



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS COLE (DDG 67)  
FPO AE 09566-1285

Reply 6/29/00  
W/O disk

IN REPLY/REFER TO:

5720

Ser Exec/152

14 JUN 00

From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)  
To: Director of Naval History, (N09BNH), Naval Historical  
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg 57,  
Washington, DC 20374-5060

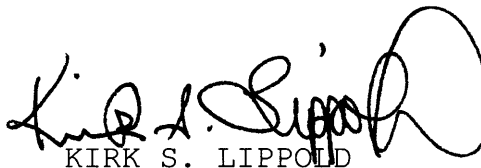
Subj: USS COLE (DDG 67) COMMAND HISTORY REPORT FOR FY 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Summary of events  
(2) Commanding Officer Biography

1999

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.

  
KIRK S. LIPPOLD

COMMAND HISTORY 1999  
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  
01 JAN 1999 - 25 JUN 1999

Commander Kirk S. Lippold, USN  
25 JUN 1999 - 31 DEC 1999

Executive Officer:  
CDR John P. Cordle, USN  
01 JAN 99 - 17 DEC 1999  
  
LCDR John C. Peterschmidt, USN  
17 DEC 99 - 31 DEC 1999

Combat System Officer:  
LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 99 - 07 JAN 99

LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
07 JAN 99 - 31 DEC 99

Weapons Officer:  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 99 - 14 MAY 99

LT [REDACTED], USN  
14 MAY 99 - 31 DEC 99

Operations Officer:  
LT [REDACTED], USN

Chief Engineer:  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 99 - 01 NOV 99

LT [REDACTED], USN  
01 NOV 99 - 31 DEC 99

Supply Officer:

LT [REDACTED], SC, USN  
01 JAN 99 - 10 DEC 99

LTJG [REDACTED], USNR  
10 DEC 99 - 31 DEC 99

Navigator:

LTJG [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 99 - 02 JUN 99

LTJG [REDACTED], USNR  
02 JUN 99 - 31 DEC 99

PORTS OF CALL 1999

1999

Yorktown, VA  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba  
Curacao, Netherlands Antilles  
Newport, RI  
New York City, NY  
Port Everglades, FL  
Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico  
Tortola, BVI  
Miami, FL

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Flawless completion of Engineering Qualification in March 1999. The first CLF ship to demonstrate E-QUAL to CDS22 and the new CLF Engineering Qualification Team.
- Successful completion of a short-notice, six-week Counter Narcotics Operations period. Specifically praised by Commander, JIATF EAST for duties as ADC and COLE's distinctive efforts in reducing the flow of narcotics.
- Successful completion of a flawless Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification three months earlier than scheduled, in less than half the normal training time.
- First CDS22 ship to successfully complete Final Evaluation Period and subsequently the Basic Phase of the improved Inter-Deployment Training Cycle.
- Specifically praised by CNSL and CDS22 for superior logistics battle readiness on LMA; overall score of "Excellent", with all scores above 96%.
- Outstanding performance of duty during CDS22 Group Sail.
  - Received praise from CCG4 and CCDG2 for outstanding performance as OPFOR for IKEBATGRU ITA. Scored one ship and two aircraft "kills."
  - Praised for participation in PCO OPS from both CSL and CCDG2.
  - Completed numerous exercises and events resulting in COLE being M-1 in all training mission areas with the exception of AMW.
  - Completed a highly successful VANDALEX missile firing and tracking exercise.
- COLE aggressively pursued every opportunity to conduct all forms of training and testing including participation in SLAMEXs, PACFIRES, communications exercises, and multi-ship training opportunities.

- Routinely excelled in performance of duties during short notice tasking as CDS22 and SLAMEX FOTC. Specifically praised by TACTRAGRULANT for excellent feedback.
- Embarked C2F as TSC and executed duties as LAC, FOTC, and FRU during SLAMEX 50-99.
- Successfully demonstrated the first-ever operational test of EHF MARCEMP in the LANTFLT AOR.
- Quick responsiveness in supporting USS GEORGE WASHINGTON as plane guard.
- COLE has had numerous opportunities during the past year to demonstrate the crew's professionalism, superior seamanship, and attention to duty. COLE has routinely been called upon to host a wide variety of special guests and tours including:
  - Hosting the National Defense University Capstone Visit.
  - Outstanding Navy representative during two CLF high priority port visits to New York City Fleet Week 1999, Broward Navy Days in Fort Lauderdale, and USSOUTHCOM high-visibility visit to Miami, FL. Specifically praised by COMPHIBRON TWO, CCDG2, and USSOUTHCOM. Over 5,000 visitors toured COLE in 1999.
  - Hosted special Congressional Staff Delegation and distinguished German Parliamentary members and numerous other special interest tours for RSG.
  - During CNSL high priority visit to SWOSCOLCOM as school ship, participated in highly visible Partnership for Peace "Maritime Operational Language Seminar".

JANUARY 1999

11 JAN	HOLIDAY LEAVE EXPIRES FOR ALL HANDS
12 JAN - 14 JAN	PLOT II
19 JAN - 29 JAN	SINGLE SHIP USW TEAM TRAINER
22 JAN	HAIL AND FAREWELL
25 JAN - 28 JAN	LIGHT-OFF ASSESSMENT (LOA)
29 JAN	AMMUNITION ONLOAD
29 JAN	FAST CRUISE

After the end of the holiday leave period, COLE got back into the normal routine quickly. Some major engineering events took place in January. Pre-Light-Off Training Phase II (PLOT II) put the crew through their paces during a three-day series of engineering and damage control training scenarios, including in-port and underway firefighting and General Quarters drills. This training was put to use during the four-day Light-Off Assessment, during which COLE was evaluated on our ability to operate our propulsion plant safely. COLE passed LOA with flying colors and received a "Bravo Zulu" from COMDESRON TWO TWO. The Engineering Department is now one less hurdle away from passing the Engineering Certification (E-Cert).

FEBRUARY 1999

01 FEB - 04 FEB U/W FOR YORKTOWN  
02 FEB REPLENISHMENT AT SEA  
5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE  
04 FEB INPORT YORKTOWN  
AMMUNITION ONLOAD  
UNDERWAY FOR NORFOLK  
MOORED NORFOLK  
05 FEB HELO FIREFIGHTING TEAM TRAINER  
06 FEB SEA CADET TOUR  
10 FEB MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GSM3 BLACKMON  
12 FEB CG LEDET/CD OPS TRAINING  
17 FEB - 19 FEB UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA

It was with great sorrow that the COLE family held a memorial service for GSM3 Napoleon Blackmon on 10 February. GSE3 Blackmon was on terminal leave—soon to be leaving the Navy—when he was killed in an automobile accident near his home. He was an outstanding petty officer and a member of the COLE team. COLE extends heartfelt condolences to the Blackmon family.

February, despite being the shortest month of the year, was one of the busiest for COLE. COLE found out early in February that it was being assigned to Counter-Narcotics Operations in the Caribbean for approximately 90 days, and this made accomplishing training and passing inspections all the more important. To that end, both the Engineering Training Group and Combat Systems Training Group were onboard for a short underway period to evaluate and train for upcoming E-Cert and Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification events. COLE's Medical Department passed its annual evaluation with flying colors—BZ to HMC [REDACTED].

COLE also officially received notification of receipt of the 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Battle "E" Award. RADM Route sent COLE a message of congratulations:

"To the Officers and Crew of COLE, please accept my personal congratulations for your well deserved selection as a CNSL Battle Efficiency Award recipient for 1998. This tremendous achievement is even more noteworthy as COLE was recognized as the best among an extremely impressive and accomplished squadron of ships. I am very proud of each and every one of you. This prestigious award is truly the result of a team effort and clearly marks you as a

superstar. Bravo Zulu on a job well done. You are a most welcome addition to the warfighting team of the George Washington Battle Group."



MARCH 1999

03 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
07 MAR	ARRIVE NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY
08 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR CARIBBEAN SEA
14 MAR	BURIAL AT SEA
18 MAR	ARRIVE CURACAO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
22 MAR	UNDERWAY FOR CARIBBEAN SEA
31 MAR	ARRIVE ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO

The beginning of March saw the beginning of Counter-Narcotics operations in the Caribbean for USS COLE. The transit to the Caribbean included a stop for fuel at the Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. While there wasn't much liberty time, there was enough for some people to take the Fenceline Tour, a walk along the perimeter fence that separates the base from the rest of Cuba and was a focal point for Cold War tensions during the 1980s. After spending a day in Cuba, COLE was underway for the Caribbean.

Unlike the boarding operations that COLE conducted in the Arabian Gulf last year, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) was embarked for that purpose. This LEDET was specifically trained and equipped to determine which vessels were suspect and to board and search for drugs if necessary. Unfortunately, they didn't see much action, as COLE boarded only one vessel during her time in the Caribbean.

After two weeks in the Caribbean, COLE made her first liberty port visit to Curacao, in the Netherlands Antilles. Curacao boasted some excellent beaches and clubs, which made for an excellent liberty port, giving the crew a chance to unwind before returning to Counter-Drug Operations. One more week underway, and COLE stopped at the Naval Station in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

APRIL 1999

03 APR	UNDERWAY FROM ROOSEVELT ROADS
06 APR	ARRIVE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
07 APR	UNDERWAY FOR NORFOLK
10 APR	ARRIVE NORFOLK

After being underway for a month and a half, COLE's crew was happy to return home. Things stayed busy, though, especially for the Combat Information Center watchstanders. Throughout the underway time and continuing through the month of April, the Strike Officer and his band of Tomahawk and Harpoon missile shooters worked almost daily to get ready for the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification, running computer-driven scenarios in CIC and taking exams to test knowledge. One more week to go...

In addition to CMTQ, preps were being made for COLE's next major commitment—a week of serving as the School Ship in Newport, RI, followed by Fleet Week in New York City. Fleet Week promised to be both lots of work and lots of fun.

MAY 1999

05 MAY	CMTQ TEST
17 MAY	UNDERWAY FOR NEWPORT, RI
17 MAY - 18 MAY	TIGER CRUISE
18 MAY	ARRIVE NEWPORT, RI
19 MAY - 22 MAY	PHYSICAL READINESS TEST
26 MAY	ARRIVE PIER 88, NEW YORK CITY
27 MAY	SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
	ARM WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
	DAVID LETTERMAN SHOW TAPING
28 MAY	BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
	SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
29 MAY	SEAMANSHIP COMPETITION
30 MAY	BEST CHOW CONTEST
	SOCCER TOURNAMENT
31 MAY	KINGS COUNTY PARADE

May was another busy month for COLE. To start out the month well, the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Test went without a hitch. Bravo Zulu to EWCS [REDACTED], FC1 [REDACTED], and OS2 [REDACTED] for nearly acing the CMTQ exam!

COLE transited to Newport, RI to serve as the School Ship for the different courses taught in Newport. While in Newport, COLE was visited by students from Division Officer School, Department Head School, and the Naval War College.

New York City Fleet Week was the most exciting, and busiest, time of the month for COLE. COLE sailors participated in events such as softball, basketball, and soccer tournament, an arm wrestling competition, and a seamanship competition. In addition, COLE fielded an honor guard which participated in the opening ceremonies for a Mets baseball game and in the Kings County Parade, in which over fifty COLE Sailors marched through the streets of Queens.

Over four thousand visitors toured COLE during Fleet Week, keeping the crew busy on duty days. The rest of the time was excellent liberty, as our Sailors took advantage of everything that New York City had to offer: plays, shopping, dining, sightseeing. The Navy was welcomed by New York City, with discounts and free admission to many of the clubs and theatres. Everybody had a great time, which made the hard work to prepare for and participate in Fleet Week worthwhile.

JUN 1999

02 JUN	UNDERWAY FROM NEW YORK CITY
04 JUN	UNREP W/ USS KANAWHA CHAFF LAUNCHING EXERCISE
07 JUN	MOORED NOB NORFOLK
14 JUN	PCO ARRIVES
14 JUN - 16 JUN	UNDERWAY FOR FEP
15 JUN	UNREP W/ USNS BIG HORN
16 JUN	5"/54 CAL/CIWS TDU SHOOT MOORED NORFOLK
18 JUN	HAIL AND FAREWELL (CO AND PCO)
22 JUN	BERTH SHIFT TO NAUTICUS
25 JUN	CHANGE OF COMMAND
29 JUN	UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA
30 JUN	5"/54 CAL PACFIRE UNREP W/ USNS BIG HORN

Two major events highlighted the month of June for COLE: the successful completion of the Final Evaluation Period (FEP) and CDR Nolan's relief as Commanding Officer by CDR Kirk Lippold.

During COLE's underway period from 14 JUN to 16 JUN, the FEP evaluators were onboard and graded COLE's ability to perform several evolutions while underway. Firefighting, General Quarters, Underway Replenishment, Medical Capabilities and Readiness, Man Overboard Procedures, CIWS, and 5"/54 Cal shooting proficiency were examined, and COLE excelled through all of them. The 5"/54 Cal TDU shoot actually destroyed the target drone, something that the pilot of the tow plane had never seen happen before.

COLE bade farewell to her Commanding Officer, Commander Richard J. Nolan, Jr., on 25 June. Commander (Captain Select) Nolan headed up to Newport, Rhode Island, to run the Command Department at Surface Warfare Officer School.

Assuming command of COLE is CDR Kirk S. Lippold, whose biography is attached.

COLE got underway for four days to give CDR Lippold an opportunity to put the ship and crew through their paces before returning to Norfolk for a two-month availability period.

JUL 99

01 JUL - 02 JUL        U/W VACAPES OPAREA  
01 JUL                5"/54 CAL PACFIRE & TDU SHOOT  
02 JUL                5"/54 CAL PACFIRE  
                      REXTORP FIRING  
                      MOOR NOB NORFOLK  
03 JUL                FMAV BEGINS

Although COLE didn't see much time underway in July, it was still a busy month. Lots of training and briefs were held, many of them in preparation for the upcoming Group Sail in October-November. Scenarios were run in Combat Information Center at least once per week, the sonar technicians received training on the SIMAS II upgrade to the sonar suite, and the engineers conducted training on the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration systems. July also saw the beginning of the C4I installs for the George Washington Battle Group, the start of a major push to get the battle group ready to go on deployment with IT-21 connectivity.

AUG 99

12 AUG	AWARDS CEREMONY
20 AUG	DC1 [REDACTED] REENLISTMENT GSMC [REDACTED] COMMISSIONING
21 AUG	FMAV ENDS
23 AUG	UNDERWAY FOR NWS YORKTOWN 5"/54 CAL/CIWS PACFIRE
24 AUG	MOORED NWS YORKTOWN
25 AUG	UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA
26 AUG	UNREP W/ USNS PATUXENT BURIAL AT SEA .
27 AUG	MOORED NOB NORFOLK

August was another month of training punctuated by a brief underway period. Force Air Defense Coordinator (FADC) team training and Harpoon team training were held, in addition to two SLAMEXs. In addition, COLE's Officers of the Deck, Junior Officers of the Deck, and Conning Officers received two days of training at the Marine Safety International (MSI) shiphandling trainer.

The prospective Chief Petty Officers held a number of car washes as part of their initiation rites. All through the month of August, the soon-to-be Chiefs could be seen obeying the time-honored traditions of initiation before earning their anchors.

While the CPO's mess was going to be gaining several members, it lost a member to the Wardroom. GSMC [REDACTED] was commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer on 20 August. Congratulations, CW02 [REDACTED]!

COLE's availability period ended on 21 August, and COLE got underway for Yorktown 23-27 August to onload some weapons for the upcoming Group Sail.

SEP 99

08 SEP	ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE VISIT
13 SEP - 24 SEP	CSRR
15 SEP	UNDERWAY HURRICANE SORTIE
16 SEP	CPO PINNING CEREMONY
18 SEP	MOORED NOB NORFOLK
21 SEP	MISSILE ONLOAD
24 SEP	AWARDS CEREMONY

Hurricane Floyd, a category V Hurricane, caused the ships berthed in Norfolk to sortie on 15 September. As Floyd tracked up the East Coast, COLE was out at sea. As a result, the new Chief Petty Officers received their pins while underway. They got underway in dungarees, and came home to greet their families in khaki.

Combat Systems Readiness Review, Phase 1 began on 13 September and lasted two weeks. This preliminary examination of the ship's combat and communications systems marked the beginning of a lengthy process that, ultimately, will ensure that COLE is ready to deploy with all her combat systems in peak condition.

OCT 99

01 OCT UNDERWAY FOR VACAPES OPAREA  
01 OCT - 04 OCT TIGER CRUISE  
04 OCT MOORED PORT EVERGLADES  
04 OCT - 11 OCT BROWARD NAVY DAYS  
12 OCT UNDERWAY FOR PUERTO RICO OPAREA  
15 OCT - 14 NOV COMDESRON TWO TWO GROUP SAIL  
18 OCT MOORED NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS  
19 OCT UNDERWAY FOR PUERTO RICO OPAREA  
23 OCT TOWEX  
ASWEX W/ BRISCOE AND SIMPSON  
25 OCT BSF AT NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS  
28 OCT ANCHORED TORTOLA, BVI

October saw activity on COLE ramp up quickly. From being (mostly) alongside a pier for the previous two months, COLE went into high gear, starting with a Tiger Cruise. Several family members and guests sailed with COLE down to Port Everglades, Florida, including some relatives of COLE's namesake, SGT Darrell Samuel Cole, USMCR.

The tigers left COLE in Port Everglades, but the fun had just begun for COLE's crew. Port Everglades, where COLE was commissioned, is easily the friendliest port that the ship has ever visited. This year made it three in a row for COLE to visit during Broward Navy Days, a week of events and parties that the Navy League and Broward Navy Days organization puts on for visiting ships.

COLE, of course, gave something back to the Fort Lauderdale community. Several community service projects gave COLE Sailors a chance to show appreciation for everything that was being done for them. Community service events included building houses for Habitat For Humanity, visiting local schools, or participating in the Walk-A-Kid-To-School event. COLE was also opened for tours, and was complimented on giving the best tour of all the ships in Port Everglades.

All good things must end, and COLE bade farewell to Port Everglades, heading out towards the Puerto Rico Operating Area to begin the COMESRON TWO TWO Group Sail. Group Sail was a month of exercises that included towing exercises, small boat/VBSS team exercises, ASW exercises, and a chance for COLE to play the bad guy as it became the opposing force (OPFOR) in a wargame against the Eisenhower



Battle Group. It was much hard work, but COLE's crew got a break during a visit to Tortola, one of the British Virgin Islands.

01 NOV	UNDERWAY
	MOOR TO BUOY
	UNREP W/ USNS LARAMIE
02 NOV - 04 NOV	ASW OPERATIONS
04 NOV	MOOR TO BUOY
08 NOV	MOORED MIAMI, FL
12 NOV	UNDERWAY
13 NOV	AWARDS CEREMONY
15 NOV	VANDALEX
	NIGHT UNREP W/ USNS LARAMIE
16 NOV	MOORED NOB NORFOLK

Group Sail excitement continued into November. COLE participated in a three-day-long group ASW exercise, and finished out Group Sail with a VANDALEX. COLE fired an SM2 Standard missile and scored a hit on the VANDAL, a cruise missile converted for use as a target drone. Following the VANDALEX, COLE topped off her fuel tanks in a night UNREP with USNS LARAMIE, then headed home to Norfolk the next day.

DEC 99

02 DEC	AWARDS CEREMONY COLE CHRISTMAS PARTY
10 DEC	UNDERWAY VACAPES OPAREA
11 DEC - 14 DEC	AIR DEFENSE EXERCISES (ADEX)
13 DEC	UNREP W/ USS GEORGE WASHINGTON BURIAL AT SEA
15 DEC	UNREP W/ USS ARCTIC MOORED NOB NORFOLK

December is usually a very good month for COLE, and this year was no exception. A very successful Holiday party in Virginia Beach started off the month, getting everyone in the mood for the holidays.

COLE was underway for only five days in December, but it was a busy five days. Most of the underway period was spent in support of Air Defense Exercises with USS NORMANDY, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON and our deployment Air Wing, CVN-17. COLE also participated in underway replenishments with both USS ARCTIC and USS GEORGE WASHINGTON.

After returning to Norfolk, COLE's electricians immediately went to work on this year's Christmas light display. When the judges came to the pier, they were greeted not only with COLE's outstanding light arrangement, but with homemade eggnog and cookies. As a result of the electricians' hard work and the Commanding Officer's eggnog recipe, COLE received the Sailors' Choice Award in the Holiday Decorama contest.