



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)
FPO AE 09566-1294

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From: Commanding Officer, **USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)**
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical
Center, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M. Street SE, Bldg. 57,
Washington, D.C.

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) **DONALD COOK** Command History Package

1. Enclosure (1) provided in accordance with reference (a).


S. A. LOTT
By direction

II and III. Chronology and Narrative

09 July 1996: Keel Laid

In a small ceremony, CDR McCarthy, Laurette Cook, and representatives of BIW and SUPSHIP marked the beginning of DONALD COOK's life with the laying of the keel. Twenty-nine months later, DONALD COOK would be commissioned in Philadelphia, PA.

03 May 1997: Launching

With a large crowd and many dignitaries looking on, DONALD COOK was launched and christened on a brisk spring morning in Bath, ME. The principal speaker, Senator Patrick J. Leahy (R-Vermont) spoke of the importance of keeping the Navy strong and prosperous, as well as the courage and strength of COL Donald Cook, USMC, the ship's namesake. After his remarks, Laurette Cook, the widow of Donald Cook, concluded the festivities with the ceremonial breaking of the champagne bottle on the hull.

14 January 1998: Aegis Light Off

VADM Giffin, Vice Chairman of Naval Operations marked the "coming to life" of the AEGIS system by turning the signature key in CIC. With one turn, the combat systems onboard were functioning and ready for DONALD COOK sailors. Although it would be five months before the systems' capabilities were displayed, the day was a significant milestone in DONALD COOK's history.

01 March 1998: Generator Light Off

DONALD COOK's electrical plant came to life as members of the ship's crew GSM1 (SW) [REDACTED], GSM1(SW) [REDACTED] and GSE2 [REDACTED] started the ship's electrical generators for the first time as representatives from Allison, BIW, SUPSHIPS BATH and the crew looked on.

29 March 1998: Main Engine Light Off

DONALD COOK's propulsion plant is brought to life. The crew, in conjunction with BIW and SUPSHIPS BATH saw the heart of the ship's engineering plant energized.

11-15 May 1998: VLS Interim Certification

The interim certification is a process that gives the ship its initial "clean bill of health" to safely fire missiles during Bravo trial testing. Inspectors conducted a thorough inspection of the material condition, initial construction, operation, logistics and personnel qualifications.

18-22 May 1998: Plot I: ATG

Members of ATG came aboard to conduct the first review of DONALD COOK's Engineering programs and practices.

I. Command Composition and Organization

USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75) Mission: USS DONALD COOK is one of the most modern and powerful ships in the Navy today. It is designed to support brief, intense engagements in which the full simultaneous operational capability of the ship, including maximum firepower of all weapons, will be employed. Built to incorporate lessons learned from World War II to the Gulf War, DONALD COOK is extraordinarily survivable and capable of conducting Naval Surface Fire Support, SLOC protection, cruise missile strikes, theater air defense, command and control, and battlespace dominance.

Organizational Structure (Immediate Superior in Command): Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO

Type and number of aircraft assigned not applicable.

Number of military/civilian personnel onboard: 304 military

27-28 June 1998: Transit to Portland/Fast Cruise

With half the crew, numerous BIW employees and VIPs, DONALD COOK left Bath, Maine under her own power for the first time, and sailed to Portland ME.

29 June-02 July 1998: U/W, Bravo Trials

There was not a rack to spare onboard as DONALD COOK set out for the Gulf of Maine for three full days of operational tests. DONALD COOK tested all major Combat Systems equipment, to include CIWS, 5/54 gun, and VLS.

14-15 July 1998: U/W, Charlie Trials

DONALD COOK's second set of trials, referred to as Charlie Trials, gave the majority of the ship's crew a chance to go to sea with the ship. For about thirty percent of the crew, this was their first experience at sea. During this brief underway period, DONALD COOK worked closely with BIW and SUPSHIPS to identify discrepancies in the ship's systems to be fixed in the months prior to sailaway.

20 July-27 August 1998: Loadout

Over a three week period, the Supply Department loaded out and inventoried over twenty-six thousand line items, fifty-three thousand pounds of food and twelve thousand Maintenance Assistant Modules (MAM's).

20 July-08 August 1998: COMM Team Trainer, St. Inigoes

RM/ET Trainer: CE and OC Divisions spent three weeks of hard work in the classroom and the lab learning to operate radio circuits.

15-28 August 1998: CIC Team Trainer, Wallops Island

DONALD COOK exercised two complete Condition III watch teams and the Combat Systems Training Team (CSTT) at Wallops Island, Virginia during the Combat Information Center Team Trainer from 15-28 August 1998. This training normally scheduled for 10 days was completed early as a result of Hurricane Bonnie's impact on the Eastern Shore. This period allowed DONALD COOK's warfighters to establish a strong base for future tactical and training evolutions.

28 August 1998: Crew Move Aboard

Finally, after two years of hard work, the officers and crew of DONALD COOK moved aboard the ship. In a ceremony on the fantail, CDR McCarthy was presented with the key to the ship by CAPT Hepburn, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Bath.

08-11 September 1998: Plot II, ATG

In the second of three visits to ensure Engineering Department readiness, DONALD COOK continued preparation for Light Off Assessment.

23-24 September 1998: Crew Cert I, CDS 22

Crew Certification Phase I was DONALD COOK's first major ISIC inspection. Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO inspected training and qualification programs to ensure the crew is effectively trained in standard operating procedures,

emergency bills, casualty drills and newly installed equipment. All major administrative programs were also inspected.

28 September-09 October 1998: Tomahawk Material Certification

The Tomahawk Material Certification tested the ATWCS ability to support tactical operations by subjecting the system to several evolutions including simulated firing of all variants of the Tomahawk missile. Material Certification also verified all required technical publications and software were onboard.

13-14 October 1998: Crew Cert II, CDS 22

Crew Certification Phase II was the second inspection from COMDESRON 22 and focused primarily on the implementation of programs inspected in Phase I. DESRON Staff evaluated DONALD COOK's organizational structure under the inport and at-sea conditions. Oral and written examinations were administered to key watchstanders and the ship's emergency teams were evaluated for their level of knowledge of casualty bills and procedures.

19-23 October 1998: Plot III: ATG

The final evaluation of DONALD COOK's engineering plant and programs prior to LOA. This visit allowed the engineering department to fine tune its programs and procedures.

03-05 November 1998: LOA

DONALD COOK passed LOA with flying colors. No significant material discrepancies were noted, and DONALD COOK was the rare ship which did not have a single DC discrepancy. The whole ship pulled together to perform outstanding fire drills and the Engineering Department proved that it was well trained and capable of safely operating the plant.

06 November 1998: U/W, Sailaway/Dependents Cruise (Enroute Portland)

DONALD COOK sailed down the Kennebec River for the last time with a ready crew and their families onboard. While underway, CDR McCarthy directed ENS [REDACTED] to take the ship to full power and "stretch her legs" for the first time under the crew's control.

09-10 November 1998: U/W, Gulf of Maine, 12-13 November 1998: U/W, Boston OPAREA

16-20 November 1998: U/W, Enroute Newport, RI

DONALD COOK operated from the Bath Iron Works facility in Portland, ME for two weeks. The ship got underway twice for training with USS MAHAN to practice ship handling and external communication prior to sailing South to join the Atlantic Fleet. During DONALD COOK's final voyage from the shipyard, she had the opportunity to conduct a photo exercise with the USS MAHAN and PRECOMUNIT HIGGINS in the Gulf of Maine. DONALD COOK continued South with MAHAN, coordinating unit training and tactical events while proceeding to the Virginia Capes Operating Area.

COMDESRON 22 flew out to the ship to welcome her to the fleet and spent an afternoon touring the ship and talking to the crew.

23-26 November 1998: School Ship, Newport, RI

The ship acted as school ship for tours for the prospective Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, and Department Heads. It was a great opportunity for the crew to show off the newest warship in the Navy and everyone enjoyed the liberty in Newport.

27-29 November 1998: U/W, Enroute Philadelphia 04 December 1998: Commissioning, Philadelphia, PA

Basking in the warmth of a beautiful 73 degree December afternoon in Philadelphia, a crowd of over five thousand witnessed the ship being brought to life by the over three hundred strong crew of the USS DONALD COOK. The city of Philadelphia was selected to host the commissioning because of its strong ties to the United States Navy and Marine Corps. In addition, the fact that the Army/Navy game was being played the following day made the choice even better. The hour long ceremony had many highlights, none more moving then when Laurette Cook read excerpts from a letter she received from COL Cook while he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam. At the conclusion of her remarks, Laurette gave the order to bring the ship to life. Moments later, the ship was manned and ready to join the United States Navy.

07-13 December 1998: U/W, VACAPES

After commissioning in Philadelphia, DONALD COOK operated in VACAPES conducting more training. The ship conducted flight quarters, underway replenishment rehearsals with USS BIG HORN and daily engineering evolutions to tune the crew's proficiency.

14-15 December 1998: Ammunition Onload, Yorktown, VA

DONALD COOK onloaded a wide range of ammunition for use during upcoming test events. Scheduled for three days, the onload was completed in less than two days.

16 December 1998: Homecoming, Norfolk, VA

For some DONALD COOK crewmembers, this homecoming would be one they would never forget. Although not deployed, some Sailors had spent over eight months away from family members during the construction and pre-commissioning cycle in Maine. A large and delighted crowd braved the cold weather to meet their loved ones on Pier 24 in Norfolk.

01-06 February 1999: U/W, Enroute Roosevelt Roads, PR

08-11 February 1999: U/W, Puerto Rico OPAREA (NSFS Qualification)

After practicing on the range at Vieques Island, DONALD COOK went on to change the record books for NSFS qualification. Earning a near perfect score of 104, DONALD COOK used only 63 rounds during their qualifying run, a record for any surface ship. The 5/54 gun crew and the plotters who made up the NSFS team had

trained together for only a month prior to the evolution. In one of the biggest events in the ship's young life, DONALD COOK's plankowners proved they were battle ready.

16-18 February 1999: U/W, Enroute Bermuda 18-21 February 1999: Liberty Port, Bermuda

After a demanding three-week schedule at sea, DONALD COOK sailed north to Bermuda for the ship's first liberty port. Over the weekend, the crew was able to tour the island and take in many of the cultural and historical attractions.

22 February-15 March 1999: U/W Jacksonville OPAREA (ASCIET)

DONALD COOK had the unique opportunity to participate in the 1999 All Services Combat Identification Evaluation Test (ASCIET 99), a complex Joint Air Defense exercise involving participants from each service. The crew performed flawlessly, controlling Defensive Counter Air assets and leading the Air Defense Architecture over water as Sector Air Defense Coordinator.

IV. Supporting Documents

USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)

Ship Characteristics

The USS DONALD COOK is the 25th destroyer of the ARLEIGH BURKE class. These destroyers operate in conjunction with and in defense of Carrier Battle Groups, Surface Action Groups, Amphibious Groups and Replenishment Groups. While destroyers have historically preformed Anti-Submarine duties, the ARLEIGH BURKE class ships are multi-mission capable. They can function in Air, Undersea, Surface and Strike warfare areas simultaneously.

General Characteristics

Builder: Bath Iron Works

Power Plant: Four General Electric LM 2500-30 gas turbines: two shafts, 100,000 total shaft horsepower

Length: 466 feet (142 meters)

Beam: 59 feet (18 meters)

Displacement: 8,300 tons (7,470 metric tones) full load

Speed: 31 knots (35.7 mph, 57.1 kph)

Aircraft: None. LAMPS III electronics installed for coordinated DDG 51/ ASW helo operations

AEGIS Combat System

The AEGIS system was designed as a total weapon system, from detection to kill. The heart of the system is an advanced, automatic detect and track, multi-functional phased array radar, the AN/SPY-1. This high-powered (four-megawatt) radar is able to perform search, track and missile guidance functions simultaneously with a track capacity of over 100 targets. The computer based command and decision element is the core of the AEGIS combat system. This interface makes the AEGIS combat system capable of operations against a multi-mission threat.

Standard Missile

The standard missile is produced in two major types, the SM-1 MR/SM-2 (medium range) and the SM-2 (extended range). It is one of the most reliable in the Navy's inventory. Used against missiles, aircraft and ships, the Standard Missile first came into the fleet more than a decade ago. It replaced the TERRIER and TARTAR missiles and is part of the weapons suite of more than 100 Navy ships. A new version of the Standard Missile family successfully demonstrated a Theater Ballistic Missile Defense capability, when a ballistic missiles target was shot from the sky for the first time.

Tomahawk Missile

The Tomahawk Missile provides the DDG 51 with a Strike Warfare weapon. This missile is fired from the Vertical Launching System and is used to strike targets deep within enemy territory. The Tomahawk is a precision tactical weapon, which allows the Navy to project power ashore while limiting the risk to personnel. Used with great

success in the Gulf War, the Tomahawk has become the Navy's weapon of choice for Strike Warfare.

Harpoon Missile

The RGM-84D Harpoon is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile system. The missile is capable of being launched from surface ships, submarines or (without the booster) aircraft. The Harpoon's active radar guidance, warhead design, and low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory assure high survivability and effectiveness.

Mark 54 ~ 5-inch, 54 caliber lightweight gun

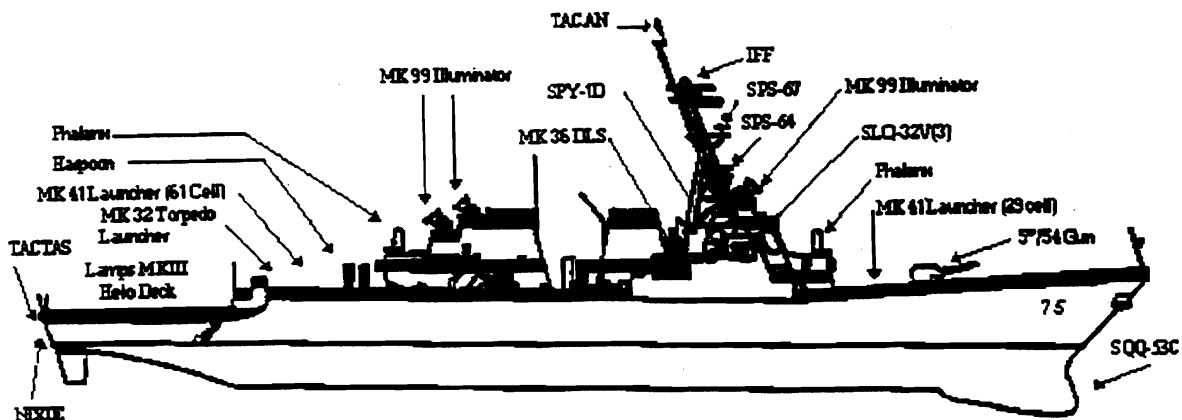
The 54 caliber (Mk45) lightweight gun provides surface combatants accurate naval gunfire against fast, highly maneuverable surface target, air threats and shore targets during amphibious operations. This lightweight gun system offers significant improvements in reliability and maintainability over older gun system. The Mk 45 is controlled by the Mk 160 Gun Computing System.

Phalanx Close-In Weapons System

Phalanx provides US Navy ships with a terminal defense against anti-ship missiles, which have penetrated other fleet defenses. Designed to engage anti-ship missiles and fixed wing aircraft at close range, Phalanx fires 4500 rounds per minute. As a fully automated system, Phalanx engages functions usually preformed by independent systems such as search, detection, threat evaluation acquisition, track, firing, target destruction, kill assessment and cease fire.

Mk 46 and Mk 50 Torpedoes, VLA

The Over-The-Side-Torpedo system provides DDG 51 with 6 torpedoes for use against surface ships or submarines. This system is enhanced by the addition of the VLA, a rocket assisted torpedo, launched from the Vertical Launching System, which allows engagements to occur further from the destroyer. The Mk 46 Torpedo is also carried by the LAMPS III, which may work in company with the DDG 51 and allow additional engagement ranges.



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DEFENSE AND SURFACE COMBATANTS TO TAKE DELIVERY OF DONALD COOK ON 21
AUG 98 AND PLACE HER "IN SERVICE, SPECIAL". REF B CITES REF A AND
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DELIVERY FROM BIW ON 21 AUG 98.//
POC/B. DELROSSI/CIV/SUPSHIP BATH ME/CODE 152B4/TEL:207-442-3556//
RMKS/1. IAW REFS A AND B, DONALD COOK (DDG 75) HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED
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