



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
FLEET POST OFFICE
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From: Commanding Officer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY 1995 (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted to document ARLEIGH BURKE's command history for 1995.

J. E. Weppeler
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Copy to:
COMDESRON TWO

**USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
COMMMAND HISTORY
COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION**

Mission: Conduct multi-warfare sustained combat operations at sea or in the littoral as part of a Carrier Battle Group, a Joint Task Force, or independently.

Organizational Structure: Assigned to Commander Destroyer Squadron TWO. Deployed under the command of Commander Carrier Group EIGHT and Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO.

Duty Station: Homeport is Norfolk, Virginia.

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) COMMAND HISTORY 1995
CHRONOLOGY

01-10 Jan 95: ARLEIGH BURKE Crewmembers complete a scheduled Holiday "Leave and Upkeep" period in their homeport of Norfolk, Virginia.

21 Jan-04 Feb 95: Participated in Joint Task Force Exercise with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT CV Battle Group and the KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group. Operated in the Virginia Capes Operating Areas as Anti-Air Warfare Commander.

07-17 Feb 95: Successfully completed Combat Systems Readiness Review Phase II

21 Feb-21 Mar 95: Conducted Pre-Overseas Movement

14 March 95: Visited Admiral and Mrs Burke at their retirement home The Virginian.

22 March 95: Departed on second deployment to the Mediterranean as part of the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group.

22-24 March 95: Conducted CVBG exercises off the coast of Virginia.

25 March 95: Commenced transit across the Atlantic enroute the Mediterranean.

04 April 95: Transited the Straits of Gibraltar.

05 April 95: The THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group relieved the DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Battle Group in the Mediterranean.

16-20 April 95: Port Visit to Aksaz Karaagak, Turkey.

20-24 April 95: Port Visit to Rhodes, Greece.

27 April-14 May 95: Assigned as Adriatic "Redcrown", responsible for the surveillance and identification of all air and surface traffic entering and leaving the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Also participated in two boardings of merchant vessels in support of Operation Sharp Guard, a multinational operation designed to support the United Nations embargo in the Adriatic Sea.

17-20 May 95: Port Visit to Corfu, Greece. Visited by Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, USN (ret), former Chief of Naval Operations.

21 May 95: Underway enroute the Adriatic. While in transit, conducted rendezvous with the S.S. SONG OF NORWAY. On board the SONG OF NORWAY was ADM Zumwalt and his group of World War II veterans. ARLEIGH BURKE made several high speed approaches as part of a Sea Power demonstration and conducted an at sea salute in honor of the veterans.

21 May-03 Jun 95: Reassigned duties as Adriatic Redcrown.

08 Jun 95: Transited the Straits of Gibraltar.

08-11 Jun 95: Port Visit to Rota, Spain.

12-22 Jun 95: Participated in Exercise TAPON with the Spanish Navy.

23-27 Jun 95: Port visit to Palma, Spain.

28 Jun-05 Jul 95: Port Visit to Naples, Italy.

12-15 Jul 95: Port visit to Gibraltar. Participated in the "Victory In Europe" celebration.

17-24 Jul 95: Conducted an availability with the tender USS SIMON LAKE in Toulon, France.

27 Jul-12 Aug 95: Assigned third tour of duty as Adriatic Redcrown.

14-18 Aug 95: Port visit to Corfu, Greece.

20-31 Aug 95: Assigned duties as escort to USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Participated in Operation Deliberate Force, a contingency operation in response to Serbian aggression in Sarajevo.

01-05 Sep 95: Port visit to Catania, Italy.

08 Sep 95: USS ARLEIGH BURKE, USS MISSISSIPPI, and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT were relieved by the USS AMERICA Battle Group and commenced their transit back to Norfolk.

19 Sep 95: Returned to Norfolk, Virginia after a second successful Mediterranean deployment. ARLEIGH BURKE's successes during the six month cruise resulted in the ship being awarded the COMSIXTHFLEET "Hook 'Em" Award for ASW Excellence, the Battle "E" Award, the Navy Unit Commendation, and COMDESRON TWO's nominee for the COMNAVSURFLANT CIWS Excellence Award.

20 Sep-16 Oct 95: Conducted a post deployment leave and upkeep period.

Encl (2)

11 Oct 95: Visited Admiral and Mrs Burke at their retirement home The Virginian.

23-26 Oct 95: Conducted a pre-availability Ordnance Offload at NWS Yorktown.

06 Nov 95: Commenced the first DDG-51 Class Drydocking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) at NORSHIPCO Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia.

16 Nov 95: Drydocked at NORSHIPCO shipyard.

11 Dec 95: Undocked at NORSHIPCO shipyard.

20 Dec 95: Commenced Holiday Leave an Upkeep period.

01 January 1996: At 0512 Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, USN, passed away at his Bethesda Naval Hospital. The crew of his ship travelled to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland to participate in the funeral and pay last respects to the legendary Destroyerman. On the Admiral's tombstone was the one word that best described him ... "Sailor".

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
COMMAND HISTORY

NARRATIVE

1995 was an extremely successful year for ARLEIGH BURKE, her Commanding Officer, Commander Jeffrey F. Weppler and her crew. From the completion of a Mediterranean deployment to the transition into the shipyard environment of the first DDG-51 Class Drydocking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA), ARLEIGH BURKE Destroyermen proved equal to the task at hand and impressed all with their sterling performance. As DDG's became a common sight along the Norfolk waterfront, ARLEIGH BURKE stood in the spotlight as she reinforced her position as the future of the Navy.

The year started out with the crew in a "leave/upkeep period" for the holidays, followed quickly by a two-week "Joint Task Force" exercise in the VACAPES Operating Area with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battlegroup and KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group. ARLEIGH BURKE played the role of AAW coordinator and conducted exercises in ASW, ASUW and AAW to ensure her readiness to deploy with the battlegroup. The TRBATGRU passed this final check with flying colors and was declared "Ready to Deploy".

On 14 March the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Command Master Chief, and several of the crew paid a visit to Admiral and Mrs. Burke in their home in Virginia. The Burke's were pleased to have the company and asked many questions about the upcoming deployment. On 20 March Commodore Myers of Destroyer Squadron TWO, toured the ship and spoke to the wardroom about the expectations for the cruise. He left a very positive impression with the ship. On 22 March ARLEIGH BURKE left CASREP-Free on her second deployment, conducting a few days of Carrier Quals and exercises before beginning the transit to the Mediterranean. Enroute, a Battle Group Photo-ex was conducted with ARLEIGH BURKE leading the way, her position 500 yards directly in front of THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

On 04 April, the Battle Group transited through the Strait of Gibraltar enroute to a battlegroup turnover with the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) on 05 April. ARLEIGH BURKE'S first port visit of the Deployment took place in Aksaz Karaagak, near Marmaris, Turkey, where many of crew were able to visit historic Ephesus. This was followed by a quick transit to the Island of Rhodes Greece, a small resort area offering beaches and shopping and delicious Greek cuisine. ARLEIGH BURKE then participated in Exercise DISTANT THUNDER with the Turkish Navy, conducting numerous ASW exercises and acting as an "Umpire" and recorder for some NATO exercises involving the Greek and Turkish Armed Forces.

From 27 April to 14 May ARLEIGH BURKE took over in the Adriatic as REDCROWN, acting as the air traffic control unit for all air and surface traffic entering and leaving the Adriatic enroute the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Additionally, this assignment included occasional duties as part of operation SHARP GUARD, which involved boarding and searching cargo vessels suspected of breaking the United Nations Embargo. ARLEIGH BURKE performed well in a surprise practice and two actual boardings. This exercise provided an excellent environment for multi-national cooperation as well as exercising the shallow-water aspects of naval warfare.

Following a turnover of REDCROWN, ARLEIGH BURKE headed for the Greek port of Corfu, where the Wardroom bid farewell to the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Joe Murphy, and welcomed his relief, Lieutenant Commander Dave LaBarbera on board. The highlight of the visit to Corfu was a visit from Admiral Elmo Zumwalt (Ret.) and his group of World War Two Veterans who were on tour aboard the cruise ship "SS SONG OF NORWAY". Upon getting underway from Corfu, the ARLEIGH BURKE conducted a rendezvous with the SONG OF NORWAY which included a Sea Power demonstration, several high speed approaches and a presentation of the National Anthem as the ships drove alongside, the ARLEIGH BURKE CREW mustered topside in Whites in a salute to honor to the veterans. The display was well received and the Captain received a personal "Bravo Zulu" from Admiral Zumwalt on the Bridge to Bridge radio.

The latter part of May and the beginning of June was spent again in the Adriatic REDCROWN, followed by a port visit in Rota, Spain. ARLEIGH BURKE conducted a Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART I) during this period in order to prepare for the return to Norfolk and identify training and school requirements. From 12 to 22 June ARLEIGH BURKE participated in Exercise TAPON with the Spanish Navy, during which a simulated Joint assault on the Strait of Gibraltar took place. This afforded the crew of ARLEIGH BURKE a rare opportunity to operate with the forces of other navies in a "War Game" environment; especially noteworthy were the operations with Diesel Submarines. A port visit to Palma, Spain was a welcome break with the crew enjoying the beaches at the height of the tourist season. This was followed by a visit to Naples, Italy where the Ship's Fourth Birthday Party at Heritage Park was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Political events forced a change in the Deployment schedule. Flight operations with THEODORE ROOSEVELT off the coast of Libya were interrupted as the carrier was called to Iraq for contingency operations and ARLEIGH BURKE was detached to proceed independently to the Adriatic. This was followed by a port visit to Gibraltar for the Victory in Europe celebration. ARLEIGH BURKE represented the United States Navy in several events,

Encl (3)

including a parade through the streets of the city by ARLEIGH BURKE's own Honor Guard, a "Fun Run" to the top of the Rock, and tours of the World War II tunnels which stretch for miles through the rock formations. A reception on board hosted a large number of local VIP's and completed an extremely busy port visit which was the highlight of the cruise.

Next up was a short availability with the Destroyer Tender SIMON LAKE in Toulon, France, which allowed many small repairs to be made to keep readiness at peak levels. A third stint as REDCROWN followed, from 27 July through 12 August, and then a second port visit to Corfu Greece.

A second round of Eastern Mediterranean Carrier Escort Duty was scheduled after Corfu and prior to the last scheduled port visit in Alicante, Spain. Events in Iraq precluded the Alicante port visit and instead Souda Bay, Crete was tentatively scheduled. The Souda Bay visit was also abruptly cancelled as ARLEIGH BURKE received emergent tasking in response to Serbian aggression in Sarajevo. ARLEIGH BURKE sprinted into the Adriatic along with the THEODORE ROOSEVELT and was ready to participate in air raids over Bosnia both as a Tomahawk Firing Unit and Air Control Unit for the NATO forces. Upon completion of these duties, ARLEIGH BURKE and the other units of TRBATGRU left THEODORE ROOSEVELT and MISSISSIPPI in the Adriatic and proceeded to a port visit in Catania, Sicily. ARLEIGH BURKE then joined up with the carrier for a turnover with the USS AMERICA Battle Group. Following turnover, the Battle Group outchopped and headed for home. A speed increase forced by Hurricane HUGO led to a welcomed early arrival in Norfolk, Virginia on 19 September. THEODORE ROOSEVELT and ARLEIGH BURKE received much praise for this highly successful deployment.

Upon returning to Norfolk, a post-deployment leave and upkeep period continued through most of October. On November 6th, the ship cruised up the Elizabeth River to begin the first Drydocking Selected Restricted Availability for a DDG 51 Class ship. Several major shipalts were started and the ship was drydocked at NORSHIPCO on 16 November and undocked on 11 December. The DSRA was designed to improve ARLEIGH BURKE's survivability and resistance to electromagnetic pulse, as well as to paint the hull and install several Engineering and Combat Systems upgrades. The Availability had a scheduled end date of 06 February 1996.

In summary, 1995 was a year that saw ARLEIGH BURKE again proved herself as the versatile workhorse of the fleet and as an integral member of a Battle Force in the Littoral sense. Led by her third Commanding Officer, she was awarded the coveted COMSIXTHFLEET "HOOK'EM" Award for excellence in ASW, the Navy

Encl (3)

Unit Commendation, and the Battle "E" for overall excellence. She was also the DESRON TWO nominee for the COMNAVSURFLANT CIWS Excellence Award and Self-Sufficient Ship of the Quarter. It was a year that made every member of the crew proud to be a "Destroyerman".

On 01 January 1996, Admiral Arleigh Burke passed away at Bethesda Naval Hospital at 0512 a.m. The Crew of the ARLEIGH BURKE participated in the funeral, which was held at the United States Naval Academy Chapel. A contingent of the crew marched in the processional, and the street was lined with over 200 Sailors in full dress Blue who saluted the casket as it passed. Admiral Burke was laid to rest in a ceremony presided over Mrs Bobbie Burke, the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton, and former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Joseph Metcalf (Ret). Engraved on the Admiral's tombstone are a picture of the ship named for him and one word- "Sailor".