



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
To: Director of Naval History, (OP-09BH), Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) Command History
(2) USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) Chronology of Events
(3) USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) Basic Narrative 1991
(4) USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) Supporting Documents **[ENCLOSURE FILE]**

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) thru (4) are forwarded for calendar year 1991.


A W WACASER

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVSURFPAC
CNO (OP 09BH)

COMMAND HISTORY 1991
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
PART I - 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, Gridley's primary mission is defending a CV Battle Group against high speed modern aircraft and Cruise missiles with its two twin launcher surface to air missile systems and assigned TACAIR assets.

2. Organizational Structure

a. Administrative. Immediate Senior Command: COMCRUDESGRU FIVE, 1 JAN - 31 DEC 91

b. Operational

(1) Immediate Senior Command: COMCRUDESGRU FIVE

(2) Units assigned to USS GRIDLEY as Anti-Air Warfare Commander.

3. Commanding Officer: Captain A W Wacaser III, USN, 334-34-0530/002004-20

a. Biography:

Captain Wacaser graduated from the University of California in 1966. After attending Submarine School he served in USS WAHOO (SS-565) as Supply Officer and Weapons Officer and in USS SALMON (SS-572) as Engineering Officer. After a tour as Force Training and Readiness Officer on the Staff, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet from 1972-1974, Captain Wacaser returned to sea duty as Engineering Officer, Operations Officer and Executive Officer in USS GRAYBACK (LPSS-574), Navigator in USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CG-5) and Executive Officer in USS BADGER (FF-1071). After a tour ashore as Assistant Officer in Charge of the LAMPS MK III Fleet Introduction team in Dulles, VA, Captain Wacaser commanded frigates USS WHIPPLE (FF-1062) in Pearl Harbor, HI and USS LOCKWOOD (FF-1063) in Yokosuka, Japan from 1983-1986. His last tour of duty was as Director, Surface Ship ASW Weapons and Systems Subgroup and Director, Undersea Weapons and Targets Group at the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Captain Wacaser has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star for second award, the Navy Commendation Medal with gold stars for second and third awards, and the Navy Achievement Medal. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Naval War College. Captain Wacaser is married to the former Dianne Thompson of San Diego, CA.

4. Permanent Duty Station: San Diego, CA.

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

Encl (1)

COMMAND HISTORY 1991
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
PART II - CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 01 Jan 91 Leave and upkeep period, inport San Diego, CA. Berthed at Southwest Marine Shipyard. 50% of crew is on leave. Operational Commander is COMCRUDESGRU FIVE.
- 06 Jan 91 End of leave and upkeep, ship remains inport, San Diego, CA.
- 07 Jan 91 Ship is making preparations for Light Off Examination. Commenced inport training on Main Space Fire Drills, LOE watchstander exams, and LOE Fire Party exams. Pre-Light Off in brief. PLOE administrative review. Manned the Auxiliary Steaming Watchbill Engineering Watchbill with main space fire drill.
- 11 Jan 91 PLOE debrief. Ship ordered into Threatcon Alpha by CINCPACFLT. Concluded PLOE.
- 16 Jan 91 Commenced Light Off Examination by Propulsion Examining Board.
- 18 Jan 91 Concluded and passed Light Off Examination.
- 19 Jan 91 Ship is in Threatcon Bravo.
- 22 Jan 91 Engineering Department lights off for first time since NTU Overhaul began in Jan 90.
- 04 Feb 91 Began preparations for Sea Trials. Fleet Assists Team Visit (Ship's Store).
- 08 Feb 91 Half day Fast Cruise (Steaming alongside pier with all ship's company onboard). Conducted mustering drills for sea and anchor, man overboard, low visibility detail, and abandon ship.
- 11 Feb 91 Crew Certification Phase I by COMCRUDESGRU FIVE.
- 12 Feb 91 EOSS validation.
- 15 Feb 91 Dock trials, Southwest Marine. Shifted berths to Pier 3 at SWM Shipyard. Crew Certification Phase II with half day Fast Cruise alongside pier.
- 27 Feb 91 Fast Cruise (General Quarters manning along with condition III watchbill). Inport San Diego, CA.
- 28 Feb 91 Sea Trials begin. Ammo onload at Bravo Pier, North Island, Naval Air Station. Focus on Flight Quarters and Emergency Casualty Control Drills with a CIWS PACFIRE.
- 01 Mar 91 Non-firing CIWS tracking demonstration. SPS-49 Optest. CIWS upload and CIWS Pacfire. Moored to Pier 13, Naval Station, San Diego, CA. Concluded Sea Trials I.

04 Mar 91 SPA-25G training begins. Upkeep continues on topside spaces in preparation for Aviation Assist Visit and Helo Certification.

07 Mar 91 Safety standdown.

11 Mar 91 3-M Assist Visit with CSMTT (Harpoon) Pilot Rescue Team Training.

13 Mar 91 Commenced Sea Trials II, SOCAL OPAREA with full power run and CSMTT battle problem.

14 Mar 91 Concluded Sea Trials II.

18 Mar 91 Commenced Shipwide Hazmat inventory. Navy Food Management Team Visit Begins. ASIR Pre Certification Tech Assist.

19 Mar 91 Shipwide tour by Department of Defense Executives with the Surface Navy.

26 Mar 91 Concluded Shipwide Hazmat inventory and Navy Food Management Team Visit.

27 Mar 91 Dependent's Cruise, SOCAL OPAREA, San Diego, CA. Sea Trials III.

01 Apr 91 Underway for Great Northwest.

05 Apr 91 Arrive Seattle, WA. Boarded civilians for transit to Tacoma, Wa. Arrive Tacoma for Navy League reception and port visit. Hosted Daffodil Festival dignitaries. Debarked civilians.

08 Apr 91 Underway for Indian Island, WA for Ammo onload.

10 Apr 91 Underway for Esquimalt, B.C. Arrive Esquimalt for port visit. Wardroom reception for Canadian guests and Canadian Officers. Captain N. S. Scott calls on Mayor of Esquimalt.

11 Apr 91 Captain Scott calls on Commodore Spalding, Chief of Staff for Commander MARPAC. Sports day with HMCS YUKON.

15 Apr 91 Underway for Astoria, OR.

17 Apr 91 Arrived Astoria, OR.

18 Apr 91 Underway for Portland, OR. Embarked guests for transit up the Columbia River. Arrive Portland. Captain A. W. Wacaser arrives and meets with Captain Scott. Navy League reception held in Wardroom.

19 Apr 91 Guided tours for NROTC and Delayed Entry Personnel and Nuclear Recruiter High School visit. General tours given about the ship. Navy League dance for "all hands" at Portland Riverside Inn.

21 Apr 91 Underway San Diego, CA. Approximately 7,500 guests toured ship during port visit to Portland, OR. Prospective Commanding Officer tours spaces with Department Heads.

25 Apr 91 Arrive Naval Station, San Diego, CA. Upkeep and preparations continue for USS Gridley Change of Command ceremony.

27 Apr 91 Change of Command Ceremony. Captain A.W. Wacaser relieves Captain N.S. Scott as Commanding Officer. RADM C.C. Lautenbacher Jr., Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 5 presides.

30 Apr 91 Continued preparations for Supply Management Assessment and 3-M inspection.

01 May 91 Conducted incline experiment.

03 May 91 CSSQT training continues.

06 May 91 Commenced Dockside Unrep Simulator Training. ASW Phase I. Post Overhaul Configuration Validation.

08 May 91 Concluded Dockside Unrep Simulator Training.

13 May 91 Commenced Supply Management Assessment and 3-M Inspection. Post overhaul availability.

17 May 91 Conclude SMA and 3-M inspection.

18 May 91 New Threat Upgrade CSSQT training continues.

23 May 91 Combat Systems/Engineering testing continues. Berth shift with Dock Trials.

29 May 91 Underwater hull cleaning. Embarked U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman for summer cruise.

30 May 91 Underway for Pearl Harbor, HI. Continued CSSQT training along with ECC drills, General Quarters, and Midshipman training.

02 Jun 91 Damage control standdown.

07 Jun 91 Arrive Pearl Harbor, HI.

10 Jun 91 Training Readiness Evaluation Inbrief.

11 Jun 91 Commanding Officer calls on COMNAVSUREGRU MIDPAC.

17 Jun 91 Underway for CSSQT training.

19 Jun 91 ASROC/SVTT Pre-fire brief. EM log calibration on FORACS range.

21 Jun 91 Inport Pearl Harbor, HI.

24 Jun 91 Underway for SMT WI/MI Forward Launcher. ECC drills and CSSQT training.

25 Jun 91 SMT WI/MI After Launcher. EW integrated exercise with USS COWPENS. Electronic and Mechanical jamming exercise and EW'S signal recognition.

28 Jun 91 EOSS training with Engineering. Inport Pearl Harbor, HI.

01 Jul 91 Underway OPAREA Delta Romeo. CSSQT continues with SMT WI/MI on forward battery.

02 Jul 91 CSSQT dress rehearsal. Conducted countermeasure washdown.

03 Jul 91 Inport Pearl Harbor, HI. Embarked seven Midshipman for summer cruise.

08 Jul 91 Underway for CSSQT.

10 Jul 91 Concluded CSSQT with an eight for eight missile firing.

11 Jul 91 Inport Pearl Harbor, HI. Debarked Midshipman.

12 Jul 91 Underway for San Diego, CA.

18 Jul 91 Underway replenishment with USNS NAVASOTA. GRIDLEY'S first since overhaul.

19 Jul 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

25 Jul 91 Guest ship for Navy Junior Recruit Officer Training Command.

05 Aug 91 Mobile Team Training Phase II.

06 Aug 91 Engineering Plant Light Off with MTT hot checks. Underway SOCAL OPAREA. ECC drills, loss of gyro, and swept channel drills conducted.

07 Aug 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

08 Aug 91 CCDG-5 visit prior to Command Inspection.

09 Aug 91 Concluded MTT Phase II.

28 Aug 91 Underway SOCAL OPAREA. AAW target designation and MMT tracking exercise.

30 Aug 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

04 Sep 91 Underway for SOCAL OPAREA. Performed hot checks, yoke checks, ECC drills, and anchoring drill. Independent steaming.

06 Sep 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

19 Sep 91 Fleet Training Group Assist visit for yoke checks.

30 Sep 91 Underway SOCAL OPAREA. Performed Harpoon Training Scenario and Crash and Salvage drills. Independent steaming.

02 Oct 91 Pick up CMTQT at FTG anchorage 216. CMTQT inbrief.

04 Oct 91 CMTQT debrief. Unrep with USNS KAWISHIWI. General Quarters for CBR drill/countermeasures washdown. Inport San Diego, CA.

07 Oct 91 Underway for Training Readiness Evaluation. FTG Battle Problem with General Quarters and Man Overboard drill. Returned inport San Diego, CA.

08 Oct 91 Underway for TRE. FTG Battle Problem.

11 Oct 91 Conclude TRE. Inport San Diego, CA.

15 Oct 91 Underwater Hull cleaning. SIMA "R" availability and JOTS II installation.

22 Oct 91 Command Inspection begins.

24 Oct 91 Conclude Command Inspection with personnel inspection by CCDG-5.

28 Oct 91 Refresher Training begins. Underway for Bravo Pier for Ammo onload. FTG arrives by boat.

01 Nov 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

04 Nov 91 Underway for continuation of REFTRA. Engineering DC pack, CBR walk through, precision anchorage, and Rescue and Assistance drills performed.

08 Nov 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

12 Nov 91 Underway for continuation of REFTRA. TSS walk through, Emergency Destruction, and Abandon Ship drills performed.

15 Nov 91 Inport San Diego, CA.

18 Nov 91 Underway for continuation of REFTRA. Air/Surface tracking exercises, flight quarters, and .50 Cal gunshoot performed.

19 Nov 91 ASROC firing. Unrep with USS WICHITA.

21 Nov 91 REFTRA missile shoot.

22 Nov 91 Total Ship Survivability drill. Concluded REFTRA. Inport San Diego, CA.

23 Nov 91 Upkeep period.

02 Dec 91 Underway for Group Sail to Vancouver, B.C. with USS BERKLEY, USS STEIN, AND USS MARVIN SHIELDS. Guest of the Navy Cruise.

06 Dec 91 Transit Strait Of Juan De Fuca. Arrive Indian Island, WA for ammo onload. Underway for Vancouver, B.C.

07 Dec 91 Arrive Vancouver, B.C. for port visit.
09 Dec 91 Underway for WASEX. ASROC firing at Nanoose Range
10 Dec 91 ASW Freeplay. Launch two MK 50 torpedoes.
11 Dec 91 Depart Nanoose, Canada for San Diego, CA.
15 Dec 91 Arrive San Diego, CA.
16 Dec 91 Begin Christmas leave and upkeep period.

COMMAND HISTORY 1991
USS GRIDLEY (CG 21)
PART III - BASIC NARRATIVE

From "In the Yards" to "On the Move", USS GRIDLEY and its crew took on a busy schedule in 1991. The year was spent putting the final touches on an extensive 13 month New Threat Upgrade Overhaul and ended with GRIDLEY being chosen to fire the new MK 50 torpedoes at Nanoose Range in Canada. 1991 was full of action with many extensive training exercises including Engineering Light Off, a Change of Command ceremony, CSSQT, Training Readiness Evaluation, Command Inspection, Refresher Training, and several great port visits in between.

January began with the crew getting the ship back into a self-supporting unit. Many work days were spent preparing the ship for Light Off Examination. The ship began polishing the skills of crewmembers in all aspects of damage control as well as training several newly reported personnel in proper engineering watchstanding. The crew of GRIDLEY was ready for the challenge as LOE ended with outstanding results. Enthusiasm spread as the crew then took on preparations for Sea Trials, Dock Trials, and Crew Certification. Getting the crew ready for sea remained the top priority. GRIDLEY answered the challenge and moved on to Sea Trials II in the Southern California OPAREAS followed by a half day dependent's cruise.

GRIDLEY then moved out of Southwest Marine Shipyard and down to 32nd Street Naval Station. The many hours of hard work had paid off as "The World's Greatest Cruiser" embarked on a trip to the Great Northwest. GRIDLEY continued with numerous training exercises and a stop at Indian Island, WA for an Ammo onload. The majority of the time was spent fostering goodwill and the Navy's image as GRIDLEY made a port visit to Seattle and Tacoma, WA. The Navy League greeted the crew with an overwhelming reception. After a weekend stay, GRIDLEY proceeded to Esquimalt, B.C. for a four day port visit. A great time was had by the crew as many sailors experienced a new country for the first time. After leaving Canada, GRIDLEY began the transit to Portland, OR and an extensive 12 hour Sea and Anchor detail up the Columbia River. Several hundred small boats and the city of Portland welcomed GRIDLEY and its crew with open arms. The three days of tours offered to the city did much for public relations as nearly 7,500 people toured the ship.

After arriving back in San Diego, GRIDLEY prepared for its Change of Command Ceremony. Captain Anderson W. Wacaser III relieved Captain Norman S. Scott as Commanding Officer of Gridley on 27 April. After a short familiarization period, Captain Wacaser took GRIDLEY through a Supply Management Assessment and 3-M inspection along with preparations for the upcoming CSSQT in Pearl Harbor, HI.

Upon leaving San Diego in late May, GRIDLEY embarked several U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman for their "summer cruise". During the transit, GRIDLEY conducted CSSQT training, ECC drills, general quarters, and a damage control standdown just prior to entered Pearl Harbor. The next seven weeks were spent with Combat Systems doing several walkthroughs in preparation for the upcoming ASROC and missile shoots. CSSQT ended with a bang as GRIDLEY shot a perfect eight for eight missile firing just of the coast of OAHU, HAWAII.

GRIDLEY arrived back in San Diego in mid July and continued its training schedule with MTT Phase II. The next few months were spent independently steaming in the Southern California OPAREA with ECCT and DCCTT members preparing the crew for Training Readiness Evaluation. Fleet Training Group examiners took GRIDLEY through an extensive training cycle including numerous general quarters, CBR drills, and highly complex FTG battle problems.

Cruiser Destroyer Group Five, RADM P. J. Coady and his staff arrived in late October for Command Inspection which led into Refresher Training. From Rescue and Assistance drills, CBR drills, Engineering DC packs, Abandon ship, and all phases of navigation, GRIDLEY answered all challenges including the final drill, "Total Ship Survivability." Observers noted that GRIDLEY'S ECCTT AND DCCTT were among the best trained throughout the fleet and commended the crew for its enthusiasm and hard work.

1991 concluded with GRIDLEY being chosen by the Chief of Naval Operations to fire the new MK 50 torpedoes at Nanoose Range in Canada. Gridley set sail on 2 December with the USS BERKELEY, USS STEIN, AND USS MARVIN SHIELDS for the Great Northwest to conduct WASEX 1991. A brief port visit to Vancouver, B.C. was enjoyed by the crew before heading south to San Diego, CA for the Christmas leave and upkeep period. GRIDLEY met each and every challenge confronted with in 1991 and proved itself to be **"The World's Greatest Cruiser."**