



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 OPERATIONAL REPORT 2019

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12K

Encl: (1) Command Data
(2) Commander's Assessment and Command Mission Statement
(3) Chronology
(4) Command Photographs
(5) Published Documents

1. Purpose: To publish the annual command operational report per reference (a) and via enclosures (1) through (5). 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 2019.



E. J. PLEDGER

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

James J. Von St Paul
Commander, United States Navy
Assumed command October 13, 2017

Edward J. Pledger
Commander, United States Navy
Assumed command May 2, 2019

4. Mission: Extended Dry docking Selected Restricted Availability (EDSRA)
5. Homeport: Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia
6. Immediate superior in command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO (CDS 22).
7. Operational superior in command: Commander, Task Force EIGHT ZERO (CTF 80)
8. Administrative superior in command: CDS22.
9. Assigned Task Force: CTF 80
10. Operations: N/A
11. Units deployed on board: N/A
12. Number of personnel assigned: 285
13. Officers, enlisted, or civilian
 - a. Officers: 37
 - b. Enlisted: 248

14. Command Contact Information

a. E-mail

(1) [REDACTED]

(3) [REDACTED]

b. Phone number: [REDACTED]

c. Command Mailing Address:

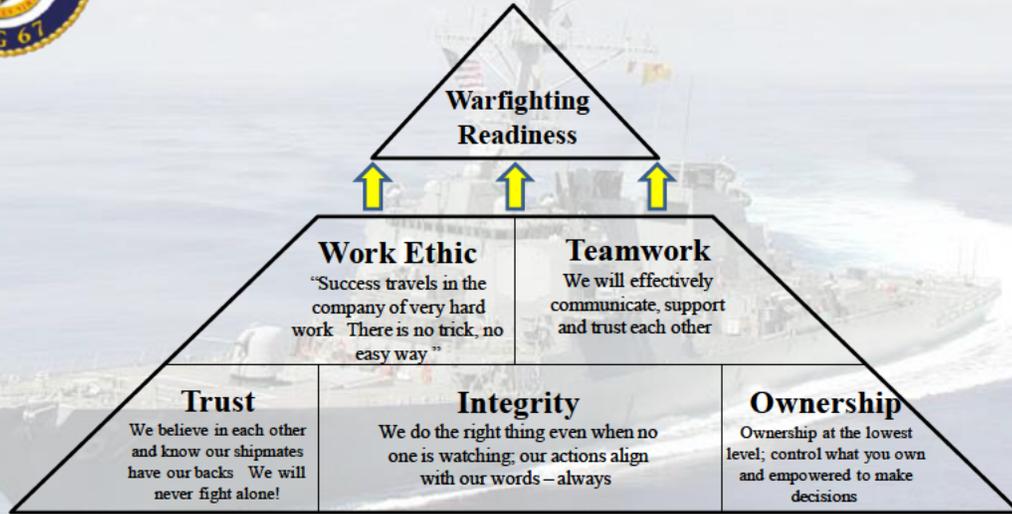
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COMMAND MISSION STATEMENT



USS COLE (DDG 67)

Readiness Pyramid



Command Philosophy

Our primary goal for USS COLE is simple: we must be ready to fight and win. Everything we do in taking care of our ship, our shipmates, ourselves and our families is done so that we can answer our country's call, when required.

COMMANDER'S ASSESSMENT

An *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer enhanced for Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), USS COLE (DDG 67) conducts missions in a wide number of warfare areas to support U.S. national interests. COLE's capabilities as a warfighting platform have proven essential to the maritime homeland defense (MHD) mission. The calendar year of 2019 was pivotal in COLE's life cycle. The crew worked tirelessly to bring COLE back to life after enduring a "longer than expected" availability and were faced with many challenges that would ultimately lead them to reach key milestones, setting them up for success during the upcoming Basic Phase.

Although COLE was non-operational for nearly 18 months, the crew constantly sought underway experience through training to maintain watch standing proficiency. For example, several COLE Sailors were selected to provide watch team support for two CSG-2 tactical training group Atlantic (TTGL) training exercises to include the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Strike Group Composite Training Exercise (C2X) and Exercise Vigilant Speed. Additionally, COLE scheduled two weeks of training in Wallops Island, Maryland, specifically for combat watch standers, to get them back into a tactical mindset and afford them valuable practice time they would not have otherwise received in the ship yard. Likewise, COLE also sent engineering watch teams to NAVSEA in Philadelphia to familiarize themselves with the newly upgraded engineering systems installed onboard COLE which would later prove to be an integral part of their success during the ship's Light Off Assessment (LOA) in 2020.

These training opportunities were invaluable and would pay dividends come Basic Phase, but losing those groups of Sailors made manning the in port watch-bill extremely difficult, causing the crew to collapse duty sections to meet requirements. Furthermore, manning concerns became even more prevalent with the ever changing EDSRA schedule making it difficult to project which Sailors would be still be present after the Maintenance Phase. The COLE was determined to overcome any obstacle that stood in their path even if it meant they would have to commence the Basic Phase with an almost completely new crew of Sailors not present in July 2018 when they first began their EDSRA.

Although COLE remained in a tactical mindset, the crew also saw the importance of maintaining their status on the water front as Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic surface line week champions. COLE refused to go down without a fight and finished in second place during the 2019 CNSL week competition.

More success soon followed with the early completion of the Search and Rescue (SAR) and Anti-Terrorism (AT) certifications, which set the tone for the rest of Basic Phase. Most of the Crew had yet to experience a Basic Phase and learned very quickly that this portion of the ship's life cycle would require an all hands effort. For example, countless AT training team drills were performed in the weeks leading up to the AT certification to prepare top-side watch standers for real world encounters. The Crew's preparation, teamwork, and heightened sense of focus

ultimately led to the success of AT certification and was a testament to COLE and the legacy the crew carries with them every day.

COLE experienced many unknowns during the year of 2019, yet the Crew remained flexible and focused on the next milestone, which was to smoothly transition out of EDSRA and hit the ground running as they began Basic Phase. They took advantage of numerous training opportunities and remained in a tactical mindset with hopes of getting their ship back out to sea where they belong. They remained active on the waterfront without losing sight of the end goal. The Crew met all their wickets in 2019 in preparation to succeed in 2020 and get their ship back to sea.

CHRONOLOGY

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.

2019 Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability

1JAN–31DEC	Extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability_(EDSRA)
29MAR	Undocking
31MAR–5APR	Combat Systems Training Team (CSTT) conducted Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) training at Wallops Island
8APR–10APR	Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Field Tactical Trainer (FTT)
15APR–19APR	Spring Physical Readiness Test (PRT)
2MAY	Change of Command
20MAY–24MAY	Bridge Resource Management Course
21JUN	Command Picnic
24–28JUN	CNSL Surface Line Week
29JUN	Surface Warrior Ball
1JUL–2 JUL	Search and Rescue Certification
14JUL–18JUL	CSTT conducted IAMD training at Wallops Island
5AUG–23AUG	Anti-Submarine Warfare DIAPS course
10SEP–12SEP	Refueling
13SEP	Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Pinning Ceremony
23SEP–25SEP	Air Missile Defense Coordinator (AMDC) for Commander Carrier Strike Group Two (CSG 2) training at TTGL
1OCT–31OCT	CDS 22 Pennant Shift to COLE
12OCT	19 th COLE Remembrance Ceremony
15OCT–26OCT	Fall PRT
26 NOV	Dead Stick from BAE Shipyard to Naval Station Norfolk
5DEC	Anti-Terrorism Certification
13DEC	Command Holiday Party
20DEC–9JAN	Holiday Leave Period

In April, several combat information center (CIC) watch standers attended a CIC training team (CICTT) simulator in Wallops Island, Maryland to support both CSTT and blue/gold watch teams training. COLE rebuilt watch team cohesion by allowing watch standers to practice basic fundamentals in air and missile defense. COLE attended CICTT in Wallops Island again in July to further develop and refine the skills necessary for Basic Phase. This time, the CIC watch team successfully completed a two day search and rescue (SAR) plotting exercise (PLOTTEX) which would soon contribute significantly to SAR certification.

On May 2nd, Commander Edward J. Pledger relieved Commander James J. Von St. Paul as Commanding Officer of USS COLE at Vista Point Conference Center located at Naval Station Norfolk. The guest speaker was Commodore Moninger of Destroyer Squadron Two Two.

In September, COLE supported CCSG-2 and CDS 22 as the AMDC through a series of complex air defense scenarios developed by TTGL. COLE's air defense team professionally executed their duties as "whiskey" and received high praise from the Strike Group command and TTGL staff.

On September 13th, USS COLE and USS SAN ANTONIO came together after a tough "Chief Season" to celebrate the pinning of eight CPOs, four from USS COLE and four from USS SAN ANTONIO. Names of the CPOs are listed on page 12 of enclosure 4.

On October 12th, the COLE crew held the 19th remembrance ceremony of the 2000 attack in Aden, Yemen Harbor. Captain Mikal Phillips, Fire Control Officer at the time of the event, attended the ceremony as their key note speaker to honor the Crew's fallen shipmates. The ceremony streamed on COLE's Facebook page for the first time ever and certainly set the precedent for all future remembrance ceremonies.

November 26th was by far the most momentous milestone since the crew began its EDSRA back in July 2018. COLE made her way back to Naval Station Norfolk where the crew worked tirelessly towards the end of the avail. Shortly after docking at the Naval Station, COLE successfully completed her Anti-Terrorism certification. COLE finished off the year with a hard earned holiday stand down period.