

USS FIREBOLT (PC 10)
Command History 1998
Command Composition and Organization

Mission: Provide maritime support to Special Operations Forces, intelligence collection, Coastal Patrol and Interdiction (CP&I) and counter-narcotics operations.

Organizational Structure: Assigned to Commander, Special Boat Squadron TWO.

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Commander Daniel E. Voth, U.S. Navy.

Permanent Duty Station: Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia.

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES
DATE: 14 Nov 2005

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Chronology

19 JAN - 06 FEB: Conducted Naval Special Warfare Tactical Training(NSWTT) Weapons Training, Fort A. P. Hill.

16 FEB - 27 MAR: Conducted and successfully completed NSWTT and Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE), Puerto Rico.

14 APR - 14 MAY: Conducted Prior to Overseas Movement (POM) leave and stand-down period.

15 MAY - 09 NOV: Deployed to European Command (EUCOM), Mediterranean and West Africa.

26-30 MAY: Change of Operational Commander (INCHOP) to Naval Special Warfare Unit TEN and Port Visit to Rota, Spain.

04-08 JUN: Port Visit to Cherbourg, France for the 54th Anniversary of D-Day.

11-15 JUN: Port Visit to Stralsund, Germany.

16-19 JUN: Port Visit to Gdynia, Poland.

20-21 JUN: Port Visit to Riga, Latvia.

22 JUN - 10 JUL: Successfully conducted Joint Combined Exchange Training(JCET)-82111 with Estonian Naval Forces in Tallin, Estonia.

11 JUL: Conducted Kiel Canal Transit.

13-16 JUL: Port Visit to Portsmouth, England.

18-26 JUL: Conducted Maintenance Upkeep in Rota, Spain.

27-30 JUL: Port Visit to Funchal, Madera Islands

01-05 AUG: Port Visit to Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

07 AUG: Conducted a Brief Stop for Fuel(BSF) in Dakaar, Senegal

11 AUG: Conducted "CROSSING-THE-LINE" Ceremony commemorating crossing the Equator.

12-19 AUG: Conducted an out-of-cycle JCET in Cote De Voir, Ivory Coast.

23 AUG: Conducted a BSF in Praia, Cape Verde.

26-29 AUG: Port Visit to Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

31 AUG-01 SEP: Conducted maintenance and upkeep in Rota, Spain.

02-06 SEP: Conducted Exercise ELLIPSE BRAVO in vicinity of Gibraltar.

18-26 SEP: Conducted Exercise ATLAS HINGE in vicinity of Bizerte, Tunisa.

28 SEP: Conducted a BSF in Rota, Spain.

29 SEP: Conducted a BSF in Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

01 OCT: Conducted a BSF in Dakaar, Senegal.

02 OCT: Conducted maintenance and upkeep in Freetown, Sierre Leone.

02-07 OCT: Underway in support of Operation SHADOW EXPRESS in vicinity of Liberia for contingency evacuation of U.S. Embassy personnel.

08 OCT: Conducted maintenance and upkeep in Freetown, Sierre Leone.

14 OCT: Conducted a BSF in Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

15-27 OCT: Conducted maintenance and upkeep in Rota, Spain.

20 OCT: Briefed CINCSOC, General Shumaker, USA, on missions and capabilities of Patrol Coastal(PC) ships.

28-31 OCT: Port Visit to Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

09 NOV:

Arrived Homeport, Little Creek, VA.
Conducted PHOTOEX in vicinity of Virginia
Capes.

10 NOV-31 DEC:

Post Deployment POM Leave and Stand-down
period in addition to Holiday Leave and
Stand-down.

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Narrative

During 1998, FIREBOLT had successful Naval Special Warfare Tactical Training (NSWTT), Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) and deployment to the Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea and West Africa. Beginning in late January, FIREBOLT began for its upcoming deployment with the commencement of NSWTT at Fort AP Hill and Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Upon completion of her NSWTT culminating in a very successful ORE, FIREBOLT began preparations for overseas movement (POM). On May 15th, FIREBOLT deployed on her second deployment with her sister ship, USS CHINOOK (PC 9) and USNS CONCORD for six months. On May 26th after a ten-day trans-Atlantic Ocean crossing and three underway replenishments (UNREPs) with USNS CONCORD, FIREBOLT conducted a five-day upkeep and maintenance period in Rota, Spain.

June 4th found FIREBOLT participating in a wreath laying ceremony for the 54th anniversary of D-Day immediately followed by the honor of FIREBOLT being the first U.S. Navy warship to visit Stralsund, Germany in celebration of the German Navy's 150th birthday. While moored in Gdynia, Poland naval base, the ship conducted a swift three-day upkeep and maintenance period from 15-17 June. After transiting to Riga, Latvia, the crew enjoyed a restful two-day port visit. Following a quick transit to Estonia, FIREBOLT, along with personnel from Special Boat Unit TWENTY, Detachment Hotel provided the Estonian Border Guard with training in Visit, Board, Search and Seize (VBSS), small arms marksmanship, small boat handling/tactics and Naval Surface Fire Support during Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) 82111.

On July 11th, the ship transited the Kiel Canal to shorten its journey from Estonia to England in thirty-six hours. While in England FIREBOLT conducted a well deserved three-day port visit in Portsmouth and enjoyed sightseeing, tours and good English entertainment. From 18-26 July, FIREBOLT performed a much needed week long maintenance period in Rota, Spain to prepare for its West Africa operations.

During the transit to West Africa, FIREBOLT made port calls to Funchal, Madeira Island and Las Palmas, Canary Islands and conducted a brief stop for fuel (BSF) in Dakaar, Senegal. August 11th held a special day for FIREBOLT Sailors as they crossed the Equator, where they conducted the time-honored tradition of the Shell Back ceremony. Following the ceremony, the ship traveled to Cote De Voir, Ivory Coast to participate in an out-of-cycle JCET from 12-19 August. FIREBOLT trained the Cote De Voir Navy

in small boats repair, small arms marksmanship and ship handling. After departing the Ivory Coast, FIREBOLT conducted a BSF in Praia, Cape Verde and another visit to both Las Palmas, Canary Islands and Rota, Spain.

In September, FIREBOLT and Naval Special Development Group, conducted Exercise ECLIPSE BRAVO in the vicinity of Gibraltar. From 18-26 September, the ship operated with the USS SAIPAN Amphibious Ready Group and conducted Exercise ATLAS HINGE in the vicinity of Bizerte, Tunisia. While enroute to Rota, Spain for yet another upkeep and maintenance period, FIREBOLT was retasked and ordered to conduct all necessary refuelings, stores onloads and make best speed to Freetown, Sierre Leone. This was the stage for Operation SHADOW EXPRESS, the contingency plan for the possible evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Liberia during unrest in the region. During the transit, FIREBOLT conducted two BSFs in Las Palmas, Canary Islands and Dakaar, Senegal. On October 2nd, the ship arrived in Freetown, Sierre Leone for upkeep and to await further tasking. The next day, FIREBOLT was ordered off the coast of Liberia to support Operation SHADOW EXPRESS. On October 8th, FIREBOLT was stood down and ordered to return to Rota, Spain.

After a BSF in Freetown, Sierre Leone and a quick port visit in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, the ship conducted a twelve-day maintenance and upkeep period at Rota, Spain and briefed the Commander-In-Chief, Special Operations Command, (CINCSOC) General Shumaker, USA, on Patrol Coastal(PC) class ships missions and capabilities. Following one last port visit to Las Palmas, Canary Islands on October 28th, FIREBOLT in company with USS CHINOOK and USNS CONCORD crossed the Atlantic one final time to return to concluded her second deployment.

On November 9th, just before mooring in Little Creek, Virginia for her homecoming, FIREBOLT, along with all nine East Coast PCs, participated in a major photo exercise. With a successful deployment behind them, the crew of FIREBOLT enjoyed a much deserved and highly relaxing POM and Holiday Stand-down.