

1. Command Data

- a. Name of your command or organization: USS COLE
- b. Unit identification code: N21941
- c. Name and rank of commander, commanding officer or officer in charge: CDR James Quaresimo
- d. Last/first/middle initial: J/Q/A
- e. Rank: O-5
- f. Date assumed command: 2015-01-21
- g. Mission, command employment, or area of operation: Multi mission including but not limited to anti-submarine, anti-air, and anti-surface.
- h. Permanent location: Norfolk, VA
- i. Immediate superior in command: Commander Destroyer Squadron 22
- j. Operational superior in command: Commander Destroyer Squadron 22
- k. Administrative superior in command: Commander Destroyer Squadron 22
- l. Identify your assigned task force: CTF 80 (CTF 65 26AUG14-08MAR15)
- m. Name of forces under your operational control: N/A
- n. Type and number of aircraft assigned: N/A
- o. Commands deployed on board of stationed aboard: N/A
- p. Number of personnel assigned: 268
- q. Officers, enlisted, or civilian: 37 officers, 28 chief petty officers, 203 enlisted
- r. Command point of contact:
 - i) Name: LTJG [REDACTED]
 - ii) Job Title: KMI Manager
 - iii) Email: [REDACTED]
 - iv) Phone number: [REDACTED]
 - v) Command mailing address: USS COLE (DDG-67)

2. Commander's Assessment

An *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer enhanced for Ballistic Missile Defense, COLE is capable of conducting missions in a wide number of warfare areas in support of U.S. national interests. During calendar year 2015, COLE executed her mission on station in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea while deployed from August 2014 to March 2015. COLE's deployment was a marked shift from her 2012-2013 deployment to the Mediterranean. In contrast to long, solitary patrols far offshore, the 2014-2015 deployment saw an increased focus on interoperability with allies and partner nations through passing exercises and military to military engagement. COLE participated in named operations Operation Sharp Sentry, Operation Atlantic Sentry, and NATO Operation Active Endeavour. Additionally, COLE made two patrols to the Black Sea, an area with active hostilities on the Crimea Peninsula. COLE became a Black Sea operations expert – literally writing the handbook for such operations for Commander, Task Force SIX FIVE.

From the training cycle, inspection, assessments, and through deployment, COLE has stressed excellence as the standard. Team COLE completed every evolution well and on time during the basic phase of the training cycle, allowing COLE to build time in her schedule to support port calls for the crew, additional priority one tasking from Fleet Forces Command, and preserve a post-deployment leave period. Arriving on station in Mediterranean Sea, COLE leveraged her “excellence is the standard” to master the operational environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea. From thoughtful tactical and operational discussions supporting the Operational Commander, aggressive pursuit of logistics support to keep COLE battle ready, and an internal drive to be mission ready – such as being on the Spy Honor Roll ever single month deployed are testimonial to the hard work and consistent effort of the entire crew. COLE Sailors lived as examples of excellence – with zero liberty incidents they set standard as positive ambassadors of the U.S. Navy. Sailors on COLE are the most impressive team – aggressive to meet the mission and maintain their gear, proud of their ship and the lasting COLE legacy we all honor, and compassionate and caring for their fellow shipmates.

3. Chronology

2015

1-18JAN	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
4-5JAN	- FRENCH PASSEX (Passing Exercise)
9JAN	- RAS W/KAN (Replenishment at Sea) (USNS Kanawha)
10-13JAN	- IPOE TRANSIT (Intelligence Preparation of the Environment)
16JAN	- RAS W/KAN
19-22JAN	- INPORT PIRAEUS, GRC
21JAN	- CHANGE OF COMMAND
22-31JAN	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
22JAN	- RAS W/KAN
23-24JAN	- FRENCH PASSEX

29JAN	- RAS W/MAR, RAS W/KAN
30-31JAN	- IPOE TRANSIT
1-8FEB	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
1-2FEB	- IPOE TRANSIT
6FEB	- RAS W/JLN (USNS JOHN LENTHALL)
8FEB	- TURKISH STRAITS TRANSIT
9-12FEB	- INPORT CONSTANTA, ROM
12-19FEB	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
12-13FEB	- ROMANIAN AND UKRAINIAN PASSEX
20FEB	- BSF VARNA, BUL
20-24FEB	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
20FEB	- BULGARIAN PASSEX
22FEB	- TURKISH STRAITS TRANSIT
25FEB	- INPORT AUGUSTA BAY, ITA
26-28	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
1MAR	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
2MAR	- STROG TRANSIT
2-5MAR	- INPORT ROTA, SP
6-13MAR	- U/W DEPLOYMENT
8MAR	- OUT CHOP C6F (6th Fleet)
13MAR-16APR	- INPORT NORFOLK, VA
14MAR-10APR	- CMAV (Continuous Maintenance Availability)
30MAR-3APR	- TSRA 2 (Total Ship's Readiness Assessment)
6APR	- ERAT (Engineering Readiness Assessment Team), CSRAT (Combat Systems Readiness Assessment Team)
17-22APR	- U/W EN ROUTE TO NEW ORLEANS, LA
21APR	- RAS W/BGN (USNS BIG HORN)
23-28APR	- INPORT NEW ORLEANS, LA "NOLA FLEET WEEK 2015"
29APR-3MAY	- U/W EN ROUTE TO PORT EVERGLADES, FL
2MAY	- RAS W/BGN
4-9MAY	- INPORT PORT EVERGLADES, FL FLEET WEEK 2015
10-15MAY	- U/W EN ROUTE TO NORFOLK, VA
14MAY	- RAS W/LRG (USNS Leroy Gruman)
16-18MAY	- INPORT NORFOLK, VA
19MAY	- DEPART NORFOLK, VA AND ARRIVE YORKTOWN, VA
19-21MAY	- INPORT Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, AMMO OFFLOAD
22MAY	- DEPART YORKTOWN, VA, ARR MHI SHIPYARD NORFOLK, VA
23MAY-6NOV	- SRA/TSRA-3 (Selected Restricted Availability)
25AUG	- CANES Light-Off (Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise)
25AUG	- MOB-E, MOB-N, MOB-D, MOB-S, FSO-M, AT, CCC, EXPSAF 1.0 (Mobility-Engineering, Mobility-Navigation, Mobility- Damage Control, Mobility-Seamanship, Fleet Service Operations-Medical, Anti-terrorism, Command Control and Communications, Explosive Safety)
8-12SEP	- ERAT
22SEP	- AEGIS Light-off
12OCT	-COLE attack 15-year remembrance ceremony

13-16OCT	- ERAT
26-30OCT	- LOA (Light-off Assessment)
6NOV	- U/W DEPART MHI SHIPYARD
6-8NOV	- U/W Contractor Sea Trials
9NOV	- ARRIVE NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VA
9-27NOV	- CMAV RE5/TSRA 4 CCAT
30NOV-4DEC	- U/W TYCOM SEA TRIALS and RE-5
7-11DEC	- AWT 1A (Advanced Warfare Training)
14-18DEC	- AWT 1A

4. Narrative

COLE started 2015 during her vigilant deployment through the New Year, conducting a Passing Exercise (PASSEX) with French naval forces, Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with USNS KANAWHA, and a watchful transit through waters bordering Syria. After this transit COLE completed a RAS with USNS KANAWHA yet again and pulled into Piraeus, Greece, where COLE performed her change of command, with CDR Dennis Farrell, USN being relieved by CDR James Quaresimo, USN. After this ceremony COLE Sailors were again afforded a rare opportunity: to experience the legendary nearby city of Athens. Once out of Piraeus COLE again conducted a French PASSEX and conducted a RAS with the French oiler MARNE and then the KANAWHA as well.

COLE continued her deployment into February 2015, conducting another watchful transit through waters bordering Syria, replenishing with her new partner-oiler USNS JOHN LENTHALL. After again proceeding through the Turkish Straits into the Black Sea, COLE pulled into Constanta, Romania. COLE hosted Commander SIXTH FLEET, VADM Fogo and the head of the Romanian Navy for lunch. Officer and crew were treated to a cultural display at the Romanian Naval Academy following an office call to the Commandant and a presentation by the Executive Officer on the life of COLE's namesake, Darrell S. Cole, as well as the 2000 attack on COLE. After pulling out COLE conducted a PASSEX with both Romanian and

Ukrainian naval forces. At this point COLE spent several days in close proximity to Crimea while maintaining the utmost awareness of the situation there. COLE then made a brief stop for fuel (BSF) into Varna, Bulgaria, completed a Bulgarian PASSEX, and proceeded back through the Turkish Straits into the Mediterranean. COLE stopped briefly in Augusta Bay before continuing on her way to the Strait of Gibraltar.

COLE started March 2015 with a careful transit through the STROG and entered Rota, Spain, where COLE turned over duties and missiles with USS LABOON (DDG 58). On 8 Mar COLE chopped out of 6th Fleet on her way across the Atlantic and on 13 March COLE returned home to Norfolk, Virginia to a hero's welcome. During COLE's post-deployment leave, she also conducted a Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV) and a Total Ship's Readiness Assessment.

COLE continued her post-deployment inport assessments with Engineering and Combat Systems Readiness Assessment Teams onboard (ERAT/CSRAT). COLE left Naval Station Norfolk 17 April en route to New Orleans for Fleet Week 2015, replenishing with USNS BIG HORN on the way. COLE enjoyed a festive Fleet Week in New Orleans, giving tours to over 3,000 people, devoting over 600 man-hours to community relations, and enjoying the unique culture. COLE departed late April en route to Port Everglades, FL for a second Fleet Week, again replenishing with USNS BIG HORN along the way.

COLE arrived in Port Everglades early May 2015 and enjoyed yet another week of tours to almost 2,000 people, and devoting almost 500 man-hours to community relations along with other festivities, this time in Fort Lauderdale. After COLE departed en route to Norfolk, she replenished with USNS LEROY GRUMAN and remained briefly at Naval Station Norfolk

before transiting to Yorktown, VA for an ammo offload. Once finished there, COLE traveled to downtown MHI Shipyard for her 5-month, \$9.8 million Selected Restricted Availability (SRA).

During this time COLE would be upgraded with the new Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise System (CANES) along with many other improvements and would also start various certification events. ERAT would be on board COLE consistently until the intensive Light-off Assessment, resulting in COLE scoring an impressive 98.6% overall.

During this time COLE would also conduct a 15-year remembrance of the October 12, 2000 terrorist attack on USS COLE at the Cole Memorial on Naval Station Norfolk with the families of those lost in the attack. COLE would soon after depart MHI shipyard for Naval Station Norfolk. For the rest of 2015 COLE conducted Type Commander (TYCOM) Sea Trials and Advanced Warfare Training until allowing sailors to go on leave to enjoy the holidays with their families.

5. Supporting Reports

- A. BLUE H – NAVY SURGEON GENERAL’S HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS AWARD FOR CY 2015
- B. 2015 ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD NOMINATION

6. Published Documents

1. 15th Cole Remembrance Ceremony Pamphlet
2. USS Cole Public Navy website

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surflant/ddg67/Pages/default.aspx>

3. USS Cole Holds Change of Command, 01/22/2015

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85286

4. USS Cole Exits Black Sea, 02/23/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85698
5. USS Cole Arrives in Constanta, Romania, 02/9/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85524
6. USS Cole and Romania Conduct Bilateral Exercise in the Black Sea, 02/19/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=85662
7. USS Cole Wraps up Deployment, Returns to Norfolk, 03/13/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=86031
8. USS Cole Welcomes Local Chef, Guests for Fleet Week Luncheon, 05/09/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=87031
9. USS Cole Holds 15th Commemoration Ceremony, 10/13/2015
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=91493

7. Photographs

1. Boy Scout Ship Tour 05DEC15
2. Boy Scout Ship Tour 05DEC15
3. Various members of COLE's CC Division after an award ceremony on 04Dec15
4. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GM3 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
5. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GGSM3 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
6. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GYN3 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
7. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GEM3 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
8. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GIT2 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
9. CO, CDR Quaresimo after pinning GEN1 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15
10. CO granting an award to IT2 [REDACTED] on 05Dec15