

## **USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) (UIC 21949) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2000:**

### 1. Command Composition and Organization.

USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) Mission: DONALD COOK is one of the most modern and powerful ships in the Navy today. It is designed to support brief, intense engagements in which the full simultaneous operational capability of the ship, including maximum firepower of all weapons, will be employed. Built to incorporate lessons learned from World War II to the Gulf War, DONALD COOK is extraordinarily survivable and capable of conducting Naval Surface Fire Support, Sea Lines of Communication protection, cruise missile strikes, theater air defense, command and control, and battlespace dominance.

USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75) Organizational Structure: Immediate Superior in Command: Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO, Captain Mike Miller, USN, relieved by Captain Gary Holst.

Units Under Operational/Administrative Control: None.

Name of Commander: CDR Matthew M. Sharpe, USN relieved CDR James F. McCarthy Jr., USN, on 04 February, 2000.

Type and Number of Aircraft Assigned: None.

## 2. Chronology

19 November 1999- January 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA  
07 February 2000: U/W, Enroute Yorktown, VA 07-10 February 2000: Inport Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA  
10 February 2000: U/W, Enroute Norfolk, VA 10 February-12 March 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA  
13-17 March 2000: U/W, Enroute Gulf of Mexico  
18-20 March 2000: Inport Pensacola, FL  
21 March- 07 April 2000: U/W COMPTUEX and Enroute Norfolk, VA  
08 April-09 May 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA  
09-22 May 2000: U/W VACAPES/Cherry Point OPAREAs for JTFEX  
22 May- 20 June 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA, POM  
21-23 June 2000: U/W on Maiden Deployment, Enroute NPROA  
23-27 June 2000: U/W Missile Exercise and NSFS Qualification, Vieques, PR  
27 June- 06 July 2000: U/W Enroute Mediterranean Sea and Cartagena, Spain, Inchop 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet  
06-11 July 2000: Inport, Cartagena, Spain  
11-13 July 2000: U/W Western Mediterranean Sea  
13-17 July 2000: Inport, Villefranche, France  
17-19 July 2000: U/W Western Mediterranean Sea  
19-24 July 2000: Inport Naples, Italy  
24-28 July 2000: U/W Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas  
28 July- 02 August 2000: Inport Venice, Italy  
02-08 August 2000: U/W Adriatic and Eastern Mediterranean Seas  
08-15 August 2000: Inport Haifa, Israel  
15-16 August 2000: U/W Transit Suez Canal, Inchop 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet  
16-20 August 2000: U/W Red Sea  
20 August 2000: Brief Stop for Fuel, Aden, Yemen  
20-24 August 2000: U/W Enroute Bahrain  
24-27 August 2000: Inport Bahrain  
28 August- 09 September 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf  
09-12 September 2000: Inport Abu Dhabi, UAE  
13-29 September 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf  
29 September- 03 October 2000: Inport Dubai, UAE  
04-10 October 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf  
10-13 October 2000: U/W Transit Straits of Hormuz, U/W Enroute Aden, Yemen  
13-29 October 2000: U/W Operation Determined Response, Gulf of Aden  
29 October- 02 November 2000: U/W Bandar Imran and Bandar Fuqum, Yemen  
02-09 November 2000: U/W Gulf of Aden/ North Indian Ocean  
09 November- 12 December 2000: U/W Enroute Norfolk, VA  
12 December 2000- 22 January 2001: Inport Norfolk, VA, Post-Deployment Leave and Standown

3. Narrative

19 November 1999- 29 January 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK enjoys a long period in homeport over the holidays. Many Sailors attend schools or team trainers, while others focus on preparations for the upcoming Change of Command.

29 January 2000- 01 February 2000: U/W VCOA

DONALD COOK spends a few days at sea to integrate new crewmembers and refresh training for the upcoming exercises and deployment. Also, the new Commanding Officer is onboard learning about his new command.

01-07 February 2000: Inport Nauticus, Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK spends these days at the site of the Change of Command. Many Sailors enjoy the opportunities offered by the downtown location while other struggle with parking difficulties and problems with shore power. Rehearsals for the Change of Command go smoothly and everything is ready for the ceremony.

04 February 2000: CDR Matthew M. Sharpe relieves CDR James F. McCarthy as Commanding Officer

The ceremony is held indoors at Nauticus with DONALD COOK visible in the background through a large picture window. After the ceremony, many Sailors enjoy the reception in heated tents and liberty for the weekend.

07 February 2000: U/W, Enroute Yorktown, VA 07-10 February 2000: Inport Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA

DONALD COOK spends several days receiving its deployment ammunition. The crew can now see deployment is not far away.

10 February 2000: U/W, Enroute Norfolk, VA 10 February-12 March 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK returns home after a successful and safe visit to Yorktown. Preparations continue for COMPTUEX with the George Washington Battle Group. Although she did not win the Battle "E", DONALD COOK is recognized with Command and Control, Engineering, Logistics, and Maritime Excellence Awards.

13-17 March 2000: U/W, Enroute Gulf of Mexico

DONALD COOK commences COMPTUEX with the Battle Group. As the ships travel in company to the Gulf of Mexico, DONALD COOK is able to conduct ASW exercises with other units in the "Tongue of the Ocean".

18-20 March 2000: Inport Pensacola, FL

DONALD COOK enjoys this port visit moored alongside USS BRISCOE. The beaches and nightlife of Pensacola and the surrounding area are popular with Sailors. The port visit is also an opportunity to prepare for COMPTUEX.

21 March- 07 April 2000: U/W COMPTUEX and Enroute Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK again proves herself as a warfighter, this time in a carrier battle group environment. At one point an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team comes onboard to simulate defusing Unexploded Ordnance. DONALD COOK excels in all aspects (ASW, AAW, and ASUW) of the scenario and is one of the only ships in the battle group not "killed". Upon completion of the COMPTUEX scenario, the Battle Group transits to VCOA for a missile firing event. Unfortunately, due to difficulties with the drones ashore, DONALD COOK is unable to fire and the event is postponed.

08 April-09 May 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK returns home after an intense month of training with the George Washington Battle Group. Preparations continue for the graduate exercise, JTFEX and for the deployment. Schools and Team Trainers continue during this period. The Naval Surface Fire Support and Radar Navigation Teams are re-certified and a team attends school for Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure training.

09-22 May 2000: U/W VACAPES/Cherry Point OPAREAs for JTFEX

DONALD COOK successfully completes her final exercise before the deployment. The two week event included all units of the George Washington Battle Group and the Saipan Amphibious Readiness Group. DONALD COOK served as Green Crown, conducted Maritime Interception Operations, escorted USS SUPPLY, and simulated fighting off small boat attacks. Upon completion of the exercises, DONALD COOK returns to Norfolk for the POM period.

22 May- 20 June 2000: Inport Norfolk, VA, POM

DONALD COOK makes final preparations for deployment in her last month at home. Many Sailors attend schools or take leave during this period.

21-23 June 2000: U/W on Maiden Deployment, Enroute NPROA

Following many emotional good-byes on the pier, DONALD COOK embarks on her maiden deployment. Training for operations in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Fleets continues as does final preparation for the live firing exercises.

23-27 June 2000: U/W Missile Exercise and NSFS Qualification, Vieques, PR

DONALD COOK conducts missile exercises and a Naval Surface Fire Support Exercise in the Northern Puerto Rican OPAREA and on the Island of Vieques. The George Washington Battle Group is the first in over a year to conduct exercises at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Test Facility. Protests delay some events, but the exercises continue. DONALD COOK shoots a nearly perfect 105 of 106, and eventually wins the James F. Chezek Memorial Gunnery Award.

27 June- 06 July 2000: U/W Enroute Mediterranean Sea and Cartagena, Spain, Inchop 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet

The Battle Group continues operating together as they transit to the Mediterranean. The transit presents a last opportunity for training before entering a real-world environment. On the night of 05-06 July, DONALD COOK passes between the "Pillars of Hercules" and the Rock of Gibraltar and enters the Mediterranean.

06-11 July 2000: Inport, Cartagena, Spain

DONALD COOK's first port visit of the deployment provides a welcome break for the crew. Sailors enjoy tours to the churches of Murcia, and the beaches and Medieval Tournaments of Benidorm. Also, Sailors perform Community Service clearing and restoring the garden of a local retirement home.

11-13 July 2000: U/W Western Mediterranean Sea

During a quick, uneventful transit to the French Riviera, DONALD COOK hits some rough seas in the Gulf of Lyon.

13-17 July 2000: Inport, Villefranche, France

DONALD COOK enjoys another port visit, this time to the beautiful French Riviera. The ship is inport over Bastille Day and many Sailors watch the fireworks from the ancient castle in the town. Others enjoy the opportunity to travel to Nice and Monaco. Several Officers and Senior Enlisted are invited to a reception at the prefect's mansion and review a parade.

17-19 July 2000: U/W Western Mediterranean Sea

During the brief transit to Naples, DONALD COOK stops off Gaeta, Italy to transport VIP's in her small boats and to stand-by for Submarine tow operations, if needed.

19-24 July 2000: Inport Naples, Italy

DONALD COOK Sailors enjoy the cuisine and culture of Italy as work continues to prepare for operations in the Adriatic and Eastern Mediterranean. Many Sailors are able to visit the Island of Capri, Pompeii, and Rome during this port visit.

24-28 July 2000: U/W Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas

DONALD COOK participates in Operation Deliberate Guard in the Adriatic and helps control aircraft over the former Yugoslavia. This Underway is another excellent training opportunity.

28 July- 02 August 2000: Inport Venice, Italy

This port visit gets off to a rough start as the Liberty Launch that takes Sailors between the port and DONALD COOK's anchorage is unable to pick up more than one load of Sailors due to worsening weather conditions. However, the next day the weather improves and Sailors enjoy the beautiful and historic city of Venice. Everyone knows this will be the last liberty port for months, since Haifa will be a working port.

02-08 August 2000: U/W Adriatic and Eastern Mediterranean Seas

Participating in Operation Deliberate Guard and then conducting Chemical, Biological, Radiological Training onboard takes up much of this underway period. There is some concern about the shallowness of Haifa Harbor, but the port visit is still scheduled.

08-15 August 2000: Inport Haifa, Israel

Although everyone is busy making final preparations for entering 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet and conducting Maritime Interception Operations, Sailors find time to enjoy the Holy Land. Tours to Jerusalem and Bethlehem are popular as are the restaurants and clubs of Haifa. In the Mediterranean Sea DONALD COOK hosted a French Navy Ensign and Five Midshipmen from various NROTC Units around the country.

15-16 August 2000: U/W Transit Suez Canal, Inport 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet

Using her AEGIS Weapons System, DONALD COOK conducts Joint testing with the Israelis regarding the Arrow Missile System in order to improve the Israeli's ability to defend themselves. Following a Replenishment at Sea, DONALD COOK anchors off Port Said, Egypt. DONALD COOK starts her transit of the canal after midnight with USS Hawes in company.

16-20 August 2000: U/W Red Sea

Following an exhausting, but uneventful transit, DONALD COOK enters the Red Sea and the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet with USS HAWES.

20 August 2000: Brief Stop for Fuel, Aden, Yemen

This Brief Stop ends up taking all day and a part of the night because of delays in starting due to problems on the fueling pier. USS HAWES fuels first, while DONALD COOK waits outside the harbor.

20-24 August 2000: U/W Enroute Bahrain

DONALD COOK and HAWES continue their transit and make final preparations for operations in the Arabian Gulf. The ships transit the Straits of Hormuz on 23 August.

24-27 August 2000: Inport Bahrain

DONALD COOK visits Bahrain for inport briefs and to make final preparations for her mission in the Arabian Gulf. Sailors enjoy the facilities of the US Naval Base and the unique local culture.

28 August- 09 September 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf

DONALD COOK observes the traffic patterns of the smugglers, conducts queries and boardings and controls aircraft. Avoiding Dhows, operations with other ships, helicopters, and Replenishments at Sea punctuate the daily routine. The oppressive heat changes the watch routine for the engineers to three hour watches and everyone drinks plenty of water to avoid becoming a heat casualty.

09-12 September 2000: Inport Abu Dhabi, UAE

DONALD COOK visits this interesting combination of new and ancient. Some Sailors take tours of the desert while others enjoy shopping at the many souks in town. The hotels and their western-style restaurants are popular hang-outs as well.

13-29 September 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf

DONALD COOK conducts MIO SURGE operations and operates in the Northern Arabian Gulf with US and Multi-National units. The pace and intensity of boardings and queries increases and everyone works hard. DONALD COOK observes the traffic patterns of the smugglers, conducts queries and boardings and controls aircraft. Avoiding Dhows, operations with other ships, helicopters, and Replenishments at Sea punctuate the daily routine. The oppressive heat continues and everyone drinks plenty of water to avoid becoming a heat casualty.

29 September- 03 October 2000: Inport Dubai, UAE

DONALD COOK endures a sand storm inport. Also, Sailors enjoy the local water park, tours, shopping, malls, and restaurants. This port visit is a well deserved break for the crew after the intensity of recent operations.

02 October 2000: LCDR Charles W. Rock relieves LCDR Andy T. Paul as Executive Officer

04-10 October 2000: U/W Arabian Gulf

DONALD COOK continues her Maritime Interception Operations, but spends most of her time baby sitting a suspected smuggler. Everyone is looking forward to the return to the Mediterranean and cooler weather. During her time in the Arabian Gulf, DONALD COOK conducted over 40 queries and 13 boardings, hosted a Kuwaiti Officer, and operated with two battle groups.

10-13 October 2000: U/W Transit Straits of Hormuz, U/W Enroute Aden, Yemen

DONALD COOK transits the Straits of Hormuz with USS HAWES and heads for a Brief Stop for Fuel, scheduled for Aden, Yemen on 14 October. On October 12, word of an explosion onboard USS COLE in Aden is received and DONALD COOK and HAWES proceed towards the scene at best speed.

13-29 October 2000: U/W Operation Determined Response, Gulf of Aden

DONALD COOK and HAWES are the first American ships to reach Aden after the attack on COLE. Immediately, the transfer of supplies begins. Soon, DONALD COOK sends a Rescue and Team. While the first team is onboard, flooding begins again and COLE loses power. Sailors work side by side with their counterparts on COLE to stop the progressive flooding and restore COLE's electrical systems. DONALD COOK Sailors find an innovative way to use SCBA charging pumps to supply start air to a Gas Turbine Generator. Another Rescue and Assistance Team relieves the first team, and later many Sailors stand Engineering or Security watches on COLE. DONALD COOK briefly leaves the scene to rendezvous with the M/V Blue Marlin for a docking conference regarding the COLE.

29 October- 02 November 2000: U/W Bandar Imran and Bandar Fuqum, Yemen

On 29 October, COLE gets underway with the help of Yemeni tugs and to the sounds of American rock music. DONALD COOK and the other ships of JTF Determined Response provide security. COLE transits to the bay of Bandar Imran where she meets with M/V Blue Marlin. Later the ships move to Bandar Fuqum where COLE is loaded on M/V Blue Marlin. DONALD COOK and the other ships provide security.

02-09 November 2000: U/W Gulf of Aden/ North Indian Ocean

DONALD COOK begins the long transit home escorting M/V Blue Marlin and USNS Walter S. Diehl. The start of the trip is uneventful and provides an opportunity to catch up on rest, training, administration, and other items that were not priorities during the operations off Yemen.

09 November- 12 December 2000: U/W Enroute Norfolk, VA

DONALD COOK celebrates crossing the equator on 09 November and nearly 250 "slimy polywogs" are transformed into "trusty shellbacks". USNS Walter S. Diehl is detached off South Africa. DONALD COOK rendezvous with USNS Leroy Grumman off West Africa and leaves COLE and M/V Blue Marlin in the Caribbean. During the transit preparations for return home start and training and end of deployment tasks continue. DONALD COOK passes through every geographical Commander in Chief's Area of Operations on the return home.

12 December 2000- 22 January 2001: Inport Norfolk, VA, Post-Deployment Leave and Stand Down

During deployment DONALD COOK conducted over 75 mishap free helicopter operations and over 20 Underway Replenishments. She also won the Atlantic Fleets Best Ship's Store Sales and Service Award and the Golden Anchor for Retention Excellence. Over 50 Sailors re-enlisted for around \$250,000 in bonuses and 75 earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification.

Homecoming was a joyous event after nearly eighty days underway and six months away from home. The ship was decorated with a lei and families and friends gathered aboard USS OSCAR AUSTIN as DONALD COOK pulled in. Due to the unique events of the deployment and the operations with the USS COLE, media interest was high and representatives of all the major local networks were on hand. The reporters and their cameras returned on December 28, when ENS [REDACTED], a COLE Sailor, was Commissioned onboard DONALD COOK. During the leave and stand down period from 21 December to 22 January, Sailors and their families enjoyed a well-deserved rest over the holidays.