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USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12)
1988 COMMAND HISTORY

JANUARY and FEBRUARY 1988

The ship began the year in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, for the holidays. Shreveport departed Palma in early January enroute Haifa, Israel, for a three week RAV with Haifa Shipyards. The ship left for Marseille, France, in early February, encountering extremely heavy seas. Waves of 25 feet in height were common, but Shreveport arrived in Marseille with little damage and on schedule. While in Marseille, Shreveport hosted visits from Archbishop Justin Rigali, Academy of Diplomats, Vatican City, and from Gen. Al Gray, Commandant of the US Marine Corps. The ship also completed a three week IMAV with USS YELLOWSTONE during this time.

MARCH 1988

Shreveport departed Marseille in late February and arrived Lisbon, Portugal, in early March, for a brief port visit. Preparations were made for the upcoming Exercise Galera'88, a joint U.S./Portuguese Amphibious Forces exercise off the coast of southern Portugal. Shreveport embarked one-hundred Portuguese "Fuzillero's" (Marines) for the exercise. Following Galera, the ship sailed to Rota, Spain, for MARG turnover, and departed for Norfolk. During the transit across the Atlantic, the ship had an unsuccessful OPPE. Shreveport arrived in Norfolk 29 March for a brief leave and stand-down period.

APRIL, MAY, and JUNE 1988

The spring was spent in preparation for the upcoming PMA with Metro Machine, Norfolk. Shreveport conducted an IMAV with the USS SHENANDOAH and a limited RAV with Metro Machine during this period. Following a brief underway period, the ship commenced PMA the end of June.

JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER 1988

These months were spent completing PMA with Metro Machine, and a concurrent IMAV with SIMA, Norfolk, VA. Much work was accomplished correcting material deficiencies in the ship's engineering spaces for the upcoming OPPE. Following successful LOE and sea trials, Shreveport departed Metro Machine the end of September.

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 1988

Shreveport was underway for several days during this period, including time with NJROTC cadets from the Washington, D.C. area embarked. Shreveport entered into a four week IMAV with SIMA Little Creek at the end of October. During this time the ship's flight deck was resurfaced and recertified, and the ship's combat systems were upgraded in several areas. Shreveport became one of only ten ships in the Navy to be outfitted with the new SPA-25G radar repeater. The ship completed the IMAV 22 November and began preparations for upcoming interim REFTRA and OPPE.

DECEMBER 1988

The ship was underway for the first two weeks of the month, conducting training in all areas. Engineering drills were commonplace as the ship prepared for OPPE and REFTRA. Shipwide damage control training was held continuously, bringing the crew to as high a level as possible before the ship began its holiday leave period 16 December. Shreveport completed the year inport Norfolk.