



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS COLE (DDG 67)  
UNIT 100303 BOX 1  
FPO AE 09566

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From: Commanding Officer, USS COLE (DDG 67)  
To: Naval History and Heritage Command

Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12k

Encl: (1) Operational Report  
(2) USS COLE 2018 Photographs

1. Purpose: To publish the annual command operations report per reference (a) and via enclosures (1) and (2). This report will be maintained by Naval History and Heritage Command. The report contains command data, chronological narratives, media, and a commander's assessment covering the entire calendar year of 2018.



J. J. VON ST PAUL

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

### **COMMAND DATA**

This report will detail all general data for the command to include administrative and operational information.

1. USS COLE (DDG 67)
2. UIC 21941
3. Commanding Officer
  - a. James J. Von St Paul  
Commander, United States Navy  
Assumed command 2017-10-13
4. Mission
  - a. National Tasking
  - b. CTF 80 Area of Operation
5. Homeport: Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia
6. Immediate superior in command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO.
7. Operational superior in command
  - a. Commander, Task Force EIGHT ZERO (CTF 80)
8. Administrative superior in command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO.
9. Assigned Task Force
  - a. Task Force EIGHT ZERO (CTF 80)
10. Operations:
  - a. EAGLE TALON
11. Units deployed on board
  - a. N/A
12. Number of personnel assigned: 258

13. Officers, enlisted, or civilian

a. Officers: 23

b. Enlisted: 235

14. Command point of contact

a. E-mail

(1) [REDACTED]

(2) [REDACTED]

b. Phone number: [REDACTED]

c. Command mailing address

USS COLE (DDG 67)

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## COMMANDER'S ASSESSMENT

An *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer enhanced for Ballistic Missile Defense, USS COLE (DDG 67) is capable of conducting missions in a wide number of warfare areas in support of U.S. national interests. COLE's capabilities as a warfighting platform, key command and control node and surveillance platform proved essential to the Maritime Homeland Defense (MHD) mission.

COLE played a critical role in support of national tasking during the early part of 2018. During January and February, COLE reported information on a foreign vessel operating in the vicinity of U.S. territorial waters. The information collected and disseminated by COLE was vital to the National Command Authority and the Intelligence Community. Throughout this short notice tasking, COLE successfully operated in an ambiguous and uncertain operating environment. Of particular note, COLE was able to effectively leverage previous lessons learned from similar operations. These lessons were incorporated into COLE's planning process and yielded positive results.

COLE further demonstrated her operational flexibility while assigned as Opposing Forces (OPFOR) Sector Interface Control Officer (SICO) for five units during the Harry S. Truman Strike Group (HST CSG) Composite Training Exercise (C2X). COLE's ability to manage the OPFOR's Command and Control (C2) infrastructure directly contributed to HST CSG's successful exercise and subsequent deployment.

While operating throughout the sustainment phase of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan (OFRP), COLE simultaneously prepared for her upcoming maintenance phase. Originally scheduled to begin in April 2018, the beginning of the planned 12 month long Extended Dry docking Selected Restricted Availability (EDSRA) hinged on the contract being awarded in February 2018. Complicating the contract award was the fact that it was bid coast-wide (in accordance with statute). Due to numerous factors, the contract award was delayed until May 2018, causing uncertainty in EDSRA planning for COLE's Maintenance Team.

Despite the uncertainty, COLE continued to proactively plan for EDSRA while maximizing underway training opportunities. These underway opportunities included two separate events in support of the Professional Training of Midshipmen (PROTRAMID). For PROTRAMID, COLE embarked over 75 Midshipmen while underway in the Virginia Capes Operational Area (VCOA). This summer training provided them with a glimpse of life as Surface Warfare Officer. Additionally, COLE was tasked to support Submarine Sea Trials in the Narragansett Bay Operational Area (NBOA). While underway for this event, COLE provided critical support to a submarine conducting its first underway since undergoing an extensive overhaul.

In addition to operational tasking and EDSRA preparations, COLE participated in the annual Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (CNSL) Line Week competition in June 2018.



The competition was a week-long series of professional and athletic events that culminated with the Surface Warrior Ball. COLE earned 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Medium Commands) and proudly displayed the championship trophy on the quarterdeck.

BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair was awarded the contract for COLE's EDSRA on June 1, 2018. COLE entered BAE shipyard on Jul 30, 2018 and dry dock on October 30, 2018.

COLE's time in EDSRA progressed according to schedule and was punctuated by a major fire on a neighboring DDG in the shipyard. On November 10, 2018, USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79) experienced a fire in her forward superstructure. Sailors from COLE's duty section responded almost immediately and fought the fire. Their efforts included sending COLE fire parties inside the fire boundary, directly engaging the fire, setting re-flash watches and providing critical support with Damage Control equipment. Their efforts were lauded by Commander Strike Group 10, Commander Destroyer Squadron 26 and Commander Destroyer 22. No injuries were recorded as a result of the fire and many authorities credit COLE's response as the decisive factor in stemming further damage.

With the exception of the production schedule shifting due to the impacts of hurricane preparations in September, COLE has maintained the production schedule without delays. This has been a result of maximum participation in daily coordination meetings, proactive and constant communication within the project team, leveraging lessons learned from other ships in availabilities and proactive and foresighted work package development. COLE's timely completion of the maintenance phase is critical to Fleet readiness as she will need time to complete the subsequent basic phase prior to deploying.

## CHRONOLOGY AND NARRATIVE

The chronology and narrative are imperative reports for historical research and verification. The chronology includes specific and important dates of operations, port visits, training exercises, mishaps, and administrative functions. The narrative further amplifies the chronology and discusses important events in detail.

### SUSTAINMENT AND EDSRA 2018

1JAN – 07JAN	SECOND PHASE HOLIDAY STANDDOWN
08JAN – 11JAN	CMAV
12JAN – 27JAN	U/W NATIONAL TASKING
28JAN – 05FEB	I/P NORFOLK
06FEB – 19FEB	U/W NATIONAL TASKING
20FEB – 28FEB	U/W HST C2X OPFOR
01MAR – 18MAR	I/P NORFOLK
19MAR – 20MAR	U/W VCOAS TYT
21MAR – 19APR	I/P NORFOLK
20APR – 25APR	U/W JAXOAS HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON SERVICES
25APR – 26APR	I/P MAYPORT
26APR – 27APR	U/W JAXOAS / TIGER CRUISE
28APR – 29MAY	I/P NORFOLK / CMAV
29MAY – 01JUN	U/W VCOAS TYT
02JUN – 10JUN	I/P NORFOLK
11JUN – 14JUN	U/W VCOAS PROTRAMID
15JUN – 18JUN	U/W NBOAS SUBMARINE SUPPORT TRIALS
19JUN – 20JUN	U/W VCOAS PROTRAMID
21JUN – 29JUL	I/P NORFOLK / CMAV
30JUN	SURFACE WARRIOR BALL
25JUN – 29JUN	SURFACE LINE WEEK
03JUL	COMMAND PICNIC
30JUL – 31DEC	I/P NORFOLK BAE SHIPYARD / EDSRA
11SEP	9/11 CEREMONY
21SEP	CHIEF PINNING
12OCT	COLE REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
30OCT	DRY DOCKING
07DEC	HOLIDAY PARTY
18DEC – 28DEC	FIRST PHASE HOLIDAY STANDDOWN
29DEC – 01JAN	SECOND PHASE HOLIDAY STANDDOWN

### CREW MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 41 RE-ENLISTMENTS
- 34 ADVANCEMENTS:
  - CYCLE 238 (JAN18)
    - E-7: 5
  - CYCLE 239 (MAR18)
    - E4: 9
    - E5: 16
    - E6: 4
- 17 ESWS QUALIFICATIONS 2018
- 10 SWO QUALIFICATIONS 2018

During calendar year 2018, the USS COLE – DDG67 (COLE) provided multi-mission capabilities pertaining to: Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), Air Warfare (AW), Surface Warfare (SW) and Undersea Warfare (USW) for Destroyer Squadron 22 (DESRON 22), Combined Task Force 80 (CTF 80) and NORTHCOM in support of Maritime Homeland Defense and National Tasking while in Sustainment Phase in the Western Atlantic.

Throughout January and February, COLE executed operations in the Western Atlantic in support of national tasking. In response to short notice tasking, COLE got underway and provided critical operational information on a foreign vessel. COLE's support of this vital mission increased situational awareness for the National Command Authority as well as increased understanding within the Intelligence Community.

In addition to supporting national tasking, COLE participated in the HST CSG during February. COLE served as OPFOR, a critical role as the HST CSG prepared for the first ever deployment in support of Dynamic Force Employment. COLE was lauded by CSG-4 for its role as the Interface Control Officer managing the OPFOR's C2 architecture.

In April during routine training, COLE stopped at Naval Station Mayport in order to pick up family and friends for a Tiger Cruise. COLE spent three days underway with Tigers, returning to Naval Station Norfolk. In June, COLE supported U.S. submarine operations. Additionally, in June, COLE supported underway training for Midshipmen summer training (PROTRAMID).

Arriving in BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair on July 30, the crew has been active on and off the ship. COLE participated and won Commander Naval Surface Forces (CNSL) Surface Line Week competition (Medium Commands). Additional activities include a command picnic for crew and families on July 3, 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Chief's Pinning Ceremony and 18<sup>th</sup> annual COLE Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony, held in the C-9 auditorium onboard Naval Station Norfolk due to inclement weather, was highlighted by ADM Chris Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command serving as the guest speaker. Numerous COLE heroes and family members of the fallen Sailors attended the ceremony.

COLE's last major milestone of the year was marked by entering BAE's "Old Dominion" dry dock on October 30. The year concluded with COLE on track for undocking on March 21, 2019 and completion of EDSRA on September 12, 2019.



## COMMAND MISSION STATEMENT



**We Are Dedicated Professionals, Determined Warriors!**

### **What We Must Do:**

**Accomplish the Mission:** We must always be ready to successfully answer ALL tasking. Our nation expects us to FIGHT, MANEUVER, COMMUNICATE, and LOOK PROFESSIONAL at ALL TIMES. We will not disappoint!!

**Maintain Material Readiness:** We are entrusted with a state-of-the art weapons and engineering platform. It is our responsibility to properly maintain COLE at the HIGHEST LEVELS OF READINESS; not only during our time onboard, but also for those Determined Warriors who come after us.

**Emphasize Dignity and Respect:** We SHALL ALWAYS conduct ourselves with the highest levels of dignity and respect. We are a TEAM and must work together to accomplish the mission.

### **How We Will Succeed:**

Without each and every one of us, COLE is nothing. Therefore we must be equipped with the capabilities and means to execute our assigned tasks. To that end, we will succeed by emphasizing the following principles:

**Communication:** Open communication must always exist UP and DOWN the chain of command. Bad news does not get better with time so DON'T DELAY in keeping the chain of command informed. Likewise, the chain of command must clearly communicate expectations and tasking to our Sailors.

**Procedural Compliance:** What we do is difficult work. It is more difficult when we don't FOLLOW ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. If procedures cannot be followed or do not exist, STOP and inform the Chain of Command.

**A Learning Organization:** We must strive to constantly improve as a command. Never miss an opportunity to LEARN from mistakes, IMPROVE practices, and TRAIN those around us as we continually seek to achieve excellence.

**J.J. VON ST. PAUL**



## PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

### 1. Press Releases

- a. [https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=105806](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=105806)
- b. [https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=107404](https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=107404)

### 2. Websites

- a. <http://www.facebook.com/ddg67>
- b. <http://www.public.navy.mil/surflant/ddg67>

### 3. Videos

- a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQIEva6A5PI>