



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)  
FPO AE 09566-1294

5750  
DDG 75/

From: Commanding Officer, USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75)  
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT ~~2004~~ 2003

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's Biography and Photograph  
(2) Historical Narrative  
(3) Chronological Narrative

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.

  
M. T. SEDLACEK

JANUARY 2003

**HSTBATGRU DEPLOYMENT**

Chronology

01 - 10 Jan	Inport Valletta, Malta
11 - 29 Jan	Underway Mediterranean Sea
30 - 31 Jan	Inport Trieste, Italy

Narrative

DONALD COOK completed the gas turbine main engine change out at the Malta Dry Docks after a crack was discovered in one engine. During operations in the Mediterranean DONALD COOK conducted strike exercises with the HARRY S TRUMAN Battle Group.

## FEBRUARY 2003

### **HSTBATGRU DEPLOYMENT**

#### Chronology

01 - 03 Feb	Inport Trieste, Italy
04 - 08 Feb	Underway Enroute Straits of Gibraltar
08 - 09 Feb	Underway Straits of Gibraltar Escort Duty
10 - 11 Feb	Inport Rota, Spain
12 Feb	Underway Straits of Gibraltar Escort Duty
13 - 15 Feb	Inport Rota, Spain
16- 17 Feb	Underway Straits of Gibraltar Escort Duty
17 - 20 Feb	Underway Mediterranean Sea
20 - 23 Feb	Inport Augusta Bay, Sicily
24 - 28 Feb	Underway Mediterranean Sea

#### Narrative

DONALD COOK's port visit to Trieste, Italy provided sailors an opportunity to visit the Italian countryside and the port city of Venice. During the buildup of U.S. military forces in February 2003, DONALD COOK conducted the initial Bilateral United States-Spanish Escort Operations in the Strait of Gibraltar, escorting over 30 Military Sealift Command and Ready Reserve Fleet vessels in a 10-day period, carrying vital military cargo for the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force bound for the Arabian Gulf, including equipment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. A stop in Augusta Bay, Sicily provided an opportunity to stock up on fuel and supplies both for the ship and for themselves.

## MARCH 2003

### **HSTBATGRU DEPLOYMENT**

#### Chronology

01 - 13 Mar	Underway Mediterranean Sea
14 - 15 Mar	Transit Suez Canal
16- 27 Mar	Underway Red Sea
28 - 31 Mar	Underway Enroute Arabian Gulf

#### Narrative

DONALD COOK Sailors celebrated the half way mark of deployment on 6 March. Numerous activities were planned to celebrate this occasion including board and video games competition, BINGO and an auction was held in support of gifts provided by the Family Support Group. Along with other TOMAHAWK-equipped surface combatants and submarines of the HARRY S TRUMAN and THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Groups DONALD COOK conducted a southbound transit of the Suez Canal on 15 March 2003. The most significant event of DONALD COOK's deployment occurred on the opening night of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM while operating in the Northern Red Sea. In the early morning hours of 20 March 2003 DONALD COOK successfully executed a no-notice Presidential Order to conduct the first Time-Sensitive-Targeting Strike of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, attempting to destroy and isolate Iraqi Regime Leadership and Command, Control and Intelligence targets and ultimately shorten the conflict. DONALD COOK's Strike Team successfully fired the first surface-launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM) of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Subsequent TOMAHAWK launches occurred, effecting damage to or destruction of every assigned aim point from both the Red Sea and Northern Arabian Gulf. The crew of DONALD COOK is proud and privileged to have had a hand in liberating the people of Iraq.

## APRIL 2003

### **HSTBATGRU DEPLOYMENT**

#### Chronology

01 Apr	Underway Enroute Arabian Gulf
02 - 21 Apr	Underway Arabian Gulf
21 - 25 Apr	Underway Enroute Red Sea
26 - 27 Apr	Suez Canal Transit
27 - 30 Apr	Underway Mediterranean Sea

#### Narrative

In addition to TOMAHAWK Strike Operations, DONALD COOK also conducted air and surface surveillance operations in support of Coalition naval forces operating in the Northern Arabian Gulf, including early warning for Iraqi-launched Theater Ballistic Missiles Ballistic Missiles. On 26 April 2003, DONALD COOK conducted a northbound transit of the Suez Canal and rejoined the U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.

## MAY 2003

### **HSTBATGRU DEPLOYMENT/RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT**

#### Chronology

01 - 02 May	Underway Mediterranean Sea
05 - 08 May	Inport Palma de Mallorca, Spain
09 - 19 May	Underway Translant
20 May	Inport Mayport, FL
21 - 22 May	Underway Enroute Norfolk, VA
23 May	Return from Deployment
24 - 29 May	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
30 May	Change of Command
31 May	Leave and Upkeep, Norfolk, VA

#### Narrative

After being at sea for 69 consecutive days in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, DONALD COOK conducted a most successful 5-day port visit to Palma de Mallorca, Spain in May 2003. Upon completing its 22<sup>nd</sup> transit of the Strait of Gibraltar, DONALD COOK rendezvoused with the other surface combatants of Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO and commenced its trans-Atlantic transit to its homeport of Norfolk, Virginia. On 20 May, DONALD COOK arrived in Mayport, FL to pick up family and friends attending the DONALD COOK Tiger Cruise. On 30 May, CDR Mark T. Sedlacek relieved CDR John J. Costello as Commanding Officer. 31 May started DONALD COOK's Post Overseas Movement (POM) Standdown period.

## JUNE 2003

### Chronology

01 - 25 Jun      Leave and Upkeep, Norfolk, VA  
26 - 30 Jun      Upkeep Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

The DONALD COOK crew continued to enjoy some much deserved time off after successfully taking part in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Half of the crew took leave until 12 June when they turned over to the other half going on leave. 26 June marked the return of all crewmembers, when DONALD COOK began to focus on maintenance and prepare for a Shipboard Restricted Availability starting in the end of July, where DONALD COOK would conduct much need repairs, receive upgrades to current equipment onboard, and install new equipment.

**JULY 2003**

**Chronology**

01 – 14 Jul	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
15 – 18 Jul	Inport Yorktown, VA
19 Jul	Family Day Cruise
20 – 27 Jul	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
28 Jul	Transit to Marine Hydraulics Inc, Navy Shipyard, Norfolk, VA
29 – 31 Jul	Shipboard Restricted Availability Norfolk, VA

**Narrative**

While focusing attention on maintenance to be conducted during the Shipboard Restricted Availability at the end of the month, DONALD COOK transited to Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA, to offload the remaining ammunition from deployment. On 19 July, the Officers' and Crew of DONALD COOK hosted their families and friends as they transited down the York River, entered the Chesapeake Bay, transited up Thimble Shoals, and traveled south down the Elizabeth River, returning to Naval Station Norfolk, VA. With a week remaining before starting the Shipboard Restricted Availability at Marine Hydraulics Inc., crewmembers prepared for the challenges of the shipyard for the next nine weeks.



## AUGUST 2003

### Chronology

01 – 31 Aug      Shipboard Restricted Availability Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

Work continued onboard throughout the month of August. The crew enjoyed tropical hours throughout August, allowing the crew of DONALD COOK to enjoy summer afternoons and evenings with their families. The Officers and Crew were active together after working hours, enjoying sportsmanship on the softball diamond and conversation and music at a DONALD COOK party held at Little Creek Amphibious base.

## SEPTEMBER 2003

### Chronology

01 – 25 Sep	SRA Norfolk, VA
26 Sep	Transit to Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, VA
27 – 30 Sep	Upkeep Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

With four weeks remaining in the Shipboard Restricted Availability, the Officers and crew were tired of inport life and desiring to spend some time at sea; so much in fact, they worked with great tenacity to complete their maintenance and installations prior to the estimated completion date. During the last two weeks of the availability, the new and improved combat system onboard was brought to life during AEGIS Light Off. Finishing two weeks ahead of schedule, DONALD COOK sortied during Hurricane Isabel to Naval Station Norfolk, VA; much of the Hampton Roads area was decimated due to the storm, but DONALD COOK weathered the driving rains and gusts of wind without any damage.

## OCTOBER 2003

### Chronology

01 – 14 Oct	RAV and Upkeep, Norfolk, VA
15 – 17 Oct	Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area
18 – 31 Oct	Upkeep Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

DONALD COOK continued minor maintenance at Naval Station Norfolk, VA, until Sea Trials on 15 October. After five months away from sea, the Officers and crew flexed the ship in the Virginia Capes Operating Area for the sake of training and proficiency. The week of 20 October kicked off an Inter-Deployment Training Cycle to prepare the ship and her crew for the next scheduled deployment. The week began with communication drills, Electronic Warfare Limited Training Team, and a Combat System Training Team, and ended with the first of many certifications – Aviation Certification. The following week, engineers were busy with Initial Assessment; the first of many Engineering assessments.

## NOVEMBER 2003

### Chronology

01 – 02 Nov	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
03 – 05 Nov	Inport Yorktown, VA
06 – 09 Nov	Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area
10 – 14 Nov	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
15 – 19 Nov	Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area
20 – 30 Nov	Upkeep Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

DONALD COOK returned to Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA, for a self-defense onload. On 5 November, the ship left Yorktown and returned to sea for electronic testing and calibration and in house training. The following week, DONALD COOK began a Training Cycle milestone inport, CART II, and returned to the Virginia Capes Operating Area. Upon returning to Naval Station Norfolk, VA, the Supply Department successfully completed Supply Management Inspection. With Thanksgiving around the corner, the Officers and crew focused on more Communication drills and Anti-Terrorism Force Protection III, a certification of DONALD COOK's vigilant inport watchstanders.

## DECEMBER 2003

### Chronology

01 – 04 Dec	Underway Enroute Mayport, FL
05 – 06 Dec	Inport Mayport, FL
07 Dec	Underway Enroute Port Everglades, FL
08	Inport Port Everglades, FL
09 – 11 Dec	Underway Enroute Norfolk, VA
12 – 14 Dec	Upkeep Norfolk, VA
15 – 19 Dec	Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area
20 – 31 Dec	Leave and Upkeep Norfolk, VA

### Narrative

The beginning of December found DONALD COOK bound for a warmer climate in sunny Florida. While transiting to Mayport, FL, sailors from Afloat Training Group Norfolk trained the ship's Engineering watchstanders, Deck teams, and Medical personnel. After some relaxation in Mayport, FL, the ship set sail for Port Everglades, FL, with members of the Navy League Fort Lauderdale chapter. The guests and crew participated in a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony on the flight deck prior to pulling into Port Everglades, FL, for liberty. After a short stay in Port Everglades, FL, DONALD COOK returned to sea, bound for Naval Station Norfolk, VA, accompanied by more members of the Afloat Training Group Norfolk team, training the Navigation team, preparing the Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification team, and assessing the ship's 3M program. After two days in the ship's homeport, the Officers and crew of DONALD COOK returned to the Virginia Capes Operating Area for Engineering and Damage Control Training. The ship returned to Naval Station Norfolk, VA, and began a period of leave and upkeep, where the crew enjoyed Christmas and New Years with families and friends.