

16 Apr 10

From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)  
To: Naval Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breesse Street  
SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060  
  
Subj: USS COLE (DDG 67) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDER  
YEAR 2009

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J

Encl: (1) USS COLE 2009 Command Operations Report  
(2) Commander's Assessment 2009  
(3) USS COLE (DDG 67) Chronology and Narrative for  
2009  
(4) Photo and Biography of Commanding Officer  
(5) Photo of USS COLE (DDG 67)

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are  
submitted for COLE's Command History for calendar year 2009  
(UIC 21941).

AILEEN P. MATTSON  
By Direction

## **Commander's Assessment, 2009**

2009 was a busy and productive year for COLE as she prepared for the 2010 deployment. COLE spent February acting as the opposing force for the USS BATAAN in the Jacksonville and Virginia Capes Operating Areas. This provided invaluable ship-handling, tactical maneuvering and operational training for all hands as they put their skills into action during real time scenarios. It was also valuable at-sea time, as COLE would spend April through June in drydock. Upon emergence from BAE shipyards in July, COLE began to prepare for an unprecedented ten-week compressed training cycle in preparation for Exercise Joint Warrior in the fall. The crew worked tirelessly during these months to prepare the engineering plant, combat systems teams, and warfare areas for assessment. The dedication of COLE Sailors was evident when, only two weeks after leaving the yards, COLE's engineering team passed Engineering Unit Level Training (ULTRA-E), with Combined Unit Level Training (ULTRA-C) to follow at the beginning of August.

With the training cycle still in full swing, COLE set off for Groupsail in the Caribbean in August, and departed the following month for Exercise Joint Warrior. Working with our NATO allies in simulated battle scenarios provided excellent training for COLE's combat systems teams. The operational phase of the exercises especially enabled the crew to demonstrate and hone their warfare skills. Port visits in Faslane, Scotland; Helsinki, Finland; Tallinn, Estonia; and, unexpectedly, Cherbourg, France gave the crew a much deserved break to unwind and enjoy the benefits of sea time. Upon return to homeport, the crew rounded out the relentless training cycle with completion of Maintenance and Material Management and Supply Management certifications. Finally,

after devoting a year to preparing COLE for deployment, the crew was able to take pre-overseas movement leave and spend time with their families. Thanks to the time and dedication of her crew, COLE is well prepared for her 2010 deployment!

COMMAND HISTORY 2009  
USS COLE (DDG 67)

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

Command Composition and Organization

Immediate Superior: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO

CAPT Christopher W. Grady  
01 JAN 09 - 22 JUL 09

CAPT Richard A. Rogers  
23 JUL 09 - 31 DEC 09

Commanding Officer:

CDR Edward W. Devinney II, USN  
01 JAN 09- 31 DEC 09

Executive Officer:

LCDR Michael A. Pfarrer, USN  
01 JAN 09 - 02 FEB 09

CDR Jason W. Schwantes, USN  
03 FEB 09 - 31 DEC 09

Combat Systems Officer:

LCDR ██████████ ██████████, USN  
01 JAN 09 - 31 OCT 09

LT ██████████ ██████████, USN  
01 NOV 09 - 31 DEC 07

Weapons Officer:

LT ██████████ ██████████, USN  
01 JAN 09- 31 OCT 09

LT ██████████ ██████████, USN  
01 NOV 09- 31 DEC 09

Operations Officer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 09- 21 JUN 09

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
22 JUN 09 - 31 DEC 09

Chief Engineer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 09- 16 JUN 09

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
17 JUN 09- 31 DEC 09

Supply Officer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
01 JAN 09 - 20 NOV 09

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
21 NOV 09 - 31 DEC 09

Navigator:

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
01 JAN 09 - 31 MAY 09

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
01 JUN 09 - 31 DEC 09

Chaplain:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN  
20 NOV 09 - 31 DEC 09

January 2009

1-9 January	Holiday Stand-down
14 January	SLAMEX
15 January	CPO Exam SLAMEX
20 January	WISEX CAPT Costello luncheon
21 January	Frocking Ceremony (QM3 [REDACTED] & FCSN [REDACTED]) SLAMEX Hail and Farewell
22 January	SLAMEX
23 January	Ammunition Onload ENS [REDACTED] promotion ceremony
27 January	Captain's lunch with CPOs
28 January	SLAMEX

As Holiday Stand Down came to an end, COLE began to make preparations for the February underway during which COLE would play the opposing force for the USS BATAAN for almost the entire month! CM Division conducted five SLAM Exercises to prepare for the upcoming Strike Material Assessment, and CDR Devinney took time to enjoy lunch with the Chief Petty Officers Mess.

February 2009

5 February	COLE gets underway UNREP with USNS KANAWHA FLIGHT OPS DLQ Ice Cream Social
7 February	ENCOUNTEREX
8 February	PACFIRE
9 February	CS2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment RAS with USNS KANAWHA
9-10 February	Inport Mayport, FLA
12 February	SLAMEX Stream TACTAS/NIXIE
14 February	RAS with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
16 February	EMCS [REDACTED] Reenlistment Small arms fire
19 February	ULM 4 RANGE (St. John's Buoy) MIO
20 February	RAS W/ USNS KANAWHA Battle Problem
23 February	Small arms shoot ATG arrives
24 February	PUBEX Battle Problem LTJG [REDACTED] Farewell (Wardroom)
25 February	Battle Problem SLAMEX
26 February	RAS with USNS KANAWHA Stream TACTAS/NIXIE
27 February	Return to homeport

The February underway was busy and productive! While playing the opposing force for the USS BATAAN, COLE held nearly continuous engineering, damage control, and combat systems drills to maintain the crew's proficiency; streamed TACTAS and NIXIE and had several SLAM Exercises. In addition, the crew received extensive training during

replenishments at sea, battle problems, and force protection drills. ATG training teams came aboard during the last week of the underway. COLE returned to homeport at the end of the month for a long weekend before getting underway again.



March 2009

3 March	COLE gets underway
4 March	SLAMEX Stream TACTAS/NIXIE
5 March	E6 Exam SLAMEX CASEX
6 March	ENCOUNTEREX BM1 ██████ reenlistment RAS with HMCS PRESERVER
7 March	Stream TACTAS/NIXIE Flight Quarters Formal lunch with Commodore Norman Ice Cream Social
10 March	Small arms shoot IC1 ██████ reenlistment
11 March	5" Gun shoot/CIWS PACFIRE UNREP with USNS KANAWHA RCS Range Moored NAVSTA Norfolk
12 March	E5 Exam Awards Ceremony
13 March	ENS ██████ OOD Board
18 March	Awards Ceremony
19 March	E4 Exam
20 March	CMTQ/STRIKE Material Assessment
23-26 March	Weapons offload at Yorktown, VA
23 March	Battle E Presentation CDS 2 visit
24 March	EKMS Town Hall meeting
30 March	CM1 Admin review and scenario CMTQ

March began another underway operations period for COLE. CM division's continued training paid off when they passed their material assessment. The ship conducted CAS Exercises, PACFIRES, ENCOUNTER Exercises, and ASW training. COLE prepared for the upcoming yard

period by offloading ammunition in Yorktown toward the end of the month.

April 2009

1 April	CM1 (Live ATG Scenario)
1-4 April	CMTQ
3 April	EMC █████ reenlistment DC2 █████ reenlistment
6 April	GM2 █████ & SH3 █████ Reenlistment
6-10 April	CMTQ
9 April	PAO Tour (Ukraine/Poland)
13 April	Leadership breakfast
20 April	COLE moves to BAE Shipyards
24 April	Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Luncheon

COLE spent the first part of April preparing to move to drydock at BAE Shipyards and obtaining their cruise missile tactical qualification. Drydock was a valuable training experience for all new personnel as they got to see the ship's hull, propellers, and sonar dome firsthand. The crew spent the remainder of the month training and preparing for the upcoming physical fitness assessment.

May 2009

4 May	YN3 █████ reenlistment
7 May	ETC █████ Commissioning Ceremony
8 May	Steel Beach Picnic Awards Ceremony
11-15 May	Command PFA
15 May	Steel Beach Picnic
19 May	CDRE Grady visit
20-22 May	SBTT 1
26-29 May	SBTT 2
29 May	Steel Beach Picnic

COLE spent the entire month of May on drydock at BAE shipyards. While there, she became the first and only ship on the East Coast to receive the Intersleek hull coating. The crew completed the Command PFA, and enjoyed the late spring weather with a barge steel beach picnic every Friday.

June 2009

1-5 June	MOB-E
4 June	Wardroom Mast signing CPO Cookout
9 June	OS2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
11 June	FCC [REDACTED] retirement ceremony
22-26 June	AVCERT SBTT
23 June	Wardroom Hail and Farewell
26 June	COLE returns to NOB Fuel onload (Craney Island)
29 June	Ammo onload Fast Cruise CDRE Rogers tour of ship
30 June	Underway for Sea Trials

COLE spent the last month in drydock hard at work to ensure she returned to homeport on schedule to commence her very busy training schedule! COLE left toward the end of the month, and got underway the next week for sea trials to test the ship's capabilities after the overhauls she received in drydock.

July 2009

1 July	Engineering Checks Stream TACTAS/NIXIE CIWS/5 INCH/25 MM PACFIRE Test Firefighting System EKMS Certification Helo Quals
2 July	TOWEX with USNS GRAPPLE Moor NAVSTA Norfolk
6-10 July	Ammunition onload Yorktown, VA USW CERT
6 July	Crew switches over to NWU
10 July	Family day cruise
13-24 July	FST-F
14 July	CS1 [REDACTED] / CS2 [REDACTED] / CS2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
14-17 July	ULTRA-E
17 July	Colonel Burns, USAF Tour
20-24 July	SBTT
21 July	STT small boat OPS
23 July	DC2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
27-31 July	MOB-E
28 July	CSTT COND III Scenario
29 July	CO Formal Lunch

July was extremely busy for COLE as she finished sea trials, unloaded ammunition, and began the training cycle. During July COLE certified in EKMS, Force Fleet Synthetic Training, Engineering Unit Level Training Assessment, and Surface Forces Underwater. COLE hosted a family day cruise on the return trip from Yorktown, during which family and friends of the crew witnessed high speed runs with heavy rolls, a weapons/VBSS demonstration, and a steel beach picnic on the flight deck. COLE also hosted midshipmen from NROTC units and the USNA

during their summer cruises in June. In addition to all this, COLE passed ULTRA E only three weeks after leaving drydock, and continued with preparations for ULTRA C.

August 2009

4-7 August	Underway for ULTRA C
4 August	Small boat attack drill
5 August	Underway replenishment
6 August	Stream NIXIE/TACTAS Flight Ops
7 August	Sonar Self Noise Test Moor to a buoy
10 August	Underway for Group Sail
15 August	CDS-24 Embarks RAS with USNS PATUXENT DIVTACS
16 August	SURFEX MISCEX NAVCOMEX ADEX
17 August	TLAMEX ADEX PAX Transfer
18 August	Moor Mayport, FLA
20 August	AUTEC Range Event
21 August	Stream TACTAS Flight Quarters AUTEC Range event
24 August	Precision Anchorage Pick up ATG (Rudee Inlet)
25 August	UNREP with USNS Supply ENS ████████ OOD Board
26 August	LTJG ████████ OOD Board
28 August	Return to NAVSTA Norfolk

COLE began August with another certification: ULTRA C. Immediately after, CDS-24 embarked and COLE got underway for Groupsail with the USS RAMAGE and USS JOHN L HALL. During this underway, COLE conducted much training to prepare for Joint Warrior, including visiting the AUTEC range for intense Anti-Submarine Warfare scenario



training, and conducting several practice air, surface, and tomahawk scenarios. COLE returned to homeport after three long and busy weeks underway to gear up for yet more certifications in September.

September 2009

1-2 September	VBSS Certification
1-4 September	NSFS Certification
2 September	E6 Exam
8 September	Harpoon handling
9 September	LCDR ██████ visit (Officer Law of the Sea/Rules of Engagement Training) SAR CERT
10 September	E5 Exam FPIA CERT (ATG)
11 September	CPO Challenge FPIA CERT (ATG)
14 September	ATFP - Executive Kickoff CPO Pinning Ceremony
15-16 September	FPEX
17 September	E-4 EXAM FST-U Multi-Warfare Scenario CDRE Rogers/CPO Meeting MR. Mark Giewont (NSWCDD) visit USS SAN JACINTO officers tour
22 September	CDS-24 Embarks LTJG ██████ SWO Board
23-30 September	Transit to Faslane, Scotland for Joint Warrior
23 September	Main Battery PACFIRE GUNEX RAS with USNS LARAMIE Flight Deck Fire Drill
24 September	Main Battery PACFIRE GUNEX RAS with USNS LARAMIE
25 September	Small Boat PAX transfer (CDS-24 from COLE to RAMAGE for lunch)
26 September	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE ADEX 323 (single threat tasking evasive action)
27 September	Khaki formal wardroom dinner
28 September	RAS with USNS LARAMIE

29 September

Awards Ceremony

30 September

RAS with USNS LARAMIE

COLE continued her busy training cycle through September with preparations for ATFP and FPEX certifications, which she passed with an impressive 100% and 91% respectively! COLE's VBSS team and SAR swimmers also received certifications. The Chiefs welcomed YNC [REDACTED], CSC [REDACTED], and DCC [REDACTED] into the Mess after an intense six weeks of induction, and LTJG [REDACTED] received his SWO pin. Toward the end of the month, CDS-24 embarked, and COLE made the TRANSLANT to Scotland for Joint Warrior. During the TRANSLANT, COLE conducted training in all warfare areas, replenishments at sea, fire drills, and small boat operations. By the end of the month COLE was ready to put this training into action during the Joint Warrior exercises!

October 2009

2-4 October	Inport Faslane, Scotland Joint Warrior Briefs
5 October	Depart Faslane for Joint Warrior CASEX
6 October	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE Flight Quarters CASEX A6 CASEX C9
7 October	TLAMEX CASEX SURFEX ADEX
8 October	CASEX GUNEX Flight Quarters
9 October	RAS W/ USNS LARAMIE
10-15 October	Operational Phase of Joint Warrior
13 October	Small boat PAX transfer PAC Fire NSFS Qualification (Cape Wrath) UNREP with USNS LARAMIE Navy Birthday Cake Cutting
14 October	Flight Quarters for PAX transfer Flight Quarters for Hot Pump
16 October	Inport Faslane, Scotland
19 October	Danish Straits transit
21-24 October	Inport Helsinki, Finland
23 October	Reception onboard COLE
24-27 October	Inport Tallinn, Estonia
26 October	Reception onboard COLE
29 October	Danish Straits transit
30 October	RAS with USNS LARAMIE
31 October	Awards ceremony HMC ██████ Reenlistment Halloween costume contest

As Joint Warrior exercises commenced, COLE became part of the fictional Dragonian Navy with other NATO forces and strategized to overcome the Calladonian opposition. The first phase of Joint Warrior consisted of planned exercises in which COLE worked with other NATO ships to overcome simulated submarine, air, gun, and small boat attacks. These exercises provided all ships the opportunity to prepare and practice working with one another in real-time situations. The Operational Phase, however, consisted of unplanned "attacks", simulating real-life wartime scenarios. The Joint Warrior exercises offered an excellent chance for COLE to practice communications, strategy, and execution in all warfare areas.

As the exercises drew to a close, the crew looked forward to port visits in Helsinki, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia. At each port, COLE hosted a reception for embassy workers, military personnel, and distinguished guests, gave tours of the ship, and performed community relations services. These events were a great chance for the crew to get to know members of the host nations and learn about their military and government. October was a productive and exciting month for COLE!

November 2009

1 November	SVTT/VLA SCOT STG2 ██████ Reenlistment
2-7 November	Inport Cherbourg, France
9 November	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE
10 November	HM2 ██████ Reenlistment
11 November	ITC ██████ Reenlistment 53C Self Noise Check
12 November	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE
13 November	Stream TACTAS/NIXIE Small arms shoot
14 November	Stream TACTAS/NIXIE GUNEX ENS ██████ OOD Board
15 November	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE
16 November	Stream TACTAS/NIXIE
17 November	UNREP with USNS LARAMIE Burial at Sea
18 November	5" PACFIRE BM1 ██████ Reenlistment
19 November	Small boat PAX transfer (ATG) TOWEX with USCG WPB COCHITO Moor NAVSTA Norfolk
20 November	EN1 ██████/FCC ██████ Reenlistment Safety Survey LT ██████'s Farewell
21NOV-01DEC	1 <sup>st</sup> POM period
23-25 November	USW TSTA
23 November	SAR CERT CMAV Inbrief
24 November	GSM2 ██████ Reenlistment SAR CERT
25 November	FC1 ██████ Reenlistment FCC ██████ Reenlistment
30 November	FCCS ██████ retirement

Instead of continuing her journey back home, COLE was forced to spend a week in Cherbourg, France due to heavy storms in the English Channel. While disappointing to many Sailors eager to return home, the crew enjoyed this stop immensely due to the incredible tours of World War II battlefields such as Omaha and Utah Beaches. MWR also provided low-cost busses for those wishing to visit Paris. By the end of the week, however, all were anxious to return to Norfolk!

The schedule on the return TRANSLANT was packed with events in preparation for the upcoming Anti-Submarine Warfare fleet synthetic training assessment, 3M, and SMC certifications. COLE also conducted a Burial at Sea, and had some fun with an all-hands topside preservation day and steel beach picnic. Upon the return to Norfolk, first POM period commenced along with CMAV and SAR CERT.

December 2009

1-4 December	ASW CSTT Scenarios
7-11 December	Ammo onload Yorktown, VA
8 December	ASW FST-U and CSTT certifications
10 December	SOY/SOQ Boards
11 December	FC2 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
14-18 December	3M Certification SMC C5RA
15 December	LTJG [REDACTED] promotion ceremony
17 December	ENS [REDACTED] promotion ceremony
18 December	Awards ceremony CS3 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
19-29 December	Second POM Period
24 December	GSE1 [REDACTED] Reenlistment
30 December	Third POM Period begins

COLE finally finished her training cycle and deployment preparations with ammunition onload in Yorktown in December along with SMC, ASW, and 3M certifications. The Commanding Officer of ATG praised COLE's performance noting, "We need to bottle whatever COLE is drinking and pass it out to the rest of the fleet!" COLE scored the second highest LANT FLEET grade to date in their 3M certification with an impressive 93.24%. With these preparations out of the way, the crew was finally able to relax and enjoy the last two POM periods with family and friends before a seven month deployment.