



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)  
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC 20374

Subj: 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of Events for Calendar Year 1995  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Supporting Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

*B. J. Washington*  
B. J. WASHINGTON  
By direction

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

### 1. Mission:

a. Primary mission - To provide fast transport of combat troops and rapid landing ashore by vertical envelopment and by waterborne assault.

b. Secondary mission - Evacuation and civilian disaster relief.

### 2. Organization:

a. Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Amphibious Group Two.

b. Immediate Operational Commander - Commander, Amphibious Squadron Four.

c. Commanding Officer - Captain J. M. Carter.

COMMAND HISTORY - 1995

1-9 Jan Holiday Upkeep, Norfolk  
10-17 Jan TCAT/PHIBREFTRA - Onslow Bay, NC  
23-27 Jan ETG - VACAPES  
30 Jan-3 Feb CSTG - Norfolk  
6 Feb Underway for EXERCISE STRONG RESOLVE  
23 Feb Brief stop for fuel - Rota, Spain  
21 Feb-20 Mar North Sea - EXERCISE STRONG RESOLVE  
10-12 Mar Port Visit - Trondheim, Norway  
15-17 Mar Port Visit - Stavanger, Norway  
5 Apr Return from North Atlantic to Norfolk, VA  
17-21 Apr ERAT  
25-28 Apr OPPE - VACAPES  
11-24 May TCAT - Onslow Bay  
30 May Captain Montgomery's Retirement Ceremony  
6-17 Jun JTG PHASE I/II  
19-27 Jun CSRR  
28-30 Jun AMMO Onload - Yorktown, VA  
30 Jun NAV Check-Ride  
6-24 July JTFEX/SOCEX - Onslow Bay, NC  
15-20 Aug Hurricane Felix Evasion - Atlantic Ocean  
28 Aug Underway for Mediterranean deployment  
12 Sep Enter Black Sea  
12 Sep Exercise COOPERATIVE PARTNER  
16-18 Sep Port Visit - Varna, Bulgaria  
20-23 Sep Port Visit - Istanbul, Turkey  
26-28 Sep Brief stop for fuel and cargo - Augusta Bay, Sicily  
29 Sep-19 Oct Exercise RESCUE EAGLE II, Albania  
29 Sep-19 Oct Adriatic Sea  
20-23 Oct Exercise NOBLE SHIRLEY/NOBLE CHRIS - Eastern MED  
23 Oct-8 Nov Port Visit - Haifa, Israel  
9-16 Nov Exercise BRIGHT STAR - EGYPT  
18-19 Nov Cold Weather Gear Onload - Augusta Bay, Sicily  
21-26 Nov Exercise ALEXANDER THE GREAT - Volos Bay, Greece  
28 Nov-31 Dec Adriatic Sea  
12-14 Dec Port Visit - Bari, Italy  
16 Dec-31 Dec OPERATION JOINT/DECISIVE ENDEAVOR - Adriatic Sea  
28 Dec-3 Jan Port Visit - Venice, Italy

## USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12) HISTORY

The USS SHREVEPORT was constructed by the Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company. She was commissioned 12 December, 1970 in ceremonies at the Naval Shipyard located in Bremerton, Washington. From Bremerton, SHREVEPORT proceeded south through San Francisco and San Diego, with a transit across the Equator before steaming through the Panama Canal. The ship then visited New Orleans, Louisiana, for hometown festivities. After arrival in Norfolk, Virginia, SHREVEPORT participated in exercises in North Carolina and Panama.

After a record-setting performance Fleet Training Center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in Damage Control, SHREVEPORT departed Norfolk in early January 1973, for her first deployment with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, serving as flagship for Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO. SHREVEPORT visited ports in France, Italy, Greece, Crete and Turkey before returning to the United States in July 1973.

SHREVEPORT again deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in July 1975 with Commander, Amphibious Squadron TWO embarked. Following Christmas in Palma, Spain, SHREVEPORT returned to Norfolk in early February 1976, having sustained damage from a massive forty foot wave caused by the "North Wall Effect" off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

In late August 1976, SHREVEPORT deployed to Northern Europe as flagship for Commander, Amphibious Squadron EIGHT. During this two and one half month cruise, the ship participated in two major NATO Amphibious Assault Exercises and visited ports in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

In September 1979, SHREVEPORT began another deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, returning to Norfolk in February 1980. In August 1980, SHREVEPORT's crew earned the Humanitarian Service Medal for their on-scene assistance to the Cuban Flotilla in the Florida Straits. In September 1981, SHREVEPORT visited Cancun, Mexico, while supporting the President of the United States' participation in the North-South Economic Summit.

In August 1982, SHREVEPORT departed Norfolk for a Mediterranean deployment as flagship for Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX. SHREVEPORT joined the multinational force in September 1982, and served for four months off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon. Upon return to Norfolk in March 1983, SHREVEPORT was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation and the Navy Expeditionary Medal for her operations off the Lebanese Coast.

SHREVEPORT deployed again to the Mediterranean Sea in July 1984. While in Rota, Spain, SHREVEPORT received missions tasking to offload her embarked Marines and embark Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fourteen (HM-14). Crossing the Mediterranean Sea and transitting the Suez Canal in record time, SHREVEPORT participated in Operation "Intense Look" conducting mine clearance operations in the Red Sea. For her actions in support of this critical operation, SHREVEPORT was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. SHREVEPORT was again called to action off the Lebanese coast following the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

In May 1985, SHREVEPORT was present for the opening ceremonies of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Mobile, Alabama. In October 1985, SHREVEPORT departed Norfolk for overhaul in Brooklyn, New York. While in the shipyard, the ship underwent extensive refurbishment, modernization and upgrade. SHREVEPORT returned to Norfolk in July 1986.

After several weeks at sea, in December 1986 and January 1987, SHREVEPORT conducted Refresher Training (REFTRA) at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in February and March 1987. In April 1987, SHREVEPORT participated in exercise "Solid Shield '87" in preparation for her upcoming deployment.

In September 1987, SHREVEPORT departed Norfolk for another deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. Embarked with marines of Twenty-Second Marine Expeditionary Unit (22nd MEU), SHREVEPORT, along with USS NASSAU (LPH 4) and USS MANITOWOC (LST 1180), composed the first Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG) to deploy in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Aircraft Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) deployment. SHREVEPORT returned to Norfolk, VA in March 1988.

In June 1988, SHREVEPORT entered the Metro Machine Corporation Shipyard in Norfolk where she underwent four months of extensive repair, upgrade and refurbishment. In January 1989, SHREVEPORT departed Norfolk for Refresher Training (REFTRA) at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During this most successful training period, SHREVEPORT became the first ship ever to pass six of six main propulsion space fire drills on the first attempt.

In late May 1989, SHREVEPORT deployed to the Mediterranean Sea visiting ports in Spain, France, Israel, Egypt, Italy and Portugal. In July 1989, SHREVEPORT became the first U.S. NAVY ship to visit St. Cyr Sur Mer, France. SHREVEPORT returned to Norfolk in November 1989, for a two month maintenance availability. In June 1990, SHREVEPORT was again underway, spending the majority of the summer months in support of Western Atlantic operations. Four days after receiving orders to deploy, SHREVEPORT sailed to the Persian Gulf in support of operation "Desert Shield" with Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX embarked.

During operations "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm," SHREVEPORT steamed nearly 50,000 nautical miles and served as the Primary Control Ship during four "Sea Soldier" Amphibious Assault Exercises. SHREVEPORT was an integral member of the Persian Gulf Amphibious Task Force which was the largest assembled since the landing at Inchon during the Korean War. SHREVEPORT returned home to a hero's welcome and was subsequently awarded the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy for outstanding readiness and performance in 1991.

Later that year, in December 1991, SHREVEPORT again deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX embarked. During the six-month deployment, SHREVEPORT visited Spain, France, Crete, Israel, Portugal and Turkey. Upon return

to Norfolk, SHREVEPORT entered Metro Machine Corporation Shipyards for a four-month maintenance availability.

Following post maintenance shakedowns and operational refresher training, SHREVEPORT deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in August of 1993 as part of Joint Task Force 2-93. While in the Mediterranean, the ship visited Spain, Turkey, Italy and France. During her port visit to Trieste, Italy, SHREVEPORT received orders to get underway and make best speed to Somalia. Arriving off the coast of Mogadishu two weeks later, the ship participated in Operation "Restore Hope". In January 1994, SHREVEPORT took part in Operation "Provide Promise" in the Adriatic Sea, flying video reconnaissance missions over Bosnia-Herzegovina utilizing the Pioneer Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). Upon return to Norfolk in February, SHREVEPORT entered a four-week Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) period.

Following post-maintenance sea trials, SHREVEPORT participated in Exercise Agile Provider and FLEET WEEK '94. Agile Provider, off the coast of North Carolina, was an amphibious exercise in which 22 MEU conducted amphibious landings and non-combatant evacuations. The seventh annual FLEET WEEK, attended by 10,000 service members from the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine, celebrated and honored the men and women of the armed services.

The ship again entered Metro Machine Corporation Shipyard completing its three-month maintenance availability in September 1994. SHREVEPORT then went to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a total ship training assessment followed by a port visit in Nassau, Bahamas, and Christmas inport Norfolk.

SHREVEPORT deployed to the North Atlantic with the USS WASP and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND in February of 1995 for EXERCISE STRONG RESOLVE, involving an amphibious assault in the Fjords of Norway. The ports of Stavanger and Trondheim, Norway were used to protect the Amphibious Ready Group from severe North Sea weather. The deployment ended in early April 1995, but SHREVEPORT still had to prepare for an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, which it passed with flying colors. The months of May and June 1995 were spent in work-ups for the upcoming deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Two weeks prior to deploying, the U.S. Atlantic Fleet was forced to sortie from homeport Norfolk, Virginia due to Hurricane Felix. Despite half of the crew on pre-deployment leave, SHREVEPORT got underway and returned five days later. Deploying on the 28th of August, 1995 with Amphibious Squadron Four, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, USS WASP and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND, SHREVEPORT steamed ahead in order to reach the Black Sea for a Partnership for Peace exercise in Bulgaria.

Reaching Varna, Bulgaria in under two weeks, SHREVEPORT was the high-value unit in an exercise involving Bulgarian, Romanian,

Ukrainian, Turkish, Greek and Italian navies. After port calls in Varna, Bulgaria and Istanbul, Turkey, the ship traveled north to the Adriatic Sea to participate in another Partnership for Peace exercise, RESCUE EAGLE II.

From the Adriatic, the amphibious ready group traveled east to conduct two exercises eastern Mediterranean, followed by a port visit in Haifa, Israel. After another trip to the Adriatic Sea, SHREVEPORT transited to Volos Bay, Greece for Exercise Alexander the Great with WHIDBEY ISLAND and seven hellenic navy ships. This exercise involved an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight over the main assault area and a joint Hellenic/U.S. special forces exercise.

Once completed, SHREVEPORT participated in Operation Deny Flight in support of Operation Provide Promise and Operation Joint/Decisive Endeavor. SHREVEPORT remained on station in the Adriatic through January then returned to homeport on February 28, 1996 for a five week IMAV. Upon completion, SHREVEPORT served as the Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two flagship, supporting mine countermeasures exercises off the coast of North Carolina.