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## USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) (UIC 21949) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999:

### 1. Command Composition and Organization.

USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) Mission: 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, Sea Lines of Communication protection, cruise missile strikes, theater air defense, command and control, and battlespace dominance.

USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) Organizational Structure: Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO, Captain Miller, USN.

Units Under Operational/Administrative Control: None.

Name of Commander: CDR James F. McCarthy Jr., USN

Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: None.

### 2. Chronology and Narrative.

#### 16 December 1998-31 January 1999: Holiday Leave, and Upkeep, Norfolk, VA

Homecoming on 16 December was one many DONALD COOK Sailors 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

The transit to the Puerto Rican OPAREA provided DONALD COOK an opportunity for more training and to prepare for Naval Surface Fire Support Qualification.

#### 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 only used 63 rounds during her qualifying run, setting 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.

15 March-23 May 1999: Inport Norfolk:

DONALD COOK returns to its homeport for the longest period time since the crew was assembled in Bath, Maine for its construction.

24-26 May 1999: U/W, Enroute Halifax, Nova Scotia 27-30 May 1999: Liberty Port, Halifax

The crew receives four days of liberty prior to the upcoming Post Shakedown Availability. Hailed as being one of the best ports to visit, the crew took advantage touring the area and participating in the diverse nightlife.

31 May-01 June: U/W, Portland, ME 01 June-22 August 1999: Post Shakedown Availability, Portland, ME

DONALD COOK enters its first maintenance availability since its commissioning. The crew had been preparing for this since before their departure from Bath in November 1998. New equipment was installed and broken equipment was repaired. For those crew members who did not keep their families in Maine, they were provided lodging at one of two Suisse Chalet hotels in Portland for the duration of PSA. The many plankowners on DONALD COOK, it was tough to see their brand new ship being put through an availability such as this, so shortly after it had proven herself as a warfighter during CSSQT and ASCIET.

16 August 1999: CDR Steven A. Lott relieved as Executive Officer by LCDR Andrew T. Paul

23-25 August 1999: U/W, Enroute Boston, MA 26 August-01 September 1999: Inport, Boston, MA

DONALD COOK enjoys a liberty port after a successful PSA in Portland, ME. The port visit initially scheduled for the 26-29 August, was increased by several days due to Hurricane Bonnie loitering off the coast of Hampton Roads. With these few extra days

of liberty the crew continued to enjoy the history, shopping and of course the Boston Red Sox.

01-03 September 1999: U/W, Enroute Norfolk, VA 03-12 September 1999: Inport Norfolk

DONALD COOK is able to sail past Hurricane Bonnie as it hovers off the coast and arrives in Norfolk without any difficulty. Much of the crew is glad to return home, most for the first time since leaving for Portland at the end of May.

13 September-19 November 1999: U/W in the Puerto Rican OpArea for CSSQT.

DONALD COOK spent these two months actively testing its combat systems suite. Numerous exercises involving Anti-Submarine, Anti-Surface and Anti-Air warfare were conducted. At some point during CSSQT, DONALD COOK fired every weapon onboard and did it well. The crew was given various liberty ports during CSSQT including St. Martin, Curacao, St. Croix and numerous visits to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

19 November 1999-07 February 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK enjoys a long period in homeport for the holidays. For many onboard, this will be the longest period to date that they have spent in homeport since reporting to the Precommissioning Unit. Many of the crew will attend schools and various team trainers to prepare them for the upcoming deployment with the George Washington Battle Group.