



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS COLE (DDG 67)  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH),  
Naval Historical Center

Subj: USS COLE (DDG 67) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command History 2000 Write-up  
(2) Picture of Commanding Officer

1. Forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Sweeney", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

KEVIN M. SWEENEY

COMMAND HISTORY 2000  
USS COLE (DDG 67)

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

The mission of USS COLE (DDG 67) is to conduct prompt and sustained operations from the sea in the execution of higher authority tasking.

Homeport: Norfolk, VA  
Commissioned: 08 June 1996

Immediate Superior:

Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO  
Captain Michael J. Miller, USN  
01 JAN 00 - 08 OCT 00

Captain Gary M. Holst, USN  
09 OCT 00 - 31 DEC 00

Commanding Officer:

Commander Kirk S. Lippold, USN

Executive Officer:

LCDR John C. Peterschmidt, USN

Combat Systems Officer:

LCDR Richard M. Miller, USN  
01 JAN 00 - 07 FEB 00

LT Anthony Delatorre, USN  
07 FEB 00 - 31 DEC 00

Weapons Officer:

LT Anthony Delatorre, USN  
01 JAN 00 - 07 FEB 00

LT Monika Washington, USN  
07 FEB 00 - 20 JUN 00

LT Joseph Gagliano, USN  
20 JUN 00 - 31 DEC 00

Operations Officer:

LT Francis X. Castellano, USN  
01 JAN 00 - 20 MAR 00

LT Derek A. Trinque, USN  
20 MAR 00 - 31 DEC 00

Chief Engineer:

LT Deborah W. Courtney, USN

Supply Officer:

LTJG Cynthia Dailey, USNR  
01 JAN 00 - 07 AUG 00

LT Denise Woodfin, USN  
07 AUG 00 - 31 DEC 00

Navigator:

LT Ann C. Chamberlain, USNR

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Outstanding performance of duty during COMPTUEX 00-2 and JTFEX 00-2
  - Completed numerous exercises and events resulting in COLE being M-1 in all training mission areas.
  - Sank the EX-USS DALE during SINKEX.
  - Credited with the sinking of an "enemy" submarine during COMPTUEX 00-2
  - Completed a highly successful NSFS off of the island of Vieques.
- COLE has had numerous opportunities during the past year to demonstrate the crew's professionalism, superior seamanship, and dedicated service. Most notably after sustaining the 12 October terrorist attack.

2. CHRONOLOGY

11 JAN	HOLIDAY LEAVE EXPIRES FOR ALL HANDS
12-15 JAN	U/W VACAPES
28 FEB - 01 MAR	U/W VACAPES
07 MAR	U/W COMPTUEX 00-2
18 - 21 MAR	PVST MIAMI, FLORIDA
21 MAR - 07 APR	U/W COMPTUEX 00-2
05 APR	SINKEX OF EX-USS DALE
07 APR	ARRIVE NORFOLK
09 - 22 MAY	U/W JTFEX 00-2
25 - 28 MAY	U/W YORKTOWN
28 MAY	RETURN NORFOLK
21 - 30 JUN	U/W NSFS VIEQUES
30 JUN	POM LEAVE BEGINS
28 JUL	CREW RETURNS FROM POM LEAVE
08 AUG	COLE DEPLOYS WITH USS SIMPSON & USNS JOHN LENTHALL
08 - 18 AUG	TRANSLANT
18 AUG	INCHOP SIXTHFLT
21 - 25 AUG	PVST BARCELONA, SPAIN
25 - 28 AUG	U/W MEDITERRANEAN
28 - 01 SEP	PVST VILLEFRANCHE, FRANCE
01 - 04 SEP	U/W MEDITERRANEAN
04 - 07 SEP	PVST VALLETTA, MALTA

07 - 11 SEP U/W ADRIATIC

11 - 15 SEP PVST KOPER, SLOVENIA

15 SEP - 04 OCT U/W ADRIATIC, OPERATION SILENT LANCE

10 - 11 OCT TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL

10 OCT INCHOP FIFTHFLT

12 OCT REFUEL ADEN, YEMEN

12 OCT USS COLE TERRORIST ATTACK

12 - 31 OCT OPERATION DETERMINED RESPONSE

18 OCT USS COLE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN NORFOLK, VA

19 OCT COLE MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED

20 OCT ETC(SW) COSTELOW BURIED AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN ARLINGTON, VA

20 OCT SMSN GUNN BURIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN ARLINGTON, VA

20 OCT SN PALMER BURIAL AT MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY IN SAN DIEGO, CA

21 OCT SN WIBBERLY BURIED IN WILLIAMSPORT, MD

21 OCT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OS2(SW) SAUNDERS IN GRETNA, VA

22 OCT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR EW2 OWENS IN VERO BEACH, FL

25 OCT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ITSN GAUNA IN ENNIS, TX

25 OCT LTJG TRIPLETT BURIED IN HAMPTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN HAMPTON, VA

27 OCT ENFN PARLETT BURIED IN ABERDEEN, MD

27 OCT MS3 SANTIAGO BURIED KINGSVILLE, TX

27 OCT FN SWENCHONIS BURIED AT FORT SAM  
HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN SAN  
ANTONIO, TX

28 OCT MSSN FRANCIS BURIED AT NATIONAL  
CEMETERY IN SALISBURY, NC

28 OCT FN ROY BURIED AT ANTIETAM NATIONAL  
CEMETERY IN BOONSBORO, MD

28 OCT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR EW1 RUX AT DAVID  
ADAMS MEMORIAL CHAPEL IN NORFOLK, VA

29 OCT U/W ARABIAN SEA

30 OCT USS COLE PLACED ON MV BLUE MARLIN

30 OCT CREW U/W ON USS TARAWA

30 OCT USS COLE U/W ON MV BLUE MARLIN ENROUTE  
TO UNITED STATES

31 OCT HT2 CLODFELTER BURIED AT ARLINGTON  
NATIONAL CEMETERY IN ARLINGTON, VA

01 NOV CREW U/W ON USS TARAWA

01 NOV ITSN McDANIELS BURIED AT WOODLAWN  
MEMORIAL GARDENS IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

02 NOV CREW ARRIVES RHEIN-MAIN AFB, GERMANY

03 NOV CREW RETURNS NAVAL STATION NORFOLK

03 NOV CONVALESCENT LEAVE BEGINS

18 NOV MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR EN2 (SW) NIETO IN  
FOND DU LAC, WI

01 DEC CREW RETURNS FROM CONVALESCENT LEAVE

13 DEC USS COLE ARRIVES IN PASCAGOULA, MS

15 DEC CHRISTMAS STANDDOWN LEAVE BEGINS

24 DEC USS COLE PLACED BACK IN WATER

### 3. NARRATIVE

The first seven months of 2000 were spent completing the Intermediate and Advanced portions of the Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). From 07 March to 07 April, USS COLE participated in COMPTUEX 00-2 with COMGWBATGRU operating within the Gulf of Mexico operating areas. During the exercise, the ship received valuable training, including a SINKEX of the ex-USS DALE, TOWEX, PACFIRE, ASW, AAW, ASUW, Strike Warfare and Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO). COLE was the only ship not damaged by enemy forces during the hostilities phase.

From 09 to 22 May, USS COLE participated in the Joint Task Force Exercise 00-2 with COMGWBATGRU, operating within the Cherry Point and Virginia Capes Operating Areas. During JTFEX 00-2, COLE received additional training in AAW, ASUW, Strike Warfare and MIO.

In Jun, COLE departed Norfolk with the GWBATGRU and headed for Vieques to complete her last pre-deployment item- NSFS. Once finished, COLE, unlike the rest of the battle group, returned to Naval Station Norfolk because she was designated to be a late deployer. On 08 August, COLE departed on deployment. Her primary operating areas were the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas. During operations in Sixth Fleet, COLE patrolled the Adriatic Sea to help maintain stability in the former Republic of Yugoslavia during its elections.

On 10 October, COLE began her transit through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea. The morning of 12 October, COLE conducted a brief stop for fuel (BSF) in Aden, Yemen. While in port, COLE was attacked by terrorists in an explosive-laden small boat. The explosion created a 40' x 60' hole on the port side. The ship was badly damaged, but through perseverance and courage, the crew saved COLE from sinking in Aden Harbor. The ship's crew cannot be praised enough for their outstanding actions during those trying times.

The attack took the lives of seventeen sailors and wounded thirty-seven others. The deceased were:

HT2 Kenneth Clodfelter  
ETC(SW) Richard Costelow  
MSSN Lakeina Francis  
ITSN Timothy Gauna  
SMSN Cherone Gunn  
ITSN James McDaniels  
EN2(SW) Marc Nieto



EW2 Ronald Owens  
SN Lakiba Palmer  
ENFN Joshua Parlett  
FN Patrick Roy  
EW1 Kevin Rux  
MS3 Ronchester Santiago  
OS2(SW) Timothy Saunders  
FN Gary Swenchonis, Jr.  
LTJG Andrew Triplett  
SN Craig Wibberly

This attack caused a major international incident and received a tremendous amount of media coverage. USS COLE was the focal point of Operation Determined Response, during which she received aid from the USS HAWES, USS DONALD COOK, USS TARAWA ARG, and the United States Marine Corps 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST).

Most of the crew remained on board while COLE was fitted for towing. Once towed out of Aden Harbor, COLE was placed aboard the MV BLUE MARLIN and shipped back to Pascagoula, Mississippi for repairs.

A Memorial Service was held in Norfolk, VA on 18 October 2000 in honor of COLE's fallen heroes. In attendance at the service were the President of the United States, the Honorable William J. Clinton, Secretary of Defense, the Honorable William S. Cohen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard Danzig, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Robert J. Natter, and a host of family, friends, and sailors from COLE. The Memorial Service was held on Pier 12 between the USS EISENHOWER, USS ROSS, and USS McFAUL. A crowd of more than 15,000 people were in attendance. Perhaps the highlight of the ceremony came when seven ambulances arrived, carrying the 37 sailors that were flown back to the United States after receiving injuries in Yemen. The sailors waved out of the backs of the ambulances and received a thundering ovation from the crowd.

The day after the memorial service, the COLE Memorial Tree was planted by families of deceased COLE sailors. The tree was planted at IOWA Point on Naval Station Norfolk to be seen by all as a reminder of our fallen heroes.

On 3 November 2000, the remaining members of USS COLE arrived back at home in Norfolk, VA. Thousands of family, friends, and national media greeted the crew upon their arrival.

On 13 December 2000, COLE arrived in Pascagoula, MS at the Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding aboard the Norwegian heavy transport ship, MV BLUE MARLIN. After receiving a patch to cover the hole from the blast, COLE was placed back into the water on 24 December. COLE is expected to undergo a process of restoration and upgrades that will last approximately a year and a half. The total for COLE's repair is estimated to be \$240 million.