



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS SHRIKE (MHC 62)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS SHRIKE (MHC-62)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center,
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC
20374-5060

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Supporting documents

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report is forwarded.

a. Command Composition and Organization. USS SHRIKE (MHC 62), commanded by LCDR H. Dan Derbes, is the twelfth and final Osprey Class Minehunter built with a primary mission to clear harbor, coastal, and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure and contact mines. The ship enters suspected minefields using precise navigation and searches for mines with a variable depth sonar. Suspected mines are investigated with a remotely controlled submersible vehicle which can neutralize mines using explosives and other techniques. The ship's hull is a solid, continuous monocoque structure laminated from special fiberglass and resin which flexes to absorb the violent shock of an underwater mine explosion. The ship is designed to have a very low magnetic and acoustic signature, providing it with an added margin of safety during operations. USS SHRIKE's Immediate Senior in Command is Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE. USS SHRIKE's homeport is NAVSTA Ingleside, Texas.

	Ship's Characteristics
Displacement:	896 metric tons
Length:	188 feet
Beam:	36 feet
Maximum Speed:	In excess of 10 knots
Propulsion:	2 Isotta Fraschini non-magnetic diesel engines 2 Voith-Schneider cycloidal propellers
Combat System:	AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System (Alliant TechSystems) AN/SQQ-32 Mine Hunting Sonar (Raytheon) AN/SYQ-13 Navigation, Command and Control System (Lockheed Martin) DGM-4 Degaussing System (IFEN)
Crew:	51 - 5 officers; 46 enlisted
Important Dates	
Keel Laid:	12 September 1995
Date Launched:	24 May 1997
Date Delivered:	11 January 1999
Date Commissioned:	31 May 1999

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b. Chronology. Significant events for calendar year 1999 are as follows:

- 11 January coastal minehunter USS SHRIKE delivered to the U.S. Navy during a ceremony held at Intermarine USA Shipyard Savannah, Georgia.
- 11 January through 28 March Post Delivery Availability (PDA) Intermarine USA Shipyard Savannah, Georgia.
- 11 through 14 January EOSS Hot Checks.
- 18 through 22 January FTSCLANT Norfolk conducted a Metrology Automated system for Uniform Recall and Reporting (MEASURE) program Visit.
- 18 through 22 January COMSEC Hardware and Gateguard hardware and software installation.
- 25 through 27 January magazine and magazine sprinkler inspection.
- 25 through 29 January CREW CERTIFICATION PHASE I.
- 01 through 05 February IFF Certification and ETG PLOT I.
- 08 through 12 February ATG Personnel/Administration Assist Visit and LMA Groom.
- 08 through 19 February Navy Orderwire System installation.
- 22 through 26 February ETG PLOT III.
- 01 through 12 March MICROSAP installation.
- 08 through 12 March CREW CERTIFICATION PHASE II.
- 15 through 18 March Light Off Assessment (LOA).
- 19 March Sea Trials.
- 26 March sailed away from Intermarine USA Shipyard enroute to Mayport, Florida.
- 29 through 31 March local operations Mayport, Florida. Conducted antenna radiation pattern measurements at the Shipboard Electronic Systems Evaluation (SESEF) Facility Mayport.
- 01 April through 15 April Acoustic Trials, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- 03 April the Navy League Broward County Council held a reception in honor of USS SHRIKE and her crewmembers.
- 24 April arrived at homeport Ingleside, Texas. SHRIKE was the final ship to be home ported at the "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Naval Station Ingleside. Started two-week standown for the crew.

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- 21 through 24 May port visit New Orleans, Louisiana. The ship provided numerous ship tours for the public.
- 25 May through 02 June port visit Baton Rouge, LA for ship's commissioning. SHRIKE welcomed the public of Baton Rouge and provided ship's tours and crewmembers attended several receptions in their honor over the weeklong visit.
- 25 May two crewmembers, EN1(SW) [REDACTED] and ENFN [REDACTED] dove into the treacherous waters of the Mississippi River while moored Baton Rouge to rescue a local woman who had fallen into the river from the city dock. Both men received a Navy Achievement Medal for actions above and beyond the call of duty.
- 31 May SHRIKE commissioned. Rear Admiral Jose Betancourt was the Commissioning Officer. Vice-Admiral Henry Giffin, Commander, Naval Surface Forces was the principal Speaker. Thirteen members of the original SHRIKE (MSC 201) were on hand for the commissioning ceremonies. Mrs. Gehman, Ship's Sponsor, gave the order to "man our ship and bring her to life".
- 31 May USS SHRIKE shifts immediate superior in command from Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic Fleet to Commander, Mine Warfare Command.
- 14 through 18 June Combat Systems Ship Qualification Test and Trials (CSSQT) Phase I.
- 28 June through 02 July ECART.
- 12 through 16 July LMA Assist Visit.
- 31 July USS SHRIKE is transferred from Mine Warfare Command to Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE.
- 30 September ECERT.
- 22 through 24 August SHRIKE and all MCM and MHC class ships present at NAVSTA Ingleside shifted from regular pier mooring to heavy weather mooring in the Ingleside basin during Hurricane Bret.
- 25 August through 03 September CSSQT Phase II.
- 07 October through 19 November CSSQT Phase III Panama City, Florida.
- 20 November completed the setting of down limits on the AN/SQQ-32 Mine hunting Sonar System (MSS).
- 01 through 15 December Final Contract Trials.
- 17 through 31 December standdown for Christmas Holiday Leave.

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c. Installations/Engineering Changes/Field Changes:

- 03 February SHRIKE's Combat Information Center had two Engineering Changes (EC) completed to the AN/SPA-25G Indicator. EC-4 was the installation of two inlet ports on each side of the upper assembly to reduce the units operating temperature. EC-5 was the installation of two redesigned circuit boards to reduce the pixel effect on displayed images on the radarscope.
- 04 February SHRIKE's Communications Center had the AN/SYQ-7(V)2 NAVMACS System and AN/SSR-1 Satellite Receiving Set installed by Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) Detachment Charleston.
- 17 February SHRIKE's Communications Center had the Navy Orderwire System installed by SPAWAR Detachment Charleston.
- 09 March the AN/UQN-4A Fathometer had one Engineering Change completed. EC-8 had the reference assembly circuit board changed to provide an increase for keel depth compensation.
- 15 March the AN/SQQ-32(V) 2 Mine hunting Sonar System (MSS) had Field Change 51 completed. FC-51 was the installation of new wire leads to prevent fuses from blowing when the 440 VAC input fan power is applied to unit 3.
- 25 March the AN/SYQ-13 NAVC2 system had a Field Change completed. FC-4SW was the installation and implementation of the software version 12.1 (MEDAL).
- 07 through 18 June SHIPALT 35K was completed. This was the installation of the AN/SQH-4 Battle Space Profiler (BSP) by Coastal Systems Station (CSS) Panama City. Also, Field Change (FC) 1, the addition of a solid-state relay to the winch assembly was completed.
- 06 July Field Change FC 3HW was completed to the AN/SYQ-13 NAVC2 system. This Field Change was the modification of the paper carrier latch notch of the thermal printer unit.
- 01 August through 15 September SHRIKE's Satellite Communications Suite (SATCOM) installed by Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) Detachment San Diego.
- 03 December three Field Changes were completed on the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System (MNS). FC-35 was the replacement of a connector and cable plug for the deck TV camera. FC-36 was the change of the OCU 15 pin connector on the Umbilical Cable Handling System (UCHS). FC-43 was the installation of improved sway brace attaching hardware on the vehicle assembly.
- 06 December two Field Changes were completed to the AN/SQH-4 BSP. FC 2 was the installation of new software version 1.1, FC 3 was an upgrade to the BSP winch assembly.
- 09 December two Field Changes were completed on the AN/SYQ-13 NAVC2 system. FC 5HW was the replacement of remote monitors with new flat panel monitors (Bridge and CIC), FC 6HW was the installation of video switch assemblies.

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d. Casualty Reports (CASREPS): USS SHRIKE this past year has reported several Casualty Reports (CASREP's) to our operational chain of command. Through determination and dedicated efforts, ship's force was able to repair each and every major equipment casualty to operational use and continue all scheduled ship's evolutions. The following are the CASREP reports for 1999:

- CASREP 99001 OK-520 SQQ Common Winch
- CASREP 99002 AN/SQQ-32(V)2 Towed Body
- CASREP 99003 NR1 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)
- CASREP 99004 OK-520 SQQ Common Winch
- CASREP 99005 Wind Speed and Direction Bird
- CASREP 99006 OK-520 SQQ Common Winch
- CASREP 99007 Propulsion Drive Train
- CASREP 99008 1B Ship's Service Diesel Generator (SSDG)
- CASREP 99009 OK-520 SQQ Common Winch
- CASREP 99010 NR2 MPDE Jacket Water Pump
- CASREP 99011 Multi Purpose Crane (MPC)
- CASREP 99012 ICAS Computer
- CASREP 99013 1A Ship's Service Diesel Generator (SSDG)
- CASREP 99014 NR2 MPAC
- CASREP 99015 AN/SSQ 109 Machinery Control System
- CASREP 99016 AN/SLQ-48 Monitor Console
- CASREP 99017 NR2 Ship's Service Diesel Generator (SSDG)
- CASREP 99018 NR2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)
- CASREP 99019 NR2 MPDE Jacket Water Pump
- CASREP 99020 NR2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)
- CASREP 99021 AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV)
- CASREP 99022 AN/SYQ-13 NAVC2 System
- CASREP 99023 NR2 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)
- CASREP 99024 NR1 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)
- CASREP 99025 Port Torsion Meter
- CASREP 99026 AN/SLQ-48 Power Distribution Unit (PDU)
- CASREP 99027 NR1 Main Propulsion Diesel Engine (MPDE)

e. Command Awards: USS SHRIKE's 1999 Sailor of the Year is SK1(SW) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. SHRIKE's 1999 Bluejacket of the Year is MN3 [REDACTED]
BM1(SW) [REDACTED] was advanced to his present rank through our Command Advancement Program (CAP). MWR program was recognized as best of small afloat command.

f. Narrative. 1999 was a year of great progress for USS SHRIKE. On January 11th, less than half of the crew had any sea time. By the end of December the crew had become a combat ready team. Along the way, we certified for at sea operations, certified the navigation team, certified the "at-sea" fire party and engineering watch teams. We grew proficient in operating and maintaining our combat system. We have overcome tremendous difficulties in equipment reliability. In September the command investigated a corrupt drug use prevention program and found that the Urinalysis Program Coordinator was dealing in illegal drugs. Eight Sailors were taken to NJP

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and will be separated from the Navy. Two more Sailors will face General Court Martial proceedings. The rest of the crew was demoralized for months. This ship was unable to get underway for three weeks until temporary crew members reported aboard for CSSQT. After CSSQT, the new permanent crewmembers reported aboard with all hands pulling together to get ready for INSURV.



H. DAN DERBES