

1 Mar 13

From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)
To: Naval Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breese Street
SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS COLE (DDG 67) COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2011

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12J

Encl: (1) USS COLE 2012 Command Operations Report
(2) Commander's Assessment 2012
(3) USS COLE (DDG 67) Chronology and Narrative for
2012
(4) Photo and Biography of Commanding Officer
(5) Photo of USS COLE (DDG 67)
(6) Published Documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are
submitted for COLE's Command History for calendar year
2012 (UIC 21941).

Note: Supporting Reports submitted via mail ONI
Historians.

■ ■ ■
By Direction

10 Mar 2011

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Command Serial Number:

Date Submitted:

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Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. See instructions appendices for assistance in compiling and on submitting this form and any attachments.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format.

1. Command Data (Boxes will expand as information is typed)

Name of your Command or Organization: USS COLE (DDG 67)

Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 21941

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: NILSEN First: PETER M.I.: K Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2012-01-06

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: VACAPES/EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): NAVSTA NORFOLK

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: CAPT DANIEL VOTH

Administrative: CAPT DAN VOTH

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): OPERATION SHARP SENTRY, OPERATION ATLANTIC SENTRY

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): N/A

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: N/A

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): N/A

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 33 Enlisted: 238 Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LTJG [REDACTED], USN

Job Title/Office Code: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED];

[REDACTED]
Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: USS COLE DDG 67 FPO AE 09566-1285

2. Commander's Assessment

INCLUDED

3. Chronology

INCLUDED

Narrative

INCLUDED

4. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

INCLUDED AND MAILED SEPARATELY

5. Published Documents

INCLUDED

6. Photographs

INCLUDED

Submit this Command Operations Report as follows:

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* The attention line should read **Ships History** for all ships, **Aviation History** for all air/aviation commands, and **Operational Archives** for all other commands.

For electronic submissions or questions concerning the completion or submission of reports contact the following NHHC offices:

- Ships: shiphistory@navy.mil COM 202-433-3224; DSN 94-288-3224
- Aviation: aviationhistory@navy.mil COM 202-433-3224; DSN 94-288-3224
- Fleet and Shore Commands: archives@navy.mil COM 202-433-3224; DSN 94-288-3224

Classified address is archives@smil.mil

CAPTAIN'S ASSESSMENT 2012
USS COLE (DDG 67)

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

COLE's change of command ceremony took place on 06JAN 12 when I, CDR Peter K. Nilsen, relieved CDR Andrew C. Ehlers as Commanding Officer. Shortly after taking command, the ship conducted an ammo on-load at Naval Station Norfolk prior to getting underway as part of the Enterprise Strike Group for the Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). Following the successful completion of COMPTUEX, ZCOLE had the opportunity to participate in Operation Bold Alligator, the largest amphibious exercise in more than a decade. Once again in home port, COLE continued to prep for her extended 9 month deployment and upcoming 3M (Maintenance, Material, and Management) inspection. Upon completion of the final ammunition on-load at Naval Station Yorktown in March, COLE conducted a Tiger Cruise for families and friends as she returned to NAVSTA Norfolk. Shortly thereafter, COLE had the honor to host a visit by French Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Bernard Rogel. COLE left homeport for her deployment on 23 APR 12.

During COLE's nine month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, my crew met every mission assigned. COLE has a lot of history and pride behind her, but she's not a museum; she's an active warship. Cole is the fourth BMD-capable ship to deploy to the European theater as part of the Phased Adaptive Approach, the purpose of which is to protect European allies, partners, U.S. forces in the region, and the U.S. homeland against current and emerging ballistic threats. We participated in three joint exercises with the Israeli Navy, practicing small boat defense tactics. The crew raised the bar in the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility for material readiness, maintaining 100% operational success. COLE's SPY radar and technicians also set records by maintaining 100% operability throughout the deployment. Additionally, COLE managed to save roughly \$600,000 by conducting shipboard repairs in lieu of contracting work out, showing that sailors who care about their ship and their equipment can move mountains. Not only has the ship performed magnificently, but our crew's personal successes have been astronomical. Over 102 sailors earn their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pins, 88 sailors advance in rate, and we promoted eight new chief petty officers.

COLE's crew not only worked to maintain the ship, but also took part in a community relations program in Haifa, where we repaired homes of local residents, ninety of whom were Holocaust survivors. During the deployment COLE conducted successful port visits to Spain, Greece, Turkey, Israel, and Italy.

We're very blessed to have an outstanding crew, they love what they do, and they understand the commitment they've made. They have done an outstanding job over the past nine months. Our success is directly indicative of the hard work, the training, the ownership, and the pride in what they do. We're part of something special onboard

COLE. The crew understands the legacy of the ship, they understand we have to honor their memories, and we do that by doing our jobs the best we can.

COMMAND HISTORY 2012
USS COLE (DDG 67)

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

Command Composition and Organization

Immediate Superior:

CAPT David D. Schweizer, USN
03 FEB 11- MAY 12

CAPT Dan Voth, USN
MAY 12 - 31 DEC 12

Commanding Officer:

CDR Andrew C. Ehlers, USN
01 JAN 11 - 06 JAN 12

CDR Peter K. Nilsen, USN
06 JAN 12 - 31 JUL 13

Executive Officer:

CDR Peter K. Nilsen, USN
23 APR 11 - 31 DEC 11

CDR Dennis L. Farrell, USN
31 DEC 11 - 31 JUL 13

Combat Systems Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
05 JUL 11 - 18 AUG 12

LT [REDACTED], USN
18 AUG 12 - 31 DEC 12

Weapons Officer:

LT [REDACTED], USN
17 JUN 11 - 16 AUG 12

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
18 AUG 12 - 31 DEC 12

Operations Officer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 11 - 20 APR 12

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
20 APR 12 - 31 DEC 12

Chief Engineer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 11 - 18 JUN 12

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
18 JUN 12 - 31 DEC 12

Supply Officer:

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 JAN 11- 07 MAY 12

LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
07 MAY 12 - 31 DEC 12

Navigator:

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
01 AUG 11 - 06 DEC 12

LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN
16 NOV 12 - 31 DEC 12

JANUARY 2012

3 JAN COMMAND PHYSICAL READINESS TEST (PRT)

3-6 JAN PCO TURNOVER

4 JAN CHANGE OF COMMAND REHEARSAL
INSURV DISCREPANCY/CHANGE OF COMMAND
REVIEW

5 JAN CHANGE OF COMMAND REHEARSAL
CITADEL SHIELD/CITADEL CURTAIN BEGINS

6 JAN CHANGE OF COMMAND
HT2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
CS3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

9 JAN AMMO ONLOAD
ENTSG (ENTERPRISE STRIKE GROUP) C2X
(COMPOSITE TRAINING UNIT EXERCISE) C4I
FAST CRUISE
ENS [REDACTED] SWO BOARD
BMD AT SEA INSTALL
AWS OCSOT (OVERALL COMBAT SYSTEM
OPERABILITY TEST)

10 JAN-9 FEB C2X (COMPOSITE TRAINING UNIT EXERCISE) AND
OPERATION BOLD ALLIGATOR

10 JAN STATION THE SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL
FAST CRUISE
ENTSG C2X C4I FAST CRUISE
ABANDON SHIP DRILL

11 JAN NAVIGATION BRIEF
STATION SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL
SEA AND ANCHOR
AN/ULM-4 QUICK LOOK EVENT 11110
LIVE FIRING EXERCISE ZERO EVENT
RAS BRIEF/OPS INTEL/NSFS BRIEF
RAS WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL

12 JAN SLAMEX (SEA LAUNCHED ATTACK MISSILE
EXERCISE) EVENT 12113
NSFS (NAVAL SURFACE FIRE SUPPORT) LIVE
FIRING EVENT 12102

13 JAN LIVE FIRING EVENT 1 EVENT 13111

14 JAN MSO (MARITIME SECURITY OPS) PATROL (EV#
14120)
LEAR EW (ELECTRONIC WARFARE) EVENT (EV#
14121)
INCSEA (INCIDENTS AT SEA) WITH SBR (EV#

14126)
C2X PUBEX 1 (ENTCSG - EV# 14126)

15 JAN BERYL STRAIT TRANSIT EXERCISE
AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE 0

16 JAN REPLENISHMENT AT SEA (RAS) WITH USNS JOHN
LENTHALL
PAXFER (PASSENGER TRANSFER) OFFLOAD DGSIT
(DEPLOYING GROUP SYSTEMS INTEGRATION
TESTING)
EVENT 16100
C2X PUBEX 2
LIVE FIRING EVENT 1
ADEX (AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE) 1

17 JAN LEAR EW
LOW SLOW FLYER EX
LIVE FIRING EVENT 2
LIVE FIRING EVENT 3

18 JAN SLAM-EX
LEAR EW
GENERAL QUARTERS
C2X PUBEX (PUBLICATION EXERCISE) 3
AWS OCSOT

19 JAN MARITIME SECURITY OPERATION PATROL
SLAM-EX
AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE 2
COUNTER TARGETING EVENT 2

20 JAN IAC (INTEGRATED ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE
COURSE) PHASE I (USW (UNDERSEA WARFARE)
EVENT)
ACTIVE/PASSIVE TRACK-EX
AWS OCSOT
GENERAL QUARTERS
ACTIVE PASSIVE TRACK-EX

21 JAN IAC PHASE 2 (USW EVENT)
MODLOC-ED (MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONAL
DETAILS, LOCAL OPERATIONS) ASW SECTOR
SEARCH
OPPOSED REPLENISHMENT AT SEA

22 JAN IAC PHASE 3 (USW EVENT)
STRAIT TRANSIT

23 JAN TLAM-EX 2 (TOMAHAWK LAND ATTACK MISSILE)
BERYL STRAIT TRANSIT
COUNTER TARGETING EVENT - 3

24 JAN SET FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR RDML FITZPATRICK
VISIT

	RDML FITZPATRICK VISIT JOINT MARITIME DEFENSE 1 RAS W/ JOHN LENTHALL
25 JAN	MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS (VBSS) SET FLIGHT QUARTERS PAXFER VIA HELO
26 JAN	ACTIVE PASSIVE TRACK-EX SLAM-EX GENERAL QUARTERS C2X PUBEX 5
27 JAN	SET FLIGHT QUARTERS PAXFER VIA HELO AWS OCSOT DIVTACS C2X PUBEX 5 COUNTER TARGETING EVENT 5
28 JAN	MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS PATROL (VBSS)
29 JAN	SET RESTRICTED MANEUVERING WATCH INTEL COLLECTION SET FLIGHT QUARTERS PAX CAPTAIN'S CALL
30 JAN	BMD (BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE) OPERATIONS
31 JAN	BMD AT SEA SET RESTRICTED MANEUVERING WATCH PAXFER (MAYPORT/STJ LIVE FIRING EVENT 3

JANUARY FOUND COLE WITH A NEW CAPTAIN, COMMANDER PETER K. NILSEN, WHO RELIEVED COMMANDER ANDREW C. EHLERS AT A CEREMONY ATTENDED BY MEDIA FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WITH LITTLE TIME FOR REST, COLE FOUND HERSELF GEARING UP FOR A NINE MONTH LONG BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. PREPARATIONS INCLUDED PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPOSITE TRAINING UNIT EXERCISE (C2X) WHICH TESTED COLE AND HER CREW WITH A VARIETY OF EXERCISES AND SIMULATIONS FROM NAVAL SURFACE FIRE SUPPORT AND ANCHORING, TO BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SCENARIOS. COLE TRANSITED BOTH UP AND DOWN THE EASTERN SEABOARD PARTICIPATING IN NON-STOP EXERCISES THAT TESTED COLE HARD, AND FOUND HER CREW MORE THAN CAPABLE AND READY TO CARRY OUT HER NEW MISSION. THE MONTH ALSO HELD SUCH HIGHLIGHTS AS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION BY ENS [REDACTED] AND THE VISIT OF RDML FITZPATRICK.

FEBRUARY 2012

1 FEB	STATION SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL DEGAUSSING RUN (MAYORT) RAS WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
2 FEB	DLQ'S (DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS)

3 FEB	GENERAL QUARTERS
4 FEB	BERYL STRAITS TRANSIT
5 FEB	BOLD ALLIGATOR EXERCISE OPFOR BMD DEFENSE OF EUROPE MISSION EXERCISE
6 FEB	BOLD ALLIGATOR OPFOR LIVE FIRING EXERCISE
7 FEB	BOLD ALLIGATOR OPFOR
8 FEB	SMALL ARMS GUN SHOOT
9 FEB	ENS [REDACTED] SWO BOARD CO'S CALL SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL INPORT NORFOLK, VA
13 FEB	CW02 [REDACTED] OOD BOARD
15 FEB	OS2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
21 FEB	FCCS [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT GM2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT DESRON 26 (DESTROYER SQUADRON) 3M REVIEW (MAINTENANCE, MATERIAL MANAGEMENT)
22 FEB	DESRON 26 3M REVIEW CDS 28 COMMAND QUAL BOARD
23 FEB	DESRON 26 3M REVIEW LS1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
27 FEB	CSICP (CYBER SECURITY INSPECTION CERTIFICATION) INSPECTION

COLE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN FEBRUARY TO TRANSITION DIRECTLY FROM C2X (COMPOSITE TRAINING UNIT EXERCISE) TO PARTICIPATE AS OPFOR IN EXERCISE BOLD ALLIGATOR, THE LARGEST AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE IN MORE THAN A DECADE. COLE THEN TRANSITED BACK TO HOMEPORT IN NORFOLK, VA AND AGAIN RESUMED PREPARATIONS FOR HER EXTENDED BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE (BMD) DEPLOYMENT. ADDITIONALLY, FEBRUARY MARKED THE ATTAINMENT OF THE SURFACE WARFARE QUALIFICATION BY ENS [REDACTED] AS WELL AS THE ATTAINMENT OF OFFICER OF THE DECK BY CW02 [REDACTED]. COLE ALSO SAW THE RE-ENLISTMENT OF NUMEROUS SAILORS INCLUDING FCCS [REDACTED], GM2 [REDACTED], LS1 [REDACTED], AND OS2 [REDACTED].

MARCH 2012

1 MAR	E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAM
5-9 MAR	AMMUNITION ONLOAD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN
5 MAR	SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL

IN PORT NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN
AMMO ONLOAD

7 MAR SWO BOARD FOR ENS DANIELS

8 MAR FAMILY DAY CRUISE
SEA AND ANCHOR
DEPART NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN
WEAPONS SHOOT
BM1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
SEA AND ANCHOR
INPORT NAVAL STATION NORFOLK

10-23 MAR FIRST PRE-OPERATIONAL MOVEMENT LEAVE
PERIOD

19-23 MAR EXERCISE CITADEL SHIELD/SOLID CURTAIN

21 MAR ADMIRAL BERNARD ROGEL, FRENCH CHIEF OF
NAVAL STAFF VISIT

23 MAR STGCS [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
CAPTAIN'S CALL

24 MAR -5 APR SECOND PRE-OPERATIONAL MOVEMENT LEAVE
PERIOD

MARCH DENOTED A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT FROM NON-STOP TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT TO FINAL PREPARATIONS AND REST. COLE TRANSITED NORTH TO NAVAL WEAPONS STATION YORKTOWN TO ON LOAD HER AMMUNITION STORES FOR DEPLOYMENT. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL ON LOAD, COLE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST FRIENDS AND FAMILY ON A COLD, BUT EVENTFUL TIGER CRUISE BACK TO NORFOLK. WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND SHIP'S CAPABILITIES WERE DEMONSTRATED AND COLE'S SAILORS HAD A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR LOVED ONES WHAT TYPE OF WORK THEY WOULD BE DOING DURING DEPLOYMENT. ADDITIONALLY, DURING THE TIGER CRUISE, ENS [REDACTED] WAS PINNED FOR HIS ATTAINMENT OF THE SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION AND BM1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTED, BOTH WITH THEIR FAMILIES PRESENT. UPON RETURN TO NORFOLK HALF OF THE CREW WENT ON PRE-OPERATIONAL MOVEMENT LEAVE (POM). DURING THE FIRST LEAVE PERIOD COLE WAS HONORED TO HAVE THE FRENCH CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF, ADMIRAL BERNARD ROGEL VISIT AND TOUR THE SHIP. UPON THE RETURN OF THE FIRST LEAVE GROUP, STGCS [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTED AT CAPTAIN'S CALL BEFORE THE SECOND LEAVE PERIOD BEGAN.

APRIL 2012

16-20 APR 3M CERTIFICATION

19 APR LTJG [REDACTED] AND LTJG [REDACTED] PROMOTION
CEREMONY
MR2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
CAPTAIN'S CALL

23 APR SEA AND ANCHOR
USS COLE DEPLOYS TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE MISSION
DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS (DLQ)

24 APR	UNREP (UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT) WITH USNS KANAWHA
25 APR	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL ABANDON SHIP DRILL GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
26 APR	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATION- LOW LIGHT
27 APR	GUN SHOOT- 5"/CIWS/SMALL ARMS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL SMALL ARMS GUN SHOOT- LOW LIGHT
28 APR	BURIAL AT SEA
30 APR	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL

APRIL MARKED THE COLE'S LAST MONTH IN PORT BEFORE HER NINE MONTH DEPLOYMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. FOLLOWING A 3M INSPECTION, COLE HAD TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS, ENS [REDACTED] AND ENS [REDACTED], PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE, AND MR2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTED. COLE, ON THE 23RD OF APRIL BEGAN HER DEPLOYMENT. HER FIRST FEW DAYS AT SEA INCLUDED AN UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA AND NUMEROUS GQ DRILLS, GUN SHOOT, AND OTHER EVENTS TO FURTHER PREPARE THE CREW FOR THEIR NEW MISSION. WHILE CROSSING THE ATLANTIC, COLE AND HER CREW HAD THE GREAT HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT A BURIAL AT SEA FOR EIGHT INDIVIDUALS. THOSE COMMITTED TO THE SEA: LTJG THOMAS ALFORD; LT. JOHN BALDWIN; HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 2ND CLASS CHARLES CHRIST, COMMISSARYMAN (SHIP'S COOK) 3RD CLASS ROGER GEDNEY, DISBURSING CLERK 1ST CLASS JOHN HURREY, CHIEF CONTROL TECHNICIAN (GUN FIRE CONTROL) GARY MCKAY, ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 2ND CLASS ELBRIDGE RATHBONE AND HONORED NAVY WIFE MRS. GERTRUDE PARAH.

MAY 2012

2 MAY	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT ROTA, SPAIN OS2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
3 MAY	CAPT SCHAFFER, CDS 60 (COMMODORE DESTROYER SQUADRON 60) FOREIGN MEDIA VISIT SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR TRANSIT
4-5 MAY	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
6 MAY	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE BERTH SHIFT MISSILE ONLOAD
6-10 MAY	INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE VICE ADM PANDOLFE, COMMANDER CTF65 VISIT

10 MAY	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
11 MAY	RESCUE AND ASSIST DRILL SMALL ARMS SHOOT/5"/CIWS/25MM PACFIRE
12 MAY	RHIB (RIGID HULL INFLATABLE BOAT) TRANSFER CO/OPS/CICO TO USS VELLA GULF UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
13 MAY	CAPTAIN'S CALL
14 MAY	LTJG [REDACTED] OOD BOARD 5"/CIWS/25MM GUNNERY EXERCISE
15 MAY	GM2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
16 MAY	SMALL ARMS GUN SHOOT FLIGHT QUARTERS- DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS
17 MAY	UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
18 MAY	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL
18-22 MAY	INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL
22 MAY	SEA AND ANCHOR RELENTLESS SHIELD SUW-EX
24 MAY	FLIGHT QUARTERS UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA
25 MAY	GM3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
28 MAY	ENS [REDACTED] PROMOTION AWARD & FROCKING CEREMONY
30 MAY	EOOW BOARD (ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE WATCH) - GSE1 [REDACTED], GSEC [REDACTED], AND EMC [REDACTED]

COLE COMPLETED HER TRANS-ATLANTIC VOYAGE AND ARRIVED IN ROTA, SPAIN TO REFUEL. WHILE INPORT, OS2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTED AND VADM PANDOLFE, COMMANDER CTF65 CAME ABOARD. ADDITIONALLY, FOREIGN MEDIA FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAME ONBOARD WITH THE VADM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL MEDIA VISIT, COLE GOT UNDERWAY AND COMPLETED HER TRANSIT THROUGH THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR. COLE NEXT PULLED INTO SOUDA BAY, GREECE FOR A FINAL AMMO AND FUEL ONLOAD AS WELL AS A VISIT FROM VICE ADMIRAL PANDOLFE, COMMODORE CTF65 (COMMANDER TASK FORCE). ONCE UNDERWAY, COLE CONDUCTED A GUN SHOOT AND THEN RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE USS VELLA GULF TO CONDUCT A TURNOVER OF HER NEW MISSION AND THEN CONDUCTED AN UNREP WITH THE USNS KANAWHA. MAY ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF SHIPS CREW ADVANCE AND REENLIST. LTJG [REDACTED] GAINED HIS OFFICER OF THE DECK QUALIFICATION, GM2 [REDACTED] AND GM3 [REDACTED] REENLISTED,

AND ENS [REDACTED] WAS PROMOTED TO LTJG. FURTHERMORE, GSE1 [REDACTED], GSEC [REDACTED], AND EMC [REDACTED] BECAME EOOW QUALIFIED. COLE ALSO PULLED INTO HAIFA, ISRAEL FOR THE FIRST TIME AND HAD A SUCCESSFUL VISIT BOTH WITH LOCAL DIGNITARIES AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. COLE CREWMEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN A COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM WHERE THEY REPAIRED THE HOMES OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, 90 OF WHICH WERE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS. COLE THEN PARTICIPATED IN RELENTLESS SHIELD, AN OPERATION DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF US AND ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES (INF) TO COORDINATE PROTECTION EFFORTS AND MISSION EFFECTIVENESS.

JUNE 2012

1 JUN	LTJG [REDACTED] PROMOTION CEREMONY\ CS2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
2 JUN	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE (POINT OF AIM CORRECTION)
4 JUN	SWO BOARD FOR CWO3 [REDACTED]
7 JUN	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS KANAWHA SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS DC1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT GM2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
9 JUN	5IN/CIWS/25MM PACFIRE
14 JUN	UNREP/VERTREP (VERTICAL REPLENISHMENT) WITH USNS KANAWHA
16 JUN	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE
20 JUN	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
20-23 JUN	INPORT SOUDA BAY GREECE
21 JUN	AMMUNITION OFFLOAD
22 JUN	AMMUNITION ONLOAD
23 JUN	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN
25 JUN	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT KUSADASI, TURKEY
25-28 JUN	INPORT KUSADASI, TURKEY
28 JUN	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN
29 JUN	UNREP WITH USNS KANAWHA ENS [REDACTED] SWSCO (SURFACE WARFARE SUPPLY CORPS QUALIFICATION) BOARD

JUNE ONCE AGAIN DENOTED MANY ADVANCEMENTS AND REENLISTMENTS FOR COLE'S

CREW. LTJG [REDACTED] WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT, CWO3 [REDACTED] EARNED HIS SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION, AND CS2 [REDACTED], DC1 [REDACTED], AND GM2 [REDACTED] REENLISTED. FOLLOWING A MARATHON UNREP/VERTREP WITH USNS KANAWHA, INCLUDING OVER 60 PALLETS TRANSFERRED, COLE PULLED INTO SOUDA BAY, GREECE IN ORDER TO PERFORM AN AMMUNITION OFFLOAD AND ON LOAD BEFORE PULLING INTO KUSADASI, TURKEY. COLE AND HER CREW MANAGED TO GET SOME HARD EARNED TIME OFF WHILE IN TURKEY, ALLOWING THE CREW TO EXPLORE THE SIGNIFICANT HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE NATION. FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO KUSADASI, ENS [REDACTED] EARNED HIS SURFACE WARFARE SUPPLY CORPS QUALIFICATION.

JULY 2012

2 JUL	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE
3 JUL	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS KANAWHA
6 JUL	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
10 JUL	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
11 JUL	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE
12 JUL	ENS [REDACTED] OOD BOARD ORTSTAR ASSESSMENT (OPERATIONAL READINESS TEST SYSTEM TECH ASSIST REMOTE SUPPORT)
13 JUL	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS BIG HORN
16 JUL	CREW SERVED WEAPONS SHOOT
17 JUL	CREW SERVED WEAPONS SHOOT
18 JUL	TACAN (TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION CERTIFICATION SEA AND ANCHOR ANCHORED SANTORINI, GREECE
19 JUL	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY SANTORINI, GREECE SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
19-21 JUL	INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
21 JUL	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN TORPEDO EVASION EXERCISE
24 JUL	VBSS (VISIT BOARD SEARCH AND SEIZURE) TRAINING (HOOK AND POLE)
26 JUL	CWO3 [REDACTED] TAO BOARD
29 JUL	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL

30 JUL LTJG [REDACTED] TAO (TACTICAL ACTION OFFICER)
BOARD

31 JUL ESWs (ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST)
BOARD

COLE SUCCESSFULLY CONTINUED TO EXECUTE HER MISSION THROUGHOUT JULY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. COLE CONTINUED TO UNREP WITH HER NORMAL SUPPLY SHIP USNS KANAWHA, AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNREP WITH THE USNS BIG HORN WHEN SHE PASSED THROUGH THE REGION. FOLLOWING HER TACAN (TACTICAL AIR NAVIGATION) CERTIFICATION, COLE MADE HER WAY TO THE ISLAND OF SANTORINI, GREECE FOR A SHORT BREAK. UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER ANCHORING IN THE CALDERA, THE STATE OF THE WIND AND SEAS MADE SAFE SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS IMPOSSIBLE. COLE THEN PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO SOUDA BAY, GREECE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE CREW WITH SOME REST AND TIME OFF. FOLLOWING THE LIBERTY PORT VISIT, COLE ONCE AGAIN RESUMED OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, CONDUCTING NUMEROUS TRAINING EXERCISES INCLUDING ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE AND VBSS (VISIT, BOARD, SEARCH AND SEIZURE). ADDITIONALLY, ENS [REDACTED] EARNED HIS OFFICER OF THE DECK QUALIFICATION, AND LTJG [REDACTED] AND CWO3 [REDACTED] EARNED THEIR TACTICAL ACTION OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS.

AUGUST 2012

1 AUG CAPTAIN'S CALL
SOQ/JSOQ/BJOQ (SAILOR OF THE
QUARTER/JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER/BLUE
JACKET OF THE QUARTER) BOARD
ESWS (ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE
SPECIALIST) BOARD
DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS

2 AUG ESWs BOARD

3 AUG UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL

4 AUG 5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE

5 AUG IC2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
ESWS PINNING CEREMONY

6 AUG SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL
INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE

6-20 AUG INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE FOR CMAV

15 AUG IT2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

20 AUG SEA AND ANCHOR
UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN

22 AUG FC2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

23 AUG UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN
LENTHALL
BM2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

24 AUG IT2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

25 AUG 5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE
BM2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

28 AUG INF (ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES) SMALL BOAT
EXERCISE

29 AUG CS3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

30 AUG CBR DRILL
CICWO BOARD OS2 [REDACTED] AND OS2 [REDACTED]

31 AUG UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL

AUGUST HELD NUMEROUS ESWS BOARDS AND REENLISTMENTS FOR COLE'S CREW. COLE ALSO HELD BOARDS FOR THE SAILOR OF THE QUARTER, JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER, AND BLUE JACKET OF THE QUARTER. COLE ALSO CONDUCTED NUMEROUS UNREPS WITH HER NEW SUPPLY SHIP, USNS JOHN LENTHALL, AND DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS. THE SHIP ALSO HELD PINNING CEREMONIES FOR THOSE SAILORS EARNING THEIR ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE QUALIFICATION. EARLY AUGUST ALSO SAW COLE ONCE AGAIN PULLING INTO SOUDA BAY, GREECE, HOWEVER, THIS TIME FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD DURING COLE'S CMAV (CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY). LATE AUGUST ALSO INCLUDED THE SECOND ROUND OF OPERATION LOCAL HERO, WHERE COLE AND THE ISRAELI NAVY AGAIN WORKED TO PRACTICE AND PERFECT JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE GOAL OF PROTECTING THE SHIP FROM ATTACK. ADDITIONALLY, COLE ALSO TRAINED FOR POTENTIAL CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND RADIATION (CBR) ATTACKS DUE TO HER OPERATIONAL LOCATION NEAR SYRIA, LEBANON, AND ISRAEL. FURTHERMORE, OS2 [REDACTED] AND OS2 [REDACTED] ATTAINED THEIR COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER WATCH OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS.

SEPTEMBER 2012

1 SEP ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE TRACK-EX WITH USS
PROVIDENCE
LT [REDACTED] PROMOTION CEREMONY
EOOW (ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE WATCH)
BOARD GSM1 [REDACTED] AND GSM2 [REDACTED]

5 SEP SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS

6 SEP E-6 ADVANCEMENT EXAM
UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN
LENTHALL

8 SEP 25 MM PACFIRE

10 SEP DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS

11 SEP

12 SEP SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
FLIGHT QUARTERS-PAX (PASSENGER TRANSFER)
ESWS BOARD

13 SEP	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL E-5 ADVANCEMENT EXAM FC3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
14 SEP	CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PINNING SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
15 SEP	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE IT3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
17 SEP	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
18 SEP	COXSWAIN/BOAT OFFICER TRAINING VBSS TRAINING GMC [REDACTED] SUWC BOARD OS1 [REDACTED] AAWC BOARD
19 SEP	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
20 SEP	E-4 ADVANCEMENT EXAM LTJG [REDACTED] SWO BOARD (SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER)
22 SEP	5in/CIWS/25MM SHOOT
25 SEP	SH1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
30 SEP	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT RHODES, GREECE
30 SEP-3 OCT	INPORT RHODES GREECE

SEPTEMBER BEGAN WITH COLE PERFORMING A TRACK-EX WITH THE USS PROVIDENCE. THE EXERCISE ALLOWED COMBAT TO PRACTICE SOME CRITICAL ASW SKILLS AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATING TO ALL TOP-SIDE WATCH STANDERS THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED WITH SPOTTING AND TRACKING A SUBMARINE AT OR NEAR THE SURFACE. EARLY SEPTEMBER ALSO INCLUDED LT [REDACTED]'S PROMOTION TO LCDR, AS WELL AS GSM1 [REDACTED] AND GSM2 [REDACTED] EARNING THEIR EOOW QUALIFICATIONS. COLE SAILOR'S ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE E-6 AND E-4 EXAMS AND PERFORMED MORE DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE FLIGHT DECK CREW. COLE ALSO CONTINUED TO TRAIN HER WATCH STANDERS WITH NUMEROUS SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS ENSURING THAT THE CREW WOULD BE READY FOR ANY THREAT. THREE SAILORS, SH1 [REDACTED], IT3 [REDACTED], AND FC3 [REDACTED], ALL REENLISTED WHILE GMC [REDACTED] AND OS1 [REDACTED] ATTAINED THEIR SUWC AND AAWC QUALIFICATIONS RESPECTIVELY. ADDITIONALLY, LTJG [REDACTED] ATTAINED HIS SURFACE WARFARE QUALIFICATION. THE MONTH CONCLUDED WITH A WELL DESERVED LIBERTY PORT VISIT TO RHODES, GREECE.

OCTOBER 2012

3 OCT	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN
4 OCT	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL

9 OCT	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
10 OCT	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS
11 OCT	SMALL ARMS QUALIFICATIONS EOOW (ENGINEERING OFFICER OF THE WATCH) BOARD LCDR [REDACTED]
12 OCT	COLE BOMBING ANNIVERSARY AND CEREMONY AAWC (ANTI AIR WARFARE COORDINATOR) BOARD LTJG [REDACTED]
15 OCT	FCC [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
16 OCT	SEA & ANCHOR DETAIL PAX (PASSENGER TRANSFER) FROM TUG OFF COAST OF ISRAEL
18 OCT	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
19 OCT	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
22 OCT	OOD (OFFICER OF THE DECK) BOARD ENS [REDACTED]
23 OCT	BM3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT SWO BOARD ENS [REDACTED]
26 OCT	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL ESWS BOARD
30 OCT	"LOCAL HERO" EXERCISE WITH INF (ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES)

COLE ONCE AGAIN GOT UNDERWAY IN EARLY OCTOBER AND IMMEDIATELY CONTINUED DRILLING AND TRAINING HER CREW. DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER LCDR [REDACTED] SUCCESSFULLY ATTAINED HIS EOOW QUALIFICATION, ENS [REDACTED] EARNED HER OOD QUALIFICATION, ENS [REDACTED] ATTAINED HIS SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION, AND FCC [REDACTED] AND BM3 [REDACTED] BOTH REENLISTED. COLE ALSO HELD A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 17 SAILORS LOST WHEN THE SHIP WAS ATTACKED IN ADEN, YEMEN ON OCTOBER 12, 2000, THE CEREMONY ALSO RECORDED AND BROADCAST BY THE ARMED FORCES NETWORK. DURING THE END OF OCTOBER COLE ONCE AGAIN CONDUCTED THE LOCAL HERO EXERCISE WITH THE INF, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING THE IMPROVED LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NAVIES SINCE THE FIRST EXERCISE WAS HELD.

NOVEMBER 2012

1 NOV	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL SAR EXERCISE
2 NOV	CSOOW (COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER OF THE WATCH) BOARD ET2 [REDACTED] GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL

5 NOV	VBSS (VISIT, BOARD, SEARCH, AND SEIZURE) TRAINING
6 NOV	ESWS BOARD CRASH AND SALVAGE DRILL
7 NOV	OOD BOARD ENS [REDACTED]
8 NOV	MM240B QUALIFICATION SHOOT ESWS BOARD
9 NOV	SOQ/JSOQ/BJOQ BOARD
10 NOV	DAMAGE CONTROL OLYMPICS ENG DEPT
13 NOV	SAFETY STAND-DOWN
14 NOV	SCAT (SMALL CRAFT ACTION/ATTACK TEAM) TRAINING
15 NOV	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
15-28 NOV	INPORT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
16 NOV	CAPTAIN JOHN ESPOSITO, COMMANDER CTF-65 ARRIVES
23 NOV	EOOW BOARD LTJG [REDACTED]
28 NOV	SEA AND ANCHOR UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN
29 NOV	UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
30 NOV	FROCKING CEREMONY/CAPTAIN'S CALL GSM1 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT

COLE CONTINUED INTO NOVEMBER ON STATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WITH TRAINING ONGOING, LTJG EARNED HER EOOW QUALIFICATION, ENS [REDACTED] ATTAINED HIS OFFICER OF THE DECK QUALIFICATION, AND ET2 [REDACTED] EARNED HIS COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER OF THE WATCH QUALIFICATION. COLE HELD HER OWN DAMAGE CONTROL OLYMPICS, WITH THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PRACTICING AND COMPETING TO SHOW THEIR PROWESS IN SHIPBOARD DAMAGE CONTROL. COLE AGAIN RETURNED TO SOUDA BAY, GREECE AND CELEBRATED THANKSGIVING INPORT. WHILE IN SOUDA BAY, COLE WAS VISITED BY CAPTAIN ESPOSITO, COMMANDER CTF-65. ONCE AGAIN UNDERWAY, COLE HELD A FROCKING CEREMONY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MONTH.

DECEMBER 2012

1 DEC	CTTC [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT DC2 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
3 DEC	ENS [REDACTED] PROMOTION

	OFFICER OF THE DECK BOARD ENS [REDACTED]
4 DEC	CRASH AND SALVAGE DRILL
6 DEC	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL ESWS BOARD
7 DEC	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
8 DEC	5in/CIWS/25MM PAC FIRE
11 DEC	ESWS BOARD
12 DEC	UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
13 DEC	SMALL BOAT OPS CBR (CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL) GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL ESWS BOARD
14 DEC	GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
15 DEC	EM3 [REDACTED] RE-ENLISTMENT
17 DEC	FLIGHT QUARTERS ENS [REDACTED] PROMOTION
18 DEC	MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL/GENERAL QUARTERS ESWS BOARD
19 DEC	50 CAL GUN QUALIFICATIONS UNREP WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL
20 DEC	CREW SERVE WEAPON QUALIFICATIONS ESWS BOARD
21 DEC	M240B QUALIFICATION SHOOT GENERAL QUARTERS DRILL
22 DEC	SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS CAPTAIN'S CALL
23 DEC	SEA AND ANCHOR INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL
26 DEC	STATION THE SEA AND ANCHOR DETAIL UNDERWAY MEDITERRANEAN ENGINEERING DRILLS
27 DEC	REPLENISHMENT AT SEA WITH USNS JOHN LENTHALL ESWS BOARD
28 DEC	ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE EXERCISE
29 DEC	MAIN SPACE FIRE DRILL

31 DEC

FORCE PROTECTION STAND-DOWN

DECEMBER MARKED THE SECOND TO LAST MONTH OF COLE'S EXTENDED NINE MONTH BMD DEPLOYMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. DUE TO HER CREWS' HARD WORK THROUGHOUT THE DEPLOYMENT, DECEMBER SAW A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER NUMBER OF ESWS BOARDS, CULMINATING IN A DEPLOYMENT TOTAL OF 102 SAILORS QUALIFIED. ADDITIONALLY, COLE'S TREND OF HIGH REENLISTMENT NUMBERS CONTINUED WITH THE REENLISTMENT OF CTTC [REDACTED], DC2 [REDACTED], AND EM3 [REDACTED]. ENSIGNS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ALSO WERE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE, WHILE ENS [REDACTED] EARNED HER QUALIFICATION AS OFFICER OF THE DECK. COLE AGAIN RETURNED TO HAIFA, ISRAEL, OFFERING THE CREW A RARE CHANCE TO BE IN ISRAEL DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. ONCE UNDERWAY AGAIN, COLE PARTICIPATED IN AN ASW EXERCISE BEFORE INITIATING A FORCE PROTECTION STAND DOWN. WITH THE END OF HER DEPLOYMENT NEARING, AND PREPARATIONS FOR TURN OVER WITH HER REPLACEMENT IN PROGRESS, COLE ENDED THE YEAR ON AN HIGH NOTE. COLE AND HER CREW HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED HER MISSION FOR EIGHT MONTHS STRAIGHT, AND ARE LOOKING TO FINISH STRONG AS THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES.