



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
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From: Commanding Officer, USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
To: Director, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G of 29MAR99

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents
(5) 3 1/2" disk

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded.


D. C. ROBERTSON, JR.

COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

COMMAND HISTORY

USS MAHAN (DDG 72)

2000

UIC: 21946

Mission: To fight and win in combat operations at sea.

ISIC: Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six, CAPT Robert J. Cox (010100-092100), CAPT Scott Jones (092100-123100)

Commanding Officer: CDR James R. Yohe (010100-092200), CDR David C.

Robertson (092200-123100)

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

CHRONOLOGY
COMMAND HISTORY
USS MAHAN (DDG 72)
2000

MONTH/

DAY EVENTS/REMARKS

JAN

03 Navy Campus (college) Smart Transcript delivery
04 Singles pre-deployment brief
11-12 U/W Vacapes
12-31 Inport Norfolk, VA
13-14 Fleet Battle Exercise-Golf (FBE-G) equipment install
14 TLAM onload
19 Combat Direction Finding (CDF) system groom
21 Retirement ceremony for CTRCM (SW) Harmon at RSG auditorium
24 DESRON 26 Sailor of the Year (SOY) interviews, STG1(SW) [REDACTED],
 candidate
25-29 Underwater hull cleaning
26-28 Collective Protection System (CPS) groom
31 Surface Combat Commander (SCC) syndicate meeting (Ramage Hall)

FEB

01 Commissioning ceremony for EWC/ENS [REDACTED]
03-04 Pre-deployment logistics meetings for USS MAHAN/USS RAMAGE
03 FBE-G planning meeting (USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER)
07 Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) ammo onload
 Navy Campus briefs for all departments
08 Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) planning meeting (final)
7-10 Force Over-the-Horizon Track Coordinator (FOTC) exercises
 (IKEBATGRU)
14 USS MAHAN 2nd birthday
 VADM Giffin visits: remodeled mess decks ribbon cutting, awards
 ceremony, children's day
15-16 Cruise book photos
16 5" ammo onload
18 Underway maiden deployment
18-29 Underway
19-21 NSFS team training (Mobile Team Training)
20 ASWEX
 PACE Semester 1 begins (ends 25 April)
21 RAS W/USNS KANAWHA
23 Pacfire, Awards Ceremony
24 Safety Standown
25 RAS W/USNS KANAWHA
 NSFS SAG detaches to transit to Cape Wrath, United Kingdom
29 RAS W/RAF BRAMBLELEAF

MAR

01-08 Underway
01 Inport Cape Wrath, United Kingdom
 Flight Ops, Range brief, 5" firing qual begins
02 Completed NSFS qual, departed for Mediterranean Sea,
 en route Palma de Mallorca, Spain
04 Sonar Self Noise test
06 RAS W/USNS BIG HORN, transit Straits of Gibraltar

07 Steel Beach Picnic, Fish Call
 08-12 Moored Palma de Mallorca, Spain
 Commander Destroyer Squadron 26 and staff arrive
 09 PO2 Exam
 12 Depart Palma
 UNREP W/ USNS BIG HORN
 12-20 Underway
 14-19 Exercise SHARK HUNT
 15 Officer cross-deck with French Frigate LA MOTTE PIQUETE
 16 Officer exchange
 19 RAS W/USNS BIG HORN, VERTREP W/USNS SIRIUS
 20-24 Inport, La Maddalena, Italy for Fleet Maintenance Availability
 (FMAV)
 24-27 Underway
 24 RAS W/USNS BIG HORN, VERTREP W/USNS MT BAKER
 25 Straits of Messina Transit
 26 Passing Exercise (PASSEX) w/USN WASP Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)
 VBSS Training w/USN TRENTON
 27-31 Inport Trieste, Italy

APR

01-04 Underway
 01 PASSEX USS OAK HILL
 02 UNREP W/USNS KANAWHA
 04-06 Anchor Gaeta, Italy
 06 Fleet Battle Experiment (FBE) G begins
 08 Return to Gaeta, Italy for personnel transfer, anchored for the
 morning
 08-14 Underway
 08-13 Exercise Noble Suzanne Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS)
 09 UNREP W/USNS BIG HORN, First DDG to do 3 stations next to her
 11 Proceeded to Israeli Coast For Noble Suzanne FONOPS
 12-13 Exercise Freeplay, SUW/ASW/AAW
 14-18 Anchored Antalya, Turkey
 18 Underway en route Split, Croatia
 18-22 Underway
 19 RAS W/USNS KANAWHA/VERTREP W/U
 SNS SIRIUS
 RADM Foley (Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8) visits
 21 Good Friday Services, Mahan Detaches, enroute Split
 22-25 Inport Split, Croatia
 22 Easter Sunrise Service Flight Deck
 25-30 Underway
 Pace Semester I Ends
 27-29 Exercise JACK HOWL
 27-28 Caesar Sword (SLAMEX)
 29 RAS W/USNS KANAWHA
 30 Encounter Exercise (ENCOUNTEREX) W/USN ANZIO

MAY

01-05 Inport Corfu, Greece
 05-12 Underway, Central Mediterranean
 RAS W/USNS LARAMIE
 06 ADEX
 08 ADEX/WASEX
 09 Rapid Crow Over the Horizon Tracking Exercise
 10 RAS W/USNS BIG HORN

SUWEX

10-11 Caesar Sword
12-17 Inport Marmaris, Turkey
13 EM1 (SW) [REDACTED] Retirement Ceremony
17-19 Underway, Central Mediterranean
RAS W/USNS BIG HORN (3 Stations at Night)
Commander Task Force (CTF) 60 Turnover
18 Halfway Day Celebration, Steel Beach, Ice Cream Social, Club 72
Disco Night
19-22 Inport, Souda Bay, Crete
Exercise Dynamic Mix Pre-sail Conferences
22-28 Underway, Central Mediterranean
22 Dynamic Mix begins
23 CASEX
Received Mission Area Excellence Award from VADM Giffin
24 CASEX
Electronics Warfare Live Fire exercises
25 SURFEX, CASEX, ADEX, SURFEX, LEAP FROGS/DIVTACS
26 SURFEX, ADEX, SURFEX
RAS W/ITS VESUVIO (Night 3 Station)
27 CASEX, SURFEX, Surface Live Fire (5"/CIWS)
28 Anchor Augusta Bay, Greece
28-30 Underway
29 UNREP W/USNS BIG HORN
30 RDVU W/WASP ARG

JUN

01 CTF60/USS MAHAN cross-deck to USS WASP for Dynamic Mix Amphib
Briefs
FCC [REDACTED] (CDS26) Commissioning to CWO2
01-05 Underway
02 RAS W/USNS LARAMIE
05-06 Inport Souda Bay, Greece, Frocking Ceremony
06-12 Underway
06 RAS W/USNS LARAMIE
07 E-4 Frocking Ceremony
08 PASSEX Ukraine Ship UPS SLAVOTICH, Officer cross-decks
09 MIO drill with USS LABOON
11 RAS W/USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
12-15 Inport, Palma De Mallorca, Spain
12-13 Semi-Annual PRT
14-15 SHAREM Pre-sail Meetings
15-23 Underway
15 SHAREM begins
16 RAS W/USNS SIRIUS
Structured SHAREM Events
18 RAS W/USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
21 RAS W/USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
22 Finex SHAREM, Pax Offload via Helo
23-30 Inport Barcelona, Spain
23 Anchor Out Barcelona
24 Berth Shift to Pier
26 CO's Call On Captain Manuel Ramirez-Nuñez (Chief Naval Sector
Catalonia and Marine Military Commander Barcelona)
Navy League Reception
29 Berth Shift
Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Boards

30-03 Jul Underway en route Cannes, France

JUL

01-03 Underway en route Cannes, France
03-07 Anchored Cannes, France
03 Mayoral reception
04 Official reception from City of Cannes
07-10 Underway en route Naples, Italy
09 RAS w/USNS LEROY GRUMMAN
10-17 Inport Naples, Italy
10 VADM Murphy (C6F) visit
15 Crew Photo/Command Picnic
17-21 Underway en route Fethiye, Turkey
19 Mid-Cycle Assessment brief for CDS26
20 RAS w/USNS LARAMIE, VERTREP w/USNS SATURN
21-25 Anchored Fethiye, Turkey
25-28 Underway en route Rijeka, Croatia
27 RAS w/USNS LARAMIE
28-01 Inport Rijeka, Croatia

AUG

01 Inport Rijeka, Croatia
01-04 Underway en route Ibiza, Spain
03 RAS w/USNS KANAWHA
04-07 Anchored Ibiza, Spain
07-16 Underway en route Newport, Rhode Island
08 RAS w/USNS KANAWHA
11 RAS w/USNS KANAWHA
14 RAS w/USNS KANAWHA
16 Inport Newport, RI
16 Early returnees depart/Tigers embark
16-18 Tiger Cruise 00
18 Inport Norfolk, VA
18-31 POM Standdown

SEP

01-18 Inport Norfolk, VA
01-15 POM Standown
18 Underway, PCO Familiarization day
18-25 Inport Norfolk, VA
21 Change of Command CDS26
22 Change of Command USS MAHAN
25 Underway en route Yorktown NWS
25 Inport Yorktown NWS
25-27 Ammo Offload
27 Underway en route Norfolk, VA
27-30 Inport Norfolk, VA
28 Swedish Officer Tour
28 Host to HMCS PRESERVER for Unified Spirit 2000
29-30 Selected Restricted Availability 1 (29SEP00 - 12JAN01)

OCT

01-31 Selected Restricted Availability 1 (29SEP00 - 12JAN01)
01-03 Inport Norfolk
02 Luncheon on HMCS PRESERVER
03 Underway to NORSHIPCO
03-31 Inport NORSHIPCO for SRA

04 NORSHIPCO Arrival Conference
 05 ATWCS Program Brief
 05 Reenlistment Ceremony for FCC [REDACTED]
 06 NAVSSI Brief
 06 Reenlistment Ceremony for FCC [REDACTED]
 06 Reenlistment Ceremony for IC3 [REDACTED]
 06 Reenlistment Ceremony for FCC [REDACTED]
 10 Stores Offload
 10 Afloat Training Group (ATG) SBT
 12 WSN-7 Brief
 12 Reenlistment Ceremony for IC2 [REDACTED]
 12 ILO Brief
 12 Memorial Service for FC2 Hutchinson
 13 Reenlistment Ceremony for SM2 [REDACTED]
 16 THREATCON Training for All Hands
 17 Command Physical Readiness Testing (PRT)
 18 Surface Detailer Visit
 19 ATG Visit for Training Teams
 23-25 Engineering Admin Review by ETG
 23 Command Duty Officer board for LTJG [REDACTED]
 24 Make-up Command PRT
 26 Reenlistment Ceremony for FC2 [REDACTED]

NOV

01-30 Selected Restricted Availability
 01 Reenlistment Ceremony for EWC [REDACTED]
 02 GPS/NAV Warfare Users Conference
 02 CDLMS Inbrief
 02 Religious Program Meeting
 03 Reenlistment Ceremony for HT3 [REDACTED]
 03 Reenlistment Ceremony for OS2 [REDACTED]
 06 Reenlistment Ceremony for EN3 [REDACTED]
 08 Operational Risk Management Training for All Hands Conference
 09 FACSFAC Waterfront Users Brief
 09 ENS [REDACTED] participates in the Junior Officer Shiphandling Competition
 09 Presentation at Rosemont Elementary School
 13 Reenlistment Ceremony for ET2 [REDACTED]
 15 Combatant Fleet Issues and Response Meeting
 16 Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer Conference
 22 Reenlistment Ceremony for OS2 [REDACTED]
 28 Stores Onload
 28 Deperm Brief

DEC 00

01-31 Selected Restricted Availability
 04-05 Engineering Light-Off Assessment
 04-08 AVCERT Assist
 04 NOTAP Data Collection on FC rating
 06 Marine Safety International (MSI) Shiphandling Training
 06 Fast Cruise
 07 SRA Completion Conference
 07 Underway for Nauticus, Norfolk
 07-12 Pierside Nauticus Visit for Ship's Tours/USS WISCONSIN ARRIVAL CEREMONY
 07 USS MAHAN Christmas Party

11 NOTAP Data Collection for OS rating
11 AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) Program Brief
12-13 Underway VACAPES
13 Inport Norfolk
14 Tomahawk Material Certification Brief
15 Reenlistment Ceremony for IT2 [REDACTED]
15 Petty Officer Frocking Ceremony
15 USS MAHAN Children's Christmas Party
15-29 Holiday Standown (Leave Period 1)
18 Cableway Assessment Inbrief
18 CO Meeting with FSG President
29 Reenlistment Ceremony for OSC [REDACTED]
29 Reenlistment Ceremony for GSMC [REDACTED]
30-31 Holiday Standown (Leave Period 2)

NARRATIVE
COMMAND HISTORY
USS MAHAN (DDG-72)

The year Two-Thousand began quietly for the "Official Destroyer of the New Millennium." The light of the New Year dawned on a quiet scene, many of the crew still being on Holiday leave. Nevertheless, activity during the Holiday Season was at a higher level than usual, owing to the fact that the next month would see the ship and crew deploy for the first time. Equipment was being readied, families were moving, and briefs were being held, on and off the ship. The crew had the opportunity to sign up for Navy College sponsored courses throughout January. Transcripts were delivered starting on the 4th, so crewmembers could see what courses they were eligible to take. In an effort to assist the crew in preparing for the six month event, pre-deployment briefs were conducted. On the 11th, an overnight underway was made to the Virginia Capes (VACAPES), to iron out the last few wrinkles in equipment checks, and to conduct Pre-Aim Calibrate Firings (PACFIRES) for the 5" .54 caliber gun, as well as the 20mm Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS). A General Quarters drill, including an abandon ship drill, was also held, to further train the crew and to get the last few wrinkles ironed out. Many infrequent events were done during this brief independent underway. Streaming of the Tactical Towed Array Sonar (TACTAS) and engineering Basic Casualty Control Exercises were conducted. The ship returned to homeport Norfolk, Virginia on the afternoon of the 12th, and continued preparations to deploy. An onload of Tomahawk missiles was quickly executed on the 14th, after a fleet wide inspection of potentially leaking fuel canisters discovered two questionable canisters onboard. These were replaced immediately, deploying ships being given priority. Many systems grooms took place prior to deploying, a few of note; the Combat Direction Finding (CDF) system on the 19th, and the Collective Protection System (CPS) on the 19th. The aluminum canisters for the Charcoal filters of the CPS System were recycled locally. Usually thrown away, the recycled filter canisters instead earned \$600 for the ship Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fund. Perhaps the greatest highlight of the month, a retirement ceremony was conducted on the 21st for the incumbent Command Master Chief, Cryptologics Technician Master Chief Petty Officer (CTRCM) (SW) James A. Harmon, celebrating thirty-three years of faithful service. The entire crew, minus the duty section, was in attendance at the Readiness Support Group (RSG) auditorium on base. Another event worthy of note, on the 26th Sonar Technician Surface Petty Officer First Class [REDACTED] was interviewed by the Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six (CDS 26) as USS MAHAN's nominee for DESRON Sailor of the Year. Though not selected, STG1 [REDACTED] certainly set himself apart by being nominated for the award.

February opened with another celebration, the commissioning of the second Chief Petty Officer from USS MAHAN as an Ensign. Electronics Warfare Technician Chief Petty Officer [REDACTED] was commissioned an Ensign at a ceremony held in the ballroom of the Pier 26 CPO club on February First. Following the ceremony, several key personnel attended a Theater Contingency Planning Conference at the Navy/Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center, Dam Neck. On the Third and Fourth, Officers and Chiefs from USS MAHAN and USS RAMAGE met at the Breezy Point Officer's Club for a working lunch, to share lessons learned and helpful information gained by USS RAMAGE during her recently completed deployment. Also in February several meetings were attended by members of the ship's Combat Systems and Operations Departments to discuss the upcoming Fleet Battle Exercise Golf in which USS MAHAN would participate. On the Seventh, briefs by the Navy College took place onboard to further increase awareness of the crew in PACE courses, which they would be taking while deployed. Also on the Seventh, a CIWS ammunition onload was conducted. The Operations Department

and Combat Systems Department again were busy as they participated in an inport Force Over-the-Horizon Track Coordinator (FOTC) exercise for the EISENHOWER Battle Group (IKEBATGRU) from the Seventh through the Tenth. All checks for USS MAHAN were completed without discrepancy. The 14th was a big day for USS MAHAN. First, the wardroom and crew celebrated the second birthday of the ship. In attendance was VADM Henry C. Giffin, Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT). VADM Giffin also officiated the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated mess decks and addressed the crew and spouses in attendance. The festivities were wrapped up with early liberty and a USS MAHAN Children's Day party. Last but not least, LCDR Doug Nashold reported for duty on the 14th, to relieve LCDR Rich Brown as Executive Officer. The next three days flew by as last-minute details were attended to. Load after load of stores were delivered and brought onboard by crew's working parties in addition to a top-off of ammunition for the 5" gun. Photographs for the ship's first Cruise Book were taken on the 15th and 16th. The wardroom bid Fair Winds and Following Seas to LCDR Brown as he departed on the 17th. The morning of the 18th dawned gray as fog blanketed the area. Preparations complete, Officers and Crew bid their final goodbye's to their loved ones and boarded the ship for deployment. USS MAHAN departed her berth Naval Station Norfolk at 1400, February 18th 2000 for her maiden deployment. The Sea and Anchor Detail was without incident, despite the fact that it was conducted in low visibility, as the fog had not yet completely lifted.

Once off the VACAPES, a PACFIRE was conducted for the 5" .54 cal gun and the CIWS. As the ships met up to "cross the pond," preparations were made to conduct Naval Surface Fire Support training for USS MAHAN, USS CAPE ST GEORGE and USS ANZIO. USS MAHAN led the way by completing training first, and the Mobile Training Team flew to the next two ships in turn. The Team Training went well, and confidence was high that the ship would perform well off Scotland the beginning of March. Training was coordinated during the trans-lant, establishing inter-operability and uninterrupted communications which were a critical component to the success shown during the following months during deployment. Refueling At Sea (RAS) Operations were conducted as necessary with the USNS KANAWHA to keep fuel levels high. On the 25th, one last RAS was conducted and these ships were detached to form a Surface Action Group (SAG). The transit to the Northern tip of the United Kingdom was quiet. The rough seas subsided as MAHAN crossed into the quiet waters of the Irish Sea. Before departing the Irish Sea, USS MAHAN conducted a RAS with the RAF BRAMBLELEAF, a British Auxiliary ship. After over two hours alongside (making three circuits of the central open area of the Irish Sea), and a short delay as the delivery ship fixed a minor fuel leak, USS MAHAN detached and made best speed to Cape Wrath while the other two ships received fuel and followed later.

USS MAHAN left the North Minch and again felt the fury of Scottish March weather. The seas at the Cape Wrath measured five on the Beaufort Scale, but USS MAHAN pressed on, conducting helo passenger transfers to get range personnel onboard for a firing brief. Once preparations were made and briefs conducted, USS MAHAN made for the firing range. Firing began late in the afternoon of the 29th and continued until darkness fell. All but seven firing events were completed by nightfall. USS MAHAN proceeded South into the Minch for the night, hoping to allay the rough seas until morning.

Once day broke, and the new month of March with it, firing recommenced and the last checks were completed. Once the "all" clear report came from range control, USS MAHAN turned South again and made best speed for the Mediterranean Sea to relieve USS MCFAUL. USS MAHAN later received news that her range score was 99%, the best of the three-ship SAG. Along the way to the Med USS MAHAN refueled from USNS BIG HORN off the coast of Northern Spain. USS MAHAN officially entered the Mediterranean for the first time on the Sixth after refueling and transiting the Straits of Gibraltar. Once in the Med, the

Navigation Team set course for Palma de Mallorca, Spain, for the ship's first Med Port visit. The crew spruced up the ship and manned the rails the morning of the Eighth to enter the quiet harbor of Palma. Once tied up, services were connected, the ship was cleaned, the crew briefed and liberty call was sounded. The crew enjoyed the sights and nightlife of this popular resort area. Many of the crew took advantage of the tours to the Caves of Drach and tours of the nearby Synthetic Pearl manufacturing company. Many loved ones received gifts of pearl jewelry as shipmates took advantage of the Navy Exchange (NEX) Service vendors who came to meet the ship, bearing regional wares at discounted prices. Also while in Palma the ship embarked Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six (CDS 26), CAPT Robert J. Cox and his Staff. The visit ended on the 12th as USS MAHAN departed Palma to participate in the NATO Exercise Shark Hunt off the coast of the Hebrides.

The Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) cell and all watchstanders set the ship apart from the others through their crisp maneuvering and aggressive prosecution. During the operation, the Communications Officer from USS MAHAN had the opportunity to cross-deck to the French Naval Frigate LA MOTTE PICQUETE, in exchange for one French Officer. Life on the other side was experienced by both young men as they each took in what the other Navy had to offer. The French Naval Officer was duly impressed with the capabilities of USS MAHAN's warfighting arm, and also keenly interested in seeing how well women were able to fit in as members of the crew. The COMMO from USS MAHAN was just glad to be back, his experience perhaps overshadowed by the fact that, due to NATO restrictions, the helicopter transporting him could not land on the deck of the Frigate. He therefore had to be lowered on a winch.

As Shark Hunt wound down the First Class Petty Officer Association sponsored the first Bingo Night on the evening of the 18th, establishing it as a weekly event. The 19th marked the end of the exercise and therefore the first opportunity to turn attention elsewhere, this time for another RAS with USNS BIG HORN. Also later the same day, a Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) was conducted with the USNS MT BAKER to get stores and ammunition. Once replenishment operations were completed, course was set for the Italian Island of Sardegna and its port of La Maddalena with the support and maintenance facilities of the USS EMORY S. LAND, a submarine tender. USS MAHAN conducted a Fleet Maintenance Availability (FMAV) while in La Maddalena, making it a working port. In La Maddalena the crew was also able to benefit from the medical and dental facilities that the Tender had to offer. USS MAHAN departed on the 24th en route the Adriatic Sea for the first Adriatic port visit of Trieste Italy. Along the way the ship transited the Straits of Messina and dodged the Italian fishing fleet in the early morning hours of the 25th. Also along the way, a PASSEX was conducted with ships of the USS WASP Amphibious Readiness Group (WASPARG), during which Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training was conducted. The ship again manned the rails and went pierside in Trieste, Italy on the 27th to remain through the 31st.

April began with a fond farewell bid to Trieste, after four days of enjoyable liberty in the cosmopolitan port. Work began quickly after departure, as a PASSEX with USS OAK HILL and an UNREP with USNS KANAWHA took place on the First and Second. The ship made best speed to depart the Northern Adriatic and anchor at Gaeta, Italy by the Fourth. Staying through the Sixth, the ship took on stores and her crew saw more quality liberty. The ship weighed anchor on the afternoon of the Sixth and immediately began Fleet Battle Experiment Golf (FBEG). The ship Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program earned almost \$4,000 in a Scullery King and Queen contest, the Main Propulsion Assistant, the Gunnery Officer and the CIC Officer being the newly elected Royal Family. During this time the Theater Ballistic Missile (TBM) Defense portion of FBEG was conducted. Once complete, the ship anchored again briefly in Gaeta to drop off the technical representatives and riders for the TBM portion of the exercise.

Exercise Noble Suzanne began on the 8th and combined with FBEG, bringing in more participants from NATO. The ship departed Gaeta in the central Med and quickly headed East for the coast of Israel, the next area of operations. Along the way USS MAHAN conducted a three-station UNREP with USNS BIG HORN, the first DDG to do so with her.

USS MAHAN then charged to the coast of Israel, closing to just outside 12 Nautical Miles for Noble Suzanne Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS). Noble Suzanne continued until USS MAHAN was detached to proceed to Antalya, Turkey, mooring pierside on the 14th. In Antalya, the crew enjoyed the hospitality of the Turks and the experience of shopping for the renowned Turkish carpets and other souvenirs. The ship departed Antalya on the 18th, bound for Split, Croatia. Along the way another UNREP was conducted, and the ship moored in Split on the 21st. The ship and crew put on their best appearance and made preparations for Easter weekend services. Many of the crew attended the sunrise service given on the flight deck Easter morning. Tours were also given to the public in Split, for which the citizens turned out in droves. The 25th brought both the end of the port visit and also the end of the first semester of PACE courses onboard. The USS MAHAN put out to sea and participated in both Exercise Jack Howl and a SLAMEX. On the way out of the Adriatic, USS MAHAN and USS ANZIO conducted an Encounter Exercise (ENCOUNTEREX), USS MAHAN targeting USS ANZIO as she passed through the Straits of Toranto into the Adriatic. USS MAHAN then proceeded South through the Straits and anchored in Corfu, Greece on the First.

The ship spent the first five days of May in Corfu, enjoying the Greek culture and sights of this popular vacation area. The ship departed on the Fifth and set course for Marmaris, Turkey. Along the way, the ship conducted two UNREPS, participated in Air Defense exercises (ADEX), a War at Sea Exercise (WASEX), a Surface Warfare Exercise, and Over The Horizon Targeting (OTH-T) exercises. The ship moored in port Marmaris on the 12th and the crew enjoyed their second Turkish liberty port. Prices in Marmaris were lower than Antalya, and the night-life was some of the most active yet. The second day the ship held a retirement ceremony for EM1(SW) [REDACTED]. The 17th was a busy day as the ship got underway, conducted an UNREP with USNS BIG HORN and took over duties as CTF 60 flagship for Commodore Cox who assumed duties as task force commander during the USS EISENHOWER's stay in the Persian Gulf.

The 18th of May was a day of celebration as the crew passed the halfway point of deployment. A Steel Beach picnic was held on the flight deck, an Ice Cream Social was held on the mess decks, and the first Disco Night was held on the flight deck after sunset. The crew danced hump-day away until midnight. The ship moored in Souda Bay, Crete the next day to participate in planning conferences for the upcoming annual NATO exercise Dynamic Mix. Many NATO ships were in port as well, including the Italian Aircraft Carrier GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI, Turkish Frigate ZAFER, Italian Frigate ANDALUTHIA, as well as the USS HARTFORD. The ship took on stores and took advantage of the Naval Support Facilities there, including the large picnic area and softball field. The ship took in all lines and departed Souda Bay on the 22nd, beginning Dynamic Mix. Events that took place from the 23rd to the 28th ranged from live 5" Gunfires, Anti-Surface Warfare, Air Defense, Combined Air and Sea exercises to Leapfrogs and Division Tactics (DIVTACS). Also on the 23rd, USS MAHAN received a Mission Area Excellence Award from COMNAVSURFLANT VADM Giffin. On the 26th USS MAHAN conducted her first UNREP with an Italian Auxiliary as she took fuel from the ITS VESUVIO in a three-station night UNREP. The ship took a quick break from Dynamic Mix for a Brief Stop for Passengers/Parts (BSP) in Augusta Bay, Greece, anchoring for four hours on the afternoon of the 28th. Underway in the afternoon, USS MAHAN proceeded to rendezvous with USNS BIG HORN for UNREP on the 29th. Immediately following UNREP, the ship observed a moment of silence for Memorial Day. The ship then proceeded to rendezvous with the USS TRENTON and USS OAK HILL, and later the USS WASP.

On the First of June the Commodore and Commanding Officer flew to the USS WASP for briefs on the upcoming Amphibious Warfare exercises of Dynamic Mix. After returning, the ship held a ceremony for FCC(SW) [REDACTED], a member of the DESRON Staff, commissioning him a Chief Warrant Officer. Another Refueling at Sea took place on the 2nd, this time with USNS LARAMIE. The Amphibious Phase of Dynamic Mix continued until the Fifth of June when the ship again moored in Souda Bay. USS MAHAN got underway on the morning of the Sixth and took fuel again from the USNS LARAMIE. On the Seventh a PACFIRE was conducted, followed by a ceremony to frock crewmembers to Third Class Petty Officer.

On the morning of the Eighth, USS MAHAN met the Ukrainian Ship SLAVOTICH for a PASSEX. Shiphandling drills, communications drills, and cross-decking of Officers and Chief Petty Officers were the main events. Both sides learned a great deal and came away with a great respect for their fellow mariners. On the Ninth the PASSEX was concluded and a Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) drill was conducted later in the day with the USS LABOON. USS MAHAN turned towards Palma de Mallorca again, pulling in to the now familiar port on the 12th, after taking on fuel from the USNS LEROY GRUMMAN on the 11th. The crew enjoyed visiting all the familiar sights, especially with the tourist season in full swing. Also during this period the semi-annual PRT was conducted. The ship and staff sent members to pre-sail conferences for the upcoming SHAREM exercise on the 14th-15th, before the ship left afternoon of the 15th. SHAREM proved to be an intensive Anti-Submarine exercise, where the watchstanders and tacticians of USS MAHAN again set the standard for her fellow USN platforms and the many NATO ships who participated. SHAREM began as structured events taken directly from Allied publications and, as the ships from various nations learned how to work with one another, and then became "freeplay" exercises where the outcome was entirely dependant on tactical proficiency and ability. USS MAHAN replenished fuel and supplies from the USNS SIRIUS on the 16th. The ship again took on fuel on the 18th, this time with USNS LEROY GRUMMAN. SHAREM concluded on the 22nd, and passengers and equipment were transferred to the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS via helo. USS MAHAN then proceeded to Barcelona, Spain, for an enjoyable port visit. The crew sampled the exciting and famous city, visiting everything from the ancient architecture and cultural hotspots to the facilities of the 1992 Olympic Games. Departing on the 30th, the ship set course for Cannes, France, planning many festivities for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

July began quietly as USS MAHAN made her way to Cannes. The quiet soon gave way to commotion and non-stop fanfare as the crew was treated to the full hospitality of the city of Cannes, the Kingdom of Monaco, the Franco-American Club Cannes and the US Navy League Cannes. The eager French greeted USS MAHAN with a reception schedule as extensive as they would have given an aircraft carrier. The hospitality of the French was unrivalled by that found in any other city. The brotherhood shown by the French made the Independence Day celebrations truly memorable. But after five days of dancing, gourmet food and champagne, after which many commented they never wanted to drink champagne again, many in the crew were glad to leave, for the opportunity to finally get some sleep. After departing Cannes, USS MAHAN proceeded to Naples, Italy where from the 10th to the 17th the crew spent the port working on maintenance and preservation, preparing USS MAHAN to look her best for her return to homeport (RTHP). VADM Murphy, COMSIXTHFLT, visited the ship on the first day in. During this visit, many took advantage of MWR trips to Pompei, Rome and Vatican City. The ship departed Naples on the 17th and set course for Fethiye, Turkey. During the underway, the ship briefed CDS 26 for the ship's Mid-Cycle Assessment, and conducted a major VERTREP with the USNS SATURN. Arriving in Fethiye on the 21st, many of the crew took advantage of excellent hotel rates negotiated by the husbanding agent and spent one or more nights at one of the resort hotels in the area. The crew favorite was Hotel Letoonia, where a majority of the crew

enjoyed the wide array of distractions and activities available, or simply sunned by the pool and relaxed. After a rejuvenating visit to Fethiye, the ship departed on the 25th, setting course for the industrial port city of Rijeka, Croatia. Arriving on the 28th, many of the crew enjoyed the quiet, quaint city of Rijeka, while some preferred to take a bus to the nearby resort city of Opatija where discos abounded.

USS MAHAN departed Rijeka on the first, and proceeded quickly to Ibiza, Spain for the last Mediterranean liberty port visit of the deployment. USS MAHAN anchoring in Ibiza on the fourth. Many of the crew made preparations to return home, and when the ship weighed anchor and set course for the Strait of Gibraltar the crew's thoughts were on home. Passing through the Strait just before midnight, USS MAHAN set course for the United States. The first stop stateside was Newport Rhode Island, where early returnees left and 50+ Tigers boarded to make the two day transit back to Norfolk. All enjoyed the pre-homecoming in Newport, and enjoyed hearing the ship's whistle as she got underway en route Norfolk. USS MAHAN arrived homeport Norfolk early in the morning on the 18th, wrapping up a highly successful and memorable maiden deployment. Standown began immediately after mooring, but was far from quiet. As some of the crew were on leave, others continued preparations for major events that would be taking place in September. Preps for both the Change of Command for COMDESRON 26 and USS MAHAN were made, as well as preps for the upcoming Ship Restricted Availability (SRA).

September began with turnover between first and second block leave period participants, and preparations continued as crew members returned refreshed from leave. The ship went underway for the day on the 18th of September to allow the Prospective Commanding Officer, CDR David C. Robertson Jr., a familiarization cruise before relieving. Before CDR Robertson could take the helm, Commodore Robert J. Cox passed the torch of COMDESRON 26 to CAPT Scott Jones in a ceremony held onboard USS MAHAN on the 21st of September. The very next day, CDR Robertson relieved CDR James R. Yohe as Commanding Officer USS MAHAN (DDG 72), and became the ship's third CO. Maintaining a reputation for keeping busy, the ship went underway with her new CO on the 25th, bound for the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station (NWS) to offload her deployment ammunition. The offload continued from the 25th through the 27th, whereupon the ship returned to Norfolk. On October 2, the Wardroom attended a luncheon onboard the HMCS PRESERVER, a Canadian Oiler that MAHAN hosted for Unified Spirit 2000. On the 3rd of October, MAHAN proceeded to NORSHIPCO shipyard for her first Selected Restricted Availability (SRA 1).

Once at NORSHIPCO, the ship was readied for an extended maintenance period in which a series of equipment installations and upgrades would begin and the material readiness of the ship would be improved. The NORSHIPCO arrival conference took place on the 4th of October. At the conference, rules for the shipyard and the crew of MAHAN were discussed; planned installation, upgrade, and maintenance items were poured over; and the ship commenced a fast-paced daily routine of "getting the job done" right. The remainder of the month was filled with planning conferences, daily planning meetings and briefs. The ship was able to focus on its retention efforts and reenlisted 8 MAHAN Chiefs and Sailors. Some of the significant installations during the ship's SRA were: the new ATWCS for the Tomahawk missile system, new WSN-7 laser-ring gyro system, and a new chart and GPS system called NAVSSI. On the 6th of October, FC1 [REDACTED] retired from active duty after 20 years of faithful service.

A tragic event in the 1st week of October marked a serious tone and time of reflection. FC2 Hutchinson, a CIWS technician and well-liked shipmate was killed in an automobile accident in Norfolk. The ship attended his Memorial service on the 12th of October where the CDS 26 Chaplain, the Commanding Officer, and FC3 [REDACTED] spoke eloquently of their shipmate, mentor, and friend. He will be missed. God rest his soul.

Shortly after, with no warning, a small boat exploded into the port side of the USS COLE, tragically underscoring the vulnerability of Naval Ships in foreign ports. This sparked a wave of preventive measures and corrective action on USS MAHAN and Navy-wide. On the 16th, THREATCON training was held onboard for all hands and a series of Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) Planning meetings began for all ships on the waterfront.

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the ship would muster on the pier for physical exercise. Doing this twice a week prepared the crew for a successful Command Physical Readiness Testing on the 17th. On the 18th, detailers for the Surface Warfare Officer community visited the ship, explained how they prepared orders for Surface Warfare Officers (SWOs) and talked to each officer individually about their future as a SWO and what they have to look forward to in the detailing process. Never resting and always planning ahead, the Afloat Training Group came onboard the 19th to discuss the ship's training teams and how to effectively organize training onboard. Following this, the Engineering Training Group reviewed Engineering Department's programs, such as Heat Stress, Hearing Conservation, Lube Oil, Fuel Oil, and Training. On the 23rd, the Commanding Officer conducted his first Qualification Board on LTJG [REDACTED] for Command Duty Officer. Demonstrating the willingness of the crew to assist USS COLE, STG1 [REDACTED] and GM1 [REDACTED] volunteered to go to Yemen on the 26th where they became a temporary part of the Cole's crew in order to bring her home safely aboard the BLUE MARLIN.

The 1st day of November held a reenlistment ceremony for EWC [REDACTED] and through the month of November, 5 more MAHAN Sailors reenlisted. On the 8th of November, training for all hands was conducted on Operational Risk Management (ORM). On the 9th, ENS [REDACTED] participated in Marine Safety International's Junior Officer Shiphhandling Competition where she performed well against her peers from other ships and brought back numerous accolades for how MAHAN trains its ship-drivers. Also that day, the ship gave a formal presentation to her sponsor school, Rosemont Elementary. On the 16th, key members from MAHAN attended an AT/FP Conference in preparations for meeting new force requirements of protecting our ships in port. Wrapping up an intensive SRA, an all hands working party was mustered for unloading the ship's stores on the 28th.

The ship was now at a pivotal point of completing her SRA work at NORSHIPCO and planning the upcoming Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). On the 4th and 5th of December, the engineers successfully demonstrated their ability to get the engineering plant lit off correctly and safely in to get the ship underway. Also that week, assessors provided a walk-through of the requirements needed to conduct helicopter operations. From the 4th through the 8th, an AVCERT assist was conducted.

Supporting BUPER's process of determining ship's manning levels, MAHAN participated in NOTAP Data collection for the FC and OS ratings on the 4th and 11th, respectively. To reinforce the skills of the Underway Bridge Watch teams, USS MAHAN sent her shiphhandlers to Marine Safety International for Shiphhandling Training. On the 6th, the ship conducted a Fast Cruise, where drills and evolutions were conducted throughout the day, to include: Overall Combat Systems Operational Testing (OCSOT), Loss of Steering drills, stationing the Underway Replenishment (UNREP) detail, Man Overboard drills, Flight Quarters, General Quarters, Emergency Destruct, and Abandon Ship. The next day, NORSHIPCO held an SRA Completion Conference in the Wardroom prior to the ship getting underway from NORSHIPCO to Nauticus, Norfolk for USS WISCONSON's homecoming ceremony. Once pierside Nauticus, the ship made preparations for giving tours to the public. Tour topics included Navigation equipment, watch teams, and the steering control console on the bridge; the gas turbine engines in the engineroom and the screws; the 5"/54 gun, Vertical Launchers, the anchor, and SPY radar; the Harpoon launcher and helicopter operations on the flight deck. The ship remained at Nauticus for tours until the 12th of December. The evening

of the Seventh, MAHAN brought in the festivities of the Holiday Season with the ship's Christmas Party.

On the Eleventh, because of a software program upgrade to the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS), software engineers from Dahlgren, VA held an AWS Program Brief, familiarizing pertinent members of the crew with the AWS's new capabilities and limitations. On the morning of the 12th, MAHAN departed Nauticus and headed for the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) to conduct more training evolutions, to include Flying Squad drills, Man Overboard drills, a Full Power run and Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises (BECCEs). The ship also conducted a transit of the ULM-4 range. Returning to Norfolk Naval Station on the 13th, the ship commenced a Tomahawk Weapon System (TWS) Material Certification. On the 15th, once the Navy-wide advancement exam results were published, the ship held a Petty Officer Frocking Ceremony. That night, Supply Department's Food Service division, the Command Master Chief, and the Ombudsman catered and hosted a Christmas party for children on the messdecks. FC2 [REDACTED] was awarded MAHAN's coveted Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

Now in the holiday spirit, half of the crew of MAHAN commenced taking leave for the 1st Holiday Leave period of 15-29 December. Just prior to Christmas, the ship competed in the annual, waterfront Christmas light competition and received numerous "oohs" and "aahs" from onlookers. Anxious to get back to work after loading up on delicious holiday food, the half of the crew that took the 1st Holiday leave period returned on the 29th while the other half commenced the 2nd Holiday leave period of 30 December to 16 January 2001.