



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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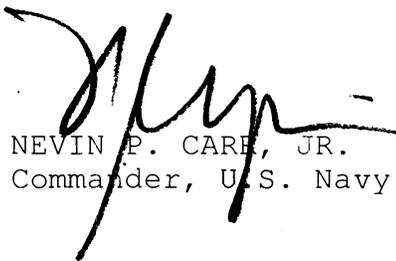
From: Commanding Officer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH),
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0560

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are submitted to document ARLEIGH BURKE's command history for 1997.


NEVIN P. CARE, JR.
Commander, U.S. Navy

Copy to:
COMDESRON TWO

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
Command History 1997
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.

Commanding Officer: Commander Mark E. Kosnik, U.S. Navy.

Permanent Duty Station: Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

USS ARLEIGH BURKE
Command History 1997
Chronology

06-08 Jan: Successfully completed Surface Ship Torpedo Defense (SSTD) Survey.

10 Jan: Conducted Fast Cruise.

13-17 Jan: Successfully completed Command Assessment Readiness for Training (CART) I.

31 Jan: Underway enroute to AUTEC range in Caribbean.

04-06 Feb: Conducted testing and evaluation of the Multi-Sensor Torpedo Recognition and Alertment Processing (MSTRAP) system on the AUTEC range in the Caribbean.

07-10 Feb: Port visit to Nassau, Bahamas.

18-21 Feb: Successfully completed underway period for Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT) I with Engineering Training Group (ETG).

25 Feb: Conducted Safety Stand-Down.

10-12 Mar: Weapons offload at Yorktown, VA.

12 Mar: Family Day Cruise.

19 Mar-08 JUN: Pierside Norfolk Naval Ship Yard for Extended Ship's Restricted Availability (ESRA-3). Received first pierside vice drydock installation of Navy Standard Reverse Osmosis Desalinators.

31 Mar: Successfully completed Environmental Health Survey.

21-25 Apr: Successfully completed PLOT II.

12-16 May: Successfully completed PLOT III.

02-06 Jun: Logistics Management Assessment Special Assist Visit and Aviation Certification Assist Visit (AAV) conducted.

09 Jun: Conducted Fast Cruise.

12 Jun: Received certification to Light Off from ETG.

18-20 Jun: Post-Shipyard Sea Trials.

30 Jun-02 Jul: Weapons onload at Yorktown, VA.

01-11 Jul: Successfully completed CART II.

04 Jul: Roberta Burke passed away at home in Fairfax, Virginia.

07-11 Jul: Successful upgrade of AAV to Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE).

07 Jul: Funeral for Mrs. Burke at Naval Academy. 60 Officers and Sailors from USS ARLEIGH BURKE attend and march in formation leading hearse.

14-18 Jul: Successfully completed ARE. ARLEIGH BURKE certified for flight operations.

28 Jul-01 Aug: Underway for Tailored Ship Training Assessment (TSTA) I with ETG embarked.

01 Aug: Conducted the first of two Combat Systems Limited Team Trainers in preparation for Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification.

04-08 Aug: Conducted first of four weeks of TSTA I with Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG). Also successfully completed Hazardous Material Assist Visit.

11-15 Aug: Successfully completed LMA and Material Maintenance Management (3M) Inspection.

19 Aug: Conducted Safety Stand-down.

23-24 Aug: Visit Ship. Hosted 79 guests.

25-27 Aug: Weapons onload at Yorktown, VA.

26 Aug: Conducted EDWARD F. NEY Award visit.

03-05 Sep: Conducted weeks two through four of TSTA I with CSTG and Fleet Training Group (FTG).

08-12 Sep: Successfully completed TSTA I.

15-19 Sep: Conducted the second of two Combat Systems Limited Team Trainers.

22 Sep: Commenced TSTA II.

29 Sep-03 Oct: Conducted PATG visit.

01-03 Oct: Conducted RADAR Navigation Team Trainer.

14-15 Oct: Successfully completed ETG groom in preparation for Engineering Certification.

16 Oct: Successfully completed Engineering Certification.

20 Oct: REXTORP onload at Norfolk, VA. Commenced Fleet Maintenance Availability pierside Norfolk, VA.

29-30 Oct: Successfully completed Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification.

14 Nov: Successfully completed TSTA II.

15 Nov: Awarded the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Protection Award.

17-21 Nov: Conducted and successfully completed TSTA III.

23-25 Nov: Underway at Wallops Island for VANDALEX missile exercise.

01-19 Dec: Conducted successful Systems Calibration (SYSCAL) Visit.

09-11 Dec: Underway. Successful completion of Final Evaluation Period.

12 Dec: Changed operational control to Commander, Second Fleet.

15-19 Dec: Conducted successful Naval Gun Fire Support Team Trainer.

19 Dec: Commenced Christmas and New Year Holiday Leave.

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
Command History 1997
Narrative

1997 began with a fast pace as ARLEIGH BURKE's Surface Ship Torpedo Defense (SSTD) Survey kicked off on 06 January and finally concluded on 08 January with a successful outbrief. Although this survey began during the holiday leave and standdown period, the ship came through in fine fashion. Almost immediately after the survey team departed ARLEIGH BURKE, the ship moved right into a fast cruise the very next day with solid training results.

ARLEIGH BURKE's focus shifted slightly toward completing the Command Assessment Readiness for Training (CART) 1 from 13 January until 17 January. Again, the conclusions amplified how well the different training teams prepared and drilled the crew including accurately assessed themselves in areas needing attention and refining. The ensuing two weeks were devoted to improving and correcting those deficiencies identified during CART 1 and on 31 January, ARLEIGH BURKE was enroute to the AUTEK range in the Caribbean. The thrust of this tasking was for the testing and evaluation of the Multi-Sensor Torpedo Recognition and Alertment Processing (MSTRAP) system. After a highly successful three days of rigorous tests and evaluations from both ARLEIGH BURKE and AUTEK staff, the ship headed to Nassau, Bahamas for a much needed port visit and well deserved liberty for the crew.

Upon returning to Norfolk, Virginia, the ship moved smoothly into preparations for the first of three Pre-Light Off Training (PLOT) periods with the Atlantic Fleet's Engineering Training Group (ETG). Four days after a successful outbrief by ETG on the PLOT 1 assessment, a safety standdown was held for the entire Norfolk waterfront on 25 February.

The second week of March found ARLEIGH BURKE headed to Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown, Virginia for a pre-availability offload of ordnance. The ship embarked over 75 guests of the crew on 12 March for the transit back to Norfolk and the first Family Day Cruise of 1997. A week later ARLEIGH BURKE "deadsticked" her way up the Elizabeth River to Norfolk Naval Ship Yard (NNSY) for an intense Extended Selected Restricted Availability (ESRA) for the next thirteen weeks. The last day of March saw a successful completion of the Environmental Health Survey that furthered a positive trend for ARLEIGH BURKE's ongoing PLOT assessments.

During the third week of April and second week of May, ETG came aboard for PLOT 2 and PLOT 3, respectively. At the end of both weeks ARLEIGH BURKE was again fortunate and received excellent, specific training and insight by the ETG members,

focusing on refining advanced techniques ranging from lighting off the engineering plant to main space fire fighting. On 02 June, ARLEIGH BURKE conducted both Logistics Management Assessment Special Assist Visit and Aviation Certification Assist Visit (AAV) resulting in valuable lessons learned before the actual Logistics Management Assessment and Aviation Readiness Evaluation. This special visit was instrumental in identifying strengths and weaknesses for the logistics management of ARLEIGH BURKE.

In preparation for departing NNSY, the second fast cruise of 1997 validated the underway watchbill and provided an opportunity to shakedown energized and online equipment. 12 June was the big day for the engineers as ETG certified ARLEIGH BURKE to light off her engineering plant and get underway for training. This Light Off Assessment was a significant milestone for the ship due largely in part to the highly successful validation of the required main space fire drill owing to many different departments all playing integral roles and operating as a team, the ARLEIGH BURKE team. Exactly one week after receiving the permission to light off from COMDESRON TWO, Captain Jon Jackson, ARLEIGH BURKE slipped out of her berth at NNSY to sea for three days of post-ESRA sea trials. Upon returning to Naval Station Norfolk and a brief inport period, the ship again made the trip to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, this time for a post-availability onload of ordnance.

While pierside at Yorktown, ARLEIGH BURKE shifted gears toward CART 2. After a swift ten days of shipwide evaluation and assessment, the ship received another successful outbrief with impressive results and certification from COMDESRON TWO stating ARLEIGH BURKE was indeed ready to train. Unfortunately, somber news fell upon the Destroyermen of USS ARLEIGH BURKE on the 4th of July. Mrs Roberta Burke, the "Sailor's wife", passed away at her home in Fairfax, Virginia. On 11 July, crew members from USS ARLEIGH BURKE made the journey to the U.S. Naval Academy to pay their respects to the wife of the ship's namesake. In all, 60 Sailors attended the funeral service followed by marching in formation, leading the hearse carrying Mrs. Burke's body to the grave next to her husband, Admiral Arleigh Burke. That day, the ship received a successful upgrade of their AAV to Aviation Readiness Evaluation (ARE) and started the ARE process. The following Friday ARLEIGH BURKE received certification and permission to conduct flight operations with the successful completion of ARE.

The last few days of July saw ARLEIGH BURKE underway conducting Tailored Ship Training Assessment (TSTA)1 with ETG members embarked for the five day assist visit. Consequently, the Combat Systems Department held the first of two Combat Systems Limited Team Trainers in preparation for the ship's Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification. The following week focused on Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG) training and assisting the ship for the first of four CSTG-guided weeks during

TSTA 1. On 08 August, ARLEIGH BURKE successfully completed a special Hazardous Material Assist Visit and finished up final preparations for the following week's scheduled Logistics Management Assessment and Material Maintenance Management (3M) Inspection.

After a tough week of thorough examination, evaluation and inspection of all 3M aspects and logistics management, ARLEIGH BURKE received an overall grade of 96.7% on 3M and successfully completed both LMA and 3M Inspection with flying colors. Almost immediately afterward, the ship had to correct the few minor discrepancies and again prepare for another upcoming event, the Edward F. Ney Award competition. To give a bit of rest and space before the Ney Award team arrived, the ship held a safety standdown and hosted approximately 79 guests during Visit Ship the weekend of 23-24 August. The following Monday, 25 August, ARLEIGH BURKE headed up the York River to onload more ordnance and on that Tuesday morning, the Ney Award team came aboard to evaluate the ship on everything from mess specialist knowledge to meal service to equipment effectiveness and cleanliness. After a gruelling day of questions, physical inspections, observations and evaluations, ARLEIGH BURKE came through in fine style, again raising the standard ever higher.

Throughout September, except for weekends, TSTA I was in full swing with members from both CSTG and Fleet Training Group (FTG) embarked to assist the crew with identifying and tailoring training to meet the needs of the ship and her Sailors. On 19 September, ARLEIGH BURKE successfully completed TSTA 1 and the second Combat Systems Limited Team Trainer and promptly moved into the next phase of the TSTA cycle. With TSTA 1 behind, the ship conducted a Propulsion Afloat Training Group special assist visit in conjunction with a RADAR Navigation Team Trainer for the Navigation Detail watchstanders.

In October, ARLEIGH BURKE, in concert with ETG, successfully completed a final groom in preparation for the ship's Engineering Certification by the Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) on 16 October. After a swift evaluation of the engineering programs and single underway day, PEB members, most impressed by the professionalism, superb deckplate level of knowledge, and general attitude of the engineers and the ship toward engineering, certified ARLEIGH BURKE engineering plant ready to operate. Immediately following the weekend after E-CERT, the STGs loaded a Retrievable Exercise Torpedo (REXTORP) while the remainder of the crew began a pierside Fleet Maintenance Availability in Norfolk.

On 30 October, ARLEIGH BURKE successfully completed her Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification with an outstanding and smooth evaluation lasting only two days, and was certified capable of carrying and employing the Tomahawk and Harpoon cruise missiles. Less than a month later, ARLEIGH BURKE completed both TSTA 2 and TSTA 3, and on 15 November receives the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Protection Award. Immediately following

the underway period for TSTA 3, the ship steamed toward Wallops Island for a VANDALEX missile exercise. The VANDAL target, known for its small size, low radar cross section and high speed, is the best training target in the U.S. military's inventory. Unfortunately, due to flight difficulties and adverse weather conditions, ARLEIGH BURKE along with four other ships in company, were unable to conduct the scheduled search, detect, track and engagement exercise. Thus, the ship returned to Norfolk and stood down for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Upon returning from a restful Thanksgiving weekend, a Systems Calibration (SYSCAL) visit began during the first three weeks of December. Simultaneously, ARLEIGH BURKE was underway for the week of 09 through 11 December to conduct her Final Evaluation Period, a week long battle problem. On the afternoon of 11 December, ARLEIGH BURKE successfully completed FEP and received certification to operate with a carrier battle group. The next morning, 12 December ARLEIGH BURKE CHOPped to the auspices of Commander, Second Fleet.

During the second week of December the ship began a highly successful Naval Gun Fire Support Team Trainer. By the end of the week on 19 December, ARLEIGH BURKE stood down for the Christmas and New Year Holiday leave period.

1997 proved to be an excellent year for the Destroyermen of USS ARLEIGH BURKE. Through a superb LMA/3M inspection, extraordinary Engineering and Cruise Missile Tactical Qualifications, recipient of the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Protection Award, and outstanding performance of the Final Evaluation Period, ARLEIGH BURKE proved time and again she is battle ready in every facet of surface warfare and living to the highest traditions Admiral Arleigh Burke would see fit from a ship bearing his name.