



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: 1996 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology of Events for Calendar Year 1996
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

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

S. C. FRAKE
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 TWO.

c. Commanding Officer - Captain H. D. Starling II.

Enclosure (1)

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996

01 JAN - 03 JAN	INPT: VENICE, IT
03 JAN - 07 JAN	TRANSIT: WESTERN MED
07 JAN - 08 JAN	INPT: BARI, IT
08 JAN - 03 FEB	TRANSIT: EXERCISE JOINT ENDEAVOR
03 FEB - 05 FEB	INPT: HAIFA, ISRAEL
05 FEB - 14 FEB	TRANSIT: WESTERN MED
14 FEB - 16 FEB	INPT: ROTA, SPAIN
16 FEB - 26 FEB	TRANSIT: ATLANTIC
26 FEB - 27 FEB	INPT: MOREHEAD CITY, NC
27 FEB - 28 FEB	TRANSIT: EAST COAST
28 FEB - 07 APR	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
07 APR - 19 APR	EXER: PURPLE STAR WORKUPS
19 APR - 23 APR	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
23 APR - 15 MAY	EXER: EXERCISE PURPLE STAR
09 MAY	CHANGE OF COMMAND
15 MAY - 29 MAY	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
29 MAY - 12 SEP	INPT: METRO MACHINE YARDS
12 SEP - 13 SEP	U/W: VACAPES SEA TRIALS
13 SEP - 24 SEP	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
24 SEP - 27 SEP	U/W: CART II VACAPES
27 SEP - 18 OCT	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
18 OCT - 25 OCT	U/W: TSTA I VACAPES
25 OCT - 28 OCT	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
28 OCT - 01 NOV	U/W: TSTA I VACAPES
01 NOV - 13 NOV	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
13 NOV - 15 NOV	U/W: TSTA I VACAPES
15 NOV - 02 DEC	INPT: NORFOLK, VA
02 DEC - 09 DEC	U/W: TSTA I VACAPES
09 DEC - 31 DEC	INPT: NORFOLK, VA CHRISTMAS LEAVE AND UPKEEP.

USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)
COMMAND HISTORY - 1996

As one of the oldest ships in the fleet, USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12) continues to show that wine isn't the only thing that grows better with age. 1996 was an excellent year for the ship. During the year, USS SHREVEPORT was involved in every major event in the life-cycle of a modern ship -- deployment, JTFEX, shipyards, TSTA training -- and demonstrated throughout that it was more experienced and professional than many of the younger ships on the waterfront.

The year opened with SHREVEPORT deployed to the Adriatic Sea as part of Operation CONTINGENCY PRESENCE. She steamed with MARG 1-97, which included the USS WASP, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND, and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). Leaving Venice, Italy just after the New Year began, she transited to Bari, Italy, then was involved in Exercise JOINT ENDEAVOR. After its successful completion, she stopped in Haifa, Israel before turning west for her journey back to the United States, pausing briefly in Rota, Spain to let the USMC wash down their tanks and trucks. SHREVEPORT arrived home on 28 February to hundreds of excited families.

But the "Super Gator" had little time for rest. At the completion of a five week IMAV, she was back underway to participate in the workups for Exercise PURPLE STAR, CJTFEX 96-2, an exercise involving many different nations and over 30 foreign ships. At the end of April, as an integral part of Exercise PURPLE STAR, SHREVEPORT served as the Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWO flagship. During her two week stay in North Carolina, she supported mine countermeasures exercises with American and British mine sweepers and mine hunters.

By this time, SHREVEPORT had been underway for almost a whole year over the past year and a half. Metro Machine Shipyard was her next destination, and a needed rest it was. She arrived on 29 May for a three month Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA). Much work was done on a variety of equipment. As all sailors know, the shipyards are a difficult time for any ship, and SHREVEPORT was happy to be leaving them on 12 September when she got back underway for her sea trials. The piers of Norfolk Naval Base were a happy sight a few days later.

With a deployment, JTFEX, and the shipyards behind her, there was only one thing left for SHREVEPORT to do: start the whole cycle all over again. At the end of September, she was underway in the VACAPES OPAREA for CART II. During the next four months, she was involved in the seemingly endless TSTA I training cycle. These were the days of the endless CSTG, ETG, and FTG trainers. Some ships crumple under the strain of leaving the shipyards only to be faced with a difficult training cycle.

But not SHREVEPORT. In regards to her training, her ISIC said, "USS SHREVEPORT is to be commended for their thorough

preparation and accurate self-assessment." SHREVEPORT continued to show her true colors.

On 9 December, the "Super Gator" began her Christmas Leave and Upkeep while inport Norfolk, Virginia. Looking back over 1996, she proved over and over again that although a ship may be old, it doesn't mean she can't still be the best. Once more, SHREVEPORT demonstrated to the fleet that there is "No Shore Too Distant." She started the year in the Adriatic, 3000 miles from home, and ended it in Norfolk, Virginia, back where she began.