

FIRST YEAR



"Three hundred sixty-six days ago SHENANDOAH became "USS" - a "UNITED STATES SHIP." This address today will trace our first year of commissioned service as we celebrate our First Anniversary."

On 15 August 1983 at 0800 SHENANDOAH was officially commissioned alongside pier in NASSCO Shipyard in San Diego, California. Later that day the balance I crew of 294 reported on board from the pre-commissioning detail in Norfolk. Medical and Dental immediately began to see sick call patients. All departments continued to outfit their spaces. Formal ribbon cutting ceremonies marked the opening of the ship's stores, barber shops and enlisted dining facility. The first meals were prepared and served in each of the messes. The next day, the 2,000 remaining triwalls, pallets and multi-packs containing allowance material began coming aboard. By the end of the month, the shipboard AN-UYK5 (UNIVAC) computer system was producing its first required reports.

Supply completed a record loadout by mid-September, exceeding all recent percentages for new construction ships. The last load delivered during this period meant 99% of GUCL and 100% of publications and forms were delivered. The first ship-produced payday was held on 15 September 1983 with a payroll of over \$261,000. An initial \$13,000 was turned over to the Welfare and Recreation Fund by the ship's service organization at the end of September.

Hard work, pride and dreams were manifested 25 September 1983 with NASSCO Appreciation Day. An overwhelmingly successful day of general visiting brought more than 2000 shipyard workers and their families aboard for tours, souvenirs and refreshments provided by SHENANDOAH crew members. SHENANDOAH moved from NASSCO to Naval Station San Diego, 26 September 1983 in preparation for an intense October schedule. During the week beginning 10 October 1983, the ship had its Light Off Examination, Hot Plant Certification, conducted a Fast Cruise, accomplished Crew Certification and went to sea as a crew for the first time. The end of the month presented an opportunity for some fun together at sea, as the ship held a smoker for 30 SHENANDOAH boxers, including some former Golden Gloves champions, on the boat deck in conjunction with a cook out on the flight deck. Concurrently, SHENANDOAH's flag football team went undefeated through 12 regular season games and won 3 team trophies before ending the season as runners-up in the California Regional Championship playoffs. On 25 October 1983 the pre-commissioning detail in Norfolk was officially ended and all remaining balance II crew members were transferred to the ship in San Diego.

On 7 November 1983 SHENANDOAH began her maiden voyage to her homeport of Norfolk. During this underway period, the Repair Department completed many major organizational projects and concentrated on training personnel in the proper use and maintenance of shop equipment. A few shops were reconfigured for a more efficient production flow, while work to arrange spaces and correct acceptance trial discrepancies continued. This time was also spent emphasizing a safety awareness program. An awards ceremony on 12 November 1983 honored 200 crew members with letters of appreciation and commendation and other citations including Navy Achievement and Navy Commendation medals.

Port visits in Acapulco, Mexico; Rodman Naval Station, Panama; Curacao, Netherlands Antilles and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands were interspersed between daily shipwide training exercises conducted enroute. On 18 November 1983 the Food Service Division provided battle messing for 1300 crew members. At St. Thomas the ship embarked 71 Naval Reservists for a two week ACDUTRA period. They were integrated into the ship's crew for mobilization training.

The ship's 7 December 1983 arrival at Naval Station Norfolk gave the crew less than 10 days in which to conduct a Training and Readiness Evaluation in preparation for Refresher Training and to make final preparations for the ship's ceremonial commissioning on 17 December. This formal event saw over 4500 VIPs, officials and guests attend the ceremony and open house. The principal speaker for the commissioning was the Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson, United States Congressman representing the Seventh District in Virginia. Other platform guests making remarks included Commander William Ethridge, ship's chaplain; former Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.; Mr. Robert Jacobsen, Superintendent Shenandoah National Park; Mr. Al Lutter, Vice President of Marketing, National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, San Diego; Mr. Graham Claytor, former Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Frances Claytor, Ship's Sponsor. Remarks were also made by Navy representatives Captain Edmund C. Mortimer, Naval Sea Systems Command; Captain Charles W. O'Reilly, Commander Service Group Two; Vice Admiral Edward Briggs, Commander Naval Surface Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet and Captain Thomas M. McNicholas, Jr., Commanding Officer. The ceremony was officiated by Commander David F. Lines, Executive Officer. A reception honoring these platform guests and VIP's from the Shenandoah Valley and National Park was held at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, the evening before the ceremony. Following the day's events, official guests and crew members and their families enjoyed a gala dinner-dance at the Virginia Beach Pavilion.

Tending officially began two days later with emergency repair work being provided for USS MCCANDLESS (FF 1084), USS TRUETT (FF 1095), USS MOINESTER (FF 1097), USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG 27), and USS BRISCOE (DD 977), which involved an engine change-out. The ship also joined other Norfolk ships in homeport for the holidays in brightening the piers with holiday lighting. Commander Naval Base Norfolk presented USS SHENANDOAH with a special award for having one of the best Christmas light displays on the waterfront.

Year's end gave an indication of the crew's concern for those outside the lifelines of the ship as more than 60 men and women gave their time and warmth to the residents of Beverly Manor, a nursing home in Portsmouth. After sharing lunch, Christmas carols were sung and holidays past remembered.

The holidays passed, as SHENANDOAH went into high gear to prepare for Refresher Training. The end of December through mid-January saw a loadout of over 22,000 line items of the Tender and Repair Ship Load List (TARSLI). Preparation continued in all departments to assure material readiness of every space. 16 to 19 January 84 the ship was underway to conduct engineering casualty control exercises for the main propulsion plant.

On 24 January, SHENANDOAH left Norfolk for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and four weeks of intensive training. The crew worked round the clock, six days a week to correct discrepancies and to practice for emergencies. Firefighting, flooding, electrical casualties and drills such as abandon ship, general quarters, and man overboard were all part of a routine day. SHENANDOAH's Repair Department put in extended hours aiding both Naval Station SIMA and other ships in port. They also fabricated a damage control simulator (Buttercup) and a firefighting trainer for Fleet Training Group. On 14 February the Engineers successfully completed the propulsion plant examination ahead of schedule.

The ship provided a helping hand to residents of GIMO, also. The country western band, "Windlass" performed at the Chief Petty Officers Club and 150

residents joined the crew for a week-end of rest and relaxation in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 18-20 February.

23 February brought SHENANDOAH to the critical moment of ORE during which the crew battled simulated mines, a gas attack and missiles in a struggle to keep the ship afloat and care for the injured. SHENANDOAH was the first ship to be tested in a new tender exercise by FTG. The drill required SHENANDOAH to respond and provide assistance to a battle-damaged ship. Proper training and preparation paid off as Refresher Training was completed four days early.

25-27 February brought a port visit to Nassau, Bahamas, followed by five days in Port Everglades, FLA. Before leaving Florida, the ship embarked forty-five male relatives and friends of crew members as well as some Valley residents for the trip to Norfolk. This "Tiger" cruise gave the guests a first hand look at SHENANDOAH at sea and an understanding of maneuvers and teamwork required for a ship underway.

07 March, SHENANDOAH returned to homeport of Norfolk. Concurrently with COMSERVGRU TWO embarking 09 March, the ship began getting ready for final contract trials. This inspection by the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) documented all known material discrepancies and marked the end of the ship's eight month guarantee period.

On 31 March, SHENANDOAH reached another milestone in the Atlantic Surface Force with the completion of one full year as a Retention Super Star. The athletic season opened with the volleyball team winning the regular season competition and becoming the first team to bring home a trophy in Norfolk. This strong start was followed by the soccer team, which took the league. Four softball teams gave their fans a lot to cheer about during the summer season.

Organization and training in all aspects of nuclear weapons handling commenced the end of March in anticipation of assist visits in April and May. These preparations led the way for a successful Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection on 26 June.

The months that followed brought a myriad of accomplishments in other departments as the "Tough Tender" continued to build an impressive reputation. The AN-UYK5 (UNIVAC) computer system was replaced by the Honeywell DPS 6 in late April. Medical and Dental were providing treatment to other ships on the waterfront while Engineering supplied outboard ships with electricity, water and fuel. Deck completed the fourth painting out of the sides, all weather deck areas, and the boats. Operations conducted CINTEX drills on a weekly basis with other ships to rehearse battle group skills in solving battle problems, communications and signaling procedures. The paperwork continued to flow, as Admin finished the Ship's Indoctrination Manual, consolidated notices and instructions within the Ship's Organizational and Regulations Manual and provided support for shipwide inspections. Other assistants and instructors to aid crew members were added including financial management, a command training team, Indoctrination Division, the People Place, and Navy Relief Office. Repair averaged 45,000 manhours each month in completing 2775 job requests between April and July.

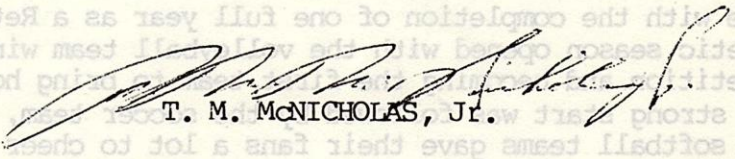
On 16 May SHENANDOAH departed for three days at sea. This time was used to conduct shipboard exercises to maintain the proficiency and training of the crew.

Guests aboard USS SHENANDOAH became a familiar sight whenever the ship was in port. Along with eight detachments of Reservists and three groups of

midshipmen, SHENANDOAH has hosted ten other tour groups totalling over 2,000 delighted guests. Among our groups of visitors were: GIMO residents, Michigan Educators, AIA Sorority, Hopeman Brothers Furniture Manufactures, many Shenandoah Valley school children, David Taylor Model Basin, and Foreign Supply Officers. 25 May was the highlight of all visits as the first Dependent's Cruise gave each crew member an opportunity to "show off" the ship. Over 1000 SHENANDOAH family members and friends joined the crew for tours, demonstrations and maneuvers underway.

4 June marked the beginning of a sixty day repair period for SHENANDOAH with the commencement of Post Shakedown Availability, the final step of the shipbuilding process. Discrepancies identified or confirmed by the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey during acceptance trials, and final contract trials would be corrected by the shipbuilder or NAVSEA 383.

One year ago today, I said in a similar address to some of you on our first day, that we "had been entrusted with the challenge to make SHENANDOAH the best ship possible." Given a super ship and a super crew, we have added team work and cooperation to meet and exceed our goals in every area. The positive spirit of SHENANDOAH's crew is very special, and is, in fact, the essential ingredient which has brought us so successfully to this our first anniversary. I thank each of you for the indispensable part you have played in creating our "Tough Tender".



T. M. McNICHOLAS, Jr.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

USS SHENANDOAH has traveled over 11,286 miles.

Over \$96,000 was contributed to Welfare and Recreation Fund from Ship's Store.

Stock Control has an inventory of over 31,000 line items of COSAL and TARSLI material valued at \$4,500,000.

Over 210,000 rations served on the mess decks totaling \$784,000.

305 allowance change requests processed.

693 Allowance Change Requests (ACRs) submitted totaling over \$892,000.

Disbursing payroll averages over \$400,000 per payday.

Medical has administered 230 physical examinations, ordered 172 pairs of spectacles, given 2834 immunizations, conducted 5335 laboratory tests and 510 audiograms.

6005 patients have been treated in medical sick call.

1407 enlisted evaluations have been processed.

1195 crew members have completed Indoctrination Division.

5000 patients have received dental treatment.

978,039 gallons of fuel have been consumed.

6,496,741 gallons of fresh and feed water have been distilled.

1390 NAVSEA funded requisitions were processed totaling \$900,000.00.

723 tons of ice produced.

3250 trouble calls answered by Engineering.

676 personnel advanced in rate.

275 Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercise's conducted.

Over \$40,000 was contributed to Combined Federal Campaign.

Over \$22,000 was contributed to Navy Relief.

52 news stories released to press.

95 ships have been tended.

In a typical month, Repair averages 727 manhours per ship for a total of 49,433 manhours.

Post Office has received 189,060 lbs of mail and dispatched 18,780 lbs.

Career counselor has held over 2164 interviews.

105 Worship Services held on board.

5558 2-kilo's have been processed in 3-M.

26 CINTEX's conducted in six months.

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

15 AUG Balance I reports to San Diego
USS SHENANDOAH commissioning at NASSCO, San Diego, CA
Crew moves aboard

16 AUG Allowance material loaded, San Diego, CA

17 AUG MIT visit I, San Diego, CA

26 AUG MIT visit II, San Diego, CA

24 SEP Supply completes FOA with record loadout 98% OSI, 99% GUCL,
San Diego, CA

25 SEP NASSCO Appreciation Day, San Diego, CA

26 SEP Ship moves from NASSCO to Naval Station, San Diego, CA

01 OCT Awarded Blue Retention "R" for 6 consecutive months on
Surface Force Retention Superstar List

11 - 12 OCT Light Off Examination (LOE), San Diego, CA

13 - 14 OCT Fast cruise and crew certification, San Diego, CA

13 - 16 OCT Hot Plant certification, San Diego, CA

19 - 24 OCT USS SHENANDOAH to sea for first time

23 OCT First flight deck picnic

25 OCT Balance II crew reports, San Diego, CA

31 OCT - 03 NOV Second at sea period

31 OCT First party for crew on fantail
First boxing smoker held on boat deck
Halloween party held on mess decks

07 NOV Ship begins maiden voyage to homeport, Naval Station,
Norfolk, VA

12 NOV Awards ceremony honors 200

14 - 16 NOV Port visit, Acapulco, Mexico

22 NOV Port visit, Rodman, Panama

23 NOV Transit Panama Canal

26 - 28 NOV Port visit, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles

30 NOV - 02 DEC Port visit, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Embark 71 Naval Reserves for ACDUTRA

07 DEC	Ship arrives homeport, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
12 - 14 DEC	Conduct Training and Readiness Evaluation (TRE) Reservists detach
16 DEC	Cocktail party honoring platform guests and VIP's from Shenandoah Valley and National Park
17 DEC	Ship formally commissioned, Pier 24, Destroyer and Submarine Piers, Naval Station, Norfolk, VA Commissioning Dinner-Dance, Virginia Beach Pavilion
19 DEC	USS HAYLER alongside Commence holiday lighting display Commence TARSLL loadout
20 DEC	Adopt-a-Grandparent visit to Beverly Manor, Portsmouth, VA
16 - 19 JAN	Underway for MIT
24 - 28 JAN	Underway for REFTRA in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
14 FEB	Operation Propulsion Plant Examination
18 - 20 FEB	Port visit Montego Bay, Jamaica
22 FEB	Operation Readiness Evaluation
24 FEB	Depart Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
25 - 27 FEB	Port visit Nassau, Bahamas
01 - 04 MAR	Port visit Port Everglades, FLA
05 - 07 MAR	Tiger Cruise
07 MAR	Return to Norfolk, VA
09 MAR	COMSEVGRU TWO embark
12 MAR	Start Shop Qualification Improvement Program
19 - 23 MAR	Final Contract Trails, INSURV
19 MAR - 13 APR	IMAV USS VIRGINIA
26 MAR - 13 APR	IMAV USS MCCANDLESS
02 APR	Ribbon cutting for Navy Relief Office
04 APR - 06 MAY	IMAV USS INDEPENDENCE
11 - 13 APR	Nuclear Weapons Assist Team
13 APR - 03 JUN	IMAV USS INCHON

30 APR - 25 MAY	IMAV USS SPRUANCE	07 DEC
20 APR - 03 MAY	IMAV USS MISSISSIPPI	12 - 14 DEC
20 APR - 08 MAY	IMAV USS EISENHOWER	
25 APR - 02 JUN	IMAV USS R. E. BYRD	16 DEC
27 APR - 20 MAY	IMAV USS GLOVER	17 DEC
30 APR - 24 MAY	IMAV USS SPRUANCE	
01 - 14 MAY	IMAV USS SCOTT	19 DEC
07 MAY - 15 JUN	IMAV USS INDEPENDENCE	
08 MAY	COMPLETE TYCOMMEX	20 DEC
16 - 18 MAY	UNDERWAY	16 - 19 JAN
16 MAY - 08 JUN	IMAV USS RALEIGH	24 - 28 JAN
21 MAY - 27 JUN	IMAV USS EL PASO	14 FEB
21 MAY - 08 JUN	IMAV USS RADFORD	18 - 20 FEB
22 - 23 MAY	Nuclear Weapons Technical Assist Visit	22 FEB
25 MAY	Dependents' Cruise	24 FEB
29 MAY - 22 JUN	IMAV USS YARNELL	25 - 27 FEB
01 - 19 JUN	IMAV USS MOINESTER	01 - 04 MAR
04 JUN - 20 JUL	IMAV USS KIDD	05 - 07 MAR
04 JUN - 31 AUG	Post Shakedown Availability	07 MAR
08 - 30 JUN	IMAV USS MISSISSIPPI	09 MAR
20 JUN - 16 JUL	IMAV USS MISSISSIPPI	12 MAR
21 JUN - 13 JUL	IMAV USS CONYNGHAM	19 - 23 MAR
25 - 26 JUN	Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection	19 MAR - 13 APR
16 JUL - 23 AUG	IMAV USS KALAMAZOO	26 MAR - 13 APR
16 JUL - 03 AUG	IMAV USS MCCANDLESS	02 APR
18 JUL - 10 AUG	IMAV USS T. C. HART	04 APR - 06 MAY
23 JUL - 10 AUG	IMAV USS BELKNAP	11 - 13 APR
31 JUL - 17 AUG	IMAV USS MOINESTER	13 APR - 03 JUN
09 AUG - 21 AUG	IMAV USS CONCORD	
15 AUG	First Year Anniversary	