

COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT 2006
USS COLE (DDG 67)

Homeport: Norfolk, VA
Commissioned: 08 June 1996
UIC: 21941

Command Composition and Organization

Immediate Superior:

Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO
CAPT Clifford S. Sharpe, USN
01 JAN 06- 31 DEC 06

Commanding Officer:

CDR Bradley W. Roberson, USN
01 JAN 06 - 31 DEC 06

Executive Officer:

LCDR Rodney Daniels, USN
01 JAN 06 - 31 DEC 06

Combat Systems Officer:

LCDR [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 06 - 31 DEC 06

Weapons Officer:

LCDR [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 06 - 16 JAN 06

LT [REDACTED], USN
16 JAN 06- 31 DEC 06

Operations Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 06 - 06 NOV 06

LT [REDACTED] USN
06 NOV 06- 31 DEC 06

Chief Engineer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 06 - 22 MAY 06

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
22 MAY 06- 31 DEC 06

Supply Officer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 06 - 31 DEC 06

Navigator:

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR
01 JAN 06 - 20 JUN 06

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
20 JUN 06- 31 DEC 06

January 2006

29 December-8 January	Holiday Stand Down
1-15 January	Operation Noble Eagle- New York
4-5 January	IWO JIMA ESG CENTRIXS TRNG
9-13 January	IWO JIMA GRUSAIL I
10-12 January	WISEX
12 January	SLAMEX 02-06
14-20 January	IWO JIMA GRUSAIL II
19 January	SLAMEX 03-06
23-27 January	Hull Cleaning
26 January	ESGINT pre-sail
26 January	SLAMEX 04-06

January began with the end of the Holiday Stand Down as COLE was involved in Operation Noble Eagle- New York. Throughout the next four weeks, COLE participated in group sails and training evolutions with the IWO JIMA Expeditionary Strike Group in preparation of the upcoming deployment in June. COLE completed three successful SLAMEXs in the month of January.

<u>February 2006</u>		
30 January- 3 February	24 MEU VBSS Course	
30 January-13 February	Noble Eagle & MHL D Primary	
2 February	SLAMEX 05-06	
3 February	ISG C4I Fast Cruise	
6-14 February	ESGINT (U/W)	
9 February	SLAMEX 06-06	
14-16 February	WISEX	
16 February	SLAMEX 07-06	
20 February- 17 March	Continuous Maintenance Avail	
23 February	SLAMEX 08-06	

COLE participated in Operation Noble Eagle in the beginning half of February. 20 FEB began the Continuous Maintenance Avail and continued until 17 MAR 06. COLE successfully completed four SLAMEXs in February.

March 2006

2 March	SLAMEX 09-06
5-12 March	IWO ESG TRUEX
9 March	SLAMEX 10-06
13-14 March	IWO ESG ATFPEX
26-27 March	Operation Noble Eagle- PRI, MHLD Alt
27 March	SLAMEX 13-06
28-31 March	IWO JIMA ESGEX

COLE began the month with an IWO JIMA ESG TRUEX which took place the week of 5 MAR, and successfully completed Anti Terrorism/ Force Protection Exercise on 12 MAR. COLE was also the primary ship for Operation Noble Eagle on 26-27 MAR. Three SLAMEXs were successfully completed this month.

April 2006

28 March- 14 April	IWO JIMA ESGEX (U/W)
12-14 April	ESG/MEU SACCEX
17-21 April	Ammunition Onload (YORKTOWN)
19-20 April	ISG CERTEX Presail
23-26 April	SAR CERT
21-23 April	SECNAV Tour

COLE was underway with the IWO JIMA ESG from 28 MAR to 14 APR. On 17 APR 06, COLE went to Yorktown to receive her onload for deployment in JUN.

May 2006

4-5 May Ammunition Onload (pierside)

11 May-1 June POM Period

Final preparations took place during the month of May. COLE received a final onload of ammunition and began POM leave on 11 MAY 06.

June 2006

02 June 12 MIDN embark for Summer Cruise

02 June ENS ██████, ENS ██████, ENS ██████ qualify SWO

02 June Promotion ceremony for LTJG ██████, LTJG ██████, LTJG ██████, LT ██████, and LCDR ██████

06 June Frocking ceremony for E-4's and E-5's

06 June IWO, NASHVILLE, and WHIDBEY ISLAND u/w for Onslow Bay to embark 24 MEU (SOC)

08 June U/W for deployment with IWOSTRKGRU

09 June RNDVS with IWOSTRKGRU for TRANSLANT

11 June RAS with USNS ARCTIC

11 June ENS ██████ and ENS ██████ qualify SWO

12 June Inchop C6F

13 June 24 MEU Force Recon Plt brief for STROG/Suez

14 June RAS with IWO JIMA

17 June - 22 June PVST Gibraltar, UK

21 June Sir Francis Richards, Governor of Gibraltar, toured COLE

25 June INPT Souda Bay, Crete for refueling

26 June - 01 July PVST Pireaus/Athens, Greece

28 June Reception onboard for U.S. Ambassador to Greece

COLE embarked on deployment on 08 JUNE 2006 with IWOSTRKGRU, which included COLE, BULKELEY, IWO JIMA, NASHVILLE, WHIDBEY ISLAND, and ALBUQUERQUE. COLE departed with twelve Midshipmen on board and headed towards our first stop in Sixth Fleet, Gibraltar, UK. The Wardroom and Crew enjoyed the bars, shops and climbing the "Rock" of the small British town of Gibraltar. COLE proceeded to Souda Bay, Crete for a brief stop for fuel. In Pireaus, many ventured into Athens to take tours of the ruins of the ancient city. While in Pireaus, COLE hosted a reception for the U.S. Ambassador to Greece. Other dignitaries, those working in the embassy and Greek fleet officers came during the reception as well. The Midshipmen departed the ship in Pireaus. In the month of June, COLE successfully completed two replenishments at sea and two port visits.

July 2006

04 July	Suez Canal Transit - Inchop C5F Escort duties for ALQ
07 July	REXTORP firing exercise with PHILIPPINE SEA AND BULKELEY
08-27 July	Pulse Group Commander (PGC) for CTF 150, Operation Determined Azadi
08 July	RAS with USNS BIG HORN
09 July	COLE passes Port of Aden, Yemen and executes Honors
12 July	VERTREP with USNS SATURN
12-31 July	Operation DETERMINED AZADI in Gulf of Aden

On 4 JUL 06, COLE marked her historic return to the fifth fleet since the terrorist bombing in 2000. COLE escorted ALBEQUERQUE through the Canal and was on station as Pulse Group Commander for Operation Determined Azadi on 08 JUL 06. 09 JUL 06 marked another historic event, when COLE passed Aden, Yemen. The Officers and Crew rendered honors towards Aden, in remembrance of the seventeen Sailors who lost their lives 11 OCT 00. COLE successfully completed one replenishment at sea and one vertical replenishment.

August 2006

2 August	Suez Canal Transit- Northbound Outchop C5F/ Inchop C6F
3 August	RAS w/ USNS KANAWHA
3-22 August	ONSTA w/ IWOSTRKGRU for NEO OPS
5 August	Flight ops
7 August	PAX transfer-flight ops
8 August	PAX transfer-flight ops
10 August	RAS w/ USNS KANAWHA
12 August	Escort duties for NSH, flight ops
14-18 August	PVST Limassol, Cyprus
20 August	RHIB ops for part transfer
22 August	Turnover YZ duties to BAR
23 August	Suez Canal Transit- Southbound Outchop C6F/ Inchop C5F
24 August	GOA 1, Flight ops (PAX transfer/holy helo)
28 August	PAX transfer, flight ops
29 August	GOA 1/ GOA 2
30 August	Flight Ops, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen visit Full Power Run
31 August	PAX transfer w/ USNS YUKON RAS w/ USNS YUKON

On 2 AUG 06, COLE received the order to head north to take place in Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) off the coast of Lebanon. COLE was on station for NEO from 3-22 AUG. During this period, COLE escorted USS NASHVILLE and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND into the coast of Lebanon. On the 14 AUG 06, COLE enjoyed a port visit in Limassol, Cyprus. COLE once again returned to Fifth Fleet on 23 AUG 06. COLE successfully completed three replenishments in the month of August.

September 2006

1 September	CO dinner with CTF 150 onboard IWO JIMA
3 September	PUC transfer from NSH via RHIB
5 September	GOA 2/HOA1 PUC transfer to SAI via flight ops RAS w/ FGS SPESSART
7-23 September	Pulse Unit for CTF 150 Operation Waltzing Octopus
15 September	CIWS PACFIRE
17 September	RAS w/ LEROY GRUMMAN
20 September	TACTAS/NIXIE ops
21 September	RAS w/ BRAMBLELEAF
22 September	RADM Heinrich Lange, GRN, CTF 150 visit
25 September	SOH transit, inchop CTF 152
27 September- 2 October	PVST Bahrain
28 September	Official Calls on CUSNC staff

September began in the Gulf of Aden. COLE participated in Operation Waltzing Octopus and successfully completed three replenishments at sea for the month of September. On 22 SEP 06, COLE hosted a visit from RADM Heinrich Lange, German Navy on her way to the first port visit in Fifth Fleet, Bahrain. On 27 SEP 06, the Officers and Crew visited Bahrain during Ramadan after a 45 day underway period.

October 2006

8-22 October	Pulse Group Commander for CTF 150 Operation Sweeping Octopus
9 October	RAS with RAF SPESSART
12 October	6 year anniversary of terrorist attack
14 October	Boarded CAT I COI # 145
15 October	RAS with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
18 October	CO/TRAINO/OPS visit to Schlessig-Holstein
19 October	RAS with USNS TIPPICANOE
23 October	Strait of Hormuz transit
24-29 October	PVST Jebel Ali
29 October	RAS WITH USNS TIPPICANOE
30 October- 2 November	SADC/ Greencrown/ SCC for CTF 152 Pulse Operation Cooperative Khallijii
30 October- 4 November	ULTRA-C Dress Rehearsal

On 12 OCT 06, the Officers and Crew remembered the seventeen sailors lost in the attack in 2000 through a ceremony that took place at 1118, the time of the attack. The bell was rung seventeen times; there was a moment of silence followed by a prayer. CDR Roberson, LTJG [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] enjoyed a lunch visit to the German ship, Schlessig-Holstein, hosted by RADM Admiral Lang, Task Force 150. During COLE's port visit to Jebel Ali, the wardroom held a hail and farewell for LT [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED] and LTJG [REDACTED] at the Seaman Center in Dubai. While in Dubai many members of the crew enjoyed Camel rides, Sunset Dinner Cruises on a Dhow and the ski slope Ski Dubai, in the Mall of the Emerites. COLE successfully completed four replenishments in the month of October.

November 2006

2 November	Southbound Strait of Hormuz transit RAS w/ USNS TIPPECANOE PAX medical transfer with Pakistani ship/SAIPAN
5 November	RAS with USNS LARAMIE Begin transit towards Suez with PSE/BUL
7 November	Rejoin IWO ESG
8 November	Suez Canal Transit- Northbound Outchop C5F/Inchop C6F
9 November	Visit from IWOSTRKGRU, CAPT Kyker
11 November	Strait of Messina Transit Awards Ceremony
13-19 November	PVST Civitavecchia, Italy
14 November	LT ██████ assumes duties as EMO
19 November	DLQs with Sixth Fleet
21 November	Strait of Gibraltar transit
22 November	RAS w/ John Lenthall VERTREP w/ Wolfpack (BULKELEY)
24 November	CIWS PACFIRE / m60 shoot /Boat OPS with BULKELEY
28 November	Outchop C6F/ Inchop C2F
29 November	Holiday Safety Stand Down

On the first of the month, COLE began her transit home after a successful deployment. However, November was still filled with many evolutions such as PAX/crypto/parts transfers and three replenishments at sea. COLE rejoined the IWO JIMA Expeditionary Strike Group for the final Suez Canal transit on 08 NOV 06. COLE hosted Commodore Kyker on the 9 NOV 06 and during transit towards Civitavecchia, Italy. The Wardroom welcomed LT ██████ ██████ as the new EMO while on the transit towards the final port visit of Lisbon, Portugal. Treacherous weather, however, caused the COLE and BULKELEY to CANEX a Portugal port visit. Finally on the 28 NOV 06, COLE outchopped of Sixth Fleet.

December 2006

2 December	PAX transfer via RHIB & RAS w/ PATUXENT
6 December	INPORT Norfolk, VA/ Deployment 2006 Homecoming
11-14 December	Yorktown Weapons Offload
15 December- 8 January	Holiday Stand Down

COLE returned to homeport on 06 DEC 2006. The Sea and Anchor transit began at 0400 in the morning and pulled into pier 7 at approximately 0800. CDR Roberson took part in two telephone interviews with local news stations. Crowds of family and news media anxiously awaited COLE's arrival. Special liberty was granted for the next three days and on Monday, 11 DEC 06, COLE was underway once again for her offload in Yorktown. Over the past week, COLE underwent a smooth offload evolution and began her Holiday Stand Down on 15 DEC 06.