



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SHRIKE (MHC 62)  
FPO AA 34093-1961

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IN REPLY REFER TO  
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12 Feb 99

From: Commanding Officer, USS SHRIKE (MHC-62)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center,  
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC  
20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Supporting documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is forwarded.

a. Command Composition and Organization. USS SHRIKE (MHC 62), commanded by LCDR H. Dan Derbes, is the twelfth and final Osprey Class Minehunter built with a primary mission to clear harbor, coastal, and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure and contact mines. The ship enters suspected minefields using precise navigation and searches for mines with a variable depth sonar. Suspected mines are investigated with a remotely controlled submersible vehicle which can neutralize mines using explosives and other techniques. The ship's hull is a solid, continuous monocoque structure laminated from special fiberglass and resin which flexes to absorb the violent shock of an underwater mine explosion. The ship is designed to have a very low magnetic and acoustic signature, providing it with an added margin of safety during operations. USS SHRIKE's Immediate Senior in Command is Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. USS SHRIKE's homeport is NAVSTA Ingleside, Texas.

	Ship's Characteristics
Displacement:	896 metric tons
Length:	188 feet
Beam:	36 feet
Maximum Speed:	In excess of 10 knots
Propulsion:	2 Isotta Fraschini non-magnetic diesel engines 2 Voith-Schneider cycloidal propellers
Combat System:	AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System (Alliant TechSystems) AN/SQQ-32 Mine Hunting Sonar (Raytheon) AN/SYQ-13 Navigation, Command and Control System (Lockheed Martin) DGM-4 Degaussing System (IFEN)
Crew:	51 - 6 officers; 45 enlisted
Important Dates	
Keel Laid:	12 September 1995
Date Launched:	24 May 1997
Date Delivered:	11 January 1999
Commissioning Date:	31 May 1999

b. Chronology. Significant events for calendar year 1998 are as follows:

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- 1 March 1998 SHRIKE's Pre Commissioning Training Coordination Team arrived at Norfolk, Virginia for the training of SHRIKE's Pre-commissioning Detachment (PCD) crew. The primary focus was on formal training which consisted of a series of schools that crew members received enroute to Norfolk and the completion of required schools in Norfolk. SHRIKE's PCD crew members prepared the ship's administration programs and instructions. It was lead by LT Tom Smith, the ship's Prospective Executive Officer.
- 11 June 1998 SHRIKE's Nucleus Crew ONE arrived in Savannah, Georgia to form SHRIKE's Pre Commissioning Unit (PCU). SHRIKE's construction and fitting out process was performed at Savannah's Intermarine USA Shipyard. The process involved the installation of all the equipment that makes the ship run, from diesel engines and generators, to radars, radios, combat systems, and galley equipment. SHRIKE's PCU crew members monitored closely the building and testing of the ship's systems. The PCU also implemented an administration and training program, which focused on engineering. Supply audits and inventory checks required to logistically support the ship were in process.
- 10 through 14 July 1998 SHRIKE's Machinery Trials were conducted by the Intermarine shipyard.
- 10 August 1998 SHRIKE's Nucleus Crew TWO arrived in Savannah, Georgia.
- 31 August through 4 September 1998 SHRIKE successfully completed a self-administered CART I, the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training inspection.
- 1 through 8 October 1998 SHRIKE underwent River Trials by the shipyard with 12 crewman aboard.
- 12 October 1998 SHRIKE's Pre Commissioning Training Coordination Team from Norfolk and the remaining Balance Crew members arrive in Savannah, Georgia.
- 2 through 6 November 1998 SHRIKE completed Builder's Trials.
- 9 through 13 November 1998 SHRIKE completed ETG PLOT ONE.
- 7 through 11 December 1998 SHRIKE completed Acceptance Trials. It was during these trials that problems were encountered with the ship's AN/SLQ-48 and AN/SQQ-32 Combat Systems during the Mine Warfare demonstration. The deficiencies were given starred cards and will be inspected again during Final Contract Trials.
- 14 through 18 December 1998 SHRIKE completed EOSS Hot Checks.
- 21 through 23 December 1998 SHRIKE completed COSAL loadout.

c. Narrative. Over the past year, the crew has been involved in the many facets of shipbuilding, progressing from a Pre Commissioning Team to actually taking delivery of USS SHRIKE and performing the many demanding duties required in running a ship. Many months of training were completed, as were numerous Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) Watchstations. Now we are preparing for the training cycle, during which we will exercise and improve our warfighting skills. We are also preparing for a significant event scheduled in May, the commissioning of USS SHRIKE in

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Our intensive training cycle is in progress; future events include PLOT III, LOA, CREW CERTIFICATION II, CART, TSTA and Engineering Certification. We will undergo CSSQT Groom and CSSQT Trials prior to our PSA scheduled in February 2000. USS SHRIKE will have many crews throughout her life, but there will be only one Commissioning Crew. The crew faces many challenges ahead, but each individual is ready to contribute to the spirit and reputation of the warship SHRIKE. Wherever she sails, she will project our nation's dedication, perseverance and America's commitment to freedom of navigation of the seas.



H. DAN DERBES