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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS GRIDLEY (CG-21)
FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96666-1

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From: Commanding Officer, USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1987

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
 - (2) Chronology of Events
 - (3) Basic Narrative 1987
 - * (4) Supporting Documents (U)

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded for calendar year 1987.

D R Hess

D. R. HESS

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COMMAND HISTORY 1987
USS GRIDLEY (CG21)
PART 1 - COMMAND COMPOSITION
AND ORGANIZATION

1. Mission. The mission of USS GRIDLEY (CG-21) is to conduct prompt and sustained worldwide combat operations at sea in support of national policy. It makes a major contribution to accomplishing the functions of sea control and projection of Naval Power from those sea areas under United States control. It is capable of these functions as an element of a Battle Group, Amphibious Task Group, Surface Action Group, or when operating independently. As a primary Anti-Air Warfare Platform, CG-21's primary mission is defending a CV Battle Group against high speed modern aircraft and Cruise missiles with its two twin launcher SM-2 surface to air missile systems and assigned TACAIR assets.

2. Organizational Structure

a. Administrative. Immediate Senior Command: COMCRUESGRU FIVE, 1 JAN - 31 DEC 87.

b. Operational

- (1) Immediate Senior Command: COMCARGRU ONE 1 JUN - 30 DEC 87.
- (2) Units assigned to USS GRIDLEY as Anti-Air Warfare Commander (CTU 30.5.2) for Battle Group Echo: USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14)
USS SCHOFIELD (FFG-3)
USS JOHN YOUNG (DD-973)

3. Commanding Officer: Captain Donald R. Hess, USN, 485-48-5414/1110

a. Biography:

Captain Donald Robert Hess, U.S. Navy, a native Iowan, was born in Des Moines and raised in Davenport. He attended Iowa State University, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Commissioned in 1965 through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program, his first assignment was to the USS COCHRANE (DDG-21) homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. There he served successively as Assistant First Lieutenant, Navigator and Combat Information Center Officer. In July 1968, then Lieutenant Hess attended U.S. Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island where he graduated "with distinction". Upon graduation, he reported to the USS CONYNGHAM (DDG 17), homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. He served there as Weapons Officer until September 1971.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC was Lieutenant Commander Hess' next assignment. He was initially toured as a Surface Junior Officer Assignment Officer (detailer), and later as Aide Placement Officer and Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Restricted Line, Staff Corps and Major Staffs Placement Division. In 1975, upon successful completion of the course of instruction at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, Lieutenant Commander Hess was assigned as Executive Officer of the USS BERKELEY (DDG 15), homeported in San Diego, California. From May 1977 to December 1978, Lieutenant Commander Hess served in the Navy Office of

Encl (1)

Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C., as a Congressional Liaison Officer with the U.S. House of Representatives. He was promoted to the rank of Commander in August 1978. His next assignment was a Special Assistant for Naval Personnel to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics) from 1978 to 1979. Commander Hess' next tour of duty was as Commanding Officer of the USS O'BRIEN (DD 975) homeported in San Diego, California from November 1980 to 1982. The staff of Commander, Carrier Group FIVE (CTF 70), homeported in Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines, was Commander Hess' next assignment where he served as Surface Operations Officer from 1982 to 1984. His most recent assignment was at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-130) where he served as the Head, Officer Plans and Community Management Branch. Captain Hess was promoted to his present rank in March 1985.

Captain Hess' awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (gold stars in lieu of second and third awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V". In addition, he wears various campaign and service medals.

4. Permanent Duty Station: San Diego, CA.

5. Aircraft capabilities: USS GRIDLEY is fully capable of landing, vertreping and in-flight refueling SH-2, SH-3 AND SH-60 aircraft and vertreping and in-flight refueling CH-46 and CH-53 aircraft.

COMMAND HISTORY 1987
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
PART II - CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

01-17 In port/Upkeep San Diego, California
14 Captain D. R. Hess relieves Captain C. P. Metzler, Jr. as
Commanding Officer
18-29 En route Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
20-27 In port Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
28-29 En route San Diego, California
30-31 Inport San Diego, California

FEBRUARY

01-28 In port/Upkeep San Diego, California

MARCH

01-31 In port/Upkeep San Diego, California

APRIL

01-23 In port/Upkeep San Diego, California
24-29 Kernel Usher 87-3 (COMPTUEX)
30 Upkeep San Diego, California

MAY

01-03 Upkeep San Diego, California
04-08 Battle Group Echo ASW Team Training (Phase I)
09-10 Upkeep San Diego, California
11-15 Battle Group Echo Harpoon Team Training
16-17 Upkeep San Diego, California
18-21 Battle Group Echo ASW Team Training (Phase II)
22-28 Upkeep San Diego, California
28 Electronic Warfare Exercise 8A
29-31 Upkeep San Diego, California

JUNE

01-12 READIEX 87-3A, Southern California OPAREA
11 VANDALEX (Missile Shoot), Southern California OPAREA
13-25 In port/Upkeep San Diego, California
26-28 Battle Group Echo BATTLEX 87-3
29-30 Upkeep San Diego, California

JULY

01-13 Upkeep San Diego, California
14-19 Transitex 87-3A (Westpac '87)
20-25 Readix 87-3B
26-31 Transitex 87-27

AUGUST

01-10 Transitex 87-27
08-09 Seventh Fleet Inchope
10-11 In port Subic Bay, R.P.
12-19 En route Singapore
20-24 In port Singapore
25-31 En route Indian Ocean
26 Turnover with Battle Group Delta

SEPTEMBER

01-30 Earnest Will Escort Missions (Northern Arabian Sea)

OCTOBER

01-31 Earnest Will Escort Missions (Northern Arabian Sea)

NOVEMBER

01-15 Earnest Will Escort Missions (Northern Arabian Sea)
16 Turnover with Battle Group Alpha
17-21 En route Pattaya Beach, Thailand
22-27 In port Pattaya Beach, Thailand
28-30 En route Hong Kong

DECEMBER

01 En route Hong Kong
02-06 In port Hong Kong
07-08 En route Subic Bay, R.P.
09-12 In port Subic Bay, R.P.
13-29 En route San Diego, California
30-31 Inport/Upkeep San Diego, California

COMMAND HISTORY 1987
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
PART III - BASIC NARRATIVE

Captain Donald R. Hess relieved Captain Charles P. Metzler, Jr., as Commanding Officer of "The World's Greatest Cruiser" on 14 January. After a short familiarization period in port San Diego, Captain Hess took GRIDLEY to sea for local operations in the Southern California Opareas, followed by a port visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The next two months were spent in port San Diego preparing for deployment. In April, GRIDLEY participated in Kernel Usher 87-3, and demonstrated her Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities with a successful torpedo shot on the southern California underwater range. In May, Combat Systems and Operations team training occupied preparations. Major team training evolutions included Battle Group ECHO Advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare training, Harpoon team training, Electronic Warfare exercises, and dockside underway replenishment training. Simultaneously, GRIDLEY's engineers were busy preparing the engineering plant for deployment. Pre-deployment Immediate Senior in Chain of Command Engineering Readiness Assessment was conducted by CCDG-1.

The "World's Greatest Cruiser" conducted its pre-deployment underway Battle Group work-ups with USS RANGER (CV 61) and supporting units of Battle Group ECHO, during READIEX 87-3A in the Southern California operating areas. During READIEX 87-3A GRIDLEY demonstrated her primary Anti-Air Warfare mission by engaging a high speed Cruise Missile target with an SM-1 surface to air missile on the Pacific Missile Test Range Point Magu Ca. Late changes in Battle Group ECHO composition resulted in GRIDLEY being designated as the Battle Group Anti-Air Warfare Commander. Final preparations for deployment were a major inport advanced battle group exercise, BATTLEX 87-3, and a large amount of planning for assumption of warfare commander responsibilities.

Battle Group Echo departed San Diego on 14 July for deployment to the Indian Ocean and Northern Arabian Sea. During the transit to the Western Pacific Ocean, GRIDLEY was a key player in several Battle Group Echo major training exercises, in the Hawaiian Opareas which included Readiness Exercise 87-3B and TRANSITEX 87-27. During READIEX 87-3B, USS GRIDLEY was Officer Conducting Exercise for the first ever COMTHIRDFLT no-notice advanced missile exercise which included 3 missile firing ships and two Combat Air Patrol engaging five simulated cruise missiles in an Electronic Counter Measures environment.

The Battle Group then sailed for the Philippine Sea arriving 8 August where they officially chopped into the Seventh Fleet. While en route the Philippines GRIDLEY had a major role in countering foreign aerial reconnaissance missions flown against Battle Group Echo by Soviet long range maritime aircraft. Following a brief upkeep period of two days in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, GRIDLEY and the Battle Group sortied to evade Typhoon Carrie. Fortunately, they were able to head south for an unscheduled port visit in Singapore. The unexpected liberty in "The Garden City" was welcomed by all. By the end of August, USS GRIDLEY was nearing the Indian Ocean and turned over with Battle Group DELTA, led by USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64).

From September to mid-November GRIDLEY conducted Battle Group operations in the Northern Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman in support of U.S. Merchant escort operations. GRIDLEY was assigned duties as Anti-Air Warfare Commander for the combined USS RANGER and USS MISSOURI Battle Groups. These two battle groups were joined under the operational command of Commander, Carrier Group One. It was the first WESTPAC Carrier-Battleship Battle Group, and the group "packed a big punch". As Anti-Air Warfare Commander GRIDLEY coordinated and directed all battle group aircraft, coordinated the intercept and escort of all foreign maritime patrol aircraft entering the battle group surveillance area, and maintained a watchful eye on potential threats.

After extended operations in the Northern Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman in support of Freedom of Navigation (including 97 consecutive days at sea) USS GRIDLEY and Battle Group Echo were ready for the return trip to San Diego. As GRIDLEY departed the Indian Ocean on 16 November a turnover was conducted with Battle Group Alfa including USS MIDWAY (CV 41). Following a welcome "port visit spree" to Pattaya Beach, Thailand; Hong Kong, B.C., and Subic Bay, R.P., "The World's Greatest Cruiser" returned home to San Diego 30 December 1987.