



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09587-1714**

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To desk*

IN REPLY REFER TO

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From: Commanding Officer, USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historic Center,
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg 57,
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: 1997 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology of Events for Calendar Year 1997
(3) Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.


D. G. FULLER
By direction

USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) started 1997 preparing for a visit by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). The ship also continued with her work-up cycle, which included visits by Engineering Training Group (ETG) and Combat Systems Training Group (CSTG). INSURV was successfully completed in March and tailored ship training was completed in April with the ship's Final Evaluation. The ship moved on to training with the USS GUAM (LPH-9) Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) in preparation for deployment in the fall.

Work ups continued in earnest with PMINT 97-2 in May. Conducted in Onslow Bay, North Carolina, the exercise included LCU operations, SEAL insertion evolutions and Primary Control Ship duties with USS OAK HILL, USS GUAM, USS ASHLAND and 24th MEU(SOC). The culmination of training was displayed during JTFEX 97-3 in August. The joint exercise included elements of the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines. During the underway period, SHREVEPORT acted as on-scene commander for the Search and Rescue effort for a downed AH-1 Sea Cobra.

The summer also included a training block for midshipmen and ongoing training operations with Landing Craft Units (LCU) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) flights. By September, SHREVEPORT was wrapping up loose ends and taking a few weeks off prior to a six month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

A two week transit which began October 3, 1997 marked the beginning of SHREVEPORT's six month deployment. SHREVEPORT was part of the GUAM ARG whose embarked units included operators of VC-6 UAV, Special Boat Unit (SBU) Twenty Det Juliett, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Two Det Twelve, Assault Craft Unit (ACU) Two, Beach Masters Unit (BMU) Two Det Two, Seal Team Eight Platoon Golf, and Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable.)

During the transit, SHREVEPORT conducted various training evolutions in preparation for Operation Bright Star, located off the coast of Alexandria Egypt, a joint and combined exercise involving Italian, British, Egyptian, and US navies. Bright Star flexed the capabilities of the nations involved to work together in the planning and execution of a major amphibious assault. Upon completion of Operation Bright Star, SHREVEPORT conducted port visits in Antalya, Turkey and Haifa, Israel. During the port visit to Haifa, 24th MEU conducted land based bi-lateral training. Despite the training, the hard working service members also enjoyed some well-deserved rest and relaxation. They took advantage of the opportunity to experience Israel's many biblical and historical sites through tours offered by the Haifa USO.

Following the port visits, SHREVEPORT headed north to the Black Sea in company with USS OAK HILL(LSD-51) as command ship of the SHREVEPORT "split ARG." Split ARG is a concept where the four-ship ARG is split into two smaller separate ARG(s) to perform amphibious operations and exercises in two different regions. During this time, SHREVEPORT trained with the Romanian military as part of PHIBLEX '97, an exercise involving sailors and marines. The six-day exercise focused on peacekeeping support and humanitarian operations.

Enclosure (3)

On December 11, 1997, Capt. Michael R. Groothousen relieved Capt. H. Denby Starling II as commanding officer of SHREVEPORT during a port visit to Constanta, Romania. Mr. Robert Whitehead, acting Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest was the guest speaker at the event. Their change of command marked the first such ceremony ever to take place on the western coast of the Black Sea and in a former satellite of the Soviet Union. During the visit, SHREVEPORT hosted the Romanian CNO and his staff.

While in Constanta, sailors and marines took part humanitarian projects including time capsule burial and planting of a "peace pole" at Casa Speranta, an orphanage for children with HIV. They also supplied "Project Handclasp" items to the home for use by the children and staff. In addition, sailors from SHREVEPORT's dental department administered basic dental examinations and supplies.

After departing the Black Sea, SHREVEPORT marked the halfway point of her deployment during a port visit to Genoa, Italy. The halfway point also marked the end of 1997, leaving SHREVEPORT across the world from where she started and with many new stories to tell.

1997 CHRONOLOGY:

January:

10 DC3 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
13 Fast Cruise
Admin General Quarters
14-15 COMPHIBGRU TWO Assessment
Team Inbrief
Shipwide Pre-Underway Material
Inspection
15 Main Space Fire Drill/General Quarters
17 MM2 ██████ Reenlistment
OS2 ██████ Reenlistment
General Quarters/Main Space Fire Drill
21-24 ETG Visit
BECCES
21 Underway TSTA II ETG
ETG Inbrief
Hot Checks
22 Main Space Fire Drill
UAV Operations
24 UAV Operations
ETG Departs
25 UAV Operations
Anchor Drop Test
MM1 ██████ Reenlistment
BECCES
Anchored
26 Small Boat Operations
27-30 ETG Visit
BECCES
27 Underway from anchorage
UAV Operations
ETG Inbrief
28 UAV Operations
UNREP USNS PATUXENT
29 SK2 ██████ ESWS Pinning
Helo Operations
Anchor
30 Underway from anchorage
PEB Inbrief
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
31 DC2 ██████ Reenlistment
MS3 ██████ Reenlistment

February

01 Underway from Norfolk
LCU Operations
03 EW2 ██████ ESWS Pinning
DC3 ██████ Frocking Ceremony
04 Engineering Evolutions
05 Moored New Orleans
06 Commodore Lupo and CO of USS
KIDD Visit

February (cont.)

12 EMCM ██████ Retirement Ceremony
13 Underway from New Orleans
14 LCAC Operations
15 General Quarters/Mass Conflag
17 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
19-21 CSTG Visit
CSTT Drills
Refuel
25 COMNAVVAIRLANT COs Visit
28 MM2 ██████ Reenlistment

March

03 Underway from Norfolk
05 INSURV Rehearsal
Anchor Drop Test
06 IC2 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
ITT Drill
Flight Operations
07 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
11 Safety Survey Team Visit
14 MS2 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
18-21 INSURV Team Visit
18 Underway from Norfolk
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
20 FC2 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
24-28 CSRR Visit
27 ABF3 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony

April

03 Underway - Deadstick - Moor Pier 4
07-11 TSTA III
07 Underway from Norfolk
CSCCE
BECCES
STT Scenarios
09 LCU Operations
Anchor Lynnhaven Anchorage
NEO Exercise
General Quarters
Flight Quarters
10 Unrep USS Platte
General Quarters
11 EWC ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
15 Admin General Quarters
16 Admin General Quarters
17 General Quarters
18 MS3 ██████ Reenlistment Ceremony
LI2 ██████ Retirement Ceremony
22-25 ATG Visit
Final Evaluation Period
22 Underway from Norfolk
UAV Operations

April (cont.)

23 LCU Operations
 Unrep USNS Laramie
 UAV Operations

24 UAV Operations

25 Anchor Golf 3
 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

May

02 Command Admin Inspection - Air
 Dept

07 Professional Development Board
 PRT
 Ombudsman Visit

12-15 PMINT 97-2

12 Underway from Norfolk
 Embark Netherlands Attache/PCO
 LCU Operations
 Burial at Sea
 Flight Operations
 RDVS with GUAM ARG

13-17 LCU Operations
 UAV Operations
 CRRC Operations/Rhib Ops
 LARC Operations
 Flight Operations
 General Quarters/Abandon Ship Drill

13 Anchor Onslow Bay
 Troop Embark
 Underway from Onslow Bay

14 Anchor Onslow Bay
 Medical Regulating Net Exercises
 Seal Insertion/Hydro Survey

15 Underway from Onslow Bay
 Mass Casualty Exercise
 Flight Deck /Hangar Bay Fire Drill

16 Offload
 Nixie Stream

17 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

20-21 BASCOLEX

23 Swedish VIP Visit

28 CINCLANTFLT Disbursing Audit

29 OS3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment Ceremony
 OS2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment Ceremony

June

02-05 CORTRAMID

02 Midshipmen Embark
 Underway
 DIVTACS, Leapfrogs
 ASFP Drill
 Flight Operations

04 Anchor
 AAV Operations

June (cont.)

05 Underway from anchorage
 Pacfire

Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

09 EW2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment

12 Safety Standdown

13 Singapore VIP Visit

16-20 Command Inspection

19 Admin Discharge Board

20-26 COMPTUEX
 UAV Operations
 LCU Operations
 General Quarters
 Flight Operations
 ASFP Drill

20 Underway from Norfolk
 CIWS Pacfire/AAW Exercise

22 UNREP USS BOONE

23 UNREP USS SEATTLE

24 LTJG [REDACTED] CICWO Board
 Nixie Stream

25 SLQ-32 Test, ULM-4 Range
 TACAN Certification
 CIWS/AAW Exercise

25 SLQ-32 Test, ULM-4 Range
 TACAN Certification
 CIWS/AAW Exercise

26 UNREP USNS LARAMIE
 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

30 Dental Readiness Inspection

July

02 SOQ Board

08 Engineering Evolutions/BECCEs

09 VC-6 Onload
 General Quarters
 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill

11 YN1 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
 MS1 [REDACTED] Reenlistment

15 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill

16 BM2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
 LARC Operations
 Army Quartermaster Corps Visit
 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill

18 BM3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
 Luncheon for Capt Carter

21 GMG1 [REDACTED] Retirement Ceremony
 Midshipmen Embark

22-30 MEUEX
 LCU Operations
 UAV Operations
 Rhib Operations
 Flight Operations
 CRRC Operations

July (cont.)

- 22 Underway from Norfolk
BGSIT Inbrief
- 23 Moored Morehead City
Underway to anchorage
- 24 Underway from anchorage
EMCON Drill
Unexploded Ordnance Exercise
- 26 R and A Underway
Floating Mine Response Exercise
- 27 Anchored
- 28 Underway
- 29 Moored Morehead City
DCC [REDACTED] Reenlistment
Underway from Morehead
UNREP USNS BIGHORN
- 30 Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
- 31 Chop to Second Fleet

August

- 05-08 BGIT
- 06 Underway from Norfolk
Moored Yorktown Weapons Station
- 07 Ammo Onload
- 08 Dependents Day Cruise
Underway from Yorktown
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
- 11 ABH1 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 15 Marine Cargo/SBU Rhib Onload
Midshipmen Debark
- 18-27 JTFEX 97-3
LCU Operations
LARC Operations
Flight Operations
UAV Operations
Rhib Operations
- 19 Underway from Norfolk
- 20 Anchor/Commence Onload
Underway from Onslow Bay
- 21 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill
HVBSS Drill
- 22 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill
- 23 UNREP USS SEATTLE
Anchor Onslow Bay
- 24 DC2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 27 Commence Offload Morehead
Underway from Morehead
- 28 General Quarters/Mass Conflag Drill
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk

September

- 03 HT3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
MS3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 04 E-4 Exam

September (cont.)

- 17 HMC [REDACTED]
- 19 Underway from Norfolk
Full Power Trial
Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
- 22 MM3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 23 Aviation Standdown
- 26 MM1 [REDACTED] Retirement Ceremony
- 30 Memorial Service for MM2 Nestor
MM1 [REDACTED] Retirement Ceremony

October

- 01 OS3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
OS3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
BMC [REDACTED] Retirement
- 03 Underway Med Deployment
- 16 Spanish PASSEX
- 19-31 BRIGHT STAR 97
- 27 Main Space Fire/General Quarters
- 28 LCU Operations
Small Boat Operations
Anchored
Photo Exercise
- 29 VERTREP
- 30 Underway from anchorage
- 31 LCU Operations
Anchored

November

- 01-03 BRIGHT STAR 97 (cont.)
LCU Operations
LCAC Operations
- 01 Backload MSSG 24
MCA Assist Visit
- 03 Underway from anchorage
- 04-05 Safety Standdown
- 04 EM1 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 05 Small Arms FamFire
- 06 Anchored Antalya Turkey
- 09-12 SEA BOUDARY WAVES
- 10 Underway from Antalya
- 11 Awards Ceremony
CRRC/Rhib Operations
UNREP USS SEATTLE
- 12 Flight Operations
- 14 UNREP USS SEATTLE
- 15-20 Main Space Fire Drills/GQ
- 15 SBU Rhib Operations
- 16-30 NOBLE SHIRLEY
- 16 LCU Operations
Moored Haifa Israel
C6F RADM Coane Visit
- 19 MM1 [REDACTED] EOOW Board
- 21 Zone Inspection Operations Dept

November (cont.)

- 24 Mid Cycle Assessment
Main Space Fire Drill/GQ
- 29 Inport Refuel

December

- 01 Underway from Haifa
UAV Operations
Helo Operations
Deck Dept/SWO Brief for PCO
- 02 BECCES/Main Space Fire Drill
Eng Dept Brief for PCO
Helo Operations
UAV Operations
- 03 Air Dept Brief for PCO
Ops Dept Brief for PCO
ITT Drill
- 04 Dardanelles Strait Transit
CAP Board
Supply Dept Brief for PCO
MM3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
Bosphorous Strait Transit
- 05-15 Romanian PHIBLEX
- 05 LCU Operations
Moored Constanta Romania/Offload
Berth Shift
- 06 Flight Operations
Press Conference
Reception - USS OAK HILL
- 07 Flight Operations
- 08 Flight Operations
BM2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
- 09 Dental Dept Brief for PCO
Combat Cargo Officer Brief for PCO
- 11 Change of Command Ceremony
CAPT Groothousen Relieves CAPT
Starling
- 12-14 Visit Ship
- 15 Berth Shift
- 17 Flight Quarters
Underway
UAV Operations
- 18 Bosphorous Strait Transit
Dardanelles Strait Transit
- 20 VERTREP
UNREP with USNS LARAMIE
- 21 VERTREP
Transit Strait of Messina
- 22 UAV Operations
LCU Operations
Troop Habitability Inspection
- 23-31 Moored Genoa Italy