



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS LABOON (DDG 58)
FPO AE 09577-1276

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From: Commanding Officer, USS LABOON (DDG 58)
To: Director, Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 57
Washington, DC 20374-5060

Subj: USS LABOON (DDG 58) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) 1999 Command Composition and Organization of
USS LABOON (DDG 58)
(2) 1999 Chronology of USS LABON (DDG 58)
(3) 1999 Narrative on USS LABOON (DDG 58)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) - (3) are submitted as USS LABOON's Command History for 1999.

E. F. Moran, Jr.
E. F. MORAN, JR.

Copy to:
CDS 26

1999 COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION OF USS LABOON (DDG 58)

MISSION: LABOON underwent preparations for deployment with the DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Battlegroup as part of the IDTC. This included several Destroyer Squadron Two Six Group Sails, COMPTUEX, JTFEX, and INSURV.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Destroyer Squadron Two Six, EISENHOWER Battle Group.

COMMANDING OFFICER: Commander Michael Kevin Mahon (January-16 July), Commander Eugene F. Moran, Jr. (16 July-December).

HOMEPORT: Norfolk, Virginia.

1999 CHRONOLOGY OF USS LABOON (DDG 58)

- April 6-23: Destroyer Squadron Two Six Group Sail to PROA and port visit to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- April 7: Successfully completed CMTQ
- June 8-10, 15-17, 22-24: Destroyer Squadron Two Six Group Sails
- June 18-20: LABOON visits Baltimore, Maryland.
- July 16: Change of Command ceremony held at Nauticus in downtown Norfolk. Commander Eugene F. Moran, Jr. relieves Commander Michael K. Mahon.
- September 27-October 28: LABOON participates in EISENHOWER Battlegroup's COMPTUEX and visits St. Maarten.
- November 1-5: INSURV inspection of LABOON.
- December 3-16: LABOON participates in EISENHOWER Battlegroup's JTFEX.

1999 Awards:

- Destroyer Squadron Two Six Battle "E"
- CNSL Maritime Warfare Excellence Award
- CNSL Engineering/Survivability Award
- CNSL Safety Award
- CNSL Wellness Award
- CNSL CCC Award

1999 COMMAND HISTORY OF USS LABOON (DDG 58)

KEEL LAID: 23 MAR 92
LAUNCHED: 20 FEB 93
COMMISSIONED: 18 MAR 95

During 1999, LABOON underwent preparations for deployment with the DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Battlegroup as part of the IDTC. This included several Destroyer Squadron Two Six Group Sails, COMPTUEX, JTFEX, and INSURV. In April, during the Destroyer Squadron Two Six Group Sail to the Puerto Rican Operating Area (PROA), LABOON scored 103.39% during Naval Surface Fire Support Qualification shortly before the U.S. Navy firing range at Vieques closed. This was a 1999 high for the Arleigh Burke class.

As Air Warfare Commander for CDS 26 during the April Group Sail and during several Group Sails in June, LABOON led DESRON and staff training efforts by coordinating, with the AEGIS Training Readiness Center (ATRC), a series of Force Training Scenarios transmitted over the link for participation by all ships. This initiative, inspired by LABOON's crew, tapped resources not previously used beyond an individual AEGIS platform, and for the first time included non-AEGIS ships.

On Friday, 28 May, over 150 family members and friends of the crew of LABOON came aboard for a special one day Family Cruise. Even three of "Father Jake" Laboon's sisters, the ship's sponsors, flew in from Pennsylvania along with several family members and friends to join in the event. The cruise was a huge success, allowing LABOON Sailors the opportunity to show off their ship to family and friends. All guests earned Honorary Crewmember certificates for their contributions to a splendid day at sea.

As soon as LABOON shifted colors and pulled away from the pier, the guests were treated to a historical tour of Hampton Roads from the mariners prospective. Narrated by LTJG David Wolynski, the tour included highlighting the location of landmarks such as the infamous Civil War battle between ironclads *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, and the site where USS MISSOURI ran aground at the Three Sisters. Crewmembers also treated guests to tours of the ship's spaces, including the Pilothouse, Messdecks, Wardroom, Combat Information Center, Main Engineering Room II and the 5 inch gun mount.

LABOON conducted two exciting firepower demonstrations with the 5 inch gun and Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) mounts shooting hundreds of rounds to the delight of onlookers. The ship also performed a high speed run and a full power "crashback" from all engines ahead full to all engines back full. A "Steel Beach Picnic" on the flight deck concluded the afternoon. Volunteers from the crew served as cooks and grilled hamburgers and chicken for all guests.

LABOON's change of command on 16 July, in the words of Commodore Robert J. Cox, was "a great Navy Day." Despite the week-long rainstorms that forced LABOON to conduct its ceremony in the Nauticus auditorium instead of onboard, the ship still served as a backdrop for the event. Both the departing Commanding Officer, Commander Michael K. Mahon, and the newly arriving Commanding Officer, Commander Eugene F. Moran, Jr., delivered remarks to family, friends, and the crew of LABOON, with the ship visible through the auditorium's movie theatre screen-sized, ceiling-high, glass window.

Guest speaker Commodore Cox, Commander Destroyer Squadron Two Six, spoke highly of LABOON's outstanding performance over the past year and a half. CDR Mahon's heartfelt testimony of serving his country, the Navy and LABOON left a profound impact on his audience. He graciously thanked his parents, his wife, [REDACTED], and children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. CDR Moran expressed his enthusiasm for the excitement and challenges that lay ahead during his command, and acknowledged his family's continued selfless support. As the ceremony drew to a close, the weather cleared enough to allow an outdoor reception on Nauticus' pierside patio. Guests spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the official cake-cutting ceremony followed by a delicious spread of finger foods.

Fresh from her change of command, LABOON had the honor of welcoming top-ranking military and civilian officials onboard for a special dinner in the ship's Wardroom. The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Richard Danzig, hosted four CEO'S of Fortune 500 companies. Guests included Stephen J. Luczo of Seagate Technology and Seagate Software, Martin L. Grass of Rite Aid, Richard L. Sharp of Circuit City Group, and David R. Goode of Norfolk Southern Corporation. Also in attendance were Jerry M. Hultin, Undersecretary of the Navy, ADM J. Paul Reason, Commander in Chief U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM William J. Fallon, Commander Second Fleet, LTGEN Peter Pace, Commander U.S. Marine Forces Atlantic, VADM Edmund Giambastiani, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and VADM Joseph S. Mobley, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

The guests arrived onboard following a reception at Nauticus and enjoyed a tour of LABOON. They were shown LABOON'S Combat Information Center and the Pilot House. Following the tour, guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner in the ship's Wardroom. Mr. Danzig also presented two of LABOON's Sailors, OS1 [REDACTED], the Officer of the Deck, and MS2 [REDACTED], LABOON'S leading Wardroom Mess Management Specialist, with official Secretary of the Navy coins.

In September, LABOON, along with all other Navy ships stationed in Norfolk, was sortied for five days in anticipation of Hurricane Bonnie, which caused considerable damage to North Carolina, but spared most of the Norfolk-Hampton Roads area.

LABOON successfully completed two separate surface-to-air missile engagements as part of training during EISENHOWER Battle Group's COMPTUEX 00-1 in the Puerto Rican Operating Area in October.

The first engagement was against two subsonic drones simulating missiles flying at a very low altitude of only fifty feet. The drones were launched in a "stream raid formation" (one missile immediately following the other) from an aircraft in the direction of the ship. LABOON's Fire Control technicians and Combat Information Center personnel, operating the AEGIS Combat System, identified, tracked, generated a firing solution, and successfully engaged the targets with Standard Missiles.

In a separate event, the aircraft launched another drone simulating a single supersonic missile flying at an extremely high altitude, over fifty thousand feet. Once again, the Combat Team in LABOON destroyed the target.

Also during COMPTUEX, the ship enjoyed a port visit to St. Maarten, Dutch Antilles, where the crew relaxed on the beautiful beaches and enjoyed the French and Dutch culture of the island.

LABOON returned from COMPTUEX and immediately underwent an intensive material readiness inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) from 1 to 5 November 1999. The INSURV inspection included a thorough walkthrough of every compartment onboard LABOON by the Senior Inspector. Additionally, a series of comprehensive combat systems, engineering, and deck tests and demonstrations, and an assessment of material readiness was conducted. At the conclusion of the inspection, the preparation and sustained commitment to excellence on the part of LABOON's crew was validated: Board members remarked that LABOON had "set a new benchmark in cleanliness... the cleanest ship inspected in more than a year."

During the pre-underway phase, inspectors thoroughly reviewed the material readiness of over 250 spaces onboard LABOON. They ensured all shipboard equipment was operating safely and correctly before certifying LABOON "ready for underway." Their decision was based on a battery of material readiness checks, including cold checks in the engineering plant, observing light-off procedures of the Main Propulsion systems, inspecting Damage Control, Navigation, Deck, Combat Systems, and Weapons equipment. The Senior Inspector was impressed with the overall effort of the crew and the outstanding material condition of LABOON, stating that LABOON, "had one of the most effective zone inspection programs observed by the Board in the past two years."

Severe weather hampered several of the day's events during the Underway Material Inspection (UMI) portion. A highlight of the UMI was the Air Warfare Detect-to-Engage (AAW DTE) sequence, testing all radar and weapons systems defending the ship against simulated air launched cruise missiles. Inspectors praised LABOON in every area that was reviewed, remarking that, "material demonstrations were generally flawlessly executed," and specifically highlighted the incredibly smooth performance of the AAW DTE sequence.

Upon returning to port, the Board performed the third and final portion of INSURV inspection: the "Open and Inspect" phase. For this, selected pieces of major shipboard equipment were identified to be broken down, opened, and internally inspected. The "Open and Inspect" phase is no longer the intrusive breaking down of major pieces of equipment to "parade rest." It is, however, a great opportunity for both the Board and ship's force to really get into the "nuts and bolts" of some major equipment that normally isn't required to be dismantled for inspection. Board members again concluded that LABOON's crew was "exceptionally well prepared."

LABOON can credit their highly successful INSURV inspection to the extremely dedicated and hard-working crew, which began preparations with only nine-weeks notice of INSURV's arrival. *The Insurv Inquirer*, a locally produced news flyer was a key vehicle which LABOON's INSURV Coordinator, LT Keenan, used as a means to bring the entire crew up to speed on INSURV related matters and to highlight key points from INSURV's Quarterly maintenance messages.

In December, LABOON sailed for two weeks to participate in EISENHOWER Battlegroup's JTFEX. JTFEX provided the battlegroup and the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with challenging war-at-sea scenarios in preparation for their February 2000 deployment.

For their outstanding performance throughout the year, LABOON earned the 1999 Battle Efficiency Ribbon, or "Battle E," for Destroyer Squadron 26.