



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1997 COMMAND HISTORY

Encl: (1) USS DOYLE (FFG 39) 1997 Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted as USS DOYLE's 1997 Command History.

  
E. S. YERGER

Copy to:  
COMWESTHEMGRU

# USS DOYLE 1997 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 - 28 March	CDR Leendert R. Hering USN
28 March - 31 December	CDR Earle S. Yerger 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 January - 17 February 97	Restricted Availability (RAV) - Mayport, Florida
18-21 February 97	Light Off Assessment (LOA) - Mayport, Florida
22 February - 02 March 97	Upkeep Mayport
03-07 March 97	Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) Mayport, Florida
08-16 March 97	Upkeep Mayport
17 March 97	Enroute Charleston, South Carolina
18-19 March 97	Ammo Onload - Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina

20 March 97	Enroute Mayport, Florida
21-27 March 97	Upkeep Mayport
28 March 97	Change of Command - Mayport, Florida
29 March - 14 April 97	Upkeep Mayport
15-17 April 97	Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba HSL 44 Det 9 Week One Work-Ups (WOWUs)
18 April 97	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
19 April 97	Enroute Caribbean - Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS)
20-28 April 97	Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) - Caribbean
29 April 97	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Colon, Panama
29 April - 06 May 97	CDOPS - Caribbean
07 May 97	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Colon, Panama
08 May 97	CDOPS - Caribbean
09-11 May 97	Port Visit Cartagena, Colombia
12-19 May 97	CDOPS - Caribbean
20-22 May 97	Port Visit Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
23-26 May 97	CDOPS - Caribbean
27 May 97	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Colon, Panama
28- May -01 June 97	CDOPS - Caribbean
02- 03 June 97	Enroute Key West, Florida
04 June 97	Port Visit Key West, Florida - Orient 1997 - Director Joint Interagency Task Force East (DIRJIATF EAST)
05-06 June 97	Enroute Mayport, Florida

06 June 97	Burials at Sea – Western Atlantic
07 June 97	Arrive Mayport
08-22 June 97	Upkeep Mayport
23-24 June 97	Underway Jacksonville Operating Area (JAXOA) - Midshipman Training (CORTRAMID)
25 June 97	Inport Mayport, Florida
26-27 June 97	Underway JAXOA - Midshipman Training (CORTRAMID)
28 June - 02 July 97	Upkeep Mayport, Florida
01-23 July 97	Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) – SIMA Mayport
03 July 97	Enroute Jacksonville, Florida - Family Day Cruise
04-06 July 97	Port Visit Jacksonville, Florida – July 4 <sup>th</sup> Celebration
07 July 97	Enroute Mayport, Florida
08-13 July 97	Upkeep Mayport
14-18 July 97	Inport Mayport – Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II)
19-27 July 97	Upkeep Mayport
28 July - 01 August 97	Underway JAXOA – Tailored Ship Training Availability - Engineering Training (TSTA I ETG)
02- 03 August 97	Inport Mayport, Florida
04-08 August 97	Inport Mayport – TSTA I Combat Systems and Deck Training (TSTA I CSTG/FTG)
09-10 August 97	Inport Mayport
11-15 August 97	Inport Mayport - TSTA I CSTG/FTG
16-17 August 97	Inport Mayport

18-22 August 97	Underway JAXOA - TSTA I CSTG/FTG
23-24 August 97	Inport Mayport
25-29 August 97	Underway JAXOA - TSTA I CSTG/FTG
30 August - 14 September 97	Upkeep Mayport
01-12 September 97	IMAV – SIMA Mayport
09-10 September 97	Inport Mayport - Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ)
15-18 September 97	Inport Mayport - TSTA II CSTG
19 September 97	Enroute Jacksonville, Florida - Family Day Cruise
20-22 September 97	Port Visit Jacksonville, Florida – <u>Monday Night Football</u> – Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Pittsburgh Steelers
23 September 97	Enroute Mayport, Florida
24- 28 September 97	Upkeep Mayport
29 September - 02 October	Inport Mayport – TSTA II CSTG
03 October 97	USS WILLIAM SEIVERLING (DE 441) Reunion - Jacksonville Operating Area (JAXOA)
04-05 October 97	Inport Mayport
06-10 October 97	Underway JAXOA – TSTA II ETG
11-19 October 97	Upkeep Mayport
20 October 97	Inport Mayport - TSTA II ETG
21-23 October 97	Underway JAXOA - Engineering Certification (ECERT)
24-30 October 97	Upkeep Mayport
31 October 97	Enroute Florida Straits

01 November 97	Operation Passive Oversight 1-98 – Florida Straits
02 November 97	Enroute JAXOA
03-07 November 97	Underway JAXOA - TSTA II FTG/CSTG
08-16 November 97	Upkeep Mayport
17-21 November 97	Underway JAXOA - TSTA III Integrated Team Training (ITT)
22-30 November 97	Upkeep Mayport
01-03 December 97	Underway JAXOA – Final Evaluation Period (FEP)
04 December 97	Enroute Port Everglades, Florida
05 December 97	Burials at Sea – Western Atlantic
05-08 December 97	Port Visit Port Everglades, Florida
07 December 97	Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony - The Florida Gold Coast Chapter of Pearl Harbor Survivors – Port Everglades
09-11 December 97	Underway West Atlantic – Services for a submarine Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE)
12-31 December 97	Upkeep Mayport, Florida
15-31 December 97	Holiday Leave and Upkeep Mayport

### 3. Narrative

1997 was another banner year for USS DOYLE (FFG-39). A 1996 Battle E winner representing Commander Western Hemisphere Group (COMWESTHEMGRU), the ship started the year in the middle of a three-month Restricted Availability (RAV) in Mayport. During the maintenance period several major modifications and repairs were completed, including the overhaul of two of four ships' service diesel generators (SSDGs), complete refurbishment of all fuel tanks, and the DOYLE crew's renovation of combat systems berthing. DOYLE also received a women-at-sea berthing modification, which gives full accommodations for up to nine female Sailors.

To complete the availability, COMWESTHEMGRU Inspectors conducted a Light-Off Assessment (LOA), ensuring DOYLE's engineers were safe to operate the engineering plant and

that DOYLE's firefighters were capable of isolating and combating a main space fire. DOYLE met every wicket of the assessment, and continued to prepare for a return to sea duty.

In March, Regional Support Group Mayport Inspectors conducted a Logistics Management Assessment (LMA) onboard DOYLE. This assessment was the supply department's chance to shine, as all areas of supply, including food service, storekeeping, and retail operations were reviewed very closely. Inspectors also reviewed the ship's Maintenance and Material Management (3M) Program, ensuring maintenance conformed to Navy standards. DOYLE's Supply Department did not disappoint, earning a grade of excellent or good in all areas of the assessment.

DOYLE also returned to sea in March, traveling to the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, South Carolina, for an ammunition onload. Following the two-day evolution, the ship returned to Mayport to prepare for the time-honored, tradition-laden Change of Command Ceremony.

On Friday, 28 March, Commander Earle S. Yerger became the Valiant Mariner's eighth commanding officer, relieving Commander Leendert R. Hering Jr. The honored guest speaker at the ceremony was Marine General John Sheehan, United States Atlantic Command.

Although commanding officers had changed, DOYLE's outstanding crew remained, as in April the ship readied itself for Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) in the Caribbean. On 15 April, DOYLE left Mayport to conduct Week One Work Ups (WOWUs) enroute Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba with embarked HSL 44 Det Nine onboard.

Even before leaving the Jacksonville Operating Area (JAXOA), DOYLE rescued a distressed mariner at sea. Responding to a mayday call from the motor vessel "Sea Wolf", DOYLE closed the boat's position and attempted a latenight recovery of the injured master, the only crew member. Finding a small boat rescue too dangerous, DOYLE's crew kept the master calm through the night and provided a lee for the boat in high winds and seas. The next morning, in calmer weather, the Coast Guard boat PEA ISLAND arrived on the scene to recover the master. The PEA ISLAND took him back to Jacksonville, where he fully recovered in a local hospital.

Following the completion of WOWUs, DOYLE made a Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) in GTMO, then conducted an unannounced one-day Undersea Warfare (USW) exercise with a foreign submarine. After brushing up on USW tactics, DOYLE reported on station for CDOPS.

Operating under the direction of Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) East, DOYLE and her embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) worked with U.S. law enforcement agencies and foreign military forces in the detection, monitoring and interdiction of illegal drugs throughout the Caribbean. DOYLE, with the helo detachment (Magnum 444) and the LEDET, made a positive impact on U.S. Counterdrug Operations. DOYLE aggressively patrolled its assigned areas, conducting nine boardings and providing round-the-clock air surveillance in support of JIATF East goals, to keep illegal drugs off our country's streets.

During CDOPS, many training and operational opportunities exist for those ships willing to take advantage of them. Besides running many "inside the lifelines" exercises, DOYLE conducted a

refueling at sea (RAS) with the British ship RFA BLACK ROVER, polishing the ship's conning and refueling skills. DOYLE also provided deck-landing qualifications (DLQs) for U.S. Army H-60 helicopters stationed in Panama, scheduled around a Colon, Panama BSF.

CDOPS also allows the opportunity for visiting outstanding Caribbean ports of call. 9-11 May, DOYLE visited Cartagena, Colombia. A truly, modern city, DOYLE Sailors enjoyed the shopping and bustling nightlife. DOYLE hosted a flight deck reception for our Colombian Navy counterparts of the Colombian ship ANTIOQUIA, complete with food, beverages, and music.

DOYLE's next port visit was to the island nation of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, 20-22 May. Visiting the seagoing city of Willemstad, DOYLE Sailors enjoyed the centralized shopping and restaurant areas. And as with most Caribbean countries, DOYLE Sailors enjoyed the friendly nightlife, with lots of celebrating and dancing.

DOYLE then returned to the Caribbean, completing the CDOPS Pulse in its aggressive style, conducting a boarding of a suspect vessel a full 24 hours after completing the pulse. The ship then transited to Key West, Florida to participate in ORIENT 97, on 4-5 June, a DIRJIATF East conference with representatives from Central American, Caribbean, and South American countries as well as the United States which also includes meetings and demonstrations focused on the improved cooperation and law enforcement efforts in the war against drug interdiction.

After this overnight stop, DOYLE transited to Mayport. On 6 June, DOYLE conducted a Burial at Sea Ceremony to pay last respects to four people who had honorably served their country in the U.S. Armed Forces. This time-honored tradition included a 21-gun salute for each service member.

On 7 June, DOYLE returned to a warm welcome from family and friends following her two-month voyage. Normally a ship would take several weeks off after a 50-day CDOPS Pulse, but not DOYLE. Valiant Mariner's Sailors didn't rest, but instead worked on preparations for the second phase of the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART II). This assessment determines a ship's readiness to start the training cycle and is not a graded evolution per se, but those ships which are ready and perform well during the CART II can set a positive tone for the rest of the Basic Training Phase.

DOYLE's CART II preparations continued the last week of June, where the ship took two groups of approximately thirty Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Midshipmen to sea as part of their career training. Shiphandling drills and other exercises, with these college men and women receiving on-the-job training, made that week at sea quite invigorating.

DOYLE began July getting ready for a special trip. COMWESTHEMGRU chose DOYLE to serve as host ship for Jacksonville's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, complete with ship tours and fireworks. On 3 July, DOYLE sailed down the St. Johns River with more than 200 family and friends during DOYLE's Family Day Cruise. Very hot temperatures couldn't spoil the excitement as the ship made its way from Mayport to the center of downtown, mooring right next to The Jacksonville Landing, a major shopping and restaurant area.



For the Independence Day Weekend, DOYLE was at the center of the holiday festivities. More than 2300 visitors toured the DOYLE during the weekend. DOYLE also held a July 4<sup>th</sup> cookout for family and friends, finishing up with a front row seat for the spectacular Jacksonville fireworks show over the St. Johns River. The weekend was truly a special event for DOYLE's Sailors, family and friends.

DOYLE returned to Mayport on 7 July, and continued her July Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) and her preparations for CART II. 14-18 July, DOYLE conducted a very successful CART II, impressing both Afloat Training Group (ATG) Mayport Inspectors as well as COMWESTHEMGRU Observers, whose team leader remarked that DOYLE had conducted the smoothest, best-run CART II he had ever seen while serving at the Group. DOYLE Sailors took the positive feedback in stride, knowing that successfully completing the Basic Training Phase would still require many hours of exercise preparation and scenario execution.

The last week of July DOYLE's engineers took the spotlight as the ship underwent the engineering portion of Tailored Ships Training Availability Phase One (TSTA I). This underway training consisted of engineering evolutions, casualty control exercises, and main space fire drills, all conducted in preparation for DOYLE's upcoming Engineering Certification (ECERT).

DOYLE continued its busy training schedule in August. Drills and exercises, in port and underway, covered all four weeks, with little time to spare. ATG Mayport conducted the combat systems and seamanship training portions of TSTA I, putting DOYLE's Combat Systems Training Team (CSTT) and Seamanship Training Team (STT) through drill preparation and execution, and exercising DOYLE Sailors to the test, challenging them with dynamic training scenarios. Inport deck evolutions and combat scenarios conducted the first two weeks prepared the ship for the last two weeks of underway training, which included a precision anchorage, mooring to a buoy, and a Mediterranean moor. DOYLE's Combat Team ran increasingly difficult Surface Warfare (SUW) scenarios, preparing for DOYLE's upcoming Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification (CMTQ).

September started with another IMAV, and continued with SUW scenario training. On 9-10 September, ATG Mayport conducted the CMTQ on DOYLE. Once again, DOYLE Sailors shined, scoring a Satisfactory (the highest score awarded) in all graded areas, both administrative and operational. CMTQ was one of several hurdles DOYLE Sailors needed to clear during the Basic Training Phase. September continued with more integrated combat systems training, now combining all elements of SUW, Undersea Warfare (USW), and Air Warfare (AW) into more difficult scenarios.

In late September, DOYLE again made a special trip to downtown Jacksonville. This time DOYLE volunteered to serve as host ship for Jacksonville's first Monday Night Football Game with the Jacksonville Jaguars facing the Pittsburgh Steelers. On 19 September, DOYLE sailed down the St. Johns River with more than 100 family and friends during another DOYLE Family Day Cruise. DOYLE again moored right next to The Jacksonville Landing, hosted tours, and participated in several pre-game pep rallies. WJXX-TV, the ABC Affiliate in Jacksonville, had reporters and videographers on board for the cruise as well as the weekend pep rallies, showing how DOYLE and Jacksonville's military community support the city of Jacksonville and their

Jaguars. DOYLE hosted almost 1300 tours during that weekend, and the ship was covered in teal lights (Jaguars colors) from bow to stern for the big game, which more than half the DOYLE's crew attended in person. After all the pre-game festivities, the game lived up to expectations, as the Jaguars won on the last play of the game.

On 23 September, DOYLE returned to Mayport, to continue engineering and combat systems training. This inport training continued into the first week of October. DOYLE stopped training on 3 October to conduct a special one-day, at-sea remembrance ceremony. Sailors and family members of the USS WILLIAM SEIVERLING (DE 441) a World War II and Korean War Destroyer Escort, spent the day on board the DOYLE as part of the ship's 33<sup>rd</sup> Reunion. For the more than hundred veterans, family and friends, this was truly a memorable experience. Once underway, DOYLE conducted a Service of Remembrance, with CDR Yerger serving as the guest speaker. Following CDR Yerger's speech, DOYLE sounded a tolling of the bells for those SEIVERLING Sailors who had passed, a 21-gun salute to honor SEIVERLING Sailors, and finally a wreath toss to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. DOYLE Sailors were truly honored to take part in such a time-honored, tradition-laden event.

DOYLE continued engineering training in October, running evolutions and drills both inport and underway in preparation for the ship's Engineering Certification (ECERT). On 21 October, DOYLE got underway to conduct final ECERT preparations in the JAXOA, before welcoming CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) Inspectors onboard on 23 October for the certification. DOYLE's engineers, in true Valiant Mariner form, greatly impressed the inspectors with their knowledge and performance. The PEB inspectors lauded DOYLE for its outstanding engineering department and certified the ship for safe operation for the next two years.

Contingency operations awaited DOYLE at the end of October. On Halloween, DOYLE traveled to the Key West Operational Area (KWOA) in support of Operation Passive Oversight 1-98. On 1 November, DOYLE provided support for US Coast Guard ships supporting this endeavor, which was conducted in memory of the Cuban-Americans who died when their Brothers-to-the-Rescue plane was shot down by the Cuban military in 1996 in a territorial airspace dispute.

Following the ceremony, DOYLE quickly returned to the JAXOA for the final push toward the Final Evaluation Period (FEP). From 03-07 November, the ship's Integrated Training Team (ITT) ran numerous exercises, flexing all watchstanders with realistic and highly developed scenarios, forcing DOYLE's Sailors to work through casualties as part of TSTA II FTG/CSTG. Round-the-clock, multi-warfare scenarios and drills challenged the ship's crew, but prepared DOYLE Sailors for the upcoming TSTA III training and FEP evaluation.

Following a week in Mayport, DOYLE conducted its TSTA III ITT Exercise from 17-21 November in the JAXOA. More drills and more multi-warfare scenarios flexed the crew and gave DOYLE Sailors the confidence they would need to succeed during the upcoming FEP. The crew rested during the Thanksgiving Holidays then made final preparations for FEP.

DOYLE conducted its FEP on 01-03 December. DOYLE Sailors were ready, DOYLE's ITT was ready, and the results were outstanding. All drills conducted were graded as satisfactory or higher, with ATG Inspectors noting DOYLE's aggressive teamwork and positive disposition toward working through casualties to return the ship to peak performance. FEP truly was a team effort, covering all ratings and all divisions. An ATG Inspector (a master chief petty officer) from Norfolk noted that DOYLE's FEP was the smoothest FEP he had observed in the last two years. COMWESTHEMGRU certified DOYLE to continue to the Intermediate Training Phase and continue preparations for the UNITAS 39-98 Deployment.

Following the FEP, DOYLE again conducted a Burial at Sea Ceremony, honoring several veterans who had served our great country. The ship then traveled to Port Everglades (Fort Lauderdale), Florida, for a well-deserved port visit, but also for a ceremony to mark an important moment in American History.

On 7 December, DOYLE hosted the Florida Gold Coast Chapter of Pearl Harbor Survivors in their Pearl Harbor Day Service of Remembrance. Several dozen Pearl Harbor Survivors and more than 100 family and friends came together for a solemn tribute to those who had died for our country. Rear Admiral Walter F. Doran, Chief of Staff for United States Southern Command, was the guest speaker at this ceremony. The theme for the day was "We must never forget." Local media covered the event extensively, and three DOYLE Sailors with relatives who served at Pearl Harbor that fateful day in 1941 participated by tossing the memorial wreaths into the water.

DOYLE Sailors attended several Navy League functions while in Port Everglades, and the city welcomed the crew out on liberty. After enjoying a restful port visit, DOYLE returned to sea on 9 December to provide services for a Submarine Forces Atlantic (COMSUBLANT) Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE). DOYLE worked with two U.S. submarines, gaining valuable, realistic training while also providing outstanding service for the submarine being evaluated. After two days of intense training, DOYLE returned to Mayport on Friday, 12 December. The Valiant Mariner Crew then began a well-deserved holiday leave and upkeep period to finish up 1997.

Before finishing the year, DOYLE officially became the sponsor ship of the St. Augustine Chapter of the United States Navy League. As the Chapter's sponsor ship, DOYLE's Sailor of the Year (SOY) and Sailors of the Quarter (SOQ), receive prize packages for a free St. Augustine weekend. The chapter also provides discount coupons to St. Augustine attractions and supports DOYLE functions.

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

- a. Commanding Officer Biography – CDR E. S. Yerger, USN
- b. Bravo Zulu Message from Director, Joint Interagency Task Force East (DIRJIATF EAST) for performance during Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS)
- c. Bravo Zulu Message from DIRJIATF EAST for performance during ORIENT 1997
- d. DOYLE Command Master Chief Memo concerning qualifications achieved during CDOPS

- e. Bravo Zulu Message from Commander Western Hemisphere Group for completion of Engineering Certification (ECERT)
- f. Bravo Zulu Message from Commander Western Hemisphere Group for completion of Final Evaluation Period (FEP)
- g. Letter of appreciation and thanks from the Senior Vice President of Bolles High School Alumni
- h. Letter of appreciation and thanks from the Chairman of Broward Navy Days, Inc for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service
- i. Letter of appreciation and thanks from Holiday Hill Elementary School