



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS DOYLE (FFG 39)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AA 34090-1494

Rec'd 9/4/97

5750  
Ser FFG 39/109  
29 Aug 97

From: Commanding Officer, USS DOYLE (FFG 39)  
To: Director of Naval History

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1996 COMMAND HISTORY

Encl: (1) USS DOYLE 1996 Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted as USS DOYLE's 1996 Command History.

  
E. S. YERGER

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# USS DOYLE 1996 Command History

## 1. Command Composition and Organization

### **Mission:**

DOYLE is fully capable in the three major mission areas of Air Warfare (AW), Surface Warfare (SUW), and Undersea Warfare (USW).

### **Organizational Structure:**

Immediate Superior in Command: Commander Western Hemisphere Group

### **Commanding Officer:**

01 January - 31 December - CDR L.R. Hering USN

### **Homeport:**

Mayport, Florida

### **Aircraft assigned:**

SH-60B helicopters from HSL-44 Detachment Nine, Mayport, Florida.

### **Departments:**

Air (HSL 44 Det 9 embarked.)  
Combat Systems  
Engineering  
Operations  
Supply

## 2. Chronology

01-07 January	Inport Mayport - Holiday Upkeep
08-24 January	Upkeep Mayport
25-26 January	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area - Intermediate Team Training Exercises (TSTA III)
29 January - 02 February	Enroute Bahamas - Intermediate Team Training Exercises (TSTA III)
03-05 February	Port Visit - Bahamas
06-09 February	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area - Final Examination Period (FEP) - DOYLE receives a grade of GOOD.

20 February - 20 March	Underway Caribbean Sea and Puerto Rico Operating Area (PROA) for pre-deployment exercises (COMPTUEX).
01-03 March	Port Visit - St. John's, US Virgin Islands.
21 March - 02 May	Inport Mayport - Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV)
03 May	Depart Mayport for Middle East Force (MEF) Deployment 2-96.
03 - 12 May	Atlantic Transit
13 May	Strait of Gibraltar Transit. Outchop Second Fleet (C2F), in chop Sixth Fleet (C6F).
14 May	Underway Mediterranean - enroute Malaga, Spain
15-19 May	Port Visit - Malaga, Spain
20-22 May	Underway Mediterranean - enroute Suez Canal
23-24 May	Suez Canal Transit. Outchop Sixth Fleet (C6F), in chop Fifth Fleet (C5F).
25-27 May	Red Sea Transit
28 May	Exercise with French Frigate COMMANDANT BORY.
29-31 May	Arabian Sea Transit
01 June	Strait of Hormuz Transit, enter Arabian Gulf.
02 June	DOYLE relieves USS CARON (DD 970) in Bahrain. Begin Operation Desert Storm, Operation Vigilant Sentinel, and Operation Rugged Nautilus.
02-10 June	Inport Manama, Bahrain
11-19 June	Underway Central Arabian Gulf - Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) Protection Operations.
20-26 June	Inport Manama, Bahrain
27 June - 03 July	Underway North Arabian Gulf - Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)

03-05 July	Underway Central Arabian Gulf - DOYLE serves as escort ship for Maritime Prepositioning Ship (MPS) Convoy between Bahrain and Qatar.
06-10 July	Port Visit - Doha, Qatar
08-09 July	DOYLE conducts Operation Eastern Sailor with Qatar Navy.
10-12 July	Underway Central Arabian Gulf - DOYLE serves as escort ship for Maritime Prepositioning Ship (MPS) Convoy between Qatar and Bahrain.
13-16 July	Inport Manama, Bahrain
17 July - 14 August	Underway North Arabian Gulf - Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)
01 August	DOYLE awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation, NATO Medal, and Armed Forces Service Medal for participation in Operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic Sea from 15 June - 07 August 1994.
15-23 August	Inport Manama, Bahrain
24-29 August	Underway North Arabian Gulf - Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)
30-31 August	Inport Manama, Bahrain
01-04 September	Underway North Arabian Gulf - Operation Desert Strike
06-08 September	Underway North Arabian Gulf for Tactical Evaluation Exercise (TACEVALEX 96-1) (Undersea Warfare)
09-19 September	Underway North Arabian Gulf - Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO)
19 September	DOYLE boards 39th vessel while conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations in the Arabian Gulf.
20-26 September	Inport Manama, Bahrain
27 September	USS STEVEN W. GROVES (FFG 29) relieves DOYLE. End DOYLE's involvement in Operation Desert Strike, Operation Vigilant Sentinel, and Operation Rugged Nautilus.
28 September	Strait of Hormuz Transit, exit Arabian Gulf.

29 September - 02 October	Port Visit - Muscat, Oman
03-10 October	Arabian Sea and Red Sea Transit
11-12 October	Suez Canal Transit. Outchop Fifth Fleet (C5F), inchoop Sixth Fleet (C6F).
13-14 October	Underway Mediterranean - enroute Palma, Spain
15-19 October	Port Visit - Palma, Spain
20-21 October	Underway Mediterranean - enroute Strait of Gibraltar
22 October	Strait of Gibraltar Transit. Outchop Sixth Fleet (C6F), inchoop Second Fleet (C2F).
20 - 31 October	Atlantic Transit
01 November	Homecoming Mayport. Complete Middle East Force (MEF) Deployment 2-96.
02 November - 01 December	Inport Mayport - post-deployment standdown
03 December	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area - enroute Charleston, South Carolina. DOYLE conducts Tiger Cruise.
04-05 December	Ammo Offload - Naval Weapons Station Charleston, South Carolina
06 December	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area - enroute Mayport. DOYLE conducts Tiger Cruise.
07 December	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area. DOYLE conducts Pearl Harbor Commemoration at sea for World War II Veterans.
08-31 December	Inport Mayport - Christmas Standdown.

### **3. Narrative**

1996 was a very successful year for the USS DOYLE (FFG-39). DOYLE began the year in the middle of the pre-deployment training cycle, completing the Tailored Ship Training

Availability (TSTA III) in January. Transiting from Mayport to the Bahamas, DOYLE completed combat systems exercises, including missile shots and undersea warfare (USW) exercises.

February began quickly with the successful completion of the Final Examination Period (FEP). The week of ongoing drills and combat scenarios flexed DOYLE's ability to function in every mission area. The Engineering Department successfully conducted casualty control drills, while the Combat Systems Team proved itself ready to deploy to the dangerous Arabian Gulf by conducting air, undersea, and surface warfare exercises. Conducting multiple general quarters drills and a mass conflagration drill, DOYLE showed its readiness for battle.

A mere two weeks later, DOYLE departed for the Composite Training Underway Exercise (COMPTUEX) with the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) Battle Group. Taking place in the Puerto Rico Operational Area (PROA), COMPTUEX saw DOYLE again training in all three mission areas.

In Undersea Warfare (USW), DOYLE's USW teams were sent up against various US submarines. Exercise torpedoes were fired from both DOYLE and embarked SH-60B helicopters from HSL-44 Detachment 9, our helicopter detachment for deployment. This intense combat systems workout culminated in a missile shoot. DOYLE successfully fired five standard missiles (SM-1MR), achieving a "skin to skin" kill on a high altitude inbound target.

DOYLE successfully completed a Ship's Self Radiated Noise Measurement (SSRNM) during COMPTUEX, which generates a baseline signature of the noise level of the ship, thus determining how detectable the ship is to submarines. This test identified problem areas and provided guidance on how to improve DOYLE's Quiet Ship Bill.

Upon returning to Mayport in mid-March, DOYLE entered a pre-deployment Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV). The time was used to prepare the ship for the upcoming Middle East Force (MEF) deployment. Close cooperation between DOYLE's crew, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Mayport, and Regional Support Group (RSG) Mayport ensured DOYLE's material condition was in tip-top shape for deployment.

On 03 May, DOYLE departed Mayport on Middle East Force Deployment 2-96, enroute the Arabian Gulf. DOYLE transited across the Atlantic with the USS LABOON (DDG 58) and USS PLATTE (AO 186).

Passing through the Strait of Gibraltar on 13 May, DOYLE conducted a change of operational command (OUTCHOP), from Commander, Second Fleet (COMSECONDFLT) to Commander, Sixth Fleet (COMSIXTHFLT).

Following a port visit to Malaga, Spain, DOYLE transited the Mediterranean Sea and then traveled through the Suez Canal, outchopping from COMSIXTHFLT to Commander Fifth Fleet (COMFIFTHFLT), our operational commander for the next four months. Entering the Red Sea, the crew for the first time experienced the intense heat of the Middle East.

After a brief stop for fuel in the tiny country of Djibouti, DOYLE conducted a PASSEX with the French frigate COMMANDANT BORY on 28 May. The ships conducted a nighttime gunnery exercise, illustrating combat systems skills and a high level of cooperation between the two navies.

At the beginning of June, DOYLE transited the Strait of Hormuz with LABOON, entering Manama, Bahrain, the next day. DOYLE turned over with USS CARON (DD 970), and began Operation Desert Storm, Operation Vigilant Sentinel, and Operation Rugged Nautilus. The crew became very familiar with Bahrain during the deployment, as six port visits were made for relaxation and refueling.

During the first few weeks of deployment in the Arabian Gulf, DOYLE concentrated on Maritime Prepositioning Ship (MPS) protection operations. DOYLE guarded MPS ships anchored in various anchorages off the coast of Bahrain. As vital assets in the Arabian Gulf, protection of these ships is an important part of US policy in the region.

Along with a port visit to Doha, Qatar, DOYLE conducted Operation Eastern Sailor with the Qatar Navy from 07-12 July. The bilateral exercise began with joint Damage Control training conducted inport by DOYLE's Damage Control Assistant, ENS Thomas Scheer.

During the at-sea portion of Eastern Sailor, DOYLE operated with two Qatar patrol craft, conducting maneuvering drills and a gunnery exercise. All ships worked hard to successfully accomplish the drills, and the teamwork shown by all was impressive. The exercise also demonstrated the unique ability of the guided missile frigate to work with allied navies, a ship large enough to have plenty of firepower yet small enough to exercise with patrol boats.

During Eastern Sailor, DOYLE was hand-picked to escort a MPS convoy from Bahrain to Qatar and back, to demonstrate these ships' ability to maneuver as a group and to train DOYLE

in escorting operations. DOYLE established communications with the ships, formed the convoy, and then aggressively patrolled to the north of the ships, ensuring no foreign warships interfered with the convoy. DOYLE's crew skillfully and singlehandedly escorted a group of ships that had not sailed in open ocean in more than a year.

In July and August, including a 30-day underway period, DOYLE's tasking shifted away from the MPS mission toward enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq. Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in support of the UN sanctions included boardings by DOYLE's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) Team at all times of the day, testing the crew's endurance to successfully complete the mission. DOYLE's boat crew and VBSS team were on call 24 hours a day. DOYLE queried more than 80 ships passing through the interdiction areas, boarded 39 ships, and stopped two sanctions violators while on station in the North Arabian Gulf. Demonstrating DOYLE's staying power, the ship conducted more than 25 unreps while stationed in the Gulf, usually every three days, to replenish fuel and supplies. Although the tasking was strenuous, with hard work and motivation DOYLE accomplished the mission - becoming the Fifth Fleet's "Go-to Ship".

There were numerous personnel exchange opportunities during the deployment. During a joint MIO exercise with the British ship HMS EXETER, LTJG Richard Morawski and CW02 Michael Kraft had the opportunity to spend an evening on a British destroyer. In port in Bahrain, DOYLE's wardroom was invited onboard the British ships HMS YORK and the HMNZS CANTERBURY, and interesting and rewarding visit, considering the close camaraderie between the English speaking navies. The Commanding Officer of the Pakistani destroyer ALAMGIR invited CDR Hering and DOYLE Executive Officer LCDR Ken Oukrop to a private dinner onboard the Pakistani destroyer. DOYLE's officers gained much experience and professional development through these visits.

While on station in the North Arabian Gulf, DOYLE's crew learned that the Chief of Naval Operations had awarded the ship the Meritorious Unit Commendation, NATO Medal, and Armed Forces Service Medal for participation in Operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic Sea during DOYLE's 1994 Mediterranean deployment.

On 31 August, COMFIFTHFLT ordered DOYLE underway for Operation Desert Strike, a tomahawk missile strike on Iraq conducted in retaliation for Iraqi actions against internal



Kurdish forces. From 02-03 September, DOYLE escorted tomahawk-capable ships, using SH-60B helicopters from HSL-44 Detachment 9 to sweep the launch areas for merchant shipping. DOYLE took its position between the tomahawk ships and the Iranian port of Bushier, providing defense against any possible Iranian retaliation against US forces.

While not escorting tomahawk ships, DOYLE served as plane guard for the aircraft carrier USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) during round-the-clock flight operations. The work-up training received during operations with ENTERPRISE Battle Group during COMPTUEX was invaluable in preparation for this tasking. In all evolutions of Operation Desert Strike, DOYLE's crew performed superbly, the only guided missile frigate and the only Mayport-based ship to participate in the operation.

Immediately following Desert Strike, DOYLE steamed at high speed from the North Arabian Gulf to the Central Arabian Gulf to participate in Tactical Evaluation Exercise (TACEVALEX) 96-1. The Navy conducted this exercise to test a new shallow-water variant of the MK46 torpedo. HSL-44 Detachment 9 air-dropped 5 torpedoes to provide performance data. DOYLE's Undersea Warfare Team performed superbly, streaming the TACTAS towed array sonar in less than 200 feet of water to collect performance data on the torpedoes. DOYLE's crew demonstrated its ability to rapidly and successfully adapt to ever-changing tasking.

In the final two weeks of Maritime Interdiction Operations, DOYLE hosted two Kuwaiti naval officers who had the opportunity to tour the ship and learn how it operated. It was a wonderful opportunity for DOYLE's Wardroom to learn about the Kuwaiti culture and exchange professional ideas and stories.

On 27 September, USS STEPHEN W GROVES (FFG 29) relieved DOYLE in Bahrain. DOYLE then began the return transit LABOON through the Strait of Hormuz toward the liberty port of Muscat, Oman. From 29 September to 02 October, DOYLE spent some well-earned liberty enjoying Muscat. It was a modern port with many things for the crew to do. DOYLE Sailors appreciated the opportunity to relax, to scuba dive, and to shop in downtown Muscat. It was a welcome stop prior to the transit home.

After sailing through the Red Sea, including a refueling stop in Djibouti, DOYLE and LABOON transited the Suez Canal on 11-12 October. DOYLE once again changed operational

command, from COMFIFTHFLT to COMSIXTHFLT. Sailing through the Mediterranean Sea, DOYLE arrived on 15 October in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Four days in Palma was by far the best port visit on the MEF 2-96 deployment. After four months in the Middle East heat, the crew welcomed the moderate temperatures of the Mediterranean Sea. DOYLE Sailors enjoyed the hospitality of the populace.

Departing Palma on 20 October, DOYLE and LABOON passed through the Strait of Gibraltar on 22 October, once again changing operational command from COMSIXTHFLT to COMSECONDFLT. Beginning the Atlantic transit, DOYLE and LABOON soon joined up with USS PLATTE (AO 186), USS CHINOOK (PC 9), and USS FIREBOLT (PC 10). The FIREBOLT and CHINOOK are patrol craft, and did not fare well in the Atlantic seas. With a hurricane brewing and heading across the Atlantic, the ships were forced to change their transit route to a more southerly course. Once around the hurricane, DOYLE made 18 knots to reach Mayport.

On 01 November, DOYLE entered Mayport to the fanfare of family and friends. It was a joyful homecoming, with the crew very happy to be home after a long, arduous, but extremely rewarding cruise. Once moored, liberty call began for a well-deserved, month-long post-deployment standdown.

In December, DOYLE departed Mayport on 02 December to offload ammunition at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station. The ship conducted a Tiger Cruise on the trip to and from Charleston, with more than 100 civilian personnel embarked onboard. After a complete offload of all ammunition, DOYLE departed Charleston and returned to Mayport on 06 December.

On 07 December, DOYLE served as host ship for the Mayport Naval Station's annual Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Ceremony. DOYLE departed Mayport in the morning with 100 World War II Veterans, conducting a burial at sea for six fellow service members and a moment of silence for who perished at Pearl Harbor on 07 December 1941. Following the Pearl Harbor Commemoration, DOYLE returned pierside for a two-month Restricted Availability (RAV), which completed 1996.

DOYLE's superb performance earned the "Valiant Mariner" several awards for the year. DOYLE earned a 1996 Battle Efficiency Award (Battle E) for overall performance and a 1996 Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT) Safety Award. DOYLE

also won the 1996 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Ship-Helicopter Safety Award along with HSL 44 Detachment Nine, the only guided missile frigate in the Navy to win this award. Finally, DOYLE was recognized for her contribution to Operation Desert Strike with a Meritorious Unit Commendation for 10 July - 04 September 1997.

#### **4. Enclosed supporting documents**

- a. Commanding Officer Biography - CDR L.R. Hering, USN
- b. Personal Message from COMCRUDESGRU THREE to CDR Hering