CENTCOM Reports: USS SHREVEPORT (LPD-12) in the News

Description

The â€œSnipes.â€• They work all the time. I didnâ€™t understand this until I became the pretend leader of 75 professional engineers.

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Engineering Department Keeps Shreveport Running

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By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Seth Clarke

USS SHREVEPORT, At Sea Ã¢â‚¬â€œ In the main machinery rooms of USS Shreveport (LPD 12), an Austin-class amphibious docking ship, earplugs are mandatory. The spaces are loud and hot, and without the continued attention of the crew, the ship simply would not go anywhere.

The Sailors on the bridge may run the ship, but they perform their jobs thanks to their shipmates several decks belowÃ¢â‚¬â€•the Sailors that make the ship run.

Photo: MachinistÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Mate 3rd Class Junior Liverpool stands watch below decks in main machinery room one aboard USS Shreveport (LPD 12). The engineering department on board maintains the boilers, desalinizes seawater into potable drinking water, controls electricity generators, and speeds up or slows down the throttle of the ship.

Ã¢â‚¬Å“The main spaces are basically the heart of the ship,Ã¢â‚¬Â• said Master Chief Machinist Mate Donald N. Duffy, ShreveportÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s engineering department leading chief petty officer. Ã¢â‚¬Å“If they donÃ¢â‚¬â„¢t work, we donÃ¢â‚¬â„¢t go anywhere. We donÃ¢â‚¬â„¢t have heat, air conditioning or water. We have no way to cook food, no lights to see with and no electricity to run equipment on the ship.Ã¢â‚¬Â•

Sailors working in the belly of Shreveport pull more than their own weight. A lean crew, the engineering staff sometimes stand six-and-six watches: Six hours on, six off, and six on again. That makes for plenty of long workdays.

Duffy said the hard work continues when the ship pulls into port, and most of the crew departs for liberty.

Ã¢â‚¬Å“When weÃ¢â‚¬â„¢re in different ports, no matter where we go in the world, one of the plants has to stay up so we can have electricity and air conditioning,Ã¢â‚¬Â• said Duffy. Ã¢â‚¬Å“Other divisions and other departments can secure their equipment, and everybody can go on liberty. We have to maintain a full watchbill.Ã¢â‚¬Â•
[â€¦]

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