PATAGONIA, an Argentine oiler. On Sunday, 19 October, RGB acted as Search Attack Unit (SAU) commander for four other vessels conducting a USW exercise with mini-mobile targets and torpedo firings.

On 21 October, Commodore Klatt transferred his flag to RGB.

On 22 October, RGB became Anti-Air Warfare Commander for a BQM-74E drone exercise and launched and recovered drones from VC-6 from the flight deck for gunnery and missile firings. RGB

fired her 76mm gun on two separate drone runs through the formation. After transferring COMDESRON FOURTEEN to USS STUMP, all ships fired on the Mayport Afloat Training Group roboski for the SUW-5 Exercise. RGB fired her 76mm gun at the roboski for a total of 71 rounds fired for the day. That evening after a pass in review of the ships, the UNITAS 45-04 Final Battle Problem began. RGB was assigned to the Orange Forces led by the Brazilians.

On 25 October, Rear Admiral Vinson Smith, Commander Naval Forces SOUTH, and former Commanding Officer of ROBERT G BRADLEY embarked from USS STUMP overnight for the transit back to Puerto Belgrano. Strong winds delayed all ships entering port until the afternoon of 26 October at Naval Station Puerto Belgrano for the final UNITAS briefings and social events. RGB hosted the Argentine Chief of Naval Operations onboard for Rear Admiral Smith.

On 28 October, RGB sailed for Montevideo, Uruguay for a port visit arriving on 29 October. While there, Sailors from RGB conducted two Community Relations Projects. The first was to clean the statue of President Franklin Roosevelt outside the United States Ambassador's house. The second involved building a computer classroom in the Martin Luther King Elementary School in Montevideo. The project involved painting the entire exterior of the school, laying new carpet throughout, running electrical power into the classroom, and installing new desks, tables, and computers.

On 01 November, RGB hosted a reception onboard on the flight deck for Ambassador Silverstein, the United States Ambassador to Uruguay, and the Ambassadors from Russia, China, European Union, and South Africa as well as their senior military assistants. ROBERT G BRADLEY sailed on 02 November for Rio de Janeiro mooring pierside downtown on 05 November for a port visit.

On 06 November, RGB hosted a reception onboard for the U.S. General Consul, and the General Consuls from Norway, France, Poland, and Venezuela and their military assistants. RGB sailed for Fortaleza, Brazil on 08 November.

On 13 November, RGB hosted two Brazilian Senators and local senior military authorities for lunch. After an enjoyable port

visit, RGB sailed north on 15 November for a passing exercise with the Venezuelan Navy on the 19th of November.

RGB conducted a "crossing the line" ceremony on Sunday morning, 16 November for Sailors from RGB and STUMP. Upon completion, RGB departed the equator sailing north to the Venezuelan coast. Upon completing the passing exercise, RGB detached from USS STUMP and sailed independently to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. RGB sailed through the St. Vincent passage into the Caribbean on the evening of the 19th arriving in St. Thomas on the morning of 21 November.

On 22 November, RGB relocated to anchorage off Charlotte Amalle. On 23 November, RGB departed St. Thomas and sailed through the Virgin Passage into the Atlantic Ocean enroute Mayport. At 0730 on the 26th of November, CUTLASS 472 flew off and at 1000, RGB arrived at pier Delta Four completing her six-month Deployment on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving.

On 03 December, Robert G. Bradley's brother, Edward Bradley, flew into town to visit the ship from Albuquerque, New Mexico. On the 4th of December, RGB had her Ship's Christmas Party at the Sea Turtle Inn in Atlantic Beach. Edward Bradley was Guest of Honor. After touring the ship and taking several pictures, and attending the Officer's Christmas Party at the Commanding Officer's house on Saturday evening, 06 December, Ed Bradley departed Jacksonville on 07 December.

The crew began their first holiday leave period on 05 December. Turnover Day was 22 December, with the second leave period commencing that afternoon and concluding on 05 January 2004.

4. Command Awards for 2003.

a. COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Survivability Red "E" (Seventh consecutive award)

b. COMNAVSURFLANT Command, Control, Communications Excellence Green "E" (Sixth consecutive award)

c. COMNAVSURFLANT Maritime Warfare Excellence Award Black "E" (First Award)

d. COMNAVSURFLANT Supply Management Excellence Award Blue "E" (First Award)

e. COMNAVSURFLANT TYCOM Safety Award (First Award)

f. COMNAVSURFLANT Unit Wellness Green "H" Award (Fourth consecutive award)

g. COMNAVSURFLANT Ship's Store Excellence Award

M. A. STRANO

COMMANDER
MICHAEL A. STRANO
U.S. NAVY

Commander Michael A. Strano was born in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Hammonton, NJ in 1979. After graduating from the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas in 1980, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he received his commission and Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography in 1984.

Commander Strano's first fleet assignment was onboard USS FARRAGUT (DDG 37) where he served as Communications Officer and later Main Propulsion Officer from March 1985 to October 1987. In March 1986, FARRAGUT deployed to the Mediterranean Sea participating in Operations Displayed Determination and El Dorado Canyon against Libya. In October 1987, Commander Strano reported to the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO serving as the staff Administrative Officer.

Commander Strano attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA graduating with distinction in December 1990 with a Masters of Science degree in Management and a subspecialty in Manpower, Personnel, Training Analysis.

Upon completion of Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School, Commander Strano reported to USS SPRUANCE (DD 963) where he served as Combat Systems Officer from December 1991 to May 1993. During his tour, SPRUANCE was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E". In July 1993, Commander Strano reported to USS WASP (LHD 1) as First Lieutenant. During his tour, WASP participated in Operations Restore and Continue Hope in Somalia, and in 1994 was the flagship for the Navy Component Commander during Operations Support and Restore Democracy in Haiti, earning the Battle Efficiency "E".

In January 1995, Commander Strano reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel serving as the Head of the Bonus Programs Branch (Pers-204) until August 1996, when he was assigned to the Secretary of the Navy's staff as Special Assistant for Military Compensation, POM and Budgeting.

In December 1998, Commander Strano assumed command of USS ORIOLE (MHC 55). During his tour, ORIOLE participated in the search and salvage operations of EgyptAir Flight 990 which crashed off Nantucket, Massachusetts. ORIOLE earned the Battle Efficiency "E." In June 2001, Commander Strano graduated from the U.S. Army Senior War College in Carlisle, PA, earning a Masters degree in National Strategic Studies.

In July 2001, Commander Strano reported to Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWELVE, while embarked in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), where he served as the Surface Operations Officer during her Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf deployment conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations and air strikes into southern Iraq as part of Operation Southern Watch. Commander Strano assumed command of USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) on 6 September 2002.

Commander Strano's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards). He is married to the former Teresa Stuart of Ellicott City, MD. They have two children, Joseph, age 16, and Stephanie, age 9.