



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AE 09587-1714**

*Rec'd 5/7/98  
W/O  
To desk*

**IN REPLY REFER TO**

5750  
Ser/079  
21 Apr 98

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)  
**To:** Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historic Center,  
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg 57,  
Washington, DC 20374-5060

**Subj:** 1997 COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

**Encl:** (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of Events for Calendar Year 1997  
(3) Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

  
D. G. FULLER  
By direction



USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) started 1997 preparing for a visit by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). The ship also continued with her work-up cycle, which included visits by Engineering Training Group (ETG) and Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG). INSURV was successfully completed in March and tailored ship training was completed in April with the ship's Final Evaluation. The ship moved on to training with the USS GUAM (LPH-9) Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) in preparation for deployment in the fall.

Work ups continued in earnest with PMINT 97-2 in May. Conducted in Onslow Bay, North Carolina, the exercise included LCU operations, SEAL insertion evolutions and Primary Control Ship duties with USS OAK HILL, USS GUAM, USS ASHLAND and 24th MEU(SOC). The culmination of training was displayed during JTFEX 97-3 in August. The joint exercise included elements of the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines. During the underway period, SHREVEPORT acted as on-scene commander for the Search and Rescue effort for a downed AH-1 Sea Cobra.

The summer also included a training block for midshipmen and ongoing training operations with Landing Craft Units (LCU) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) flights. By September, SHREVEPORT was wrapping up loose ends and taking a few weeks off prior to a six month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

A two week transit which began October 3, 1997 marked the beginning of SHREVEPORT's six month deployment. SHREVEPORT was part of the GUAM ARG whose embarked units included operators of VC-6 UAV, Special Boat Unit (SBU) Twenty Det Juliett, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Two Det Twelve, Assault Craft Unit (ACU) Two, Beach Masters Unit (BMU) Two Det Two, Seal Team Eight Platoon Golf, and Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable.)

During the transit, SHREVEPORT conducted various training evolutions in preparation for Operation Bright Star, located off the coast of Alexandria Egypt, a joint and combined exercise involving Italian, British, Egyptian, and US navies. Bright Star flexed the capabilities of the nations involved to work together in the planning and execution of a major amphibious assault. Upon completion of Operation Bright Star, SHREVEPORT conducted port visits in Antalya, Turkey and Haifa, Israel. During the port visit to Haifa, 24th MEU conducted land based bi-lateral training. Despite the training, the hard working service members also enjoyed some well-deserved rest and relaxation. They took advantage of the opportunity to experience Israel's many biblical and historical sites through tours offered by the Haifa USO.

Following the port visits, SHREVEPORT headed north to the Black Sea in company with USS OAK HILL(LSD-51) as command ship of the SHREVEPORT "split ARG." Split ARG is a concept where the four-ship ARG is split into two smaller separate ARG(s) to perform amphibious operations and exercises in two different regions. During this time, SHREVEPORT trained with the Romanian military as part of PHIBLEX '97, an exercise involving sailors and marines. The six-day exercise focused on peacekeeping support and humanitarian operations.

Enclosure (3)

On December 11, 1997, Capt. Michael R. Groothousen relieved Capt. H. Denby Starling II as commanding officer of SHREVEPORT during a port visit to Constanta, Romania. Mr. Robert Whitehead, acting Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest was the guest speaker at the event. Their change of command marked the first such ceremony ever to take place on the western coast of the Black Sea and in a former satellite of the Soviet Union. During the visit, SHREVEPORT hosted the Romanian CNO and his staff.

While in Constanta, sailors and marines took part humanitarian projects including time capsule burial and planting of a "peace pole" at Casa Speranta, an orphanage for children with HIV. They also supplied "Project Handclasp" items to the home for use by the children and staff. In addition, sailors from SHREVEPORT's dental department administered basic dental examinations and supplies.

After departing the Black Sea, SHREVEPORT marked the halfway point of her deployment during a port visit to Genoa, Italy. The halfway point also marked the end of 1997, leaving SHREVEPORT across the world from where she started and with many new stories to tell.

1997 CHRONOLOGY:

January:

10 DC3 Campbell Reenlistment Ceremony  
13 Fast Cruise  
Admin General Quarters  
14-15 COMPHIBGRU TWO Assessment  
Team Inbrief  
Shipwide Pre-Underway Material  
Inspection  
15 Main Space Fire Drill/General Quarters  
17 MM2 Hansford Reenlistment  
OS2 Kyle Reenlistment  
General Quarters/Main Space Fire Drill  
21-24 ETG Visit  
BECCES  
21 Underway TSTA II ETG  
ETG Inbrief  
Hot Checks  
22 Main Space Fire Drill  
UAV Operations  
24 UAV Operations  
ETG Departs  
25 UAV Operations  
Anchor Drop Test  
MM1 Reinhardt Reenlistment  
BECCES  
Anchored  
26 Small Boat Operations  
27-30 ETG Visit  
BECCES  
27 Underway from anchorage  
UAV Operations  
ETG Inbrief  
28 UAV Operations  
UNREP USNS PATUXENT  
29 SK2 Forrest ESWS Pinning  
Helo Operations  
Anchor  
30 Underway from anchorage  
PEB Inbrief  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
31 DC2 Henry Reenlistment  
MS3 Northrup Reenlistment

February

01 Underway from Norfolk  
LCU Operations  
03 EW2 Buermann ESWS Pinning  
DC3 Grant Frocking Ceremony  
04 Engineering Evolutions  
05 Moored New Orleans  
06 Commodore Lupo and CO of USS  
KIDD Visit

February (cont.)

12 EMCM Cisar Retirement Ceremony  
13 Underway from New Orleans  
14 LCAC Operations  
15 General Quarters/Mass Conflag  
17 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
19-21 CSTG Visit  
CSTT Drills  
Refuel  
25 COMNAVAIRLANT COs Visit  
28 MM2 Baker Reenlistment

March

03 Underway from Norfolk  
05 INSURV Rehearsal  
Anchor Drop Test  
06 IC2 Smalls Reenlistment Ceremony  
ITT Drill  
Flight Operations  
07 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
11 Safety Survey Team Visit  
14 MS2 Reaves Reenlistment Ceremony  
18-21 INSURV Team Visit  
18 Underway from Norfolk  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
20 FC2 Cobbler Reenlistment Ceremony  
24-28 CSRR Visit  
27 ABF3 Bailey Reenlistment Ceremony

April

03 Underway - Deadstick - Moor Pier 4  
07-11 TSTA III  
07 Underway from Norfolk  
CSCCE  
BECCES  
STT Scenarios  
09 LCU Operations  
Anchor Lynnhaven Anchorage  
NEO Exercise  
General Quarters  
Flight Quarters  
10 Unrep USS Platte  
General Quarters  
11 EWC Callis Reenlistment Ceremony  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
15 Admin General Quarters  
16 Admin General Quarters  
17 General Quarters  
18 MS3 Durr Reenlistment Ceremony  
LI2 Lumpkin Retirement Ceremony  
22-25 ATG Visit  
Final Evaluation Period  
22 Underway from Norfolk  
UAV Operations

April (cont.)

23 LCU Operations  
Unrep USNS Laramie  
UAV Operations  
24 UAV Operations  
25 Anchor Golf 3  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

May

02 Command Admin Inspection - Air  
Dept  
07 Professional Development Board  
PRT  
Ombudsman Visit  
12-15 PMINT 97-2  
12 Underway from Norfolk  
Embark Netherlands Attache/PCO  
LCU Operations  
Burial at Sea  
Flight Operations  
RDVS with GUAM ARG  
13-17 LCU Operations  
UAV Operations  
CRRC Operations/Rhib Ops  
LARC Operations  
Flight Operations  
General Quarters/Abandon Ship Drill  
13 Anchor Onslow Bay  
Troop Embark  
Underway from Onslow Bay  
14 Anchor Onslow Bay  
Medical Regulating Net Exercises  
Seal Insertion/Hydro Survey  
15 Underway from Onslow Bay  
Mass Casualty Exercise  
Flight Deck /Hangar Bay Fire Drill  
16 Offload  
Nixie Stream  
17 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
20-21 BASCOLEX  
23 Swedish VIP Visit  
28 CINCLANTFLT Disbursing Audit  
29 OS3 Carbaat Reenlistment Ceremony  
OS2 Robertson Reenlistment Ceremony

June

02-05 CORTRAMID  
02 Midshipmen Embark  
Underway  
DIVTACS, Leapfrogs  
ASFP Drill  
Flight Operations  
04 Anchor  
AAV Operations

June (cont.)

05 Underway from anchorage  
Pacfire  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
09 EW2 Buermann Reenlistment  
12 Safety Standdown  
13 Singapore VIP Visit  
16-20 Command Inspection  
19 Admin Discharge Board  
20-26 COMPTUEX  
UAV Operations  
LCU Operations  
General Quarters  
Flight Operations  
ASFP Drill  
20 Underway from Norfolk  
CIWS Pacfire/AAW Exercise  
22 UNREP USS BOONE  
23 UNREP USS SEATTLE  
24 LTJG Solliday CICWO Board  
Nixie Stream  
25 SLQ-32 Test, ULM-4 Range  
TACAN Certification  
CIWS/AAW Exercise  
25 SLQ-32 Test, ULM-4 Range  
TACAN Certification  
CIWS/AAW Exercise  
26 UNREP USNS LARAMIE  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk  
30 Dental Readiness Inspection

July

02 SOQ Board  
08 Engineering Evolutions/BECCEs  
09 VC-6 Onload  
General Quarters  
BECCEs/Main Space Fire Drill  
11 YN1 Heigaard Reenlistment  
MS1 Boyer Reenlistment  
15 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill  
16 BM2 Schulze Reenlistment  
LARC Operations  
Army Quartermaster Corps Visit  
BECCEs/Main Space Fire Drill  
18 BM3 Torres Reenlistment  
Luncheon for Capt Carter  
21 GMG1 Near Retirement Ceremony  
Midshipmen Embark  
22-30 MEUEX  
LCU Operations  
UAV Operations  
Rhib Operations  
Flight Operations  
CRRC Operations

July (cont.)

22 Underway from Norfolk  
BGSIT Inbrief

23 Moored Morehead City  
Underway to anchorage

24 Underway from anchorage  
EMCON Drill  
Unexploded Ordnance Exercise

26 R and A Underway  
Floating Mine Response Exercise

27 Anchored

28 Underway

29 Moored Morehead City  
DCC Scrivener Reenlistment  
Underway from Morehead  
UNREP USNS BIGHORN

30 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

31 Chop to Second Fleet

August

05-08 BGIT

06 Underway from Norfolk  
Moored Yorktown Weapons Station

07 Ammo Onload

08 Dependents Day Cruise  
Underway from Yorktown  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

11 ABH1 Russell Reenlistment

15 Marine Cargo/SBU Rhib Onload  
Midshipmen Debark

18-27 JTFEX 97-3  
LCU Operations  
LARC Operations  
Flight Operations  
UAV Operations  
Rhib Operations

19 Underway from Norfolk

20 Anchor/Commence Onload  
Underway from Onslow Bay

21 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill  
HVBSS Drill

22 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill

23 UNREP USS SEATTLE  
Anchor Onslow Bay

24 DC2 Grant Reenlistment

27 Commence Offload Morehead  
Underway from Morehead

28 General Quarters/Mass Conflag Drill  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

September

03 HT3 Bartholomew Reenlistment  
MS3 Thomas Reenlistment

04 E-4 Exam

September (cont.)

17 HMC Loftis Reenlistment

19 Underway from Norfolk  
Full Power Trial  
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

22 MM3 Baldwin Reenlistment

23 Aviation Standdown

26 MM1 Jones Retirement Ceremony

30 Memorial Service for MM2 Nestor  
MM1 Holtz Retirement Ceremony

October

01 OS3 Bland Reenlistment  
OS3 Taylor Reenlistment  
BMC Lonecke Retirement

03 Underway Med Deployment

16 Spanish PASSEX

19-31 BRIGHT STAR 97

27 Main Space Fire/General Quarters

28 LCU Operations  
Small Boat Operations  
Anchored  
Photo Exercise

29 VERTREP

30 Underway from anchorage

31 LCU Operations  
Anchored

November

01-03 BRIGHT STAR 97 (cont.)  
LCU Operations  
LCAC Operations

01 Backload MSSG 24  
MCA Assist Visit

03 Underway from anchorage

04-05 Safety Standdown

04 EM1 Reifert Reenlistment

05 Small Arms FamFire

06 Anchored Antalya Turkey

09-12 SEA BOUDARY WAVES

10 Underway from Antalya

11 Awards Ceremony  
CRRC/Rhib Operations  
UNREP USS SEATTLE

12 Flight Operations

14 UNREP USS SEATTLE

15-20 Main Space Fire Drills/GQ

15 SBU Rhib Operations

16-30 NOBLE SHIRLEY

16 LCU Operations  
Moored Haifa Israel  
C6F RADM Coane Visit

19 MM1 Walker EOOW Board

21 Zone Inspection Operations Dept

November (cont.)

- 24 Mid Cycle Assessment  
Main Space Fire Drill/GQ
- 29 Inport Refuel

December

- 01 Underway from Haifa  
UAV Operations  
Helo Operations  
Deck Dept/SWO Brief for PCO
- 02 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill  
Eng Dept Brief for PCO  
Helo Operations  
UAV Operations
- 03 Air Dept Brief for PCO  
Ops Dept Brief for PCO  
ITT Drill
- 04 Dardanelles Strait Transit  
CAP Board  
Supply Dept Brief for PCO  
MM3 Earls Reenlistment  
Bosphorous Strait Transit
- 05-15 Romanian PHIBLEX
- 05 LCU Operations  
Moored Constanta Romania/Offload  
Berth Shift
- 06 Flight Operations  
Press Conference  
Reception - USS OAK HILL
- 07 Flight Operations
- 08 Flight Operations  
BM2 Barr Reenlistment
- 09 Dental Dept Brief for PCO  
Combat Cargo Officer Brief for PCO
- 11 Change of Command Ceremony  
CAPT Groothousen Relieves CAPT  
Starling
- 12-14 Visit Ship
- 15 Berth Shift
- 17 Flight Quarters  
Underway  
UAV Operations
- 18 Bosphorous Strait Transit  
Dardenelles Strait Transit
- 20 VERTREP  
UNREP with USNS LARAMIE
- 21 VERTREP  
Transit Strait of Messina
- 22 UAV Operations  
LCU Operations  
Troop Habitability Inspection
- 23-31 Moored Genoa Italy