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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS COLE (DDG 67)
FPO AE 09566-1285

Rey, D.
4/19/99
IN REPLY REFER TO:
5757
Ser EXEC/092
1 APRIL 99

~~SECRET~~ (Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (5))

From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: USS COLE COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1998

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F, Command Histories

Encl: (1) USS COLE Command History for 1998
(2) Commanding Officer Biography — TO AR
(3) Personal For Message From RADM Suggs — NOT RETAINED
(4) Battle "E" Newspaper Article
(5) Post Deployment Brief for DESRON 22 (S) — REMOVED
(6) 3½" Floppy Disk (Copy of Enclosure (1))

1. In accordance with reference (a), the 1998 Command History for USS COLE (DDG 67) is submitted.

2. Enclosure (6) contains copies of the Command History in both Microsoft Word 97 and ASCII Text Format.

R. J. NOLAN, JR.

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COMMAND HISTORY 1998
USS COLE (DDG 67)

Homeport: Norfolk, VA
Commissioned: 08 June 1996

Immediate Superior:
Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two Two
Captain Michael J. Miller, USN

Commanding Officer:
Commander Richard J. Nolan Jr., USN

Executive Officer:
CDR E. Bernard Carter, USN
01 JAN 1998 - 08 SEP 98

LCDR John P. Cordle, USN
08 SEP 98 - 31 DEC 1998

Combat Systems Officer:
LCDR Jeffrey A. Whitaker, USN

Weapons Officer:
LT Richard M. Miller, USN

Operations Officer:
LCDR Charles A. Rock, USN
01 JAN 98 - 28 SEP 98

LT Francis X. Castellano, USN
28 SEP 98 - 31 DEC 98

Chief Engineer:
LCDR Peter A. Rollick, USN
01 JAN 98 - 15 MAY 98

LT Thomas E. Jean, USN
15 MAY 98 - 31 DEC 98

Supply Officer:
LT William R. Sorenson II, SC, USN

Navigator:
LTJG Luis E. Sanchez, Jr., USN

PORTS OF CALL 1998

1998

Bahrain
Jebel Ali
Dubai, UAE
Jebel Ali, UAE
Malaga, Spain
Yorktown, VA
Port Everglades, FL

AWARDS RECEIVED

Battle "E"

COLE completed the requirements for her second Battle "E" Award in 1998. She received the Maritime Warfare Excellence Award, Engineering and Survivability Excellence Award, Command and Control Excellence Award, and Logistics Management Excellence Award, and was awarded the Battle "E" for 1998.

Navy Unit Commendation

COLE received the Naval Unit Commendation for operations during Arabian Gulf Deployment 98-2 for exceptionally meritorious service while assigned to CTF FIVE ZERO.

Other Awards and Honors

- 1998 TYCOM Safety Award
- 1998 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award Runner-up
- First Quarter 1998 Intelligence Excellence Award DESRON 22 Nominee.
- Leader in HM&E and Aegis Program Development Issues
- Best REDCROWN during JCSBATGRU JTFEX and Arabian Gulf Deployment
- Best Link Performance during JCSBATGRU JTFEX and Arabian Gulf Deployment
- Best Comprehensive Communications Assessment in DESRON TWO TWO
- Best Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification
- Best DDG Logistics Management Assessment
- Best in Retention and Advancement

JANUARY 1998

05 JAN	MODUS Installation
05 JAN - 09 JAN	Underwater Hull Cleaning
08 JAN	NSFS Team Training
09 JAN	At Sea Firefighting Evaluation
12 JAN - 26 JAN	Underway for JTFEX 98-2
15 JAN	5"/54 Cal PACFIRE
	Small Boat Attack Exercise
16 JAN	5"/54 Cal PACFIRE
	CIWS PACFIRE
	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
19 JAN	Burial at Sea
22 JAN	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
23 JAN	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
26 JAN	Moor NOB Norfolk
27 JAN	VBSS Training
30 JAN	Award Ceremony
31 JAN - 08 FEB	POM Leave Period 1

JTFEX in Puerto Rico OPAREA
MIO Operations with SEAL platoon

January 1998 saw the final preparations being made for JTFEX 98-2, the final exercise in the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle prior to deploying. COLE got underway on 12 January to begin her transit to the Puerto Rico OPAREA. During this transit, she conducted Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS Patuxent and USNS Santa Barbara. COLE transited the Virgin Passage and arrived in the Puerto Rico OPAREA on Sunday, 17 January. While in the Puerto Rico area, COLE began training for the Maritime Interdiction Operations that she would eventually have to conduct during deployment to the Arabian Gulf.

COLE departed the Puerto Rico OPAREA on Friday, 23 January. After two RAS evolutions with USNS Patuxent and a simulated Tomahawk cruise missile strike on Florida, COLE arrived home in Norfolk on Monday, 26 January.

FEBRUARY 1998

03 FEB	Aegis Weapon System Program Upgrade Pre-Deployment Brief VBSS Training
04 FEB	5 th Fleet AOR Threat Brief
05 FEB	Surface Operations Brief Pre-Deployment Logistics Brief
06 FEB	Pre-Deployment Maintenance Brief
09 FEB	JOHN C STENNIS Tour of Medical Spaces
10 FEB	VBSS Training
10 FEB - 11 FEB	Ship's Store Stock Onload
10 FEB - 18 FEB	POM Leave Period 2
12 FEB	Hodges Manor Elementary School Tour Small Arms Qualifications (Yorktown NWS)
17 FEB - 20 FEB	Provisions Onload
18 FEB - 19 FEB	JTFEX Hot Wash-up
19 FEB	Broward Navy Days Award Ceremony
22 FEB	Deployment Begins

February saw the continuation of deployment preparations. Medical officers from USS JOHN C STENNIS came aboard COLE to inspect our medical facilities, training for the deployment continued, and Ship's Store stock was brought onboard. Over forty personnel were small-arms qualified as well.

Broward Navy Days, an enthusiastic group of Navy supporters located in Fort Lauderdale, FL, came aboard on 19 February. This group, who played a significant role in COLE's commissioning ceremonies in Port Everglades, presented their awards to the Junior and Senior Sailors of the Year.

COLE, in the Partnership for Education program, sponsored Hodges Manor Elementary School. Students from the school came aboard COLE on 12 February for a tour of the ship.

The major event for February was COLE's short-notice departure from Norfolk as part of the United States' response to Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow United Nations weapons inspectors to access his chemical and biological production sites. COLE deployed a week earlier than expected and began a high speed transit across the Atlantic toward the 5th Fleet AOR.

MARCH 1998

01 MAR Strait of Gibraltar Transit
Terrorist Aircraft Attack Exercise

02 MAR Force Protection Training w/
USS SAN JACINTO

03 MAR UNREP w/ USNS BIG HORN
5"/54 Cal PACFIRE
CIWS PACFIRE

04 MAR Anchor Port Said

05 MAR Suez Canal Transit

07 MAR CHOP To CTF 59 (COMCARGRU 6)

08 MAR Moor Djibouti for Refueling

10 MAR UNREP w/ USS SEATTLE

11 MAR RDVU and Turnover w/ USS CARNEY

14 MAR RAS w/ USNS GUADALUPE
MIO Escort Duties

15 MAR Detach from MIO Escort
VERTREP w/ USS SPICA

17 MAR USW Exercise: CASEX A-3
USW Exercise: CASEX A-6
USW Exercise: Active TRACKEX

18 MAR - 23 MAR Inport Dubai, UAE

23 MAR 50 Cal/M60 PACFIRE
5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE
Pax Transfer w/ USNS KILAUEA

27 MAR Pax Transfer w/ USNS KILAUEA

28 MAR 5"/54/CIWS PACFIRE

31 MAR RAS w/ USNS GUADALUPE
RAS w/ USS SANTA BARBARA

March saw COLE making her way towards the Arabian Gulf via the Mediterranean. COLE's arrival in the Gulf was seamless. After completing turnover with USS CARNEY (DDG 64), COLE immediately commenced Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in the Arabian Gulf in support of U.N. sanctions against Iraq. COLE's VBSS teams, led by LTJG Justin Kubu and LTJG Robert Crofoot, conducted numerous health and comfort and inspection boardings during several arduous periods of MIO operations. COLE was repeatedly praised by the MIO Commander for outstanding efforts, and the Combat Information Center watch team and intelligence collection team were directly responsible for identifying a previously unknown smuggling route for Iraqi oil in the Gulf of Oman. A short port visit to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, punctuated a month that was otherwise spent at sea.

COLE spent 14-15 March in company with USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS. The two warships escorted six oil smugglers from the Northern Arabian Gulf to the United Arab Emirates, where they were turned over to UAE authorities. The group of rusty merchants was dubbed "RUSTRON ONE" by the wardroom.

From COMMANDER, JOHN C STENNIS Battlegroup: "As elements of Task Force JOHN C STENNIS first enter the Arabian Gulf, I want to take this opportunity to pass on my compliments for your extremely successful CONUS-AG transit. despite the challenges of an unexpected early departure, an extremely high speed of advance, and the vagaries of weather and refuelings, you got the job done, completed an aggressive training syllabus, and arrived on station, ready for call for fire, in only sixteen days. It is an impressive accomplishment to say the least."

APRIL 1998

03 APR .50 CAL/M60 PACFIRE
04 APR 5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE
10 APR COMFIFTHFLT TLAMEX
11 APR UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE
20 APR Turnover w/ USS RUSSELL
21 APR Arrive SHAREM 124 OPAREA
22 APR UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT
VERTREP w/ USS SANTA BARBARA
23 APR - 29 APR Inport Bahrain
27 APR COMFIFTHFLT and DCINC visit COLE
29 APR Underway for SHAREM 124
RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT

While technically assigned to the JOHN C STENNIS Battle Group, COLE spent most of the time operating alone. Short notice tasking from National Command Authority sent COLE to the North Arabian Sea to conduct Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD) operations, a mission that her crew had not been trained for, but which was undertaken and mastered quickly.

COLE spent the month of April patrolling the North Arabian Sea and Northern Indian Ocean. Towards the end of the month, COLE turned over her duties to USS Russell and headed into Bahrain for five days of rest and liberty before getting underway again, this time to participate in SHAREM 124, an exercise conducted with several other surface ships, a civilian research vessel, and US and UK submarines.

While inport Bahrain, COLE's engineering department replaced their first engine. On 28 April, #3 Gas Turbine Generator was changed out due to a faulty lube oil cooler. The engineers completed the changeout in less than 24 hours.

MAY 1998

01 MAY - 10 MAY	SHAREM 124 Exercise
05 MAY	RAS w/ RFA BRAMBLELEAF
11 MAY	RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
12 MAY - 16 MAY	Inport Jebel Ali
19 MAY	RADM Suggs (COMJCSBATGRU) Visit
20 MAY	RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
23 MAY	Hump Day (Halfway point of deployment)
24 MAY	VERTREP w/ USS SANTA BARBARA
25 MAY	RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
26 MAY	Strait of Hormuz Transit
27 MAY	RDVU w/ USS RUSSELL
30 MAY	UNREP w/ USNS PATUXENT

SHAREM 124 occupied COLE for the first ten days of May. COLE went through a series of preplanned exercises to provide data on her sonar performance to the civilian research teams. Towards the end of the exercise, COLE and other surface ships were pitted against the submarines in a mock battle scenario. COLE distinguished herself with three submarine kills, the best score of the group.

After SHAREM 124, COLE headed back to the Northern Arabian Sea to resume her duties and turn over with USS Russell.

23 May marked the halfway point for COLE's maiden deployment. The Supply Department threw a fabulous Steel Beach picnic in honor of the event. Only 90 days to go..

JUNE 1998

01 JUN	5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE
04 JUN	NIXIE Stream
06 JUN	5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE
08 JUN	RAS w/ USNS WALTER S. DIEHL SGT Darrell S. Cole's Birthday Party
14 JUN - 15 JUN	Anchored off Bahrain
16 JUN	Underway en route Kezar Anchorage RAS w/ USNS SATURN
20 JUN	Pax Transfer w/ USNS SATURN
21 JUN - 24 JUN	Anchored off Bahrain
27 JUN	Awards Ceremony

On 01 June, COLE received a distress call over bridge-to-bridge radio from a merchant vessel that had had a generator explode. She was taking on water and had personnel casualties. COLE raced at flank speed for four hours, and when she finally arrived on scene, the crew of the MV Yashika Six had already abandoned ship and were drifting in rubber lifeboats. Fourteen of the crew had already been taken aboard by another merchant vessel, and COLE rescued the remaining six personnel. The other merchant ship, MV Aditya Kiran, had taken aboard two seriously injured crew members, and HMC(SW) Larry Hill HM3(SW) David McWethy were transferred via small boat to the other merchant ship to treat them. After four hours providing medical attention, all the crew members were pronounced fit to sail to India onboard the MV Aditya Kiran.

From Commander, JOHN C STENNIS Battlegroup: "The officers and crew of COLE displayed superb professionalism in their vigilance, expediency, and skilled seamanship in the rescue of six merchant seamen from a sinking vessel."

JULY 1998

01 JUL Escort USNS SODERMAN Through Strait of
Hormuz
02 JUL Transit Strait of Hormuz
06 JUL COMCARGRU SIX Staff Visit
RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
11 JUL RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
14 JUL - 17 JUL Inport Abu Dhabi
25 JUL RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
26 JUL Anchor Port Suez
27 JUL Underway from Port Suez
Transit Suez Canal
28 JUL RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
29 JUL Approach Sound Bay, Crete for Pax
Debarkation

Mid-Cycle Assessment occupied much of the engineers' time during the month of July. Their preparation paid off; MCA was conducted on 29-31 July, and COLE was graded as successfully sustaining engineering readiness in the areas of training, firefighting, management programs, material, and operations. All safety programs were graded effective. The graders said that COLE's Engineering Training Team, management and administration, and plant cleanliness were particularly noteworthy.

AUGUST 1998

01 AUG RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
02 AUG DCC Newsome Retirement Ceremony
03 AUG - 09 AUG Inport Malaga, Spain
14 AUG RAS w/ USNS PATUXENT
5"/54 Cal/CIWS PACFIRE
18 AUG Arrive Norfolk, VA
Begin Post Deployment Standdown
Begin Leave Period 1
27 AUG Hurricane Sortie
28 AUG UNREP w/ USS MERRIMACK
29 AUG Arrive Norfolk

In preparation for the return home, Navy Family Service Centers provided a series of workshops to make returning home go smoothly for sailors and their families. Topics ranged from car buying to reestablishing intimacy after a long absence. There was something for everyone, even single sailors.

COLE arrived in Norfolk on the morning of 18 August to a pier full of family members. Crew members couldn't wait for Sea and Anchor Detail to secure to that they could rush to meet their families and friends. Most crew members availed themselves of the roses that were sold prior to arrival, buying a dozen or two for wives and family. A much deserved leave period commenced after the engines were shut down and liberty call was piped.

That well deserved leave period was cut short for some crew members by the untimely arrival of a hurricane. A hurricane sortie caused the recall of all personnel on leave who hadn't yet left the area. The ship spent two days at sea, riding out the worst seas seen this year, until her return and the leave period could continue.

From Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet: "Your superb performance in Strike Warfare readiness and No-Fly Zone enforcement was a source of great pride for the Atlantic Fleet and our nation."

From Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic: "Your consistently superior performance throughout the deployment to the Mediterranean and the Middle East strengthened our nation's reputation and relationship with our allies."

SEPTEMBER 1998

04 SEP	Begin Leave Period 2
08 SEP - 11 SEP	LCDR Cordle (PXO) Visit
14 SEP - 18 SEP	SCLISIS Validation Visit
16 SEP	CPO Initiation
21 SEP	Underway/Moor Yorktown NWS
24 SEP	Underway/Moor NOB Norfolk Dependents Cruise
25 SEP	NATO SECRET Point Control Inspection

The second post deployment leave period began on 04 September. After the entire crew returned, COLE got underway for Naval Weapons Station Yorktown to offload some of the missiles that she had been carrying around the Arabian Gulf for the past six months.

COLE's Dependents' Cruise was scheduled for the transit back to Norfolk. Family members were bussed from Norfolk to Yorktown, embarked on COLE, and treated to a smooth ride and "tour" of the route back to Norfolk, narrated on the 1MC by LTJG Justin A. Kubu.

The integration of female personnel into COLE's crew also happened in September. This process went smoothly, and the women were quickly welcomed into COLE's team.

Three first class petty officers were promoted to Chief Petty Officer this month. MS1 Keith Davis, NC1 Terry Fassett, and EN1 Delbert Duba received their anchors and combination covers after having been found worthy of the honor by COLE's CPO Mess through grueling initiation.

OCTOBER 1998

01 OCT	Commissioning Ceremony ICO ENCS (SW) Harris
05 OCT	Underway for Mayport, FL
06 OCT - 07 OCT	Inport NAVSTA Mayport Crossdeck Missiles to USS Gettysburg
07 OCT	Underway En Route Fort Lauderdale, FL
08 OCT - 13 OCT	Inport Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, FL Broward County Navy Days
14 OCT	Underway for Mayport, FL
14 OCT - 19 OCT	Inport NAVSTA Mayport
16 OCT	RADM Suggs (CCG6) Visit/Luncheon
19 OCT - 23 OCT	Underway for NOB Norfolk Tiger Cruise
20 OCT	5"/54 Cal/CIWS PACFIRE
22 OCT	RAS w/ USNS LARAMIE
23 OCT	COMDESRON Two Two Visit Arrive NOB Norfolk
24 OCT	Admiral Paddock Visit
29 OCT - 10 NOV	SISCAL Visit
30 OCT	Awards Ceremony

COLE saw some more time underway as she sailed south to Mayport, Florida, to offload the rest of her missiles to USS GETTYSBURG. In less than 24 hours, COLE safely and successfully crossdecked 91 missiles, 250 five-inch rounds, and numerous small arms to GETTYSBURG. After completing the offload in record time, COLE got underway for Port Everglades, the port where she was commissioned, to participate in Broward Navy Days.

In the early morning hours of 06 October, COLE monitored a distress call from the fishing vessel Deep Pleasure I. When COLE's Officer of the Deck, ENS Matthew J. Hartley, determined that the vessel was only thirty miles away, COLE headed at flank speed towards the vessel. COLE arrived to find the small boat almost completely submerged and the two crew members floating nearby in a life raft. COLE dispatched a salvage and rescue team to ascertain the condition of the vessel and take the crew aboard. When it was determined that the vessel could not be saved, the team returned to COLE. The two fishermen were taken to Naval Base Mayport, and COLE continued on towards Port Everglades.

Broward Navy Days and the Fort Lauderdale Navy League made everyone on COLE feel welcome. There were receptions, parties, picnics, and other events scheduled throughout the week of 08-13 October at no cost to the crew.

On 23 October, COMDESRON TWO TWO conducted COLE's annual Navigation Checkride. COLE completed the checkride with no significant discrepancies, and was cited by the Commodore as "One of the best in the Squadron."

NOVEMBER 1998

03 NOV	GM1(SW) Booker Retirement Ceremony
06 NOV	PLOT I Outbrief
16 NOV - 29 JAN 99	Restricted Availability
24 NOV	COMDESRON Two Two Visit
30 NOV - 04 DEC	SISCAL Visit

After completing Pre Light-Off Training, Phase I (PLOT I), the focus became the three-month restricted availability period that COLE was entering. Every department had jobs requested for the civilian contractors to complete. COLE remained tied to the pier as her weather decks were stripped, sanded, and recovered with fresh non-skid; engine intake louvers were removed and refinished; and other repairs and modifications were carried out.

COLE also resumed sending volunteers to Hodges Manor Elementary School for the Partnership for Excellence program. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, several crew members would drive out to the Portsmouth school and act as tutors and teachers aides for the afternoon. The program had been running prior to deployment, and the teachers of Hodges Manor Elementary were happy to see us come back into their classrooms as role models for their students.

DECEMBER 1998

02 DEC - 04 DEC JO Shiphandling Training at MSI
10 DEC JO Shiphandling Competition (ENS
Hartley)
11 DEC COMNAVSURFLANT Christmas Ball
17 DEC - 28 DEC Holiday Leave Period 1
21 DEC CLF Inspector General Luncheon
30 DEC - 10 JAN 99 Holiday Leave Period 2

Restricted Availability continued through December as the crew anxiously awaited the beginning of the Holiday Leave Periods.

Some early Christmas presents arrived for two of COLE's crew members, as GSE1 Michael Faust and EM2 James Samman were accepted for the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

COLE's Wardroom and Chief's Mess attended the COMNAVSURFLANT Holiday Ball on 11 December, at the Waterside Marriott Hotel. Outstanding participation from both messes earned COLE a SWO flag from COMNAVSURFLANT as the prize for the highest percentage of khaki attending the ball.

COLE's engineering team demonstrated their holiday spirit as well. The Electricians Mates worked hard to bring to life the decorating ideas of the Chief Engineer, LT Tom Jean, and the Electrical Officer, ENS Matthew Hartley, as they created a display of thousands of Christmas lights on COLE's superstructure. This fantastic display, aided by LTJG Justin Kubu playing Santa and bribing the judges with eggnog and cookies, earned COLE the Captain's Trophy, Best Bribe Award, and Most Spirited Award. The Commanding Officer of NOB Norfolk stated that, between the great display and the food, COLE had "broken the code" for a successful holiday display.

CONCLUSION

From the 1998 Battenberg Cup Nomination Letter by CDR Richard J. Nolan Jr.:

"COLE set the pace as the leading combatant in the Atlantic Fleet... This lead covered fully the complete spectrum of operations a warship can conduct. The demanding challenges faced in 1998 took the ship completely through JTFEX, a challenging Arabian Gulf deployment, an accelerated weapons off-load, Broward County Navy Days, and a Pierside Restricted Availability. In every endeavor, the crew of COLE demonstrated their competitive spirit and willingness to go the extra distance to complete this myriad of events and be the best."

USS Cole earns 2nd Battle 'E'

"Glory is the reward of valor" is the hallmark of the "Determined Warriors" of USS Cole (DDG-67), who recently earned its second consecutive Battle "E" award for the 1998 cycle.

Commanded by Cmdr. Richard J. Nolan, Cole is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 22 and home ported in Norfolk since 1996. The ship completed its maiden deployment with the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) battle group in the summer of 1998.

The Cole's achievements are especially noteworthy considering the fact that the deployment was changed from a Mediterranean to a Gulf deployment on very short notice, necessitating an accelerated training cycle and a record high speed transit across the Atlantic.

While on station, Cole received the Navy Unit Commendation for superb performance in the battle group and for excellent readiness as a strike warfare platform.

It has been an exceptional year for Cole, as represented by the recent selections of the command's sailors of the quarter and sailors of the year for 1998, including awards for excellence in command and control, maritime warfare, logistics and engineering.

Additionally, the crew won the Captain's Cup for the second year running, a safety award and an award for having 100 percent qualification of eligible surface warfare officers.

"This award is a tribute to the fine sailors who have served on Cole since her commissioning," said Nolan, "from the first plank owners to the newest crew members - they have made the ship successful through their hard work and dedication."