



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AE 09565-1269

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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DDG51: CSO/009

05 MAR 1997

From: Commanding Officer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH),  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology  
(3) Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted to document ARLEIGH BURKE's command history for 1996.

M. E. KOSNIK

Copy to:  
COMDESRON TWO

**USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)**  
**Command History 1996**  
**Command Composition and Organization**

**Mission:** Conduct multi-warfare sustained combat operations at sea or in the littoral as part of a Carrier Battle Group, a Joint Task Force, or independently.

**Organizational Structure:** Assigned to Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO.

**Duty Station:** Homeport is Norfolk, Virginia.

**USS ARLEIGH BURKE**  
**Command History 1996**  
**Chronology**

- 01 Jan: Admiral Arleigh Burke passed away at Bethesda Naval Hospital.
- 03 Jan: Funeral for ADM Arleigh Burke at Naval Academy. 215 Officers and Sailors from USS ARLEIGH BURKE attend and march in formation behind casket.
- 07 Feb: Successful upgrade of AAV to ARE. ARLEIGH BURKE certified for flight operations.
- 09 Feb: Sea Trials following DSRA.
- 27-28 Feb: Weapons onload at Yorktown, VA.
- 29 Feb: Family Day Cruise. Embarked 195 guests.
- 06-07 Mar: Submarine POMCERT services in VACAPES OPAREA.
- 12-14 Mar: Coordinated ASW exercise with P-3C and two submarines in Naragansett Bay.
- 15-17 Mar: Port visit to Boston in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day.
- 19-22 Mar: School Ship in Newport, RI.
- 22 Mar: Embarked 195 guests for transit from Newport to New London CT.
- 23-25 Mar: Port visit to New London, CT.
- 25-31 Mar: Participated in Exercise UNIFIED SPIRIT.
- 09-12 Apr: Underway providing training for six DDG-51 class Prospective Commanding Officers.
- 23 Apr: Hosted 100 World War II Destroyer Escort Commanders for a one day cruise.

29 Apr-03 May: Conducted the first DDG-51 class INSURV Inspection.

03 May: Hosted a delegation of 4 members of the House of Representatives for tours.

06-09 May: Successfully completed an Engineering Training Group special assist visit.

13-17 May: Conducted the first of two Combat Systems Limited Team Trainers in preparation for Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification. Also completed the Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) inspection.

16 May: Mrs. Bobbie Burke paid a visit to USS ARLEIGH BURKE. Presented to the Commanding Officer a portrait of her husband with all of the Chiefs of Naval Operations up to ADM Jeremy Boorda.

22-29 May: Port Visit to New York City, NY. Participated in Fleet Week 96. Hosted over 5000 guests during general visiting.

10-12 Jun: Port Visit to Halifax, NS.

13-26 Jun: Participated in MARCOT 96 exercises with the Canadian Navy. ARLEIGH BURKE was the Flag Ship for the Opposing Forces with COMDESRON 28 embarked.

27-29 Jun: Port Visit to Halifax, NS.

10-13 Jul: Sortied from Norfolk, VA to evade Hurricane Bertha. Conduct evasion and training maneuvers off Virginia/North Carolina coast.

28-30 Jul: Successfully completed Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification.

31 Jul: Commander Mark Kosnik, Prospective Commanding Officer, reported onboard.

07 Aug: Commander Mark Kosnik relieved Commander Jeffrey Weppler as Commanding Officer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51). Guest Speaker was RADM Fallon. Mrs. Bobbie Burke attended.

13-16 Aug: Transited to Halifax, NS as part of Task Group 28.1.

16-20 Aug: Port Visit to Halifax, NS.

20-27 Aug: Transited to Reykjavik, Iceland as part of Task Unit 301.1.2. ARLEIGH BURKE assigned as AAWC for TU 301.1.

21 Aug: Named honorable mention for the COMNAVSURFLANT Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter.

27-30 Aug: Port Visit to Reykjavik Iceland.

31 Aug-02 Sep: Transited to Final Integrated Training (FIT) exercise area as part of Task 301.2

01 Sep: ARLEIGH BURKE crossed the Arctic Circle, with all crewmembers becoming "Blue Noses".

02-06 Sep: Participated in FIT for Exercise NORTHERN LIGHT/BRIGHT HORIZON 96 (NL/BH 96). ARLEIGH BURKE AAWC for TF 401.

06-11 Sep: Conducted Tactical Exercise phase of NL/BH 96. ARLEIGH BURKE retained all duties assigned during FIT phase and assigned SAG Hunter/Killer tasking with HMCS Fredericton.

13-18 Sep: Port Visit to Kingston-Upon-Hull, England.

18-29 Sep: Transit to Norfolk, VA as part of Task Group 28.02. ARLEIGH BURKE designated AAWC of TG 28.02

03 Oct: Completed Career Retention Program Assessment and Intelligence Oversight Inspection with overall grade of satisfactory for both events.

08-10 Oct: Conducted Engineering Training Group Special assist visit.

15 Oct: Conducted Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team (OHSAT) visit. No major discrepancies.

16-18 Oct: Conducted Engineering Mid-Cycle Assessment. Evaluated capable of sustained engineering readiness.

21-23 Oct: Completed Industrial Hygiene Survey - No major discrepancies noted.

23 Oct: Hosted 35 members of the Icelandic Defense Force and Defense Directorate on board for tours.

29 Oct: Conducted testing and evaluation of the Multi-Sensor Torpedo Recognition and Alertmen Processor (TRAP) system on the AUTEC range in the Caribbean.

01-07 Nov: Conducted MSTRAP RDT&E operations on AUTEC range.

18-20 Nov: Participated in SC-21 Automated Auxiliary Task Surveys and Interviews in support of NAVSEA manpower study.

19-22 Nov: Successfully completed Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI).

21 Nov: VADM Katz (Commander Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic), and Mr. Casey (President of the FT Lauderdale, FL Navy League) presented the Navy League Award to the ship's Sailor of the Year.

02 Dec: Completed Medical Readiness Evaluation. Evaluated as fully C-1.

07-09 Dec: Conducted exercises as Opposition Force in support of JFKBATGRU COMPTUEX.

09-10 Dec: Conducted Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

10-11 Dec: Conducted Spotter services for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) on Vieques Gunnery Range.

12 Dec: Completed NSFS Qualification with a score of 101.2.

20 Dec: Commenced Christmas and New Years Holiday Leave.

**USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)**  
**Command History 1996**  
**Narrative**

1996 began as a somber year for the Destroyermen of ARLEIGH BURKE. At 0512 on the morning of 1 January 1997, Admiral Arleigh Burke passed away at the age of 94. Despite being in the middle of a holiday leave period and an intense Drydocking Restricted Availability (DSRA), the crew of ARLEIGH BURKE made the journey to the U.S. Naval Academy to pay their respects to the ship's namesake. In all, over 215 members of the crew marched in formation behind the Admiral's casket in what has been described as the largest military funeral procession since the death of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Attending the ceremony was the President (who delivered the eulogy), the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and numerous previous CNO's, Senators, and distinguished private citizens.

After the holiday leave period, the ship continued its focus on completing the DSRA and returning to operational status. Departing the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Conversion Company (NORSHIPCO), ARLEIGH BURKE conducted an aggressive Sea Trials and validated the operability of all installed systems. A brief inport period at the Naval Station, Norfolk was then followed by a trip to the Weapon Station at Yorktown, Virginia and a post-availability onload of ordnance. The ship embarked over 195 guests of the crew on 29 February for the transit back to Norfolk and the first Family Day Cruise of 1996. A week later and the ship would find itself back at sea in the Virginia Capes Operating Area, operating as an active member of the Atlantic Fleet.

The first two weeks of March found ARLEIGH BURKE heavily engaged in Ant-Submarine Warfare exercises. Two full days of services as an opposing force for a deploying U.S. submarine provided the ship's crew the chance to practice ASW skills that had been laying dormant for too long. Aggressive search, tracking, and simulated attack procedures allowed ARLEIGH BURKE to fully challenge the US SSN and helped to certify it as being ready to conduct an overseas deployment. The ship then rolled into a three day ASW exercise consisting of two U.S. submarines and a P-3C Orion squadron in the Naragansett Bay Operating Areas. Broadening the scope of ASW operations to include

coordination with both air and submarine units, ARLEIGH BURKE again demonstrated its ability to conduct this most challenging of warfare.

Upon the completion of the exercises, ARLEIGH BURKE made a port visit to Boston, Massachusetts, where the crew was welcomed by the city and invited to participate in the St Patricks Day festivities. The ship's honor guard was prominently featured in the St Patrick's Day Parade, and the Commanding Officer was offered a place on the parade reviewing stand. After a fun-filled visit, the ship departed Boston with several members of ADM Burke's Destroyer Squadron 23 "Little Beavers" squadronmates embarked and transited to Newport, Rhode Island, where the ship served as a School Ship for the Surface Warfare Officer's School. While in Newport, the ship provided valuable hands on training for prospective division officers, department heads, executive officers, and commanding officers. For many of these new officers, it was their first time on a naval vessel; and for the senior officers, their first time to visit a DDG-51.

On 22 March, ARLEIGH BURKE got underway from Newport to visit New London, Connecticut and provide training support to the US Submarine training command there. At the request of RADM Buchanan, Commander, Submarine Group 2, ARLEIGH BURKE left Newport with almost two hundred guests embarked for the three hour transit to New London. With the goal of conducting cross-training between surface warriors and submariners thirty crew members spent a day on board a SSN and 22 submariners came to ARLEIGH BURKE. In addition, while in New London 3500 visitors took the opportunity to visit the ship.

After visiting New London, ARLEIGH BURKE participated in Exercise UNIFIED SPIRIT 96, the first of three exercises the ship would take part in during 1996. ARLEIGH BURKE was tasked to perform duties as the Commander of Task Unit 414.01, the "Blue" forces for the three week NATO exercise conducted by Commander, Canadian Forces Atlantic. Coordinating Task Unit 414. 01's sortie from Norfolk, ARLEIGH BURKE assured four "Blue" force warships were intercepted and successfully engaged. Further, ARLEIGH BURKE developed and implemented an innovative boarding operations plan in order to attempt to conduct an intercept against HMCS PRESERVER. Utilizing the sensors onboard ARLEIGH BURKE, the ship coordinated the movements of the

Navy's newest patrol craft USS CHINOOK and USS FIREBOLT in adverse weather to the PRESERVER's position. This first ever attempt at utilizing the Navy's Patrol Craft in such a manner turned out to be highly successful and a highlight of Exercise UNIFIED SPIRIT 96.

Returning to Norfolk on 31 March, the ship was again asked to provide training services to student officers. Six prospective commanding officers of DDG-51 class ships embarked for a 3 day underway trip that provided underway experience for these future captains and gave them their first look at the type of ship they would soon command. On 23 April, ARLEIGH BURKE was privileged to host over 100 World War II Destroyer Escort Commanders for a one day trip in the Virginia Capes Operating Areas.

After the Destroyer Escort Commanders visit, the ship's focus shifted to the first ever DDG-51 class visit by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), conducted 29 April through 3 May. The ship demonstrated its pristine material condition after five years of intense service life with a validated PMS accomplishment rate of over 91 percent, and absolutely no underway limiting discrepancies discovered. Conducting an intense series of Air Warfare Detect to Engage exercises, an extremely complex ASW demonstration, and a full range of Engineering evolutions, the ship was singled out by the INSURV President, RADM Olson, as having accomplished the best INSURV he had seen on a combatant of any class.

With INSURV completed, the majority of May included specialized inport training evolutions including an Engineering Training Group assist visit and Combat Systems training in preparation for Cruise Missile Tactical Qualifications. On 16 May, the ship was visited by Admiral Burke's wife Bobbie Burke. Mrs Burke spent the day onboard visiting with crewmembers and their wives and touring her ship. At the completion of her visit, Mrs Burke presented the Commanding Officer with a portrait of her husband with all of the Chiefs of Naval Operations up to ADM Jeremy Boorda. On 22 May, the ship got underway for a transit to New York City to participate in Fleet Week 96. As part of the Fleet Week celebrations, ARLEIGH BURKE led the Parade of Ships into New York. Over the seven day visit, the ship hosted over five thousand guests during general visiting.

In June, the ship embarked Commander, Destroyer Squadron 28 and participated in Exercise MARCOT 96, a joint US-Canadian naval exercise. Building on the reputation

established during UNIFIED SPIRIT, ARLEIGH BURKE was assigned duties as Force Air Defense Commander/Anti-Air Warfare Commander, Link Coordinator, Eagle Safety, and C2W Coordinator. Utilizing the stealth characteristics of her design and rigorous emission control, ARLEIGH BURKE evaded detection from a much larger force for seven days while inflicting damage and consequently sinking two opposition ships. Further, despite not being staff configured, ARLEIGH BURKE provided extensive support to COMDESRON 28, ensuring communication connectivity to his dispersed forces, cogent tactical inputs, and extensively augmenting his staff with seasoned and professional Officers and Sailors.

After returning to Norfolk after a brief port visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia, ARLEIGH BURKE was forced to sortie on 10 July in order to evade Hurricane Bertha. The ship spent three days off the Virginia/North Carolina coast conduct training evolutions with other Atlantic Fleet ships as the storm passed by. The ship returned to Norfolk on 13 July and commenced final preparations for its Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification. The ship successfully conducted CMTQ on 29 July, and was certified capable of carrying and employing the Tomahawk and Harpoon cruise missiles.

On 7 August, Commander Mark E. Kosnik relieved Commander Jeff F. Wepler as the Commanding Officer of USS ARLEIGH BURKE in a ceremony onboard the ship at the Norfolk Naval Station. RADM Fallon, Commander Carrier Group 8, was the guest speaker, and Mrs Bobbie Burke was among the many VIP's in attendance.

Less than a week after assuming command, CDR Kosnik and the crew of ARLEIGH BURKE set sail on 13 August for a seven week deployment to the North Sea and perhaps ARLEIGH BURKE's greatest challenge of the year: Exercise NORTHERN LIGHT/BRIGHT HORIZON 96. Assigned as Force Air Defense Commander/Anti-Air Warfare Commander for a 17 ship NATO Task Force, which included Great Britain's aircraft carrier HMS INVINCIBLE, ARLEIGH BURKE managed air space that covered 650 miles, air defense for two geographically separated Task Groups, and coordinated 256 air sorties originating from both land and sea. NORTHERN LIGHT/BRIGHT HORIZON represented NATO's first attempt at establishing a Combined Joint Task Force and the impressive capabilities and tactical expertise of ARLEIGH BURKE and her crew were critical to the exercise's success. The ship's impressive execution during NORTHERN LIGHT/BRIGHT HORIZON resulted in message praise from both the Joint Task Force Commander

(Commander, Second Fleet) and CTF 401 (Commander, ASW Strike Fleet Atlantic). In addition, during this seven week deployment the ship conducted port visits to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Reykjavic, Iceland, and Kingston-Upon-Hull, England. On 1 September, 1996, the ship crossed the Arctic Circle, earning all embarked the designation of a "Blue Nose".

After the completion of the NL/BH deployment, ARLEIGH BURKE completed the rigorous Engineering Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA) and was declared capable in all respects to conduct sustained engineering operations safely and efficiently. Following the MCA, the ship was tasked to serve as a test platform for the Multi-Sensor Torpedo Recognition and Alertment Processor (MSTRAP). This developmental ASW equipment was tested onboard ARLEIGH BURKE through a complex series of static tests and over eight live firing exercises using SSN launched MK 48 and British Spearfish torpedoes. Test and evaluation of the MSTRAP system would continue throughout 1996.

On 7 December, the ship acted as opposition force for the JOHN F KENNEDY Battle Group's COMPTUEX and conducted its last tactical exercise of the year. Simulating a MEKO destroyer, ARLEIGH BURKE utilized the stealthy characteristics inherent in the ships design and single handedly achieved "kills" on numerous JFK Battle Group ships. Through a well thought out EMCON posture, imaginative deceptive lighting schemes, and aggressive steaming, ARLEIGH BURKE executed successful engagements on three warships (including two Cruisers), over ten aircraft, and achieved a targeting solution on the aircraft carrier herself. The ships performance was so impressive that Commander, Carrier Group Four contacted the ship at the completion of the exercise and stated that "the ship has fully lived up to the reputation of Admiral Burke."

ARLEIGH BURKE completed 1996 with three successful days on the Vieques NSFS range providing spotter services for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) and qualifying for NSFS FIREX I. While "on station ready for call for fire", the ship fired over 350 rounds over a three day period from MT 51 and achieved a final qualification score of 101.2%. ARLEIGH BURKE's FIREX included perfect scores on nine of the eleven missions performed and flawless radio-telephone communications procedures.

1996 proved to be a superb year for ARLEIGH BURKE. The ship proved its excellence both materially through an outstanding INSURV inspection, and tactically as

demonstrated by the extraordinary performance in exercises UNIFIED SPIRIT, NORTHERN LIGHT/BRIGHT HORIZON, MARCOT, and the JFK Battle Group COMPTUEX. From one hundred percent accomplishment of Tomahawk tasking during CMTQ, to successful ASUW engagements during the various NATO and US exercises, to real world conduct of ASW operations, ARLEIGH BURKE has proven itself to be battle ready in the grandest tradition of the Little Beavers at Cape St George.