



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: 1998 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS DOYLE (FFG 39) 1998 Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as USS DOYLE's 1998 Command History.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. T. Stewart".

J. T. STEWART

Copy to:
COMWESTHEMGRU

**USS DOYLE (FFG 39)
VALIANT MARINER...FRONTIER SPIRIT
1998 COMMAND HISTORY**

1. Command Composition and Organization:

Mission:

DOYLE is fully capable in all warfare areas, including Air Warfare (AW), Surface Warfare (SUW), and Undersea Warfare (USW).

Organizational Structure:

Immediate Superior in Command - Commander Western Hemisphere Group

Commanding Officer:

01 January - 18 September

CDR Earle S. Yerger USN

18 September - 31 December

CDR James T. Stewart USN

Homeport:

Mayport, Florida

Aircraft Assigned:

SH-60B helicopters from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Forty-four (HSL 44) Mayport, Florida

Departments:

Air (HSL 44 Det embarked)

Combat Systems

Engineering

Navigation/Administration (NAVADMIN)

Operations

Supply

2. Chronology:

01-11 January 98	Holiday Leave and Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
12-15 January 98	Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
16-18 January 98	Enroute Guantanamo Bay, Cuba HSL 44 Det 6 Week One Work-Ups (WOWUs)
19 January 98	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
20-28 January 98	Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) - Caribbean HSL 44 Det 6 embarked.

29 January - 04 February 98	Port Visit - Key West, Florida
05-15 February 98	CDOPS - Caribbean
12 February 98	Brief Stop for Fuel (BSF) - Colon, Panama
16-18 February 98	Port Visit - St. Thomas, American Virgin Islands
19 February 98	Enroute St. Lucia
20-23 February 98	Port Visit - St. Lucia St. Lucia Independence Celebration
23-26 February 98	Enroute Mayport, Florida
27 February 98	Arrive Mayport, Florida
28 February - 24 March 98	Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
09-20 March 98	Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) Phase One - Mayport, Florida
25 March 98	Underway Jacksonville Operational Area (JAXOA) - Helo Landing Qualifications (RLQs/DLQs)
26-29 March 98	Port Visit - Port Canaveral, Florida - 1998 Port Canaveral Seafest
30 March 98	Enroute Mayport, Florida - Family Day Cruise
31 March - 13 April 98	Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
14 April - 01 May 98	Underway Puerto Rico Operational Area (PROA) - Independent Deployer Exercise (INDEX) 98-2
25-26 April 98	Port Visit - St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles
02-15 May 98	Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
04-15 May 98	CSRR Phase Two - Mayport, Florida
15-17 May 98	Enroute Naval Weapons Station - Earle, New Jersey
18-19 May 98	Ammo Load - Naval Weapons Station - Earle, New Jersey

20 May 98	New York City Parade of Ships
20-26 May 98	Port Visit - 1998 New York City Fleet Week
27-28 May 98	Enroute Mayport, Florida
29 May - 05 July 98	Pre-deployment Leave and Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
01-19 June 98	Pre-deployment Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) - SIMA Mayport
06 July 98	Deploy - UNITAS 39-98 USS DOYLE (FFG 39) USS MOOSBRUGGER (DD 980) USS LA MOURE COUNTY (LST 1184) USS BOSTON (SSN 721)
06-09 July 98	Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
10-11 July 98	Port Visit - Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
12-15 July 98	Underway UNITAS Phase One - United States Phase - Puerto Rico Operational Area (PROA)
16 July 98	Moor alongside USS BOSTON (SSN 721)
16-18 July 98	Port Visit - Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
19-22 July 98	Underway UNITAS Phase One - Venezuela Phase - Enroute Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela
23-26 July 98	Port Visit - Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela
27 July - 01 August 98	Underway UNITAS Transit Phase - South Atlantic
31 July 98	Crossing the Line Ceremony - Atlantic
02-03 August 98	Port Visit - Fortaleza, Brazil
04-12 August 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Two - Brazil Phase - South Atlantic
13-16 August 98	Port Visit - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

17-18 August 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Two - Brazil Phase - South Atlantic
17 August 98	Embark COMDESRON 32
19-22 August 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Three - Uruguay Phase - South Atlantic
22-24 August 98	Port Visit - Montevideo, Uruguay
24 August 98	Community Relations (COMREL) Project - Montevideo, Uruguay
25 August 98	Transit Rio de la Plata - enroute Buenos Aires, Argentina
25-26 August 98	Port Visit - Buenos Aires, Argentina
27-28 August 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Four - Argentina Phase - South Atlantic
27 August 98	Debark COMDESRON 32
29-31 August 98	Port Visit - Puerto Belgrano, Argentina
01-04 September 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Four - Argentina Phase - South Atlantic
05-06 September 98	Port Visit - Puerto Belgrano, Argentina
07-08 September 98	UNITAS Transit South Atlantic
08 September 98	Exercises with USS BON HOMME RICHARD (LHD 9) - South Atlantic
09 September 98	Overnight Stop - Punta Arenas, Chile
10-13 September 98	Transit Chilean Inland Waterway
13-14 September 98	Transit Pacific Ocean enroute Talcahuano
14 September 98	Overnight Stop - Talcahuano, Chile
15-16 September 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Five - Chile Phase - Pacific
17-20 September 98	Inport Valparaiso, Chile

18 September 98	USS DOYLE (FFG 39) Change of Command - Valparaiso, Chile
21-23 September 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Five - Chile Phase - Pacific
24 September 98	Anchored Punta Aldea, Chile
24-25 September 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Five - Chile Phase - Pacific
26 September 98	Overnight Stop - Coquimbo, Chile
27-29 September 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Five - Chile Phase - Transit to Peru
30 September 98	Anchored Ilo, Peru
01-04 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Seven - Peru Phase - Pacific
05-09 October 98	Port Visit - Callao, Peru
10-14 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Seven - Peru Phase - Pacific
15 October 98	Anchored Paita, Peru
15-16 October 98	Underway UNITAS - Complete Phase Seven/Begin Phase Eight - Pacific
17-18 October 98	Overnight Stop - Salinas, Ecuador
19-20 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Eight - Ecuador Phase - Pacific
20-22 October 98	Port Visit - Manta, Ecuador
20 October 98	Project Handclasp - Manta, Ecuador
22-23 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Eight - Ecuador Phase - Pacific
23-24 October 98	Port Visit - Manta, Ecuador

25-26 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Nine - Colombia Phase - Pacific
25 October 98	Crossing the Line Ceremony - Pacific
27-28 October 98	Port Visit - Malaga, Colombia
29-31 October 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Nine - Colombia Phase - Pacific
01-02 November 98	Port Visit - Rodman, Panama
03 November 98	Panama Canal Transit
04-07 November 98	Underway UNITAS Phase Nine - Colombia Phase - Caribbean
08-10 November 98	Port Visit - Cartagena, Colombia
11-13 November 98	Transit Caribbean - Enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
13-14 November 98	Port Visit - Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
15-17 November 98	Transit Caribbean and Western Atlantic - Enroute Mayport, Florida
15-17 November 98	Tiger Cruise
18 November 98	Arrive Mayport, Florida
19 November - 13 December 98	Upkeep - Mayport, Florida
14-31 December 98	Holiday Upkeep - Mayport, Florida

3. Narrative:

"Outstanding Performance". These words best sum up what was simply a banner year for USS DOYLE (FFG 39) in 1998. Proudly representing Commander, Western Hemisphere Group (COMWESTHEMGRU), DOYLE successfully completed a six-week Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) Pulse, deployment work-ups, and the highly successful UNITAS 39-98 Deployment, where DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group circumnavigated South America.

DOYLE made a clean sweep of all 1998 performance awards, earning the four Command Excellence Awards - Maritime Warfare Excellence (Black E), Engineering Survivability Excellence (Red E), Logistics Management Excellence (Blue E), and Command and Control Excellence (Green E) - as well as winning the coveted 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Battle

Efficiency Award (Battle E). DOYLE also received the 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Wellness Award (Green H) and the 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Ship Safety Award (Green S), for the third consecutive year. Finally, DOYLE received runner-up honors for the 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Self-sufficient Ship of the Quarter Award (fourth quarter), for outstanding maintenance and repair of onboard equipment.

Following Holiday Upkeep, DOYLE quickly ramped up to begin a busy year. In mid-January, DOYLE and her assigned helicopter detachment, HSL 44 Det 6 (MAGNUM 454), left Mayport for a six-week CDOPS Pulse. Following Week One Work Ups (WOWUs) with the det and deck landing qualifications with HSL 40 in the Jacksonville Operating Area (JAXOA), DOYLE transited to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for a fuel stop, then reported for CDOPS. The DOYLE Team, with her assigned Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), operated under the direction of Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF EAST). The DOYLE Team worked with U.S. Law Enforcement Agencies and foreign military forces in the detection, monitoring and interdiction of illegal drugs throughout the Caribbean. The DOYLE Team made a positive impact on U.S. Counter Drug Operations, aggressively patrolling its assigned areas, conducting several boardings, and providing 24-hour air surveillance in support of JIATF EAST's mission, keeping illegal drugs off our country's streets.

CDOPS provides the opportunity to visit scenic Caribbean ports of call, and DOYLE took full advantage. DOYLE Sailors visited Key West, Florida, for five days, enjoying the sights and sounds of world-famous Duval Street. After checking off station from CDOPS in mid-February, DOYLE visited the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas, long a favorite destination of tourists as well as the U.S. Navy. Then DOYLE proceeded to the island nation of St. Lucia for a high visibility port visit. DOYLE represented the U.S. Navy during St. Lucia's 19th Independence Celebration. DOYLE Sailors marched in the Independence Day Parade and participated in holiday festivals and parties throughout the weekend. After St. Lucia, DOYLE Sailors returned home to Mayport, arriving at the end of February to begin a maintenance period.

March meant deployment preparations for the DOYLE crew. The ship conducted an Intermediate Maintenance Availability (IMAV) and a Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR), identifying shipboard equipment that would need grooming prior to deployment. DOYLE Sailors also conducted team training and reviewed UNITAS Lessons Learned in preparation for the deployment.

At the end of March, COMWESTHEMGRU asked DOYLE to fill another high-visibility port visit request, this time to Seafest, in Port Canaveral, Florida. Always eager to make another port of call, DOYLE Sailors immediately prepared the ship for tours, as DOYLE served as the centerpiece of the weekend's festivities. More than 3,100 visitors toured DOYLE in three days of tours, including the mayor of nearby Cocoa Beach, Florida, who presented DOYLE Commanding Officer, CDR Earle S. Yerger, with a key to the city. DOYLE Sailors visited the Kennedy Space Center, the beaches of Cocoa Beach, and the Seafest itself, which provided free tickets and food for DOYLE Sailors and their families.

DOYLE held it's first family day cruise of 1998 on the way back from Port Canaveral. Hosting more than 30 family members and a high school NJROTC unit, DOYLE Sailors showed off their spaces and served up a flightdeck cookout for the special guests.

The first two weeks of April saw DOYLE Sailors continuing UNITAS deployment preparations, this time preparing for the upcoming Independent Deployer Exercise (INDEX) 98-2. A dress rehearsal for the UNITAS deployment, INDEX provided the opportunity for DOYLE to work with her UNITAS shipmates USS MOOSBRUGGER (DD 980) and COMDESRON 32, the Destroyer Squadron in charge of UNITAS 39-98. USS STARK (FFG 31), USS CARR (FFG 52), USS HAYLER (DD 987), and several foreign-navy ships joined the UNITAS force to conduct missile, gun, and torpedo life-fire exercises, communications and shiphandling drills, and a multitude of at-sea exercises. Conducted in the Puerto Rico Operational Area (PROA), INDEX allowed DOYLE to show her warfighting might, and she did. COMDESRON 32 positively noted DOYLE's aggressive shipdriving and warfighting tactics displayed during the exercises.

INDEX also allowed ships to visit exotic Caribbean ports. DOYLE visited the island nation of St. Maarten (Dutch Side) during INDEX 98-2. DOYLE Sailors enjoyed the both the Dutch nightlife and the French nightlife on the French side of the island. After the port visit, DOYLE rejoined the INDEX force for several more multi-warfare exercises, then transited home to Mayport, arriving the first day of May.

For the first two weeks of May, DOYLE Sailors continued training and prepping for the upcoming deployment. Deck Division Sailors took special pride in completing an entire topside paint job, repainting the entire ship, as DOYLE prepared for New York City Fleet Week. The ship conducted the second phase of the CSRR in May, as well as completing another IMAV.

On May 15th, DOYLE transited north to Earle, New Jersey. DOYLE entered the Earle Naval Weapons Station to conduct a pre-deployment onload of all ammunition that would be needed during the upcoming UNITAS deployment.

Following the onload, DOYLE took part in the 11th annual New York City Fleet Week Celebration. Starting with the Parade of Ships on May 20th, DOYLE transited up the Hudson River, and moored at the Intrepid Museum in downtown Manhattan. Advertised as Atlantic Fleet's best port visit, Fleet Week did not disappoint DOYLE. Each year the Big Apple opens up its arms to welcome and honor Sailors for service to their country. DOYLE Sailors attended sporting events, plays, toured museums, visited the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center, and participated in numerous Fleet Week events, including marching in several Memorial Day Parades throughout the suburbs. DOYLE's athletes were heavily involved in Fleet Week, winning the arm wrestling and Seamanship competitions, and placing second in the Fleet Week Basketball Tournament. Overall DOYLE captured second place of 11 commands participating in the Fleet Week Sports Competition, trailing only the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), the Fleet Week Flagship. DOYLE Sailors truly enjoyed themselves, as did the citizens and tourists who visited the DOYLE. DOYLE hosted more than 4400 tours during the week, including an onboard VIP Reception for the American Red Cross.

DOYLE returned to sea on May 27th, transiting south to arrive in Mayport on May 29th. The ship immediately moved to a pre-deployment leave and upkeep period, allowing Sailors time with their families prior to the deployment. DOYLE completed another maintenance availability in June, fine-tuning equipment and spaces for the UNITAS deployment. DOYLE Sailors enjoyed Independence Day with their families, and returned ready to deploy July 6th.

DOYLE and MOOSBRUGGER (with COMDESRON 32 embarked) left Mayport July 6th to start UNITAS 39-98. DOYLE and MOOSBRUGGER, with embarked helicopter detachments, transited to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, conducting exercises and rehearsing enroute to ensure operational success during UNITAS.

According to The Center for Naval Analyses "UNITAS Analysis," UNITAS, the Latin word for "unity", is the longest and largest continuous U.S. military operation and presence mission in South America. It has been conducted without interruption since 1960. It annually involves 2000 to 2500 U.S. service personnel and 10,000 to 15,000 South American personnel from all services as well as sea service personnel from Canada, European nations and other nations. UNITAS is the only significant interaction the U.S. Navy and the U.S. military have with most South American countries.

Basic to UNITAS is the underlying concept that each participating navy "owns" its own exercise phase. It is responsible for the conduct of its phase, schedules particular events for its phase, and invites other navies to participate in its phase. This sense of ownership is arguably UNITAS' greatest strength.

For UNITAS 39-98, Phase Zero (United States Phase) began with a short port visit to Roosevelt Roads July 10-11. As with every phase, Phase Zero began with a scheduling conference to iron out the schedule and ensure all participants were ready to carry out the plan. DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group, which included ships from South American countries, Canada, The Netherlands, and the U.S. Coast Guard, departed Roosevelt Roads on July 12th to conduct several days of intensive exercises.

As with INDEX, DOYLE fired her missiles, shot her guns, and dropped her torpedoes (air and surface-launched), all safely and successfully. DOYLE thrived as a warfare commander, and provided an outstanding plan for victory in the Phase Zero Freeplay. The Freeplay, or "graduation" exercise, occurred in most UNITAS Phases, and combined warfare and mission capabilities in a multinational setting.

Following the Phase Zero Freeplay, DOYLE anchored in the Roosevelt Roads Harbor, and received USS BOSTON (SSN 721) alongside, to practice an at-sea mooring evolution rarely used but sometimes required during UNITAS. As always, DOYLE Sailors stepped to the forefront, conducting a safe and successful evolution.

DOYLE Sailors again enjoyed a short port visit to Roosevelt Roads. In what was a UNITAS tradition, DOYLE Sailors squared off against the international competition in a UNITAS Sports Day. As would occur in most phases, DOYLE's Basketball Team captured first place in the

tournament. Also, DOYLE Sailors took part in the Phase Zero Picnic, an opportunity to enjoy camaraderie with fellow Sailors, and making lifelong friendships.

On July 19th, the UNITAS Task Group returned to sea for Phase One (Venezuela Phase). Ships from the Brazilian Navy joined U.S. and Venezuelan assets in the South Caribbean, conducting numerous at-sea exercises. Phase One also featured an outstanding freeplay, with the opposing forces split by an island. DOYLE and her helicopter detachment again thrived in the warfighting scenario, exercising multiple warfighting skills.

Phase One completed with a port visit to the beautiful Caribbean city of Puerto La Cruz. DOYLE Sailors enjoyed jungle and mountain tours as well as the late night nightlife in a South American city. As with all UNITAS Phases, Phase One included a final critique, a gift exchange, and an officer reception, as DOYLE Officers honed their cultural engagement skills, making lifelong friends with our South American counterparts.

DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group departed Puerto La Cruz on July 27th, spending several days in transit, conducting exercises and reviewing lessons learned from Phases Zero and One. Part of this U.S.-only transit included the time-honored naval tradition of Crossing the Line (Equator). On July 31st, King Neptune and Davy Jones initiated more than 100 DOYLE Polywogs (Sailors) as Crusty Shellbacks. The DOYLE crew celebrated the day with a talent show followed by a steel beach cookout on the flightdeck.

August marked the start of UNITAS Phase Two (Brazil Phase). With the continent's largest naval force, Brazil provided numerous ships, aircraft, and submarines to the UNITAS Task Group. The first two days of the phase were spent in Fortaleza, conducting planning meetings and UNITAS Symposia, professional development briefs and training provided to both American and Brazilian Sailors.

Sailors greatly enjoyed visiting Fortaleza, as the visit coincided with "Carnival", a downtown street festival in the tradition of Mardi Gras in New Orleans or Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Throngs of people jammed the streets throughout the night to celebrate "Carnival", and DOYLE Sailors joined in the fun.

The Task Group departed Fortaleza on August 4th, and embarked on the longest underway portion of UNITAS 39-98. The Task Group conducted several underway replenishments, completed dozens of integrated exercises, and competed in several freeplays. As with most exercises, more participating units made for more challenging and rewarding events.

A highlight of the UNITAS Deployment occurred several times in Phase Two. DOYLE's Drone Detachment, from Fleet Composite Squadron Six (FLECOMPRON SIX) in Norfolk, Virginia, successfully launched and guided more than 20 drones during the deployment. Each drone, or "Big Orange" as it was known, flew for 45 minutes, providing a target for U.S. and South American ships to conduct live fire exercises. "Big Orange" made more than 400 target presentations during UNITAS 39-98, with several thousand rounds expended and lots of happy gunners on all participating ships. All fired drones were recovered safely, as DOYLE's Drone Recovery Team, with all three Search and Rescue (SAR) Swimmers assisting, averaged less than

15 minutes from RHIB launch to drone recovery on DOYLE's flight deck, a UNITAS record. No drones were damaged or destroyed throughout UNITAS 39-98, the first time this occurred in recent memory. Successfully recovering all drones saved the U.S. Navy more than \$300,000.00.

After a professionally-rewarding underway period, DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group pulled into Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 13th for a wonderful port visit. DOYLE Sailors visited the miles of memorable beaches and the "Corcovado" (Statue of Jesus Christ) overlooking the city. One of the world's largest cities, Rio de Janeiro provided great food, nightlife, and entertainment for DOYLE Sailors, who truly enjoyed the adventure in Brazil.

DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group departed Rio de Janeiro on August 17th, and conducted several more days of at-sea exercises with the Brazilian Navy. Captain Raoul Reese, Commander Destroyer Squadron 32 (COMDESRON 32), and his staff embarked DOYLE for two weeks to observe DOYLE's operations as well as join DOYLE for the upcoming Buenos Aires, Argentina, port visit. Several days of intense exercises finished up Phase Two, and all units continued south, sailing right in to UNITAS Phase Three (Uruguay Phase).

A much smaller navy than Brazil, several Uruguayan ships joined UNITAS for Phase Two and then took over the leadership of their phase, Phase Three. Exercises were conducted around-the-clock with the Uruguayans, as ships concentrated on basic warfighting skills. High seas and bad weather made it tough to carry out Phase Three's schedule of events, however, all ships performed well. The task group completed more than 10 exercises during the last day of the phase, including DOYLE's Boarding Team conducting a boarding of a Uruguayan ship, to train the Uruguayan Navy in Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) techniques.

The UNITAS Task Group pulled into Montevideo, Uruguay, on August 22nd. A very European city in look and feel, Montevideo provided great shopping for DOYLE Sailors, as many bought leather coats and sweaters. Montevideo also served as the site of DOYLE's Community Relations (COMREL) Project, as 28 DOYLE Sailors spent a day at the Hogar Infantil Divina Providencia, a home for abused, abandoned, or orphaned girls.

DOYLE Sailors painted stairwells, hallways, a computer room, and the back porch of the home. They also revarnished a door and fixed an electrical wiring problem, which restored power to one wing of the home. The Sailors ate lunch with children at the home, and then played games with them after completing the work. COMREL served as a rewarding experience for all who attended, Sailors who won't soon forget their work at improving the lives of others.

On August 25th, DOYLE separated from the rest of the UNITAS Task Group, transiting the Rio de la Plata enroute Buenos Aires. DOYLE served as the centerpiece for the start of Phase Four (Argentina Phase). A modern, European-style city, Buenos Aires allowed DOYLE Sailors the opportunity to take tours and shop in the shopping districts. Many Sailors took advantage of the outstanding steakhouses, eating...attempting to eat...some man-size steaks.

DOYLE hosted a formal welcome ceremony for Argentine and U.S. diplomatic and military officials, as well as serving up an outstanding return calls luncheon on the bridge. All events

were conducted professionally with DOYLE style, and promoted good relations between the countries for the rest of Phase Four.

DOYLE left Buenos Aires on August 27th. COMDESRON 32 departed DOYLE and returned to MOOSBRUGGER, the UNITAS Flag Ship. Phase Four underway time consisted of many exercises, especially lightline and highline transfer exercises, which required patience and precise shiphandling. DOYLE rejoined the rest of the UNITAS Task Group in time for a port visit to Puerto Belgrano, Argentina's largest naval base. Many DOYLE Sailors traveled to Bahia Blanca, Argentina, a nearby city, to enjoy the restaurants and nightlife located there.

The start of September saw DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group return to sea for several days of exercises, culminating in a freeplay exercise to complete the phase. DOYLE returned to Puerto Belgrano for another short port visit, then headed south to Chile.

On September 8th, the UNITAS Task Group conducted exercises with one of the U.S. Navy's newest ships, the WASP-class LHD USS BON HOMME RICHARD (LHD 9). Commissioned only several weeks earlier in Mississippi, BON HOMME RICHARD was completing an around South America trip to her new homeport of San Diego, California. Highlights of the exercises included DOYLE's helicopter, MAGNUM 441, completing the first helo deck landing qualifications on the BON HOMME RICHARD's huge flight deck.

The UNITAS Task Group continued south, then entered the Chilean Inland Waterway. The first stop was Punta Arenas, Chile. Known as the gateway to the South Pole, Punta Arenas is a very weathered-looking city, although its people are very friendly. In September, the city was just recovering from a hard winter, but temperatures were still only in the 30s. After an overnight stop, the UNITAS Task Group began the four-day transit of the Chilean Inland Waterway.

With ice-capped mountains, fog, and cold rain lining the waterway, the Task Group proceeded through several hundred nautical miles of navigation detail. At some points the Waterway is less than 100 yards wide, requiring precise navigation. DOYLE's UNITAS navigation team and bridge watchstanders performed admirably, earning praise from the Chilean Navy senior pilot onboard DOYLE.

On September 13th, the UNITAS Task Group completed the Chilean Inland Waterway transit and entered the Pacific Ocean. All ships pulled in to Talcahuano, Chile, on September 14th for an overnight stop and official start of UNITAS Phase Five (Chile Phase). Known as an outstanding navy, specifically skilled in Undersea Warfare (USW), the Chileans take pride in their organization and leadership of their phase, and challenged the U.S. to perform at a high level during what was the most taxing phase of UNITAS 39-98.

In Talcahuano, Navy Times reporter Bradley Penniston and photographer Jud McCrehin embarked DOYLE as part of the paper's "Around the World" series, where the pair traveled to remote Navy bases and ships to find out what Sailors do around the world. Over the next four days, DOYLE kept the pair busy. From gun shoots to drone exercises to multi-threat freeplays, DOYLE Sailors showed the media members how well they train and how well they perform. DOYLE received several positive stories and pictures due to the media embark.

Also in Talcahuano, prospective commanding officer, Commander James T. Stewart, embarked DOYLE to start his turnover with CDR Yerger. The busy Phase Five underway time between Talcahuano and Valparaiso provided multiple opportunities for DOYLE Sailors to show their strengths, and also gave CDR Stewart a good view of DOYLE's capabilities.

The UNITAS Task Group pulled in to Valparaiso, Chile, on September 17th for a special port visit. On Friday, September 18th, CDR James T. Stewart became Valiant Mariner's ninth commanding officer, relieving CDR Earle S. Yerger. Captain Raoul Reese, COMDESRON 32 and Officer in Tactical Control of UNITAS forces, served as guest speaker. Following the Change of Command Ceremony, DOYLE Sailors enjoyed Valparaiso liberty, which included tours as well as wine-tasting and wine-buying, in many cases.

The UNITAS Task Group returned to sea September 21st, conducting multi-warfare exercises and freeplays in the Pacific, heading north. Following an anchorage in Punta Aldea to conduct exercise debriefs, the Task Group continued north with a "graduation exercise" freeplay, which flexed all of DOYLE's warfighting capabilities. The UNITAS units successfully completed the exercise, showing great improvement during Phase Five. An overnight stop in Coquimbo, Chile, provided the setting for the Phase Five Final Critique and Reception.

On September 27th, the Task Group proceeded north to the waters off the coast of Peru. This transit allowed DOYLE and other units to conduct "inside-the-lifelines" training, improving weak areas and preparing for the final three phases of UNITAS 39-98. UNITAS Phase Six (Paraguay Phase) featured U.S. Marines and Riverine Forces. As in previous years, U.S. warships did not participate.

The Task Group anchored in Ilo, Peru, on September 30th. A UNITAS Phase Seven (Peru Phase) welcome and schedule brief was conducted on the MOOSBRUGGER, and ships immediately returned to sea to start the phase. With many combatant ships as well as gunboats, Peru showed their naval strength in Phase Seven. During this underway period, ships concentrated on shiphandling, completing numerous DIVTAC exercises, as well as two "Big Orange" drone exercises.

The Phase Seven port visit was a five-day visit to Callao, Peru, just outside Lima. DOYLE Sailors went shopping, took tours, and enjoyed the nightlife associated with this South American metropolis. As with most UNITAS port visits, Callao featured lots of good deals on clothing, specifically leather goods. The DOYLE Wardroom visited the American Ambassador to Peru's residence for a reception during this port visit.

The UNITAS Task Group returned to sea October 10th, immediately conducting a USW exercise upon departure. This underway period featured several multi-warfare and freeplay exercises, with DOYLE Sailors excelling in an aggressive fashion. DOYLE and her allies (the good guys) took on her adversaries (the bad guys). DOYLE shot simulated missiles, shot simulated rounds of gunfire, and dropped simulated torpedoes (both shipboard and helo) in these realistic scenarios.

On October 15th, the UNITAS Task Group anchored in Paita, Peru, for freeplay review and the Phase Seven Final Critique. As with all UNITAS Phases, gifts and pleasantries were exchanged, and all agreed that the participating navies and Sailors were better for the UNITAS experience.

The UNITAS Task Group returned to sea, conducting exercises during a two-day transit north to the waters off Ecuador. UNITAS Phase Eight (Ecuador Phase) included most of Ecuador's fleet, which made for a challenging and exciting phase. Ships anchored off Salinas on October 17th for the Phase Eight Scheduling Conference and Kick-Off. Phase Eight featured some interesting underway times, as evidenced by DOYLE's 0200 underway from Salinas.

Phase Eight required great flexibility, as many events were scheduled in a short amount of time. As during the rest of UNITAS 39-98, DOYLE excelled, safely and successfully completing all evolutions. The UNITAS Task Group pulled in to Manta, Ecuador, on October 20th for a short port visit.

During the Manta visit, DOYLE completed her Project Handclasp delivery, providing several pallets of materials to the Sisters of the San Claver Convent. The convent, which teaches women trade skills such as sewing and weaving, received non-perishable food, health products, and simple garden tools and seeds to start a garden.

DOYLE and the Task Group then returned to sea, getting underway at 0300 for the Phase Eight Freeplay. A challenging freeplay scenario flexed DOYLE's watchteams, as DOYLE was required to close Manta and penetrate the opposition's defenses. While there were no clear winners and losers, the freeplay provided a great training opportunity. DOYLE returned to Manta for the Phase Eight Final Critique October 23rd.

The UNITAS Task Group made another two-day transit north to start UNITAS Phase Nine (Colombia Phase). The transit included a second "Crossing the Line" ceremony for the polywogs who had recently joined the DOYLE crew. After "taking a dip" in the Pacific, DOYLE returned to a 100 percent shellback crew.

The UNITAS Task Group made a short port visit to the naval base at Malaga, Colombia, for a scheduling conference and officer reception. On October 29th, the task group returned to sea for several days of exercises, featuring a UNITAS "Pass and Review" for the American Ambassador to Colombia and other diplomats, two "Big Orange" Drone Exercises, and two freeplays. DOYLE and the other U.S. ships hit on all cylinders during this phase, which provided the best-conceived freeplay planning and execution of the deployment.

Phase Nine was split into two subphases, the Pacific Phase and the Caribbean Phase. In between was a port visit to Rodman, Panama (Panama City), and a northbound transit through the Panama Canal. DOYLE proceeded through the canal at night, which provided a once-in-a-lifetime highlight for DOYLE Sailors, many of whom had never gone through "The Ditch" before.

In the Caribbean, DOYLE and the Task Group completed several days of exercises, which culminated in a final freeplay concentrating on Rules of Engagement (ROE). The freeplay

included warnings and frequent communications. Shots were fired infrequently, as ships had to find ways other than war to successfully complete their missions.

After the final freeplay, the UNITAS Task Group anchored in Cartagena, Colombia for the final UNITAS 39-98 port visit. A beautiful Caribbean city, Cartagena provided picturesque beaches and an exciting nightlife for DOYLE Sailors. While the Sailors enjoyed well-deserved liberty, The Colombian Final Critique and Officer Reception provided proof that the Sailors involved in UNITAS 39-98 had done well, and that long-lasting friendships had developed from working together at sea.

Following the end of Phase Nine on November 10th, U.S. Ships DOYLE, MOOSBRUGGER, LAMOURE COUNTY, and BOSTON departed Cartagena, transiting the Caribbean enroute Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. DOYLE Sailors conducted many at-sea exercises and turned their attention to homecoming preparations.

On November 13th, DOYLE and the UNITAS Task Group sailed together for the final time during UNITAS 39-98, as the ships pulled in to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads. DOYLE Sailors worked feverishly during the two-day port visit, cleaning and painting spaces for homecoming, and reviewing all UNITAS administrative items with USCOMSOLANT. DOYLE Sailors also welcomed aboard more than 20 Tigers for the DOYLE UNITAS Tiger Cruise.

DOYLE and MOOSBRUGGER left Roosevelt Roads on November 15th, headed for homecoming in Mayport. Both ships conducted exercises for their Tigers, including small arms fire to allow the Tigers some "hands-on" action. The crew enjoyed several end-of-deployment events, including an Ice Cream Social, signifying the end of UNITAS. At the social, CDR Stewart awarded the Tigers their Tiger Surface Warfare Specialist Pins, as a certificate of completion of all Tiger training requirements. DOYLE Sailors continued cleaning the ship, making final preparations for homecoming.

November 18th was a warm, sunny day, a perfect for the DOYLE to return to family and friends in Mayport, Florida. DOYLE Sailors reunited with their loved ones after 138 days, and travelling more than 20,000 nautical miles. The warm and well-deserved reunion started DOYLE's post-deployment leave and upkeep period. DOYLE Sailors not on leave continued to maintain and improve the ship, as SIMA Mayport completed a post-deployment maintenance availability. DOYLE Sailors remained in a holiday leave and upkeep period through the end of the year.

Throughout 1998, DOYLE continued to serve as the sponsor ship for St. Augustine Chapter of the United States Navy League. The chapter recognizes DOYLE's Sailors of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year, and presents the Sailors and their families with prize packages to enjoy a free weekend in St. Augustine. The chapter is involved in many DOYLE programs, and provides for higher morale and quality of life for DOYLE's Sailors.

DOYLE also conducted a minor reorganization in 1998. The Ship's Office aligned with the quartermasters, signalmen, independent duty corpsman, master-at-arms, and maintenance coordinator to form Navigation/Administration Division. The Assistant Navigator heads the division, and reports to the Executive Officer.

4. Enclosed supporting documents:

- a. Commanding Officer Biography - CDR Earle S. Yerger, USN
- b. Commanding Officer Biography - CDR James T. Stewart, USN
- c. Bravo Zulu from HSL 40 for providing outstanding RAST Landing Qualification (RLQs) services, alleviating a training backlog.
- d. Bravo Zulu from DIRJIATF EAST for outstanding performance during a six-week Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) Pulse.
- e. Bravo Zulu from COMNAVSURFLANT for outstanding performance during a six-week Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) Pulse.
- f. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for outstanding performance during a six-week Counter Drug Operations (CDOPS) Pulse.
- g. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for outstanding preparation and topside appearance as DOYLE got underway for UNITAS 39-98.
- h. Bravo Zulu from CTG 138.0 (COMDESRON 32) for outstanding USW performance.
- i. Personal For from CTG 138.0 (COMDESRON 32) to COMWESTHEMGRU commenting on DOYLE's outstanding UNITAS 39-98 performance.
- j. Bravo Zulu from HSL 44 for HSL 44 Det 6's outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- k. Bravo Zulu from CTG 138.0 (COMDESRON 32) for outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- l. Bravo Zulu from USCOMSOLANT to DOYLE's UNITAS 39-98 Drone Det, highlighting the Det's outstanding performance during the deployment.
- m. Bravo Zulu from USCOMSOLANT for outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- n. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- o. Bravo Zulu from CTF 40 for outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- p. Personal For from USS MOOSBRUGGER (DD 980) thanking DOYLE for teamwork during UNITAS 39-98.
- q. Bravo Zulu from COMNAVSURFLANT for outstanding performance during UNITAS 39-98.
- r. 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Battle Efficiency Awards Message, which lists DOYLE as a winner of all four Command Excellence Awards as well as the Battle Efficiency Award.
- s. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for Battle Efficiency Award
- t. 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT Ship Safety Award Message
- u. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for Tycom Ship Safety Award.
- v. Bravo Zulu from COMDESRON 14 for Tycom Ship Safety Award.
- w. Bravo Zulu from COMIKEBATGRU for Tycom Ship Safety Award.

- x. LAMPS MK III Superstar Message, noting DOYLE's four consecutive years of 100 percent accountability in LAMPS MK III inventory.
- y. 1998 COMNAVSURFLANT (Green H) Unit Wellness Award Message
- z. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for Green H Award.
- aa. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for DOYLE's selection as COMNAVSURFLANT Runner-up for the 4QFY98 Self-sufficient Ship of the Quarter.
- bb. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU for DOYLE's nomination in the 1QFY99 Self-sufficient Ship of the Quarter competition.
- cc. Bravo Zulu from COMDESRON 14 for DOYLE's nomination in the 1QFY99 Self-sufficient Ship of the Quarter competition.
- dd. Bravo Zulu from COMWESTHEMGRU to recognize DOYLE as a Gold Warrior Spirit Flag Flyer.
- ee. UNITAS 39-98 Deployment Lessons Learned and Statistics
- ff. DOYLE DISPATCH - October 1998
- gg. DOYLE DISPATCH - November 1998