



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SHREVEPORT (LPD 12)

FLEET POST OFFICE

NEW YORK 09587

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS SHREVEPORT LPD-12
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09139), Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C.

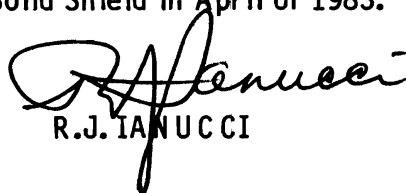
Subj: Submission of Annual Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) 1983 History of the USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12)

1. In compliance with reference (a), the 1983 command history of USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12), enclosure (1), is forwarded.

2. USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) participated in two major operations in the year 1983, these being stationed off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon, as part of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force and exercise Solid Shield in April of 1983.


R.J. IANUCCI

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COMPHIBGRU TWO
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SUMMARY OF EVENTS

January 1983: USS Shreveport (LPD-12) was still a part of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force at the start of the year 1983. Embarked units were Commander Amphibious Squadron Six under the command of Captain Vernon C. Smith, USN, and Marine Amphibious Unit 24 under the command of Colonel Timothy R. Stokes, USMC. Anchored off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon, routine training exercises and high tempo flight operations were daily occurrences. The ship got underway for a brief period of Division Tactics on the 31st of January. Among the many dignitaries who visited Shreveport during the month of January were the U. S. Military Vicar, Cardinal Cooke, and U. S. Ambassador Dillon and his staff on the 2nd; on the 5th a USO tour headed by the Los Angeles Rams Cheerleaders and, on that same date, a visit by the Commanding General of the Lebanese Army, General Tannow; The Chief of Staff of Commander Sixth Fleet arrived on 8 January; on the 16th Brigadier General Rached paid a visit to Shreveport; on the 19th the Commander of the Italian Forces in Lebanon honored the ship with his presence; on the 28th and 29th the ship was visited by a Congressional Delegation.

February 1983: In February, 1983, Shreveport conducted drills and exercises of the following nature: on the 7th MARG 1-83 turnover; on the 8th an underway replenishment with the USNS PAWCATUCK; on the 18th NAVCOMEX 41/Z-13-C and routine General Quarters Drills and Flight Operations. Perhaps the most significant event for Shreveport was the turnover of the Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group and the ship's departure for Rota, Spain, on the 15th marking the completion of Shreveport's role in the Multinational Peacekeeping Force and the beginning of her return to homeport, Norfolk, VA. VIP visits during this particular month included General Detin of the French MNF and French and Lebanese news media on the 2nd; COMNAVSURFLANT, Vadm Briggs, along with a congressional delegation visited on the 11th; CINCUSNAVEUR, Adm Crowe, on the 13th; and a Moroccan Navy Contingent on the 17th. On the 24th the ship departed Rota, Spain, for Morehead City, North Carolina.

March 1983: During Shreveport's transit to Morehead City, N.C., the ship conducted routine exercises such as General Quarters Drills, ship handling exercises and basic engineering casualty control drills. The ship moored in Morehead City on the 8th to offload Marines and equipment and embark dependents for the ship's Tiger Cruise to

Norfolk that same day. The ship embarked Commander Amphibious Group Two, RADM Robert Rogers, USN, on 9 March and was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation after mooring in Norfolk completing the deployment. The ship received brief visits by the Canadian Forces Command and a Marine Corps NJROTC unit on the 23rd and 30th, respectively.

April 1983: On the 9th of April 1983, the ship conducted her first Open House of the year and enjoyed a visit from local Cub Scouts. On the 13th, the ship hosted the Exercise Solid Shield Pre-Sail conference. On the 15th Captain V. C. Smith, USN, was relieved as Commander, Amphibious Squadron SIX by Captain Frederick R. Sabine, USN. Preparations for Exercise Solid Shield culminated on the 26th as the ship sailed for Morehead City. The following day Shreveport began the Solid Shield Exercise as Flagship for COMPHIBRON SIX. COMNAVSURFLANT, Vadm Briggs arrived on the 30th of April for a brief visit.

May 1983: The ship returned from Exercise Solid Shield on the 6th of May and began Cold Plant Checks for Operational Propulsion Plant Examinations (OPPE) on the 9th. The OPPE itself commenced on the 16th, but the ship did not pass. The ship moored at the Little Creek Amphibious Base on the 19th. On the 22nd Midshipmen embarked for training and naval familiarization purposes.

June 1983: Shreveport commenced a brief underway period on the 8th of June to conduct exercises in the VACAPES area, and returned to Norfolk on the 10th. The weekend of the 11th and 12th saw the ship as Open House Ship for the Norfolk Naval Base. On the 27th the ship got underway for Boston, MA, where she was slated to participate in Harborfest activities there. The ship arrived in Boston on the 30th to a hearty reception.

July 1983: On the 2nd and 3rd of July, the ship was one of the official Harborfest visit ships and attracted huge crowds from the Boston area; a total of over 4,000 by the end of the festivities. On the 6th Shreveport began her voyage back to her homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, and arrived there on the 9th. On the 12th the ship conducted a fast cruise for PCO observance, and on the 15th Shreveport conducted a Change of Command ceremony in which Captain Robert J. Ianucci, USN, relieved Captain Keith S. Jones, USN, as Commanding Officer, USS Shreveport.

August 1983: CINTEX opened as the first significant exercise for USS Shreveport on the 10th of August. The 15th saw the Supply Management Inspection kickoff. The ship departed the Naval Base on the 21st to undergo propulsion shaft bearing maintenance at the METRO Machine Corp. Dry Dock in Portsmouth, VA, where she arrived that same day. On the 29th she cleared METRO's Dry Dock and arrived at the NORSHIPCO Yards for additional maintenance.

September 1983: On 1 September Shreveport shifted to the Administrative Command of Commander, Amphibious Squadron Twelve, Captain Thomas J. Johnson, USN. From the 7th to 10th the ship conducted Engineering Sea Trials. On 19 September Shreveport got underway to participate in Surface Warfare Training Week, after which she moored in Norfolk on the 23rd. The ship's INSURV preparation review began on the 28th and reached its peak with the INSURV meeting on the 4th of October 1983.

October 1983: Shreveport spent the month of October in Norfolk conducting ship preparations for inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). On the 12th the entire command held a Safety Standdown that included a Naval Safety Center survey along with film and slide presentations. On 18 October Shreveport's Air Department underwent an Aviation Safety Standdown. A visit was paid to the ship on the 13th by Commander Amphibious Squadron 12 for familiarization purposes.

November 1983: Shreveport underwent sea trials during the first week of November (2-7 November) to conduct drills in preparation for the upcoming OPPE. Before this milestone commenced, Shreveport's Air Department saw an Aviation Assist Visit on the 10th. The ship commenced OPPE on the 28th and during this time frame the Air Department logged the 22,000th consecutive mishap free helicopter landing. OPPE was aborted due to the loss of a torque limiting motor on a main steam stop valve. The ship remained at sea, however, repairing the motor and conducting an underway INSURV rehearsal, returning to Norfolk on 2 December.

December 1983: The ship returned from sea and OPPE examination on the 2nd of December. INSURV Team arrival on the 5th marked the beginning of this important inspection, for which purpose the ship conducted a brief underway period on the 6th for INSURV equipment demonstration and returned to Norfolk Naval Base that same day. An inspection debrief on the 9th concluded INSURV. The remainder of December was spent in reassembling and repairing equipment which was disassembled during the open and inspect portion of INSURV and in holiday leave and upkeep for the crew.